

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead



Grandmothers for Peace International

Barbara Wiedner, Director

December 1999

Founded 1982

GRANNY MARCHING INTO 2000

By Patricia Altenburg

Despite the defeat of the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform bill, October 20, 1999, by the US Senate, Doris Haddock, aka Granny D, will continue her ten-mile a day/six-day-a-week walk across America to focus attention on the need for campaign-finance reform.

"The most important reforms are the hardest to win. But we always win if we just keep going," Haddock said. "At our current rate of changing minds in the Senate, we will win in 2000 or in 2001."

Granny D's odyssey began January 1, 1999, at the age of 88 when she started walking in the Rose Parade and has been on the road since, informing, inspiring and touching people's lives.

Her message is simple: Ban soft money. Corporations, labor unions, and special interest groups are prevented from directly contributing to candidates, but they can give all they want to political parties with the understanding that certain candidates benefit. That is soft money contributions and Granny D believes it is "creating a huge distortion to our democracy."

"Fundraising muscle should not be the measure of a candidate — ideas, character, track record, leadership skills: those ought to be the measures of our leaders," she said at a 1999 Reform Party convention. "... It is my belief that the hundreds of thousands of our dead, buried in rows upon rows in our national cemeteries, sacrificed their lives for the democracy of a free people, not for what we have today. It is up to each of us



right now to see that these boys and girls did not die in vain."

Granny D has 11 great grandchildren and she wants "them, as well as all the boys and girls in our nation, to be able to run for office without selling their souls to corporations."

This five foot, 89-year-old woman with arthritis, emphysema and hearing aids has gathered followers and supporters along the way from California, across the Mojave

Desert, through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio. No doubt crowds, large and small, will continue to greet her in the remaining states. Some will walk the day's 10 miles with her; others will do part of it; others will honk horns, shake her hand, give her a hug, wave flags and banners, throw kisses. She receives email and calls extolling her and her cause. Many tell her they are looking forward to meeting and walking with her in Washington, DC, on her 90th birthday — January 24, 2000.

There have been some detractors and to them she replies that if they would walk and talk with her, they would soon see the need for this reform.

Theodore Roosevelt saw the need for this reform in 1910: "... Our government, national and state, must be freed from the sinister influence or control of special interests. Exactly as the special interests of cotton and slavery threatened our political integrity before the Civil War, so now the great special business interests too often control and corrupt the men and methods of gov-

Please see Granny D, page 4

From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

My message to you is one of deep gratitude for your continued support of our work for peace and justice as we bring this troubled century to a close and enter a new century of activism with a sense of hope. Without it we would despair — it is essential that we keep hope alive regardless of our disappointments and frustration. The defeat of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by our Congress which turned into "partisan politics" was disgraceful and disheartening. We have a big job ahead of us to pass the CTBT early in 2000 as we work toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons. Please read the remarkable article "Let's unilaterally dump our nukes" by Paul Nitze (pg. 5), a former arms control negotiator and an ambassador-at-large in the Reagan administration. This article appeared in our local paper just as I prepared to begin this message — what a ray of hope from an unlikely source! Just maybe we will live to see "nuclear sanity" reign in this New Century.

News from our "GFP Front Lines" is heartening.

Welcome to the



"Abuelas Por La Paz"
Chapter in Costa Rica

And the

"Bunici Pentru Pace"
Chapter in Sibiu, Romania



Please see Welcome, page 6

RAISA: Personal Reflections on an Uncommon Friendship

By Barbara Wiedner

I kissed her hand as we said goodbye the day we met in person for the first time. I cannot explain why that happened — even to myself. It was so spontaneous and out of character that it embarrassed me. I hoped she would not consider it a “fawning” gesture by some star-struck idiot. I know I was overcome by an immediate feeling of affection for this woman. She continued to smile as we parted, and later as our friendship flourished I realized she had not thought less of me because of that moment. I still felt rather foolish that it had ever happened, but when I heard of her death I was pleased that I once affectionately kissed the hand of Raisa Gorbachev, and repeated that gesture in my mind as a fond farewell to an old and dear friend.

She was scorned in her own country until her death. She broke with the tradition of former Kremlin wives by appearing at home and abroad at her husband’s side dressed in designer fashions. “Who does that woman think she is?” was a comment I heard more than once. Sadly, too late, she is now honored as one of their national treasures — a beautiful, intelligent woman who brought credit not only to the women of the former Soviet Union, but to the nation itself. The accolades come too late to make up for the pain of rejection by a people and a country she loved. Raisa Gorbachev died of acute leukemia on September 20th at the age of 67.

It is ironic that Raisa donated much of her wealth and helped raise more than \$8 million over the past few years for children’s leukemia hospitals in Russia. She dedicated endless hours on behalf of sick children in the Chernobyl region. Raisa was a tireless advocate for children. She was also an accomplished scholar of political and social philosophy and pioneered extensive sociological studies on living and working conditions of Soviet peasants.

We have lost a good friend. She was an honorary member of Grandmothers for Peace International and once told a reporter in Moscow that she wore her GFP shirt when she and President Gorbachev relaxed at their dacha in the country! I was thrilled with that news when the reporter told me the story, and then as I did often over the years, I marveled at the twists of fate that brought us together. First and foremost Raisa Gorbachev was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, deeply concerned about the abolition of nuclear weapons from the face of this earth. The future of her precious grandchildren was uppermost in her mind and because of that fact we were drawn together as grandmothers with a common goal. There is no other explanation for our uncommon friendship.

It all began in August 1986 as I was planning to lead a GFP delegation to the Soviet Union to meet with grandmothers in that country. I knew the Gorbachev’s were grandparents and it seemed perfectly logical to write Raisa and ask if she would consider meeting our delegation for tea one day during our trip. It was a bold move and I truly did not expect a response. Then one day my phone rang and the gentleman on the other end indicated he was calling from the Soviet Embassy in Washington D.C. with a message from Mrs. Gorbachev. I thought it was a friend playing a joke — his voice sounded like someone imitating a currently popular Russian comic — and I actually said, “Who IS this?” He politely repeated his name and kindly ignored my faux pas. The message was one of admiration for our work and regret that she



would be out of the country during our visit. This fact was later confirmed by a newspaper story and relieved my mind that we had not just received a polite “brush off.” We were delighted with her thoughtfulness.

We did not meet in person until 1987 during the World Congress of Women in Moscow. I knew that she intended to be present, so again I dropped her a note indicating my hope that we could meet. I did not get a response but knew I would at least get a glimpse of her during the conference proceedings. After one elaborate event where the President and Mrs. Gorbachev were among the dignitaries on stage, it was announced that Raisa would be attending the luncheon hosted by the Soviet Women’s Committee. It was an elegant stand-up affair in the Hall of Congress in the Kremlin and was jammed with 3,000 women from around the world. I did not discover her presence until the event was almost over.

I stood at the edge of the huge crowd that surrounded her and decided to try to ask a security person to deliver greetings from GFP along with my card and a couple of photos of Gorbachev that I had taken when I met him during the 1985 Geneva Summit. Well, if you ever want to get attention in a tight security situation, just bend down and start rummaging through your tote bag!! I was surrounded immediately by security and prayed like mad to find the photos before they escorted me out of the room. Since they were obviously candid close-up photos I had taken of/and with the President, the guards decided I was not a security risk and listened patiently to my explanation. They delivered my message, my card and the photos to Raisa. Then “the Red Sea parted!” They returned to me — opening up a path for me to approach her in the massive crowd. I was stunned. When I reached her she scolded me — “where have you been, I have been waiting to see you all afternoon and now I must go and we have no time to talk!!” She clasped my hands in hers and we chatted briefly. Then she had her official photographers take our photo that later appeared in her book “I Hope.”

Her hands were cold. I worried about her health, and a week later learned that she had been hospitalized for an appendectomy. Her health would later be in jeopardy again after the terror she experienced during the attempted coup in 1991. She suffered a minor stroke following that horrific experience and a near breakdown that caused a lingering nervous condition that affected her health for the rest of her life.

I will always remember Raisa’s hands. She clasped my hands each time we met and talked. In reflection I believe it was because she felt the warmth of true affection and admiration that was lacking in too many other encounters. There was no malice between us as two grandmothers from countries often at odds with one another. We shared a common dream for our children and the children of the world. Her greeting to me was always “Babushka!!” combined with her beautiful smile. (An interpreter was always present, but I knew that she understood English and she knew my understanding of her language was very limited.)



We met again in 1988 at a luncheon during the Reagan/Gorbachev Summit in Moscow. I was privileged to be a member of the “Women for Meaningful Summits” delegation headed by Margarita Papandreou, the First Lady of Greece and also a grandmother. Russian television cameras captured the “Babushka!” greeting between Raisa and myself, the clasping of hands and the warm embrace, which was broadcast that evening on state television coverage of the fun-filled luncheon gathering. It was a stark contrast to the meeting of Raisa and Nancy Reagan that filled the news across the world.



In 1989 her thoughtfulness touched us again during our “International Grandmothers for Peace March in Moscow.” Raisa had planned to join us, but at the last minute a major speech by Gorbachev requiring her presence, prevented her participation. The morning of the event I was called to the office of the

Peace Committee and presented with a remarkable personal telegram from Raisa, which I read to the crowd at the Rally following the March. This precious document is now framed and graces the wall of our office:

Mrs. Raisa Gorbachev wishes to convey to Barbara Wiedner that she remembers their encounters and the talks they had at the Moscow Forum, at the World Congress of Women. It is with great respect and sympathy she views Barbara Wiedner’s activities and all the participants of the “Grandmothers for Peace” movement. What you are doing is very important indeed.

Unfortunately I do not have the possibility to meet with you Barbara, and take part in the Peace March.

I wish you, all the participants of the Peace March success and a fruitful and interesting stay in the Soviet Union. Moscow, 1 June, 1989

My last meeting with Raisa came in 1995 in San Francisco during the State of the World Forum hosted by the Gorbachev Foundation. I had just returned from the 5th United Nations Conference of Women held in Beijing, China. At the Grandmothers for Peace Int’l table in the Forum Peace Tent in Hairou, China, I gathered signatures and peace wishes from international women. They inscribed these on the Earth Flag I intended to present at Forum in San Francisco. An invitation to a private meeting with Raisa in her apartment at the Fairmont Hotel provided an opportunity to present her with the gift of the Earth Flag. She was thrilled.

Most fortunate for me was the fact that two of my daughters were in San Francisco at the



Barbara Wiedner, left, Mary Corcoran, Margaret Turk, and Raisa Gorbachev

time and were able to accompany me during this remarkable, personal and long conversation with one of the most important women of our century. It is an experience we will treasure forever.

In spite of my stories of previous meetings with Raisa, my daughters were stunned by the genuine warmth, the “Babushka!” greeting, the beautiful smile, and the clasping of hands that lasted throughout the 45 minute conversation. We spoke about the China gathering, our concern about the ever-present danger of nuclear weapons, the work of Grandmothers for Peace, our grandchildren, her health and the strain it was to always maintain a glamorous appearance no matter how exhausted she felt. “It is hard work to be always in the public eye with a person as busy as Mikhail,” she confessed.

Raisa yearned for the quiet, relaxed atmosphere of the dacha where she could slip into comfortable clothes (her GFP shirt!), away from the public and the ever-present press and spend precious time with her Mikhail, her daughter and her two granddaughters. Underneath it all, Raisa was most at peace in the company of her family. The glamorous, elegant image was necessary in order to stand by the side of the public man she loved with all her heart. She fulfilled her duty to him and to her nation. His abiding love for her was no secret, and he kept her by his side, in spite of criticism, as friend and confidant wherever he appeared at home or abroad. The nation is only now accepting and appreciating her enormous contribution and grieving her loss.

Our Grandmother for Peace in Moscow, Zoya Zarubina, was Raisa’s English teacher and a friend of the Gorbachevs. She delivered our condolences personally and called on the day of the public viewing of Raisa’s body to tell me that she had placed a wreath of white roses at Raisa’s casket. She included a card with her name and mine, and that of Grandmothers for Peace International. I was deeply touched by her thoughtful gesture. We wept together over this tragic loss.

Zoya relayed that Mikhail kept vigil by Raisa’s side in the hospital. In her final words she spoke of her desire to retire to a quiet place where they could spend the rest of their years in privacy and peace ... the last audible words before she slipped into a coma were “as long as he is by my side.” Their love story will become a legend.

Our friendship is now a legend as well. It was not a friendship of equals but of two grandmothers from different cultures and different status, but bound together by mutual affection, respect and a common dream of a more peaceful world in which our grandchildren could live and flourish.

All Grandmothers for Peace have lost a good friend. She knew she had our respect, admiration and deep gratitude for the touch of her hand and heart in a world where grandmothers of all nations can touch

one another in peace and love and friendship in spite of political or cultural differences. Our work was enriched by her interest and support — her memory will live on. I will be filled with wonder, amazement and gratitude for this remarkable, uncommon friendship until the day I die.

Spasiba and Dasvidanya dear Babushka Raisa, may you rest in peace.

*(Spasiba - Thank You;
Dasvidanya - Goodbye;
Babushka - Grandmother)*

Granny D: I have seen a great nation

Continued from page 1

ernment for their own profit. That is one of our tasks today...The citizens of the United States must effectively control the mighty commercial forces which they have themselves called into being. There can be no effective control of corporations while their political activity remains. To put an end to it will be neither a short nor an easy task, but it can be done."

Former Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and George Bush also want to ban soft money.

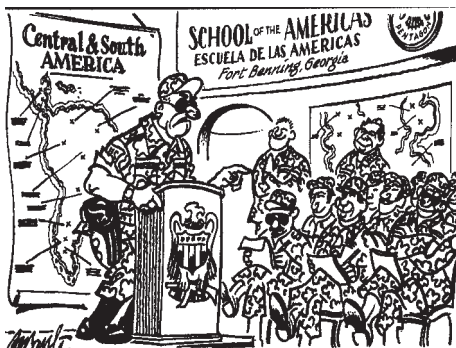
The following excerpt is from the June 13, 1999, speech Granny D delivered in Austin, Texas, on the steps of the State Capitol:

"On the road so far, I have met Americans who deeply love the idea of America. It is an image they carry in their hearts. It is a dream they are willing to sacrifice their lives for. Many of them do. There is no separating this image of democracy from people's longing for personal freedom for themselves, their family, their friends. To the extent that our government is not our own, we are not free people. We feel a heavy oppression in our lives because we have lost hold of this thing, this self-governance, that is rightfully ours because it is our dream and our history.

"On the road so far, people bless me with their hopes for America. They are not bitter, but they are discouraged. They are Americans, so they are relentless in their determination to be the free citizens of a beautiful democracy. Shame on those in Congress who stand in the way of this longing ...

"On the road so far, I have seen a great nation. I have felt it hugging my shoulders, shaking my hand, cheering from across the way. I am so in love with it. I know you are, too."

Editor's Note: If you wish to help defray Granny D's road expenses, send a check, payable to "The Granny D Fund," to; New Hampshire Charitable Foundation 37 Pleasant Street, Concord NH 03301-4005. If there are any excess funds, they will be donated to a social charity chosen by Granny D. Web: www.grannyd.com; E-mail: burke@amug.org



We do NOT teach torture and terrorism here. Anyone suspected of saying so will be thrown into solitary and have his fingernails pulled out. A second offense and you disappear!

Grannies head to SOA demonstration

This year's protesters at Fort Benning, GA, are expected to number 10,000. As in previous years, Grandmothers for Peace members will make their voice and presence known at the School of the Americas demonstration. All will vigil — some will "Cross the Line" — to show their respect for the hundreds of thousands who have suffered at the hands of SOA graduates.

Dorothy Vandercook Memorial Peace Scholarships Available

Do you know a student who could use some financial aid for college? Since 1993, Grandmothers for Peace International has given **scholarships (\$250 each)** to students across the United States, a student in Africa, a student in Kyrgyzstan (formerly part of the U.S.S.R.) and one in Canada.

Our stated goal was to provide four \$250 scholarships per year. However, due to the wonderful generosity of members and friends, we have awarded a total of **66 scholarships**.

This year we plan to award at least one \$500 scholarship.

The requirements are simple. The student must: (1) be a high school senior or college freshman; (2) write a brief biography of their activities relating to nuclear disarmament, or conflict resolution, or community service; (3) describe their plan for contributing to a healthy planet; (4) provide information on their school and community activities; (5) include two letters of recommendation. There are no grade point or age requirements.

Tell your activist-student friends to send for an application form, and include a **self-addressed, stamped envelope**. Please return the application form by March 1, 2000.

Contact: Grandmothers for Peace International, Dorothy Vandercook Memorial Peace Scholarship, 9444 Medstead Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758

Grandmothers for Peace International

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THE OIL OIL

Holiday Gift of Peace

This dove with the olive branch continues to be a symbol of all of us who seek to bring peace to this world.



Your donations are indeed "the wind beneath our wings" as we fly into a New Year of peacemaking. Please use the enclosed "dove" envelope for your holiday gift of peace. (If you wish to make a gift in the name of another, we will send an acknowledgment card.)

Our deepest thanks for your wonderful support this past year which has made this newsletter and all of our mailings possible!

Join Us

Grandmothers for Peace International is composed of volunteers from all over the globe.

One does not have to be a biological grandmother to join or even be a certain age! Just share our philosophy of making the world a better place for this and future generations. Membership

is open to all. We even have a Men's Auxiliary!

Membership dues and donations from supporters are the "life blood" of our organization. We have no corporate sponsorship. All monies go directly to our work.

Please join us. You will be making a very wise investment with tremendous dividends. The greatest legacy we could leave our families would be a safer, saner world!



LET'S UNILATERALLY DUMP OUR NUKES

By Paul H. Nitze

The Senate's failure to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty set off a contentious debate on American leadership and led President Clinton to decry a "new isolationism" in the Republican majority. However, this is purely a discussion of political preferences rather than a debate affecting our basic and intrinsic security.

Paul H. Nitze
is a former arms control negotiator and was an ambassador-at-large in the Reagan administration. He wrote this article for the New York Times and it appeared in the Sacramento Bee 11/14/99

The fact is, I see no compelling reason why we should not unilaterally get rid of our nuclear weapons. To maintain them is costly and adds nothing to our security.

I can think of no circumstances under which it would be wise for the United States to use nuclear weapons, even in retaliation for their prior use against us.

What, for example, would our targets be? It is impossible to conceive of a target that could be hit without large-scale destruction of many innocent people.

The technology of our conventional weapons is such that we can achieve accuracies of less than three feet from the expected point of impact. The modern equivalent of a stick of dynamite exploded within three feet of an object on or near the earth's surface is more than enough to destroy the target.

In view of the fact that we can achieve our objectives with conventional weapons, there is no purpose to be gained through the use of our nuclear arsenal. To use it would merely guarantee the annihilation of hundreds of thousands of people, none of whom would have been responsible for the decision invoked in bringing about the weapons' use, not to mention incalculable damage to our natural environment.

As for the so-called rogue states that are not inhibited in their actions by the consensus of world opinion, the United States would be wise to eliminate their nuclear capabilities with the preemptive use of our conventional weapons — when necessary, and when we have unambiguous indication of these countries' intent to use their nuclear capability for purposes of aggrandizement. The same principle should apply to any threat emanating from unstable states with nuclear arsenals. By simply having our intelligence services "read their mail," we can tell if there is compelling reason to take preemptive action.

Why would someone who spent so many years negotiating with the Soviet Union about the size of our nuclear arsenal now say we no longer need it? I know that the simplest and most direct answer to the problem of nuclear weapons has always been their complete elimination. My "walk in the woods" in 1982 with the Soviet arms negotiator Yuli Kvitsinsky at least addressed this possibility on a bilateral basis. Destruction of the arms did not prove feasible then, but there is no good reason why it should not be carried out now.

For now, the rejection of the test-ban treaty will undoubtedly bring up the question of whether the United States should resume testing, and there may be short-term political considerations in favor of forgoing testing or even making a declaration that we do not intend to test.

But in the long term, the treaty does not address the survival or existence of states. It is the presence of nuclear weapons that threatens our existence. □

"The fact is, I see no compelling reason why we should not unilaterally get rid of our nuclear weapons. To maintain them is costly and adds nothing to our security."

— Paul H. Nitze

Test Ban Treaty Travesty

By Mercedes M. Navarro

"Americans are like a frog in a well. They look at its walls and think that they've seen the whole world," a Punjabi friend told me a couple of weeks ago.

Lately, this statement has been soaking in my mind. In my continuing observation and interpretation of the American way of life, it comes to me as the easiest explanation to my questioning. On Oct. 13, when I heard about the U.S. Senate's 51-48 vote against the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, this simile came back to me as the only answer. But nothing is that easy.

Generally, individual Americans seem to be generous and understanding people, but in the last century, the foreign policy of this country has been disrespectful, self-serving and imperialistic. That is the way many Europeans perceive this country, and this perception has been proven accurate, once more, by the U.S. Senate's rejection of the CTBT. This is not just one more treaty.

The CTBT was adopted by the United Nations in 1996 and was designed to ban nuclear explosions. It also creates a global network of 321 monitoring stations and 16 laboratories intended to detect nuclear detonations. Before the Senate vote, 154 countries and 26 states believed to have nuclear facilities — including France and the United Kingdom — had already signed the treaty.

Five countries with nuclear arms — Russia, India, China, Israel and Pakistan — wanted to know the United States' position on the treaty before signing. This was a perfect opportunity for this country to set an example by leading global disarmament. Now, it seems that those five countries will not sign the treaty because of the action of the U.S. Senate.

The global compromise that the treaty imposes would have created a safer world and would have shown the international community that the United States cares about what happens outside the "walls of the well." This country has the responsibility to be exemplary because it has the largest nuclear arsenal on the planet and has been the only country that has utilized nuclear weapons during a war.

All the Americans that I have talked to about this issue seem to be as astonished about the Senate decision as I am. Maybe the powers that be of this country do not want to diminish this horrifying capability. This is the time for Americans to contribute to the solution of a problem of which they were precursors, or at the dawn of the 21st century they will condemn the world to live with some unnecessary ghosts of the past.

Mercedes M. Navarro is the news and features editor of the American River College Current and a citizen of Spain residing temporarily in the United States. This article first appeared in the Sacramento News & Review newspaper.

Welcome: Abuelas Por La Paz & Bunici Pentru Pace

Continued from page 1

Contact with this wonderful group of women in Costa Rica came from a phone interview I did some months ago on Radio for Peace in Costa Rica. **Celina Garcia** of Costa Rica informs me they already have a Seminar scheduled for December 20-24 and expect women from Nicaragua and Cuba to attend as well! Their workshops and talks will focus on children at risk. This group of grannies is part of Fundacion CEPPA, Center for Peace Studies in Costa Rica. We wish them well on this first venture. Bravo Abuelas!

Our new Grandmothers for Peace Chapter in Sibiu, Romania, num-



bers twenty-seven members. They belong to a group which is part of Sibienii Pacifisti, Zone Geographical Initiative, "People of Sibiu for Peace." How thrilling to know that these terrific and inspiring women are now wearing our GFP shirts as they go about their work for peace and justice. **Victoria Dirvaru**, General Secretary of Sibienii Pacifisti keeps us abreast of their news.

Through the wonder of the Internet we are able to be in contact with both Abuelas Por La Paz and the Bunici Pentru Pace.

Congratulations to longtime GFP member **Florence Ross** of Ft.



Florence Ross

Lauderdale, FL, who celebrated her 80th birthday on Nov. 7th by completing her doctoral curriculum at Nova/Southeastern University! "Dr. Ross" states her goal is a "continuation of my lifelong passion to build bridges between all people in an atmosphere where peace can grow and moral and spiritual ideas dominate."

We are awed by her determination and dedication!

Congratulations also to GFP member **Mary Adams** of Bisbee, AZ, who joined a 53-mile peace walk from Ashland, WI, to Project Elf at Clam Lake, WI, August 3-8, to commemorate the 54th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (The Navy's ELF transmitter systems provide communication with U.S. and British nuclear submarines.) Mary is no stranger to peace walks. Last year she and her son, **Rob Adams** of South Bend, Ind., participated in the second annual Tromp Trident Trek. Mary was arrested for civil disobedience in both places, where she explains she was "putting my body where my mouth is"!

One of the highlights of the ELF adventure was staying in a home which had a genuine Finnish sauna and a gracious hostess who turned up at the demonstration the next day wearing a GFP shirt and carrying a GFP tote bag! The "gracious hostess with the sauna" turned out to be **Bertha Kurki** of our Northland Chapter. The Northland Chapter of GFP have



Bertha Kurki

been beloved and faithful participants at ELF demonstrations for many years.

Peace in the world begins in our homes, in our communities, our state and our own nations. We cannot hope to achieve world peace without recognizing this and beginning our work in our own lives. For those who are homebound there are numerous ways to work for peace. If you like to quilt, knit or crochet, our friends at the "Binky Patrol" have a wonderful outlet for your talents.

The Binky Patrol mission is to provide handmade blankets to children who are ill, abused, in foster care or experiencing trauma while raising local awareness as to the needs of these children and their families. This is peace work on the local level! To find out more about the Binky Patrol, check out their website: www.binky-patrol.org; write: PO Box 1468, Laguna Beach, CA 92652-1468; or call 949.499.2465.



There are many more wonderful "granny" stories to tell, but space limitations prohibit my ramblings for now. You have the message - GFP members are active, productive and doing important work in many forms, all around the globe! We should all take pride in that.

Let me end this last column of this much too violent century with a little story that carries the message of hope we must carry with us into 2000.

The Meaning of Peace

There once was a King who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The King looked at all the pictures, but there were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for the peaceful towering mountains all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought it was a perfect picture of peace.

The second picture had mountains too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell, and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the King looked, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest — a picture of a perfect peace.

Which of the pictures won the prize? The King chose the second picture. "Because," explained the King, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. This is the real meaning of peace."

In spite of the noise, trouble and hard work that fill our lives, may you and your families have holidays filled with the love, peace and joy which comes from a calm heart, and may this New Year/New Century bring the human family closer to peace and justice for all.

With Love,

Barbara



Las Vegas, Nevada,
and the Nevada

Test Site

December 29, 1999 -

January 2, 2000:

“Millennium 2000 -

Walking The Ways of Peace.” Join

1,000 people in a candlelit procession onto the Nevada Test Site at midnight, December 31. **Contact:** Nevada Desert Experience, PO Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127; Tel: 702.646.4814;

E-mail: nde@igc.apc.org

Albuquerque, NM

Jan. 31, 10 am - 1 pm: Protest Vigil at the 17th Annual Symposium on Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion. This annual conference of Air Force, NASA, DOE, aerospace industry and nuclear academia promotes the expanded use of nuclear power in space. Protest this key meeting of those working on nuclear rockets; plutonium generators, and nuclear reactors for the Star Wars system. **Contact:** Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, PO Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; 352.337.9274; Email: globenet@afn.org; Web: www.globenet.free-online.co.uk/



Washington, DC

April 2-3: Kick Off Rally/Lobby Day for FAST 2000 to close the SOA.

April 6-19: SOA FAST

2000 is a solidarity action with our sister and brothers in Latin America who fast involuntarily each day as a result of poverty and oppression. Each day of FAST 2000 will focus on a different country whose people have suffered from SOA violence. An organizing packet with country fact sheets will be available January 1 by mail and on the website.

Contact: SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017;

Tel: 202.234.3440; Web: www.soaw.org



post cards can be purchased from the Grandmothers for Peace International office. A package of 10/\$5.50, including S/H. See back page for address.

CONTESTS

Photo/Drawing

December 31, 1999, Deadline: The theme is “New Visions of Peace in the New Millennium.” Your entry should depict an expression of both peace and the future. **Contact:** Photo and Drawing Contest, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, PMB 121, 1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 1, Santa Barbara, CA 93108



International

February 14, 2000,

Deadline: Create a work of art expressing your vision of global unity to exchange with a person in another part of the world. Also, the ongoing GAP project “Let’s All Join Hands” is colorful, peace-message-filled hand outlines hanging from the ceiling of the GAP gallery. It is a visual expression of the desire for World Peace.

Contact: Global Art Project, PO Box 40445, Tucson, Arizona 85717, USA; Web: www.global-art.org

High School Students

June 1, 2000, Deadline: The **2000 Swackhamer Peace Essay** seeks suggestions for constructive approaches to the problems of war and peace. The year 2000 has been proclaimed the International Year of the Culture of Peace by the United Nations General Assembly. Write an essay making recommendations for specific actions that young people can take to help build a Culture of Peace globally. It is open to all high school students. **Contact:** Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Swackhamer Peace Essay Contest, PMB 121, 1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 1, Santa Barbara, CA 93108; Tel:805.965.3443; Fax: 805.568.0466; E-mail: wagingpeace@napf.org; Web:www.wagingpeace.org



Young Voices

“Creating Peaceable Schools” is this year’s *Young Voices* Essay topic.

It offers students an opportunity to discuss the steps that they are taking to help make their schools more peaceful places. **Contact:** Peace Education Foundation, 1900 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida, 33132-1025; Tel: 1.800.749.8838.

Worldwide

April 22 = EARTH DAY: The 30th

Anniversary. Over 2900 groups in 164 countries have already signed up to participate in festivities around the globe. Mother Earth has taken a beating from humans, see what can be done to repair the damage. **Contact:** Earth Day Network, 91 Marion St., Seattle, WA 98104, USA; Tel: 1.206.264.0144; E-mail: earthday@earthday.net; Web:www.earthday.net



You are cordially invited to join Veterans for Peace in the pursuit of a more peaceful world for the children, everywhere.

Contact: Veterans for Peace, 733 15th St. NW, Suite 928, Washington, DC 20005; E-mail: vfp@igc.org; Web: www.veteransforpeace.org

For Your Information

The world has 4400+ nuclear weapons on alert, 433 nuclear power plants, 591 research reactors and many other nuclear installations, almost all of them in the Northern Hemisphere and all at risk for Y2K accidents. There is still time. There are still solutions.

Call, Fax and E-mail Pres. Clinton demanding that he:

1. Negotiate an agreement with President Yeltsin that all 2400 U.S. and 2000 Russian nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert be “de-alerted” before Jan.1, 2000.
2. Mobilize the deployment of the required number of emergency back-up electrical generators at every nuclear reactor in the world.

Numbers You Need

All are area code 202

President Bill Clinton

phone: 456.1414 fax: 456.2461

e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

**Secretary of State
Madeleine Albright**

phone: 647.4000 fax: 647.7120

**National Security Advisor
Samuel Berger**

phone: 456.9481 fax: 456.2883

And Most Importantly,
Your Own Members of Congress

Capitol Switchboard:
Senate/House: 224.3121



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War Chest to Toy Chest

In Sacramento, California, *Zany Brainy* at 2100 Arden Way held a trade-in your "violent" toys/videos exchange day. The event was part of a national effort called "The Lion and Lamb Project."

A violent toy is described as "one that promotes violence and aggression as the best way to settle disputes, depicts violent acts as fun, harmless or cool, encourages children to act out aggressive scenarios, fosters aggressive competition or depends on 'enemies' that need to be 'destroyed' by children."



Jan Provost, President of the Northland Chapter of GFP (WI/MN), surveys the donations for the annual No War Toy Drive. For 15 years the chapter has collected and distributed toys to the needy.

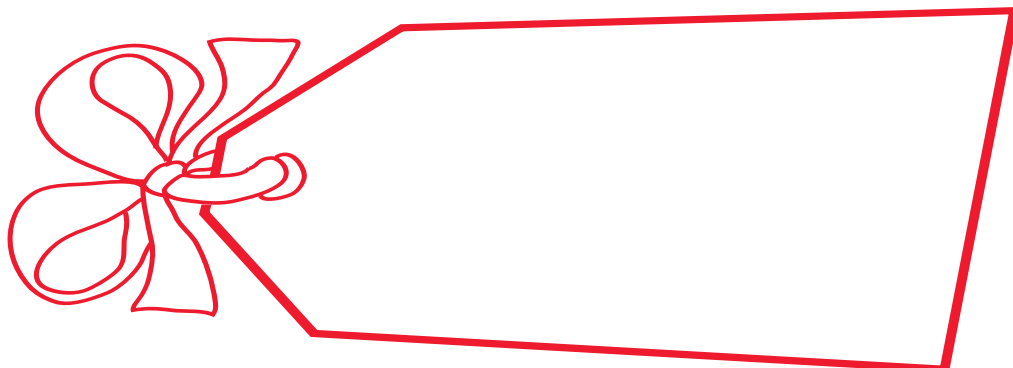
Grandmothers for Peace International

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Elk Grove, California 95758 U.S.A.
phone: 1.916.684.8744; fax: 1.916.684.0394
e-mail: wiednerb@aol.com
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Abolition 2000 International Petition

Missiles to Sunflowers: A New Commitment for a New Century

We call upon all states, and particularly the nuclear weapons states, to make the following commitments:

1. **END THE NUCLEAR THREAT.** End the nuclear threat by dealerting all nuclear weapons, withdrawing all nuclear weapons from foreign soil and international waters, separating warheads from delivery vehicles and disabling them, committing to unconditional no first use of nuclear weapons, and ceasing all nuclear weapons tests, including laboratory tests and “subcriticals.”

2. **SIGN THE TREATY.** Sign a Nuclear Weapons Convention by the year 2000, agreeing to the elimination of all nuclear weapons within a timebound framework

3. **REALLOCATE RESOURCES.** Reallocate resources to ensure a sustainable global future and to redress the environmental devastation and human suffering caused by nuclear weapons production and testing, which have been disproportionately borne by the world’s indigenous peoples.

1. Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address: _____

2. Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address: _____

3. Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address: _____

4. Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address: _____

5. Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address: _____

6. Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address _____

7. Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address: _____

8. Name: _____ Email*: _____

Address: _____

*By providing your e-mail address, you will receive periodic updates on Abolition 2000.

The results of this petition will be delivered to the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences, the Human Rights Commission, and the governments of nuclear weapons states and nuclear threshold states.

Please return Abolition 2000 International Petitions to:

Abolition 2000, c/o Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

PMB 121, 1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 1 Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Tel: (805) 965-3443; Fax: (805) 568-0466; E-mail: a2000@silcom.com; URL: <http://www.wagingpeace.org>

A Global Network to eliminate nuclear weapons. Supported by Citizen Groups, Political and Religious Leaders, Professional Associations, Colleges and Universities, Nobel Laureates, Retired Military Leaders & Municipalities

This petition distributed by Grandmothers for Peace International.