

“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, Founder, 1928 - 2001

Lorraine Krofchok, Director

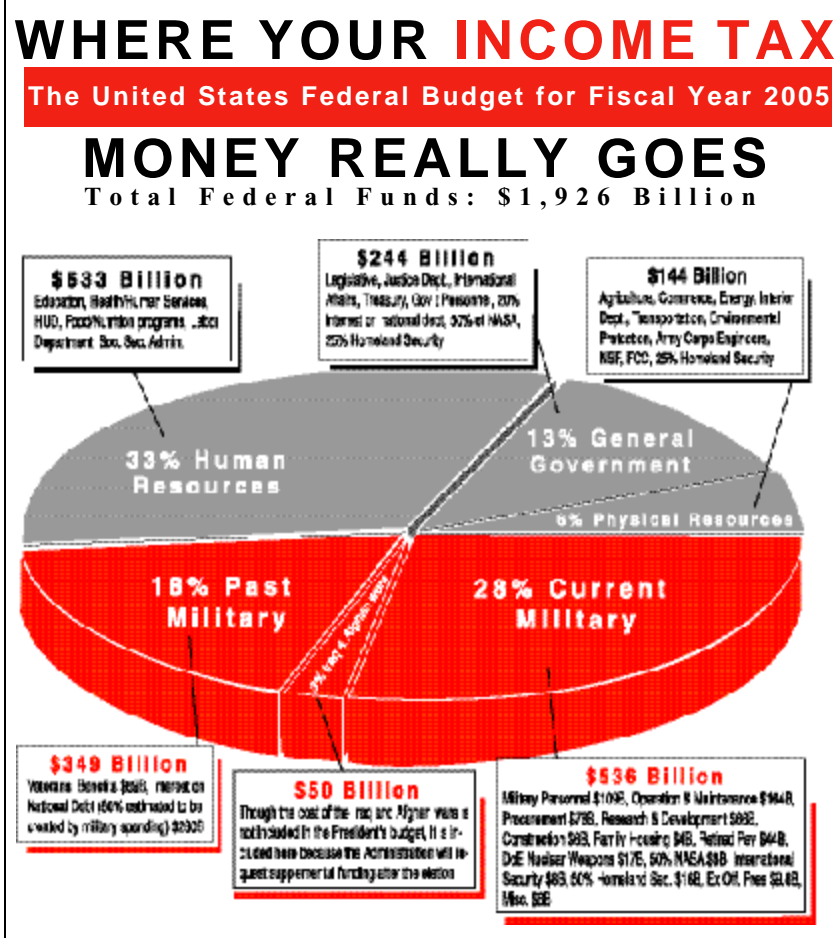
June 2004

Founded 1982

SHOW ME THE MONEY

War Resisters League creates this leaflet each year after the President releases a proposed budget. The figures here are from a line-by-line analysis of projected figures in the “Analytical Perspectives” book of the Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2005. The percentages are federal funds, which do not include trust funds such as Social Security that are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don't pay) by April 15, 2004, goes only to the federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining trust and federal funds (the so-called “Unified Budget”) began in the 1960s during the Vietnam War. The government presentation makes the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

“Current military” spending adds together money allocated for the Dept. of Defense (\$431 billion) plus the military portion from other parts of the budget. Spending on nuclear weapons (without their delivery systems) amounts to about 1% of the total budget. “Past military” represents veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt. Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated. The government willingly borrows for war, but finds nothing extra for crises in human needs. (Information source: www.warresister.org)

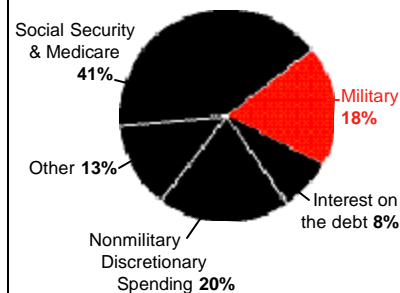


Other War Costs

- * 24,000 people worldwide die daily from chronic malnutrition.
- * 300,000 veterans go homeless each year in the U.S.
- * 14,000 people worldwide die daily for lack of clean water.
- * 53% of Europeans believe that the United States is a threat to world peace.
- * The Patriot Act gives the U.S. government new power to spy on its own citizens without judicial review, and to arrest and detain "suspects" without charges for indefinite periods.

The Government Deception

The pie chart below is the government view of the budget. This is a distortion of how our income tax dollars are spent because it includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security), and the expenses of past military spending are not distinguished from nonmilitary spending. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large chart (on the left).



Source: Budget of the United States FY 2005, February 2, 2004, Table S-12

GFPI CHAPTER ACTIONS

FROM COAST TO COAST AND BEYOND

Superior, Wisconsin *Dorothy Wolden*

The Northland Chapter of Grandmothers for Peace was a significant presence at the Northland Anti-War Coalition's March 24th demonstration, "**Raising Our Voices Against War and Empire**" in Duluth, Minnesota.

Two hundred and fifty participants marched 10 blocks through downtown Duluth on an unseasonably warm March evening (45 degrees!) to rally in front of the Federal Building in Duluth's Civic Center. GFP members **Penny Cragun, Donna Howard, Debbie Isabell and Dorothy Wolden** assisted organizers by acting, with others, as "peacekeepers" that directed the marchers and ensured a safe, orderly procession to the rally. Our banner was proudly carried in the march and displayed at the front of the rally by GFP members **Karen Barschdorf and Katie Wolden**.

Speakers at the rally included Wisconsin State Assembly member **Frank Boyle**, Christian Peace Team member **Michele Naar-Obed**, **Cole Maki** from Students Against War and poet **Ellie Schoenfeld**. The march and rally received considerable local press coverage. The peace movement continues to sustain itself and spread its message in the Northland!

Visalia, California *Pat Dressler*

There were 100 lively demonstrators who came out to express their opposition to the US military occupation in Iraq. It was very uplifting to witness the positive response from most of the motorists who drove by the corner of Walnut and Shaw Avenues.



Pat Dressler (left), with an unidentified demonstrator in Fresno, CA., at the March 20, 2004, peace action.

The **Quaker community and the Tulare United for Peace Organization** organized the demonstration, which was peaceful, and a success. The **South Valley Peace Center** also had people represented at the demonstration. We also passed out peace-promoting flyers to the motorists. Many demonstration participants mentioned they noticed a better attitude among motorists going by in contrast to the demonstrations they participated in before the war on Iraq.

London, England *Jean Stead*

Thousands of anti-war protestors gathered in London, March 20th, to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Iraq War. The march started in Hyde Park and ended in Trafalgar Square with a rally and speeches. Coaches took people from all over the country, including the West Country, where I am at present. The **Stop the War Coalition** and the **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament** took a big contingent from Exeter.

Meanwhile, there has been a lot going on generally. One of our best grandmothers for peace, **Raymonde Hainton**, went to London with a big party from the west country on March 16th for meetings with M.P.s and others. The focus was the implementation of the non-proliferation treaty as well as pushing for a stronger Parliamentary voice in the United Nation and the developing world. One of the speakers at the meeting after the lobby was **Rebecca Johnson**, now a nuclear weapons adviser to Hans Blix, and the head of **NGO** (Non-Governmental Organizations), which is now based in London. She is also an old friend of mine from Greenham Common.

Up at Menwith Hill, the US listening post in Yorkshire, the peace camp organised by the GFP members **Helen John** and **Lindis Percy** held a demo against the base on Friday, March 19th. Lindis was arrested Nov. 17, 2003, after climbing the 20-foot-high gates at Buckingham Palace to protest your President George Bush's state visit. She clung there for over two hours before voluntarily coming down.

Raymonde Hainton also attended a meeting at Plymouth organised by the local group against Trident, which is now stationed there. The government is leaving the question of replacement of Trident until

after the next election next year (surprise). The focus was also on the dumping of nuclear waste in the English Channel and the Irish Sea, now reaching very worrying, poisonous levels. Raymonde reported that at the meeting **Michael Meacher** said, as a former government minister, that he now regrets having given permission for the dumping of nuclear waste. In the West Country, it makes you feel that the waters all around you have been poisoned.

In April, the Aldermaston march was held - a demonstration against the new generation of "battlefield" nukes being developed at Aldermaston in Berkshire. The march started in Trafalgar Square on April 9th, Good Friday, and took four days to reach Aldermaston. I was there on Good Friday with a Grandmothers for Peace banner!

Good luck Lorraine, to all of you and may we all be blessed with success. Love and peace, Jean

New York City, New York *Joan Wile*

An affiliate of GFP, **Grandmothers Against the War** hold weekly peace vigils in New York City

Heartsick over the continued killing and maiming of our military troops and innocent civilians in Iraq, in November 2003, I called together a few grandmother friends to discuss the possibility of starting a grass roots movement of grannies to try and stop the occupation. Out of this beginning and with the invaluable help and advice of **Judith Cartisano** came a rally, held on November 22nd at the statue of Eleanor Roosevelt in Manhattan. At least 50 people attended, and local politicians and peace activists spoke, including famed actress Barbara Barrie ("Breaking Away").

In January, Grandmothers Against the War began a weekly vigil in front of Rockefeller Center on Fifth Avenue. Braving the bitter cold at first were just 3 people, but gradually the numbers increased to as many as 12 or 13 people.

The vigil location proved to be just about perfect because it is a tourist mecca - people from all over the world walk by. We've talked with people from China, Russia, Slovakia, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, South America,

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Chapter News: Florida, California

◆ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

England and many other countries as well as from all over America - and lots of folks take our pictures. The location also draws a lot of press and media people. Some have been attracted to our action and have written about us and filmed us - for instance, Japanese public television; the French newspaper, Ouest France; the New York Times, and the Associated Press.

Occasionally, we encounter somebody who does not agree with our mission — to end the occupation immediately and bring the young people home — but for the most part we get a very positive response. People give us thumbs up, thank us for what we're doing, take pictures with us and sometimes join our vigil.

Grandmothers Against the War learned of Grandmothers for Peace International and is now the New York City affiliate for that group. Right now, we are a single-issue organization — end the war — but once our kids come home to stay, we will actively support the many other goals of Grandmothers for Peace and merge ourselves into it.

We welcome everybody to stand with us - men and younger people, as well as grandmothers. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm on the west side of Fifth Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets, and would be thrilled if you would join us!

May 4th, I participated in a **United for Peace action**. About one hundred of us met in front of **Hillary Clinton's office** (she's been such a disappointment on the war issue — voting for the resolution and now calling for more troops — that's what we get for having a senator with no sons). We walked around in a circle for about an hour chanting and carrying our signs and a few little flags I brought (I got the idea to start using flags and take away the phony "patriotic" issue from the Republicans).

Then we gathered around a coffin, read names of Iraqi and American dead and put the pieces of paper with their names one by one into the coffin, covered the coffin with our flowers, and then did the same a block away in front of **Senator Schumer's office** (same deal, supported the war). At the end a few of us spoke - I, merely, to announce my vigil. But, a woman spoke whose son, a 24-year-old Second Lieutenant, died in February in Iraq. He had just returned from a brief leave in which he got married - five days of marriage. She was very eloquent - said she'd never been political before but

was doing this for her son who had told her right before he returned to Iraq, "I don't want to go back, but I have to in order to bring the 18 men in my command home." He apparently took a bomb thereby saving them.

This woman feels she has to do what she can to bring those guys and all the rest home to fulfill her son's last words. Of course, we all cried. She said she was proud of her son but that the war was wrong and although he was a hero he died for Bush's lie. She was really something. Unfortunately, there seemed to be no American media or press. However, a BBC reporter was there, and somebody filmed us from a Russian news channel.

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St. Augustine, Florida *Peg McIntire*

Our March 20th demonstration was good. The newspaper headline stated: **"Protest Draws 100"** (that's a lot for St. Augustine) along with a picture of **People for Peace and Justice** waving a big Peace flag, and two long columns with good quotes. The article also referred to a new coalition of eleven peace groups, the **St Augustine Progressive Action Coalition (SAPAC)**, which we formed for communication and cooperation concerning peace issues.

Sacramento, California *Lorraine Krofchok*

Thank you to all who participated in some action on March 20th! The world also spoke with millions on the streets.

Locally in Sacramento, CA., we had GFP out with their shirts on, on a street corner protesting. When I got home from San Francisco, it was part of the local news report, specifically mentioning GFP by name. Great job!

In San Francisco, GFP International and GFP Hayward, CA, stretched out our banners on the corner of Van Ness and Grove.



GFP International and GFP Hayward, CA., display their banners in San Francisco, CA., at the March 20, 2004, peace action.

It was a great afternoon and watching the 50,000 marching by was a wonderful experience.

We saw many friends and GFP shirts go by, new friends who introduced themselves, plus people must have taken 100s of pictures of us!

A big **thank you** to GFP members **Roberta and Richard Penrose** from Sacramento who stopped to say hello as they marched by. In the evening I found an AP story about the SF event and Richard was quoted:

"In San Francisco, thousands of taiko drummers, cyclists, activists and other protesters chanted "End the Occupation" and "Impeach Bush." Richard Penrose, 77, and his wife boarded an early bus from Sacramento to join the rally. ***'I don't know if Bush is going to hear the message, but we're hoping the people of the United States hear it. Because people should have their power back,' Penrose said.***"

It was a great day and I hope each of you participated in some way, even if only to watch us on TV and give everyone moral support!



Left to right: kneeling, Noralle Jennings-Bradley, Myrna Seto; standing: Nan Mahon, Diane Bader, Nancy Baker, Majorie Boehm, and Lorraine Krofchok, at a monthly vigil, Sacramento, CA., April 17, 2004.



Bill Wiedner, Lorraine Krofchok and others at the Sacramento, CA., Arden Mall, May 1, 2004.

Show Me Your Patriotism

Barbed Patriotism

By Robert C. Koehler
Tribune Media Services

When 10,000 protesters gathered in November at the infamous school housed in Fort Benning, Ga., they encountered not merely armed guards and barbed wire fencing, but a pumped-up PA system drowning out their words with patriotic music.

The symbolism could hardly have been more stark, or to my mind, more obscene: Amid amber waves of grain, the barbed wire of the national security establishment is supposed to be invisible. The protesters, 27 of whom were eventually arrested, had gathered – as people have been gathering for 14 years now – to demand the shutdown of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, better known by its former name, the School of the Americas.

Even if you have heard of the place, you may have a hard time believing that it really exists, or that it is what it is: a “school” for the torturers and assassins who keep order in Latin America on our behalf. It’s a bloody business, keeping the rich rich, channeling the desperation of the poor into sweatshops and out of social movements and demands for land reform. If you’re a union leader in a country controlled by SOA graduates, your life is in danger. If you talk against free trade, your life is in danger.

We claim to have gone to war in Iraq to topple a bloody dictator from power, but on this side of the world, human rights abuses — mass graves, murdered priests — begin at a compound in Fort Benning.

Since 1946, the SOA (which was located in Panama until 20 years ago, when popular discontent forced it to move north of the border), some 50,000 soldiers from 18 countries throughout the hemisphere have received training in the brutal game of counterinsurgency. Name a massacre, atrocity or “dirty little war” of the last half century in Latin America and there’s a good chance SOA grads were involved.

The Guatemalan death squads? The disappeared of Argentina? Pinochet’s reign of terror in Chile? The 1980 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador? The slaughter of 800 Salvadoran men, women and children in the village of El Mozote? All of these horrors and dozens more bear the stamp of SOA.

Father Roy Bourgeois, the Maryknoll priest who founded SOA Watch, came

slowly to his role as passionate opponent of U.S. foreign policy. He has so far spent four years in prison, he told me recently, on charges stemming from his protests at Fort Benning, “and we’re not going away until the school is closed.”

It’s been a long journey for the self-described “Sunday Catholic” from the bayou country of Louisiana, who joined the Navy as a young man, served a tour of duty in Vietnam and thought of making the military his career. Vietnam woke him up. He saw too much. He met a missionary, for instance, who ran an orphanage for 380 children whose parents had been killed by Americans. On his return to the states, he entered the seminary. His first placement as a priest was a parish in the slums of La Paz, Bolivia. “When you live with the poor you begin to speak the language of the poor. They became my teachers,” he said.

From that perspective, he saw — lived through — American foreign policy in Latin America. In 1980, **Archbishop Romero** was assassinated in El Salvador; then two of Bourgeois’ friends, **Ita Ford and Maura Clark**, were among four nuns raped and murdered in that country a few months later, by soldiers of the government the U.S. was supporting with massive aid.

Most of the killers were SOA grads, but this only came to light in 1990, after U.S. **Rep. Joseph Moakley** investigated the brutal execution of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador in November 1989. Moakley’s report on the murders, implicating the SOA, first made Bourgeois aware of the school. Ten people, including Congressional Medal of Honor winner **Charlie Liteky**, took part in the first SOA protest, on the anniversary of those eight deaths. All were arrested. Bourgeois’ sentence – for trespassing and splashing a vile of his own blood on photographs of the school’s “honor graduates” — was 14 months. In prison, he said, “We learned we couldn’t be silenced.” Indeed, in 14 years, the protesters’ numbers have increased a thousand fold. Neither arrests nor barbed wire has silenced them. “America the Beautiful” won’t either.

Robert Koehler, an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist, is an editor at Tribune Media Services and a nationally syndicated writer. Email: bkoehler@tribune.com.

Edward R. Murrow: We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. When the loyal opposition dies, I think the soul of America dies with it.

H. L. Mencken: The notion that a radical is one who hates his country is naïve and usually idiotic. He is, more likely, one who likes his country more than the rest of us, and is thus more disturbed than the rest of us when he sees it debauched. He is not a bad citizen turning to crime; he is a good citizen driven to despair.

Ralph Waldo Emerson: When a whole nation is roaring Patriotism at the top of its voice, I am fain to explore the cleanness of its hands and the purity of its heart.

Theodore Roosevelt: To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public. (1918)

Melissa Metcalfe

Tampa Bay, Florida

I could not possibly improve on Samuel Johnson! If I recollect my lessons, it was the 18th Century, in the Age of Reason, when he is quoted as saying (or writing): “Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.”

Ginny DeMartini

Hayward Chapter

I think to be patriotic you have to be informed of current events and the political arena. A person needs to participate in their community and dissent when something’s gone wrong. People should think beyond their own personal needs and try to encompass the idea of improving society for all. Mere flag waving is not enough – people should try to live up to the politics they espouse, rather than be the hypocrites they so often are.

Joan Wile

GFP Affiliate /NYC

From our affiliate group, Grandmothers Against the War: Patriotism is to be on the alert for wrongs, immoralities, injustices, hypocrisy, and inhumanity committed by our representatives, and to continually voice our opposition not only to those who commit the misdeeds, but to inform the citizenry and attempt to encourage demand for correction.

◆ PLEASE SEE PATRIOTISM, PAGE 5

Christie Stephens
Indiana Chapter

We discussed a definition for patriotism and considered an acrostic to define it.

- P** - patience, peacemaking, prudence, paying one's share
- A** - allegiance to people of good will all around the world, alert to propaganda
- T** - trustworthy, teachable, thinking
- R** - rational, relational, "right" thinking
- I** - interested in international cooperation
- O** - open to ideas other than one's own, observant
- T** - truthful
- I** - ideals not compromised
- S** - speaking truth, speaking out against oppression and injustice, outspoken
- M** - matriotic, merciful, meritorious

Definitions are extremely difficult. Meanings are multilayered and can be interpreted in so many diverse ways.

My personal definition of love of country and love of world is as follows:

Grandmatriotism/Grandpatriotism: the passionate, active love for all the children and grandchildren of the world; the belief that all children/grandchildren of Earth have the inalienable right to be loved, to be cared for, to live in peaceful homes, in peaceful countries, in a peaceful, safe world; the commitment to do everything in one's power, through peaceful means, to ensure the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness of every child .

May it be so and may it be soon.

Peace, Christie

Mary Lu Perham
Ferndale, Washinton

Patriotism. Some word that is. I can only harken back to my experience in Northern Ireland where there is so much patriotism, on both sides.

Dolores Chapman
Sacramento Chapter

Here is a definition of patriotism which I looked up and liked:

"Love of country; devotion to the welfare of one's country; the virtues and actions of a patriot; the passion which inspires one to serve one's country."

I would interpret all of the above to mean a person is still a patriot if they feel peace is preferable to war. How could War possibly be in the best welfare of any country?

Peg McIntire
St. Augustine, Florida

I have no definition of "patriotic" because the word is being so carelessly thrown around that it has lost its meaning. (Like the word religious).

I feel a commitment to non violence - verbal and physical. If being "patriotic" involves the United States of America's bullying, name calling, demonizing or worse, inflicting pain and suffering on a people or a culture or a nation with the use of weapons, then I do not want to be "patriotic." I want alternatives: understanding, negotiation, and reconciliation. The current chaos in Iraq clearly demonstrates that war is no solution, that thousands of lives and millions of dollars are being wasted in our country's greedy, immoral and illegal pursuit of power and oil.

Susan Wright
Seabrook, TX

I use to think that patriotism was standing behind your country and supporting your government. As I get older (and maybe wiser), I find that maybe that isn't the meaning after all. How can I say I'm patriotic when I'd rather send my sons to Canada than have them fight "Bush's war"? Maybe patriotic is really a matter of standing behind and supporting your fellow man in their endeavor for a life free from fear, hunger, rage and outrage.

We watch movies about WWII and the bonding of Americans. How patriotism swept the nation in everything ... rationing gasoline and other items, growing victory gardens, buying savings bonds. That was a different time. Today, I find myself wondering if we are killing for gasoline, eating at fancy restaurants while those in other countries are starving, spending money on trivial items when others can't even afford medicine and as for Hollywood ... I'll wait for it to come out on video because even I can't afford the ticket prices.

Patriotism? I hope I find the true meaning in the newsletter, because I sure don't have it.

GMFP/PWC
South Africa

This Question comes straight away when South Africans are casting their votes. It is very amazing the way our election has been handled. With peace and happiness, people since this morning around 7:00, are in queues with smile on the lips to vote for any party of their choices. A model to follow worldwide!!! We are proud: a rainbow nation, one nation with many colours, signs of harmony, love and peace.

This to say loudly and with pride, how

South Africans have learned to love their country beyond our differences for the great benefit of our nation.

This is what we call Patriotism: A sort of passion for His/Her country; a supreme love beyond differences of colour, nature, cultures and behavior. Nobody is perfect, we all make mistakes ... but for the sake of a nation, people must transcend their sentiments and act as Daughters and Sons of one nation.

I hope that in the coming election in USA, people are going to be serious about election. Good monitoring system, good accounting system, honesty, fair and free ..the world needs this.

(The Johannesburg [Republic of South Africa] Chapter joined the **Power of Woman and Children** group and are known as **GMFP/PWC/RSA**.)

Nice vs. real

By Faith Woolson
Fredonia, NY, Chapter

Most women in this part of the world have grown up believing in the absolute truth that "being nice" is the mark of a "good woman." That has kept an enormous number of necessary changes from happening. "Nice" women are those who always make everyone feel comfortable. Their role is to push personal needs aside to attend to others' demands. Being momentarily appreciated and generally ignored is the usual reward. By the time we are grandmothers, this is screwed into our brains so tightly that we might be stuck there, irrevocably and painfully, - the designated nice women in our families and communities.

But then again, we could support each other to take on a new role: that of protector of the young and of generations to come. We can become the truth tellers and decency demanders notifying the bullies in all places that they have no future. This may be a startling new role, and sometimes we may shock ourselves with the strength of our dedication to it. We need to support each other in re-creating ourselves.

Grandmothers for Peace is an essential group for this to succeed. Together, we can be co-creators of this new role - expanding it, supporting it, and making sure it is heard and respected. Let's help each other unscrew those old expectations and become simply who we really are, doing what we have every right to do. The world needs us: we dare not stop.

Books Not Bombs

Everywhere you look school budgets are cut, libraries closed and social programs gutted — yet, against a major deficit and budget crunch, funding for nuclear weapons continues to rise. For example, in the Bay Area, two Livermore schools will close, while funding for nuclear weapons rises at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab. On August 8, 2004, to mark the 59th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there will be a major rally in Livermore demanding **Books not Bombs**. The action at one of the primary facilities for nuclear weapons in the world will be part of an international series of actions from August 6-12 that oppose U.S. nuclear policy and demand the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Livermore nuclear weapons lab has long been a site of nonviolent resistance. Nuclear weapons are the ultimate symbol and enforcement mechanism for U.S. Empire. A nuclear nation rules by threat of annihilation. The U.S. has brandished its nuclear power for decades while simultaneously demanding that other nations disarm. Billions of dollars were spent, and continue to be spent, in the invasion of Iraq. The U.S. claimed they were looking for weapons of mass destruction. WMD were not found in Iraq.

Meanwhile, right here in the Bay Area, University of California scientists are developing new and modified nuclear weapons at Livermore Lab. Livermore and Los Alamos (New Mexico) nuclear weapons labs are the nation's primary nuclear weapons labs and together have designed every nuclear weapon in the U.S. arsenal. The University of California manages both.

Current work at Livermore Lab **includes** design work on the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, a **“bunker busting” bomb. \$28 million dollars is requested for just this bomb alone.** If designed this bomb would burrow into the ground and create huge clouds of radioactive dust.

In addition to the development of new and modified nuclear weapons, a major increase of nuclear weapons activities is proposed at Livermore Lab. In essence, their ten-year plan, if unchanged will create the infrastructure for a whole new generation of nuclear weapons.

A highly criticized plan released by the Department of Energy reveals plans to double the limit for plutonium stored on site to 3,300 pounds (enough for at least 300 nuclear bombs) and create new technologies to manufacture plutonium pits, the core of a nuclear bomb. Stopping the infrastructure that enables the creation of new and modified nuclear weapons in Livermore is essential to prevent rampant global proliferation.

Join with thousands around the world to say **“NO” to nuclear weapons and U.S. nuclear policy.** The **Books Not Bombs rally** will be on Sunday, **August 8** at 1 pm at Jackson Elementary School in Livermore, CA. The rally will be followed by an action and march to Livermore nuclear weapons lab.

This year we are demanding: the abolition of nuclear weapons, the demilitarization of education and an end to a war economy which funds bombs over school books for our children.

Contact: Tri-Valley CAREs, (925) 443-7148; tara@trivalleycares.org;
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GFP's concerns regarding the Livermore nuclear weapons lab

The United States is supposed to be fighting terrorism. Why then are we becoming the magnets for terrorism by continuing to research new and better nuclear weapons? Is it because it gives us the ability to threaten and coerce the world? It is an unnerving flaunting of power. Are we all doomed because of the idea of being number ONE?

It is mind boggling that the people of Livermore allow this lab to continue. Within 50 miles there are 7 million people and this facility is an accident truly waiting to happen. Do the people trust the government so much that they are comforted by the fact they are told “it is safe”? Does anyone think about Bhopal, India, or Chernobyl and their “accidents”? What about an earthquake, a reality we all live with, and what about a terrorist threat?

I realize this lab employs 8,500 full-time people, a number of part timers and that the Livermore city seal has the atom symbol on it. Are people all numb to the fact of what is being created at this lab, or is it just apathy and dependence? Would it shock them to really know?

But then, **Upton Sinclair** said it best: **“It's impossible to make a man understand something that his livelihood depends on not understanding.”**

Help Needed: *“I've been writing to every institution which is more or less close to this sphere [nuclear waste]. World Health Organization replied that it is not their problem, which disappointed me a lot.” - Yuliya Koryakina, March 16, 2004*

My name is Yuliya Koryakina and I am a graduate student at Troy State University, Alabama, working on my MBA. I have an important matter that I think you may be able to help me with.

My parents live in Pavlograd, a small town in the central part of the Ukraine. This place was known during Soviet Union times as one of the producers of nuclear weapons. After the Ukraine became independent, there was an agreement between the USA and the Ukraine to allow a group of scientist to come to the city to help destroy the bombs that were there.

At the end of 2003, the American scientists left the town. (I don't know the reasons). The problem is that the bombs were not destroyed and the people are experiencing terrible symptoms from the after-effects of the radiation from these weapons. Headaches and other health problems are afflicting everyone in Pavlograd. The worst problem it seems is that the government is not paying any attention to what is happening. New bombs are arriving from all over the world because they are supposed to be returned where they were produced. Parents were asked to take kids somewhere far from the town for the school spring break because the situation is very dangerous.

I worry a lot about my family, so could you please give me a piece of advice. Whom should I contact for help? I've been writing to every institution which is more or less close to this sphere [nuclear waste]. World Health Organization replied that it is not their problem, which disappointed me a lot.

The situation is turning to genocide. People are suffering and the government isn't doing anything to help them. The entire population of Pavlograd, about 120,000, is at risk to be killed in a slow and painful way, just because bureaucrats want money and power. Therefore, I am asking if your organization could help solve this problem somehow.

Yuliya Koryakina

TSU

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In the spotlight

Sarah Johnson is a person who keeps plugging along, year after year, with a fixed focus: *right is right, fight the good fight, never, never give in, and always remember those who came before.*

She has been a **Grandmothers for Peace member since 1988**, joining after her mother, Corine Thornton, did. Corine is still active in the Hayward, CA., chapter.

Sarah took over shipping GFP Shirts, Bags, & Hats a couple of years ago when her mother was no longer able to do it.

One of Sarah's proudest memories is of a project she and her daughter, Cynthia, did to help Barbara Wiedner answer a call from the Gray Panthers to send vitamins, food, and clothing to Russian grandmothers living near Chernobyl who had no families to care for them.

In addition to her GFP involvement, Sarah is a community activist for sensible transportation and land-use planning in the Sacramento region. She advocates improving air quality and limiting congestion by offering people choices of travel modes. As a result of her advocacy, Sarah was named **Citizen of the Year for 2003** by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments "for her commitment and consistent involvement in regional transit and transportation planning." The council serves a six-county region

Sarah, **also**, was awarded **Citizen of the Year** by the California Transportation Foundation for her advocacy in transportation planning. She accepted, saying: *"I am honored, but I want the focus to be on the work, not on me. I dedicate my work to my six grandchildren and their future."*

Sarah also finds time for Elk Grove Peace & Justice Forum, South County Citizens for Responsible Growth, League of Women Voters, Elk Grove Historical Society and, for the past six years, working on revitalizing Old Town Elk Grove.

Recently, her daughter Judy went to Washington, D.C., for the **March for Women's Lives**. *"I am so proud of her," she said, "for standing tall for her beliefs. I guess it runs in the family!"*

Sarah Johnson
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Elk Grove, CA 95624
916-686-5858
sarahjohnson@att.net

Venezuela Ceases all Training of Soldiers at the School of the Americas

The Venezuelan government has announced that it is going to cease all training of Venezuelan soldiers at the School of the Americas (now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation). This controversial US military combat training school for Latin American soldiers is based in Fort Benning, Georgia, and has been the focus of demonstrations by SOA Watch for over 10 years.

The official announcement was made by **Venezuelan Vice President José Vicente Rangel** in an address to the Venezuelan National Assembly on Thursday, February 26, 2004. In an earlier meeting with a delegation of U.S. human rights activists, Rangel **stated that the SOA/WHISC is a training school for dictators, torturers and terrorists, and a country such as the U.S. which considers itself to be a democracy should not have such a school on their soil.**

During a visit of religious leaders (including SOA Watch Founder Fr. Roy Bourgeois) from the United States in Venezuela in **January, President Hugo Chávez also spoke out against the SOA: "This school [the SOA/WHISC] deformed the minds of many Latin American soldiers, who from there went on to become dictators."** (El Nacional, January 19, 2004)

Graduates of the SOA were cited in the coup attempt against President Chávez in April 2002 and the embassy bombings in Caracas in February 2003.

These graduates have been found responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America. In 1996 the Pentagon was forced to release manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execution.

Initially established in Panama in 1946, the SOA was kicked out of that country in 1984 under the terms of the Panama Canal Treaty. **Former Panamanian President Jorge Illueca stated that the School of the Americas was the "biggest base for destabilization in Latin America."**

Over its 58 years, the SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counter-insurgency techniques, sniper skills, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. Graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people. Among those targeted by SOA graduates are educators, unionists, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. Thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, "disappeared," massacred, and forced into refuge by those trained at the SOA.

Opposition to the SOA in the U.S. Congress continues to grow. Legislation to close the school was introduced by Representative Jim McGovern (D-Mass) and is currently co-sponsored by 106 Members of Congress. In January, 24 human rights advocates were sentenced to 3-6 months in prison for committing civil disobedience when 10,000 people demonstrated at Ft. Benning on November 23, 2003.

Father Bill: arrested hundreds of times trying to close the SOA

By Corine Thornton

Our task of making a peaceful world has just become more difficult than ever. We have lost one of our greatest workers, Father Bill O'Donnell.

His Memorial, Sunday Dec. 14, 2003, at the Berkeley Community Center, was a glowing testimonial to the good he has done and the lives he has touched. There were politicians, union officials, church people, and just plain people, besides his loving family and dear friends such as Martin Sheen and Fr. Roy Bourgeois.

Members of the United Farm Workers accompanied his body ensconced in a simple pine box. A candlelight procession walked from the theater to St. Joseph the Worker church where a funeral mass was said on Monday morning.

Although he was a Catholic priest, he was an inspiration to all of us of whatever religious persuasion. He was a true friend of labor and a tireless worker for justice. His principles were rock-solid.

He has been arrested literally hundreds of times - trying to close the School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, GA, and trying to shut down the Livermore Nuclear Facility as well as walking picket lines for unions and against war.

Father Bill will be missed more than most and it would be good if each of us redoubled our efforts for peace to make up for our loss of such an outspoken champion of just plain goodness.

(Originally published in the Women for Peace & Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Newsletter Jan/Feb. 2004.)

GRANDMOTHERS FOR PEACE DIRECTORY

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E-Mail: dianesosebee@hotmail.com

California: Grass Valley/Nevada City Chapter

Focus: This chapter is a "work in progress."
Twenty-three women have indicated interest
in creating a local chapter with a primary
focus to be decided.

Shirley McDonald
P.O. Box 2134
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: (503) 265-5545
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California: Hayward Chapter

Focus: canceling construction of the Nuclear
Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory.

Corine Thornton
24417 Margaret Drive
Hayward, CA 94542
Phone: (510) 582-7699

California: Rossmoor/Walnut Creek Affiliate Organization - Grandparents for Peace

Nancy Landfield
E-Mail: unclnan@attbi.com

California: San Luis Obispo Area Chapter

Focus: Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant,
Vandenburg and "Star Wars;" GMOs in food;
Military Toxics Campaign; DU (depleted
urnium) weapons' testing.

Molly Johnson
6290 Hawk Ridge Place
San Miguel, CA 93451
Phone/Fax: (805) 467-2431
E-Mail: peacegrannie@hotmail.com

California: Sacramento Area Chapter

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E-Mail: bernicerose@earthlink.net

Florida: Grandmothers for Peace (Young Women's Auxiliary)

Mary Provost Sellers
3500 Gulf Blvd., Unit 411
Bellaire Beach, FL 33786
Phone: (727) 596-2701

Florida: St. Augustine Chapter

Focus: Children's Peace Camps.
Peg McIntire
Grandparents for Peace (Peg's name for her
local group)
21 Village Las Palma Circle
St. Augustine, FL 32080-3590
Phone: (904) 471-1986
E-Mail: peg@aug.com

Florida: Cocoa Area Contact Person

Terre Beasley
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Maryland: Maryland Chapter

Deborah Matherly
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Massachusetts: Cape Cod Area Contact Person

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Minnesota: Minnesota Chapter

Marilyn Jones
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Minneapolis, MN 55424
E-Mail:
minnesota@grandmothersforpeace.org
Website:
minnesota.grandmothersforpeace.org

Minnesota: St. Paul Chapter

Focus: education to individuals, colleges and
organizations for peaceful protesting and
peace issues awareness; the James William
Fleisher/Marjorie Hedrik Sibley annual award
given to a student, K-college senior, who has
demonstrated, in any manner, an interest in
Int'l Peace, Peace Studies, Environmental
Concerns or Social Justice issues.

Constance Fleisher

Towers of Galtier
172 E. 6th Street #1206
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: (651) 227-4619
E-Mail: CBF36@aol.com

Nevada: Las Vegas Chapter

Focus: We are a group of Grandmothers who
hope to leave the world a better place for all
children. Our aspirations are for peace and
justice throughout the world; for a safe envi-
ronment that is nuclear free; for every child

to have their basic needs met; that they have
the opportunity to realize their potential.

Ginny Beamer
Phone: (702) 631-3560
E-Mail: ginnylv@juno.com

New York: Chautauqua County Area Contact Person

Faith Woolson
3488Weber Rd.
Fredonia, NY 14063
E-Mail: woolson@netsync.net

New York: Affiliate Organization - Grandmothers Againt the War

Focus: Specifically organized to get us out of
Iraq as soon as possible. Joan will also
inform people about GFP

Joan Wile
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Janet L. Hutto
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Texas: Amarillo Area Contact Person

Pam Allison
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Virginia: Northern Virginia Chapter

Suzanne C. Doherty
9873 Lakepointe Dr.
Burke, VA 22015
Phone: (703) 978-5178
E-Mail: scdoherty@cox.net

Wisconsin: Northland Chapter

Focus: shutdown of Project ELF at Clam
Lake, Wisconsin; No War Toys.

Janet Provost
2614 N. 22nd Street
Superior, WI 54880
Phone/Fax: (715) 394-7929
E-Mail: G4Peace1@aol.com

Wisconsin: Milwaukee Area Contact Person

Verdell De Yarman
Phone: (414) 562-8014

Wisconsin: Kickapoo Valley Chapter

Rita G. Conway
21715 Nordale Ave.
Ontario, WI 54651
grannysforpeace@kickapoo-valley.com

International Local Chapters/Contact People

Romania: Romanian Chapter

Focus: encouraging the involvement of
Romanian civil society in peace activities.

Ms. Victoria Dirvaru
Str. Mitropoliei Nr. 26
2400 RO

Phone: 0040 269 218178
 Fax: 0040 269 232650

South Africa: South Africa Chapter

Mufumbe Mateso, PWC General Secretary
 Grandmothers for Peace
 Power of Women and Children, South Africa
 P.O. Box 17066, Hillbrow 2038
 Johannesburg, South Africa

United Kingdom: Area Contact Person

Jean Stead
 E-Mail: jeanstead@hotmail.com

**GFP Northland Chapter
 2004 Scholarship Winners**

The **Barbara Wiedner Peace Awards** are given annually to area high school and college students who are actively involved in Peace and Social Justice issues.

This year's winners are:

Marianne Bortalin is a junior at University of Wisconsin-Superior. She was chosen for her involvement in Amnesty International and the Landmine Awareness Exhibition. Her major is in International Peace Studies. She will be traveling to Nova Scotia in May to attend a Peace Studies Workshop.

Theodora Ranelli is a sophomore at Harbor City International School (Duluth). She is active in the grassroots organization "Stand Up for Peace," "Together for Youth," and serves on the "Teen Council." As a member of the speakers' panel "Together for Youth," she has addressed social workers at the St. Louis County Social Service Conference as well as classes in her high school.

Natalie Senske is a University of Minnesota-Duluth freshman. She is currently Chair of the "Tobacco Free" coalition of Watertown, SD. She is planning to teach grades K-8 in elementary education with a minor in communication art and literature. She sees her work of teaching children about tobacco prevention as a step closer to Social Justice.

David Hopkins is a University of Wisconsin-Superior sophomore. He is majoring in communications (television and film) and First Nation Studies. He envisions a career in public education while advocating for tribal rights. He believes that First Nations leadership holds great potential for resolving numerous cultural and environmental problems.

Each of the winners was presented with an award certificate and a check for \$125.00. (Note: The Northland Chapter has their own local scholarship program. The Barbara Wiedner/Dorothy Vandercook scholarship recipients have not been selected as we go to press. Please visit our website in the near future for those names.)

Director's Notes

In the last few days I considered leaving this column blank, with the words: "I can't find anything to say about what our country has done." Actually, it would mean anything printable. But, along with the horrible news emerging from Iraq and the prison abuse, I do have some good things ...

Our **Indiana Chapter** has done an outstanding job of speaking out and getting the community of **Anderson** involved in dialog. The chapter wrote a letter-to-the-editor about the US Iraq policy and how we went to war based on wrongdoing and misleading statements. The response was enormous, some negative, many supportive. In the culmination of dialog (perhaps), the Professor Emeritus of Sociology (Anderson University) wrote a stunning Tribute to the Grandmothers.

These women meet on a weekly basis and have done an extraordinary job of bringing issues to the community. May I say how very proud we are of them, and Grandmothers for Peace from Anderson, Indiana, — keep writing, keep talking, and keep doing what you are doing! (If you would like to read these articles, please contact me and I can e-mail or snail mail them.)

Please read about other actions that Grandmothers have done in the US and internationally. We continue to grow. This is why Barbara wanted Grandmothers for Peace to continue and when she asked me to do that, why I said "yes" — because of *you* and what we all do for peace and justice. Peace to all of us, Lorraine

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 \$30 Family/yearly \$100 Sponsor/yearly

\$ _____ Donation to Peace Education. If your donation is \$25.00 or more, it is tax-deductible, and please make your check payable to the AGAPE Foundation.

Mail to:
 Grandmothers for Peace International
 P.O. Box 580788
 Elk Grove, CA 95758 USA

Livermore, California

August 8

**Books Not Bombs Rally
Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Remembered**



Join with thousands around the world to say "NO" to nuclear weapons and U.S. nuclear policy. The **Books Not Bombs** rally will be on Sunday,

August 8 at 1 pm at Jackson Elementary School in Livermore, CA. The rally will be followed by an action and march to Livermore nuclear weapons lab.

This year we are demanding: the abolition of nuclear weapons, the demilitarization of education and an end to a war economy which funds bombs over school books for our children.

Contact: Tri-Valley CAREs, (925) 443-7148; tara@trivalleycares.org; www.trivalleycares.org

New York City, New York

August 29

**The World Says NO to the Bush
Agenda**

Join **United for Peace and Justice** on the eve of the Republican National Convention (RNC) for a march and rally in opposition to the Bush administration's policies of war, occupation and empire abroad, and its intensifying assaults on the federal budget, our rights, and democracy at home. Antiwar coalitions from twenty-four nations have planned worldwide demonstrations in support of our movement's agenda for peace and justice.

Contact: United for Peace and Justice, (212) 868-5545; www.unitedforpeace.org.

Santa Barbara, CA

August 29, 10:00 am

**The World Says NO to the Bush
Agenda**

Organized by **Not In Our Name - Santa Barbara**, this all day event will begin with a street march on State Street terminating at Alameda Park for a rally with live music, speeches, and information tables sponsored by local peace and justice groups. The march and rally is in opposition to the Bush administration's policies of war, occupation and empire abroad, and its intensifying assaults on the federal budget, our rights, and democracy at home.

Contact: John Tieber, (805) 962-8840; jtieber@nion-sb.org; www.nion-sb.org

**NO GFP POLITICAL
ENDORSEMENTS PERMITTED**

Grandmothers for Peace, as an organization or chapter, can not endorse any political candidate or group due to our non-profit status.

Toronto, Canada

November 4-7

Building Peace for a Changing World



Join the **Canadian Voice of Women for Peace** at their annual conference. Founded in 1960, VOW works

locally, nationally and internationally on issues related to peace, social justice, human rights and development, always seeking to promote a woman's and a feminist's perspective

Contact: Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, (416) 603-7915; vow@ca.inter.net

Fort Benning, Georgia

November 19-21

Justice for the People of the Americas!



Plan now to gather with student, religious, labor, veterans, human rights, and social and global justice groups at the gates of Ft. Benning to demand justice for the martyrs and for the thousands that continue to suffer the brutal consequences of the combat training taught at the SOA/WHISC.

Graduates of the School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation are linked to almost every major human rights violation in Latin America since the school's inception over 50 years ago.

Your TAX \$\$\$\$\$ support this.

Contact: SOA Watch: PO Box 4566, Washington, DC, 20017; (202) 234 3440; info@soaw.org; www.soaw.org to order your November 2004 Organizing Packet.

www.warresisters.org/demos.htm

For a list of national and international on-going rallies, marches, vigils, demonstrations and teach-ins.



**Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook
Memorial Scholarship Foundation**

for information, and/or donation,

Contact: Leal Portis, 16335 Patricia Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949, USA, phone/fax (530) 273-6018; e-mail: hopione@sbcglobal.net

Colombia/South America

November 8-19

Stand in Solidarity

You are invited to "**Stand in Solidarity**" with Colombia's powerful and inspirational women of peace for an International Congress on "Women, Work, and Women's Movements" in the context of globalization. It is sponsored by **Witness for Peace** (WFP), a politically independent, grass-roots organization of people committed to nonviolence and led by faith and conscience. Their mission is to support peace, justice, and sustainable economies in the Americas by changing US policies and corporate practices that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean

WFP is looking for a strong delegation, with a special emphasis on U.S. women who are connected to organizations that are part of the women's movement.

Last November, 3,000 women traveling in a 96-bus caravan were met in each town by locals waving white handkerchiefs and shouting, "*Thanks for coming!*"

Contact: Gail Phares (WFP - Southeast) at 919-856.9468, wpfse@witnessforpeace.org; or John Pegg (WFP - UMW) at 218-349-1786, wfpumw@witnessforpeace.org; or Roxanne Hanson (National WFP) at 202-547-6112 or Roxanne@witnessforpeace.org



**September 11th
Families for Peaceful
Tomorrows**

is a non-profit group of family members of terrorism victims dedicated to finding alternatives to war as a response to their personal and national tragedies. They

represent more than eighty people who lost loved ones in New York City, Washington, DC. And Shanksville, Pennsylvania, as well as more than two thousand supporters.

Written by *David Potorti with Peaceful Tomorrows*, this book recounts the first year and a half of **Peaceful Tomorrows'** existence - how they came together to form the group and how they have struggled to keep their losses from being used as a justification for further violence and terror.

***"There are not enough jails,
not enough policemen,
not enough courts,
to enforce a law not supported
by the people."***

— Hubert H. Humphrey, 1965

Grandmothers for Peace

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 Elk Grove, California 95758 USA
 phone: 1 (916) 685-1130
 e-mail: lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org
 web: http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org

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 Elk Grove, CA 95624 • USA
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 e-mail: sarahjohnson@att.net



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Hats on to GFP

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**Navy Tote
 with
 colorful
 GFP logo**

Grandmothers for Peace International

P.O. Box 580788
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Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Patricia Altenburg

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"... \$300 million spent each day for death and destruction in Iraq be used to fund education, housing, healthcare and jobs."
www.ANSWERcoalition.org

***“Every gun that is made,
every warship launched,
every rocket fired,
signifies in the final sense
a theft from those
who hunger and are not fed,
those who are cold
and are not clothed.”***

*—President Dwight D. Eisenhower,
April 16, 1953*

THE US FEDERAL MILITARY BUDGET: FISCAL YEAR 2005

Current Military, \$536B: Military Personnel \$109B, Operation and Maintenance \$164B, Procurement \$67B, Research and Development \$66B, Construction \$6B, Family Housing \$4B, Retired Pay \$44B, DoE Nuclear Weapons \$17B, 50% NASA \$8B, International Security \$8B, 50% Homeland Security \$16B, Ex. Off. Pres. \$10B, misc. \$6B

Iraq & Afghan Wars, \$50B: Though the cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars is not included in the President's budget, it is included here because the Administration will request supplemental funding after the Nov. 2004 election.

Past Military, \$349B: Veterans' Benefits \$69B; Interest on National Debt (80% estimated to be created by military spending) \$280B

**Don't Take It Anymore!!!
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Numbers You Need

It is important that President Bush, key people in his Administration, and members of Congress hear from you.



President George W. Bush

Phone: (202) 456-1111 [comment line]

Fax: (202) 456-2461

e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

First Lady Laura Bush

e-mail: first.lady@whitehouse.gov

Vice-President Dick Cheney

e-mail: vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell

Fax: (202) 261-8577

e-mail: secretary@state.gov

Secretary of Defense

Donald H. Rumsfeld

Phone: (703) 697-5737 [Dept. of Defense]

Members Of Congress

(Capitol Switchboard)

Senate & House: (202) 224-3121