Kudos to all!

“A force to be reckoned with!!!!!!”
— Jan Provost, president, front row center.
eight ‘innocent children’ every single day,  
day in and day out.  
I find it offensively hypocritical of the  
U.S. to be ‘up in arms’ over the use of  
chemical weapons when you consider our  
history … the horrors of WW1 led to the  
1925 Geneva Protocol, which banned the  
use of chemical weapons. The U.S. didn’t  
sign until 1975, long after dumping hun-

dreds of thousands of gallons of Agent  
Orange in Vietnam and Cambodia, with the  
‘unintended consequence’ being the loss of  
thousands of lives, including our own U.S.  
Servicemen. It wasn’t until 1997 that an  
ternational treaty banned the production,  
stockpiling and use of these weapons. An-
gola, North Korea, Egypt, South Sudan and  
Syria are still not signatories to the pact.  

You condemn Assad’s “brazen use” of  
chemical weapons and the deaths of hun-
dreds of children as a violation of inter-
national norms and said that failure to  
act would empower other “rogue nations,  
authoritarian regimes and terrorist orga-
nizations” to develop and use weapons of  
mass destruction.  

Don’t you think that the U.S. is outside  
the “norm” when it comes to our obessen-
tive use of ‘personal weapons’? Don’t you  
think that our failure to pass comprehen-
sive background checks, limiting magazine  
capacities, and limits on the amount of am-
munition one person can purchase, is out-
side the ‘norm’ and could embolden “stand  
your ground” crackpots and right-wing gun  
enthusiasts, not to mention how it’s already  
emboldened the NRA?  

If we worked half as hard at passing laws  
that keep our streets safe, and our kids alive,  
as we do in trying to ‘police’ the world and  
trying to protect Syria’s children, then we  
wouldn’t have 8 children a day and 2,848  
children a year, slaughtered in this country.  

Yes, these are hard times and you have  
hard choices to make. It’s time to stand with  
Americans who want an END to bombing,  
an END to boots on the ground, an END  
to more military interventions, and an END  
to any and all wars of any kind. It’s time  
to make our children what you care about  
most. It’s time to end the violence against  
our children with weapons of mass destruc-
tion. ENOUGH is ENOUGH.  

Most Respectfully, Marcia Reimers  
www.washboardexpress.blogspot.com
What We Are Doing
FROM PAGE 2

Sylvia Boyes

In England

One of our grandmothers, Sylvia Boyes, a leader in the UK anti-Trident campaign, was arrested in Scotland while demonstrating outside Faslane, home of the Trident submarines. The majority of Scots are against Trident. The Scottish National Party, if they manage to gain independence for Scotland from England, would demand the removal of Trident. Sylvia was found guilty in the Scottish court but let off with a caution.

The huge Arms Fair has just been held in London, where Sylvia was again arrested, along with many others. Hundreds demonstrated against the Fair, and one of several blockades organised by protesters managed to stop boats and tanks by lying across the road. A Quaker service and “exorcism of evil” were also held. But there was a sam- ba band, too, with banners, a peace choir and a skeleton on stilts. Occupation of the road round the east gate was planned for the whole week. The description of arms shown at the Arms Fair is an eye-opener but is little reported in the general press.

There is strong national opposition to the replacement of the ageing Trident submarines and warheads, so the coalition government, led by Conservative Donald Cam-eron, has scheduled a Parliamentary vote to be taken on the planned replacement. Already 57 members of Parliament have reg-istered their opposition in a special motion, noting the procurement cost of £25billion and lifetime cost of over £100 billion. Sylvia was one of the grandmothers (she has six grandchildren and comes from the county of Yorkshire) blockading the two gates of the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Burghfield in the south of England, where the warheads are held. “The Parlia-mentary action is hypocrisy,” Sylvia says. “There are so many new buildings going up and obviously all installations are in place now for Trident renewal.”

This was an international blockade by peace groups from all over Britain and France, Belgium, Spain, Netherlands, Fin-land and Germany. Police cleared blockades by Finnish and Belgian activists and 22 were arrested. They said that Trident renewal was not just a British issue, but through Britain’s membership of NATO and its policy of sharing the missiles Tri-dent had become a European weapon.

And, GFP members are still taking part in the monthly camp at Aldermaston, also in the south of England, the atomic weapons research establishment, where new buildings are also appearing. There is still a long way to go before there is any turn-around or end to the manufacture of more nuclear weapons.

Jean Stead, London, England

Sincerely, Barbara Cloud, California

In the Classroom

Last year I started volunteering with a program where I live and it has been so rewarding. I volunteer at a local elementary school and work with 3rd graders to help them with their reading, comprehension, etc. They have been a joy to work with.

The teacher is amazing and since it’s been years since I have even had grandchildren in school, I had no idea what teaching is like today. I am so impressed with the skill, compassion and intelligence of the teachers I have met; but above all, I am “bowled over” by their dedication to “their” kids.

I have now started calling the students I work with “my” kids. Watching their excitement and enthusiasm is one thing but what I have been particularly struck by is their love of learning and their respect for me and the teacher. They are exuber-ant and “off the wall” occasionally with excitement but always kind and caring toward each other.

I was so touched over this past year to see how they reach out to their fellow students who are struggling with reading or just coping with the discipline and/or challenge of showing up for class everyday. Please remember they are only 8-years-old. I have come away from all of this with tremendous hope in my heart for the future.

It’s now summer vacation and I miss the classroom so much. I can’t wait until Sep-tember to begin again with new students. After reading the article you (Lorraine) sent, (from The Sacramento Bee about how one can help in a child’s life) I am also begin-ning to feel very proud. I see now how important it is to “suit up and show up” as a friend says and offer my help with reading to children. I hope I am showing them that there are adults who don’t even know them but care about their future in this sometimes scary world.

Sincerely, Barbara Cloud, California

Page   3 Grandmothers for Peace - Fall 2013

In the Classroom

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Sincerely, Barbara Cloud, California
“Nuclear weapons are an obscenity. ... What kind of world community are we actually seeking to build when nations possess and threaten to use arms that can wipe all of humankind off the globe in an instant?”

—Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate

FOREIGN POLICY
by Thais Thomas

Money manipulates, corrupts
Send no more.
Bombs, bullets, tear apart.
Send no more.
Youth learns hate, kills, dies.
Send no more. No more.

Send now
Heart connectors, value enhancers.
Send now
Compassionate listeners, life builders.
Send now
Our grandmothers!

A huge relentless, airlift of grandmothers.
Troop planes, cargo planes, full of grandmothers.
Tall, small, lean, portly, spry, slow, — all will go.

A full tide of many skin shades and colors, flowing into cities, streaming into villages, trickling on to lonely households.

Knowing the important things, no training needed, crooning to crying babies, soothing frightened children, open arms holding the grieving. Asking, “How may I help?”

Then making shopping lists. Sending home, “This is what we need right now! Clothes for this climate, food for this culture.”

“Hammer all our golden swords into ploughshares!
Send mine detectors that we may clear that hidden hate lingering in this land.
Send tractors, trees and seeds.”

Oh, crops and children’s cheeks will bloom in beauty.
When our grandmothers win the world.

By Frances Thomas

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department continues to recognize the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact as being in effect, with 84 nations currently parties to it, and the treaty open to other nations which choose to join; and . . .

On August 27, 2013, the Prescott City Council presented to the Peace Community a proclamation naming this date the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact Day.

The Peace Pact refers to an international treaty passed on that day in 1928 when, after the horrors of World War I, intense public pressure, especially in the U.S., led to wars being deemed an illegal crime against peace. In an 85-1 vote the U.S. Senate ratified the Pact which remains today in our Constitution, the supreme Law of the Land.

Grandmother For Peace Frances Thomas, along with Grandmothers Ordell Nelson and Kathy Svendsen, accepted the Peace Pact Proclamation. Veteran for Peace Ralph Hess researched its legal background and verbage. Other Veterans for Peace included Dennis DuVall and Joel Thomas. Women in Black was represented, as was Pax Christi and other supportive Prescott citizens.

While the Peace Pact should have made war obsolete, modern war “by any other name” — police action, intervention, operation — allows decision makers to move aggressively with no fear of prosecution.

PROCLAMATION

KELLOGG-BRIAND PEACE PACT DAY
August 27, 2013

WHEREAS, as U.S. Secretary of State, CoolidgeKellogg, heed- ing the desires of the people of his and other nations for peace, advocated a legal ban on war; and

WHEREAS, war, not previously defined as a crime, was declared to be so in the Kellogg-Briand Pact initially drafted by the United States and France and subsequently signed by fifteen nations in 1928, and

WHEREAS, the Pact declared in the names of their respective peoples that they condemn recourse to war for the solution of international controversies, and means it as an instrument of national policy in their relations with one another; and

WHEREAS, containing no sanctions against countries that might breach its provisions, the treaty was based on the hope that diplomacy and the weight of world opinion would be powerful enough to prevent nations from resorting to the use of force; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department continues to recognize the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact as being in effect, with 84 nations currently parties to it, and the treaty open to other nations which choose to join; and

WHEREAS, Frank Billings Kellogg was recognized around the world for his efforts, receiving a Nobel Peace Prize in 1930 and further honored with repose of his ashes in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, in the hope and purpose of encouraging awareness of the work of Frank Kellogg and of his immense peace that moved him to action, the City of Prescott, Arizona, hereby proclaims August 27, 2013, to be Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Prescott to be affixed this 27th day of August 2013.

[Signature]
Mayor, City of Prescott

[Signature]
City Clerk

Prescott (AZ) City Council Proclaims A Day Of Peace

CA!” and to “Please join mayors for peace. Nuclear weapons are bad for kids!”

Canada’s navy has no nuclear weapons, but nuclear-armed US warships visit Halifax Harbour.

Mayors for Peace is the leading international organization devoted to protecting cities from war and mass destruction. Their 2020 Vision Campaign aims to establish a nuclear-weapon-free world by the year 2020.

Nearly 6,000 cities around the world, 91 Canadian, have joined and hold official status at the United Nations.
YOU CAN DO SOMETHING!

~ THINK ABOUT THIS: Take any town, area or group of people: If 100,000 of us used ONE less plastic bag a week – just four a month – that would be 400,000 less bags per month and 4,800,000, yes, FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND LESS bags in a landfill or floating into the Great Pacific Garbage Patch – the size of Texas!!

~ Voice your opinions, call Congress – (202) 224-3121 and/or the President (202) 456-1414 (White House switchboard).

~ Talk to people about the political process and how it works. Write letters to our government. Use the postal service!

~ Donate to the local food bank, or volunteer your time.

~ Sort your clothes, the kitchen, the furniture, the books, the toys, the garage – donate to that truck that comes to your door in many communities!

~ Recycle in those “green” cans that the garbage collection picks up.

~ Find a mentoring program in your community to help a young person.

~ Find a Job Corps center where you can help tutor students in their academic work.

~ Become a Big Brother or Sister.

~ Find other groups that sponsor programs for children. Support them with money AND your time and talents.

~ Share your talents with after school programs.

~ Help a teacher with supplies.

~ Adopt a shelter pet, proven to be good therapy!

~ Use your thinking power and you can DO SOMETHING, no matter how small, it all counts and collectively it adds up to something enormous.

PLEASE COPY AND SHARE!

Courtesy of: Grandmothers for Peace International

PO Box 1292

Elk Grove, CA 95759

www.grandmothersforpeace.org

Divest in Nuclear Weapons

The $100 billion dollar question: How much money does your bank invest in nuclear weapons?

Each year, the nine nuclear-armed nations spend a combined total of more than $100 billion on their nuclear forces. Much of this work is carried out by private companies which are financed by banks, insurers, pension funds and asset managers.

In the March 2012 publication of Don’t Bank on the Bomb, published by International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Profundo, 322 financial institutions were identified as investing in nuclear weapons companies, either directly or through subsidiaries. More than half are based in the United States, and one-third in Europe. Among the banks and other financial institutions most heavily involved are Bank of America, BlackRock and JP Morgan Chase in the United States; BNP Paribas in France; Deutsche Bank in Germany; and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial in Japan.

These weapons are illegal, but that doesn’t stop the nine nations from possessing more than 20,000 nuclear weapons with a combined destructive force equivalent to 150,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs.

The International Court of Justice has affirmed the illegality of nuclear weapons. The UN General Assembly has declared that the use of nuclear weapons would violate the UN Charter and constitute a crime against humanity, and the UN Human Rights Committee has remarked that “nuclear weapons are among the greatest threats to the right to life which confront mankind today.”

Despite being legally obliged to disarm, all are pursuing programs to assemble new warheads, modernize old ones, and build ballistic missiles, bombers and submarines to launch them.

Boycotting and divesting are your methods of protest. Boycotting targets unethical companies directly and can result in significant financial losses and damage to their brand.

Divestment focuses on financial institutions that invest in nuclear weapons companies, either by lending money or through the ownership of bonds and shares. You make it clear that, unless the institution is prepared to change their policies and practices, you will move your funds to a more ethical alternative.

October 10, 2013, IKV Pax Christi will launch an updated Don’t Bank on the Bomb report. This is the only global report identifying worldwide investment in nuclear weapons producers.

www.dontbankonthebomb.com

Editor Note: Information Source: Don’t Bank on the Bomb, published by The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Profundo, March 2012.
A few months ago I sent out a message about how we may be feeling and what we CAN do. And, now in our newsletter you can read what we are “doing.” We need to find a way to keep engaged, not to become frustrated or discouraged, and paring down to smaller issues works for now. Positive re-enforcement with accomplishment keeps us going! And what follows is STILL my message ...

What to do, where to turn, what issue? Each day it is something else and activism becomes more difficult, if not frustrating and the desire “to hide under the covers” becomes an option. My own thoughts go awry too.

This is what I think. We are not going to save the entire world, well not in the near future anyway. So, I believe we need to focus on the small accomplishments we CAN do. Work on a local issue, no matter how small. It can keep you from burning out in frustration. Even something as small as your own grocery bag to keep one plastic bag out of the landfill or the oceans. (See things to do on Page 5) But, if you ARE doing, keep doing it – we cannot and will not fade away. We may darken for awhile, but the light will come back ...

We can engage in the climate change issues – surely, a part of peace for our planet. Science is proving that our climate problems ARE man made. The wars have not helped our mother earth either.

So, as I struggle to understand, a lot of “hope” is faltering, and the reality of politics sets in. I disagree with some of the things President Obama has done, yet I also detest the overt racism that is thrown at him and the determination he NOT have any “accomplishments.” What kind of people are in Congress? Rhetorical, no answer necessary.

Locally I had a GFP booth, for the second year, at the Elk Grove (CA) Multi-Cultural Festival. We passed out a lot of literature, some fun freebies (a peace necklace, very popular!) and had some interesting conversations. It was a very diverse group and a good community event – a little fun never hurts! And, my volunteers were awesome – thanks Pat, Zohreh, Nan, Diane, John, Nell, for sitting at the booth, and my husband Steve and son Bryan for helping set up and take down the canopy.

And, as I close, I reflect on friends ...

My dear friend Lil Corrigan in Georgia passed this year. She was a very supportive member of Grandmothers for Peace and went to the gates of Ft. Benning, GA, each year for the annual close the SOA vigil. We met while I lived in GA and she was always there with good and gentle help.

We lost another close friend, Clyde Ingalsbe, husband of GFP member Nan Mahon. Clyde and Nan were newsletter volunteers as well as participants in many actions around Sacramento against the wars. Clyde was a friendly man, with a sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye. His presence is missed.

We lost Pete Altenburg in June, the husband of our newsletter editor, Pat. Pete was a faithful volunteer, always at our newsletter mailing parties. If you had a return envelope, it was more than likely Pete put it in there! He also was the chair of our earliest scholarship program. Pete was an avid bicyclist and could do 25 miles in a day! He shall be missed. Pete, may you cycle forever!

And, this came in my mail just now. Jeremy would have received his scholarship under the leadership of Pete. This is a great tribute.

“Dear Lorraine,

I hope that this finds you well. I’m writing because I received a scholarship from Grandmothers for Peace approximately fifteen years or so ago, and I wanted to send a quick update because there is a direct causality between the work that I am currently doing in sub-Saharan Africa and the support that I received from your organization when first starting out. I don’t know if you ever include information about/from your previous recipients, but I wanted to offer to provide a “success story” due in part to your generosity. Please feel free to forward this on to any other member of your organization that might be interested to hear more.

In brief, I have two projects that I am working on - one underwritten predominantly by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to make cities financially sustainable (with the pilot project in Dakar Senegal) and the other with a network organization that aims to help community development organizations to provide housing to the urban poor (funded through the development arms of the Swedish and British governments).

In my opinion, by removing the dependence on foreign aid and subsidies, and instead encouraging the countries in the developing world to become more self-sufficient unto themselves, we can substantially mitigate the likelihood of conflict and war.

I look forward to hearing from you! All the best, Jeremy”

May we all continue to try and “do something” because collectively we can make an enormous difference.

Peace to all of us, Lorraine

---

Grandmothers for Peace Directory:

Web: http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org
E-MAIL: lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org
PHONE: (916) 730-6476
### Grandmothers for Peace International

**PHONE:** (916) 730-6476; **E-MAIL:** lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org; **WEB:** http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org

### INVENTORY REDUCTION PRICES!!

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**SHIPPING:** $5.00 for 1st item = $
$1.00 for each additional item x _____ = $

**Subtotal** = $

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**Grocery/Everything Tote**

**Navy — $12.00**

(12 oz. Cotton Twill, 15.5” H x 13” W x 7” D)

Cut down on plastic - Help the ENVIRONMENT.

**FREE SHIPPING on this item only.**

Make check payable to **Grandmothers for Peace International** for the **TOTAL:** $ __________

**RETURN THIS ORDER FORM TO**

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Web: http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org

NewsLetter Editor/Publisher:  Patricia Altenburg

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

No GFP Political Endorsements Permitted
Although Grandmothers for Peace, as an organization or chapter, can not endorse any political candidate or group due to our non-profit status, we do thank everyone who supports peace.

GFPI Membership Renewal/Application

☐ Renew  ☐ Keep me on the mailing list  ☐ New  ☐ Remove me from the mailing list

Name

Mailing Address

City    State                         Zip

Phone:            day                                         evening

☐ E-mail: Put me on the GFP E-mail alert list.  ☐ Already on E-mail list.

Please make membership check payable to Grandmothers for Peace Int’l

☐ $25    Regular/yearly
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Mail to:
Grandmothers for Peace International
P.O. Box 1292
Elk Grove, CA  95759   USA

Numbers You Need
4,486 US Military Deaths in Iraq*
2,280 US Military Deaths in Afghanistan
Cost of Wars:
$1,477,543,050,747.00 (Trillion)*

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

E-mail: go to Website:
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First Lady Michelle Obama
E-mail: comment@whitehouse.gov

Secretary of State
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Members Of Congress
Senate & House: (202) 224-3121

(*icasualties.org; nationalpriorities.org; 10-03-13)