Less than a month ago, I was alerted to the Iraq Infant Care Project that was sponsored by American Friends Service Committee. Thanks to two Grandmothers for Peace members in Sacramento, CA, Mary Bisharat and Sally Weinland, for calling this to my attention, we “jumped” on board. The response was instantaneous. I immediately heard from chapters in Northern Virginia, Indiana, and Florida. Locally, Sacramento supporters and Women in Black responded and individuals nationally are participating, with inquiries from our international members. I also contacted acquaintances outside of the organization.

Because Friends had a time limit, there was no time for a mass mailing. As I write this, I am surrounded by kits and I know individuals and chapters are still working to meet the Friends’ deadline. Hundreds of kits will be sent or delivered to them from Grandmothers for Peace. These infant kits will go to Iraq’s hospitals. I thank each of you!

This project was perfect for us. Grandmothers for Peace International has no borders, children are the same all over the world. Grandmothers make no distinction of whose children are whose and where they are. We can say we did “our small part” to help, but nothing is small if done from the heart! I encourage you to help within your community or wherever you choose. We can all make a difference. Each of us can make a contribution — no matter how small YOU may THINK it is, it means you have tried.

Our newsletter is filled with participation and activism. Please take the time to read about some of our members. Sandra Patton from New Zealand has a beautiful article — New Zealand is the seed from which all countries should grow! Ellen Murphy wrote “from the heart” about why she protested. There is also an update from Veterans for Peace on the Iraq Water Project.

Please consider signing the enclosed letter to “60 Minutes” — it is simple activism, (sign, fold, stamp, and mail!) yet can make a huge impact on getting the SOA issue before the public. The letter is courtesy of SOAWatch, Placer County, CA.

Our newsletter is rich with the idea of forming alliances and reaching out to other groups. Be a “Grandmothers for Peace,” the permanent structure to be a part of, but participate and also become part of the whole. We surely all need each other.

Peace to all of us, Lorraine
**Superior, Wisconsin**  
Jan Provost

Recently members of our Northland Chapter joined **Women in Black** to protest at the Air Show in Duluth, Minnesota. The air show featured many (armed) warplanes. This is a very popular event here and the brave Grannies faced a very hostile crowd. They persevered with dignity and grace. Bravo!!

In October, we held our 18th Afghan Raffle. Proceeds from our raffle go into the **Barbara Wiedner Peace Fund**, which awards cash scholarship checks to area high school and college students who are engaged in peace and social issues in their communities. This year’s chairperson was **Clarice Peterson**, GFP member **Todd O’Neill** of Indiana made and donated the beautiful afghan. Toddys has given her talents for this worthwhile cause for all 18 years!

Also in October, some members wrote letters to the editor concerning the “Keep Space for Peace” week. This awareness week was sponsored by **Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space**. November 1st, we Grannies attended an anti-war rally in Duluth, MN.

Toward the end of November, we hold our **Annual No War Toys Drive**. We put collection boxes all over Superior, WI, and Duluth, MN, with signs specifying: “Please Donate Only Peaceful Toys.” These toys are distributed to agencies that care for low-income and homeless children. **Dorothy Wolden**, Superior, WI, and **Penny Cragun**, Duluth, MN, are this year’s chairpersons.

We continue to support all other peace and justice groups and their activities in our area. Together we are strong! Pax, Jan Provost

**Rossmoor/Walnut Creek, California**  
Nancy Landfield

We continue to meet monthly and to attract new members at each meeting. This is heartening given the state of the world today.

Several members contributed panels to the Peace Panels’ collection. They were displayed at the Peace Center two weeks ago along with those from Oakland. The group also made many school and medical kits for the children of Iraq.

Recent meetings have included speakers who covered such topics as “Non Defensive Communication,” “A Spiritual Approach to Peace,” and “Conflict Resolution.” In November, we will co-sponsor a dinner with the Peace Center with the proceeds going toward a program aimed at eliminating landmines in Vietnam.

**Anderson, Indiana**  
**Christie Smith Stephens**

The Indiana Chapter met this evening and made 50 Infant Kits for the babies of Iraq. We also donated $500.00, the requested $10/per kit for additional items and shipping. We are delivering the kits to the **American Friends Service Committee**’s collection site in Richmond, Indiana. We are happy to have had the opportunity to participate in this project. We send our kits with our hopes for peace and our love. We are proud to be Grandmothers for Peace.

God bless the children of the world!

Peace, Christie Stephens, Lois Rockhill, Juanita Leonard, Christina Accornero, Nancy Hoffman, Gail Smith, Kay Shively, Sandra Clark, Norma Abbey, Dondenea Caldwell, Cheryl Surbaugh

**London, England**  
**Jean Stead**

This has been an autumn of many actions within the UK. Our Grandmothers for Peace are in the forefront of them. **Helen John**, who is also chairperson of national CND, the **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**, is leader of the long-running women’s protest at Menwith Hill - the “listening post” for the US in this country. Its space-based infrared system was used massively during the Iraq war and there are plans to increase this high-technology listening station to be included in the US plans for Star Wars and weapons in space. The Ministry of Defense has given £5m (approximately $8,250,000) to examine the part Menwith Hill could play in this.

In October, a large national demonstration against the plan was held at Menwith Hill, on the Yorkshire moors near Harrogate. A nationwide notice went out calling on CND members and others to take part. **GFP Helen John** was one of the leaders.

**Fylingdales**, nearby, site of the old early warning nuclear attack station, has already been given permission to take part in the space programme this year. The CND and the Menwith protesters are on red alert over these dangerous plans — which have received little national publicity — and are hoping for a large turnout. The rallying call is “Don’t take the peace out of space!”

In the south-west of England, protest has centred on the stationing of the Trident missile submarines near Plymouth. Twenty-seven submarines, with their dangers of nuclear radiation, are being stored there long-term. Protests have centred on the plans for disposal of fifteen redundant nuclear submarines and their radioactive dangers. A public consultation on their disposal was held, but the safest method has yet to be decided by the Ministry of Defense and its advisers.

There were several large protests and some smaller ones during the summer, in which **Shirley Matthews**, our newest Grandmother for Peace, took part, as well as one of our first members, **Phyllis Quick**. There were several arrests.

**Shirley and her husband Sandy** are organisers of an important annual peace conference in St. Ives, Cornwall, due to take place this year in November. An important development is the possibility of Britain being sued in the European Court for endangering Continental neighbours by nuclear discharges into the English Channel from the Devonport dockyard at Plymouth. This may also include the Sellafield nuclear waste disposal plant (where the rods out of the submarine nuclear reactors would be taken by rail) and the Aldermaston weapons research establishment.

My information has been supplied by **Phyllis Quick, Shirley and Sandy Matthews, Di McDonald** of the **Campaign against Nuclear Storage and Radiation, and the Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**.

According to a report in the **Western Morning News** (10-07-2003), the Devonport dockyard is owned by the US firm Haliburton (isn’t Dick Cheney still on the board?).

[Heart symbol]
In 1987, New Zealand became a Nuclear-Free Zone (NFZ)...

Even today, our nuclear-free zoning is used constantly by the United States government as a reason to limit our respective countries’ relationships.

In 1987, New Zealand became a Nuclear-Free Zone (NFZ)...

Even today, our nuclear-free zoning is used constantly by the United States government as a reason to limit our respective countries’ relationships.

The Australia government is very pro-US and does not believe we can pull our weight in times of war because (among other reasons) nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered vessels would not be able to use our ports.

When the Greenpeace vessel, The Rainbow Warrior, was bombed in Auckland harbour, neither the USA nor Australia was interested in assisting to find the perpetrators. (History shows that France was the culprit, due to New Zealand’s protests against French nuclear testing in the Pacific.)

At the time of the NFZ declaration, I was living and working in Australia. In 1988, Australia celebrated its bicentenary and the Prime Minister at the time thought it would be a great idea to invite the navies of the world to visit Australian ports, with their warships. A very large slice of the population did not believe that was an acceptable birthday present! Greenpeace, along with many other organisations and individuals, mounted a nationwide protest. While collecting signatures for a petition against the ships’ visits to Newcastle, one of Australia’s port cities, I was quite proud to be told by some of the signatories that they wished “their Prime Minister was Mr. Lange” [New Zealand’s PM who championed the nuclear-free legislation], and “that Australia could also be nuclear-free.”

I also remember ringing Newcastle’s central fire service and asking the chief executive what plans he had in place in case there was a nuclear disaster while these vessels were in the port. “I’d run,” he said. That made a good news story when I was interviewed on the radio!

During the event, because of our protests, only one American vessel out of the five originally scheduled to visit Newcastle came into port. Greenpeace and other supporters painted a huge banner and draped it around the headland at the entrance to the harbour. It read: “American sailors are welcome - but not nuclear ships.” The vessel had to be berthed by the police because the wharfies would not touch it. Newcastle harbour was crowded with kayaks all flying the rainbow flag of peace.

We went down to the wharf and climbed the gangplank to voice our protest to the captain and officers, who listened very politely and said not a word. Then we talked to the sailors and I will recall until the end of my days the very young man I spoke to. He looked about 14 but was probably 17 or 18. I smiled at him and said, “Welcome to Newcastle, but can you tell me, how can you possibly feel safe sailing on a nuclear armed and powered ship?” Tears sprang into his eyes and he said, “I don’t want to be here, ma’am: it’s just that this was the only job I could get.” Well, of course, he had to have a big hug. He could have been my son, then. Today he would be my grandson.

One of the reasons for my return to New Zealand to live and work is its nuclear-free policy. There have been many, over the years, who consider it outdated and that it

Grandmothers for Peace International
Smedley Butler on Interventionism

War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses.

I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we’ll fight. The trouble with America is that when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag.

I wouldn’t go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers. There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

There isn’t a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its “finger men” to point out enemies, its “muscle men” to destroy enemies, its “brain men” to plan war preparations, and a “Big Boss” Super-Nationalistic-Capitalism.

It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to. I spent thirty-three years and four months in active military service. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a safe place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912 (where have I that name before?). I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.

Of course, New Zealand is a tiny, miniscule player in the world. Still, like David against Goliath, we are not afraid to make a stand against war or go where we can make a positive difference. That is why we volunteer to keep peace, not make war. It would have such a difference on the lives of the children and grandchildren of this world, if those nations who see war as the initial response and the only answer could first consider Mahatma Gandhi’s advice: “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” The change he wished - as do so many of us - was peace. And, it was J. F. Kennedy who said, “Change is the law of life. Those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

The pamphlet to help your brother-in-law understand why you go to all those demonstrations.

“War and Peace and Democracy,” not to be confused with that earlier work by Tolstoy, is a slim 32-page pamphlet penned for those who agree with Smedley Butler that “war is a racket.”

Written by Veteran for Peace member, Mike Ferner, it contains four essays guaranteed to get you thinking about why we find ourselves in another war, and how our peacemaking needs to be rethought if we’re to break this sad cycle.

Simply written and accessible enough to help even your brother-in-law understand why you go to all those demonstrations.

To order: single copy, $3.00 incl. postage; bulk prices available from: OCLAD, POB 246, So. Yarmouth, MA 02664; phone: 508-398-1145; www.poclad.org (Editor: This review appeared in a recent Veterans for Peace newsletter.)
By Ellen Murphy

On November 12, 2002, when the Bellingham Military Recruiting Center reopened after the Veterans’ Day holiday, I was there.

The Bush Junior administration was hounding the world for another oil-and-empire war, ostensibly over the imminent danger of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction. The hypocrisy had to be exposed in as many ways as possible: the only WMDs used in the first Gulf War were the uranium munitions of the United States, and that horrible fact was about to be repeated.

I went into the building with informational leaflets about depleted uranium (DU), a statement demanding that new recruits be informed of these deadly hidden hazards, and an invitation to hear Dr. Doug Rokke speak in Seattle on the use and effects of DU, “A Crime Against Humanity.” Little did I know that Dr. Rokke, in three months, would be testifying at my trial!

All the recruiters accepted the information and said they would pass it on to their Public Affairs Officers. One of them sincerely repeated, “Yes, ma’am,” as I told him about shells that explode into fine radioactive and heavy metal dust, which contaminates forever the air, water, soil, civilians, soldiers and their offspring.

I gave them statistics from the Government General Accounting Office showing that the Army’s protective gear is not effective, and statistics about the more than one-third of Gulf War I veterans who are terribly disabled from all kinds of toxic exposures.

I told them about the government cover-up, the “lost” medical records. I told them about the media’s failure to examine the document that said the startling increase in gross malformations of ex-GI’s infants was just Saddam’s propaganda, and of the 8,000 young vets who had died in the years since the war ended (now estimated at twice that number).

One conversation is particularly memorable. A young man who said he was there to “re-up” shared his story a bit, argued the government’s case that DU is harmless, talked about his spiritual beliefs and, finally, said he wanted to go home and do some thinking. Now that the second invasion has happened, using three to six times the DU tonnage as the first war, I sometimes think of him and hope he, indeed, did change his mind that day.

When the discussions ended, and as I prepared to leave, I felt the action had been successful. I had so wanted to do something meaningful for Veterans’ Day, rather than attend the flag-waving civic ceremony, where the great war cliché would reign and denial of reality would pervade.

How many times I had helped vets break through the denial of their pain in my counseling practice! I knew I had been up against profound conditioning and fear in the recruiters’ center, but I believed something real had happened and some doors had cracked open.

However, one door that wouldn’t open was the front door through which I wanted to exit the building. In a separate but related action, some women had blocked the door. When they eventually let me out, we were all promptly arrested.

Though I had not planned to do civil disobedience that day, I recognized the arrest as a “coyote moment” – one in which a person is called to do more. I instantly saw that this unexpected arrest would far better expose the Pentagon’s plan to use weapons of mass destruction than would my little handouts, so off we went to jail.

My friends had planned to plead guilty and do community service, but at the arraignment I entered a plea of not guilty. I instantly saw that this unexpected arrest would far better expose the Pentagon’s plan to use weapons of mass destruction than would my little handouts, so off we went to jail.

My friends had planned to plead guilty and do community service, but at the arraignment I entered a plea of not guilty and was thus set on the road to a jury trial.

The trial took place on February 11, 12 and 13, 2003. Dr. Doug Rokke flew from his home in Illinois to testify on my behalf – but it was really on behalf of humanity; it was depleted uranium that was on trial.

Our defense of “necessity” was an old stand-by for anti-nuclear activists, and one fraught with failure. It means that an infraction, or a lesser harm is undertaken in order to prevent a greater harm. We believed we could prove (whether I broke a law being immaterial) that the government was not following its own directives to train troops about DU, to protect its own people from grave dangers, and that a citizen then had the duty to educate and warn.

The Judge, Deborah Lev, threw out our defense, and thus Doug was not allowed to testify before the jury. However, he was allowed to testify in court regarding his own illnesses from uranium exposure in Iraq, and those of the team he commanded. He brought forth a great deal of evidence that the government knew perfectly well of the dangers of uranium use in munitions well before the 1991 war, and that clear military directives, based on his own recommendations as leader of the Army’s official DU clean-up team, were ignored.

At the end of the trial, the prosecutor, Jeff Lustick, told the jury (who had not heard the Rokke testimony), to “send a message” about protest. He pointed at me and labeled me “the woman who went too far.” The jury meekly came back with a conviction resulting in a fine and probation. The case is currently under appeal.

Now, a few months since the third invasion of Iraq (the second one was 12 years of murderous sanctions and bombing), the reports on veterans will begin to come in: the traumas, the mystery pneumonias, the suicides, the toxic and radiation exposures, the illnesses, the deaths.

These young people need to be embraced, not judged, and listened to, if only they will talk. Never again will the Pentagon get away with saying we don’t support the troops, when it’s the war we hate.

We must continue to expose this administration and the war machine. They are the ones who happily sacrifice the lives and souls of our youth. They are the ones who don’t support the vets. They are the ones who betray and abandon them and leave them in the dust.

Only one thing will be superior to uranium in penetrating armor, and that will be when the veterans of the peace movement and the veterans of war become allies in the fight to save Mother Earth and all her children.

FYI: DU (www.traprockpeace.org) www.umrc.org; Military Families Speak Out (www.mfso.org); VFP (www.veteransforpeace.org)

“A nation’s military personnel cannot willfully contaminate any other nation, cause harm to persons and the environment and then ignore the consequences of their actions. To do so is a crime against humanity.”

— Dr. Doug Rokke, ex-director of the Pentagon’s depleted uranium project

Grandmothers for Peace International
Iraq Water Project: An update

By Barry Riesch

The Veterans For Peace Iraq Water Project (VFPIWP) began as a project to make Americans aware of the effects of U.S. policy on the ordinary people of Iraq. After the recent Shock and Awe assault on that country, that work was done for us. Those few who read halfway reliable news accounts must be aware of the chaotic and dire conditions prevailing throughout Iraq today.

At this point, few Iraqis are feeling in any way rewarded by their country's new status as an American dependency. Also, American GI's feel increasing animosity toward Iraqis - who are not thanking them for their liberation. Not knowing who is friend or foe brings back feelings of Viet Nam, where we would be fighting the villagers in the evening that we bought soda from in the day.

Of course, our Washington administration is proclaiming its intentions to rebuild the desolate land into a new Garden of Eden, a political and material Light unto the Nations, a gift from us, America, beneficent and pure. We at VFP know the real intentions of this administration - a hidden agenda to ensure massive privatization of public services for the benefit of primarily U.S. corporations. In a closed-door process that was restricted to a handful of U.S. companies, Bechtel was awarded a 680 million dollar contract for rebuilding Iraq. In the case of water, it is possible they will have the exclusive contract.

It is useful to know that Bechtel was recently expelled from Bolivia after taking possession of public water services, and then raising rates to a level beyond the reach of the poor. Bechtel is now suing impoverished Bolivia for millions of dollars in lost profits. The only freedom happening from “Operation Iraqi Freedom” is freedom for corporations to profit and loot.

The U.S. invasion and military occupation has caused a major dislocation in the purposes and direction of VFP Iraq Water Project. We have a quite different agenda than our government. Our entire purpose is to benefit the people of Iraq, not shareholders, not free-market ideologues. Once again, we find ourselves crossing philosophical swords with this present administration. If, in fact, privatization is the future being offered the desperate Iraqi people, we hope to make our little collection of water treatment plants a demonstration of a very different way of doing things. We plan to be noticed.

Tom Sager, VFPIWP project coordinator, has just returned from Iraq, where he assessed the damage done to our plants. Of the six plants previously rehabilitated, some suffered damage from shelling, others were looted, and all require continue maintenance. We, as a committee, have decided to continue to raise funds to bring these facilities back to reliable service and keep them going.

As before, work on the ground will be contracted and supervised by LIFE for Relief and Development, an American Islamic charity that has toiled tirelessly in Iraq for a decade. LIFE was one of the first Non-Government Agency (NGO), to plunge into the dangerous chaos of Iraq when the bombing ceased. It is the sense of the committee that this approach satisfies our strong resistance to the American occupation, while at the same time keeping faith with the Iraqi people we have tried to help with this project. We thank all those that have supported this project in the past and hope you will see our difficulty and hope through the same lens and will continue to support the VFP Iraq Water Project.

We at Veterans for Peace are convinced that military intimidation and violence are more likely to aggravate than resolve conflict and know that countless Americans, like millions of people around the world share this vision.

The Iraq Water Project is intended to become a model for a sustainable and independent life in that desert land. It will also serve a more immediate and pressing purpose: it will save lives. I personally am very gratified for the continuance of this project, as it gives me a vehicle to feel that, in some small way, I am helping our brothers and sisters in Iraq. “Water is God's gift, not merchandise; water is life.”

The World’s Thirstiest Children

The world’s children feel the burden of the world’s water crisis more than anyone. Each day it is estimated that 6,000 people lose their lives to diarrheal disease. Most of these people are children under the age of five.

Visit Earth Day Network, www.earthday.net, to learn about the challenges faced by a child living near the Mexico - U.S.A. border, a young girl in Tanzania, a 12-year-old girl in Ghana, an 11-year-old boy in China, an orphan child in Kenya, school children in Romania, and other countries: India, Togo, Jordan, and Somalia.
In the spotlight

Selma Blackburn and I have known each other since kindergarten in New Jersey. We are our “oldest” friends - no one else knows either of us longer. That is quite a friendship considering I moved around many, many times and Selma moved once - to Little Rock! Selma joined GFP a few years ago, and we continue to chat via e-mail about our issues, peace, justice, politics, and of course her “other life.” Her pictures are vibrant with life and color - the mark of an artist truly engaged. While we can only print her picture in black and white, please imagine the burst of colors in the image! — Lorraine Krofchok

“The laws of design govern my artistic efforts. Subject matter is a starting point as I begin using the tools at my disposal. But subject matter is not the sole reason a work is painted. My urge to know more, to understand, to see more clearly, and to enlighten the inner self keep my spiritual search alive, and keep my painting and teaching activities energetic.

My focus on subjects real and imaginary sparks compositions, ideas, and experiments that eventually become visual images. Among other areas of pursuit, I am intensely interested in light, color, peace, politics, family, music, science and religion, all of which work their way into my creations. A sense of humor about life, nature, words and people often takes precedence over strictly classical statements and images in my paintings. It seems to me that creative endeavor is a poetic way to pursue adventure!

Full engagement in the process of meaningful living, as well as in the process of painting itself, is the compelling force that characterizes my work. Making art is an emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual act that provides a means for exploring and expressing my understandings about the human condition and the natural world. Interpreting life and communicating a personal vision are the results.”

— Selma Blackburn

(Selma maintains a studio in her home and is represented by a local gallery. sbblackburn@comcast.net)

SOA WATCH STATEMENT
on
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
January 22, 2003

Introduction
We of SOA Watch have long claimed that the foreign military training school located at Fort Benning, Georgia, for Latin American soldiers should be closed down. Our claims have been thoroughly researched and corroborated by the renowned independent human rights organization, Amnesty International USA.

First
The Amnesty International investigative report is titled **UNMATCHED POWER, UNMET PRINCIPLES: The Human Rights Dimensions of US Training of Foreign Military and Police Forces.** The US military claims that the School of the Americas (SOA) has been closed and that the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) is an entirely new institution. However, the AI report specifically states:

“...WHINSEC is essentially the same school as the SOA, with the same primary mission— conveying military skills to members of Latin American armed forces.”

Second
The AI report recommends that the US government take immediate steps to establish an independent commission to:

1. investigate past activities of the SOA and its graduates;
2. suspend training at the WHINSEC, pending findings of this inquiry; and
3. recommend appropriate reparations for any violations of human rights to which training at the SOA contributed, including criminal prosecutions, redress for victims and their families, and a public apology.

We of SOA Watch support congressional legislation to close WHINSEC and to establish an independent commission to investigate past atrocities committed by graduates of the SOA.

Third
The AI report recommends increased transparency, accountability and more oversight for the training of foreign militaries.

*We of SOA Watch demand that the Department of Defense annually provide the US Congress and the general public, specific reports tracking applicants and graduates of WHINSEC.*

(Editor: This synopsis provided by SOAWatch, West [www.soaw.org]; FYI: www.amnestyusa.org/arms_trade/)

The Bill to Close the SOA is in the House of Representatives; there are 90 co-sponsors so far. Contact your representative to thank her/him for sponsorship, or to encourage his/her sponsorship.

**H. R. 1258**

To repeal the statutory authority for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (the successor institution to the United States Army School of the Americas) in the Department of Defense, to provide for the establishment of a joint congressional task force to conduct an assessment of the kind of education and training that is appropriate for the Department of Defense to provide to military personnel of Latin American nations, and for other purposes.
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 includes Children's Peace Camps.
Peg McIntyre
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
P.O. Box 1471
Cocoa, FL 32923-1471
Phone: (321) 639-2078
E-Mail: scarletfireglas@webtv.net

Florida: Venice Area Contact Person
June Forsythe
316 Park Blvd. N
Venice, FL 34285

Indiana: Indiana Chapter
Christine Smith Stephens
1821 West Tenth Street
Anderson, IN 46016
Phone: (765) 644-0069
E-Mail: csstephens1@aol.com

Maryland: Maryland Chapter
Deborah Matherly
Phone: (410) 730-6049
E-Mail: grannys4peace@aol.com

Massachusetts: Cape Cod Area Contact Person
Peggy Prichett
E-Mail: pprichett@capecod.net

Minnesota: Minnesota Chapter
Focus: We are a group — not all of us have grandchildren — who get together with others to share our concerns about nuclear issues, the environment, justice, poverty, war, violence, and the legacy we will leave future generations.
Marilyn Jones
P.O. Box 24251
Minneapolis, MN 55424
E-Mail: minnesota@grandmothersforpeace.org
Website: minnesota.grandmothersforpeace.org

Minnesota: St. Paul Chapter
Focus includes the education of individuals, colleges and organizations concerning peaceful protesting and peace issues awareness; the
Grandmothers for Peace International

Pursuing Peace

Donna Howard in Sri Lanka

Donna Howard, member of the Northland Grandmothers for Peace Chapter, is celebrating an event she has worked toward for over a year: on September 27, 2003, the first field team of Nonviolent Peaceforce landed in Sri Lanka to increase the safety of civilians there.

Donna has been a part of Nonviolent Peaceforce since its beginning in 1999 and is currently serving as a North American representative on its International Governance Council. During the past year, she was sent to Sri Lanka four times to research the feasibility of third party nonviolent intervention in the conflict there, which is still very volatile even with a cease-fire in place. Donna interviewed civilians, religious leaders, peace organizations, ambassadors, and leaders of both the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Based on information and relationships gained in those visits, a conflict intervention project in Sri Lanka was selected as the Nonviolent Peaceforce pilot project. It will last three years and require 50 international team members.

This field team in Sri Lanka is now providing third party, international, nonviolent intervention. Their presence in dangerous areas will deter violence, they will accompany individuals whose lives are threatened, and they will report human rights abuses.

In a world where war has become permanent and we must be able to describe solutions to what we oppose, Grandmothers for Peace celebrates nonviolent intervention at this professional level and scope!

---

**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

**Email:**

Please make membership check payable to Grandmothers for Peace Int'l.

- [ ] $25 Regular/yearly
- [ ] $15 Senior Citizen/yearly
- [ ] $30 Family/yearly
- [ ] $25 Mens Auxiliary/yearly
- [ ] $50 Patron/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

---


(Reprinted: Veterans for Peace News, Spring 2003, Chapter 27 Minnesota)
PLACES TO GO & THINGS TO KNOW IN 2003

Fort Benning, Georgia
November 22-23
Justice for the People of the Americas!

Join thousands at the gates of the U.S. military base at Fort Benning for a rally and nonviolent civil resistance action to demand justice for the martyrs and for the thousands who continue to suffer the brutal consequences of the combat training at the SOA/WHSC.

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.

The SOA/WHISC has to close its doors for good and oppressive U.S. foreign policy needs to change. Your TAX $$$$ support it. Ask Your Representative To Sponsor H.R. 1258, the New Bill To Close the SOA/WHISC.

Contact: SOA Watch: PO Box 4566, Washington, DC, 20017; (202) 234 3440; info@soaw.org; www.soaw.org

Maine
April 23-25, 2004
Global Network Annual International Conference

Help build this vital global movement to stop the nuclearization and weaponization of space.

For more information: Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, PO Box 652, Brunswick, ME 04011; phone (207) 729-0517; globalnet@mindspring.com; www.space4peace.org

Worldwide
2001-2010

“International Decade for a culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World”


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.

The Peace Book, by Louise Diamond, provides simple, everyday tools that can help us have more peace in our lives and in the world.

The assumption behind this book and The Great Peace Give-Away is that if we put the same basic principles and tools in the hands of enough people, we can lay the groundwork for widespread action that arises from shared experience - i.e., a culture shift. We have seen this in the environmental community; now we can make it happen for a culture of peace - Changing the World, One “Peace” at a Time.

The Peace Book is not sold in bookstores: it can only be sponsored and given away.

To order: single copy is $5, plus $3.50 S/H. The Peace Company, 54 Maple Street, Bristol, VT 05443; Tel: Toll Free 1-888-455-5355; www.thepiececompany.com; info@thepiececompany.com

War and Peace and Democracy,

by Mike Ferner, is reviewed on page 4. Please see the article, Pamphlet to help your brother-in-law understand why you go to all those demonstrations.

Lubbock, Texas
Pollution Issue

Toxic rocket fuel was found in milk samples from Texas supermarkets. Read the article: http://www.globenet.freenet.ca/articles/pollution/perchlorateinmilk.htm

Contact: Dr. Purnendu K. Dasgupta, Texas Tech University (806) 885-4567; Sandy.D-@ttu.edu

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 (530) 273-6018, fax (530) 274-3284; e-mail: hopione@mindsync.com

The Blindfold’s Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth, by Sister Dianna Ortiz with Patricia Davis, is the account of Sister Dianna’s 1989 abduction and brutal torture by security forces in Guatemala. This American Ursuline missionary nun’s story will stun, frustrate, and inspire you.

It received international attention, not because she was abducted, but because she escaped to give details, and because the man who intervened with her captors may have had connections with the U.S. Embassy.

Contact: local bookstores; it is available in hardcopy.


In Toward Nuclear Abolition, Wittner, a professor of history at State University of New York in Albany, NY, presents the story of how citizen activism helped curb the nuclear arms race and prevent nuclear war. It is available in a paperback edition.

Contact: local bookstores or from the Stanford University Press Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 South Langley Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638; Tel: 1 (800) 621-2736.

Worldwide
April 22 = EARTH DAY

Join the Earth Day Network, an alliance of 5,000 groups in 184 countries working to promote a healthy environment and a peaceful, just, sustainable world.

Each year, Earth Day inspires a groundswell of grassroots action in communities around the world. People from Peru to India, and from Ireland to the USA take part in Earth Day events and actions which educate, spread awareness and push for tangible change.

Every voice counts; every action matters - ordinary people, acting together, can achieve extraordinary things.

Contact: Earth Day Network USA, 1616 P Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20036 USA; Tel: 1 (202) 518 0044; earthday@earthday.net; www.earthday.net
## Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Totes, Baseball Caps, & Bumper Stickers

**My Grandmother is a Grandmothers for Peace International**

**Carry Our Message ~ Wherever You Go!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sizes:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. WOMEN’S SWEATSHIRTS (Blue) XXL/XXXL Add $3.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. WOMEN’S CREWNECK T-SHIRTS (Blue) XXL/XXXL Add $3.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. WOMEN’S CREWNECK T-SHIRTS (White) XXL/XXXL Add $3.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. WOMEN’S SCOOPNECK T-SHIRTS (Blue) XXL Add $3.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. WOMEN’S SCOOPNECK T-SHIRTS (WHITE) XXL Add $3.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. MEN’S AUXILIARY SWEATSHIRTS (Blue) XXL/XXXL Add $3.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. MEN’S AUXILIARY T-SHIRTS (Blue) XXL/XXXL Add $3.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Children’s T-Shirts</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Children’s Sweatshirts</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~ Navy tote (12 oz. Cotton Canvas, 14” x 10½” x 5”)</td>
<td>$10.50</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~ Baseball Cap with Logo (adjustable size) NEW</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~ Bumper Sticker (postage included) NEW</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Med</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lge</td>
<td>X-Lge</td>
<td>XX-Lge</td>
<td>XXX-Lge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHIPPING & HANDLING: ADD $4.00 1st item = $**

$2.00 each additional item x ________ = $**

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

*Return this Order Form to:
Grandmothers For Peace
Sarah Johnson
9612 Kent Street
Elk Grove, CA 95624 • USA
Phone: (916) 686-5858
e-mail: sarahjohnson@att.net

---

**Children’s T-shirts & Sweatshirts**

See Above Order Form for details.

**Hats on to GFP**

We have new items for peaceful protesting — an adjustable Baseball Cap with the GFP Logo — $11.00 each.

**& Bumper Stickers**

$2.00 each, postage included.

Volume discounts available.

**Navy Tote with colorful GFP logo**

---

Grandmothers for Peace International  page 11
The U.S. Occupation of Iraq

Our $6 Billion Per Month Price Tag

“...A central goal of the war is to privatize (i.e. steal) Iraq's vast oil fields for the benefit of U.S. corporate and banking elites who in turn are plowing hundreds of millions of dollars into George W. Bush's campaign coffers.

“At the cost of $6 billion per month (that is $1.5 billion each week) the price tag for the U.S. occupation of Iraq is being paid for by dramatic budget cuts in primary education and at the college level, as well as in health care, housing, veterans benefits, and other programs that assist working and poor people.

“The occupation of Iraq must end. While we demand that the obscene expenditure of $6 billion each month be used instead for jobs, education, housing and health care, we are clear that our opposition to the occupation is not simply that working people in the U.S. have to bear the financial burden. The occupation is a violation of the Iraqi people's fundamental right to self-determination by the U.S. government which pursues Empire in the interests of U.S.-based corporate and banking elites.

“This was never a war to defend the United States from the supposed "grave and imminent danger" posed by Iraq. That claim was a bold-faced lie. Killing tens of thousands of Iraqis and sacrificing a growing number of U.S. soldiers - who are being killed or maimed in the interests of Halliburton, Bechtel, Exxon/Mobil, Citibank and Chase - is what reveals the criminal character of the whole endeavor.”

--- From the website of The A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition at www.internationalanswer.org
60 Minutes
CBS News
524 West 57th St.
New York, NY 10019
Dear 60 Minutes Staff:

In response to President Bush’s call to shut down ALL terrorist training camps, I am writing to ask that you produce a program on the School of the Americas. I believe Americans would appreciate learning why a recent report released by Amnesty International¹ called for an immediate suspension of military training there, recommending the US establish an independent commission to investigate activities of the SOA due to human rights abuses by its graduates.

This November, thousands are expected to gather peacefully outside the SOA but most Americans remain uninformed about the AI report or why fellow citizens are participating in an annual protest against the SOA, or of a bill pending in Congress to shut down this facility. Why will students, grandparents, veterans and others converge in Columbus, Georgia, from November 21-23, 2003? They’ll come to be “Presente” ... to remember, in a mock funeral procession with coffins and crosses, the thousands who have died at the hands of SOA graduates. They’ll come to protest an American “school” that has trained 60,000 Latin American soldiers in combat, counter-insurgency, and counter-narcotics techniques, entirely with US tax dollars. They’ll come out of a moral responsibility, to say, “No, not in my name.” They’ll come because they know their country is responsible for training terrorists who have been implicated in some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America², including the El Mozote Massacre of 900 civilians, the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the murder and rape of four US nuns, the murder of six Jesuit priests, their co-worker and her daughter, and the Segovia massacre in Colombia. They’ll come to speak out in solidarity with the people of Latin America, to speak against humanitarian crimes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of presenting this important national topic to the American public. If you wish to learn more, please visit www.soaw.org.

Sincerely,

______________________________ Date: ____________________________

Grandmothers for Peace

² Manuel Noriega, Omar Torrijos, Leopoldo Galtieri, Roberto Viola, Juan Velasco Alvarado, Guillermo Rodriguez, Hugo Banzer Suarez