“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

Founded 1982
Spring 2008

Iraq

3,960
U.S. Military Deaths
$493,479,780,818
~ $275 million per day
~ $4,100 per household
~ Almost 4,000 U.S. Soldiers killed and more than 60,000 wounded
~ 700,000 Iraqis killed and 4 million refugees

Afghanistan
The Forgotten War

480
U.S. Military Deaths
$78 BILLION to $142 BILLION
~ Civilian deaths are unknown
“‘We don’t do body counts.’”
- General Tommy Franks

The $64 Billion Question

The discrepancy in the cost of the Afghanistan war is due to the difference between the figures issued by the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Congressional Research Services (CRS).

August 29, 2007, Winslow T. Wheeler posted at www. counterpunch.org that the DOD reported May 18, 2007, that $78.1 billion was spent in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2008. The CRS investigated and released its findings July 16, 2007, estimating appropriations at $142.9 billion.

What could you do with $64,000,000,000?

War Is A Racket!

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.

And war is the most profitable racket in the world!

(Editor: Excerpt from a speech delivered in 1933 by a highly decorated Major General Smedley Butler, USMC.)

President Eisenhower, a veteran, warned us over 50 years ago:

“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.”
Dear Grandmothers for Peace:

Twenty-five years ago, Grandmothers for Peace was founded because of the nuclear issue — the weapons that could destroy the world. And for twenty-five years we have been working on this issue. It has always been our base and our reason for being. We have taken on other issues of peace and justice, but most point in various ways to the nuclear weapons and the threat they pose for the world in so many ways. Weapons rob everyone of human dignity and respect for each other.

Our anti-nuclear logo reminds us each day that the threat is real and we will not rest until they are abolished! Recently someone asked me: “I wonder if the use of the nuclear explosion is the logo that GFP wants to use?” That answer is “yes.” We have used this logo for 25 years and it will not change until the nuclear threat is gone. Nuclear tipped bombs are in constant use in Iraq, spewing depleted uranium over the entire landscape, poisoning the children, the Iraqis, and our troops who are already coming home sick. Nuclear proliferation engulfs the world — a world ready to destroy itself.

The Union of Concerned Scientists state, “Nuclear weapons remain the gravest and most immediate threat to human civilization.” (http://www.ucsusa.org/global_security/nuclear_weapons/)

Another person did not want to wear the shirt in public, even though the bomb is crossed out. She works with children and could not imagine reading peace stories to children wearing the shirt. Many, many people have purchased the “My grandmother is a Grandmothers for Peace” shirt for their grandchildren and proudly send me the pictures — some were shown in our Spring 2007 newsletter.

One GFP told me how her young grandson pointed to his shirt and said, “What is this?” Grandma very carefully explained, “that is an explosion, called a bomb. It is a bad thing. The big line through it means we think it is bad also. I and many others are trying to make sure we get rid of this bad thing.” The child was satisfied and educated to the dangers in the world, but he also learned his grandma was working to help make a better, safer world.

Our Grandmothers for Peace logo was designed to show a grandmother’s love includes everyone, and that grandmothers have a very powerful and important role to play in eliminating nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

Each of us works for peace in various ways. Each has to do what is in their heart and what they consider important. Grandmothers for Peace continues with our rich history of activism and concern, and from generation to generation, we will not rest until the nuclear threat is gone. Please work singly and together, and remember: “Silence Is Affirmation.”

Peace to all of us, Lorraine

"Civil disobedience is not our problem. Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is that numbers of people all over the world have obeyed the dictates of the leaders of their government and have gone to war, and millions have been killed because of this obedience. Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty and starvation and stupidity, and war, and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves, and all the while the grand thieves are running and robbing the country. That’s our problem.”

—Failure to Quit by Howard Zinn
St. Augustine, Florida
Peg McIntire

Dear Lorraine, In St. Augustine, for the first time, our local paper printed an advance release and then a fairly good report of the SOA Watch. I was VERY pleased and thanked the editor.

I had a wonderful time and met so many Grandmothers for Peace. Our shirts are always great identifiers, but in addition to members from all over the country, I was lucky this time to meet several good women from Duluth – know Barbara’s sister – who have been coming regularly, despite the distance. A fairly large delegation.

The 1,000 Grannies with their white kerchiefs (my suggestion last year) made a beautiful showing. Some of us carried wounded doll babies as well as the traditional white crosses. Our table gave away several hundred kerchiefs. I was impressed with how many young people wanted them. I was even asked to autograph a few. Our 4 o’clock tea party, with Holly Near singing, was full to overflowing.

I came away exhausted. So much to see and do, so many people to chat with, many of whom I’ve known from many years of attending the demonstration. Wonderful workshops and music. It is so intense, so emotional. My ears still hear the Buddhist chants—my eyes still see the reds and browns of indigenous people. The thrill of being together with 20,000 like-minded people. The sheer energy of the demonstration—incredible.

I give thanks to you for your leadership and friendship. Peg

(E-mail: pegmcintire@bellsouth.net)

United Kingdom
Jean Stead

Last year was an active one for Grandmothers for Peace in the UK. Huge numbers joined the year-long rally at the base of the Trident nuclear-armed submarines at Faslane in the west of Scotland. Church and civic leaders joined the rota [a fixed order of rotation] during the year which maintained a constant presence at the base.

Altogether there were 15,000 demonstrators, and 1,150 were arrested and detained overnight in police cells, a big proportion of them grandmothers. GFP had its own demonstration as part of the rota at the base, pinning peace messages to the fencing and drawing a big police presence obviously nervous at the news they were about to be besieged by grandmothers.

A total of 196 nuclear warheads are deployed on the five Trident submarines and each warhead carries the destructive power of eight times the Hiroshima bomb. There are now plans by the New Labour government in Britain to renew and update the Trident Submarines, with help from the US, and these are being bitterly opposed by an all-Party group of M.P.s in the Parliament.

Helen John, a former midwife and one of our bravest and most persistent protesters in Grandmothers for Peace, was released only in January this year after nearly six weeks in a Scottish prison. In prison with her was Geogina Smith, another grandmother and determined protester. Their sentences were given for scrawling on the walls of the Edinburgh courthouse protests about cluster bombs and nuclear weapons. Before that, they had been joining in the demonstration at Faslane.

Meanwhile, Sylvia Boyes, another GFP member, was waiting at her Yorkshire home this January for the bailiffs who were threatening to come in after her refusal to pay a £1200 fine for peaceful peace actions at Menwith Hill. This is the highly sophisticated “listening centre” controlled and largely staffed by the National Security Agency of the United States. Its computers are able to sift through millions of words per minute from phone calls and texts across Europe. Now the British Government has agreed to allow it to become part of the “Son of Star Wars” project and the base is being expanded to include a radar base as part of the US missile defence programme.

Women, among them Helen John, Sylvia Boyes, Lindis Percy and many others maintain a constant peace camp at the base. A new law brought in to stop entry over the line into American and nuclear bases has been constantly challenged by them. But after many court appearances, protesters received only short suspended sentences for their actions of crossing the line, though they had been threatened with 52 weeks in prison and fines of £5000. The case had gone to the highest prosecuting authorities so the result was heartening for the peaceful Menwith protesters.

But anxiety about US missile defence in Europe is growing.

The Czech Republic, one of the latest countries to join the European Union, has unilaterally agreed to become the European home of US intercepter missiles, though a poll has shown that 68% of Czechs are against this. A meeting at the House of Commons in London in January this year, and attended by representatives of Grandmothers for Peace, was addressed by the Czech Shadow Foreign Secretary, Social Democrat M.P. Lubomir Zaoralek, who is leading the opposition to the agreement. “It should not have been taken unilaterally in this way,” he said. He called US missile defence and nuclear weapons in general “anachronistic.” I think we can all agree!

(E-mail: jeanstead@hotmail.co)

Florida Keys, Florida
Anne Anthony

Thank you, Lorraine, and so many others, for your encouraging words and actions in these discouraging times. The GFP Florida Keys have joined forces with peace friends and groups, and now hold two weekly vigils in Key West, plus the Saturday morning vigil at the Big Pine Key stoplight.

With the help of friends at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Key West, we helped coordinate the 6-week course, “From Violence to Wholeness,” facilitated by Jasiu Milanowski of the Michigan Peace Team.

Kim (24) granddaughter of our oldest member, Micheline Barre, attended the workshop. Kim gives us hope for the future and reminds us why we continue to stand (or sit) for peace.

(E-mail: grannyanny@bellsouth.net)
**England**

**Annie Tunnicliffe**

Dear All, I am glad to say that it was worth alerting the local press to the GFP action, as I got a big photo (with the T-shirt and the placards) and a good, non-patronising write up in the *Hornsey Journal* [North London local paper].

On the morning of 23rd August the two of us, Janet and myself, with pictures of my little grandchildren on placards (age 3 and a few weeks) drove to the north gate of the base [Faslane Nuclear Base in Scotland] - an intimidating place to put it mildly - where four truckloads of police were awaiting us! We parked my van in a private spot and shared our fear and apprehension. Eventually we managed to conquer our fears and walked up to the base, apologising to the police for disappointing them, that there weren’t more of us!

Then later Rebecca and Angie from the Faslane 365 group came along with two huge bags full of beautiful banners and we spent an hour or so decorating the fence with them - once that was done it looked like a big political art gallery. Buses went round the roundabout twice to get a better look! Police did nothing to stop us and we had interesting talks with many of them (and each other) - it is a different situation and feeling in Scotland, with real hope for some genuine political change.

We stayed all day and next morning too, and by the end felt invigorated, inspired and reinvigorated to go on campaigning. A good experience all round.

Thanks to Janet, Alison, Olivia, Isabel and Meryl (spelling?) for coming along in support and to Angie and Rebecca for their stalwart and brilliantly organised help at the base.

**Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Bryson Dean**

The Fairbanks Chapter has been fairly quiet this fall, but we did gather nearly 500 signatures at the Fair in August from people agreeing that impeachment is important. They were sent to Nancy Pelosi and Don Young. We watch www.wexlerwantshearings.com and to interested strangers.

On September 15, we had a big turnout of 50 demonstrators when we were joined by Dahlia Wasfi and Wheels of Justice*. Our picture appeared in the local paper, and Joan Kroll’s great letter was printed in The Daily Sun News.

In October, our GFP chapter was honored at the Montessori “Picture a Better World” Art Auction in Mesa, Arizona. Mallori Poisson’s collage, US, and Zoey Townsend’s painting Teardrops and Heartbreaks, were dedicated to our chapter and raised $150. We donated a portion to Grandmothers for Peace International and used the rest to buy two giant peace banners. A Montessori teacher proudly told us that students had an intense discussion about the issues, but only the anti-war movement gained unanimous support.

We had a farewell breakfast in December for regulars Frances and Joel Thomas who moved to Prescott, Arizona. Frances eloquently expressed their sentiments in the following note to Grandmothers for Peace:

“... I understand that our Saturday mornings on the corner, in all weather, have not stopped war and violence and that we live in a “3 D” world - discouragement, disgust, and despair. These Ds can permeate our collective spirit as exhaust fumes on Bell Road swirl around our ankles. But through you I have learned that the doing – not the result — is everything.

The photo of our group will put me in touch daily with what we are about. Together we have our stake down in history and from that point, that street corner, have refused to move. ...”
far Turkey has been the quickest to undertake this program.

We also have youth forums in the summer teaching techniques of conflict resolution. We use dummy examples first, then turn to the REAL problem among us of a split Cyprus. It is fascinating to see the proposals the young people come up with. If they were in power, we would have the problem resolved by now.

Thank you for your Christmas greetings. I wish the same for you and your magnificent organization.

With love, Margarita

Wilmington, North Carolina
Lynn Heritage

Our Grandmothers for Peace group continues to grow and evolve. We have some amazing grandmothers who come together once a month with a common goal of doing something that makes a difference.

I’ve come to realize that just our presence is making a difference. Perhaps, it’s the “safety in grandma’s arms” philosophy. This is wonderfully enlightening and very motivating.

One of our grandmothers is working on a drawing of a Peace Tree, and we’re going to put some thought and energy into that and see what comes of it. Also, we’re writing letters, sending e-mails and faxes, making phone calls, signing petitions, and in general, doing what we can to spread the PEACE word.

Another issue we’re focusing on is taking a look at different ways we can send out messages which are positive rather than “anti” this or that. Instead of “STOP the War” ... we prefer “START Peace.” It will be interesting to see where this takes us. It’s pretty obvious that the anger is getting us nowhere.

We marched in the Martin Luther King parade, along with the Wilmington Peace meet-up group. Although it was awfully cold for our area, we had a lively and spirited group. We had another successful Peaceful Toy Drive during the holidays. Around 20 local businesses, schools and agencies collected non-violent toys for donation to local programs that aid victims of domestic abuse and to our Catholic Worker community. Many Grandmothers for Peace are involved every year in this effort.

Currently, our annual afghan raffle/scholarship fundraiser is underway. These afghans are the handiwork of late GFP member Toddy, whose family generously continues to donate a beautiful afghan every year. Proceeds go to our annual Peace Awards, a monetary acknowledgment of the efforts of local students in peace and social justice efforts.

Our members continue to act and speak against war. A shining example is our own Mer Seay who endured below zero temperatures to join a small demonstration in Superior on January 18! Thank you Mer!

This spring GFP Northland will be celebrating 25 years as a chapter. We started out with 3 members in 1983 and now have 100. We are all very proud to be members of GFP International. We will continue our work until nuclear weapons are eliminated from our world and hopefully our grandchildren will live in peace.

New York
Jeanne Norris

I’ve decided not to include anything about Franklin County, New York, this year, because - well - because we didn’t stop the war yet!!!

However, many people wear their GFP buttons at demos. We have two new members locally, Ursuline nuns, who are very active against School of the Americas.

Some of us are thinking about going to DC in mid-March for the national anti-war demo, and/or to much closer Fort Drum for the protest, and Judy Liteky, San Francisco, CA, October 2007.

Recently, Teach Peace (www.teachpeace.org) brought Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter to Davis, CA, to speak with high school students who were preparing to go to DC to talk to members of Congress. His words were geared to them, but it was an education for all of us. He spoke to the students as equals, telling them in no uncertain terms: “Our generation has screwed up, you have to fix it. You say “not fair.” Well, that is tough. Ask your members of Congress pointed questions: ‘Do you support the war? Do you have any children over there?’”

He presented a time line that Iraq followed to dispose of their nuclear weapons and said by 1995 their nuclear program was eliminated. In 2003 the US claim of WMD in Iraq was a “disconnect from reality.” Ritter said that nothing in Iraq was worthy of one drop of American blood.

He continued, “If we allow one American’s constitutional rights to be infringed, it opens the door for all of us to be infringed. Our Constitution is worth fighting for and ‘we the people’ can empower...”
where constituents can call in and chat about local issues. Grassroots politics is what gives people the confidence to be involved in their own community and encourages neighbours to care for each other. Our councillors are also working to ameliorate the effects of climate change and to maintain the unique character of all the settlements which make up the Kapiti Coast. Wish us luck!

Atamarie! Peace to all of us. Sandra
(E-mail: escapee@paradise.net.nz)

**Updates: Other Granny Groups**

**New York City, New York**

**Joan Wile**

The New York City group, Grandmothers Against the War, decided to try and counter-act the lie that the surge is working.

We decided to do something to impress upon the public that the occupation is still the most vital issue facing us. Health care, education, poverty, and housing dilemmas cannot be solved as long as we are pouring money down the Iraq drain.

But, beyond that, we still have the imperative responsibility to save our troops by getting them out of a place they have no business being and where they can solve nothing, as so tragically evidenced by this week’s Iraqi death toll - 11 U.S. military deaths [Jan. 07-11, 2008].

On January 16, 2008, the fourth anniversary of our Grandmothers Against the War weekly vigil at Rockefeller Center, we grannies held a mock funeral procession through the streets of midtown Manhattan, startling passersby with our large numbers and the drama of our parade.

Approximately 70 grannies and supporters walked slowly and silently in single file, some carrying open black umbrellas, New Orleans style, some carrying giant black balloons inscribed in white with “TROOPS OUT NOW,” and some carrying placards and banners.

The procession was led by four grandmothers carrying two life-sized cardboard coffins, one draped in the American flag and one in a black shroud. One granny beat a drum every few seconds, adding immeasurably to the solemnity of the event. The troupe of marchers was backed up by a color guard consisting of Veterans for Peace who regularly participate in our weekly vigil at Rockefeller Center.

We marched from the Times Square Recruiting Station to Rockefeller Center where we read the names of the Iraqi and U.S. dead. After each person’s name, age, and date of death was announced, a meditation bell tone was sounded. After the names were read, one of the women read a poem sent to the grannies by Yoko Ono, who couldn’t join us on this occasion but who always strongly supports our actions.

We grannies keep on keeping on in our mission to bring the troops home.

America, please … listen to your granny!
(E-mail: joan.wilegrandmothersagainstthewar.org)

**Teach Peace D.C. Trip**

**By Zohreh Whitaker, GFP**

On February 1, 2008, Teach Peace Foundation’s David Dionisi, Founder, and Mary Wind, President, 23 Teach Peace students from Davis and Sacramento, CA, high schools, and 11 advisors flew to Washington, D.C., for Teach Peace National Awareness.

The Teach Peace leaders had prepped the students well on four important issues: 1) Solutions to the Iraq war, 2) Why war with Iran decreases US national security, 3) Why a Department of Peace is good for everyone, and 4) The urgent need to ban the use of depleted uranium.

The students met with 32 congressional and 2 senate staff members (only 1 Congressman). Even though we had written in advance to expect us, we saw No California senators or House of Representative members.

Without question, the experience helped students better understand their government and its limitations (e.g., hearing from staff members that their congressperson is waiting for another member of Congress to take the first step on an important issue like banning depleted uranium).

David spoke with Congressional staff members who informed him they were extremely impressed by the professionalism and knowledge of the students.

I was very proud of these multi-ethnic, multicultural youths who helped each other and shared their knowledge and ability.
Depleted uranium (DU) is material that remains when enriched fissionable uranium, capable of generating a nuclear explosion or nuclear power, is separated from natural uranium. DU is radioactive, about 60 % as radioactive as purified natural uranium. It has a half life of 4.5 billion years, which means that for every 10 pounds of DU dispersed into the environment today, 5 pounds will still be here 4.5 billion years from now. DU is considered to be a heavy metal with a chemical toxicity similar to lead and chromium.

Munitions made of waste uranium-238 are called depleted uranium weapons. The U.S. Military chose to develop uranium weapons not only because they promised to be effective, but because the metal itself is very cheap. Army and Air Force munitions made with depleted uranium (DU) are incendiaries—they explode, burn and aerosolize (turn into metal fumes) on impact. Weapons using DU metal can easily penetrate tank armor and bunkers.

When DU burns, it forms extremely fine, smoke-like particles of ceramic DU-oxide that are readily carried by wind and distributed throughout the environment. Smoke-like particles of ceramic DU-oxide are nearly insoluble and are so small that they are easily inhaled into the lung’s deepest recesses where they become permanently lodged, continuously radiating and poisoning the surrounding tissues for decades.

It is widely accepted in the scientific and medical communities that tissue exposure to even a single alpha particle can initiate cancer, yet one milligram of DU-oxide (almost too small to see without a microscope) emits 450 million alpha particles, 900 million beta particles and 900 million gamma rays every year. It is illogical and unreasonable to assume that DU or DU-oxide particles residing in the lungs would not ultimately have very serious health consequences.

The United States and British militaries used over 360 tons of DU weapons in the 1991 Persian Gulf War over Iraq and Kuwait. Another five tons was fired into Bosnia in 1995 by U.S. led NATO forces and 10 tons were fired into Kosovo and the former Yugoslavia in 1999 during the 78-day NATO bombardment led by President Bill Clinton. In the 1991 Persian Gulf War, U.S. forces used depleted uranium as both armor piercing bullets and as tank armor for the first time. As much as 200 tons have been used again in Iraq since the March 2003 bombardment and invasion.

Over 220,000 of the 750,000 U.S. Troops deployed to Iraq in 1991, where DU was first used, have applied for disability benefits, many for “Gulf War Syndrome.” Many of these are reporting maladies that are classic symptoms of radiation poisoning.

Other symptoms associated with depleted uranium poisoning include chronic muscle and joint pain, fatigue and memory loss, disturbance of cognitive and other brain functions such as mood control. There has been an increase in cancer noted among those exposed to depleted uranium with larger increases in lung, leukemia, breast, skin, lymphoma, and liver cancer. It has been noted that soldiers exposed to depleted uranium have an increased risk of having children born with birth defects.

Although the Department of Defense has policies to deal with depleted uranium in terms of handling, disposal and exposure, Connecticut, Louisiana, New York, and California have decided to pass laws in regard to testing of National Guard soldiers from their state who have been exposed to depleted uranium. Appropriate testing needs to be done in order that a differential diagnosis and adequate treatment can be given to soldiers having health problems after returning from areas where DU is used.

In January 2007, Senator Stevens replied to a constituent’s inquiry about depleted uranium by stating that, “DU has been shown to be safe for our armed forces.” He included with his letter a Department of Defense fact sheet dated 8-4-98 to support his belief.

Army Regulation R700-48, dated 9-16-2002, Section 2-5 states that “The Major Army Command (MACOM) commander has the responsibility for determining the likelihood of significant exposure to contaminated equipment to any individual. Individuals that the command determines may have been exposed will be sent to a medical treatment facility for appropriate screening. Medical personnel will perform the appropriate medical monitoring, which may include bioassay.”

We are motivated to make sure that National Guard soldiers from Alaska receive the best possible medical care for health problems caused during their service. There appears to be a need for the states to monitor the promise made to the soldiers upon entry into service that medical care will be provided after service.

We would like the Alaska Legislature to sponsor a bill that will give Alaska National Guard soldiers assistance in getting accurate tests for DU exposure. A bill would also set up a Task Force to study necessary precautions, procedures, and treatment in regard to exposure to DU and other toxins.

A bill would add the concerned authority of the state to encourage the federal government to fulfill its responsibility.

The bill does not need to include appropriations for testing ill soldiers. It merely adds the power of the state to a logical demand for adequate testing. It mandates a task force of volunteer professionals to study how our soldiers do, or should receive precautions, protection, and adequate treatment for hazardous materials. Actually it will help save Alaska money because Veterans not receiving adequate compensation from the federal government will end up needing state services.

(Ed: The Fairbanks Grandmothers for Peace Chapter produced this DU paper.

Resources: www.sfp56.org: Uranium Medical Research Center www.umrc.net; New York Bill 9116-B is available for study on www.idust.net; Metal of Dishonor, Depleted Uranium, International Action Center; 1997.)

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By The Numbers

By the numbers we count the fallen
And all the syllables that kill
And all the lies that bury hearts
And make our breathing still
And cold. By the numbers we mourn the fallen
In this whirlwind of war and lie
Where one tear is too many
And a thousand not enough
For each one that has to die
Because - Why?

— John Cory

(Ed: John Cory is a Vietnam veteran who received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with V device [valor], 1969-1970. www.john-cory.com)
Grandmother Donna Dillman has ended her fast. She refused food for 63 days to back up her demand for a moratorium on uranium exploration and mining near her home in the pristine Algonquin Territory of Ontario.

In Canada, when a non-tribal citizen lives in unceded First Nations territories, that person identifies as a settler, and is still referred to as one. When the Ardoch and Shaabat Algonquins at Sharbot Lake began their blockade of the 36,000 acres coveted by uranium exploration and mining company Frontenac Ventures, Donna and other settlers joined them. Despite land differences, allied Mohawks came to the barricades.

Donna’s hunger strike gained her an audience with Premier McGinty, who told her he needed the uranium for electricity. She promptly let him know that over 80% of Canada’s uranium is exported.

Back in 1989, when the Energy Free Trade Agreement was signed between Canada and the U.S., the U.S. BusinessNet entry was “This has important implications ... two thirds of Canadian uranium is exported to the U.S.”

So that’s where it goes! Hundreds and hundreds of new claims have been opened in Canada and the U.S., and the price of uranium is skyrocketing.

Alfred Webre, International Director of the Institute for Cooperation in Space, writes in a recent issue of Commonground: “It is likely the DU used by U.S. and U.K. in Iraq and Afghanistan comes from Canadian uranium.” Dr. Gordon Edwards, President of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, said in a radio interview, “The Canadian government is taking directions and orders from the nuclear industry.” He talked about the uranium industry needing to turn its waste into profit and not just left in storage. “That’s why some of Canada’s DU ends up in weapons. The Canadian government can’t even think for themselves,” said Edwards. Webre concludes that “The government of Canada seems to have strayed into aiding and abetting the war crimes of the DU genocide in Iraq and crimes against humanity.”

Presently, the Sharbot Lake standoff has led to mediation meetings among the Algonquins, the downstream Mohawks, the Crown, Ontario and agents. Frontenac Ventures hasn’t shown up. The First Nations, and allies like Gramma Donna, have a different take on the “implications” of uranium mining from that of BusinessNet. They have vowed to continue the blockade to keep their land from being turned into a tailings dump.

When grandmother Kahentinetha Horn, a Mohawk elder and writer for theMohawk Nation News, stood up to open the mediation meeting by speaking in Mohawk according to Ongwehoni custom, she was ignored; then when First Nations representatives asked uncomfortable questions, reports Dru Oja Jay in her blog, the meeting was derailed.

Even though the term depleted uranium or DU is still in usage, we know that the U238 is not depleted. We also know that grandmothers and all people who seek balance for the benefit of our earth and future generations will instinctively understand the ancient instructions of the Dine people, a people who have suffered untold injury from uranium mining on their land in the U.S. Southwest. They were told that there were two yellow powders: corn pollen and yellow cake (uranium). The first was to be cared for in sacred way; the second was to be left forever in the ground.

The proposed Frontenac County uranium exploration area continues to be occupied by First Nations and allies like Donna Dillman. It’s too late for the millions of Afghans and Iraqis and the thousands of American soldiers, but maybe the deadliest mineral on earth will remain in the ground at Sharbot Lake forever.
TEN MYTHS ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. Nuclear weapons were needed to defeat Japan in World War II. This is not the opinion of many leading US military figures in the war. General Dwight Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe during World War II and later US president, wrote, “I thought that our country should avoid shocking world opinion by the use of a weapon whose employment was, I thought, no longer mandatory as a measure to save American lives. It was my belief that Japan was, at that very moment, seeking some way to surrender with a minimum loss of ‘face’…”

2. Nuclear weapons prevented a war between the United States and the Soviet Union. There were many deadly conflicts and “proxy” wars carried out by the superpowers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The Vietnam War, which took several million lives, is a prominent example. These wars made the supposed nuclear peace very bloody and deadly.

3. Nuclear threats have gone away since the end of the Cold War. In the aftermath of the Cold War, a variety of new nuclear threats have emerged. Among these are the following dangers:
   - Increased chances of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists willing to use them;
   - Policies of the US government to make nuclear weapons smaller and more usable;
   - Use of nuclear weapons by accident, particularly because of decaying Russian infrastructure; and
   - Spread of nuclear weapons to other states that may perceive them to be an “equalizer” against a more powerful state.

4. The United States needs nuclear weapons for its national security. US national security would be far improved if the US took a leadership role in seeking to eliminate nuclear weapons throughout the world. Nuclear weapons are the only weapons that could actually destroy the United States, and their existence and proliferation threaten US security.

5. Nuclear weapons make a country safer. By threatening massive retaliation, the argument goes, nuclear weapons prevent an attacker from starting a war. There are many ways, though, in which deterrence could fail, including misunderstandings, faulty communications, irrational leaders, miscalculations and accidents.

6. No leader would be crazy enough to actually use nuclear weapons. US leaders, considered by some to be highly rational, have used nuclear weapons in war, against Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Threats of nuclear attack by India and Pakistan are an example of nuclear brinkmanship that could turn into a nuclear war. Globally and historically, leaders have done their best to prove that they would use nuclear weapons.

7. Nuclear weapons are a cost-effective method of national defense. The cost of US nuclear weapons research, development, testing, deployment and maintenance has exceeded $7.5 trillion.

8. Nuclear weapons are well protected and there is little chance that terrorists could get their hands on one. In the aftermath of the Cold War, the ability of the Russians to protect their nuclear forces has declined precipitously. In addition, a coup in a country with nuclear weapons, such as Pakistan, could lead to a government coming to power that was willing to provide nuclear weapons to terrorists.

9. The United States is working to fulfill its nuclear disarmament obligations. The United States has failed for nearly four decades to fulfill its obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, requiring good faith negotiations to achieve nuclear disarmament. The United States has failed to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and has withdrawn from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

10. Nuclear weapons are needed to combat threats from terrorists and “rogue states.” The threat of nuclear force cannot act as a deterrent against terrorists because they do not have a territory to retaliate against. If the leaders of a rogue state do not use a rational calculus regarding their losses from retaliation, deterrence can fail.

Contact: The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at www.wagingpeace.org; www.nuclearfiles.org

(Editor: See page 2 for Ten Facts About Nuclear Weapons.)
**GFP Directory: U.S. & International Contacts**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9**

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  - Phone: 0040 269 218178
  - Fax: 0040 269 232650

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  - Grandmothers for Peace
  - Power of Women and Children, South Africa
  - P.O. Box 17066, Hillbrow 2038
  - Johannesburg, South Africa

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---

**Link to Other Granny Groups**

At

www.grandmothersforpeace.org

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**Editor:** Joan Wile's book, “Grandmothers Against the War: Getting off Our Fannies and Standing up for Peace,” is scheduled for release April 20, 2008, Citadel Press. See her report pg. 6, Update Other Granny Groups.

---

**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.
**Grandmothers for Peace**

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<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Prices</th>
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“No one man can terrorize a whole nation unless we are all his accomplices.” - Edward R. Murrow

Numbers You Need
3,960 US Military Deaths in Iraq*
Cost of War: $493,479,780,818**

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Secretary of Defense
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(*icasualties.org; **nationalpriorities.org; 2-11-2008)
2007 Scholarship Foundation Winners

Sophia Khawly: Miami, Florida - $500
Sophia is the Vice-President of "Hope for Haiti's Children" and is in charge of all fund raising activities. She researches companies, and writes or calls them to solicit funds. So far Sophia has raised enough money to build two elementary schools in Haiti and is raising funds to build a third. She travels to Haiti every summer to oversee and organize supplies and materials purchased with the funds. She visits families often going into dangerous neighborhoods to recruit workers for the schools.

After Julia's class watched "Hotel Rwanda," she decided to raise awareness at her school concerning genocide. She put together Genocide Awareness Week which culminated in an assembly with a Holocaust Survivor and a Lost Boy of Sudan as main speakers. She raised over $3,000 and helped more than 4,000 people become aware of the crisis in Africa. Now she is the Head Event Coordinator for Invisible Children's Schools for Schools program. The goal of this event is to raise $20,000 to modernize a shack in which Ugandan children go to school.

Miles Taylor: La Porte, Indiana - $500
Miles was a congressional page when he became interested in disarmament and first learned about nuclear proliferation issues. Then he became an intern at the Arms Control Assn. He became one of the youngest individuals ever allowed to publish several articles in Arms Control Today. At Indiana University, he founded the Student Alliance for National Security (SANS) and organized a panel of experts to speak about proliferation concerns in Iran and North Korea and the need to move toward worldwide disarmament. His efforts continue as he plans to feature the Iraqi Ambassador to the UN next.

Sarah Varadian: Norwood, Massachusetts - $500
Shortly after the events of Sept.11th, Sarah decided to help the Afghan children. She raised over $800 from a children's fair held in her front yard. Then she discovered that she could help open a girls' school in Afghanistan through CARE. She created and sewed little Wee Care Bears wearing her green plaid school uniform and sold enough bears to open not one but two girls' schools in Afghanistan! She has raised thousands of dollars for Afghanistan, an orphanage in Armenia and for medical testing in Africa.

Desiree Amadeo: Merrimack, New Hampshire - $250
As team leader of the Merrimack Biodiesel Crew, Desiree believes that not only can we save the environment but we can also learn to produce fuel cheaply, thereby contributing to world peace. This group has turned vegetable oil into fuel to run a school bus. By working with MIT'S Sloan Automotive Lab, she was able to secure three grants to continue her school program. As an MIT student, Desiree dreams of becoming a chemical engineer dedicated to researching and teaching others how to achieve safe, reliable, earth-friendly resources.
Brittney Grimes: Baldwin, New York - $250
Brittney writes poetry and performs readings. After the tragedies of 9-11, Hurricane Katrina, and the Southeast Asia tsunami, Brittney wrote a poem about each one, copied and laminated them and asked for a small donation in return. She raised thousands of dollars and donated the money to Red Cross, UNISEF and Habitat for Humanity. Her many awards include a letter from Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her “brilliant in-depth literary skills.”

Laura Zavada: Los Angeles, California - $250
Laura is the eldest in a Mexican migrant family of seven. At Santa Monica College, she is an AB540 student (undocumented because she was brought across the border by her parents when she was four) who is not able to apply for state or federal aid. She is an advocate for the Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights, a worker in Habitat for Humanity, and a mentor in the Warner Brothers Mentoring Program. The first of her family to attend college, Laura hopes to graduate with her Associate degree in sociology because she plans to give back to her community.

Joo Young Choi: Somerville, Massachusetts - $250
Joo developed a weekly Social Justice youth education program in the Universalist Unitarian Church. She also does art therapy with young people who are victims of violent surroundings. Many have dropped out of high school and are trying to graduate. Joo participated in a youth trip to Japan where she learned the horrors of the atomic bomb. While living at the Food Not Bombs House, she dressed as a living statue of Sadako and “come alive” when people put an offering in the box. Then she gave them a paper crane and literature about the atom bomb. Joo feels art is a powerful medium for radical change and wants to work with children at risk.

Sara DeSitter: Hood River, Oregon - $250
Sara has traveled to Ft. Benning, Georgia, four times since 2001 to protest against the School of the Americas. Every year she organized the making of 1,000 paper cranes in her community. These are placed on the fence at the SOA as a memorial for those who have died at the hands of SOA graduates. She also created a photo essay of her involvement in the peace movement at SOA. Sara has been able to dialogue with her peers and teachers about the atrocities committed by those trained at the SOA. She has been a counselor at a camp for low-income Hispanic children, built adobe houses in Mexico and marched against unjust immigration laws.

Brittney Grimes: Baldwin, New York - $250
Brittney writes poetry and performs readings. After the tragedies of 9-11, Hurricane Katrina, and the Southeast Asia tsunami, Brittney wrote a poem about each one, copied and laminated them and asked for a small donation in return. She raised thousands of dollars and donated the money to Red Cross, UNISEF and Habitat for Humanity. Her many awards include a letter from Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her “brilliant in-depth literary skills.”

Joel Portman: Ballwin, Missouri - $250
Joel is a member of the U. of Denver Social Justice and Living Community. He volunteers with a Peace Bridge group which helps kids get help with schoolwork and off the streets. Joel created a PowerPoint presentation of this project and critically examined the Denver Housing Authority. He is chair of the Holocaust Awareness Committee, and he created an organization called Never Again! which addresses genocide awareness. He was just selected as a member of the Student Board on Genocide Prevention at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Eugenia Murillo: Suffern, New York - $250
Eugenia Murillo: Suffern, New York - $250
Gina is a first generation Cuban-American. She served in the Youth Bridge-NY program as one of 35 Bridge Fellows for two years. She helped plan and implement workshops for 350 New York City students on becoming a better advocate for the improvement and advancement of society. Gina takes part in peaceful demonstrations to stop genocide in Darfur. She says it is heartbreaking and inconceivable that Americans do not become active leaders and informed citizens about why there is so much enormous suffering around the world, mostly due to greed.

Laura Zavada: Los Angeles, California - $250
Laura is the eldest in a Mexican migrant family of seven. At Santa Monica College, she is an AB540 student (undocumented because she was brought across the border by her parents when she was four) who is not able to apply for state or federal aid. She is an advocate for the Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights, a worker in Habitat for Humanity, and a mentor in the Warner Brothers Mentoring Program. The first of her family to attend college, Laura hopes to graduate with her Associate degree in sociology because she plans to give back to her community.
US LEADERSHIP FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE WORLD

An Appeal to the Next President of the United States

Nuclear weapons could destroy civilization and end intelligent life on the planet.

The only sure way to prevent nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism and nuclear war – before the next blinding flash – is to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The era of nuclear weapons must be brought to an end. This can be done. It will require leadership and commitment. Nuclear weapons were created by humans, and it is our responsibility to eliminate them before they eliminate us.

The United States, as the world’s most militarily powerful nation, must take the initiative in convening and leading the nations of the world to urgently take the following steps:

- **De-alert.** Remove all nuclear weapons from high-alert status, separating warheads from delivery vehicles;
- **No First Use.** Make legally binding commitments to No First Use of nuclear weapons and establish nuclear policies consistent with this commitment;
- **No New Nuclear Weapons.** Initiate a moratorium on the research and development of new nuclear weapons, such as the Reliable Replacement Warhead;
- **Ban Nuclear Testing Forever.** Ratify and bring into force the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;
- **Control Nuclear Material.** Create a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty with provisions to bring all weapons-grade nuclear material and the technologies to create such material under strict and effective international control;
- **Nuclear Weapons Convention.** Commence good faith negotiations, as required by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons;
- **Resources for Peace.** Reallocate resources from the tens of billions currently spent on nuclear arms to alleviating poverty, preventing and curing disease, eliminating hunger and expanding educational opportunities throughout the world.

*We call upon the next President of the United States to make a world free of nuclear weapons an urgent priority and to assure US leadership to realize this goal.*

Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________
Email: __________________________ City, State and Zip Code: __________________________

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Email: __________________________ City, State and Zip Code: __________________________

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The **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation** will send this signed appeal to the White House when the 44th President of the United States takes office on January 20, 2009.

Return to **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation**, PMB 121, 1187 Coast Village Rd, Suite 1, Santa Barbara, CA 93108