

Grandmothers for Peace International

Barbara Wiedner, Founder, 1928 - 2001

Lorraine Krofchok, Director

February 2006

Founded 1982



Sacramento, CA: Marjorie Boehm, left, and Lorraine Krofchok mark the sad milestone of 2,000 dead Americans in Iraq. October 26, 2005



San Francisco, CA: Grandmothers for Peace September 24, 2005, Peace Rally

Iraq War Casualties

U.S. Military Deaths: 2,248
U.S. Military Wounded: 16,549

Date 2-02-06

Iraqi Civilian Deaths: 30,000-100,000

Date: 3-19-03 to 2-02-06

Cost of Iraq War

\$238,046,650,321

Date:2-02-06

If you pass this newsletter on, please update:

U.S. Military Deaths: U.S. Military Wounded:

Date:		
\$		

Date:

Sources of Information:

http://icasualties.org http://costofwar.com



New York City Times Square Recruiting Center: Joan Wile reads the Statement of the Anti-War Grandmothers, October 17, 2005. See page 4 for the entire text.







New York City, NY: The pictures below and the four on the right were taken at the Grandmothers Against the War protest and enlistment attempt. Eighteen women, ages 49-90, were arrested.







GFPI CHAPTER ACTIONS

FROM COAST TO COAST AND BEYOND

Superior, Wisconsin

Penny Cragun & Dorothy Wolden

The GFP Northland Chapter held our 20th Annual Peaceful Toy Drive this year. Area agencies, churches and businesses sponsored donation boxes for collecting nonviolent toys. "Granny" volunteers decorated, dropped off and picked up the boxes. The toys were donated to local groups: the Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse in Superior hosted a holiday party for the families they have assisted throughout the year; the Loaves and Fishes gave them to children who attended their neighborhood party in a low-income area of Duluth; and the Union Gospel Mission in Duluth had parents select donated items to wrap and give to their children.

We had a very successful year. Students of Laura Jensen and Faye Hubbard at Superior High School collected over \$1,000 in cash to buy gifts, plus they donated dozens of toys. The Green Mercantile, in downtown Duluth, donated their display window to us for the month of December to promote the toy drive, and our local cable television company, Charter Communications, created a free commercial for the toy drive and ran it hundreds of times. Every year GFP establishes new community connections to help get the message out: give children gifts of love, not hate—gifts that promote creativity, not destruction. We hope to build a more peaceful world—one toy box at a time.

Several members traveled to Ft. Benning,



Karen Barshdorf at the November 2005 SOA protest.

GA, in November for the **SOA protest**. Many said it was a life changing event for them.

In Nov/Dec. our annual—"Toddy's Raffle" was held. We collected \$424 for our Peace Scholarship Fund that is open to local HS and College students who are actively involved in Peace and Social Justice issues. The scholarships are awarded in March.

Our raffle is named after the late **Toddy O'Neill** who provided us with a beautiful afghan each year for the past 20 years. Toddy died as a result of a car acci-

dent in 2005, but her family has generously offered to continue to provide us with an afghan from Toddy's collection. Toddy's commitment to Peace lives on with her legacy!

And last, but not least, we continue to stand on a street corner in Duluth, MN, each Wednesday (at noon) with the **Women in Black**, silently protesting the war in Iraq.

<u>Burke, Virginia</u> Suzanne C. Doherty

Ten Northern Virginia Grandmothers for Peace met for lunch just before the New Year to share stories and talk about possible projects to undertake in the next few months.

In addition to recruiting more members, we are in the process of contacting officials about how we might help the injured soldiers and families at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington.

We are also attempting to make connections with grandmothers in Iraq.

<u>Grass Valley/Nevada City California</u> Shirley McDonald

Our chapter took the message of peace into our community in a wide variety of ways: Sponsored the movie "Pay It Forward," about a young boy who does a favor for three people and when they ask how to pay him back, he tells them to "pay it forward"—pass on three favors—instead of paying him back; Sponsored a "Dance, Dance Revolution" contest at a local arcade to encourage our youth to play this, rather than the shooting and blowing-things-up games; Infiltrated the Nevada County Fair with many peace-related entries, from decorated cookies and knitted hats to photography and art; Marched in the Constitution Day Parade to the theme of "Women's Suffrage"—our message was, "We are Women Who Vote for Peace;" Participated in the Altar Show with the message: "We are ALL Casualties of War; "Setup our table outside of K-Mart between Thanksgiving and Christmas to give away cookies and information regarding non-violent toys.

We also have been **participating in the** "Peace Soldiers" project. They are all around town—on bulletin boards, store shelves, in store windows, on newspaper stands, etc.

It's great that we can all share our ideas in this international newsletter. One step at a time, we continue to *Build a World of Peace*—for this, and future generations.

Berlin, Germany Eva Quistorp

In Berlin, Germany, during the 1980s, the Women for Peace movement was against nuclear weapons and for a nuclear-free and democratic Europe. Now that we are getting older than 60, and remembering our old friendship with Barbara [Wiedner, 1928–2001, founder of Grandmothers for Peace, International], we have become an affiliate of Grandmothers for Peace, International, USA.

We want to make clear that we stand against war and against terror.

March 8, 2006, we will unite with international women everywhere in the **Women Say No to War campaign***. Women from different peace groups will deliver signatures calling for peace in Iraq to the US embassy in Berlin. We will hold a vigil in solidarity with all the women living in war areas and those who suffer daily violence around the world.

You can get an impression of our current work on www.berlin-declaration.org

Best wishes and love, Eva

*(Ed: See page 10; www.womensaynotowar.org)

Rossmoor/Walnut Creek, California Nancy Landfield

Grandparents for Peace and Justice of Rossmoor has had interesting and provocative speakers at the monthly meetings. In December, Susan Prather from Fresh Start, Walnut Creek, spoke of their advocacy program for the homeless. It provides a drop-in place two days-a-week for lunch, and counseling for housing and jobs.

Mary Alice O'Conner, the director of the Peace Centre in Walnut Creek spoke to us in January about upcoming programs at the Peace Centre.

In February, **Dr. Frank Rubenthol** will talk about **The Oasis of Peace**, a village in Israel founded in 1972. The residents are 50 families, half Israeli and half Arab, dedicated to reconciliation and to proving that people of different ideologies and language can live together in peace.

GFP/J continues to vigil for peace and an end to the Iraqi conflict every Friday, 3:00-4:00 pm outside the gates of Rossmoor at the corner of Tice Valley and Rossmoor Parkway.

Hayward, California Corine Thornton

The **Hayward Chapter of GFP** works in cooperation with the local peace and justice

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Chapter News: Indiana, California

◆ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

groups, including Code Pink, Women for Peace and the Livermore Conversion Project. We participated in the huge anti-war rally in San Francisco on Sept 24, 2005,—not that anyone in Washington, DC, paid any attention, except perhaps to tap our phones!

There have been several local candlelight vigils against the death penalty and one to honor MLK Jr. on his day.

In October we showed "Hidden in Plain Sight" as a fund raiser to send two local supporters to the annual November protest at Ft. Benning, GA, to demand the closure of the School of the Americas. This past November, there were 16,000 people—more than ever before.

Much of our activities consist of writing letters to our Congress people, to newspapers, and to attending town meetings of our Representatives, trying to keep them on the "straight and narrow"—which is not easy.

<u>Anderson, Indiana</u> Christie Smith Stephens

The Indiana Chapter has been involved in a variety of peacemaking activities in the last few months. The first Saturday of every month we participate in a Peace Vigil at the City Building in Anderson. Our Grandmothers for Peace signs are highly visible and after the last vigil a large photograph of **Grandmother Lois Rockhill** appeared in the paper.

We continue to support **Second Harvest**, our food bank, by volunteering for fundraising projects. We sent Katrina Relief boxes to children. For our holiday project we chose to purchase olive trees for planting in the Middle East. We continue to write letters to our newspaper, editorials usually written by **Grandmother Norma Abbey** who is extremely well informed.

Jim Wallis of Sojourners will be speaking in our community in March and we will be involved in and supportive of his visit and message of peace.

Grandmother Dondeena Caldwell who along with her husband, Maurice, established the Peacemaking Fund at Anderson University works to increase that fund and to expand the Peace and Conflict Transformation Program at the university.

We have been contacted by other women in Indiana who would like to be involved in GFPI and have interest in starting chapters in their areas. We have met with one of them and have added her and the others to our mailing list. We continue to meet weekly discussing the state of the nation, the war, and a variety of peace and justice issues. We contact our legislators and we sign petitions. We are grateful

for the work of GFPI and are proud to be a chapter. Peace be with everyone!

Christie Smith Stephens

Sacramento, California Lorraine Krofchok

Our Sacramento Chapter continues to have some excellent programs and event participation!

We continue giving out our **Opt Out** forms—students have the right to NOT be subjected to military recruiters. **GFP Myrna Seto** said, "I do continue to keep a pile of brochures of **Opt Out** forms in my car and purse. It has been astonishing to me to get reactions from persons I hand these to. Most are truly amazed. Many have never thought about it. There has been much less hostility than I imagined. I would really encourage people to hand them out if they are even vaguely inclined. It's a great way to get to know perfect strangers!"

Some of us are leaving our little "peace soldiers" around town. We have toy plastic soldiers and have put labels on that say "Bring Me Home." This is an organized national action. http://www.mouthswideopen.org.

On September 24, 2005, a group of GFP went to the huge anti-war protest in San Francisco. Many stayed in Sacramento for a demonstration arranged by GFP and it drew over 100 participants from the home community. It proves we can be in two places at one time!

In late September we hosted **Bobbie** Wren Banks, former National Field Director of Women's Action for New Directions



Sacramento, CA: Ida Curtice, left, Shirley O'Key, Bill Wiedner, Bobbie Wrenn Banks, Lorraine Krofchok, Don Knutson, Ellen Schwartz, Sept. 27, 2005, at the showing of "Last Best Chance."

(WAND). She was touring the country with a new DVD docudrama "Last Best Chance." It looks at nuclear terrorism, focusing not on fear but on what we can do to build security in the face of this threat. For a free copy see: www.lastbestchance.org.

On October 15, **Cindy Sheehan** came to a coalition anti-war rally "on the street corner." She was very gracious and I told her that she symbolizes every mother who has ever lost a child in a war.

October 22 brought author **David Dionisi** to a regular Grandmothers for Peace meeting.



Sacramento, CA: GFP family John and Marie Kiene with their 10-year-old granddaughter, Pearl, Lorraine Krofchok, Cindy Sheehan, October 15, 2005, anti-war protest at 16th and Broadway.

I urge you to look in our book section and consider purchasing, "American Hiroshima." It is filled with information and is not a "complicated" read.

David writes from the perspective of a military intelligence officer, a senior executive, and an international volunteer. He promotes an alternate and brighter future that prevents wars and establishes the United States as a 21st century instrument for peace.

The United States can help bring about a more peaceful world or help make the world

a more dangerous one. The book explains what must be done and how Americans can wake up in time to prevent something similar from happening here. Will Americans wake up before, or only become informed and engaged after



Sacramento, CA: Lorraine Krofchok, left, David Dionisi, author of "American Hiroshima," and Myrna Seto, Oct. 22, 2005, GFP meeting.

an American Hiroshima?

October 26 saw us on a street corner again, for the sad milestone of 2,000 dead Americans in Iraq. As of this writing we are at 2,248 and countless more Iraqi dead. (Note our front page and keep it accurate; we will not forget the sacrifices).

In November and December we saw many street corners. But, until tens of thousands speak out, the war machine will go on ...

♦ PLEASE SEE CHAPTER NEWS, PAGE 9

COVER: For more photographs and information regarding New York City Times Square Recruiting Center:

www.panys.org/grannies www.grandmothersagainstthe war.org www.nycindymedia.org/en/2005/10/58737.html www.commondreams.org/views06/0116-28.htm



STATEMENT OF THE ANTI-WAR GRANDMOTHERS OCTOBER 17, 2005

We are grandmothers heartbroken over the huge loss of life and limb in Iraq. We feel it is our patriotic duty to enlist in the United States military today in order to replace our grandchildren who have been deployed there far too long and are anxious to come home now while they are still alive and whole. By this action, we are not supporting the use of military force in Iraq—in fact, we are totally against it. But inasmuch as it exists, our goal in joining up is only to protect young people from further death and maiming.

We grandmothers have all had the privilege of living long lives and are willing to put ourselves in harm's way so that our own and other people's grandchildren will have a chance to enjoy full lives as we have.

We believe these young men and women are being used as cannon fodder in an illegal and totally unjustified war against a nation which posed no threat to us. They were sent there on a web of lies and deceit resulting in untold harm to them and countless innocent Iraqi people.

We hope that by enlisting today we can help bring about the early end of this immoral occupation and the return of our brave young people to their homes and families ... now.

Signed by:

Code Pink New York Women for Peace Elders for Peace and Justice for the Next 7 Generations

Grandmothers against the War Grandmothers for Peace International Gray Panthers New York City Raging Grannies

Peace Action New York State Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

WHY GRANDMA WENT TO JAIL

By Joan Wile: Founder/Director of Grandmothers Against the War

On October 17, 2005, eighteen grandmothers were arrested at the Times Square Recruiting Booth and incarcerated. We were charged with disorderly conduct as a result of our attempting to enlist and, when denied entrance, sitting down in front of the door.

Why did we do it? People ask us if we have grandchildren fighting in Iraq. Actually, none of us have, but that's really beside the point. We are concerned for grandchildren in the generic sense. They are all our grandkids, and we grieve for each young person who dies or is maimed as a result of our tragically ill-conceived, illegal occupation of Iraq. "Ill" is an apt prefix, for the unfeeling monsters who perpetrated this crime are sick to their very cores. Otherwise, how could they have sent all these brave kids off to die for what we are convinced they knew was a lie? How could they have launched bombs killing thousands of innocent Iraqis, many of them children? We don't for one moment think, nor did we ever, that they were persuaded by faulty intelligence that there were weapons of mass destruction in Saddam's arsenal. WE were the ones with such weapons, which rained mass destruction on the hapless Iraqi people.

We decided to enlist so that we might replace young people, enabling them to come home. After all, we've all lived long lives, so better us than them. And, judging from the way the recruiters inside the facility cowered behind their desks when they saw us at the door, imagine how the insurgents would run when they saw us coming.

Failing enlistment, which we knew was not really a viable option, we hoped that our actions would draw attention to the wisdom of we grandmothers that this war must end ... now! We are positive that nothing is being gained by our continued presence in that beleaguered nation. The argument that we are needed to defeat the insurgency just doesn't hold up inasmuch as the insurgency keeps growing the longer we are there. It's very simple, really. Why go on and on fighting a losing battle with more and more of our youths being thrown away in the process?

It's ironic to me that we old broads knew all along that this war was totally unjustified and was doomed to be a disaster, and yet all our great statesmen and politicians are just beginning to realize that it may have been a mistake. In the future, therefore, my advice is "Listen to your Granny." Granny knows best.



The Mothers

By Frances Whitmarsh Wile

My Boy Has Donned The Khaki And Taken Gun In Hand: He Heard The Bugles Calling, The Nation's High Command. His Manhood And His Future He Gives His Native Land. I Would Not Bar The Threshold Nor Hold Him From His Place, Though All The Life I Live By Is In His Eager Face. My Sacrifice Is Offered For Freedom Of The Race. No Star That Lights Our Banner But Rose Upon The Sky Because, In Countless Thousands, The Boys Went Forth To Die. We Answer To The Bugles, My Fair-Faced Boy And I.

But O, Some German Mother,
Across The Death-Strewn Sea,
Hath Sent Her Son To Battle As Dear As Mine To Me.
To Fatherland And Kindred
She Gives Unflinchingly.
Her Heart Or Mine, It May Be,
Must Break When They Shall Meet:
Upon The Hearts Of Mothers
The Marching Footsteps Beat:
On Riven Hearts Of Mothers
Must Fall The Charging Feet.

(Ed: Written circa the First World War by peace activist and suffragette, Frances Whitmarsh Wile, grandmother of Joan Wile, Grandmothers Against the War, the New York City affiliate of GFP.)

The Things People Say

By Nan Mahon: GFP, ELK Grove, CA

If someone you love is deployed in the Iraq war zone, it's a worry that stays in your mind like a quiet rainfall in spring. It goes to bed with you and wakes up with you and drips in soft drops throughout the day. It means searching the newspaper for the latest battle or bombing and putting down the paper to listen to a television report on Baghdad. Many of us have no idea where our children or other loved ones are stationed in Iraq, so we take it all in.

I am constantly amazed and angry because this war is of little consequence to most Americans who go on with their lives without regard to the misery and dying "over there."

When people find out that my son, a Special Forces career soldier, is serving a third deployment in Iraq, the things they say are sometimes kind, sometimes hurtful, and often stupid.

Most welcomed comments are "God bless you," "Thank you" or "I will pray for him."

The stupid ones are "Well, they attacked us and we had to go to war," or "Look at all the schools we have built."

Others are honest with: "I'd send my son out of the country before I would let him go to this war."

But the ones that cut into me are: "Well they are soldiers, aren't they? What did they expect? They don't get to choose their war." Even, "more young boys are killed in car accidents than in battle."

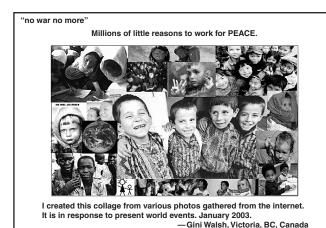
And most hurtful of all, "They volunteered."

As if they must be crazy or dumb to step up to protect me and mine. Goodness knows their child has more sense and is safe in college or getting on with his career while he is of the right age to do so. As if the volunteer deserved to be maimed or die in a land that makes no difference to most of us, in a war that Europe refused to take part in. As if they can reasonably expect one percent of the population to keep us all safe.

This war would end tomorrow if the draft were reinstated in America. If the responsibility was shared equally among the population, people would take to the streets by the thousands to protest. Just as they did during Vietnam.

Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfield, who hid from service during the Vietnam War, now give us ever changing reasons for our children to fight this one of their making. People who would hide their own children from the fight tell us it is justified.

Grandmothers for Peace and its counterpoints will not allow the public to become complacent nor ignore the fight that has no end in sight. Nothing short of peace is a victory.



Darfur

Many Organizations Work to Improve Lives

By Judy Cunningham

The situation in Darfur, Sudan, is critical, as the Darfur article in the last newsletter so clearly conveyed. There are many organizations, however, working to improve the lives of the refugees and address the very serious problem of gender-based violence that is so prevalent in the region. These organizations face many obstacles due to the dangerous conditions in the Sudan and few of them are actually on the ground in the Darfur region because of the risks involved. Most of the organizations work across the border in Chad, where many Darfurian refugees have fled. Two exceptions to this are the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** and **Doctors Without Borders**. Both organizations have been very active throughout the region with the help of the **African Union (AU)** peacekeepers.

As mentioned previously, addressing the violence against the women of Darfur is one of the most serious challenges facing the aid organizations. Women are put at risk everyday when they have to leave the refugee camps in search of firewood. To help eliminate the need for firewood, the **Dutch KoZon Foundation** and **Solar Cookers International (SCI)**, based in Sacramento, have teamed up to build camps in Chad where the refugees are learning to construct and use simple cardboard solar cookers. These cookers work great in sun-rich regions such as the Sudan and can be used to cook food and pasteurize water.

Through the help of interpreters, the people of KoZon and SCI have worked closely with the refugees and have been able to present these cookers in a way that shows respect for the Sudanese culture. Due to these special efforts, the women have been very accepting of the cookers and happy to know they can still prepare traditional Sudanese dishes for their families without having to gather cooking fuel. The IRC has also expressed an interest in the cookers and has launched a pilot program to distribute them to the refugees within the Darfur border.

Women for Women International has also gone to the region to help the women in crisis. This organization was started by an Iraqi woman, Zainab Salbi, and its mission is to aid women in war-torn regions of the world. So far, they have worked in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but their latest newsletter stated the conditions they observed in Darfur are the most dire they have ever seen. They will bring life-saving programs to the many rape victims and work to get these women back into society.

For more information on these organizations, please visit the following web sites: www.womenfor women.org; www.solarcookers.org; www.doctorswithoutborders.org; www.theirc.org; www.kozon.org.

(Ed: Judy initiated the solar cooker program, spent many hours contacting various relief organizations to arrange shipping and distribution of the cookers and the people on the ground to provide the instructions for their use. She is the daughter of Sarah Johnson and the granddaughter of Corine Thornton, both long time active members of Grandmothers for Peace.)

Director's Notes

We write letters, we protest by the tens of thousands, we stand on street corners weekly, we petition, we call, and we become frustrated and depressed. And, the war machine rolls on. I considered leaving this column blank and just write "disgusted by the apathy" across the page. Yet, I know we have to keep doing "SOMETHING" or the war machine and the manipulation of the masses through fear will escalate. Each day the current administration tries a new stunt to frighten us into abject submission.

Some of us still believe in our Constitution and the Oath of Office by a President—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States"—even though I find our current resident in the Oval Office has betrayed his oath of office.

Please read the poignant piece written by **Nan Mahon—"What People Say."** Remember her words, and take them into your heart.

Many of us work tirelessly with our activism. Jan Provost and the Northland Chapter have "been in business" for 20 years! Joan Wile and her Grandmothers Against the War have had a huge amount of publicity over their action at the Times Square Recruiting Station. Our Indiana Chapter continues to reach out to the community, along with so many of our thriving groups. And we are "rich" with new contact people all over the country!

Leal Portis and her Scholarship Foundation will give you hope for the future as you read the biographies of this year's winners. Sarah Johnson efficiently and diligently sends out our shirts, totes, and caps around the world. And, thanks to Pat Altenburg for editing this newsletter, from the bits, scraps, and collections of items I sent to her!

And, to everyone who has worked for peace and justice—thank you.

Peace to all of us, Lorraine

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

- Hubert H. Humphrey, 1965

I Served Eight Days in a Houston, Texas, Jail

By Ellen Broms: GFP, Sacramento, Ca

I have been active in GFP for only a year or two, but I have an almost 50-year-history of activism. My participation began in 1959 when I was a student in Los Angeles, CA. The most memorable time was 1961, when I participated in the **Civil Rights Movement**, specifically the **Freedom Rides**, and served eight days in a Houston, Texas, jail.

For most of us, activism is intermittent depending upon family obligations, career and intensity of interest in a particular issue. During 2005, I put my energy into the Sacramento Coalition to Get Out of Iraq. The Coalition succeeded in generating support for the City Council's Resolution to Bring the Troops Home—passed on November 1, 2005.

On November 11, 2005, I participated in an event celebrating the 1960s Freedom Rides at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. It was the culmination of LMU's Bellarmine Forum: "A Just Community for All." The United States Postal Service unveiled a series of stamps to commemorate the Civil Rights movement. There are ten 37-cent stamps in the series called "To Form a More Perfect Union—seeking equal rights for African Americans."

The day's highlight was hearing **Rev. James Lawson** speak. He put the Freedom Rides in perspective and urged all of us "to make ourselves a committee of one—to organize our lives in resistance to the wrongs in our land." Lawson further said: "We must turn this country away from war toward peace, away from greed toward an economy that has a human face, away from violence toward the infinite possibilities of becoming a land of nonviolence."

Another highlight of the November 11 gathering was a speech by **Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa** who talked about the unfinished work of the civil rights movement. He encouraged everyone to engage in activism with hope for the future. It was certainly encouraging to me that the students at the University were so interested in our stories of past and continuing activism.

I was a student at Los Angeles City College (LACC) during 1959-60 when the student movement supporting civil rights started on campus. We picketed Woolworth lunch counters in Los Angeles to support similar sit-ins by students in the South.

On Sunday, June 18, 1961, I attended a freedom rally at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles. The keynote speaker was **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, who was introduced by **Governor**

Pat Brown. Mahalia Jackson sang the Lord's Prayer. A freedom rider spoke and I was so moved I decided to participate in the rides.

The Los Angeles chapter of the **Congress** of **Racial Equality (CORE)** started recruiting and training freedom riders in non-violent techniques during the summer of 1961. Reverend Lawson was one of our trainers. Our aim was to test the interstate facilities which were required by Federal law to serve both African American and white customers. The Freedom Ride that I participated in was the last Freedom Ride! We spent less time in jail and more time in the community gathering support for the freedom riders in Jackson, Mississippi.

On August 9, we **left Los Angeles by train on a Freedom Ride to Houston, Texas**. Student members of the Progressive Youth Association had invited us to test the Union Station Coffee shop. On August 11, we did just that. At first, the owner tried to bar our entrance because we were an interracial group. Finally, he permitted us to enter and we sat at the counter for two hours without being served. However, he also called the police.

We were arrested, charged with unlawful assembly and taken to the Houston City Jail. We were fingerprinted, mugged, classified, and then transferred to the Harris County Jail. Ironically, I was booked as a "Negro" because of my dark hair and complexion. We declined to state "race" and they classified me as "High Yellow." Marjorie, a very fair skinned, green eyed female rider of African American descent was classified and booked as white. I was placed in the "tank" for black women and Marjorie went to the white women's tank. If we did nothing else during that ride, we did succeed in briefly integrating the jail.

Most of us spent about eight days in jail. Our four while male riders did not fare so well. They were severely beaten and mistreated by the inmates in their tank and were released, earlier than the other riders, so they could be treated.

We were released from jail and stayed in Texas pending our court date. Our job was to speak at churches and other gatherings to raise money for CORE's legal defense fund. They posted \$150,000 in bail for the Jackson, Mississippi, riders.

At our first trial, we were found not guilty because of a technicality. At the second trial, a week later, we were found guilty of unlawful assembly by an all-white jury and fined \$100 each. Our case was appealed to a higher court and was overturned.

(Ed: For more information about the Freedom Rides: "Freedom Rider: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice" by Raymond Arsenault, Oxford University Press, January 2006.)

Depleted Uranium

The Situation Requires President Bush and Prime Minister Blair to Take Action

By Doug Rokke, Ph.D. Former Director, U.S. Army Depleted Uranium project

While U.S. and British military personnel continue using illegal uranium munitions, the U.S. Army, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) officials continue to deny there is any adverse health and environmental effects as a consequence of the manufacture, testing, and/or use of uranium munitions. This is to avoid liability for the willful and illegal dispersal of a radioactive toxic material—depleted uranium.

They refuse to comply with their own regulations, orders, and directives that require DOD officials to provide prompt and effective medical care to "all" exposed individuals - [Medical Management of Unusual Depleted Uranium Casualties, DOD, Pentagon, 10/14/93, Medical Management of Army personnel Exposed to Depleted Uranium (DU) Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Command 29 April 2004), and section 2-5 of AR 70-48].

They also refuse to clean up dispersed radioactive contamination as required by Army Regulation-AR 700-48: "Management of Equipment Contaminated With Depleted Uranium or Radioactive Commodities" (Headquarters, Department Of The Army, Washington, D.C., September 2002) and U.S. Army Technical Bulletin-TB 9-1300-278: "Guidelines For Safe Response To Handling, Storage, And Transportation Accidents Involving Army Tank Munitions Or Armor Which Contain Depleted Uranium" (Headquarters, Department Of The Army, Washington, D.C., JULY 1996).

Specifically section 2-4 of U.S. Army Regulation-AR 700-48 dated September 16, 2002, requires that:

- (1) "Military personnel identify, segregate, isolate, secure, and label all RCE" (radiologically contaminated equipment).
- (2) "Procedures to minimize the spread of radioactivity will be implemented as soon as possible."
- (3) "Radioactive material and waste will not be locally disposed of through burial, submersion, incineration, destruction in place, or abandonment" and
- (4) "All equipment, to include captured or combat RCE, will be surveyed, packaged, retrograded, decontaminated and released IAW Technical Bulletin 9-1300-278, DA PAM 700-48" (Note: Maximum exposure limits are specified in Appendix F).

The previous and current use of uranium weapons, the release of radioactive components in destroyed U.S. and foreign military equipment, and releases of industrial, medical, research facility radioactive materials have resulted in unacceptable exposures. Therefore, decontamination must be completed as required by U.S. Army Regulation 700-48, and should include releases of all radioactive materials resulting from military operations. The extent of adverse health and environmental effects of uranium weapons contamination is not limited to combat zones, but includes facilities and sites where uranium weapons were manufactured or tested,

including: Vieques; Puerto Rico; Colonie, New York; Concord, MA; and Jefferson Proving Grounds, Indiana. Therefore, medical care must be provided by the U.S. DOD officials to all individuals affected by the manufacturing, testing, and/or use of uranium munitions. Thorough environmental remediation also must be completed without further delay.

I am amazed that, fourteen years after I was asked to clean up the initial DU mess from Gulf War 1 and over ten years since I finished the depleted uranium project, DOD officials and others still attempt to justify uranium munitions use while ignoring mandatory requirements. I am dismayed that DOD and DOE officials and representatives continue personal attacks aimed to silence or discredit those of us who are demanding that medical care be provided to all DU casualties, and that environmental remediation be completed in compliance with U.S. Army Regulation 700-48. But, beyond the ignored mandatory actions, the willful dispersal of tons of solid radioactive and chemically toxic waste in the form of uranium munitions is illegal*.

And, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), uranium munitions is a "dirty bomb." DHS issued "dirty bomb" response guidelines** on January 3, 2006, for incidents within the United States, but ignore DOD's use of uranium weapons and existing DOD regulations. These guidelines specifically state: "Characteristics of RDD [Radiological Dispersed Device] and IND [Improvised Nuclear Device] Incidents: A radiological incident is defined as an event or series of events, deliberate or accidental, leading to the release, or potential release, into the environment of radioactive material in sufficient quantity to warrant consideration of protective actions. Use of an RDD or IND is an act of terror that produces a radiological incident." Thus the use of uranium munitions is "an act or terror" as defined by DHS.

Finally, continued compliance with the infamous March 1991 Los Alamos Memorandum, that was issued to ensure continued use of uranium munitions, can not be justified.

In conclusion: the President of the United States- George W. Bush and the Prime Minister of Great Britain-Tony Blair must acknowledge and accept responsibility for willful use of illegal uranium munitions—their own "dirty bombs"—resulting in adverse health and environmental effects.

President Bush and Prime Minister Blair also should order:

- 1. medical care for all casualties,
- 2. thorough environmental remediation,
- 3. immediate cessation of retaliation against all of us who demand compliance with medical care and environmental remediation requirements,
- 4. and stop the already illegal use (UN finding) of depleted uranium munitions.

Sources - these references are copies of the actual regulations/ orders and other pertinent official documents:

*www.traprockpeace.org/karen_parker_du_illegality.pdf

**www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/fr-cont.html www.traprockpeace.org/twomemos.html www.traprockpeace.org/rokke_du_3_ques.html www.traprockpeace.org/du_dtic_wakayama_Aug2002.html cryptome.org/dhs010306.txt

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♦ PLEASE SEE GFP DIRECTORY, PAGE 9

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Chapter News: FL, NV, CA

◆ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

St. Augustine, Florida Peg McIntire

Totally forgot your deadline. Grandparents for Peace have been awfully busy and in touch with Joan Wile, (Grandmothers Against the war in NYC) and two California women. The California women have started a San Francisco Bay Area affiliate of Grandmothers Against the War. They are planning an action at the Berkeley Recruiting Center for Valentine's Day—protesting and attempting to "sign up."

Blue Diamond, Nevada Patricia van Betten

During the Fort Benning, Georgia, protests to close the School of the Americas, we visited each Las Vegas office of our Nevada Congressional delegation. We hand-carried background information and the request to support federal legislation to close the SOA.

Our spokesperson, GFP, Sister Rosemary Lynch, was articulate and compelling. She did personal follow-up letters from our group recapping the reason for our visit and our request. One member of our group attended the protest in Georgia and has been in prison in the past for trespassing there. We are members of a discussion group called People of Faith for Social Justice. Some of us are also members of Grandmothers for Peace.

Visalia, CA Pat Dressler

During 2006, the Central Valley Peace Center and Grandmothers for Peace will



Pat Dressler, GFP.

continue to have their monthly demonstrations for peace on the first Sunday of the month.

Pat Dressler will continue to represent Grandmothers for Peace in the metro area at the local sidewalk demonstrations. The movement is alive and well here in the central valley.

Bring 'Em Back Out Of Iraq

BRING THEM HOME NOW! is a campaign of military families, veterans, active duty personnel, reservists and others opposed to the ongoing war in Iraq and galvanized to action by George W. Bush's reckless challenge to armed Iraqis resisting occupation to "Bring 'em on."

Contact: Bring Them Home Now!, c/o Veterans for Peace, 216 S. Meramec Ave., St Louis, MO 63105; www.veteransforpeace.org

The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering by Sharon Mehdi



Sharon Mehdi recently sent me an e-mail about her book, "The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering." I had already heard about it from many people and it is on order!

In Sharon's words:

"Last April, Viking Penguin published a little book of mine, The Great Silent *Grandmother Gathering*—a story about peace for anyone who thinks she can't save the world. The book was taken by presenters to two United Nations World Conferences on Peace in New York and a Conference on Peace and Reconciliation in South Africa. A woman from northern California took a copy to every woman in Congress, and school children in Oregon sent it to each governor in the country. Last week, organizers of Vancouver, B.C.'s new peace center, presented the book to the Dalai Lama and former President Jimmy Carter.

"I will start out in California on Feb. 27th—return to Ashland the first two weeks of April-and then head out again April 16th for Arizona and New Mexico. I can do readings in Oregon and Washington any time during February. All of this is pretty flexible. People can get in touch with me about arranging dates and times at the email address: grandmotherbook@aol.com."

(Note from Lorraine: GFP without e-mail can call me and I will contact Sharon for her schedule.)

Henry David Thoreau

On the Duty of Civil Disobedience

A common and natural result of an undue respect for the law is, that you may see a file of soldiers, colonel, captain, corporal, privates, powder-monkeys, and all, marching in admirable order over hill and dale to the wars, against their wills, ay, against their common sense and consciences, which makes it very steep marching indeed, and produces a palpitation of the heart. They have no doubt that it is a damnable business in which they are concerned; they are all peaceably inclined. Now, what are they? Men at all? or small movable forts and magazines, at the service of some unscrupulous man in power?

(Ed: This is an excerpt from Thoreau's essay, Civil Disobedience, 1849; published in US, 1854.)

<u>Washington, D.C. and the World</u> March 8

International Women's Day "Women Say No to War Campaign"

Women from around the world—from the US to Iraq to Britain to Japan—launched a campaign in 2005 aimed at ending the Iraq war and all attacks on Iraqi civilians in 2006.

March 8, 2006, a delegation of Iraqi and American women, including mothers who have lost their children in this war, will deliver thousands of signatures to Congresspeople demanding an end to the war.

Women around the world will deliver their signatures to US embassies.

Contact: www.womensaynotowar.org

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION
March 18

"Stop the War"

From San Francisco to Washington, D.C., and to around the world, mass marches and rallies are scheduled for the Third Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq. Continued U.S. occupation and fighting comes at an enormous cost to people in both countries.

The U.S. spends more than \$200 million each day on this war, while people's needs for health care, education, jobs, and disaster relief are neglected. The ANSWER Coalition invites you to speak your voice.

Contact: www.answercoalition.org

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

April 3-6

"Citizens for Peace in Space Vigil"

Each April, Space Foundation holds its annual international symposium to promote U.S. control of space.

And, each year during this event, the Colorado Springs-based Citizens for Peace In Space (CPIS) holds protests. In 2005, over 6,000 military personnel and aerospace corporation reps attended. Plus, a career fair was held and attracted 800 students from 46 states.

This year, Global Network (GN) will join with CPIS to vigil daily at the Space Foundation conference.

Contact: Bill Sulzman at (719) 389-0644; GN: www.space4peace.org

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

<u>Crescent Valley, Neveda</u> May 19-21 14th Annual Western Shoshone Defense Project

This is a gathering to protect the land, the people, and future generations. Some of the activities will be sunrise ceremonies, issue sharing, speakers, videos, children's activities, traditional foods and singing.

The Shundahai Network opposes all nuclear weapons research, development, testing and production. They are actively seeking to close down the Nevada Test Site to all nuclear weapons programs except for radioactive contamination containment and cleanup. And, they are fighting to halt the proposed high-level nuclear waste dumps at Yucca Mountain and Skull Valley Reservation. Shundahai Network organizes and participates in nonviolent direct actions, demonstrations, workshops and conferences. Shundahai means "Peace and Harmony with all Creation."

Contact: Shundahai Network, PO Box 1115, Salt Lake City, UT 84110; Phone: (801) 533-0128; Fax: (801) 533-0129; shundahai@shundahai.org

Warrior Mothers: Stories to Awaken the Flames of The Heart by Thais Mazur.



For the 25 women featured in this book, some thought, word, deed, or circumstance awakened a spirit in them that compelled them to take action. Often, their first steps were small and hesitant, but as their desire to create change

for their family, community, and the world grew, so did they. They became protectors and nurturers: Warrior Mothers.

These inspiring stories involve women whose names are recognizable, and those who are unheard-of to most of us. They show us the small and large ways to make a difference. Perhaps one of these stories will awaken the Warrior Mother spirit in you.

Contact: Local book stores; Rising Star Press, 2532 NW Shields Drive, Bend, OR 97701; www.RisingStarPress.com American Hiroshima: The Reasons Why and A Call to Strengthen America's Democracy by David J. Dionisi.



The title, "American Hiroshima," refers to the Osama bin Laden/al Qaeda plan to detonate nuclear weapons in the United States using un-guarded, exposed nuclear power plants to help disperse the highly

radioactive material of both. The downwind distribution would help achieve the aim of 4 million deaths.

This is in retaliation for the death and destruction caused by American foreign policy. During the 1990s U.S. economic sanctions of Iraq, the United Nations estimate that at least 500,000 Iraqi children under the age of five died. In addition, there are the present Gulf War civilian casualties.

David examines the roots of terror: the injustices of poverty, and flawed American foreign policy. "Today 24,000 people will die of hunger; 18,000 of them will be children. ... every month, hunger kills more than three times the number of people that were killed in the December 26, 2004 tsunami! Addressing world hunger is a way for the United State to save over eight million lives each year. Having eight million friends, not even counting their grateful family and friends, would be an incredible aid in defeating terrorists."

He writes from the perspective of a military intelligence officer, a senior executive, and an international volunteer. He promotes an alternate and brighter future that prevents wars and establishes the United States as a 21st century instrument for peace.

America can help bring about a more peaceful world, or help make the world a more dangerous one. Will Americans wake up before, or only become informed and engaged after an American Hiroshima?

Contact: www.americanhiroshima.info; Trafford publishing toll-free 1 (888) 232-4444; www.Amazon.com

David Dionisi, Deputy Director, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, 1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 1, Santa Barbara, CA 93108; www.wagingpeace.org

LEGISLATIVE **I**NFORMATION from the Library of Congress:

http://thomas.loc.gov/ A great resource to find the status of a bill, co-sponsors, etc. Grandmothers for Peace
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Fax: (202) 261-8577 e-mail: secretary@state.gov

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2005 Scholarship Foundation Winners

Jason D. Crowe: Newburgh, Indiana - \$500



Jason was home-schooled and became aware of global issues early in life. At age 9, he published a newspaper, The Informer, dedicated to his grandmother, who had died of cancer. Jason was inspired to begin working for world peace and social harmony after reading about a Sarajevo cellist who witnessed the massacre of 22 friends and then played his cello in non-violent protest in the bullet-riddled streets for 22 days. Jason organized a peace concert with the Evansville Cello Society and a Peace Vigil. He is raising funds for a Children's International Peace and Harmony statue, which represents the collective voice of young people calling for an end to war and genocide. Jason founded The Cello Cries On, a 501©(3) tax exempt organization which raised over \$4,000 for refugees during the Kosovo Crisis. His national/international efforts raised over \$75,000 for the children of the 9/11 victims. Since then Jason has become an international keynote

speaker. He addressed the United Nations when he won the Global Youth Peace and Tolerance Award; he received Peace prizes in Tokyo and London. He plans to hold a Children's Global Summit and hopes to secure enough grant money to make it happen in 2005 or 2006.

Niko Milonopoulos: Studio City, California - \$500

At age 11, Niko was frightened by gun violence in his quiet community. He learned that more than 100 kids were shot in Los Angeles each year. Along with his twin brother, Niko co-founded Kidz Voice-LA and became the voice for the city's forgotten children. He presented a petition signed by 7,000 kids to the Los Angeles City Council requesting banning the sale of gun ammunition. During the past 5 years, he organized a city-wide children's march, coordinated the Crime Gun Meltdown Rally and lobbied the City Council for ammunition control, rifle control and the Federal Assault Weapons ban. Niko took his cause to ABC, PBS, CBS, CNN, newspapers and magazines. He spoke at the Million Mom March, The American College of Physicians Conference and at the Children's World Summit in Paris, France. President Clinton presented him the President's Silver Service Award at the White House. He has received numerous other awards and was

appointed to serve as a Congressional Page in the US House of Representatives. Niko's goal in life is to help America take a leading role in nuclear disarmament around the world.

Louis DeSitter: Hood River, Oregon- \$250



Louis was inspired by his Grandma demonstrating at the School of the Americas in Georgia. She explained the situation to him and after doing his own research, he too demonstrated against the SOA for the next 4 years. Louis joined Students for a Free Tibet and Earth Club at school. He was a speaker and organizer of the local Hoodstock Musical Festival, which raises money for local social justice groups. This past year, Louis was recognized with the Youth Peace Person of the Year Award because he helped to non-violently expel military recruiters permanently from his campus. The National Guard, dressed in camouflage and green face paint, proudly showed a video and displayed pictures of exploding bombs, and a sign which read, "Only blood buys your freedom." Louis challenged one of the recruiters by telling him that non-violent peacemaking is possible and preferable. When the recruiter started screaming at him, Louis did not respond angrily. School

administration stepped in and the confrontation made the newspapers. Last summer, Louis attended the Democratic National Convention in Boston as an intern journalist.

Amanda Gelender: Castro Valley, California - \$250



Amanda is president of three clubs at her high school. Through Amnesty Intl., she has worked to free political prisoners and stop death penalty executions. Through Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, she testified before the CA Senate Education Committee in Sacramento for SB 1386, a bill to ban random drug testing in CA public high schools. As president of the Junior State of

America, Amanda became the Northern CA Director of Activism. She is an active member of the ACLU and through Amnesty, she's raised over \$11,000 for the creation of a mobile library for children in Orissa, India, who work on train platforms and cannot attend school. In January, she went to Washington, where she protested Bush's inauguration and the Iraq war. She takes very seriously Gandhi's statement, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Anne Johnson: Minocqua, Wisconsin - \$250

Anne has been involved in anti-war demonstrations. She's a member of Pax Christi and Compassion International, which sponsored a girl in India so she could attend school and be guaranteed clean water, food and other basic necessities. As a charter member of the Intercultural Leadership Initiative (a Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council project), Anne has worked to decrease racial tensions



between Native and non-Native people of her community. This has proven to be very difficult for the group but they continue to persevere knowing it is hard to overcome prejudices and it will take time for old wounds to heal. For her senior year, Anne chose to become an exchange student in Croatia so that she can begin to learn about the rest of the world and see the U.S. from a different perspective.

Given Kachepa: Colleyville, Texas, (citizen of Zambia, Africa) - \$250



Orphaned at age 9, Given was living in one of the world's poorest communities - the majority of people survive on less than \$1 /day. Selected to tour the United States with the Zambian Acapella Boys Choir at age 11, his dreams were shattered. Soon after his arrival in America he became a victim of Human Trafficking (slavery) for 18 months. Because of this experience, Given was asked to tell

his story and work with Congressman Lon Burnham of Texas, who was working on a Trafficking Bill for the state. He became a public speaker, although English was new to him. He told his story on ABC's Nightline and helped pass the HB 869 bill for Texas as well as a Federal law against human trafficking. Given will be able to attend college and remain in the US with his T-1 Visa.

Hillary Livingston: Enon, Ohio - \$250



Growing up near the small liberal town of Yellow Springs, Ohio, Hillary has had many opportunities to stand up for peace and justice. Every Saturday, she holds up a peace sign on a busy corner. She has attended disarmament meetings at local colleges, and she went to Washington, D.C., two years in a row to protest the war in Iraq. She is a member of the National Youth Leadership Conference. Last

summer she spent her time volunteering in Malawi, Africa, working with children orphaned by AIDS. After graduating from college, Hillary hopes to join the Peace Corps

Max McDaniel: Grass Valley, California - \$250



As a strong debater on the high school debate team, Max addressed topics such as weapons of mass destruction and the war in Iraq. He became a member of the Progressive Activist Club, handing out information about alternatives to military service and protesting military intervention in Iraq. He's also a member of the Free Tibet Club. Last year, Max and a friend took over the reins of the

Progressive Activist League, which encourages student knowledge and action involving current political and social issues. In addition, Max helped write two full pages of information about military recruitment and the draft including an entire page of website information for further reading.

Sydney McGrane: Reading, Massachusetts - \$250

Sydney became interested in peace and social justice as a sophomore. For a National History Day project, she compiled a documentary with 3 fellow students on China's One-Child Policy. This video took first place at regional/state competitions and on to the finals in Washington, DC. The next year's documentary was about the modern-day slavery situation in Sudan. She interviewed Francis Bok who published his memoirs, Escape From Slavery. Sydney also researched the unfolding crisis in the Darfur region. This video took first place in regional/state competitions and went to the national finals. She took her video to Congressman Tierney who shared it with other congressmen and colleagues. He became the co-author of a House resolution labeling the violence in the Darfur region a genocide and demanding the Bush administration send humanitarian assistance. 200 copies of this video have now been distributed to educators all over the country and may soon be shown on cable TV.

Amelia Pelly: Asheville, North Carolina - \$250

Amelia wishes to serve the greater community in two ways: 1) by effectively communicating the necessity of nuclear disarmament and 2) by promoting local awareness and action in the cause of peace. Amelia made several state award-winning documentaries. One was about the Nuclear Freeze Movement of the late 1980s. She interviewed antinuclear scientist Dr. Helen Caldicott and traveled



to Washington, D.C., to speak with Congressman Edward Markey, a sponsor of the congressional Nuclear Freeze legislation. Her next documentary focused on the Peace Corps and she interviewed Bill Moyers, the first assistant director of the Peace Corps. Amelia has written articles for the local newspaper that focused on nuclear disarmament, peace and social justice and urging local people to action.

Brett Schilke: Neenah, Wisconsin - \$250

Brett worked with his school's annual Diversity Fair for four years. Through his work with Peace Jam, he helps others understand cultural and individual differences. Brett is working to found a chapter of Peace Jam in Kurgan, Siberia, which he visited as an ex-change student. He's been involved with the Fox Cities-Kurgan Sister Cities program for the past two years and the driving force behind their



efforts to eliminate Russia's largest chemical weapon stockpile in Shchuchy, Kurgan, where 14 million pounds of VX, nerve gas, and lethal weapons are stored in ramshackle sheds. Peace Jam is working with the US and foreign governments to build a deconstruction facility there. Brett was the coordinator and director of the Internat'l Partnerships Student Conference, a summit for 250 students on the issue of chemical weapons. The conference was brought to a close by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Now Brett is working to purchase gas masks for children living near this Russian stockpile.

Bethany Woolman: Albany, California - \$250

Before the war in Iraq, Bethany attended five anti-war marches, including three large ones in San Francisco. She is presently helping plan a march in San Rafael to protest the amount of money being diverted from local schools and libraries to fund the war. Bethany is co-president of her school's Peace and Justice Coalition. She planned workshops and activities which included a trip to Nevada to



register swing voters before the election. She has also delivered two original speeches for Next Generation, an organization dedicated to empowering youth activists around Marin County. One speech was delivered with Julia Butterfly, environmental activist, and the other with social activist, Van Jones. The last speech, "Raising America," was published in the San Francisco chronicle. It

challenges to all Americans to help shape our country's future.

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