

Grandmothers for Peace International

Barbara Wiedner, Founder, 1928 - 2001

Lorraine Krofchok, Director

Founded 1982 Spring 2011

The "Golden Rule" Will Sail Again

by Lawrence S. Wittner

The "Golden Rule," the legendary 30-foot ketch that once terrified U.S. government officials, will return to the seas again this coming summer.

The glory days of the "Golden Rule" occurred in 1958, when the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons sent huge clouds of radioactive nuclear fallout aloft and, later, raining down on people around the world As popular revolt grew against this toxic practice, as well as against the preparations of the Cold War antagonists for nuclear war, a small group of pacifists, led by Albert Bigelow, a retired U.S. Navy captain, decided that the time had come for action. In January of that year, they wrote to President Dwight Eisenhower, telling him that they intended to sail the "Golden Rule" into the U.S. government's unilaterally-declared nuclear testing zone in the Pacific.

Appalled, top U.S. government officials immediately began conferring on how to prevent what they feared would be a public relations disaster for the U.S. nuclear weapons program. When Bigelow and his crew — ignoring a special Atomic Energy Commission regulation, as well as a subsequent U.S. court injunction — sailed off across the Pacific for the test zone on board the "Golden Rule," they were arrested, tried, convicted, and placed on probation. Not easily deterred, the intrepid pacifists set sail once again, this time undergoing arrest, trial, conviction, and imprisonment.

These well-publicized events helped tip the balance against nuclear testing. Inspired by the voyage of the "Golden Rule," an American anthropologist, Earle Reynolds, and his family promptly sailed their own yacht, the "Phoenix," into the testing zone. Antinuclear demonstrations sprang up around the country and debate over the issue reached new heights. Later that year, the beleaguered U.S. government agreed to a nuclear testing moratorium. In 1963, still reeling from popular protests, it





signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty, banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere. Although nuclear testing continued underwater and underground, it was challenged in a similar fashion by a new organization, Greenpeace. Indeed, Greenpeace's "Rainbow Warrior" was a lineal descendant of the "Golden Rule."

Yet, despite its importance as a symbol of resistance to the nuclear arms race, the "Golden Rule" passed into other hands and dropped out of sight over the following decades. By early 2010, it was, quite literally, a wreck, having been battered and sunk off Eureka, in Northern California. Leroy Zerlang, the owner of a local shipyard, raised the "Golden Rule" from its watery grave, but without much hope

► Golden Rule, Page 2

Top left: Fredy Champagne, coordinator of the Golden Rule Project. Bottom left: Lorraine Krofchok with Mac McCormick. Bottom: Chuck DeWitt, project foreman.



- US Military Deaths, 2001-2011: *Iraq War* = 4,439; *Afghanistan War* = 1,491
 - Cost of The Wars, 2001-2011: \$1,160,367,352,797.00 (TRILLION)
 - Civilian Deaths, 2001-2011: Iraq = 99,781-108,940; Afghanistan = 6,982

(icasualties.org; costofwar.com; iraqbodycount.org; guardian.co.uk 3-3-2011)

FROM PAGE 1

for its future. "We thought she was a goner," he recalled. "Nobody knew what to do with her. . . . We were going to cut her up."

But it turned out that the remarkable voyage of the "Golden Rule" had not ended, after all. Zerlang knew enough about the ship's history to contact the Swarthmore College Peace Collection about the possibility of its being preserved, perhaps in a museum. The curator of the collection, Dr. Wendy Chmielewski, brought the issue of the ship to the attention of members of the Peace History Society and subscribers to H-Peace (an online listserv), leading this writer and others to put together articles about its significance.

These articles, in turn, began to stir up some interest in preserving the "Golden Rule." Although the Smithsonian Institution failed to respond to a letter-writing campaign suggesting that it provide a permanent home for the boat, two Northern California chapters of Veterans for Peace — in Garberville and Humboldt Bay — found the idea of preserving the vessel more compelling and voted to establish the Golden Rule Project. They would



Golden Rule volunteers and supporters: left, Sherry and Fredy Champagne, Lorraine Krofchok, Nate Lomba, Mac McCormick

"repair, restore, and renovate" the boat and employ it to "once again carry on the struggle against nuclear weapons and all warfare." Meanwhile, Zerlang offered space in his shipyard for the repairs, and promised to serve as a consultant.

The coordinator of the Golden Rule Project is Fredy Champagne, a U.S. Army veteran who served in the 1st Infantry Division during the Vietnam War. In late November, he reported that Veterans for Peace volunteers from San Francisco to Eureka were working togeth-

Restoring

er on the ketch's restoration. They had managed to salvage the old sails, masts, brass, and some other gear, and reconstruction plans called for a new deck, cabin, and interior. The estimated costs are \$50,000 and, though some of this money has been raised, further fundraising is necessary. If all goes well, Champagne expects the "Golden Rule" to be seaworthy once more by July 2011. After that, he predicted, "the boat will sail again, operating along the West Coast as a reminder to all of the mission of Veterans for Peace."

And so it appears that the "Golden Rule" will resume the long journey it began more than half a century ago. Rebuilt by U.S. military veterans, it will (in the words of the project brochure), "renew Bigelow's and Veterans for Peace's mission — to abolish war and promote peaceful diplomacy."

For More information, or to Donate

http://www.heritech.com/goldenrule; Fredy Champagne: fchampagne@asis.com; Veterans for Peace, P.O. Box 5097, Eureka, CA 95502-5097.

Dr. Lawrence S. Wittner is Professor of History at the State University of New York/Albany. His latest book is Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement (Stanford University Press); to order: www.sup.org; phone: 1-800-621-2736.

Discovered.. brought the Golden Rule protest sailboat to the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Rescued by Leroy Zerlang, this little ketch is tnis little ketch is awaiting restoration at Zerlang's Shipyard in Fairhaven, across Humboldt Bay from Eureka, California. West Coast chapters of Veterans For Peace have banded together to raise the funds for t restoration. The plan is to repair two large h in the starboard side, replace the deck, build a new cabin, and install interior for four crev The sails, mainmast, gear and hardware have been saved and are in usable condition.

Our project is to restore and sail the Golden Rule in tribute to the memory of Captain Albert S. Bigelow William R. Huntington Orion W. Sherwood George Willoughby

Find out more about the Golden Rule...

- Follow her progress
- Read Lawrence S. Wittner "Preserving the Golden Rule," *The Huffington Post*, artic

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: GOLDEN RULE

In a small boat yard in Eureka, CA, covered by a blue tarp and in dry dock, is the Golden Rule. This 30-foot ketch-of-peace, as I like to call it, WILL sail again. My husband and I had the privilege to visit the boat and the volunteers from Veterans For Peace who are lovingly restoring her.

The article by Larry Wittner tells about the Golden's history. As you read, recognize why GFP is so tied to this boat, what we were founded upon, and what our logo means. And, note that Dr. Wendy **Chmielewski**, brought the issue of the ship to the attention of members of the Peace History Society. Grandmothers for Peace International newsletters are part of the peace collection at Swarthmore.

Fredy Champagne, Project Coordinator, and Sherry Champagne were kind enough to invite us to see the "Golden Rule." We spent an enlightening day with them and the volunteers who are working on the restoration. I even have a small plank removed from the original hull — a treasure to me.

On a personal note, one gets a "feel-



ing" being near this amazing vessel. When you touch it, you are surrounded by the enthusiasm of the volunteers and you can "hear" her talking. I touched the bow, as you can see from the picture, and I certainly was "mind whispering" about things to come. And in a sudden moment the wind picked up, the blue tarp flutters and sounds exactly like sails in the open water (we used to sail!). I stood there, thinking about this restoration and imagined the Golden Rule ready to launch. We will be there for that day.

We are faced with many problems. But, sometimes we need to focus on something good. Please consider supporting this project. This little ketch could be used to educate "the future" and how peace is the only alternative to constant war and aggression. Our oceans are bombarded with "war games." The Golden Rule could become a lead boat in a Flotilla of Peace.

Think about that image!

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: MALAWI & OTHER ISSUES

On January 8th, very early in the morning I sent out, in part, the message below. A few hours later the tragic events in Tucson were reported and it was heartbreaking. I felt bad about sending out this message on that day, but who knew. However, as I went to our mailbox in the next few days the response brought me to tears. We can take our hearts and move them to something good, in spite of tragedy.

In less than two weeks we were able to donate an entire classroom of desks to Malawi, Africa. I had sent this out as an e-mail, wondering how long it would take.

Do you want to help make a real difference in the lives of some of the world's children? We, as an organization can get a classroom of children up off of a dirt floor in Malawi, Africa. Since we are an international organization, we can spread our wings. We are a global community, linked by caring.

I found out about this from watching **Lawrence O'Donnell** on MSNBC and with the help of UNICEF it becomes a reality. For \$720.00 we can get an entire classroom off the floor and help the economy in Malawi — the desks are made there! The desks hold two students, but as pointed out in the report by Lawrence, since obesity is not a problem in Malawi, three children can easily be at one desk.

Yes, there are many problems all over and some not easily solvable in the short term. We can sign petitions, stand on street-corners, call Congress, be outraged and demand change — all worthy endeavors, yet equally frustrating in the time it takes. But, this IS something we CAN do NOW. We can help some children on another conti-

nent — a place I had to look up on the map — but I know more now and am grateful that I can learn!

Just think, somewhere in a classroom, on the dirt floor in Malawi can be our next great leader of a movement for peace and freedom, a future doctor that might find a cure for a devastating disease, or another future teacher in that very classroom with desks. Let's get he or she off the floor and onto a desk!

Remember, peace comes in many forms and this can bring peace to the heart and soul. Let's extend our reach...

It does my heart and soul good to think about us doing this, going outside our usual frustrations. We can't do everything, but we can do something. We did this! And, it all counts, large or small, it all added up to a classroom of desks! Grandmothers for Peace are amazing!

If any GFP reading this is without an email or computer, you can still donate — it will go on for a long time as a **UNICEF** project: U.S. Fund for UNICEF, K.I.N.D. Campaign, 125 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038.

As I look over the various parts of the Director's Notes I hope that you have found some uplifting reading. We are faced with so many problems and issues these days. This newsletter finds glimmers of hope and much dedication. I keep saying that peace comes in many forms, and it does — look at our articles!

This past Christmas, through the generosity of many, we were able to donate five very large bags of toys to a local shelter here in Sacramento. By coincidence, our local paper did feature that particular shel-

ter in an after Christmas article, showing a child playing with some toys — perhaps those we donated!

Ellen Broms, GFP, was one of 11 California Freedom Riders honored at the February opening of the Get On Board: Stories of the Los Angeles to Houston Freedom Ride exhibit at the California Museum, Sacramento, through May 29th.



"On June 18, 1961, I attended a freedom rally at the Sports Arena in LA. The keynote speaker was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., introduced by Gov. Pat Brown. Mahalia Jackson sang the Lord's Prayer. After a freedom rider spoke, I was so moved I decided to participate in the rides."

And, the Sacramento peace community was alerted to our main public library hosting video game tournaments with the very violent, offensive, Black Ops "game." The library said it was a "way to get young people into the library." **Veterans for Peace** organized various protests and also had a meetings with the library board. The games went on. But, we had media coverage and made people aware of what the public li-



Sacramento Public Library Protest, Sept. 26, 2010. *Above*: Steve Krofchok. *Below*: John, Marie, Pearl, and Lorraine Krofchok



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Every day, hundreds of thousands of students in Malawi sit on the floor to learn.

Today, that number has been reduced significantly, thanks to a gift made in your honor.

Learn more about <u>Kids in Need of Desks</u> and UNICEF's <u>Schools for Africa</u>, working to provide quality education for all.

Thank you Grandmothers for Peace International, each of you who helped make this possible.

Grandmothers for Peace - Spring 2011

FROM PAGE 3

brary was doing. Please be on the alert for this going on in your town. Do we want to continue to bombard our young people with violent war games under the guise of "challenges and gamesmanship?"

GFP presence was visible at the annual School of the Americas vigil at Ft. Benning, GA. Activists were arrested and are serving time in prison.



Ft. Benning, GA., November 2010. Jim Forsyth and Kristina Burnett.

Other dedicated people went to trial protesting drones at Creech AFB (NV) and were found guilty, sentenced to time served. Veterans for Peace challenged the White House on the war on a snowy day in December – virtually ignored by the press. To flourish, we need to BOOM – Become Our Own Media! The internet is a valuable tool. It showed us Egypt, Libya, and of course, as I write this, the issues in Wisconsin and the people rising up! We can write and connect without depending on the "mainstream." Remember the Iraq war protests? How much air time did the millions in the street get?

Yes, frustration abounds. We still are that "small group" of dedicated people who just need to keep doing SOMETHING! They may not know it, but future generations depend on us.

Peace to all of us, Lorraine



"Non-Violence" aka "The Knotted Gun"

by *Fredrik Reutersward*, is a gift from the Government of Luxembourg to the United Nations in 1988. Reutersward was inspired by the shooting death of his friend,

John Lennon.

Franklin County New York

Jeanne Norris

2011 already seems more hopeful, possibly because of the wonderfully strong people of Egypt, but also because people have gotten past their post-Obama let down slump.

Our small **Grandmothers For Peace Chapter in Franklin County New York** is associated with, and most of our members belong to both, **Democracy For America**. Franklin County is one of the smallest counties in the country, rural and poor, half in the Adirondack State Park and half north of there in the foothills and down into the St. Lawrence River Valley.

This year we were invited to join with the progressive people in two adjacent counties, Essex and Clinton. In Clinton County we have the area's largest town, Plattsburgh. It is on the shores of Lake Champlain and is a college town complete with some small manufacturing and a very rich history. Our new coalition includes members of the Green Party, several other DFA chapters, and Grandmothers For Peace. Because it is the first such joining of three counties to co-operate politically, the newspapers in Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake and Malone all covered it. As spokesperson for the new group I was interviewed by the local NPR station.

We've had one three-county action all ready. On January 21st we got out in the cold and windy afternoon – all three counties starting at 4 PM – and walked with our signs and talked (and froze!) for an hour. A short time, but a good start and a posi-



tive response from the community in the form of supportive letters to the editor, decrying the Supreme Court Decision in the Citizens United case, which basically declared corporations to be "people." When the negative letters came back people stood up and answered again, educating many of the area's people about this important issue. I believe this is the most positive result of street demonstrating.

We will be out on the streets in the bigger towns of our three little counties on March 19th to deplore and observe the anniversary of the Iraq invasion, and on April 9th we will march again in solidarity with the national peace movement. Some of our local people will be going down to New York City to join in the larger demonstration there.

This coalition is enabling us to "Wage Peace," as one of our members said, in a variety of ways. By joining our voices we have more strength and more hope for a better tomorrow.

In gratitude to Lorraine and all the wonderful Grandmas (and Grandpas and their children, grandchildren and on, and on!) who refuse to give up and continue to call attention to the ills of this world with love and hearts full of peace.

United Kingdom Jean Stead

In the UK, they have started to call environmental, anti-nuclear and other protesters "domestic extremists."

So, the grandmothers and their younger sisters who hold their usual monthly women's protest outside the gates of the Aldermaston nuclear weapons base in the south of England had a good idea. This, they said, was going to be a demonstration by "extreme domestics"!

They carried mops and dusters, as well as banners, wore aprons, and bore ironing boards. They cleaned and polished the security front gates at Aldermaston, while other started ironing in the space outside.

Their point against the use of "domestic extremists" was well and truly made.

This has been a time of big protests in the UK. There was no outright government win last year, so the government is now a coalition of

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PEACE

President John F. Kennedy's Commencement speech, American University, June 10, 1963

"What kind of peace do I mean? What kind of peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I am talking about genuine peace — the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living — the kind that enables man and nations to grow and to hope and to build a better life for their children — not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women — not merely peace in our time but peace for all time."

NEWS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Conservatives (Republicans) and Liberal Democrats. The big public service cuts now being made are the result of the global financial crisis, but there is fierce argument about what exactly should be cut.

When Parliament holds the debate on its budget for the cuts in March, it will spark off more protests. One of the biggest will be that against the renewal of the Trident submarine system carrying the nuclear warheads. So far, the Coalition have held their hand on this, only delaying their decision on Trident until 2015, though the Liberal Democrats are anti-Trident and against all nuclear weapons.

Members of Parliament have a private underground walkway from the train to their offices. **The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament** (CND) has had the idea of hiring a huge bill-board and asking anti-Trident supporters to pay a donation to have their names on the board.

It will ask the M.P.'s walking by:

- ~ How much are you spending on Trident? £2.2billion a year and rising, doubled since 2003.
- ~ How much to replace? Over £76 billion.
- ~ Don't waste our money: spend it on generating sustainable growth/jobs.
- ~ SCRAP TRIDENT. DON'T RE— PLACE IT. NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE A DEAD END.

And, of course, the name of Grandmothers for Peace will be on the billboard, as arranged with CND.

Up in the north of England, the US are extending their "listening base" at Menwith Hill, near the huge Fylingdale radar system on the Yorkshire moors. Helen John, a GFP member and a courageous veteran of both the Greenham Common and Menwith Hill peace camps, is planning a commemorative demonstration at Menwith on May 24 - Women's Day for Nuclear Disarmament - to mark the time when the peace camp site was extended on to public ground. They are also producing a leaflet to show visitors the conservation area which bounds the Menwith site, with wild animals and flowers abounding. They are wanting people to go walking there to maintain the footpaths, said Sylvia Boyes, another tireless veteran protester.

The Menwith listening post is one square mile in size. "It is economic espionage. The new Raydome to be installed gives Menwith a huge expansion," says Helen. "It can intercept every form of communication from every country in the world, and can obliterate anything in space. How much more does it take to make the US feel safe? Actions like this by any country is a means of taking over and despoiling the planet. It has to be stopped."

And perhaps, at last, the message about nuclear weapons is starting to get through. They are a huge cost, they threaten the planet at a time when many are pledging to prevent climate change, and they do not offer any sensible defence, as some UK generals are now declaring. Grandmothers for Peace has been right all along.

Arizona Deanna Stropes

This update brings news of change to the **Grandmothers for Peace West Valley Chapter**. After six years of loyal service, Ordell Nelson is passing the contact role to me. She's sold her house and will soon leave us. We wish her well, and honor her steady, reliable stewardship, but our rallies won't be the same.

From August thru February, an average of seven people have attend each rally, from a low of 5 to a high of 14. The weather has provided scorching heat, heavy rain, high winds, and some gloriously perfect exceptions.

In August we gratefully received special neckties filled with hydrating beads to cool us down. They were handmade and donated by **Jan Lundstrom**, who used the perfect fabric—peace signs and flags on a deep blue field. Support sometimes arrives in delightful ways.

In September I played "show-and-tell" with two great visual aids I got from **True Majority** (http://www.truemajority.org/index.php). The simple, colorful graphics effectively show the absurd expense of war.

Another day **John Zemblidge and Bob Kroll** counted gestures directed at GFP demonstrators. There were 202 supportive honks, waves, thumbs-up, and smiles vs. 11 unsupportive gestures. A 95% favorable count is amazing! Since the shootings in Tucson and the peaceful revolution in Cairo, it seems we're getting a lot more support.

As always, our efforts are often graced and rewarded by **James Stewart** and his bagpipe, keeping spirits high.

Note from Lorraine: My thanks many times over to Ordell Nelson and her dedication to Grandmothers for Peace. For six years, she spent many long hours organizing and speaking - determined to give Grandmothers for Peace visibility! Summers are brutal in Phoenix, but she arranged schedules to "beat the heat."

May **Ordell and her husband Gene** enjoy their next life adventure - and remain in touch with GFP!

GUITARS FOR VETS

The Healing Power of Music

In the time it takes to read this article, another serviceman, or servicewoman, will lose their life. It won't be caused by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) on the battlefield; it will be due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression ... right in our own communities. It may be difficult to read of their personal stories and even more difficult to make a difference in their lives

However, **Guitars for Vets** (G4V), a non-profit, volunteer organization headquartered in Minneapolis, WI, is doing just that with their mission of taking the transformational and healing power of music into the lives of wounded vets in VA hospitals and Vet Centers across the nation.

With a physician's referral, the vet receives the gift of an acoustic guitar and six music lessons. Following their private lessons, the vet is encouraged to join a group session with other vets which serves as a therapeutic community and an opportunity to advance their musical skills.

Last Fall, **Brian Williams** featured G4V on the Nightly News. Grandmother for Peace member **Natalie Hartman Whitnack** saw the coverage and contacted the G4V headquarters and learned that the only California Chapter is at the **Veterans Village in San Diego**. She worked with G4V and established a **Sacramento Area Chapter** to benefit local heroes.

Currently, there are vet referrals from over 50 VA Medical Centers and Vet Centers throughout the nation, including the Sacramento Area program. In order to meet the growing demand, support is needed. It costs \$200 per veteran to cover the cost of their guitar, gig bag, strap, lesson book and tuner. Donations of used and new guitars are needed. Even beyond-repair guitars can become art pieces to raffle, or sell for program support.

For the veterans participating in the program, knowing that people care about them is in itself a source of healing. We can't change the past for the wounded veterans, but we can help to shape their future.

Should you wish to join the effort to put 6-string guitars in the arms of vets and a SMILE on their faces, contact Natalie Hartman Whitnack, email: nataliehw@gmail.com; phone: (916) 961-1204. She is the Sacramento Chapter Educational Coordinator for Guitars for Vets and can answer your questions, or put you in contact with a chapter in your region.

To visit the Guitars for Vets website: www.guitarsforvets.org.

In Memory of Nate Thornton

Nate was my friend, as is his wife Corine,



a member of our Board. First and foremost Nate was a dedicated member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. He and his father joined in 1937 to fight fascism in Spain. When he returned home he was a longshoreman and carpenter, but his activism

was a way of life. He was a member of Grandmothers for Peace, The School of the Americas Watch, Veterans for Peace and the Freedom to Travel-to-Cuba-Campaign. On January 2, at age 95, 12 days before his 96th BD, Nate died peacefully doing what he always did — staying informed — watching "60 Minutes."

I have many fond memories of Nate - our visits to their home in Hayward, attending events and actions. But, I remember one thing above all. About eight or so years ago, tens of thousands of us gathered at the Ferry Building in San Francisco to march up Market Street to City Hall in protest of the war in Iraq. As we marched with Nate and Corine, Nate's head held high and holding his Brigade banner, I began to think "my knees really hurt and I wonder if I am going to make it!" I looked at Nate and said much the same thing and he keeps steadily marching and says "you will be fine." I thought, "well, if Nate can do it, so can I!" We did ...

The world is now missing a dedicated activist. Sometimes when we lose our treasured people I say "we each will have to work a little harder." I have to say this time "we all will have to work a LOT harder."

In the past, whenever I spoke to Corine on the phone I always had a last sentence before I said goodbye. In our last few phone calls it has been sadly missing, yet almost said. So, I will close this by saying what I always did, "Say hi to Nate."

Peace to all of us and especially you Nate, Lorraine

Note: A richly illustrated and comprehensive booklet about Nate and Corine, with extensive background on the Depression and Spain's heroic resistance, can be purchased at a moderate price by contacting: Noyo Hill House, Fort Bragg, CA.

Email: nhh@mcn.org, or phone (707) 964-6485.













Woofs of Joy

Ever wonder about how to sneak a dog into a hospital? Well, there is a way. **Kathy Lane**, a Grandmother for Peace member, has volunteered with Mercy Hospice in Sacramento County (CA) for several years in patient/family support.

Mercy Hospice sponsors a program called S.O.U.L (Source of Unconditional Love) in which dog/human teams are certified to visit patients at home, in hospitals, and at other health care facilities. The dog must be friendly and willing to allow patients and their family to interact with it. Peter Slavin writes in Hospice, Spring 1996, "The pets offer many things — companionship, a good ear, a living thing to love, and a trigger for storytelling and sharing of fond memories." Mercy's S.O.U.L program was developed by long-time, devoted hospice volunteer, Madeleine Levy in 1996.

Enter Mimi, a 14 year old black (and gray)



Mimi and Kathy Lane.

toy poodle that Kathy adopted from the Sacramento SPCA a year ago - a winner from the start. Mimi shares her home with her tenyear-old "brother" Otto, a mini schnauzer, and Kathy's husband, Marvin.

Mimi loves to cuddle, to sit on patients' laps and beds, and just laps up the petting, and the "oohing and aahing" she causes. Patients' faces light up and their cares take a breather while they settle into the joy of sharing a special moment with a loving animal. Hospital staff look forward to her visits. A walk down the hall to a patient's room is an obstacle course of nurses, physical therapists and others who need a "Mimi boost." Often the patient's family members will get in on the action, getting their own bit of SOUL, and then requesting that Mimi visit their loved one.

Mimi and Kathy are just one of Mercy's twenty (and growing) S.O.U.L teams. Dogs of all sizes and breeds participate, each with their own unique gifts. Labs, huskies, and other larger dogs are particularly adept in working with rehab patients, fetching balls and Frisbees, and walking alongside patients who are trying out their mobility skills. Medium-sized dogs have much love to give, too.

As for Mimi: a joy? Woof!

Grandmothers for Peace International

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

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P.O. Box 1292

Elk Grove, CA 95759 • USA

Grandmothers for Peace - Spring 2011

Address: .



Grandmothers for Peace International

P.O. Box 1292

Elk Grove, California 95759 USA

PHONE: (916) 730-6476

E-MAIL: lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org Web: http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Patricia Altenburg

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Elk Grove, CA 95759 USA

Numbers You Need

4,439 US Military Deaths in Iraq*
1,491 US Military Deaths in Afghanistan
Cost of Wars:

\$1,160,367,352,797.00 (Trillion)*

President Barack Obama

The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

E-mail: go to Website: www.whitehouse.gov/contact *Switchboard*: (202) 456-1414 *Comment Line*: (202) 456-1111

Fax: (202) 456-2461

First Lady Michelle Obama

E-mail: comment@whitehouse.gov

Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton Switchboard: (202) 647-4000

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates

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Members Of Congress

Senate & House: (202) 224-3121 (*icasualties.org; costofwar.com; 3-3-11)