

Grandmothers for Peace International

Barbara Wiedner, Founder, 1928 - 2001

Lorraine Krofchok, Director

Founded 1982 Spring 2015

AUGUST 2015

The 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan

On August 6, 1945, the United States bombed **Hiroshima** creating wide-spread devastation. An **estimated 80,000 people** were killed directly, and within months, 140,000 were dead due to injuries and radiation. Since hundreds of first responders lost their lives in the blast, medical aid was sparse.

The city was reduced to rubble with nearly 70 percent of its buildings destroyed.

Another round of horror arrived August 9, 1945, this time to Nagasaki. An **estimated 74,000 people died by the end of 1945.**

In a distance of 2.9 miles in every direction, all living things would die almost immediately - vaporized, crushed, charred, irradiated. Within 4.6 miles in every direction, essentially everyone would be killed or seriously injured. And extending out to 14 miles in every direction, everything flammable would ignite, and thousands upon thousands of fires would combine into a giant firestorm.

The Japanese parliament proclaimed Hiroshima a City of Peace in 1949. A Peace Memorial Park with a Peace Museum opened in 1955. The mayor of Hiroshima is the president of *Mayors for Peace*, an international organization mobilizing cities and citizens worldwide to abolish and eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020.

There are 17,000 nuclear weapons in the world today. And "President Obama ... plans to spend over \$1 trillion on a new nuclear arsenal over the next decade." (huffingtonpost.com/vincent-intondi/the-us-and-the-70th-anniv_b_6538434.html)

2015

The Year to Ban Nuclear Weapons, Everywhere

ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons organization, presented a *Civil Society Forum* December 6-7, 2014, in Vienna, Austria. Participants from "70 nations, representing 100 organizations came with one demand: A ban on nuclear weapons!"

Effective coalition building, attracting media attention, meeting with officials, and raising public attention concerning nuclear dangers were some of the discussions. Some of the speakers included Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi; Tony de Brum, foreign minister of the Marshall Islands; Hiroshima Peace Ambassador Setsuko Tjurlow, survivor of the Hiroshima bombing.

Austria hosted the December 8-9 Vienna Conference on "The Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons." ICAN Norway was one of the sponsors. Delegates for 158 governments attended, of which about 100 delivered national statements, many calling for negotiations on a ban. "... many delegations argued that humanitarian concerns should be at the core of all deliberations on nuclear disarmament, and affirmed that it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances."

There is a clear understanding that an international law is needed to achieve this, and the nation of Austria put forth A Pledge to Fill the Legal Gap: "Austria pledges to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders ... to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons." (ViennaReport.pdf: www.icanw.org)

US MILITARY DEATHS 2001-2015

Iraq War = 4,490; Afghanistan War = 2,357

118,829 = Iraq and Afghanistan veterans diagnosed with **PTSD** since 2002. www.nerdwallet.com/blog/health/2014/05/19/ptsd-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-statistics-veterans/

CIVILIAN DEATHS

IRAQ = 1 MILLION; AFGHANISTAN = 220,000
"Body Count: Casualty Figures after 10 Years
of the "War on Terror," March 2015.
Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)
Physicians for Global Survival
Int'l Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/body-count.pdf

COST OF THE WARS, 2001-2015

\$4 Trillion - \$6 Trillion
"The True Cost of the Afghanistan War
May Surprise You,"
by Mark Thompson, Jan. 1, 2015.
time.com/3651697/afghanistan-war-cost/

3 MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

by Robert Dodge



Image: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (www.thebulletin.org)

The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* has just announced its latest nuclear Doomsday Clock moving ahead the minute hand to three minutes till midnight. The clock represents the count down to zero in minutes to nuclear apocalypse – midnight. This significant move of TWO minutes is the 22nd time since its inception in 1947 that the time has been changed.

In moving the hand to 3 minutes to midnight, Kennette Benedict the Executive Director of the Bulletin, identified in her comments: "the probability of global catastrophe is very high"... "the choice is ours and the clock is ticking"... "we feel the need to warn the world" ... "the decision was based on a very strong feeling of urgency." She spoke to the dangers of both nuclear weapons and climate change saying, "they are both very difficult and we are ignoring them" and emphasized "this is about doomsday, this is about the end of civilization as we know it." The Clock has ranged from 2 minutes to midnight at the height of the Cold War to 17 minutes till midnight with the hopes that followed the end of the Cold War. The decision to move the minute hand is made by the Bulletin's Board of Directors in consultation with its Board of Sponsors, which includes 18 Nobel Laureates.

What is clear is that the time to ban nuclear weapons is now. To-day's announcement by the Bulletin further corroborates the dangers confirmed by recent climate science. These studies identify the much greater dangers posed by even a small regional nuclear war using just 100 Hiroshima size bombs out of the 16,300 weapons in today's global stockpiles. The ensuing dramatic climate changes and famine that would follow threaten the lives of up to 2 billion on the planet with effects that would last beyond 10 years. There is no escaping the global impact of such a small regional nuclear war.

Medical science has weighed in on the impacts and devastation of even the smallest nuclear explosion in one of our cities and the reality is there is no adequate medical or public health response to such an attack. We kid ourselves into a false sense that we can prepare and plan for the outcome of a bomb detonation. Every aspect and facet of our society would be overwhelmed by a nuclear attack. Ultimately the resultant dead at ground zero would be the lucky ones.

Probability theorists have long calculated the dismal odds that the chance for nuclear event either by plan or accident are not in our favor. Recent documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act detail over 1000 mishaps that have happened in our nuclear arsenals.

Time is not on our side and the fact that we have not experienced a nuclear catastrophe is more a result of luck than mastery and control over these immoral weapons of terror.

The time to act is now. There is so much that can and must be done. Congress will soon begin budget debates that include proposals to increase nuclear weapons spending for stockpile modernization by \$355 Billion over the next decade and up to a Trillion in the next 30 years. Expenditures for weapons that can never be used and at a time when the economic needs for our country and world are so great.

Around the world, there is a growing awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and a corresponding desire to rid the world of these weapons. The Vienna Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons conference last month saw 4/5 of the nations of the world participating. In Oct., 2014, at the UN, 155 nations called for the elimination of nuclear weapons. At Vienna, 44 nations plus the pope advocated for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

The people are making their voices heard and demanding a change of course from the status quo.

In this week's State of the Union address, President Obama emphasized that we are one people with a common destiny. He said this both in reference to our nation and our world. The threat of nuclear weapons unites us even as it threatens our very existence. This reality can also be remembered in the words of *Martin Luther King* when he said,

"We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

The time for action is now, before it is too late. It's 3 minutes till midnight.

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Robert Dodge is a family physician practicing full time in Ventura, California. He serves on the board of *Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles* serving as a *Peace and Security Ambassador* and at the national level where he sits on the security committee. He also serves on the board of the *Nuclear Age Peace Foundation* and *Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions*. He writes for *PeaceVoice*.

3 Minutes To Midnight was originally published by Common Dreams.

This entry was posted in Nuclear Threat and tagged doomsday clock on January 22, 2015 [http://www.wagingpeace.org/3-minutes-to-midnight/] by Robert Dodge.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

GFP Goes to London

In early January I went to London with my son. It was part tourist and part GFP. I had the joy and privilege of meeting **Jean Stead**, our UK contact. After 12 years of being email friends we finally met face to face at her charming home in London for a chat and a lovely cup of English tea! It was special and very heartwarming, as was lunch that followed at a small inn close to home.

Jean says, and I agree, that the elimination of nuclear weapons is, has been, and will be



Lorraine Krofchok, Jean Stead

the ultimate goal. We talked about the history of GFP and how I came to be Director. Jean also said my statistics on the use of plastic

bags has encouraged her to use cloth more often. I laughed because I said our new slogan could be "saving the planet, one bag at a time!" (OK, take it any way you want!) Jean wants to continue to get more people involved. She has written many articles for our newsletter. Please take the time to look her up in Wikipedia, she is an extraordinary woman, with true warmth and smile. Needless to say it was a pleasure to talk to her –like minded and dedicated to our issues.

On that note, look through the enclosed inspiring booklet, 15 Moral Reasons to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. I was so impressed by it, I asked their permission to have reprints done for this newsletter. I am a firm believer in groups working in solidarity and sharing knowledge for everyone to use. This is spot-on perfect for what we have been doing since 1982 and right in tune with what Jean said.

It was a thrill to visit the British Museum and see things we only read about. The Rosetta Stone is well etched in my mind since grade school. (From the British Museum site: The Rosetta Stone has been exhibited in the British Museum since 1802, with only one break. Towards the end of the First World War, in 1917, when the Museum was concerned about heavy bombing in London, they moved it to safety along with other, portable, 'important' objects. The Rosetta Stone spent the next two years in a station on the Postal Tube Railway 50 feet below the ground at Holborn.) Antiquity was in danger from war and destruction as well, and we see this horror even today.

Then came the Elgin Marbles. Silly me, I just thought of a display case with a couple stones! My son said, "Well, here we are." I was puzzled and asked, "Where?" And there was this huge hallway full of artifacts leading into a massive room of jaw dropping sculpture in various stages of damage, many from the Parthenon (built in 447–432 BC).

The display is, of course, a matter of dissent between England and Greece. Lord



Elgin supposedly got permission from the Ottoman Empire – mainland Greece then part of that empire at that time – to remove the stones over several years. Questions persist over that permission and who owns them. Did he take or loot the stones and save them from eventual destruction, preserved for antiquity and so beautifully displayed for all to see – for free – at the British museum? Since a high profile couple is now involved, we will see. We hope a peaceful and equitable solution is found. Please take the time to search out this fascinating history.

As we entered the Victoria and Albert Museum, to my left was this sign.



And from the V & A Museum website: vam.ac.uk

"Disobedient Objects is an exhibition about the art and design produced by grassroots

social movements. It will show exhibits loaned from activist groups from all over the world, bringing together for the time many objects rarely before seen in a museum."

A large room was filled with activist memorabilia, many actions familiar to me. One of the most fascinating was the Tiki Love Truck – THE most colorful vehicle I have ever seen! It has an annual tradition of

being decorated for Day of the Dead.

TIKI LOVE TRUCK

London and Texas, 2007



This vehicle commemorates John Joe 'Ash' Amador. He was sentenced to death by the state of Texas. After his execution, his friend

British artist Carrie Reichardt and his family took his body to a cabin in the woods where Nick Reynolds cast a death mask. Ten days later, back in Britain, the Tiki Love Truck drove through Manchester. With Ash's mask in pride of place, it presented a spectacular statement against the death penalty.

Designed by Carrie Reichardt and Thayen Rich: Nissan truck; glass; ceramics; mixed media.

Death mask by Nick Reynolds; made by Carrie Reichardt and the Treatment Roome Collective (Lori Bell, Linda Griffiths and Mark Wydler). Courtesy of Carrie Reichardt. Commissioned by Walk the Plank

We also decided on a quick day trip to Paris "because it was there." I did send an email about this, but I realize all are not on my list, or on a computer.

One never knows when violence or terror will happen and how close you may be. My son and I were in London, but had booked a one day guided bus tour via Eurostar to see Paris. That date was January 7, 2015.

As travelers do these days, my son was taking a picture of our food at the Eiffel Tower restaurant and the time stamp is 11:28 a.m. This is about the moment the terror attacks were happening at the French satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*.

We finished lunch, unaware, and met for our boat tour on the Seine. When we got off, our bus was waiting. We could see the Eiffel Tower but not the ground. I later saw on TV the military patrolling with machine guns. Still oblivious, we went on to the Louvre. I am certain our tour guide knew but did not want to alarm us. Our bus took us to the Eurostar departure terminal. As we were going up the escalator, I noticed two military patrolling with machine guns and my thought was "now what happened?" But then I passed it off as a sign of the times.

When we got back to our hotel in London our email messages were full of concern from fam-

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES: PARIS, A FORTUNE COOKIE FROM PAGE 3

ily and friends, plus bulletins on the attack. We turned on the TV and of course it was shocking to see the violent day in Paris and shocking that we were there, oblivious to the horrible event. I have no answers to this kind of violence, but it has affected me profoundly. What makes a person turn to terror?

The following day we saw two policemen with machine guns in front of the French Embassy in London. Reality of course followed us.

As I said, I have no answers to terror and violence. We need to learn to live in peace and not fear.

Thank you, each of you for being a part of Grandmothers for Peace. Each of us has a place, and we can do something in this huge complicated, and sadly violent world.

A few months ago, I received this note from GFP **Lynn Heritage** in Wilmington, North Carolina:

"I'm taking a huge leap of faith by attempting to rekindle our GFP group. As you know, it had dwindled down to nothing outside the annual International Peace Day celebration in September. I held the first meeting today and was very heartened by the enthusiasm.

We are planning to take a different direction this time and rather than stand on the corners with Peace Signs, we want to become involved within the community. Wilmington has some serious racial issues and we want to stand with the community in situations involving violence. For example, when there is a community vigil for a victim of violence, we want to join in the vigil with families and friends. We won't initiate the vigil, just be there in solidarity. Also, we want to actively support an organized group of grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren. All sorts of ideas were flying around, so I asked them to think about how we can best accomplish this and at our meeting next month we can firm up a couple ideas to try. My concern is that we may try to do too much and then, like the rocket, it all fizzles out.

Some of us are attending the HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) march in Raleigh this Saturday and we'll walk together as Grandmothers For Peace. (Note: Please read Lynn's report in this newsletter, page 4.) We marched in the Martin Luther King parade and were amazed at how well the people responded to us. Although our banner doesn't have the official GFP logo, people know who we are."

I'll keep you posted!

Peace! Lvnn

And, part of my response:

"Exquisite! When we try to save the entire world we might easily burn out. When we expect too much, or an immediate "fix" and it does not happen, we can give up. I keep encouraging our members to think about their own cities and towns. Accomplishments, near and close, give us courage to extend our reach.

You know the "why doesn't someone do something?" Well, we are the someone and we can DO something."

We have so many extraordinary people in GFP dedicated to peace and justice. You know who you are; get up and look in the mirror. Yes, you!

And a final thought. We get the 3 D's: discouraged, depressed and disappointed and just want to give up and quit. Several weeks ago I was ranting, throwing up my hands and saying, "Why? Why bother? No one really cares and besides it is too overwhelming." My husband said, "Let's go to lunch and get you some fresh air!" So we went out for Chinese. As we finished and I opened the fortune cookie – what can I say except this really happened and it took my breath away, as the chill went up my spin along with the goose bumps on my arms!



Peace to all of us, Lorraine

What We Are Doing

Wilmington, North Carolina Lynn Heritage, GFP

On Valentine's Day, members from our Wilmington, NC, Grandmothers For Peace group boarded the NAACP bus for our second annual celebration of *HKonJ* (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) in Raleigh, NC. The march ends in front of the Capitol building at the end of Jones St.

The HKonJ coalition pushes back against radical ultraconservative legislation in North Carolina which violates the rights of children, African Americans, Hispanics, women, LGBT, and many other marginalized groups.

We proudly marched alongside thousands of people and though we carried different signs and banners, we marched with a single purpose: Forward Together ... Not One Step Back!

Reverend Barber gave an incredibly rousing speech at the beginning of the march and another, which was even more

inspiring, at the end. Essentially, what he said was: we have a heart problem and what we need to do, together, is act like we are part of a Code Blue team and work together to resuscitate the heart of our home state. This resonated with every person there.

One of the most heartfelt moments was when the call to prayer was offered by a Muslim Imam. Particularly, since just a few days prior, in Chapel Hill, NC, three young Muslims were murdered by a radical, insane neighbor over a parking space. Every head was bowed and I mean every head. No matter the color of our skin. No matter our religion, or lack of. No matter our gender, our age, or our education level. All heads were bowed. And, I feel safe in saying that all hearts were deeply touched.

Our GFP contingency received a lot of attention as we marched behind our banner. Along the route, many folks asked us to stop so they could take photos.



Carla Tevelow, left, Lynn Heritage, Irene Menendez

It was an amazing experience and we, as Grandmothers For Peace, were so very proud to be a part of this important event. We look forward to participating next year in the 10th HKonJ March and hopefully,

there will be even more of us.

Knitting for PeaceGisela Foster, GFP

My "Grandmothers for Peace" T-shirt is almost thirty-years old now. It no longer marches in protests, doesn't even hang around street corners much any more, though it still hops the Martin Luther Freedom Train, holds question and answer sessions, sends emails to politicians and, occasionally, makes an appearance on Facebook. And, for the last seven years, it has been close friends with a T-shirt from the "Mother Bear Project" which requests from its viewers to "Make a Difference." The two hang out in my closet, side-by-side, and when one of them is on the road the other one keeps the neighborhood informed of the importance of engagement.

There are other T-shirts in my closet. They depict vistas from around the world, repeat words by rebels, heroes, thinkers; there are museum pieces, music festival reminders, per-

What We Are Doing | Page 5

WHAT WE ARE DOING: ARIZONA, INDIANA, WISCONSIN, CALIFORNIA From Page 4

sonal images and faded memories of the past, but "Grandmothers for Peace" started it all. "Make a Difference" is the motivator, as I age and can no longer rely on my legs, to take me into action.

I met the founder of the Mother Bear Project, **Amy Berman**, at "Stitches West" the big annual fiber market in Santa Clara, California. Amy sold bear patterns, displayed pictures of smiling children holding teddy bears in their arms, and gave me a warm introduction into the whys and hows of knitting a bear for an HIV/Aids affected child in an emerging nation. I couldn't





wait to go home and knit. Two days later I had finished my first bear. More followed in rapid succession. Occasionally I ask family and friends to sponsor my bears, since each

bear sent to Minneapolis, where Amy and her organization are located, is accompanied by \$3.00 to help with the shipping cost to countries in Africa and other places where children are in need of a reminder that somewhere in the world somebody is aware of them and sends love in the shape of a teddy bear's embrace.

This was seven years ago. Since then I have knitted 341 bears. I have documented every single one in my blog purlingantonia.blogspot. com, and I have joined other bear makers on ravelry.com where we encourage each other to knit and crochet bears; we discuss technique and yarn choices and bear sightings, etc. I also regularly check the motherbearproject.org web site for photographs of children who received a bear I knitted, and the Facebook site dedicated to the project. Amy sends us kind words and little name tags so we can give every bear a name, ours or another one of our choice. Every couple of years she travels to a few African Nations, takes photographs of children receiving bears, and tells of the ever growing need for more bears.

When I was younger I marched for peace, now I knit for peace. Mother Bear Project has become my companion for life. For the fun of knitting. In solidarity with other causes close to my heart. In solitude and in the midst of crowds.

Yes, I have been seen knitting bears on planes, on trains, on cruise ships, in cafés in Europe, and while undergoing chemo therapy at my local hospital. I believe in the long-term effects of peaceful activities on the world. The knowledge that I am still actively engaged in making a child's life just a bit happier keeps me motivated. A teddy bear from the Mother Bear Project is quite often the only personal item a particular child possesses. I hope that I have stitched enough good wishes and happy thoughts into my creations to help her or him imagine that there is more to life than war and poverty and disease. It is my contribution to peace. My way of honoring that lovely duo of T-shirts in my closet.

<u>Peace Pole, 2014</u> Christie Stephens, GFP

When our grandson Daniel was two and 3/4 years he asked each of us at the Thanksgiving table, "What are you thankful for?" My first thought was that we are thankful for the gift of you, Daniel! Grandmothers and grandfathers are unspeakably grateful for our grandchildren through whose eyes we see all things new again. We hope for each of them good lives in a world of peace.

It is upon this hope for our grandchildren and for all the children of the world that Grandmothers for Peace, Indiana, sought to have a peace pole established at Anderson



H
E
PEACE POLE
Given by:

Crandmythers for Peace
CHOG Feace Fellowship
AU PACT Program
AU MOSAIC Program

University, Anderson, Indiana. Several of us are alumnae of AU and it is here that we learned powerful lessons of justice and peace. We wanted the peace pole to be a witness for generations now present, and for generations to come.

So we partnered with the Peace Fellowship of the Church of God, and Anderson University's Peace and

Conflict Resolution, and Mosaic programs to make this dream a reality. Fred Shively, president of the Peace Fellowship and professor emeritus at the university, coordinated this project among the sponsors and with the university administration.

The ten-foot high pole has 14 languages proclaiming "May Peace Prevail On

Earth." November 18, 2014, we dedicated this pole with a litany written by grandmothers Kay Murphy Shively and Christie Smith Stephens.

Students from several countries called for peace in their native languages.

We gathered on a very cold day to give thanks for peacemakers here and around the world who work daily to make Earth peaceful by courageous acts for justice through nonviolence. We laid a rose with babies breath at the pole. Upon our hearts and minds were the world's children who call us to give them better lives and most especially those little ones who call us to the big family table asking us to speak our thankfulness. On our list of gratitude is Grandmothers for Peace International for the peace work you do across the country and around the world without ceasing! Thank you from our hearts! Happy Thanksgiving! May Peace Prevail On Earth!

Grandmothers for Peace, Indiana

Lois Rockhill, Gail Smith, Norma Abbey, Sharon Miller, Dondeena Caldwell, Nancy Hoffman, Twila Beahm, Juanita Leonard, Sue Spaulding, Jacquie Womack, Kay Shively, Christie Stephens





Peggy Cragun, right, represented GFP Northland Chapter, Superior, WI, at the November 2014

School of the Americas vigil.





Ordell Nelson carries the GFP Prescott, AZ, banner; Frances Thomas, behind her, in the GFP sweatshirt, carries the Peace Flag. 2015 Martin Luther King March.

Ellen Murphy, GFP member, was commissioned by the city of Bellingham, Washington, to write a poem on hope for their 2015 Martin Luther King event. Ellen's poem also appeared in the Northwest Citizen newspaper in Bellingham.

"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."...Martin Luther King

A Walk With Hope

By Ellen Murphy January 15, 2015

We walked along the shore of the intuitive mind, the one Albert Einstein called sacred. He said:

Change your thinking. To solve your problems, you must never be the same.

I asked the mindful wind to blow away some ganglia, let new mind come to fore.

I confessed to Hope I've walked with her before, but now it's sometimes hard to even say her name.

She said don't define me. We will imagine each other.

So I saw her clear, a thing we live within, not a thing we have. It was simple —

everything alive wants to live, and she's the field it lives in.

I met her in the seagrass, and the fish. I saw her in the vetch.

But, I said, Grandmother, I need more. All life is in your field, you're their desire and their dance, but

we humans think.

And we've thought ourselves into a wretchedness.

Can you take Albert's warning to our hearts? Put hubris to shame? Can you help us change the way we think?

Work the program. Chatter less. Come through my doorway, child. Love will take you there. Love will

help you think in new way, the way of the sacred balance, the hoop of Black Elk. You will think like the inside trip of Gil Scott-Heron, that won't be televised; the happiness way of the 14th Dalai Lama; the thankful way of Cesar Chavez,

the thankful struggle.

Where is your doorway? I asked.

I am the doorway, she replied.

But you have to keep moving. Those who stay too long in the threshold remain a wish and lose momentum.

You're standing there. Let yourself love, be caught—in the network of mutuality Martin saw, the single garment of destiny. Then see what happens when you think.

I wanted to. But already at an inner brink, I cried.

Democracy is gasping. The Earth choking, in fever. The world, a battlefield. She was nodding, like eel grass.

Many times I have escaped, unextinguished.

You see.

they really need me out of the way.

I am the portal to potential. The possible. The conscious. So I

must be exploited, enslaved,

surveilled.

strafed for race... You see,

I descend from the first mothers, the mothers of hope.

The Ancestors, I thought. And we... the ancestors of the future.

But what to do with the toxic powers, and their believers, I asked.

And the hate flame, they've lit.

What do they care for

ancestors?

Alchemize! With your grief and pain. Your yes and no.

Not humiliation. It makes poison grow.

Nonviolence will their brains bewilder, their

well-armed hearts, outwit. Asymmetric peace-fare!

Activate.

Do not cooperate.

Do not hate.

Those are the arrows. I am the bow.

I heard how they fear her, and the horror.

I heard what to do, who she is.

How could I spill more gall?

But flailingly, I did.

Some say you died of exposure, on a red and black poster.

I am not dead; I did not die, she said.

They say you're counter-revolutionary, complacency, a trope. If they stayed in the door, like you, she said, their wish was not yet

The resistance I was in was the

wrong resistance.

I knew.

The tide was

rising, an empathic sky, still blue.

I stepped through.

She walked back toward the holy and harrowed sea.

I said wait—your turn to confess.

Are you... infinite?

She said...

yes

Grandmothers for Peace International

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Grandmothers for Peace - Spring 2015

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Numbers You Need

4,490 US Military Deaths in Iraq* 2,357 US Military Deaths in Afghanistan **Cost of Wars:**

\$4 Trillion - \$6 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

Switchboard: (202) 647-4000

Secretary of Defense

Pentagon Switchboard: (703) 545-6700

Members Of Congress

Senate & House: (202) 224-3121 *icasualties.org; time.com/3651697/afghanistan-war-cost/;

(04-22-15)

11/2009