

beyondwar northwest

May 2015

Good Stories Needed

The curriculum committee is ready with an outline of the new Beyond War Northwest study series, and we are inviting you to be a part of this project. What stories do we need to tell ourselves and each other to move the world beyond war?

We are looking for luminously intelligent, deeply heartfelt stories and articles that show:

- transformational conflict
- a vision of our interconnected life system
- how the Beyond War principles build a foundation for success
- the costs of war and violence
- what is needed to build a culture of peace with forgiveness of past atrocities
- how each of us can contribute and participate in this great work

If you have stories to suggest to us, please email annemill@beyondwarnw.org. Thank you!

Nonviolent Resistance

After examining 323 historical nonviolent and violent resistance campaigns occurring between 1900 and 2006, authors Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan discovered that nonviolent resistance campaigns were nearly twice as likely to achieve full or partial success. Nonviolence works.

What makes nonviolent resistance successful? Participation by a diverse, broad-based group of people.

The higher levels of participation that characterized nonviolent

BWNW People



Anne Ehrlich O'Brien

Anne Ehrlich O'Brien, Secretary of the BWNW Board in Eugene, originated in Brooklyn, New York and spent her middle school and high school years in Napa, California. She attributes any open mindedness to being raised by a Catholic mother and Jewish father in a wild and crazy family of five kids.

O'Brien began her peacekeeping activities at the age of eight when she composed a letter to President Truman regarding her grand idea to bring about world peace. Trouble was that it was a dream and she's never recalled her exact fail-proof recipe for peace—she is still working on that.

She met fellow BWNW Board member, husband Dave (48+ years) in the 8th grade and

campaigns, contributed to enhanced resilience, innovation, disruption of the status quo, and loyalty shifts involving the opponent's supporters.

More information is available in Chenoweth and Stephan's book *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict* (2011) Columbia University Press, New York, and on Chenoweth's [website](#).

Gene Sharp identified 198 methods of nonviolent protest and persuasion in *The Politics of Nonviolent Action* (1973). These are also listed in the back of *The Dandelion Insurrection* by Rivera Sun (2013). She used dandelions as a metaphor for all of us sprouting up and participating. We would add that we dandelions will also want to maintain an attitude of good will, not posing an enemy if we want to succeed at creating social change. (See below for more information.)

Good Reads

Suggestions from the Eugene Book Group:

***The Dandelion Insurrection* by Rivera Sun**

(2013) New Mexico: Rising Sun Press Works. Reviewed by Dorothy Sampson.

When Occupy Wall Street hit the news from Zucotti Park in September 2011, the media buzzed with the question, "What do they want?" By October, Occupy protests had taken place or were ongoing in over 951 cities worldwide. After the police dispersed the last iteration occupying public space, the question became, "What had they achieved?" Even the most ardent detractors concede that the protestors had changed the conversation. The phrase "we are the 99%" entered the vernacular. The disparity between the wealthy 1% and rest of the country was openly discussed.

In her novel *The Dandelion Insurrection*, Rivera Sun borrows heavily from the Occupy Movement. The novel is set in a near future dystopia. The United States has become a police-state run by corporations. Zadie and Charlie, the young revolutionaries of the story, actively organize against the vertically hierarchical system of the repressive government and the resulting distributive injustice.

Zadie explains the real price of wealth: "Every time we idolize the wealthy and try to become rich like them, we're perpetuating the suffering of billions... If people keep lusting after money and power, no amount of revolution is going to help us" (p.68). She argues that democracy has always been a threat to an elitist power structure.

they started dating her senior year in nursing school. Anne and Dave have three grown and married kids and four grandchildren, which is the best part of parenting, O'Brien believes.

In addition to working with BWNW, O'Brien's retirement has allowed time for her to work for peace and justice as former Chair of the St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County Board, member St. Jude conference of SVDP, president of Church Women United of Lane County, Health Care for All Oregon (single payer), and Chair Nursing Advisory Committee at Lane Community College.

Upcoming Events

If you have events you would like to see announced here, local or global, or for any other information, email annemill@beyondwarnw.org.
Newsletter deadline: June 15th.

Local Events

May 7: Encircle Films, 6:00 pm

Fire in the Heartland—Kent State, May 4th, and Student Protest in America
Bijou Art Cinema, 492 E. 13th Ave.

A documentary film about a generation of young people, who stood up to speak their minds against social injustice in the 1960s through the 1970s. On May 4th, 1970, thirteen of these young Americans were shot down by the National Guard in an act of violence against unarmed students that has never been fully explained. Four were killed. Immediately afterward the largest student strikes and student protests in history swept across 3,000 campuses nationwide, punctuated ten days later by the killing of two African American students at Jackson State University.

Filmmaker Daniel Miller will lead the discussion after the film. He was a student at Kent State University from 1968 to 1970. He celebrated and suffered the events of the 1960s and 70s with his friends and colleagues who are featured in this film. This is not just the story of a violent turning point, because these

To read more click [here](#).

Financial Support

Your contribution can help build the infrastructure of peacemaking. Financial support will enable us to purchase the following outreach materials:

1. 20 packets of Michael Nagler's book, *Nonviolence Handbook*, with study questions to develop basic nonviolence skills - \$300
2. 20 *Seeing Systems* curricula to disseminate to professors and classrooms - \$540
3. 5 Roadmap posters to display in public educational spheres - \$145

To donate, please click [here](#).

young people were not the supporters of violence. It is most of all about a hoped for new day for a generation and the music, art, literature, and politics that accompanied it. This personal story is told by over 20 voices of those people at Kent State who lived through the movement.

May 14: Board meeting, 8 am

May 14: Outreach Committee meeting, 9am

June 29: Book Group, 7:00 pm

Discussion of the nonfiction book *Pay Any Price: Greed, Power, and Endless War* by James Risen. An examination of the consequences of our endless "war on terror" and the government's legal campaign to silence investigative reporting that sometimes uncovers embarrassing truths.

Copyright © 2015 Beyond War NW, All rights reserved.

Our website is: <http://www.BeyondWarNW.org>

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp