

November/December 2015
Newsletter

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Beyond War NW 2015 end of year letter

Dear Beyond War Friends,

The ideas promulgated by Beyond War in the 1980's are commonplace and becoming more nuanced and pragmatic. The concept of the interdependency of humanity as a whole provides the backbone to the peace, justice, and environmental movements with the value of creating a world that works for everyone.

Thank each of you for your part in creating and sustaining this movement that is transforming the world.

As you may know, the learning engine behind BWNW is the book group.

BWNW People



**Jim
Anderson**

After completing a master's degree in economics, Jim spent two years working in agricultural development in Iran. The remainder of his working life was spent in the vegetable seed business developing new cultivars and

With the creation of book study guides, BWNW disseminates current and vital material that continues to deepen the conversations about how to create a world beyond war. We are actively building this world together.

We also have an ongoing curriculum committee and are creating an updated study series to be finished in 2016. We look forward to starting study groups again.

This year of BWNW, the second year of our existence, continues our collaborative relationship with the War Prevention Initiative in Portland. Our books and discussion questions are a part of the Rotarian Action Groups for Peace as a recommended activity to participate in and to share with the larger community through libraries and living room gatherings. Jim Anderson is active in leading a Southtowne Rotary peace group in Eugene whose speakers have included Clair Wiles, a returned Iraq Navy veteran who teaches at North Eugene High School, Al Jubitz, a leader in Rotarian Action Groups for Peace, and several others.

The beautiful Beyond War mural at Churchill High School continues to inspire the teachers and students in the Rachel Carson School and we have a

taking care of customers in the Northwest. He feels excited by the Beyond War vision that we can find new ways to reconcile conflicts without resorting to the tragedy of violence or war. He wrote the following:

**"When a country obtains great power,
it becomes like the sea:
all streams run downward into it.
The more powerful it grows,
the greater the need for humility.
Humility means trusting the Tao,
thus never needing to be defensive."**

The Tao Te Ching, #61 as translated by Stephen Mitchell

Clearly, arrogance and hubris have been complicating factors in U.S. Defense Policy. They have sometimes led to thinking that we can control other nations by using our powerful military forces which too often results in counter-productive, tragic and very

position on the Rachel Carson advisory board—bringing together peace and environmental work for high school students. (We now have BW t-shirts based on this mural project if you would like one for yourself- please leave a message at 541-343-5865.)

Our group facilitated the Hiroshima commemoration events in town, such as the Bike Around the Bomb Nagasaki memorial event with Global Zero. In collaboration with other groups, BWNW hosted an International Day of Peace event at the University of Oregon Law School with photos of the devastation of Hiroshima along with the film, *Hellfire: A Journey From Hiroshima*, where Hideko Tamura Snider, a survivor of Hiroshima, was part of a post film panel.

The Beyond War University of Oregon student group supported these events and hosted "Breaking the Silence"--public dialogues with homeless people, immigrants, and veterans

There is a continuous flow of learning, discussing and then sharing ideas. Dave and Anne O'Brien have warmly offered their home as our monthly meeting place and have hosted seminal salons this year with David Hartsough, David Caye Johnston, and Ground Zero founders. We have also

expensive outcomes. The need for humility in making these momentous decisions becomes clear.

I sometimes ask myself why I continue to be involved in Peace causes. From one perspective, given the bellicose nature of International Relations today, it can occasionally appear futile trying to bump up against the hugely funded and seemingly unstoppable military budgets of the United States, but also of Russia, China and many others. These expenditures amount to approximately two trillion dollars each and every year and could be deployed in such a way as to create more "security" for people who need clean, pure water systems, better educational opportunities, accessible medical care and facilities and many other exciting possibilities. How do we begin to deal with this "defense" behemoth which some people feel is a necessary expenditure

attended the training by the author Riviera Sun—who is guiding peace groups into strategic thinking through her book and discussion guide.

Martin Jones and Dave O'Brien will be speaking at the Downtown Lions club on February 17th and we hope to keep the speaking engagements booked for them and others in the future.

The progress of our small nonprofit is not only in working together and collaborating with others but also in learning together. *Reweaving Our Human Fabric, Working Together to Create a Nonviolent Future* by Miki Kashtan is the book we will be studying for 5 sessions beginning in January. You are invited to attend these groups. The book talks about the pragmatics of building nonviolence into the structure of our society. We heartily encourage you to find this book and read it and share it with others. It is our first book pick for this year.

We are interested in what you are doing. Send us an e-mail.

Please join in on any discussions through responding to our bimonthly newsletters and through utilizing materials offered on our BWNW website <http://www.beyondwarnw.org>

We hope you have an abiding

to preserve and protect their country's national security.

This is a large challenge indeed. And...it will certainly not turn around overnight. In addition, it is very clear that every nation needs to have some feeling of security in regard to its own national defense, so reducing defense expenditures to zero is not remotely feasible or even desirable. Still, it seems beneficial for all countries to begin cutting back defense expenditures so that money can be freed up to meet crucial human needs. Even a small percentage of the huge national defense budgets could go a long ways to improving the lot of ordinary citizens. For example, it has been estimated that an annual expenditure of 15 billion dollars for ten years could supply all the nations of the world with pure drinking water, which would be one of the greatest public health breakthroughs of all time. Many other equally exciting projects

personal peace to fuel our work together. The world needs the hope, skills, learning and dialogue that BWNW fosters.

If you want to further support BWNW by making a contribution toward the publishing of our study guide, we would be grateful.

Hope to see and talk with you this year.

Warmly,

Ann Cole, President of BWNW

Ongoing Discussion

Can US Foreign Policy Become a Force for Peace?

That's the question Carol Van Houten of CALC helped answer at the Church Women United of Lane County November Celebration of "Our Journey Toward Peace."

come to mind. Rather than fearing each other and our nefarious designs against each other, collaboration and co-operation can come to be priorities and we can begin to move away from fearful scenarios and begin to embrace the creative potential of our lives.

This is the challenge of putting forth the vision of a world Beyond War. We who are excited by this view of the world can be seen as Pollyannas, or hopeless and naive idealists who don't understand the fallen nature of men and women and the demands of "realpolitik". This could well be worthwhile criticism if the way that national defenses are presently structured led to wonderful outcomes but this is clearly not the case. So...it is crucial and highly important that our vision of the possibilities that we as citizens of the world might gift ourselves with continues to be put forward as a viable

You can read the summary of her entire talk on our website:

<http://beyondwarnw.org/home/local-group-discussions/the-bw-blog/>

Here's what she suggests we can do:

- Be informed.
- Challenge the notion of American exceptionalism.
- Increase the role of women everywhere, every time. Note that the marines found that when women are involved in groups, better decisions are made.
- Challenge the image of masculinity being violent, controlling, using force with guns. (gun control)
- Support political change. There are movements to increase local control of decision making. Know that multinational corporations are there to protect business interests not necessarily in our best interest. An example is Monsanto and GMO seeds rather than supporting local growers.
- Be aware of future wars caused by shortages of water.
- For years after WWII we relied on

alternative to our present dysfunctional and reactive system. War and fear of other nations are not inevitable. We can listen to the "better angels" of our nature and continue the slow, sometimes painful but always useful vision of a new world order of opportunity, harmony and peaceful conflict resolution. This is what keeps me going.

Upcoming Events

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

Local Events

December 5 Potluck, 6:30 pm

December 7 Book Group, 7 pm
Discussion of the fiction book *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky.

January 2016

MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction). Rather, diplomacy can be how “we be in the world.”

- It's estimated we've spent 4.5 TRILLION dollars on wars in the Middle East. It's been estimated that we'd need to spend 1 million dollars per day since year 1 C.E. just to get us to ONE TRILLION dollars by year 2015.
- It's urgent that we become a force for peace.

--Submitted by Anne O'Brien

Beyond War Northwest is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Oregon, USA. Our Federal EIN is: 20-0912219.

The Beyond War Northwest Book Group invites you to join us in a Life Changing Study Series based on Miki Kashtan's book, *Reweaving Our Human Fabric, Working Together to Create a Nonviolent Future*.

In John Lennon's song, he asked us to **imagine** all the people living life in peace. . . .sharing all the world. While we look around us and see systems that oppress democracy, foster vast disparity of wealth, and contribute to a culture of alienation, Miki Kashtan offers us a new, transformational vision and a way to realize the world that Lennon sang about. She affirms that a world in which human needs are the organizing principle for creating social structure, global institutions and governance is possible. She backs up her premise with practices to engage in social transformation and “wisdom tales”, stories that show what the world could look like. We can become more than dreamers. We can be the doers.

We will start the study series in January, meeting five times at two

week intervals. The exact date will be confirmed by December 15. Dorothy Sampson will host. If we have 12 or more sign up, Sally Marie will also host a second group. Email annemill@beyondwarnw.org if you are interested in joining us.

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