

January/February 2016
Newsletter

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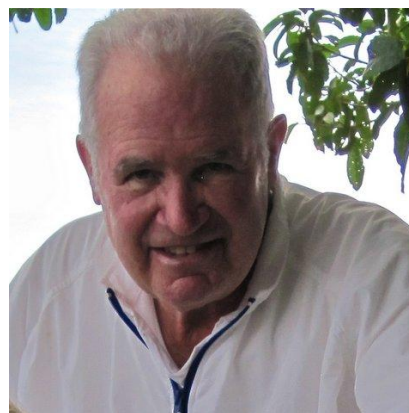


Ongoing Discussion

We are a network of 1,600 people. Cherish that thought. Communicate with us. Share what you are doing. Who knows what may emerge as we work to create the local changes that can materialize as a global system.

“Despite current ads and slogans, the world doesn’t change one person at a time.

BWNW Pe



It changes as networks of relationships form among people who discover they share a common cause and vision of what's possible....But networks aren't the whole story. As networks grow and transform into active, working communities of practice, we discover how life truly changes, which is through emergence. When separate, local efforts connect with each other as networks then strengthen as communities of practice, suddenly and surprisingly a new system emerges at a greater level of scale. This system of influence possesses qualities and capacities that were unknown in the individuals.”

**Dave O'Brien,
treasurer**

As an ex-USAF intelligence officer (1968-73), Dave had always thought of himself as half warrior and half peacemaker. Being introduced to Beyond War principles and ideas changed his life. It requires study, reflection, and exposure to new ways of thinking to realize that war is not inevitable—it is always a choice. In fact, it is a choice that from now on we should always reject.

**Ongoing
discussions of Miki
Kashtan's book
*Reweaving Our***

**To see the rest of this
Wheatley and Frieze article,
click here:**

<http://www.kosmosjournal.org/article/lifecycle-of-emergence/>

National Downwinders Day **By A. Rose**

In 2011 Congress designated January 27 as National Downwinders Day, the date selected to mark the anniversary of the first nuclear test in Nevada in 1951. It is a day to remember those who were exposed to the damaging effects of fallout from atomic bomb testing from 1951 to 1992. Some downwind counties received doses equivalent to 30 times background radiation from leaks in underground testing.

Transported by winds, radioactive clouds reached as far as the Midwest breadbasket and New York, causing excess cancers in those exposed, contaminating the food supply,

*Human Fabric:
Working Together to
Create a Nonviolent
Future*

**Comment from a
participant:**

I woke up this morning after the first meeting of the Kashtan Study Series with this song that Enya sang running through my mind: “I cannot keep from singing.” I realized the words echoed with the same sentiment from the opening quote in Kashtan’s book. Etty Hillesum’s diary entry was written at a transition camp before she was taken to Auschwitz. *“The misery here is quite terrible and yet, late at night when the day has slunk away into the*

eventually getting into milk. All the while the government was silent about the risks of exposure to radiation. The public was not warned of potential hazards, and when one test killed thousands of sheep, the government denied all responsibility, insisting no one had been harmed.

Non-downwinders were also adversely affected by war paranoia. In World War II, 179,000 war industry workers were potentially exposed to radiation by a culture that neglected safety due to secrecy and urgency. Then and later in the Cold War, uranium miners, many of whom were Native Americans, developed high rates of lung cancer. Hundreds of thousands of military personnel were exposed to high radiation doses in the postwar occupation of Japan and weapons testing in the Marshall Islands and Nevada.

The weapons industry, as well as a proliferation of nuclear power plants, has created massive amounts of radioactive and hazardous wastes, leaking into the soil, into rivers and streams, contaminating the environment. We don't yet know how or where to store waste that will be hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years. In many areas, "stored" waste is already leaking

depths behind me, I often walk with a spring in my step along the barbed wire and then time and again it soars straight from my heart—I can't help it, that's just the way it is, like some elementary force—the feeling that life is glorious and magnificent, and that one day we shall be building a whole new world. Against every new outrage and every fresh horror we shall put up one more piece of love and goodness, drawing strength from within ourselves."

I'm feeling joy that once we've caught the vision that Kashtan presents we will replace the culture of separation, scarcity and powerlessness

radioactivity into the environment.

Now there are plans to spend \$1 trillion over the next thirty years to “modernize” the nuclear stockpile by dismantling aging warheads and rebuilding them into precision-guided bombs, violating a 2010 pledge not to develop weapons with new capabilities. To help pay for this, the government proposes to cut health and retirement benefits for workers in the nuclear weapons industry.

We have stalled in progressing beyond the nuclear age and the Cold War.

In Japan, those who survived the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are known as Hibakusha. We live on a small planet, breathe the same air, drink the same water, and share the same food. We are all Downwinders; we are all Hibakusha.

Good Reading

**From the Eugene Book Group:
Suite Francaise by Irene
Nemirovsky**

surrounding us with one of humanity and belonging.

Upcoming Events

If you have events you would like to see announced here, local or global, email annemill@beyondwarnw.org. Newsletter deadline: March 1.

Local Events

**January 27
Downwinders Day
Flag display on the U.
Oregon campus
reflecting number of
downwinder victims.**

**February 11:
Board meeting, 8:00
a.m.
Outreach Committee
meeting, 9:00 a.m.**

Both sections of our discussion groups for the

General Sherman famously said that war is hell. What Irene Nemirovsky shows in the novel, *Suite Francaise*, is how the hell of the battlefield spreads insidiously to noncombatants. Under occupying German forces, the French themselves lose their veneer of empathy and humanity. “The compassion of civilization fell from her like useless ornaments, revealing her bare, arid soul.” When the Parisians flee ahead of the invading forces, as often as not, they are met with inflated prices and closed doors. “There were just too many of them. It prevented the townspeople from being charitable.” The crisis of war and occupation did not bring out the best in people. There is little nobility or valor or courage in this ironic story, but rather infighting, jealousy, and collaboration with the enemy.

Nemirovsky is embedded in the story. A Jew, she and her husband and two small daughters fled Paris for the countryside where they

book *Reweaving Our Human Fabric: Working Together to Create a Nonviolent Future* by Miki Kashtan have three more sessions:

Feb. 4 or 8: through page 280

Feb. 18 or 22: through page 368

March 3 or 7: to the end of the book

hoped to elude the Nazis. But just as her novel was interrupted, so was her life. In 1942, she was arrested and deported to Auschwitz where she died. With the help of their governess, the little girls survived along with the suitcase that held their mother's manuscript. Sixty-four years after Nemirovsky's death, her work was finally published. We are fortunate that we can now read how she bravely "denounced fear, cowardice, acceptance of humiliation, of persecution and massacre." Another cost of the war was the loss of her genius.

Review by Dorothy Sampson

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

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