

Summer 2016 Newsletter

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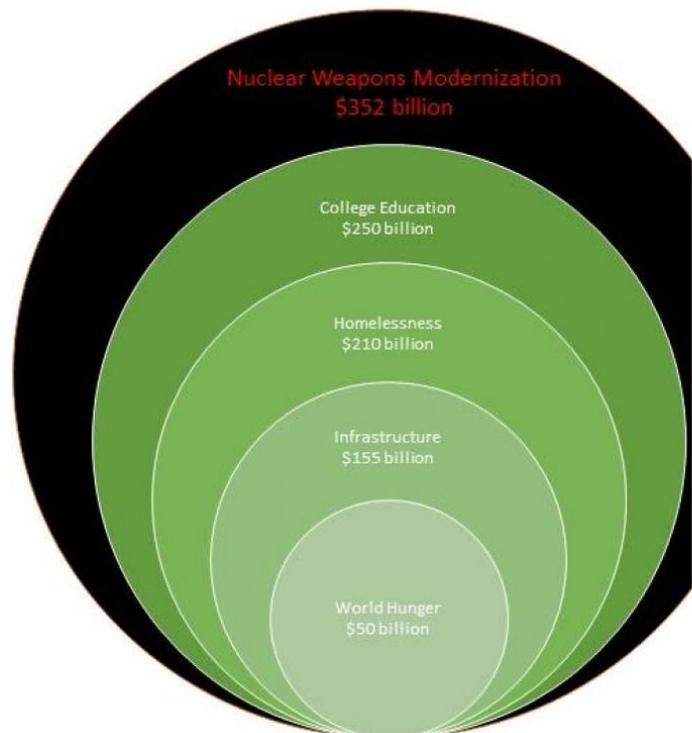


Ongoing Discussion

Direct Action to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons

On May 7, we were able to join the Mother's Day Gathering and Action sponsored by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, Washington (www.gzcenter.org). The back fence to their lovely, forested Center, is part of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. Located 20 miles from Seattle, the Trident submarine base at Bangor has the largest

Ten Years of Spending Which problems do you want to solve?



[Nuclear upgrade is waste of money \(from the Ground](#)

single stockpile of nuclear warheads in the U.S. arsenal. The base is the last active nuclear weapons depot on the West Coast.

As the day began, there was a welcoming, food sharing, action planning, and inspiration prior to forming a peaceful procession to the Main Gate at the naval base. The police that morning had consulted with the Center about the schedule for the demonstration and were lined up waiting for us in front of the gate. Three demonstrators entered the main highway and briefly blocked traffic on the federal side of the Main gate. The three demonstrators carried an illustration of Fr. Daniel Berrigan, revered anti-war and anti-nuclear weapons priest, with a statement by Fr. Berrigan, "Know where you stand and stand there." The three also carried a colorful banner with symbols linking nuclear weapons and climate change. They were quickly arrested. Two more demonstrators entered the highway on the County side of the main gate. Instead of arrests or citations, these demonstrators were escorted from the highway by the State Patrol. During the direct action, the

[Zero Center for Nonviolence](http://www.gzcenter.org) www.gzcenter.org

Posted on [May 11, 2016](#) by [Leonard Eiger](#) Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

Editor's Note: The following is a Letter to the Editor, written by Tom Krebsbach, a member of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, and originally published in The Seattle Times on May 7, 2016

Letters to the editor are an important way to get our message(s) across. Even if your letter is not published, the newspaper pays attention. [Click here to learn how to submit a letter](#) to the editor of The Seattle Times.

The [Op-Ed by State Rep. Gael Tarleton and Joe Cirincione](#) argued for cutting the massive US nuclear arsenal to a smaller number of nuclear weapons. It stated, "If Washington state were a sovereign nation, it would be the third largest nuclear weapon state in the world." The reason for this is the large number of nuclear weapons maintained at the submarine base at Bangor on the Hood Canal. The existence of such a large stockpile of nuclear weapons so close to Seattle and its immense destructive power should instill in all Washingtonians an abiding interest in seeing the world's nuclear stockpile being reduced.

The U.S. is about to embark on a \$1 trillion upgrade to its nuclear arsenal. Investing so much tax money on these horrible weapons systems means they will likely be around for most or all of the 21st century. One can just imagine how \$1 trillion of tax money could be used for more constructive purposes, such as infrastructure repair, research into cancer and other diseases and paying off student debt, among other uses.

But the most pressing reason for demanding an end to all nuclear weapons in the world is the immense danger they pose to all life on earth. If these

rest of us held up signs and banners.

We were nonviolent and communicated with the State Patrol officers as often as possible to explain why we were demonstrating. Perhaps our words and attitude made a difference.

The next demonstration will be a Peace Walk from Salem, Oregon to Seattle, Washington the last weekend in July. That will be followed by the August Hiroshima commemorations, coordination with the historical Golden Rule Peace Boat visiting many west coast cities (<http://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/vfp-national-projects/golden-rule-boat-project/>), and concluding with an August 9 direct action when Ground Zero demonstrators in kayaks and other vessels, along with the Golden Rule Peace Boat, will conduct a sail-by and nonviolent presence at the Bangor submarine base in Hood Canal. Join us!

Anne Millhollen

Please note: If you live in the Seattle area, check out the signs on the metro buses. They will say "We

weapons are allowed to exist indefinitely, at some point they could be used — either because of madness, technical failure, or communication failure. The world can ill afford the threat they pose.

Tom Krebsbach, Brier

Good Reading

From the Eugene Book Group: *This Changes Everything* by Naomi Klein

The connection between blue skies and happiness runs deep in our collective consciousness. The small natural grocers where I shop in Eugene has a ceiling painted cerulean blue and decorated with fluffy white cumulous clouds. On a dreary day, this artifice can lift my spirit. But what if we lived in a world where the only blue skies were painted on ceilings? One of the proposed solutions to global warming is to inject the stratosphere with sulfur, turning the sky perpetually gray. This "mad" science might block the sun, but it also might not be reversible. Do you really think that not giving up air travel or air conditioning or HDTV or trips to the mall is worth the trade-off of never seeing actual blue skies. We live in a decade where we will be forced to choose.

The consensus of 97% of scientists is that the earth today stands in imminent peril from the environmental cataclysm of dangerous climate change caused by human activity. If you have eyes to see and ears to hear, the mounting evidence of global warming is everywhere. Arctic Sea ice and glaciers are melting faster. The increasing acidity of the oceans is causing coral reef destruction. Temperatures continue to break records. The number of extreme floods and fires is increasing.

To make matters worse, CO2 emissions are increased by dying forests, and by melting ice that loses the ability to reflect heat, and by melting

live within 20 miles of the largest concentration of nuclear weapons in the U.S."

The Time Is Right for New Initiatives

I recently attended a very interesting film entitled, *A Bold Peace, Costa Rica's Path of Demilitarization*. The film was the work of Michael Dreiling and Matthew Eddy and it dealt with Costa Rica's decision to abolish their military services in favor of a national police force. Dreiling is an associate Professor of Sociology and Latin American Studies at the University of Oregon and felt strongly that this inspiring story needed to be told. It definitely gets one thinking. Could the larger countries of the world do such a thing? It seems like quite a stretch, yet I find myself musing on the possibility. Many strategic thinkers, schooled in realpolitik, would undoubtedly scoff at such a notion but what is the role of military forces indeed but to protect the national security and prevent invasions from other countries. Could a national police force accomplish such a task? Do we really need to spend huge sums of money and set up foreign bases around the world (over 300 at last count) each year trying to persuade other nations to see the world as we see it? Certainly it is a worthwhile question to be pondered and debated.

A quote from Jill LePore caught my eye, "between militarism and pacifism lie diplomacy, accountability and restraint." She goes on to say that sometimes, "less is more." Which leads to policy debates

permafrost which release even more CO2 and methane.

So why aren't our governments pursuing policies to save the environment by stopping the use fossil fuels? The answer is **capitalism**, with its twin motives of profit and greed. Solutions to the problem of the warming earth are systematically sabotaged by the forces of free market fundamentalism, conservative politics, and corporate opposition to environmental regulation. Additionally, since the Scientific and Industrial Revolutions we've bought in to the belief in our ability to control nature. While we pursue greater material wealth and profit, we have forgotten the truism that "nature bats last."

Klein places her hope in the human spirit and in local opposition to environmental degradation. We have seen some successes in Oregon. Federal regulators rejected plans for a massive liquefied natural gas export terminal in Coos Bay. The Federal Court ruled in favor of youth bringing a suit against the Federal government because it fails to protect the atmosphere for future generations. The Oregon LNG Company abandoned plans for a gas export terminal in Warrenton, OR. There are possibilities to stop the madness when we work together.

In her book, "Reweaving Our Human Fabric," Miki Kashtan helped us visualize a world after the "transition" where there is no scarcity or zero sum economics and where everyone's needs are met. Klein has shown us is that the transition is upon us **now** and how we must accept a role in shaping it. To change everything, we need everyone.

Review by Dorothy Sampson

Upcoming Events

The next peace demonstrations in the northwest will be a Peace Walk from

of this political season. I have yet to see defense policy discussed in any depth and it begins to feel as if the military and defense are the “third rail” of American politics. Indeed, what discussion I have heard has been from Jeb Bush who said that the readiness of American troops is in desperate need of more expenditure to keep us on the path of having the most mighty military forces in the world. I guess 700 or 800 billion a year just isn't enough. Donald Trump echoed those sentiments. It seems there is no rebutting the presumed need for a “mighty military.” If more expenditure on arms and personnel actually brought us more security and happier outcomes for the U.S. and the world, one could support such a view, but that hasn't proven to be true, so maybe we should begin to explore some of the other options available to us. Let us begin to have that fruitful discussion and explore some of the creative and exciting policy options that we have. The time is ripe for new initiatives.

Jim Anderson

Salem, Oregon to Seattle, Washington the last weekend in July. That will be followed by the August Hiroshima commemorations, coordination with the historical Golden Rule Peace Boat visiting many west coast cities (<http://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/vfp-national-projects/golden-rule-boat-project/>), and concluding with an August 9 direct action when Ground Zero demonstrators in kayaks and other vessels, along with the Golden Rule Peace Boat, will conduct a sail-by and nonviolent presence at the Bangor submarine base in Hood Canal. Join us!

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

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

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