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## Newsletter January 2014

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### Ongoing discussion

#### Thoughts on "We are one."

To help us act effectively on the realization that violence cannot be an option, BWNW offers powerful but simple principles by which we can clarify the expression of our thoughts to others. At the heart of progressing from expressing reactionary thinking to expressing reflective thinking are techniques that provide context, relevant questions, and pause for reflection. From that we can take action, make intelligent humane choices and create alternative paths to non-violence.

Then the crucial question: What do you create with these principles and new way of thinking in your life?



### BWNW people

Mika Weinstein has recently joined the BWNW Board and is completing her senior year at the University of Oregon. She is studying Planning, Public Policy, and Management with a minor in Biology. She founded and currently oversees the UO Beyond War chapter. Her experience with issues of peace and conflict includes completing an internship with a nonprofit

We invite you to ponder what the Beyond War principle, "We are one interdependent whole," means to you. This principle has also been expressed as "We Are One" and "We all live on this planet together." What deep meaning and value do these words hold for you? How does this principle impact your actions?

Five years ago, Beyond War hosted a luncheon for the UNESCO chairpersons from all over the world to solicit feedback about the Beyond War DVD.

Devoted to preserving cultural diversity, several chairpersons balked at the phrase "We Are One" because of the history of cultural hegemony and oppression. This feedback illuminated nuances to be considered.

Thich Nhat Hahn's new book, *Together We Are One: Honoring Cultural Diversity, Celebrating our Connection*, reframes some of these concerns.

We invite you to share your experiences and perspective with the Beyond War Northwest learning community in order to help us achieve greater clarity and effectiveness in our outreach. To comment, click here: <http://beyondwarnw.org/home/local-group-discussions/the-bw-blog/>

## **Good reading**

### **A suggestion from the Eugene Book Group**

The nonfiction book *Walk Out Walk On: A learning*

in Northern Ireland and participating in a weeklong seminar on humanitarian aid and peacemaking at the University of Oxford.

For more information, click here:

<http://beyondwarnw.org.previewdns.com/about-beyond-war-northwest/find-a-local-group/university-of-oregon-beyond-war/>

## **Events**

For more information:

<http://www.BeyondWarNW.org>

### **Eugene:**

January 17 Film and discussion at OLLI-UEO, 1:30–3:30 pm: *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. 2008. Director Gini Reticker. Passion River Films, 72 minutes.

January 21 Breaking the Culture of Silence: Veterans Panel, 6:00 pm, University of Oregon, Erb Memorial Union, Fir Room. Sponsored by the University of Oregon Beyond War Club. The purpose of this speaker series is to create a safe space to talk about identity-related stigmas. [For](#)

*journey into communities daring to live the future now* by Margaret Wheatley and Deborah Frieze (2011) invites you on a journey. As an armchair traveler, you don't need to pack, but it is a good idea to unpack your judgments and assumptions, perhaps some of your cherished beliefs. [To read more click here:](#)

## **In conclusion**

### ***Excalibur***

Placed within its cambered chamber  
Sealed upon a standing stone  
Awaits its Time - Excalibur.

From dusty dungeons of knightly old  
Came sorcerers with magic power  
To wrest the Sword its hold.

But nothing tried was tried  
With proper kindled strength.  
Excalibur's hold could not be pried.

The ages passed and kingdoms came  
And kingdoms went.  
Excalibur withheld its fame.

Upon the earth there walked  
A winsome lad of thought.  
Upon the stone he merely knocked.

[more information click here.](#)

**February 11 Beyond War Book Group, 7:00 pm: *What Do You Buy the Children of the Terrorist Who Tried to Kill Your Wife? A Memoir*, by David Harris Gershon.**

**February 21 Film and discussion at OLLI-UO, 1:30-3:30 pm: *Citizen King*. 2004. Directors: Orlando Bagwell and W. Noland Walker. PBS Home Video, 115 minutes.**

**March 4 Breaking the Culture of Silence: Former Inmates Panel, 6:00 pm, University of Oregon, Erb Memorial Union, Fir Room Sponsored by the University of Oregon Beyond War Club.**

Down fell the Sword Excalibur.

For all its promised power  
For all its promised strength,  
The lad replaced the sword Excalibur.

"What purpose would it serve?" he thought.  
"To have so much more power.  
With fear the world is ready fraught.  
Who would wish a darker hour?"

So resting in its cambered chamber  
Sealed upon a standing stone  
Awaits its Time - Excalibur.

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Comment by the author:

Removal of Excalibur is like the removal of a control rod in a nuclear reactor; a dangerous action. Mankind seems to have a mad passion for destructive actions, but this poem speaks of the power of individuals to make reasoned choices.

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