

# beyondwar northwest

November 2014

## Ongoing Discussion

### The New War, the Forever War, and a World Beyond War



WORLD**BEYOND**WAR.org  
a global movement to end all wars

The following is an assessment of the current ISIS crisis. The statement examines: (1) the social context of the destructive violence in Syria and Iraq — **where we are**; (2) viable nonviolent alternatives — **what should be done**; and (3) opportunities for civil society to advocate and push for those alternatives — **how we can make it happen**. The alternatives and pathways toward achieving those are not only preferable from a perspective of humanity, but proven to be more effective.

Graphic beheadings and other quite real stories of horrors committed by a new enemy — ISIS — have led to increased support for U.S. involvement. But a war on ISIS will make things worse for all concerned, following, as it does, a pattern of counterproductive action. Through the course of the so-called global war on terrorism, terrorism has been on the rise.

Nonviolent alternatives to war are abundant, morally superior, and strategically more effective. Some but not all are: apologies for past actions; arms embargoes; a Marshall Plan of restitution for the Middle East; meaningful diplomacy; appropriate conflict resolution responses to terrorism; addressing the immediate crisis with humanitarian intervention; redirecting our energies at home; supporting peace journalism; working through the United Nations; and de-authorizing the war on terror.

No solution by itself will bring peace to the region. Many solutions together can create a strong web of peacebuilding fabric superior to continued war. We cannot expect to make



## BWNW People

**Erin Willahan** is a senior, undergraduate student at the University of Oregon. She is an International Studies major with professional focus in Peace and Conflict Resolution and an Arabic minor. She has served as Vice President of the campus Beyond War chapter and is also on the steering committee for the "Genocide and Mass Atrocities: Responsibility to Prevent" initiative.

She believes that real change starts with the community and she strives to explore ways to resolve conflicts creatively on the local level within the global context of working toward peace. In this way, the Beyond War vision, with its emphasis on understanding and respect, can be extended to all parts of

all of the above happen immediately. But by working toward those ends we can achieve the best results as quickly and as lastingly as possible.

We need teach-ins, communications, and education of all sorts. People should know enough facts to give their positions context. We need demonstrations, rallies, sit-ins, town forums, disruptions, and media productions. And if we make this a part of ending the whole institution of war, rather than just a particular war, we may move closer to not having to keep opposing new wars all the time.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

## **Advancing Peacebuilding Through Rotary Al Jubitz, October 2014, to Rotary Club in Eugene, OR**

I'll talk with you about peace, war, and Rotary's history of peacebuilding. I hope you love peace as much as I do. Peace has become a catchall word... the five spheres of peace are personal, ecological, institutional, political, and social. One thousand Rotarians gave their words for peace: Harmony, Cooperation, Mutual Respect, Nonviolence and more. Wherever you are on the spectrum of peace—I appreciate your being here.

Nukes are the most serious threat to all mankind. War costs the US \$1 trillion a year-- \$2 trillion worldwide. War kills the wrong people. In the last 10 years less than 2500 soldiers were killed while many multiples of civilians were killed. War is ineffective. Nonviolence overthrew dictatorships in this decade. Nonviolent resistance is six times more effective than war. What we lack in this country is a chorus of people to say, STOP!.

In 1914, WWI, Rotary called for a peace conference. Seven years later in 1921 in Edinburgh, Scotland, Rotary put "peacemaking" into its constitution. In 1932, Rotary International inaugurated the first Peace Park in Waterton-Glacier dedicated to ongoing peace between Canada and the United States. There are now 125 peace parks worldwide. In Havana, Cuba, 1940, Rotary made a call for the respect of human rights. This is why people overthrow governments—for their human rights.

In 1942, Rotary helped create UNESCO and in 1945 at the

our world, from restorative justice solutions in prisons to post-conflict reconciliation.

## **Upcoming Events**

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

## **Global Events**

### **Scheduling now: "Seeing Systems: Peace, Justice & Sustainability"**

We live in an interconnected world. Each of us is part of a complex global system, and our daily actions—big or small— influence the system in both healthy and unhealthy ways. *Seeing Systems: Peace, Justice and Sustainability* helps participants recognize and respond to the interconnected systems of our world. This self-led discussion course is designed to spark shared learning, shared stories, and shared action. Together, participants expand their people power and begin to make a real difference for good. To learn more, click [here](#).

To participate in Eugene, email [annemill@BeyondWarNW.org](mailto:annemill@BeyondWarNW.org)

## **Local Events**

**November 20:  
Board meeting, 8 a.m.**

**November 20:  
Outreach Committee meeting, 9 a.m.**

**November 24:  
Book discussion, 7 p.m.**  
*Waging Peace: Global Adventures of a Lifelong Activist* by David Hartsough with Joyce Hollyday. Hartsough has spent his life experimenting with the power of active

ratification of the UN charter—there were more Rotarians present than any other NGO. Rotarians have been thinking about peace for a long time.

In 2002, Rotary Peace Centers formed along with scholarships for peace scholars. There is a strong trend for education in peace science. We know how to make peace now.

In 2012, Rotarian Action Groups for Peace started. In July, 2013, Rotary chose six areas to invest in, the first being Peace, Conflict Prevention and Resolution. Now you can Google a map of where peace makers, scholars, and universities are working on peace worldwide.

War is not inevitable. There are 28 peacebuilding trends over a 130 year timeline. These trends together make a global peace system. People are tired of violence and war and violations of human rights.

Peace Centers of education have gone from 40 to 400 in twelve years! Now there are Global Conferences to solve problems.

What can you do?

1. Find your personal peace. Start with a smile. Exercise it.
2. Understand Rotary's History of Peacebuilding, ie., the Four way test, International understanding. Practice and be proud. Others have gone before and we stand on their shoulders.
3. Hone your senses to find conflict. Start the conversation and resolve the conflict as best as you can.
4. Invite someone to breakfast. Hang in there. Make peace. This is all you have to do.

"There is nothing impossible for Rotary now."  
Peace is a fuzzy word, but even the Pentagon talks about peacebuilding.

nonviolence.

**December 6:**  
**Potluck, 6 p.m.**  
RSVP if you can join us.

**December 11:**  
**Board meeting, 8 a.m.**

**December 11:**  
**Outreach Committee meeting, 9 a.m.**

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## Beyond War Legatee News

### Bombing Gaza: A Pilot Speaks

by David Krieger

The stain of death spreads below,  
but from my cockpit I see none of it.  
I only drop bombs as I have been trained  
and then, far above the haze and blood,  
I speed toward home.

I am deaf to the screams of pain.  
Nor can I smell the stench of slaughter.  
I try not to think of children shivering  
with fear or of those blown to pieces.

They tell me I am brave, but  
how brave can it be to drop bombs  
on a crowded city? I am a cog,  
only that, a cog in a fancy machine  
of death.

[Source: Nuclear Peace Foundation](#)

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## Good Reading

**Suggestions from the Eugene Book Group:**

## ***Conscience by Louisa Thomas***

“I know what I know,” the lyric from the song by the same name echoes Norman Thomas’ understanding of conscience. It was the heart of his pacifism and his dedication to social justice. He believed that every person had a conscience – “a sense that he is more than a creature of instinct, an awareness of ultimate ethical ends.” Everyone knows what is right, though not everyone is free to act on that knowledge.

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