



Exposing the True Costs of War and Militarism Since 1985

VETERANS FOR PEACE

Organized Locally. Recognized Nationally.



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Fall 2012

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2012

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Executive Director's Report

On behalf of Veterans For Peace, I thank you for your support of the organization this last year. It has been a busy time for us and we appreciate the backing of our members—especially since it was the first full year of our membership program. I hope that you will decide to join or renew your VFP membership for 2013.

2012 has been an eventful year for our organization. VFP continues to grow and expand our presence and sphere of influence globally, aided by growth in the number of new chapters in several new states and countries, associations with new Peace and Justice organizations, and growing public, media, and policymaker interest in VFP.

As I consider the past 12 months, I'm very proud of VFP's accomplishments. The VFP Convention was a huge success; we continued to develop strong partnerships with other Peace and Justice Activist

Specifically, membership support enabled us to accomplish a very full agenda in 2012 including:

- Formation of 6 new chapters
- Increased in Membership Renewals
- Improved and Increased Membership Communications
- Very Successful 2012 Convention
- Increased prominence in the Media
- Hiring of a Chapter Coordinator and Fund Development Director
- Development of a National Print Shop

All of these accomplishments happened at a time of budgetary constraints. Like many Peace and Justice Organizations, VFP like other Peace and Justice organizations has had its share of challenges over the past few years. Fortunately, under the expert guidance of the Board of Directors, we made some fundamental changes to our National Office business model in 2012 that significantly reduced our overhead. This new, more flexible business model will allow us expand our outreach, further broadcast our message, create new partnerships and develop exciting new initiatives.

Although we managed to achieve "more with less," none of our accomplishments would have been possible without the enormous contributions of the National Staff, Executive Committee, and the ongoing support of the Board of Directors, and the help of many volunteer committee members. VFP has always been a member-driven association, but the level of volunteerism surpassed my expectations. Thanks to one and all that contributed and made the difference!

Peace!

Mike



wishing you a



world of peace...

New this year: World of Peace Holiday Cards from VFP

A set of 10 horizontal holiday cards
5 x 7 inches (11 envelopes).

Message inside: ...this season and throughout the New Year!
Order online at www.veteransforpeace.org/store/
or use the form on page 17.

President's Report

Let's Leverage Our Power

The strength of Veterans For Peace lies in its membership. Our voices, our experiences, our stories—that is our power. We say that all the time, and I do believe it is true...but are we as an organization making the most of our strongest asset?

In my remarks to the membership at the annual convention in Miami, I was tempted to pat us on the back and talk about how widely respected we are, what a great organization VFP is, and how proud I am to serve as your president. All of these things are true of course, and that would have been an easy speech to make, but I think that as an organization, we may have fallen into a sense of self-satisfaction that is limiting our effectiveness. The mission that we are trying to accomplish is so big and important, I think we need to take a step back and look at our organization with a critical eye, and ask ourselves "How can we be better?"

I believe that too often we act as if just being a member of VFP is "enough." Yes, we are widely respected within the peace movement; we're positioned at the front of marches, and other groups want to be associated with us. We're the featured singers in the choir, so to speak. But to bring about the real change we seek, we need to do a lot more to move people outside of the peace movement, and I wonder if we can honestly say that we are doing all that we can.

Here's how we step it up:

1. **Focus on our uniqueness.** We are the only veterans' organization that calls for an end to war, and this is the issue that we need to emphasize over and over again. If you have not read Jerry Genesisio's book outlining the history of VFP (*Veterans For Peace: The First Decade*), you may not realize that advocacy for veterans was not part of our original Statement of Purpose.

Page 27. "During our meetings we also agreed that the American Legion, VFW, DAV, AmVets, VVA, and other traditional US military veterans' organizations were very effectively advocating for veterans' benefits without our assistance, and we decided that we should devote our very limited resources to achieving more selfless and, therefore, much less popular objectives. Addressing veterans' problems was also dropped from the list."

Although the fourth point of our Statement of Purpose currently reads "To seek justice for veterans and victims of war," the "veterans" part was not part of the original, and was added during the Dave Cline years. There are currently thousands of veterans' organizations whose primary mission is veterans' advocacy—but we are the only one calling for an end to war.

2. **Inside/Outside.** We need a multi-faceted strategy that incorporates both "inside" and "outside" elements. Lobbying alone won't end war, and neither will street demonstrations. We have to push from all angles.
 - a. **Legislation & Lobbying.** Pressure Congress to defund war, and enact legislation that promotes peace and democracy. Support and collaborate with members who are on the right side of these issues.
 - b. **Protest and Action.** In the streets, op-ed pages, and courtrooms. Direct actions, demonstrations, civil disobedience.
 - c. **International—Work with international legal, civil and**

governmental organizations to pressure U.S. adherence to international law, Geneva Conventions, etc.

- d. **Fact-finding Delegations.** Continue to organize VFP delegations to other countries that are the victims of U.S. foreign/military policy. Build people-to-people relationships, especially with veterans.
3. **Coordination.** The board and the national office need to better coordinate the actions of our chapters, working groups and at-large members. We need to find ways for everyone to engage in common actions and themes, and back up those actions with well-planned media and PR work.
 4. **Take the lead.** VFP frequently endorses or sponsors actions, campaigns or events organized by other allied groups. It is time that we stepped up as the leader, and ask for others to endorse what we have organized.
 5. **Use our voices.** We know that our voices as veterans are listened to, and we always point to that as our strength. But unless we actually USE those voices, we are squandering our most important asset. For some of you it is difficult to speak about your experiences. But is it more difficult than war? Some people don't want to see or hear the real truth of war—they think it is too brutal—too graphic. Americans don't want to know the truth because it is too upsetting, but Afghan children see...Iraqi children see. If we continue to let the media/military machine get away with only showing us a sanitized, cleaned up version of the truth, the American public will never get it. As long as drones are doing the dirty work and we aren't adding to the U.S. body count—the masses will not challenge it. The stories that are the most difficult to tell are the ones that need to be heard the most. If we don't tell the truth about war, then who will?
 6. **Out of the comfort zone.** I challenge each of us to do what is personally difficult. People are suffering and dying as a result of U.S. war and militarism. We have to do more than carry banners in parades.

VFP is widely respected, we are a great organization, and I am immensely proud to serve as its president, but let's be careful that we don't become complacent about the work that has to be done. We are all members of VFP because we want to put an end to war, but joining VFP isn't enough—it's just an excellent start.

Leah Bolger

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Veterans For Peace Annual Tour to Viet Nam – Spring 2013

Thursday, April 18 to Thursday, May 2, 2013 (in-country dates)

The officers of the only overseas chapter of Veterans For Peace, the *Hoa Binh* (Peace) Chapter 160 in Viet Nam, are inviting up to **10 veterans and non-vet activists** (minimum 5 people) to come as a group in the Spring, 2013, for an insider's 2-week tour of Viet Nam.

The mission of the tour is to make some amends to the victims of America's war; therefore the vets are asking each person to bring **\$1,000 as a donation**. The money can go to Ch. 160's humanitarian projects in Viet Nam (clinics, schools, orphanages, etc.) - or to other projects in Viet Nam of your choice. The group will meet Viet Nameese families and veterans struggling with the legacies of war: Agent Orange, unexploded ordinance and poverty. Bringing the \$1,000 donation is mandatory.

The *Hoa Binh* Chapter is very well known and respected in Viet Nam. The group will be well received and covered by the national media there. This will be the second annual tour - nine people (7 male veterans and 2 women activists) went on the Spring 2012 delegation.

DATES: Tour dates in Viet Nam are Thursday, April 18 to Thursday, May 2, 2013 - 14 Nights, 15 Days. We arrange a group flight from San Francisco for these dates.

TOUR COORDINATORS & LEADERS in VIET NAM:

Suel Jones - ex-Marine, Viet Nam War combat vet 1968-69, lives in VN half of each year since 1998, volunteers with Viet Nameese victims of Agent Orange (AO) in Da Nang. President of VFP Chapter 160.

Chuck Searcy – ex-Army enlisted, military intelligence analyst 1966-69; lives in Ha Noi full time since 1995. International Advisor for ProjectRENEW, which clears landmines & unexploded ordinance in Quang Tri Province. Vice President of Chapter 160.

Chuck Palazzo – ex-Marine, VN combat vet, 1st and 3rd Force Reconnaissance 1970-71, lives full-time in Da Nang since 2008, volunteers with AO victims. Secretary-Treasurer of Ch. 160.

TOUR COORDINATOR in the U.S.:

Nadya Williams – Associate Member since 2003 & Director of Communications for VFP San Francisco Chapter 69; former Study Tour Coordinator (1999-2007) to Viet Nam, Laos & Cambodia for Global Exchange, a San Francisco-based Human Rights non-profit. Lived in VN for 3 months in early 2008.

MONEY:

Participants will pay for 4 things:

- 1 - In-country tour cost of \$2,000 per person, all-inclusive – single room for each tour member.
- 2 - Your own airfare to & from Viet Nam - we arrange a Group Flight (approx. \$900).
- 3 - The \$1,000 Donation.
- 4 - Visa fee of \$80.

Please Note: We are all volunteers, no one is paid – your money goes to the airlines, and to the Viet Nameese people. There is no scholarship fund.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: See the public Blog of the Hoa Binh Viet Nam, Chapter 160 at:

<http://vfp-vn.ning.com/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Nadya Williams, Veterans for Peace Spring Tour Coordinator in San Francisco

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VFP Invited to Send Delegation to Israel/Palestine

As a veteran and as a member of Veterans for Peace, I take seriously our Statement of Purpose which states that VFP affirms “our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace.” Having travelled twice in the past two years to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT), I have seen first-hand, up close and personal, how Israel's military occupation in the oPT and the separation barriers (huge 28-foot high walls), and numerous Israeli Defense Forces' (IDF) checkpoints have led to a suffocating oppression of the Palestinian people. In addition, I have viewed the numerous illegal colonies (“settlements”) which are built on Palestinian lands. It is my belief that such practices are harmful to the citizens of Israeli as they reflect grave injustices which block any efforts to achieve any real peace in this region.

My journeys to this conflicted area

were with an organization called Interfaith Peace-Builders – www.ifpb.org -- which is based in Washington, DC. IFPB sponsors numerous delegations to Israel/Palestine each year which are led by highly competent and experienced leaders, including Anna Baltzer whose remarkable dvd “Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories & Photos” is available at www.AnnaInTheMiddleEast.com.

In these dangerous times of seemingly endless war, and as the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian situation is still a flash-point for an escalation of further violence, I am proposing that Veterans for Peace and the Veterans Peace Team respond to IFPB's invitation to consider arranging for a special delegation of VFP to visit Israel, the West Bank and Jerusalem. It would be life-affirming and transformational, I believe, for many of our Brothers and Sisters

in VFP to do so.

Besides meeting with human rights activists in both Israel and Palestine, it would be my recommendation that the special VFP delegation meet with two extraordinary organizations. First, many may have heard or read about “Combatants for Peace” whose website is www.combatantsforpeace.org Formed in 2005 by former Israeli military and Palestinians who had previously used weapons against each other; these activists decided that violence was simply perpetuating more violence. Today, as ex-combatants, they work together in solidarity to end the occupation and to inform all Israelis and Palestinians of the necessity for dialogue and reconciliation to achieve a just outcome for all.

A second group is comprised of Israeli

Delegation continued on page 19

Chapter Reports

Chapter 1, Portland, ME

Approximately fifty people, including many VFP members, gathered at Bowdoin College and walked the 2 miles to the gate of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station to protest the appearance of the Air Force Thunderbirds at the Great State of Maine Airshow on Saturday, August 25th. The next day, 14 members protested inside the base by carrying a banner and handing out flyers critical of the recruitment techniques of our military.

Our chapter presented the film "The Welcome" at a public showing in Brunswick in August.

We participated in a Maine Mental Health Conference on PTSD in September introducing a speaker and tabling.

Along with a number of others, member Doug Rawlings read five of his poems at a Veterans Poetry Reading in Brunswick attended by over 50 people.

Our chapter had a table at the Brunswick Peace Fair for one day in August and for three days at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, ME in September. We had our new button maker which is very popular with the young people in particular.

Clarence Smith

Chapter 4, Colville, WA

The numbers on our sign on Oak Street with the VFP noting the casualties in the Iraq/Afganistan wars are changed upwardly on a too regular bases by our chapter. Some people in the community ask about the numbers' meaning and others express respect and support. Chapter members are maintaining flowers at the sign site and at the local Habitat for Humanity store. A chapter member volunteered to help



Chapter 1 with many others walking to gate of former Brunswick Naval Air Station to protest Thunderbirds air show.

at a maintenance meeting for the local American Legion Hall which is a historical landmark for our community. September 29th a memorial was erected to Milton Spidell, a very active and dedicated #004 chapter member who is now deceased. The memorial stone with Milton's name and the phrase "In truth there is peace" engraved on it was placed in the Memorial Park in Colville, WA near a tree that was planted in his honor. Chapter #004 is so grateful for his work on VFP issues and intelligent insight as a leader in our club. Milton Spidell was a well-loved friend and activist.

Eleanor Mattice

Chapter 15, Tallahassee, FL

Chapter 15 has been a continuing strong presence along with the Tallahassee Network for Justice and Peace at Tallahassee's Thursday and Sunday Eternal Peace Vigil on the grounds of Florida's Capitol for more than 10 years. In the last few we have had some long discussions with tourists from Florida and around the world. In August, a group of Iranians came by and had their pictures taken with our anti-Iran war signs.

26 AUG 2012 - Our chapter participated in the celebration of Women's Equality Day, the 92nd Anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. Our comments revolved around how war is the most destructive human activity towards all rights, especially women and the incredibly high rate of sexual assault in the US military.

29 AUG 2012 - After doing tasks which Occupy could not get organized to do, the Chapter took the last of hundreds of loads of garbage from the occupation site just before it was closed.

6 SEP 2012 - The local chapter, along with Bradley Manning Support Network-Tallahassee, organized Tallahassee's participation in the nationwide demonstrations for Bradley outside Obama's reelection headquarters. A small, but spirited event was joined by members from Pensacola.

10 SEP 2012 - We tabled at FSU's Center for Participant Educa-

tion's Radical Rush, where Veterans for Peace's message and projects, BMSN and SOAW were discussed. The Advocates for Immigrant and Refugee Rights took a stack of Presentes and expressed interest in coming to our talk about the SOAW on November 7 on the FSU campus.

Tom Baxter

Chapter 16, Washington, DC

April 12 - VFPDC VP Mike Marceau attended press conference and trial for VFP President Leah Bolger in DC. This was for her disrupting a Congressional Super Committee hearing.

April 15th - May 1st - VFPDC VP Mike Marceau returns to Vietnam with a delegation of other VFPers. The trip was to learn about Agent Orange and UXOs.

May 31st - VFPDC VP Mike Marceau attended press conference on Afghanistan hosted by with Rep Barbara Lee.

June 6th - 8th - VFPDC VP Mike Marceau attended hearings at Ft Meade in Maryland for Bradley Manning.

July 16th - 18th - VFPDC VP Mike Marceau attended hearings at Ft Meade in Maryland for Bradley Manning.

Aug 5th - VFPDC VP Mike Marceau participated in ceremony in Washington DC honoring victims of Hiroshima.

Aug 28th - 30th - VFPDC VP Mike Marceau attended hearings at Ft Meade in Maryland for Bradley Manning.

Sept 12th - VFPDC VP Mike Marceau attended a Leftist Community Meeting organized by the Washington Peace Center.

Chapter president Patrick McCann was on the convention planning committee. He also was part of the

VFP delegation that went to Haiti right after the convention.

Mike Marceau

Chapter 21, Northern New Jersey

The summer of 2012 has been a time of individual initiative for Chapter 21. Our single group activity was our annual BBQ in the idyllic confines of Michael Kramer and Sara Flounders' Jersey City backyard; meanwhile, members roved far and wide in personal quests for the illusive goal of world peace.

Before his arrest in September at Occupy Wall Street, Jules Orkin participated

in another peace walk in Japan.

Faraz Azad attended the VFP National Convention and is the chair of the VFP national Iran Working Group. Also in the IWG are Michael Kramer, Michael McPearson and Walt Nygard.

Ken Dalton, chapter president, also attended the birthday celebration of OWS and is also involved in planning the 5th anniversary commemoration of the passing of former VFP national president and chapter 21 member David Cline.

Having successfully completed events featuring the art and writing of Combat Paper Project and Warrior Writers at Newark Public Library and Gallery U in Montclair, NJ, Walt Nygard and Jan Barry are now planning the 6th Puffin Poetry Jam. To be held November 2, it will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the publication of *Winning Hearts and Minds: War Poems by Vietnam Veterans*.

Michael McPhearson attended the Democratic National Convention. VFP members still attend the Teaneck Peace Vigil after 7 years.

Honorary chapter member Joe Nygard is currently serving with the 508th MP Company of the New Jersey National Guard in Kabul, Afghanistan. They arrived just in time to serve as a quick reaction force to three days of rioting.

Nancy Nygard

Chapter 27, Minneapolis, MN

For almost 25 years, VFP Chapter 27, in the Twin Cities, has celebrated November 11 as the original ARMISTICE DAY, ringing bells 11 times at 11am, as was done at the end of World War I, when the world came together in realization that war is so horrible, we must end it now. Four years ago, Veterans for Peace National adopted



Jules Orkin getting arrested in New York City during 9/17/12 anniversary of Occupy Wall Street.

a resolution encouraging all VFP Chapters to join in. As always, we encourage groups and individuals everywhere to join us in the ringing of bells on or around November 11, coupled with a personal or organizational commitment to peace.

This year we are partnered with Move to Amend at www.movetoamend.org, knowing that too much of the corporate money influencing our electoral process and democracy, is heavily tied up in maintaining the infrastructure that wants us to be in perpetual warfare. We are also partnered with the Minnesota Arms Spending Alternatives Project at www.mnasap.org, calling for local and national legislators to shift excessive war spending (benefitting mainly the 1%), back to meeting the essential needs of the majority of the American people, and indeed, the world.

Chapter 34, New York, NY

Members participate in weekly Peace Vigils, Bradley Manning support, Labor, Immigrant Rights, & counter-recruitment events. We joined with other local Peace & Justice groups in May Day and Heritage of Pride marches. Chapter 34 conducted a very moving Memorial Day event in Battery Park.

Recent actions include participation in weekly demonstrations against the NBC war game show Stars Earn Stripes which has subsequently been cancelled, and OWS Anniversary events.

A good number of members attended the annual VFP Convention in Miami FL; Susan Schnall and Tom Fasy conducted workshops. Susan also visited Haiti, and reported on her trip to this devastated nation, where so many folks live in dire poverty, at our September meeting.

Upcoming Events: (1) participation in the October 7th VFP Regional Action in NYC on the 11th Anniversary of Invasion of Afghanistan, at



Chapter 41 members Billie Stewart, Bob Silverberg, Duke Ellis and Cole Morton, then Host of "Talking Together" Dick Sentner.

the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaza; (2) 5th Anniversary Celebration of the Life of Dave Cline on November 10; and (3) participation in the NYC Armistice/Veterans Day Parade on November 11. We welcome all VFP members and friends to join us in NYC for these important events.

Bob Keilbach

Chapter 41, Cape Cod, MA

Chapter 041 was active in the late summer and early Fall in two local actions focused on "Healing the Hidden Wounds of War":

In August we joined with other local veterans and civilian service organizations in a "Veterans Stand-Down" in the tradition of the Civil War era community support for soldiers returning from campaigns. Towns and cities would hold 'open house' welcoming events and offer aid of all kinds. The Cape Cod event was a success with local vets receiving free medical and dental checks and introductions to other area service providers ready to assist them in returning home and healing their wounds. Our chapter got a chance to talk about VFP with a variety of folks we otherwise wouldn't have access to. Our focus on revealing and healing the Hidden Wounds was widely supported by the attendees.

And in September we appeared on a local community cable TV program "Talking Together" to again focus on the true costs of war in terms of the Hidden Wounds suffered by service men and women and their families-PTSD, TBI, MST, suicide, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, family conflict and divorce etc. Again we explained the renaming of our chapter in honor of all the Cpl. Jeffrey Luceys who have been victims of these 'endless wars' as have the



Poster from Out of Darkness Walk To Prevent Suicide of Chapter 69.

thousands of civilian casualties. We also highlighted IVAW's Operation Recovery and the Right to Heal which we support in our fundraising.

And finally, we began to plan for Veterans Day action and our 18th annual Poetry of Peace Contest which begins in January.

Duke Ellis

Chapter 63, Albuquerque, NM

August 8-12- The Donald and Sally-Alice Thompson Chapter 063 had 3 members attend the 2012 VFP National Convention in Miami. They were Corresponding Secretary, Sally-Alice Thompson, member, Will Covert and Chapter President, Charles Powell. Also attending was at large New Mexico member, Rod Fidler of Ruidoso, NM.

August 18- Chapter 063 co-hosted and members helped plan the reception for The Caravan For Peace. The group of Mexican citizens traveled across the USA to Washington, DC, highlighting the great harm done to the people of both countries by the War on Drugs.

August 31- Chapter members staffed the visitor's center at the New Mexico Veterans September 15- Members Sally-Alice and Charles and associate member, Ravi Wadhvani accompanied the chapter float in the 2012 New Mexico State Fair Parade. The reception has grown progressively more positive over the years. VFP was greeted with lots of applause, peace signs, thumbs up and occasional cheers.

September 20- Chapter President, Charles Powell attended the one year celebration of the end of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The event, held at the NM Veterans' Memorial, was sponsored by The American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) and other GLBT organizations.

Charles Powell

Chapter 69, San Francisco, CA

Led by the young local members of IVAW, San Francisco VFP geared up for the annual early October gigantic commercial for US militarism called Fleet Week! This year's outreach and action teams were bigger and more dynamic than ever, reaching face-to-face with JROTC members, active duty military, veterans, potential recruits and some of the thousands of families who attend every year.

Recent other highlights of our activities include: a very successful Annual Spring Tour to Viet Nam (7 male vets & 2 women activists) which delivered over \$9,000 in aid to grassroots NGOs; organizing a second annual Northern California VFP regional meeting; marching for the first time ever in the huge annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade through downtown San Francisco; submitting two resolutions to the Miami conference calling for support for the self-determination of the Palestinian people, and the Irish people for A United Ireland; co-sponsoring the annual SF Arab Cultural Festival; joining an annual Suicide Prevention Walk to support military families; facilitating a "Take Back the Night" all-day event on abuse of women and women active duty personnel; hosting several film series centered on World War II and the Spanish Civil War; co-sponsoring Shout! – a veteran women's art exhibit; following through with a sizeable donation to national VFP and to our local chapter from the estate of a WWII veteran member; working with the on-going Veterans Resource & Media Center; in addition to on-going participation in Occupy, anti-war protests, the Free Bradley Manning Campaign and the fight for veterans to remain in the San Francisco Veterans Memorial Building (which is slated for closure 2013 for remodeling).

Please see the Chapter Blog for all details:

www.vfpsf.wordpress.com

Nadya Williams

Chapter 72, Portland, OR

Major activities of VFP72 have been: (a) undertaking a major effort in the resurrection of the Peace Park; (b) organizing the September 6 Free Bradley Manning event; (c) hosting Matt Southworth speaking event; (d) marching with VFP flags flying with banner to the Hiroshima event on the Portland waterfront; and (e) tabling at the Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair. Members have also flown the VFP flag at many Occupy events, at the No Nukes Northwest event at Hanford, and at Ground Zero Submarine Base in Poulsbo, WA on August 6th. VFP will take part in the "Occupy Portland, Not Afghanistan" events on Oct. 6 and 7th and plans are underway for the Armistice Day event on November 11.

It was called to the attention of the Chapter that housing vouchers intended for veterans are not being fully utilized. The Chapter has sent a letter of inquiry to the VA to ascertain why this is the case.

Marion Ward

Chapter 93, South-Central Michigan

The Chapter held its 5th annual John Lennon birthday concert on October 9th in Ann Arbor to benefit the Chapter's Peace Scholarship Fund. The Fund awards scholarships twice a year to college students enrolled in conflict resolution or peace studies programs. The Chapter will also hold its annual Armistice Day "Arlington Michigan" display of one cross for every Michigan soldier killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, partnering with Chapter 74 (metro Detroit area) to set up the display in downtown Detroit. For more information on Chapter activities visit www.vfp93.org.

Bob Krzewinski



Chapter 72 Peace Park Cleanup Crew.



Wisconsin VFP & IVAW members with scale model drone, one-fifth actual size.

Chapter 102, Milwaukee, WI

The foundation for improved communication and cooperation among Wisconsin VFP and IVAW members was laid Sept. 22 at a statewide meeting hosted by Milwaukee VFP Chapter 102. Held at the High-ground, a veterans memorial park in west central Wisconsin, it drew members from the Milwaukee and Madison chapters as well as VFP members from Stevens Point, Wausau, Neenah, Eau Claire and Marshfield who have no local chapter. Attendees agreed to begin working to try to organize a Central Wisconsin chapter of VFP, with several members at the meeting to form the nucleus.

There was consensus to begin an informal statewide electronic newsletter and to use social media to share information and coordinate efforts, with Chapter 102 agreeing to take the lead. It was also agreed to offer support and help to the Madison chapter with hosting the 2013 national VFP convention, and to introduce a proposal at the convention for VFP to adopt a white poppy campaign for Armistice Day, to call attention to the peaceful purpose of the original Nov. 11 observance.

Small group sessions produced a long list of ideas for collaboration, including counter-recruitment, starting student veterans chapters, local referendum campaigns on moving money from military spending to domestic needs, producing a dramatic video for YouTube, creating a speakers bureau, and more. Attendees will be asked to evaluate and prioritize them to shorten the list.

Lars Prip of Madison Chapter 25 brought a one-fifth size model drone that the chapter is using for public education about drone warfare and to organize op-

position to a planned drone training facility in western Wisconsin. He encouraged other chapters and members to support their efforts.

The session included veterans who served in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and the Dominican Republic.

Bill Christofferson

Chapter 105, Baltimore, MD

Because of NATO in Chicago and other conflicts, the Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter did not do our usual commemoration of the 17 May Catonsville Nine Viet Nam draft file burning action our chapter namesake did, but 2013 will be the 45th anniversary, so we will coordinate with Berrigan's community, Jonah House, for a series of events. We continue to display VFP flags at the Ft. Meade main gate for Bradley Manning at his ongoing hearings, most recently in late August, eliciting lots of thumbs up and quite a few honks, including service members in uniform. Work continues in the Fund Our Communities, Bring the War Dollars HOME! statewide project. A Baltimore tribute dinner for *People's World* journalist and peace supporter Tim Wheeler included a VFP ad thanking Tim and recirculation of a great article he did on Dave Cline after he died. Although it didn't work out this year, an exciting cultivatable relationship was made when a southern MD representative of the Calvert County International Day of Peace committee contacted VFP with early planning ideas. Chapter co-founder Ellen Barfield participated in an Al Jazeera English TV interview about US foreign policy and the election, small segments of which will air in October. We are excited to help plan and host the IVAW fall gathering in Baltimore in early November.

Ellen Barfield

Chapter 111, Bellingham, WA

Spring got off to good start for the chapter with what turned out to be high visibility events. Bruce Gagnon drew a large crowd at the Mt Baker Theatre on April 26, and follow-up interviews on local and Vancouver, BC radio helped shine a light on the Save Jeju Island. VFP-111's Michael Jacobsen had just returned from three weeks on Jeju and is putting the finishing

touches on a film of his experience that he hopes to screen this fall.

On July 29, we co-hosted with the peace and justice center Code Pink's Medea Benjamin, with two packed venues on the same day, promoting Benjamin's *Drone Warfare* book tour and drumming up enough interest among activists to push for a municipal anti-drone ordinance campaign in upcoming months.

In May, Chapter member Aneesa Ahad organized a program entitled *Readings for Peace*, drawing participants from the peace and Occupation community to join with members of VFP and Whatcom Peace and Justice Center to share inspirational readings. Three such gatherings so far have resulted in larger group motivational sessions. The chapter co-hosted former VFP Executive Director and United for Peace and Justice National Coordinator Michael McPhearson as the key note speaker at Bellingham's International Day of Peace commemoration on September 21.

Gene Marx



Gene Marx presents Ellen Murphy with the Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement Award.

Presente - Daniel I. Fearn, USMC, Veteran For Peace, Chapter 127

In 2009, Dan Fearn of Chapter 127 in Minnesota began his gigantic efforts behind VFP National's "Operation Support and Defend". Dan Fearn, aged 53, died on August 7th, 2012 of an inoperable brain tumor. Dan moved to Minnesota in 1997 where his son was born in 2000. Dan was a stay-at-home dad and nurtured in his son his intellectual curiosity, creativity, love of reading, and stewardship of the environment. Dan was a landscaper, baker, activist for peace and justice, helper, and artist. He was a member of Veterans for Peace. We will miss him greatly. May he rest in peace.

Phil Restino

Chapter 136, Central Florida

Veteran members Phil Restino and Charlie Williams of Chapter 136 (Central Florida) joined Brett Bracewell of the Orlando chapter of WeAreChange Florida on September 11, 2012 in visiting firehouses throughout the greater Daytona Beach area on behalf of Firefighters For 9/11 Truth (www.FirefightersFor911Truth.org) and the FealGood Foundation (www.FealGoodFoundation.com). The firefighters were very receptive to our presentations of literature from Firefighters For 9/11 Truth and DVD's from Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth (www.AE911Truth.org) along with our requests that they sign and mail in the FF911Truth petitions for a new 9/11 investigation. They were also asked to contribute to the FealGood Foundation to help the sick and dying 9/11 First Responders, a charity of First Responders helping First Responders. Local videographer James Toney filmed the action and then put the finished video on YouTube as "Firefighters For 9/11 Truth visit Daytona Beach Firefighters on Sept 11th".

Long before the Oathkeepers appeared on the scene in 2009, there was Dan Fearn of Chapter 127 in Minnesota and his gigantic efforts behind VFP National's "Operation Support and Defend". Dan Fearn, aged 53, died on August 7th, 2012 of an inoperable brain tumor. We will miss him greatly. May he rest in peace.

Phil Restino

Chapter 152, Lehigh Valley, PA and Chapter 165, Berks County, PA

Lehigh Valley, Chapter 152 and Berks Chapter 165 have been combining efforts to participate in local events including the Berks Armed Forces Day parade where we were well received by onlookers. Several



Phil Restino (right) and Brett Bracewell (left) of the Orlando chapter of WeAreChange Florida visiting the local firehouses

expressed interest in joining and supporting our work. On August 14th, Dr. Vince Stravino of Ch. 152 and Louise Legun and Dan Azar of Ch. 165 appeared on BCTV's *Centering On Peace* program discussing "The Legacy of DOD Policies Eleven Years Post 9-11".

Lehigh Valley (Ch 152) and the Berks (Ch 165) of VFP will be co-sponsoring a fundraising dinner/speaker at the Topton American Legion Hall, open to the public, on Sunday, October 21st. Speaker for the occasion will be Thomas Drake; a decorated United States Air Force and Navy veteran, software expert, linguist, management and leadership specialist, and whistleblower. Following his military service he went to work for the National Security Agency (NSA) becoming a senior executive within the organization. With the passage of time Mr. Drake came to believe that the NSA had instituted a program which sacrificed Americans' security and privacy, and involved massive waste. Mr. Drake, continues his advocacy of greater openness in governmental intelligence gathering practices, and more respect for citizens' right to privacy and constitutional guarantees of personal freedom including those espoused in the Fourth Amendment.

Lehigh Valley Chapter 152 will miss our oldest member, Tom Lloyd, who died this summer.

Louise Legun

Chapter 156, Rogue Valley, OR

Chapter 156 marched in the May 26th Grants Pass, Oregon Boatnik Parade. This is the second largest parade in Oregon. In addition to members from Chapter 141 in Bandon, Oregon we were pleased to have as our special guest, VFP President Leah Bolger. We also marched in Ashland, Oregon's annual Fourth of July Parade with 24 members or members of allied organizations in our entry, especially the Ashland Peace House and the Ashland Friends Church.



The crowd erupts in cheers when they see the Veterans for Peace Giant Peace Dove.

At our September 5th monthly meeting - focused on outreach - we heard a stunning talk by a 78 year-old survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, Dr. Hideko Tamura Snider. She was in the sixth grade of grammar school in 1945 when the bomb was dropped. She is the author of *One Sunny Day: A child's Memories of Hiroshima*.

Jim Woods

Chapter 161, Iowa City, IA

Chapter 161 had a busy couple of months after July's U.S.S. Liberty event. Significant activities included two vigils for peace along the route of the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI), an annual event that includes more than 10,000 participants; participation in the Iowa Governor's parade to recognize veterans of all categories and outreach to several area schools.

Our biggest project has been, along with twelve other peace organizations, organizing an art exhibit called "Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan" at the Coralville, Iowa Public Library for the entire month of September. Included in the exhibit thus far has been the training of docents (the exhibit requires guarding and interpretation while the library is open), an opening reception, and a lecture by three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee Kathy Kelly. Speakers also included Michael McConnell of American Friends Service Committee and Diane Randall of Friends Committee on National Legislation. The exhibit led to www.2millionfriends.org, with the Dec. 10 goal (International Human Rights Day) of enlisting two million friends to end the Afghanistan war.

Chapter 161 participated with other peace organizations in the Coralville, Iowa Independence Day parade, made a presentation to the Consultation of Religious

Communities on Iran and sent two members to the national convention in Florida. We spun off a third Iowa Chapter 169 in Cedar Rapids and mourned the passing of Joshua Casteel, a friend of the chapter, and conscientious objector to the war in Iraq where he served at Abu Ghraib prison.

Coming events include our annual Armistice Day vigil, commemoration of the beginning of the Afghanistan war and now that school is in session, more outreach to children.

Paul Deaton

Chapter 962, Charlottesville, VA (in formation)

Charlottesville, Virginia chapter recently formed, anticipating a new chapter number. We are seriously organizing Alternatives to Violent Service program in local high schools, working on sponsoring several art exhibits and establishing a close relationship with the Charlottesville Center for Peace & Justice, and the Friends Meeting.

Hope to get some more momentum, because we see central Virginia as a potential hotbed for Peace activism!

Evan Knappenberger



PTSD Working Group

I have just finished four days in a booth at a big state fair in our area, featuring some resources for PTSD. Three or four who stopped were service members (and a policeman) talked with me and took the information. A few were civilians who acquired PTSD from other causes. I realized that the military will never publicize its problems PTSD, TBI and suicide at public events like this. I also think this can be great public relations to service members and veterans who are suspicious of the peace movement.

You may have heard of the military sexual trauma crisis at Lackland Air Force Base - another cause of PTSD. Hope you have a chance to watch "The Invisible War" - an excellent survey of MST that also covers suicide, difficulty in receiving benefits, and overmedication.

Dave Dittmore



VFP Welcomes First College Campus Chapter

The San Diego City College Student Veterans Club was presented its official charter on September 27, 2012, making it the first chapter of Veterans for Peace on a college campus. The chapter will be designated as Chapter 500 - San Diego City College Chapter. "We're just ecstatic," said Maria Mustacchio, President of the new chapter, when asked about the chapter status. "I'm actually overwhelmed."

Barry Ladendorf, president of Chapter 91 - San Diego, presented the charter at an opening ceremony for the campus Veterans' Center. The center provides services for veterans, such as simple mentoring from other veterans to help with the transition into student life. Dean of Student Development, Helen Elias, said the center was meant to provide a safe haven for veteran students. Costs for the center were covered by donations from the National Organization for Veterans and Veterans For Peace, among other groups and individuals. "The veterans center is a safe place for the veterans to come in and study; it's a quiet zone," Mustacchio said. "(Also) Mental health

services here campus just (received) a grant to offer a few hours a week of mental health services."

Also present at the ceremony was VFP Secretary, Board Member, and Membership Committee Chair, Gene Marx. Upon finding out about the group's activities on campus, the entire Membership Committee was overwhelmingly supportive of the chapter's approval at a national level. Marx said, "We wanted to get some campus involvement. This is an excellent opportunity to further the mission of Veterans For Peace while reaching out to young vets."

We hope that the success of this student group inspires VFP members in other regions to engage student veterans and encourage them to start their own campus chapter. If you would like more information about organizing a campus chapter in your area, please contact Casey Stinemetz, Chapter Coordinator, at casey@veterans-forpeace.org or call 314-725-6005.

Casey Stinemetz



Barry Ladendorf (Chapter 91) and Gene Mark (VFP Board) present a VFP flag to the new student chapter.

Direct Costs of War and Occupation As of October, 2012

Total: \$1.388 Trillion

Iraq: \$808.2 Billion

Afghanistan: \$579.5 Billion

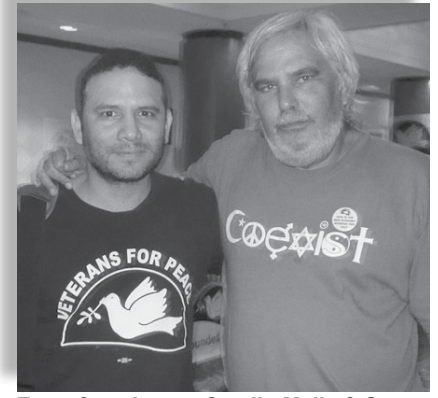
Source: costofwar.com/en



Alice Walker, Keynote Speaker



VFP Blimp, available to chapters



Two of our hosts: Camilo Mejia & Sam Feldman



Patrick McCann, Convention Organizing Committee



VFP National Convention 2012—Miami

Once again, the VFP convention was full of good hearts, good times and good information. Keynote speakers were Alice Walker (top left) and Roy Bourgeois (not pictured). Phil Donohue joined us for an evening and presented his film, *A Body of War*. Workshop and panel presenters came from Honduras and Guatemala. We were welcomed by representatives of Miami's Haitian community and a delegation traveled to Haiti after the convention.

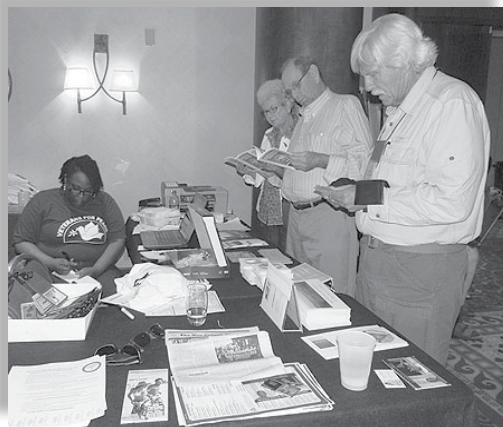
The 2013 convention will be held in Madison, WI, August 7-11. See you there!



Phil Donohue & Leah Bolger



Art by Huong filled the lobby.



Lots of information at the registration desk!



Fushu Daiko provide entrancing drumming.

VFP's International Presence

Veterans For Peace has a long history of nonviolent presence with victims of US foreign policy. The following three articles give us a taste of the experiences of the most recent representatives of the tradition: Leah Bolger, Rob Mulford, Bill Kelly, Medea Benjamin and Lorna VanderZanden traveled with a delegation to Pakistan; Ken Ashe spent time with residents of Jeju Island, Korea; and six members of VFP joined a delegation to Haiti immediately after the convention in August.

A final interesting development in VFP's international work took place in late September when Chapter 91 in San Diego and VFP-UK carried out coordinated actions at General Atomics, manufacturer of Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles used by the American and British militaries.

VFP Members Go to Pakistan to Protest Drones

By Leah Bolger

President of Veterans For Peace

From 28 September to 10 October I had the privilege of being part of a 31-member Code Pink delegation to Pakistan. The purpose of the delegation was to protest against the U.S. combat drone program that has killed and injured thousands of Pakistani citizens in the Pashtun region of North and South Waziristan. For the most part we were middle-aged, white, American women (although of the handful of men, two were fellow VFP members Rob Mulford and Billy Kelly). Some of us had decades of peace activism experience, others were relative rookies.

For me, the most significant aspects of the trip were these:

1. Listening to the **first hand accounts** of the drone strikes from the 12 men who traveled to Islamabad from their homes in Waziristan. This helped me understand, in a very personal way, the real damage that our government is responsible for inflicting.
2. Meeting with the Acting U.S. **Ambassador to Pakistan**, Richard Hoagland just before, and just after the "peace march" to Waziristan. These meetings were especially revelatory. I was shocked by the Ambassador's statements and attitude. He is either genuinely ignorant about the realities of the drone program; he is in complete denial; or he understands very well, and he is deliberately promoting lies and propaganda. In any case, I was dismayed by his apparent lack of concern for what is the primary source of friction between our two governments.
3. Learning about the **legal work of the Foundation for Fundamental**



Lorna VanderZanden, Rob Mulford, Billy Kelly, Leah Bolger, Paki Wieland.

Rights who are filing lawsuits on behalf of the victims of the U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan, and trying to understand the **political complications** between the U.S. and Pakistan, and between the people of Pakistan and their government.

Just days before our delegation arrived, an in-depth report entitled "Living Under Drones—The Aftermaths of Drone Attacks" was released by Stanford and NYU.



Researchers interviewed 130 survivors of drone attacks—some of the same people that our delegation met with during our visit. You can download the complete report at the website: www.livingunderdrones.org. For more information about the work that the Foundation for Fundamental Rights is doing: www.rightsadvocacy.org describes the lawsuits and also recounts many of the stories. I also highly recommend Medea Benjamin's book: *Drone Warfare—Killing by Remote Control* as an excellent resource.

"Drones are the only game in town," according to Leon Panetta. Even though they violate international law, are increasingly deemed "counter productive," and are killing thousands of non-combatants, they are embraced by the Obama administration and Congress, which now has "Drone Caucuses" established in both the House and the Senate.

The VFP Board has recently identified drones as a priority issue, and we have established a working group on this topic. Many VFP members have participated in drone protests at Hancock AFB, Whiteman AFB, Beale AFB and General Atomics facilities in San Diego and London, and some of you have been arrested in these protests. The one thing that I really want to pass on to all of you is **how much your work is appreciated by the people of Pakistan**. We were repeatedly thanked and told that we were an inspiration to them. We told them about the protests that are going on in the U.S., the giant drone models and die-ins, the people going to jail, and they responded with gratitude and warmth. We can't always know when our work is having an effect, but you should know that it is very much appreciated by the people we met.



Protesting on Jeju Island, South Korea

By Ken Ashe

Chapter 099 - Asheville NC

I was recently afforded the opportunity to visit Gangjeong Village, Jeju Island, South Korea in order to experience the incredible efforts of the people there. These villagers struggle against the further expansion of U.S. Empire in the form of a new naval base being constructed in their village. Much has already been written about this economic, environmental and cultural tragedy. My observations support all previously said. But what I also found was a group of local citizens and supporters from around the world who exhibit the finest qualities; non-violence, singleness of purpose, perseverance and resolve.

On our second day in Gangjeong my friend, a VFP member now living in Korea, and I were sipping on our first cup of coffee when Regina came rushing in saying, "Hurry, hurry we go to WCC (World Conservation Congress) now". Regina then knocked on Christine's door and got her up too. (Christine, a 60ish surfer from Hawaii, was staying in the room next to ours.) The WCC is held every 4 years by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and, with sponsorship from the South Korean government and Samsung, was being held on Jeju Island, by coincidence, at the time that I arrived to witness the protests in Gangjeong Village.

I grabbed my cameras, slipped on my shoes and we were on our way. It was a five minute walk to the waiting bus. Yes, they have their own bus. It's old and ragged but it seats eighteen people and is perfect for their purposes.

The International Convention Center is only about 5 miles from Gangjeong Village and, as with everywhere on Jeju Island, quite a scenic little journey. This island sure is pretty. It only took minutes for our crowd to set up the sound system, unroll the banners, set out the literature then start a joyful dance. What a charming and uplifting group!

Saturday was the final day of the conference and the day they were going to vote on resolution 181, a call for the halt to construction of the naval base at Gangjeong. This group of dedicated protesters was really successful at getting the attention of the conference attendees. After dancing and



Coastline of Jeju Island.

singing for perhaps 30 minutes they rolled out thin pads as prayer mats and began prayer bows to the sounds of calm, meditative music. This is a common display of resistance to what they rightly see as destructive forces around them. The plan was to do a thousand bows. There were actually a few conference goers who stopped to join in for a period and many more who stopped to observe and take pictures.

After 400 bows, Regina informed us of a Dunkin' Donuts in the lower level. At Dunkin' Donuts we talked to a man from Chicago who told us about the vote which had just taken place; quite disappointing. Within the IUCN There are both government organizations and NGO's as members. When voting, a resolution must get over half of the votes amongst the government members and half of the votes among the NGO's. Resolution 181 got 2/3 of the NGO's vote but failed to pass amongst the government agencies.

Disheartened, we finished our coffee and went back up to the front of the conference hall. Lo and behold, our friends there were dancing and singing again! After word arrived of the vote results they cut short the prayers after 500 bows and starting celebrating. Even after a big disappointment, they remained hopeful, cheerful and energized. What irrepressible spirits. It's amazing and inspiring.

Christine's 3 month visa was expiring the next day. That night they had a celebratory farewell party for Christine and

to welcome four WCC conference attendees to the community. There was good food, some rice wine, and many speeches. The level of camaraderie and solidarity in this group is amazing and so inspiring. You've got to see it to believe it. U.S. activists could really learn a lot from these dedicated and irrepressible souls.

There's a community kitchen serving three meals a day. There's always food available for those involved in this tight-knit community. While we were able to afford a modest hotel room with a shower and communal kitchen, some of the protesters are sleep-

ing in a steel shipping container. They are dedicated and undaunted throughout all the trials and tribulations.

The building of this naval base on Jeju Island has garnered attention from notable people around the world. The issue is clear. The struggle for justice is long and difficult. Blocking American empire here is doable and, for the sake of the people in Gangjeong Village, so necessary to maintain their way of life.

If you possibly can, come and join these people for a few weeks. They absolutely love having foreigners come join them and you will have the experience of a lifetime. BUT---Don't announce your intentions beforehand. There have been over 20 activists turned back at the airport because the Korean authorities knew beforehand that they were heading to the protests in Gangjeong Village. Talk to me or Bruce Gagnon. We can help you with a smooth entry to the country.



Protesters and allies meet the press.

Veterans For Peace in Haiti

By Nina Schnall and Susan Schnall

A delegation from Veterans for Peace travelled to Haiti from August 12th through August 17th, 2012 with Let Haiti Live, a project of TransAfrica, to investigate the state of militarization in Haiti. VFP's mission was to look into recent attempts by the Haitian government to recreate Haiti's Army, an institution that was disbanded by then President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1995. VFP also met with activists, educators and members of Haitian civil society to learn about their efforts to rebuild the country in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in January, 2010.

VFP met with human rights lawyers, alternative economic organizations, women's rights groups and the directors of a library and school. These included: PAPDA, COFAVIV, Biblioteque du Soleil, Bri Kouri Nouvel Gaye, BAI. Bri Kouri Nouvel Gaye (Noise Travels, News Spreads) is an alternative media and community mobilization organization that posts events on Facebook and focuses on the MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti) occupation, cholera outbreak, and new foreign industries in Haiti. KOFVIV is the Commission of Women Victims for Victims. These are women who themselves have been victims of gender violence. They have outreach workers in tent camps that organize community watch groups, accompany victims to hospitals, share stories, support the victims, and urge them to come forward and fight for justice. They work with the Haitian police and judicial system to educate about gender violence. SAKALA/Pax Christi camp and community garden is located in Cite Soleil, one of the poorest and most dangerous areas in the western hemisphere where 400,000 residents live with an open canal that serves as its sewer system. Daniel Tillias is director of the program where he continues to provide inspiration and love to the people in his community. Partners in Health Hospital in Mirebalais, 30 miles north of Port au Prince is a newly constructed facility that opens in early 2013 as a flagship teaching institution that will change the face of public health in Haiti. It will provide high quality education for the next generation of Haitian nurses, medical students and resident physicians as well as excellent patient care services.

We were consistently impressed by the spirited determination of the Haitian people to rebuild their country – from the physical infrastructure to educating young people, protecting women and children, continuing to struggle for human rights and dignity in some of the worst social and economic conditions in the world. We were dismayed to learn how little of the \$2.4 billion in foreign aid is actually going to support the Haitian people. Instead, much of it is funneled back to United States interests via U.S. businesses and non-governmental organizations.

The groups we met were strongly opposed to the reinstatement of a Haitian military - a force they well remember as responsible for terrorizing the population and serving the interests of the Haitian elites and foreign interests, beginning with its formation by the U.S. government during its occupation of Haiti (1915-1934). Everyone agreed that there are valid security concerns in Haiti – from violence caused by military and paramilitary forces

and gang warfare, the insecurity of a country still recovering from the 2010 earthquake that caused about 220,000 deaths, left 1.5 million homeless, and devastated the economy and government infrastructure. They were also skeptical that the Martelly government has the resources to move ahead with this plan to re-establish the Haitian military, as there does not currently seem to be political and financial support for this project internationally. There was more concern about MINUSTAH.

Haiti is in its eighth year of occupation by the only United Nations peacekeeping force in the world in a country that does not

have a civil war and is not the subject of a peace keeping or post conflict agreement. Some, like Cami Chalmers of PAPDA, called for the immediate departure of MINUSTAH from Haiti. Others, like the directors of COFAVIV were working with MINUSTAH to make changes within that structure. All criticized the UN force for human rights abuses, failure to fulfill their mission to train a civilian police force to take over security for the Haitian people, and contributing to Haiti's health crisis through the cholera outbreak.

They noted that indefinite occupation of Haiti by U.N. military forces is not a solution to Haiti's security needs. MINUSTAH's claim to political neutrality is not

credible given the fact that the troops arrived immediately following a U.S. backed invasion of the country by Haitian military troops residing in the Dominican Republic. After President Aristide disbanded the military in 1994, many in the militia immigrated to the Dominican Republic where they reorganized themselves with assistance and support from the CIA. In 2004 they invaded Port au Prince and, facing little resistance, took over the city. Troops from the U.S. and Canada with their usual advisors surveyed the crisis that they had created and swept President Aristide out of the country. The UN then established the MINUSTAH. I (Nina) asked Commander Klein (who teaches a course on Ethics at the War College) during our meeting with MINUSTAH brass in Port-au-Prince, "If MINUSTAH is in Haiti to provide support to Haiti and security to the government, why did the force arrive after the overthrow of the democratically elected government of President Jean Bertrand Aristide? We ask because we are aware that the President repeatedly appealed to the U.N. for help during the invasion (by Haitian former military from the D.R.) and the U.N. responded only after the capital was invaded and the president was forced into exile. This has left many with the impression that MINUSTAH is the international arm of a U.S. backed coup." Commander Klein responded that the United Nations Security Council made this decision, essentially leaving the question unanswered.

Cholera has killed more than 6,000 Haitians and infected more than 400,000 as a result of the U.N.'s dumping waste into the water supply. The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta has traced the cause of the epidemic to Nepalese troops at the U.N. base outside of St. Marc. To date, MINUSTAH has taken no responsibility for the cholera outbreak, provided no reparations to victims, and has



VFP delegation in Haiti.



P O E T R Y

The Naming

And He taught Adam all the names,
then showed them to the angels, saying:
Inform me of the names of these, if ye are truthful.

Surah 2:31, The Koran

From your CONEX billets at Bagram Air Base,
you wrote of two baby camels you'd given names.
They grazed with their American-friendly
shepherd near the base's concertina perimeter,
muzzles forever sifting sand for dried growth,
seeds, even bones. Dromedaries, you said –
the single-hump kind, not the biblically-fabled,
double-hump Bactrian that ferried the infant
Jesus beyond the reach of Herod's henchmen.
Today, just one camel showed – no way to know
which one of the two you'd named, these beasts
which the ancients say smile because they hold
forever that final, secret name of God, even
bearing it, with theirs, through a minefield.

Jeffrey C. Alfier

The Day

It was the day the earth caught fire,
the longest day, the day summer arrived,
8 o'clock sharp in the evening. The sounds,
the expectation we experienced, waiting.
It was the end of books, the end
of end papers and closure, yet everyone
was writing a book. Covers snapped like a trap.
And the war went on as wars go on.
The number down grew. It was the day
the earth caught fire but the birds didn't know
before it was too late. They called to one another
from various trees, cherry, beach, ash, still seeking
a connection. And insects proceeded,
drunken, erratic, their paths deflected
by enveloping heat. It was the day the earth
caught fire and the troops staggered on broken roads
and the temperature of the sand rose until
it was molten glass. The uniforms mocked the desert
and the desert cracked under heaving tanks
while somewhere a mockingbird recycled his repertoire
of whistles, warbles, sequenced like a car alarm
going off. We listened, rapt. It was the day the earth
caught fire and the stars would not show themselves again.

Elaine Terranova

Recipe for War

Use Pentagon shaped bowl
Take 2 opposing points of view,
Add many parts imagined wrongs,
Minus 1 part rationality.
Stir until overheated.

Mix following ingredients:

Raw recruits, National Guard troops, body counts,
Government lies, corporate payoffs, friendly fire,
Bigotry, rape, and collateral damage.

Omit civilian deaths.

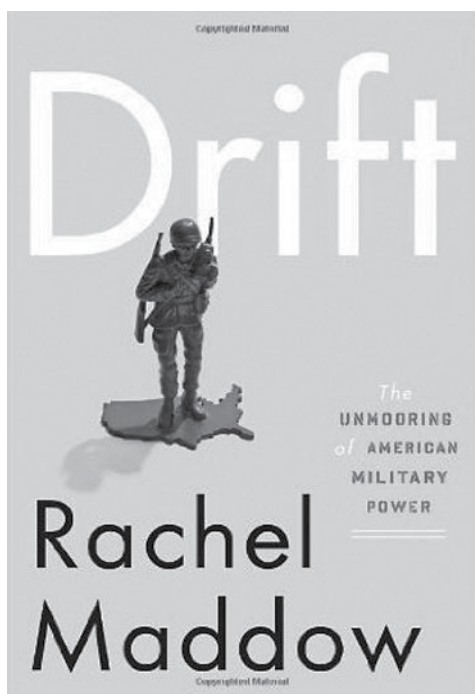
Prolong baking in desert heat for multiple tours of duty.
While waiting for result, pierce with explosive roadside devices.

After too many years, declare victory.

Generally discard surviving left-overs.

Bob Silverberg, Veterans for Peace Chapter 41

BOOK REVIEWS



Drift: the Unmooring of American Military Power
by Rachel Maddow.
Crown News. 247 pages.

If you like/love Rachel Maddow on MS-NBC, you're going to like/love *Drift*.

It's dedicated to former vice president Dick Cheney with the fervent request, "Oh, please let me interview you." Don't hold your breath, Ms. Maddow, but keep trying.

With unerring accuracy and pinpoint acuity, she targets what many of us still call Ike's "military-industrial complex", with emphasis on the military and how it has taken over our society.

In her prologue, Ms. Maddow observes that "Our national security policy isn't related to its stated justifications anymore. To whatever extent we do argue and debate what defense and intelligence policy ought to be, that debate—our political process—doesn't actually determine what we do. We're not directing that policy anymore; it just follows its own course." Her book delineates just how this came to be but, to paraphrase Ike again, she's not just another "gloom-dogger" (remember that one?)

"The good news is we don't need a radical new vision of post-Cold War American power," declares Ms. Maddow. "We just need a 'small c' conservative return to our constitutional roots, a course correction. This book is about how and why we've drifted. It wasn't inevitable. And it's fixable."

Highly recommended for all Veterans for Peace members, their families, friends and perhaps most important, their President and Congresspeople.

Will Shapira,
VFP Chapter 27, Twin Cities, MN

The Life and Time of I.F. Stone
by Daniel Guttenplan.
Farrar, Strauss & Giroux. 579 pages.

The Best of I.F. Stone
Ed. Karl Weber.
Public Affairs books. 350 pages

There are so many good books on the many topics important to most VFPers that it's impossible to list them all or even pare them down to a workable number for review so instead let me give you a brief history lesson and (re-)introduce you to perhaps the greatest American muckraking journalist ever, I.F. "Izzy" Stone, 1907-1989.

Back in the 1950s, anyone truly interested in journalism subscribed to his indispensable *I.F. Stone's Weekly*. He and his achievement will live on forever in a superb biography by Daniel Guttenplan, *The Life and Times of I.F. Stone*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, fsgbooks.com, 570 pages hardback, \$35, and in *The Best of I.F. Stone*, a collection of some of his "greatest hits" compiled by Public Affairs Books, www.publicaffairs.books.com 350 pages hardback, \$23.95.

Stone was by no means alone in delving into American politics and government; the brilliant career of Noam Chomsky continues and those of Howard Zinn and Daniel Schorr, also now deceased, have yet to be assessed and memorialized as has Stone's.

If you think *60 Minutes*, *20*, Bill Moyers, Chris Hedges and others are good truth diggers, they owe a lifetime debt to Stone for paving the way and creating for them a journalistic template.

To save precious space, let me stop here and urge you to buy and read these books and be sure to pass them along to those who have yet to un-turn Stone. I also urge you pass on info about your fave muckrakers of yesterday and today to our editor, Charles Rossi, charossi@comcast.net

Will Shapira,
VFP Chapter 27, Twin Cities, MN

Generations: A History of America's Future

I have been pondering on the grander picture of our present American fabric predicament. My response has been to focus on the William Strauss and Neil Howe research study of first discovery, *Generations: A History of America's Future*. It is my purpose here to offer the study as a guide to strategic planning.

I feel, like this pair of authors, that the time we are in may turn out to approximate that of the American War of Independence, or the American Civil War, or the conjoint emergencies of the Great Depression and World War II. The research study tells of the U.S. Americans getting into a major crisis period about every 80 to 100 years called a saeculum. 1929 was exactly 83 years ago; and if it takes approximately 20 years to live out a crisis period (or turning of history), then you have what appears to be a prophetic repetition of another American saeculum. I say "prophetic" because the study was published back in 1991! Back then the authors stated that some time around the year 2005, perhaps a few years before or after, America will enter its crisis turning of history.

Please understand that the Strauss and Howe study does not focus only on crises times.

The study shows a cyclical pattern of behavior which, if you begin with a crisis (e.g., conjoint emergencies of the Great Depression and WWII), there follows a period of prosperity (post WWII), followed by a spiritual awakening (the 1960's and 1970's), followed by an unraveling (the two decades approaching the new millennium), followed again by today's crisis, the reason I share this concern.

Once you learn more about this study you become intrigued by seemingly prophetic events.

The study involves equally important generational concepts and historical American turnings. But you will have to read the *Generations* book to learn all the principles and concepts involved. First it is important to understand that an historical turning can influence an entire generation, just as a generation can influence the outcome of an historical turning.

Generations continued on page 19



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Here is just one central feature of the *Generations* study. The study relates that our present crisis may not be over until the year 2026 at its latest. What is more critical is the notion explained in more depth in a sequel book, *The Fourth Turning*, that each phase within a crisis turning of history (lasting approximately 20 to 22 years) requires a certain amount of time (even a few years) to lapse before we could actually move to the next phase within the turning. A crisis period usually goes from catalyst to regeneracy to climax to resolution.

In my opinion we are likely still in the regeneracy phase working up to the climax. In the authors' vision these four phases can take about 20 to 22 years to play themselves out; otherwise even more dire consequences could ensue. Usually in a crisis period the civic generation (rising youth) is vitally engaged in subduing extreme crisis era ailments (for instance, total war).

Our present new civic Millennial generation is not yet fully engaged in subduing crisis era ailments (as I see it); hence we might suspect that the full crisis has not yet arrived (we have not reached climax status). Past American crises have required rising generational youth to subdue dire social ailments (crises).

Another important aspect (among others) of a crisis period, according to the study, is that during a crisis, the sense of community rises and becomes paramount. Hence, if, as I say, the climax of the crisis is still to come, then if our next climax turns out to be another world class catastrophe (yes, major war), then community kicks in and you don't stop our youth from subduing crisis era ailments. Youth goes to war as it did in WWII.

At this point some may say they don't believe in a pre-determined future. Yet, can we afford to dismiss a generational study that already has shown some merit by predicting the fall of Wall Street in 2008, bailouts, heavily strained national budget, high unemployment, 9/11, war in Iraq and Afghanistan ?

According to the study, our present youth are destined to do great things. If you have been working with them, you see they are special. The older Generation X motif is not working for today's millennial youth. Gen X no longer captures our attention, although it will have a significant/critical social role in the crisis time ahead. If

continued to deploy troops from Nepal.

Haiti has a long history with imperialism and a proud reputation as the first black republic in the world, a nation-state founded by former slaves as the result of the only successful slave revolt in modern history. The country's unique culture and troubled political history can be traced to its unusual origins. So can the prejudice, arrogance and incomprehension of the United States, France, and their slaveholding allies who feared the spread of the example set by Haiti. The monies demanded by France – 80 million francs in return for official recognition the country badly needed, is representative of the ways in which Haiti was made to pay for its freedom as an independent state. The current military, political, and economic policies toward Haiti are deeply rooted in this imperialist history.

The outpouring of humanitarian support from U.S. citizens to Haiti after the earthquake was generous and heartfelt. Unfortunately, the rebuilding of Haiti has been seriously undermined. Rubble has been removed, but so has Haiti's self-determination and sovereignty. Of the \$2.4 billion promised to Haiti following the earthquake, less than 1% went to the Haitian government; the rest went to non-governmental organizations over which there is little coordination and oversight.

The Haitian people must be encouraged to be the builders and visionaries of their own society. The Haitian people and organizations we met are clearly capable of providing that leadership. They need and deserve our support. Despite the terrible conditions where 77% of the people live in poverty and are severely malnourished, we left with an understanding of the Haitian

you pick up the study, you will see that, as archetypes, Millennials are dominant and Gen Xers are recessive. Add to the mix the possibility that the generation (Boomer/Idealist) most likely to become responsible for setting the climax into operation appears to be sufficiently energized to do just that. Indeed, in the authors' own reasoning, it is the Prophet generation (Boomer/Idealist) entering elderhood which foments the next crisis. We should be asking ourselves, will we use these potentially workable concepts of first discovery to plan strategically?



people's hope for and belief in a better future.

The MINUSTAH mandate has been renewed for another year with an additional cost of \$644.4 million. Today there are about 500,000 people who continue living in tents with no access to clean water and sanitation, ongoing gender violence, rubble in place of buildings, burning garbage in the streets and sky high inflation caused by the presence of the UN troops that receive higher salaries than most Haitians, inflating food and rent expenses. It is our hope that MINUSTAH use this additional time and money to fulfill their mandate to train and support a Haitian civilian police force that can provide security to the people when they leave.

Thank you to our most amazing guide Melinda Miles from Let Haiti Live and to Patrick McCann for organizing the VFP delegation. Other VFP members who participated were: Geoff Millard, David Ewing, Will Covert, Ann Wright, and Chuck Butler as well as Sheria Pope, Nina Schnall, Kaleo, Kim Walker, Alice Walker, George Fouron, Sherry Fine and Marlene Bastien. In addition to Melinda, staff were Daniel Tillia and Ednor Jean-Baptiste.



Delegation continued from page 4

military veterans who have deeply regretted their role in abusing Palestinians physically and in destroying both their personal possessions and even houses. Their testimonies are available for reading or viewing on their website <http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/> They are called "Breaking the Silence." Some of their testimonies echo what Vietnam veterans and later, Iraq War vets, had to say during their Winter Soldier Investigations. Giving voice to the experiences of these former Israeli soldiers provides a powerful narrative, one in which their website states: "We endeavor to stimulate public debate about the price paid for a reality in which young soldiers face a civilian population on a daily basis, and are engaged in the control of that population's everyday life."

If interested, and to obtain more information, visit the websites listed above and/or contact me at nhvfp@comcast.net

Will Thomas, New Hampshire VFP



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