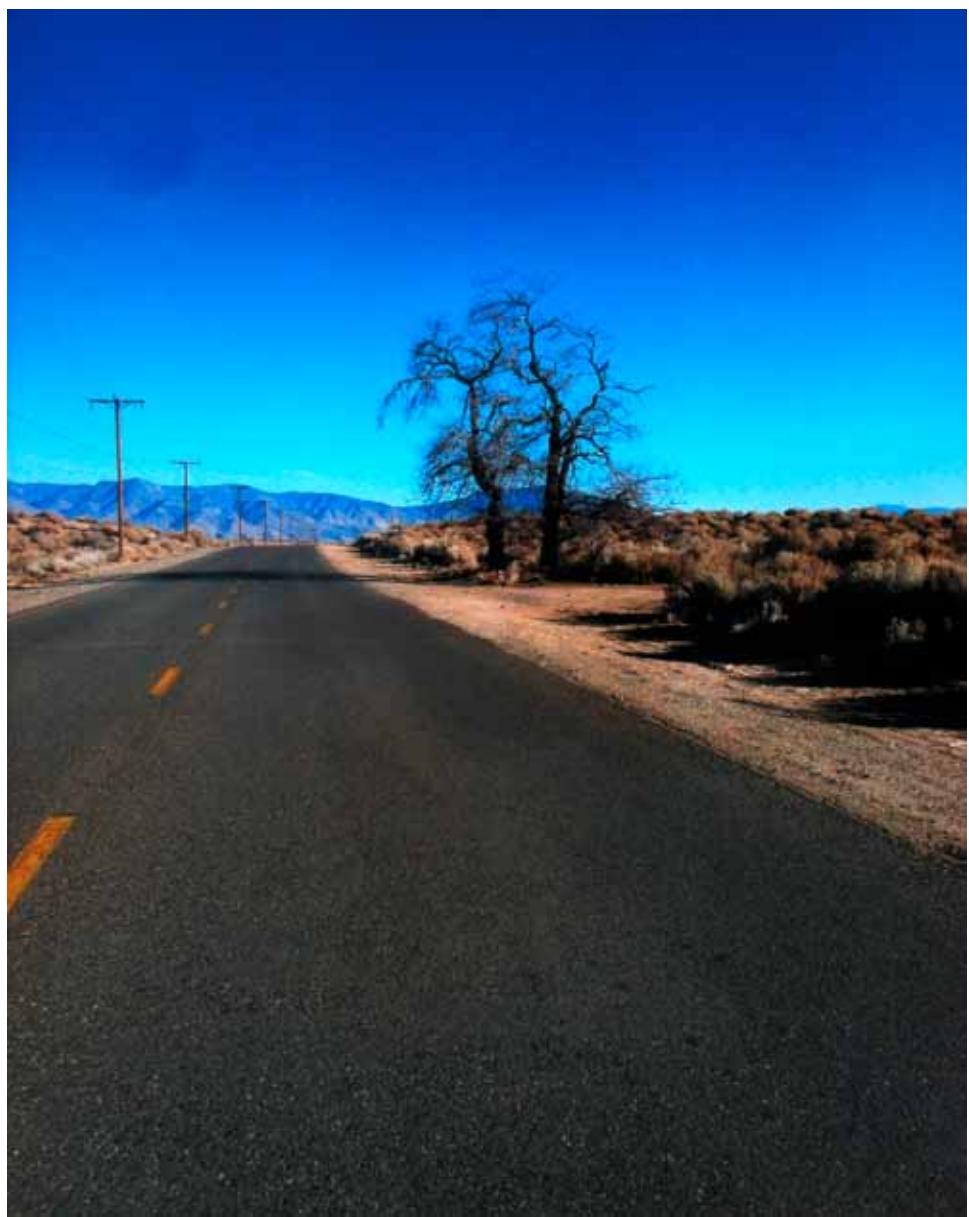




# 2012 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology



# **2012**

# **Redwood Coast**

# **Peace Poetry**

# **Anthology**

*A Collection of Poems & Art  
on the Subjects of Peace and Non-violence  
by Humboldt County High  
School Students*

Edited by the Veterans Education and Outreach Project  
of Veterans For Peace, Inc., Humboldt Bay Chapter 56



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Veterans For Peace, Chapter 56  
VEOP Committee  
Post Office Box 532  
Bayside, California 95524-0532

Veterans Education and Outreach Project (VEOP) Committee

Jon Reisdorf, Co-chair  
Carl Stancil, Co-chair  
Richard Gilchrist  
Lynn Kerman  
'Nate' Lomba  
Jim Sorter  
Nezzie Wade

Anthology layout by Toby Griggs (Buddhist Peace Fellowship)

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Peace even in times of unrest  
should be the goal of all  
human communities.

The Redwood Coast Peace  
Poetry Contest is an attempt  
to focus on peace in a very  
troubled world.

We dedicate this Anthology to our friend and comrade

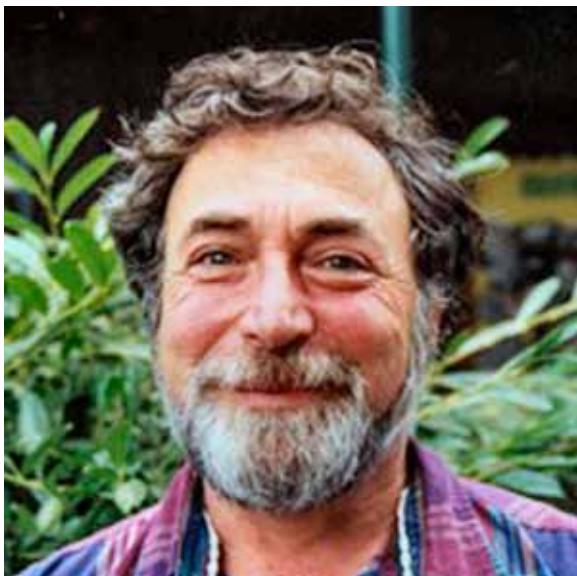


Photo by Cindy Kuttner

**Guy Kuttner**  
1946-2011

Guy had a lot of fun and made a difference in the world by truly being himself. As a teacher, father, friend and husband he encouraged us to do the same: to take our place in the world, do some good, and participate fully in life. Guy was courageous speaking truth to power, whether it was J. Edgar Hoover (when he turned in his draft card), or to an irresponsible landlord, or to colleagues at school, or to friends and family at the dinner table. He was hilarious and passionate about peace and justice. Guy's letters to the editor, columns in the Arcata Eye, and his books sound just like him. He would say "hurray!" to the poets in this anthology, speaking out from their hearts and minds!

# **VETERANS FOR PEACE INC.**

## **OUR MISSION**

Veterans For Peace is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational and humanitarian organization dedicated to the abolishment of war.

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others:

- (a) To increase public awareness of the costs of war;
- (b) To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations;
- (c) To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons;
- (d) To seek justice for veterans and victims of war;
- (e) To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

WAR IS OVER



IF YOU WANT IT

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## **Acknowledgments**

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### **— Co-sponsors —**

Buddhist Peace Fellowship of Humboldt County  
Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Dell'Arte International  
The Ink People Center for the Arts

### **— Poetry Judges —**

Allen Berger, Therese Fitz-Maurice, David Holper,  
Lynn Kerman, Jerry Martien, Pat McCutcheon, Joe Shermis

### **— Presentation Judges —**

Matt Chapman, Dell'Arte International

### **— Art Judges —**

Libby Maynard and Carrie Maschmeier,  
The Ink People Center for the Arts

### **— Assistance —**

The VEOP Committee gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Carl Neilsen Memorial Fund, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation; the financial assistance of VFP Chapter 56 and the Chapter members that helped make the contest a rousing success.



## **List of Illustrations**

“Peace Tree” . . . . .	Cover
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Alice Benaia	
Arcata High School, Arcata, California	
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Arcata High School, Arcata, California	
*** First Honors Award Recipient ***	
“Peace ‘Splosion” . . . . .	Back Cover
Damian Conn	
Zoe Barnum High School, Eureka, California	
*** Third Honors Award Recipient ***	



## ***Footprints***

They march, their footsteps leaving tracks in the mud,  
Their uniforms dirty and torn, their arms heavy at their sides.  
Their boots dig into the barren soil, and they march in time,  
Because they are not many, but one.

As they march, they carry their guns, loaded and at the ready  
For the battle. They are no longer humans, but hard, cold robots.  
In place of heart and soul, they now have a hollow emptiness,  
And as they march, if you watch closely, you can almost see

The wind-up cranks upon their backs, slowly turning,  
Loosening the springs which turn the gears that compel  
Them to march. With each step forward, the group  
Leaves more of itself behind as soldier after soldier is

Blown off his feet by flying bullets. The soldiers are no longer  
People, but slaves of the war, driven by madness, provoked by  
A feeling known only to intelligent beings...the need for revenge.  
The soldiers are killed, not by people, but by shells of people,

People who look like people, but are not people. They are only  
Pieces of people, humans who have momentarily lost all sentimentality  
And compassion. And they are killing their equals, because they, too, are  
Slaves, slaves of the firearms that have turned them into soulless beings.

Gunshots ring throughout the land, making warm beating hearts cold  
And lifeless. As gun after gun is fired, one soldier after another drops to the  
Ground. As the ammunition is diminished, the many survivors keep shooting  
From both sides, stepping over the dead bodies to kill more soldiers.

After the last shot is fired, the last guns are slowly dropped  
From mindless hands, and the robots are humans again  
As they help the wounded get up, and slowly, hopelessly,  
Traipse back the way they came. The dead bodies bleed

Endlessly, and the soldiers' sweat mingles with the blood...  
And then the rain begins to fall, and as the soldiers  
Walk slowly back, the dead bodies carried between them, they  
Leave only footprints, which are filled with rain and washed away.

Amy Peterson  
Alder Grove Charter School  
Eureka, California  
\*\*\* Honorable Mention Award Recipient \*\*\*

### ***Peace in the World***

Fathers are lying  
Mothers are denying  
Brothers are fighting  
Sisters are sighing  
Children are crying  
OUR WORLD IS DYING

Michael Harrison  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

### ***Somelove***

Someone simply sings,  
Sitting beside our heartstrings.  
It is a small wonder,  
Soft and shushing secrets.

Somewhere sanctuary sleeps,  
Awaiting alongside our animosity.  
It is a patient plethora,  
Embracing our essence.

Something sweet sits,  
centered within our being.  
It is a molten magma center,  
candied hearts and succulent sympathies.

Somehow peace surfaces,  
Swimming along the somber.  
It is a bright wish  
In the depths of humanity.

Angela Rouse  
McKinleyville High School  
McKinleyville, California  
\*\*\* Honorable Mention Award Recipient \*\*\*

### ***What is Peace***

What is peace ...

Is it a balance of power and weakness?

Is it love for everything and everyone around you?

Or is peace the clear feeling of a fresh mindset?

What is peace ...

Is it the quiet flowing of a stream?

Is it the silence of a calm, elegant palace?

Perhaps peace is the settle of a storm in the mind.

Where is peace ...

Is it in the words of brothers and sisters?

Is it in the hearts of the wounded, and the healthy?

Maybe it is in the hands of the young and innocent.

Peace is the bond between brothers and sisters

it is in the hands of the strong and the weak

it is in the words of the young and old,

in the innocent and the knowing

Peace is in the hearts of everyone around the world.

Brandon Bemis  
East High School  
Fortuna, California

## ***Something Worth Fighting For***

Tortured day by day, year by year

Though always fighting back

Always trying to take a place in the world

No matter how big or small.

Against the most evil dictator, the most violent terrorists,

And even just verbal abuse, or someone just being hard on themselves.

Against Fascism, racism, stereotypes, hatred.

It tries to take a foothold in every situation possible.

Inspiring non violent protesters

Or helping raise the courage of those stepped on over and over

The olive branch and the dove forever remembered

And every language has a word for such a thing.

Something so strong and powerful, though always a villain to tear it down

To corrupt something so beautiful, so wonderful

This thing which is known worldwide but yet not physical in the least sense

Something to bring people together, to fight for, to die for

To feel a smile upon their face when thinking about such a thing.

A sense of utter calmness and a goal which many strive for

This that inspires religion, charity, and all that is beautiful

It's all these things, and yet it is only one word, five letters

And that's all it takes to help spread this joyous essence

Peace

Something worth looking up to

Always fighting for what's right

Though peace is not always the picture of the wolf and the lamb

Or bestowed by haloed winged beings

It is seen in calm scenery with flowers and tree's

But it is only really accomplished by oneself

Peace will not come by just sitting there, wishing for it

It is something to achieve, something to aim for

Something to work on day by day till evil is but a distant memory

And if not you, then who?

If not now, then when?

We should not even remember the days of war

The days where we lost someone.

A husband, a father, a brother

A wife, a mother, a sister

Or even just a friend or neighbor.

Though we may always have to lock our doors, our cars, and even our lives away.

Peace is the hope that we will not have to worry about such things someday.

That our children will not be kidnapped or hurt.

That we do not need nuclear bombs, and that a neighborhood watch program will be enough.

Peace

It is the last hope

Against fear, against death, against violence

Though we may only know certain peace in heaven

Let's hope we find it before then.

So if you will not help fight for peace, then who?

If you will not fight for it now, then when?

Cavanaugh Carter  
Arcata High School  
Arcata, California

### ***Peace Can be Fulfilled***

Peace is something we can hold on to

We just have to believe in me and you

When we fight, bicker, and ignore

You know I'll be there knocking on your door

Asking for forgiveness because all I want is peace

Once it is fulfilled we will be complete

Suffering and crying is not how I want to see

Maybe inside you will believe

We can all end this from the very start

If you believe from your very heart

Camille Holderman  
McKinleyville High School  
McKinleyville, California

### ***No More Wars***

The pollution of the world  
The confusing qualities of life  
The thought of maybe one day  
There will be peace  
No more wars

Daryl Chadbourne  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

### ***PEACE***

Peace is something that we lack in this world  
Everyone needs to unite  
And make this world a safer place  
Creating a unified world where  
Everyone can feel safe, and there is no more hate

Joseph McCants  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

### ***Swallowed in Flames***

I believe  
That I can rise from ashes  
Burnt to the ground by a fire  
The red flames licking at my life  
I emerge a new person  
Not a woman  
An individual  
Dealing with the earthquake  
Shaking my thoughts  
Pressing my memories and dreams  
Into a single bond  
I was born from fire  
Birds fall silent  
Trees quiver  
I walk alone  
Self-reflection sweeps over  
The mirror reflects  
Truth combined with twisted reality  
This is not me  
But time flows down stream  
And I am meant to keep up with it  
Not to burn what has been broken  
To fix the unsolvable puzzle  
Searching for a hidden cipher  
The pieces are only imagined  
Dreams into a different world  
A world of rest  
Wind blows fresh breath into life  
I would be born from soil  
A single rose  
Blurred by droplets of dew  
Peace within every living soul  
Connected by fog  
But dreams conflict the mind  
As memories fade into black and white  
Erupting into flames  
And I will rise again

Dakota Rose Goodman  
Arcata High School  
Arcata, California

***The Answer to War***

Mothers cry  
Fathers scream  
Babies whine as  
Children dream

Blood blood everywhere  
Devil's touch anywhere

Man may run  
From their fear  
Yet, their children  
Will live in their tears

Once was thought pure  
Now is thought sad  
Even though one may think  
The outcome will always be bad

So what is the answer  
We ask all together  
Children's answer is peace  
May it be forever

Dayton Dean  
McKinleyville High School  
McKinleyville, California

***War of Peace***

1...2...3...All there is  
is a white hot flash and the sound of thunder.  
What is that? One would wonder.  
The Atom bomb is a disturbance of peace  
It rings a sound of a thousand beating drums.

Killing millions in its wake.  
Thousands flee for what's at stake.  
Then is gone just like that.  
All is nothing, just flat

Not a sound, not a being,  
Not a thing in sight. For all we've done is fight.  
Now everything is still.

The peace is back.  
no bird singing sweet tunes,  
no dog barking, nobody talking.  
Just quiet, still, peace  
Ashes of men, women and child  
Still blowing in the wind at last

War of Peace is at an end.

Daniel Jimenez  
East High School  
Fortuna, California

## ***WE MUST GET TOGETHER SOMEDAY***

I have no room in my heart  
For hatred,  
For pride.  
I have no room for these,  
So I replace them with PEACE.

Oh Man, why is there so much bitterness in your heart?  
Why do you live in so much hatred?  
Why do you curse each other?  
Why do you want to kill for my religion?  
It does not make any sense,  
Destroying lives  
As though they were leaves blown by the wind on a cold winter day.  
Why can't you be like the birds of the sky and the flowers in the field?  
They do not have as much as we do,  
Yet they blossom and smile as we look at them.

Take a look at Darfur, the case of genocide.  
Take a look at Nigeria, killing because of religion.  
How do we expect a change in our World  
If we are not that change ourselves?  
“We must get together someday”

Imagine a child  
Left alone  
With no parents in the world to care.  
Imagine those killed.  
Imagine all the tension.  
Do we ever stop to think about this?  
“We must get together someday.”  
Stop fighting, stop killing,  
And make the world a better place.

When I think about the past  
I feel I can make the future come fast  
That I may tackle the task  
Which is so wide and vast.  
But really I see you with a mask which hides the reality  
That life is without distinct measure;  
Blood flowed,  
And in great number, heads rolled.

But why the strife, I ask?  
Having gone through all the thorns in the past  
I think there should have been a club  
For you who have no grasp.  
Oh, why don't you make up your mind  
About clearing the cloud in the wind?  
A cry for ease,  
And a cry for peace  
Across rivers and seas,  
Is all I plea.

Living in strife and hatred,  
Killing each other with swords and bombs  
Is not the best way to live,  
But in PEACE.  
“We must get together someday.”

Elizabeth Time  
Arcata High School  
Arcata, California

### ***Pure Happiness***

Today a white, graceful dove landed on my window sill,  
All of the sudden the Earth began to lay still.  
I gazed at the dove who was so carefree and gay,  
That my very own worries began to drift away.  
All those heartless people who have hurt me had fled my mind,  
For I was no longer ignorant and blind.  
I realize that happiness is a drift,  
So my smile began to lift.  
The glorious sky was a beautiful shade of baby blue,  
The lively flower were covered with dew.  
The sun light ray had lead the way,  
Down to a place where everyone was at play.  
No longer is medication needed to lift me into bliss,  
For peace has flooded the world and brought pure happiness.

Mickenzie Grubb  
Arcata High School  
Arcata, California

### ***Spread the Word***

That old beaten wall, patched up by the fact  
That you can't divide sympathy  
That ridiculous excuse that carries no meaning  
The answer that never comes to the question of why  
Why do they hate? Why hate others  
Because of race or religion?  
The color of their skin, or the church they attend  
Blinded by the fact that you're not all that different  
That repetitive line, the truth that disproves your spite  
Uncovers that shadow and brings hate to light  
Did know that it doesn't have to be this way  
That you can make a difference, start right here  
Help fight against the odds, against the waves  
It's not too late to spread the word

The darkness you can cause  
The pain you can bring along  
With the poison you speak  
The words of pure ignorance  
That exhibits no real meaning  
Just foolish lines, spoken by foolish hearts  
Who know nothing but bitterness  
They know not the truth,  
Because they hide behind lies  
Release yourself from the hatred you were taught  
Don't carry on such a pointless tradition  
Let history be your guiding light  
It doesn't have to be this way  
Fight against the odds, against the waves  
It's not too late, so spread the word

Just realize that it really doesn't affect you  
It's not your life, so respect others  
You could do better things with your time  
Instead of spreading your outdated ideas  
    You think you're so strong,  
    But your morals are weak  
These delusions only drag you down  
But you can change; you can be a better person  
    When you learn to accept others  
    Of every creed or religion  
So fight against the odds, against the waves  
It's not too late, spread the word

Jenna Caldwell  
Arcata High School  
Arcata, California

### ***The Last Battle***

There was nothing but darkness  
Firing guns numbed my eyes and ears  
    A piece of light fell  
    But I couldn't see  
With blood and bullet holes on my armor  
    I forgot how to pray

The flower of death  
    Blossomed by me  
I held my brother in my arms  
I heard my children laughing  
    I saw my wife smiling

Crying my eyes out in the trench

Siri Jiahe Wang  
High School  
McKinleyville, California

## ***A Rose***

The rose is a multi-emotional flower.

You can give it as a gift of love to your partner.

The rose is a doorway of passion and understanding.

But the rose is not always on joyful terms.

Somewhere, a soldier dies, and a rose is placed upon his coffin by his mother.

The soldier's friends and relatives each place a rose upon his coffin.

But do not think that these roses are for sadness and dispair. Oh no, they are quite just the same as before.

These roses are for love, love to a brother, love to a son, love to a friend, and love to a partner.

The rose is always there. Even if it becomes wilted and dried, it never goes away.

Just like the spirit the rose intends.

Dillon Carbiener  
McKinleyville High School  
McKinleyville, California

## ***LIFE***

Living together as one

In one home together

Forever in unity

Everyone at peace

Neil Brown  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

## ***Our World***

Today I was walking,  
Just walking with no direction,  
With no destination in mind,  
Taking in the wonderful world,  
And the nature that surrounds us.  
There is the beautiful sound of birds,  
Singing their little songs,  
The river, running so strong.  
It is spring now,  
So the hard winter just got over,  
And the wildlife is just coming out again.  
I look around and see the amazing land,  
The land without roads or power lines,  
The land that only wildlife lives on.  
As I'm taking all of this in,  
I think of our world,  
The world of war and fighting,  
The world where nobody gets along,  
The world where nobody is happy.  
I picture us,  
Our world,  
With no fighting or war,  
With no drama or politics.  
Just as I feel this state of peace in my mind,  
Like we have stopped the fighting,  
I wake up.  
I had been dreaming,  
About this amazing world I wish to be in,  
This world where all everyone wishes for is,  
Peace.

Kassie Humphrey  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

### *The War on Ignorance*

Supercilious, economy sized war  
    Broken and uneven  
    Nothing is clean or pure  
A pollutant born of human ignorance  
Corroding the soulless children's hearts  
who, with eyes of terror watch unmoving the human sacrifice  
    until it is their turn to face the hand of God.  
But don't they pray to the same God we do?  
    Whose prayers are answered?  
And whose are left to wilt like an unshed tear.  
    God doesn't decide

The tears are a product of the demon ignorance  
    Blissfully infringing upon rights  
    Obliterating the line between right and wrong  
    Saying all people are different  
    The sweet tasting lie  
We were all born of the same earth  
Everyone loves, laughs and stubs their toes all the same  
    We are equal

Sometimes I lay awake thinking about the soulless children's cries  
    I answer with a dove  
    A hope for peace  
We the People must unite against human ignorance  
Like a vicious, poison taking over reason and love  
    Peace is the anecdote for the poison,  
    A hand in the shadows  
A light shining through even the darkest of hearts  
    We fight a war on ignorance

Kayla McClelland  
Six Rivers Charter High School  
Arcata, California

### ***The Apple Tree***

This eave is charred and mangled  
With the stench of death entangled  
A drop of dew upon the gutter  
Proceeds to fall in a peaceful splutter  
A bare patch of earth is where it rests  
A patch of hope lies amidst this mess  
Melancholy skies and burning metal  
A once rich land is now disheveled  
Once filled with crime and cruelty  
This patch of earth lies solitary  
And where this dew has nestled root  
A tree of vibrant green will shoot  
High above the battle ground  
Its limbs of gold arch boldly out  
And produce red fruit of opportunity  
In this once dead land stands an apple tree  
And when fall comes around and canopies of green  
Atop rolling mountains a lush land is seen  
In this purified valley, earth's natural chapel  
Grows an ambrosial surplus of rosy red apples

Jazminh Lambley  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California  
\*\*\* Third Honors Award Recipient \*\*\*





### ***Peace***

We all walk around  
We all turn and frown  
With no peace around  
How are we still walking  
On this ground?

Look around the corner  
And there is bloodshed and tears.  
We have little kids telling their moms  
To get over their fears.

We need peace to get along, we need peace to stay strong  
Now we're overseas in a place we don't belong  
Fighting a war that we egged on

We are there for oil, not for peace  
And war is one thing we need the least  
We need peace so we have no fear  
We need peace to hold the world here

Country to country, sea to sea  
We need peace to be free  
Peace does not come from control and power  
Peace comes from the ones we love and adore  
Peace comes from having no fear,  
Peace comes from people we hold dear  
Let peace in  
Let peace breathe  
Let peace be between you and I everyone we see

Ty Nelson  
East High School  
Fortuna, California

### ***What Once Was***

Faces that represent races  
In places  
Unjustified  
in empty spaces  
Where filth reigns supreme  
Separated, segregated, unvindicated  
Where war reigns supreme  
In a world where hate makes hate  
And blame is blameless  
Children nameless  
Dictators faithless  
And it is all okay.  
Freedom paid for  
With blood sweat and tears  
And fears  
Lived by children who whisper in our ears  
They miss their mothers,  
Fathers,  
Sisters,  
Brothers,  
Taken by race wars  
Door to door  
As bodies hit floors  
And we fight ground wars  
Air wars,  
No more.  
Can we stand the unadulterated slaughter  
Of what was?  
A united front,  
Against all things unjust,  
Make love, not war  
A peace shall reign supreme.

Lakia Solomon  
McKinleyville High School  
McKinleyville, California  
\*\*\* Second Honors Award Recipient \*\*\*

***For the World***

Take your sisters hand  
take your brothers hand  
In this world  
we must rise together  
stand together  
stay strong  
together  
in this moment  
we will achieve the highest greatness  
together we may not back down  
when the trumpets sound  
we will love with all our might  
we will not be discouraged  
we will fight for what's right  
together we stand  
hand in hand  
to live  
and love  
for the world  
together

Madelyn MacMullin  
McKinleyville High School  
McKinleyville, California

***SELFISH***

A long time ago

People were filled with love not hate

But the corruption of money has pulled us apart

**SELFISH**

Not a care for anyone else in the world

Just money in their pockets

Everyone has turned into objects

And left our human selves

In exchange for inanimate objects

**SELFISH**

Come back to the earth

Help your fellow people

With no desire for nothing in return

But that is just too much to ask for because everyone is

**SELFISH**

Ryver Gribi  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

### ***Silent Dove***

Noise shatters peaceful, appreciated silence,  
They're blinded to a life of chatter,  
Forgetting life can be calm if we clean up the clatter.  
Leave me, let me be!  
Of these obnoxious words I wish to be free.  
Plug your ears, intensifying your childish fears,  
you'll just find yourself in tears,  
Hooray, Cheers! This is what you've got from all these years.  
Shh, close your eyes, reality won't lie,  
soon you must say goodbye,  
to all the petty words that don't mean a thing.  
Face it. Peace is not available to such a being.  
One that focuses on chaos to produce revolution,  
When the truth hides behind the materialistic confusion.  
Is there a simple way of life?  
One with peace instead of strife.  
The mind-set of a teenage girl,  
Cornered in society's grip and needs to hurl,  
because all she wants is to fit in,  
and still be comfortable in her own skin.  
Life has a funny way,  
To conform its members or throw them away,  
Where is love and communal peace?  
That will make violence and discrimination cease.  
Peace is the unforgettable cry of the wife when the soldiers return home,  
Because she knows her loved one is not in a tomb,

The children will wake in the morning and see,  
They will have Christmas with a united family.  
If one were to stop and look,  
At the incredible world around us, open like a book,  
Can you see we're all connected?  
We're separated through culture, and that should be respected.  
It is time to set aside our differences and make amends.  
Then maybe someday we will all become friends,  
peacefully.

Sophie Lefuel  
Arcata High School  
Arcata, California

### ***Everyone Needs Their Rest***

Sleep well my friend  
All your work is done  
It's reached its end  
You had a good run

Sleep well my friend  
You've made us all proud  
No need to amend  
Now pull back the shroud

Sleep well my lover  
Who fits like a cover  
My last humble request  
Go have a good rest

Abram Hart  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

***Patrio-tick***

Wave your flag

Red, white, and blue

Suck your hopes with teeth of greed.

Point the barrel at you.

They are born with wealth

And make you sacrifice your health.

Always sucking it out of you

Always will you be another, “Who?”

Tyler Hensley  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

### ***The Need for Peace***

I am looking at this world with a positive perspective  
I wonder if the wars will ever stop  
I hear starving children crying  
I see veterans on our streets begging for help  
I want peace  
I am looking at this world with a positive perspective

I pretend that it doesn't bother me too badly  
I feel sick though, when I look at those in pain  
I touch a child's hand  
I worry if that child will ever make it to a university  
I cry when I learn they didn't make it past the age of ten  
I am pretending that it doesn't bother me to badly

I understand that asking for the whole world to be in harmony is unlikely  
I say that if we can all work together it will happen  
I dream that every child will be fed  
I try to help those in need  
I hope for world peace  
I am looking at this world with a positive perspective

Samantha Baker  
South Fork High School  
Miranda, California

## ***Peace***

From country to country, sea to sea  
There's one thing important, in a family  
Like green is to grass, and apples are to tree  
And red is to roses, and cup is to tea  
This thing I speak of, is a word of the kind  
It helps angry people calm down, and stressful people unwind.  
Peace is what I speak of,  
Now go spread the word loud,  
Peace makes all of us safe,  
And our ancestors proud,  
It keeps the Earth safe from people,  
And people safe from the earth,  
Protects older people at death  
And young people at birth.  
The streets could be safe,  
Crime would be clean,  
People will be nice,  
And none would be mean  
So bye bye bin Laden,  
See ya later Saddam,  
NO more violence,  
Like death and Vietnam

Kyle Mangin  
East High School  
Fortuna, California

## ***Music & peace***

Breathe deep  
First holding your sorrows in  
Then let go  
Let them go away

Time is weathering  
Weathering and wearing  
Ripping and tearing  
Singing and swearing  
Surrounding and chaotic  
A cacophony of sound

Then the music starts  
Starts to take away  
Starts to make me sway  
The soft notes are growing louder  
The uniting sounds soft and calming  
Or loud and liberating

Just a few strums of a guitar  
And people who seemed so opposite can find common ground  
A couple of heads may nod  
And loathing is forsaken for conversation

Just listen  
Listen as a women's voice grows wide then narrow  
Listen when a man's emotions expand and contract in sound  
Listen as a child jumps up and down  
Listen as grandparents sigh out in perfect timing

Those small fleeting moments of unison  
That second where sounds band together to create release  
That's what the world needs more of  
That's where I find peace

Taylor Christiansen  
McKinleyville High School  
McKinleyville, California  
\*\*\* First Honors Award Recipient \*\*\*

## *Peace in the Eyes of Greatness*

We can all spread World peace in one form or another.  
Some are much more outspoken, take the hand of your mother.

Dr. King showed the world what peace can do.  
He changed life, for many people, including you.  
Dr. King had a dream, to make everything equal.  
Every one who follows him creates the sequel.  
Few know the true meaning of peace,  
Yet everyone never does appease.

John Lennon: The Definition of Greatness  
He created a following bigger than The Beatles.  
Spreading out wisdom, and peace with every lyric.  
Give peace a chance, for it is easily achievable.

In the past it seems like everyone is against peace.  
Why were both these great men shot?

Did they do anything worthy of such violence?  
Everyone has the ability to promote peace.

King, Lennon, Mother Teresa, and Gandhi took the reigns.  
And slid violence aside, a slimy stain.

Mother Teresa helped the poor, the sick, the orphaned.  
She's the true hero, handled the situation with grace.

Gandhi pioneered the use of non-violence,  
Which formed a track to follow hence worth.

Dr. King followed those, and achieved great things.  
It's all said and done, and Dr. King got his wish.

But what makes peace so difficult?

The greater good is shown with drops of peace.  
The dewdrops of peace awaken the world's tracks.

And set fire for all who proceed in violent acts.  
Its so hard to stay peaceful, when violence is seen everywhere.

Videogames, movies, and guns all have a share.

Fly, my dove, fly high and reach the olive branch.

Forsaken as a symbol of peace, we look to you as being bigger than the world.

All we are saying is give peace a chance.

Tyler Keil  
Arcata High School  
Arcata, California

### ***One Second of Peace***

One second of peace can make  
Several moments of peace.  
Peace is like a flower, always growing  
Always there to make life brighter.  
Peace can be found deep down, buried in the heart:  
The inner peace that passes understanding,  
As well as in the white dove flying in the skies.  
Or you can find it, unexpectantly, in the homeless man  
In the back row of church every Saturday night.  
But if you have to look for it, you'll find it's much closer than you think.

It's in you.

Peace is like laughter or a musical bell  
When you laugh with joy and happiness  
Love spills out and, peace rushes in.  
You allow love and peace to flow through you.  
The Greeks call it "Eirene"  
The Hebrews say it's "Shalom"  
The Dutch speak "Vrede"  
Peace is peace and it's universal.  
If one second of peace can make  
Several moments of peace  
Then it can make a world of peace.  
If there is a world of peace there's  
An eternity of peace.  
If the world wants peace with all its heart and mind  
And it craves peace with all its soul  
Why doesn't one second of peace  
Make an eternity of love and peace?  
Here is the simple truth:  
Because it is the same for hate and war.

Yanet Salazar  
Arcata High School  
Arcata, California



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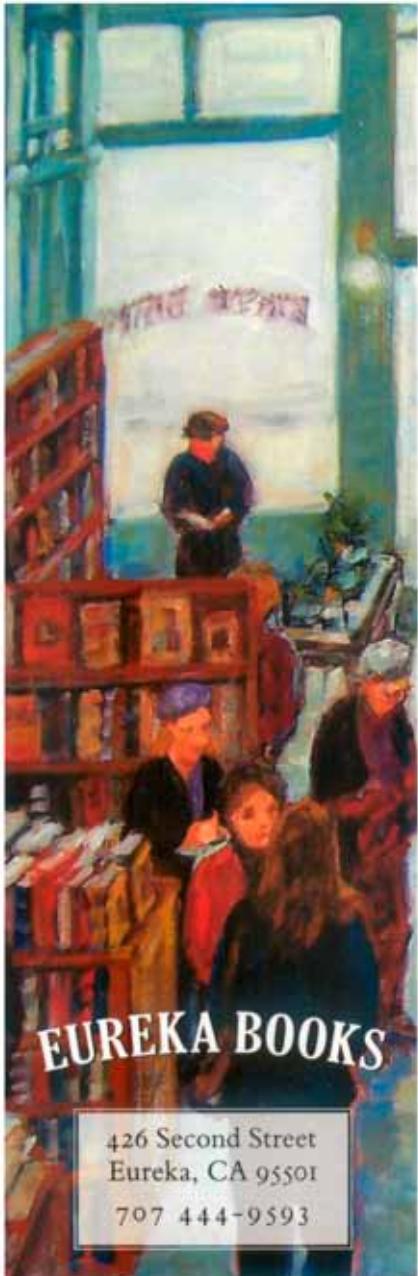
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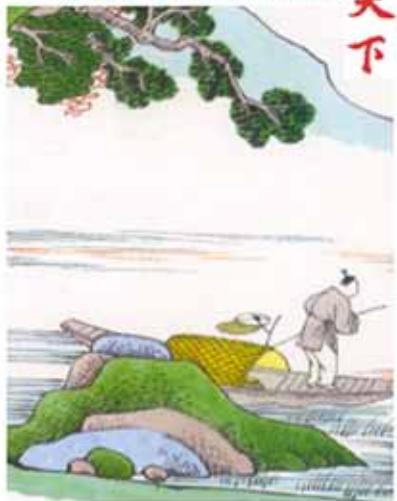
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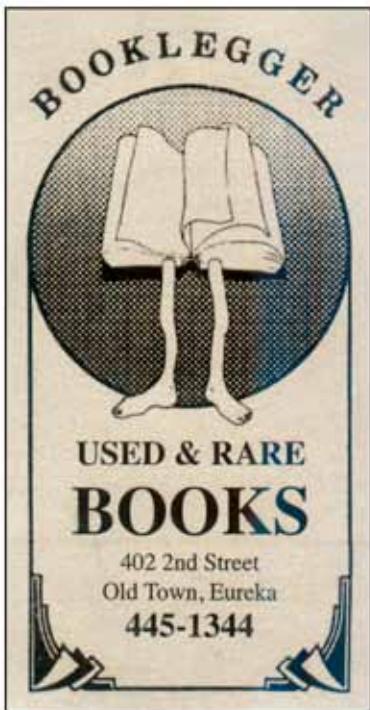
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- Gandhi



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Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56

## **Endorsements**

Jim Laden, Director, Learning and Volunteer Resources  
AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc

Maura Eastman, Director, Youth Services Division  
Redwood Community Action Agency

Liz Smith, MSW, Executive Director  
Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

February 13, 2012

Veterans for Peace  
Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest  
P.O. Box 532  
Bayside, CA 95524-0532

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of AFS Intercultural Programs/USA, I endorse the Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest.

We applaud and support like-minded organizations that encourage high school students to focus on peace in their communities and around the world. The goal of the contest is reflective of our mission: *AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.*

Thank you for providing this opportunity to youth in your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Jim Laden".

Jim Laden  
Director, Learning and Volunteer Resources

AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc.  
One Whitehall Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Tel: (800) 876-2376 Web: [www.afsusa.org](http://www.afsusa.org)



# Redwood Community Action Agency

April 6, 2012

Veterans for Peace  
Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest  
P.O. Box 532  
Bayside, CA 95524-0532

To Whom It May Concern:

The Youth Service Bureau of the Redwood Community Action Agency enthusiastically endorses the Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest.

The contest encourages local youth to reflect upon important issues challenging our community and nation and to express their insights through poetry. We applaud any effort that encourages youth to think for themselves and question standard assumptions. The process challenges myths and stereotypes and leads to a broader understanding of social justice.

Thank you for sponsoring this very worthwhile event.

Sincerely,

*Maura Eastman*  
Maura Eastman  
Director – Youth Service Bureau  
Redwood Community Action Agency



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE REDWOODS

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April 14, 2011

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We empower youth to reach their full potential as responsible, caring and productive citizens through professionally led programs and activities that are fun, positive and relevant in a safe, supportive and healthy environment.

*Vision:*

We envision healthy, empowered and engaged youth who appreciate and respect themselves, each other, their families, the community and the environment.

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Liz Smith, MSW

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Veterans for Peace

Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest  
P.O. Box 532  
Bayside, CA 95524-0532

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your commitment to promoting peace locally and abroad and by including our young people by hosting a Peace Poetry Contest. On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods, I enthusiastically endorse this contest.

Encouraging youth to deal with issues of unrest and adversity and to be able to challenge these issues through artistic means is empowering and a reminder that as our future leaders, they have the power to effect monumental change.

Sincerely,

Liz Smith, MSW  
Executive Director

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



*Be on the look-out for the next  
Peace Poetry Contest  
in early 2013!*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest**



**THE HUMBOLDT BAY CHAPTER OF VETERANS FOR PEACE**

*Invites*

**Humboldt County High School Students**

to submit an original poem directly focusing on  
peace; the abolition of war, hate, or violence; or peace-making in our communities.

*Peace even in times of unrest should be the goal of all human communities.  
This contest is an attempt to focus on peace in a very troubled world.*

Entries must be received not later than 5 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2012

Entrants will receive a copy of the **2012 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology**  
and are encouraged to present their poetry at the  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Peace Poetry Celebration** to be held Friday, May 4, 2012.

Cash prizes will be awarded to three written entries.

There will also be a cash award for the "Best Presentation" that  
conveys the meaning of the author's written poem.

To qualify, the presentation must be made by the author at the Peace Poetry Celebration in May.

***See reverse side of this announcement for submission requirements.***  
or visit the VFP web site at [www.vfp56.org](http://www.vfp56.org)

The Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest is sponsored by the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace, Inc., the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Humboldt Chapter, Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee, Dell'Arte International, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Humboldt Chapter, and is supported in part by a grant from the Carl Nielson Memorial Fund, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation. Submissions remain the property of the respective authors. Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 is granted an unrestricted license for reuse at its discretion.

*Be on the look-out for the next  
Peace through Art Contest  
in early 2013!*

## **Redwood Coast “Peace through Art” Contest**



“Lennon Wall” – Prague, Czech Republic (2009)

### **THE HUMBOLDT BAY CHAPTER OF VETERANS FOR PEACE**

*Invites*

### **Humboldt County High School Students**

to submit an original piece of artwork or photography depicting and focusing on peace; the abolition of war, hate, or violence; or peace-making in our communities.

*Peace even in times of unrest should be the goal of all human communities.  
This contest is an attempt to focus on peace in a very troubled world.*

Entries must be received not later than 5 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2012

All entries will be displayed during the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Peace Poetry Celebration**.

One entry may be chosen for the cover of the **2012 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology**.

Other entries may be used inside the anthology and selected entries may be circulated for display at public venues.

All entrants are encouraged to attend the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Peace Poetry Celebration** to be held Friday, May 4, 2012.

Entrants whose artwork is featured in the anthology will receive a copy of the publication.

**Cash prizes may be awarded to three entries.**

***See reverse side of this announcement for submission requirements.***

or visit the VFP web site at [www.vfp56.org](http://www.vfp56.org)

The Redwood Coast “Peace through Art” Contest is sponsored by the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace, Inc., The Ink People Center for the Arts, the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Humboldt Chapter, the Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee, Dell’Arte International, and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom Humboldt Chapter, and is supported in part by a grant from the Carl Nielsen Memorial Fund, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation. Submissions remain the property of the respective artist/photographer. Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 is granted an unrestricted license for reuse at its discretion.

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# PEACE POETRY

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