

2014
Redwood
Coast Peace
Poetry
Anthology

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2014 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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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 dear friend, peace activist,
and extraordinary human being

June Thompson

1926 - 2013

June lived actively engaged as a learner, teacher, author and curator of the arts, quintessential volunteer, and activist, particularly in the anti-nuclear movement. She and her husband Bill were founding members of Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 and supported many of the events organized by VFP and other local activist groups. The dynamic duo could often be found singing and playing music, leading the crowd with their strong voices for the sake of solidarity and peace.

June was an amazing and principled woman who not only conceived, but also believed and then achieved much of what she felt needed to be done to address social justice issues, particularly war and the use of nuclear weapons, even if it meant going to jail. We are grateful for her presence and participation in our lives and community and her lifelong commitment to enlighten us and work for a more peaceful and just world. Our love and thanks to June for all her contributions in making this world a better and more loving place.

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.

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix	<i>Peace in Color</i>	Rhiannen Rudick	13
<i>Game of Kings</i>	1	<i>Anyone Can Share Peace</i>	Ellen Thompson	14
<i>Calamity</i>	2	<i>Turbulence, Need of Peace</i>	Francim Aguilar	15
<i>World of Smiles</i>	3	<i>Peace in the Valley</i>	Cameron Lewis	16
<i>Fading a World</i>	4	<i>Fragments</i>	Madeleine Easthouse	17
<i>peace is a funny thing</i>	5	<i>TRANQUILITY</i>	Felicity Mindus	18
<i>Poem for unity.</i>	6	<i>Kindness Shall Prevail</i>	Amanda Lowry	19
<i>Drip</i>	7	<i>Dreaming</i>	Madeline Nutter	20
<i>Them and Us</i>	8	<i>Piece of Peace</i>	Tyton Toste	22
<i>The Endless War</i>	10	<i>I Hear America</i>	Julia Sloan	23
<i>Contradiction of the Conscience</i> - Bella Leopardo	11	<i>True Peace</i>	Michael George Kellen Jones	24
<i>Unending</i>	12	Advertisers		25
		Appendix		35

Acknowledgments

The Veterans Education and Outreach Project (VEOP),
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The VEOP Committee gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Curtis Gillis Trust, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation; the assistance of VFP Chapter 56; and Chapter members that helped make this contest a rousing success.

Game of Kings

The blood, infection, desolate minds,
Broken hearts, that “duty” binds.
The death, and pain, and empty hearths,
Never the same, at a sound they’ll dart.
Poisoned homes, and lives destroyed,
To those high up, we’re pawns, mere toys.
For war is a gamble of highest stakes,
And we know that the house always wins,
And in a game like this, where the cards are marked,
We’ll only win, if we don’t play in.

Gaia Steinfeld-DeNisi
Northcoast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy
Arcata, California

Calamity

The beauty of life was once true.
Every second a cherishing moment,
Days empty of hateful thoughts,
Incapable of sin and murder.
A world to which faith persisted,
No longer exists.
And to points of bloodshed,
Greed fills the cup of the soul,
Morphing the once calm society rampant.
Brothers turn on brothers and friends turn on friends,
The lives of those once faithful turn away,
From the neighbors regrettably unfriended.
War and chaos takes everything with no settle greeting,
To the point that weapons no longer exist,
Humanity no longer exists,
And all that remains are the cries of our mother.
For even nature is left with nothing.

Cheyenne Keith
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

World of Smiles

We need a world of smiles,
to blossom from our lips
to grow and thrive and flourish
so never a chance one slips.
We need a world of smiles,
to save the human race,
since a sea of them can soak
compassion in each face.

Compassion needs our voices,
to spread its call for peace,
to yell and scream and blunder
for all hatred to cease.
Compassion needs our voices,
ringing with honesty,
in order to announce this
happiness prophesy.

Ellen Thompson
Northcoast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy
Arcata, California

Fading a World

Click

The trigger, the chamber, the bullet, the barrel;
An object of beauty, protection, hope.
He stands there— Acidic smoke curls; deafness— And they fall.

Click

The pictures, the memories, the stories
A representation of someone, their life, their world.
They fall there— Rich blood flows; sightless— And he stands.

Feeling

The trigger the chamber, the bullet, the barrel— The pictures, the memories, the stories;
Coinciding for a moment.
Life has ended.

Watching

The light, the eye, the brain;
Imprinting an image.
Rich blood flows, he dies.

Dying

The light, the eye, the brain;
Fading a world.
Acidic smoke curls, he lives.

Skyler Wrigley
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

*** Third Honors Award Recipient for Poetry ***

peace is a funny thing

peace
peace is a funny thing.
it's not very *easily* obtained.

when i think of peace.
i don't think of abusive homes,
i don't think of war.
i don't think of the judgment and ridicule found for some in schools.

i think of acceptance.
i think of troops hugging their children,
their families.
i think of someone going home without fear.

the funny thing about peace is.
it's nearly impossible to obtain.
we can do things to chase it,
to work towards it.
but there will **always** be something,
that disturbs it.

everybody *wants* peace,
but the means to obtain that peace,
to keep that peace.
would be *anything* but
peaceful.

April Abbott
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

Poem for unity.

Let the words roll off your back,
And get up off your knees.

Brush off the dust,
And find someone you trust.

Don't be wary, tell someone,
It really soothes the soul.

Tell someone soon, before it's too late.
Don't let your loved ones pay your toll.

Morgan Irene Middleton
East High School
Fortuna, California

drip

drip, drip, drip
the february Rain splats
on the window pane the beautiful
sound of Rain is like singing bird
on a beautiful Summer day the
day IS peaceful and ever so
delightful Peace is what I
fight for soul, mind, and body
Peace IS a AMAZing thing

Whitney Hodge
Alder Grove Charter School
Eureka, California

Them and Us

An old pair of tennis
Her high heels tucked away,
The sirens blare and the night wakes
One is fighting, one is wondering

He runs to the gate
Just moments ago killing,
Both sides are losing,
We can stop it with love

A few months before they sat under a tree
It's gone now, only a distant memory
Now she looks out the apartment, alone

Glancing at the clock and counting the days,
Another minute, another tear, drip, tock
They look out there windows hand on the glass, wishing for each other
Loving each other they can't wait to see each other again

Meanwhile he stares at his family
He fights to protect them
He wishes he didn't have to
He fights for their safety

The women must watch their men leave
Can the fight be won with blood?
Why doesn't the other side understand?
All I want is peace, love, and life

They wave goodbye
He turns away, slowly,
His country needs him
They must win at all costs

The family cries together, she cries alone
Why does his country need him?
Why can't they try again with words?

She cries in a white dress, alone
She must be strong for the kids
He had to go– they needed him
She needed him more

The storms begins and the rain pours down
Plip plop–, the angels' tears
They wash away the blood
Both blame the other for letting him go, for taking him away

Two holes in ground dug in the rain
Two men, two women
Two are gone, two cry at night
Two had to go, two couldn't save them

Every drop a memory
A sunny day, so warm and cheerful
A kiss, so soft and loving
A promise of coming home– broken

Drip, drop, plip, plop
The treaty has been signed
The last to go his tennis,
But, his memory will still haunt, forevermore

Rebekka Nielson
Fortuna Union High School
Fortuna, California

The Endless War

I call this the endless war,
it's nothing we haven't seen before.
Sorrow, anger, and grieving,
that's all we're ever receiving.
Though we have won in the past,
nothing ever seems to last.
Freedom came with a cost,
but it still seems that the world is at a loss,
Truth be said and done,
I feel like we have never won.
We don't care for others,
fathers abandon our mothers.

People get murdered daily.
Have you heard the greatest gossip lately?
Everyone is hurting.
Everyone's in pain.
I really hope that we figure it out one day.
If we don't fix this place,
we will never have peace or grace.

Emma Radley
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

Contradiction of the Conscience

A friend passes and
My tears fall
Head bows
Heart sinks
I feel an overwhelming sadness
An ache

But when they tell me it was
2 million
20 million
50 million
I don't even blink

What is a number to me?
I should feel something
A sadness
An ache
But the numbers mean nothing

So I ease through my life as if there is no injustice
While in another universe
A child without a mother cries
And a soldier in misery dies
Yet we continue to solve conflict with death

Bella Leopardo
Arcata High School
Arcata, California
*** First Honors Award Recipient for Poetry ***

Unending

Loser!

They yell.

Freak!

Everyday the same chant of the unoppressed.

Boom.

Boom.

Boom.

My heart thumps in overtime.

The numbness endures

Bright fluorescent lights overtake my eyes.

In a spotlight of my own

I stand in fear.

Crash.

Bang.

Ha!

Cold hard metal that knows my face
all too well.

I fall to the ground
at the hands of the demons
as their laughs
pierce through
my soul.

Karissa Bradley
Arcata High School
Arcata, California



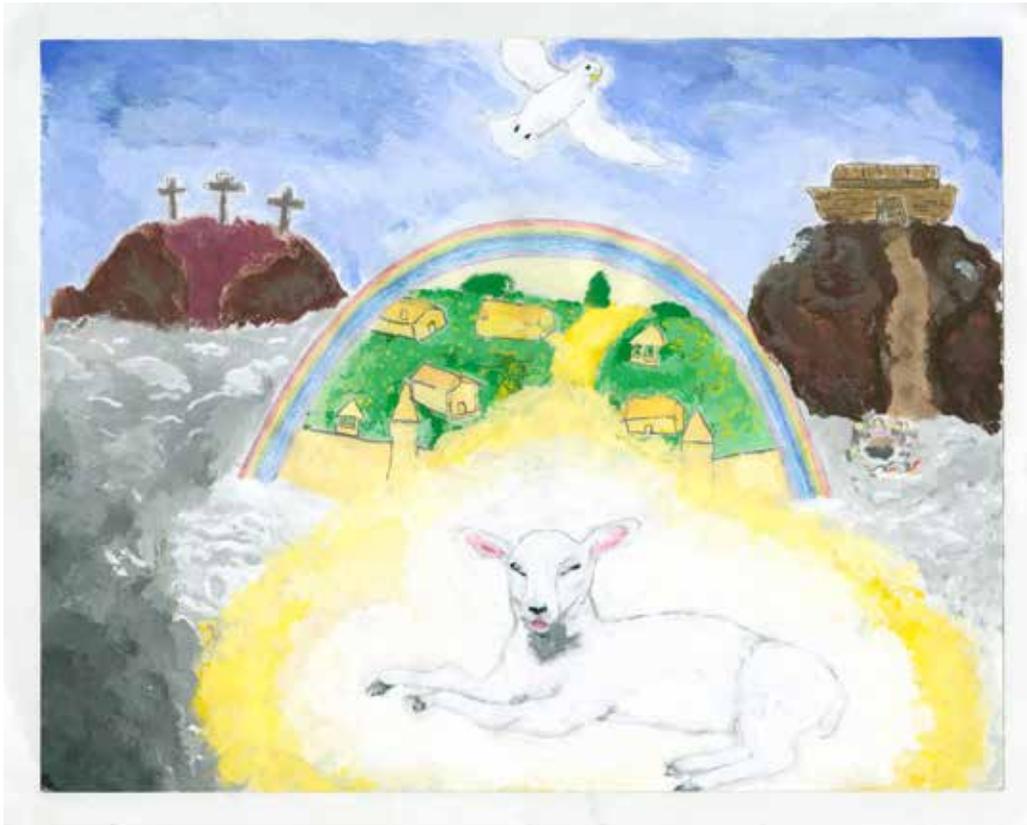
“Peace in Color”
by Rhiannon Rudick
Eureka Senior High School
Eureka, California



“Anyone Can Share Peace” by Ellen Thompson, Northcoast Preparatory & Performing Arts Academy, Arcata, California
*** First Honors Award Recipient for Art ***



“Turbulence, Need of Peace” by Francim Aguilar, Eureka Senior High School, Eureka, California
*** Second Honors Award Recipient for Art ***



“Peace in the Valley” by Cameron Lewis, North Coast Learning Academy, Eureka, California

Fragments

There are bombs falling over the world
Bombs made of glass, of fire, of bullets, of harshness and neglect
Bombs that come in all shapes and sizes.

A sharp word and a blow from a fist with a flag tattooed across the knuckles
Propaganda emblazoned on foreheads
Bombs walking in quick succession
Back and forth
With helmets as skin, stones for eyes, and a serpent in place of the tongue
These are your protectors.

There are children in those fields, among those landmines
There are people behind the front of an enemy nation
Do you think these men, the men with marble eyes
Do you think they have seen the eyes of a child behind a fence
Laced with glass and bearing a barbed wire crown?

This child, she would cry out for peace if she could
And she does
It's written in the planes of her face As it is in all
humanity
We scream
We protest
We march side by side

But so do they, these soldiers
They care nothing of your cries for peace
Saying it's the only way

They are bombing
For peace, they say.

How much longer?

Madeleine Easthouse
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

*** Second Honors Award Recipient for Poetry ***

TRANQUILITY

Take my hands, as we gaze into the dusky heavens,
Reaching up, grasping stars, without bombs dropping in response.
A tear of broken heart, will become a tear of simple merriment.
No longer will judgment cloud the vision of the people about us.
Quarrels between enemies will evaporate, leaving only alliance.
Unyielding serenity, can envelope all universal galaxies.
In every small seed, grows a iridescent tree, reflecting people as separately unique, for
Life can be like the leaves, swaying in an undulating breeze.
Innocence is serenity, forgiveness is another, because
Thoughts of the past's echoes, are left to be unchanged,
Yet years of the near future, of honest tranquility, can be arranged.

Felicity Mindus
Eureka Senior High School
Eureka, California

Kindness Shall Prevail

I believe that people need help

People in the streets that are starving and cold and lost

Divinity and Peace can be found in the Hearts of People. Help them care and be found.

I believe in showing the world Kindness and the world will show some in return.

Just because they don't know what is inside you, or your life. Keep your heads up,

show the world a little kindness

And that's what I believe will bring us peace.

Amanda Lowry
East High School
Fortuna, California

Dreaming

Tapping my foot impatiently I'm waiting for the moon to tell the sun to come back
Tomorrow, not because I've been yawning all day

But I want to dream.

As the moon clocks in to take the nightly shift I
hope when I close my eyes I'll talk
to my grandpa and it will seem real.

The moon sweeps the clouds so the stars make the sky floor shine while I dream.
And when I look around my environment changes to a familiar ballpark I
Feel a hand hold mine, I look up and ramble about if I learned anything the past couple days.

In the game we're watching the outs are being made too fast to be real.
I ask him if the games are back to back
His answer is unclear so I speed up the talking.

I look at the scoreboard and back
to him and it's the ninth inning and he and I
Both know when the last out is made the dream
Will be over and I'll wake up to the world that's real.
He tells me he'll go soon and I just keep trying to talk
More. It's time for him to slowly fade back
And for me to jolt awake into the day.

Not many people stay up all night and lean back
To watch the moon work because it's not in the day.
But when you do appreciate it the moon seems to modestly say "I
Am glad you got the chance to see me again." That's how my grandpa talks.
I'm lucky I still talk to him in my dreams,
But I miss not being able to talk to him anytime I want to for real.

A night to appreciate comes and I
Notice as we're talking in the dream
We are taking big strides down a hill that back
When he was here he couldn't take any day.
I mentioned that his limp was gone while we talked
And he laughs with a smile that is real.

I don't know how many days it will take 'til we'll talk.
He'll be back to visit in another dream.
And I'll be glad I had the chance to see him again for real.

Madeline Nutter
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

Piece of Peace

You want a piece of peace

An earned reward and treat

After blood and struggle

And constant battle

Take from the body of peace

Tyton Toste
East High School
Fortuna, California

I Hear America

I hear America telling anyone who will listen it's personal beliefs

While America sits there and refuse to listen

America loses sight of tradition, family, and what is important

While America complains about what it's become

America moves on to wishing for more before being finished appreciating what it has

America forgets to say please and thank you,

to say sorry and excuse me

America judges whines and complains

I thought this was the home of the brave?

Julia Sloan
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

*** Honorable Mention Award Recipient for Poetry ***

TRUE PEACE

PEACE IS A VISION AND A TRUE REALITY
WHERE TIME IS FREE AND FLOWERS BLOOM
UNDERNEATH THY TREE THEY GROW
THOU THINK OF PEACE AND A HEART FULL OF JOY
FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE
TO THY SOUL



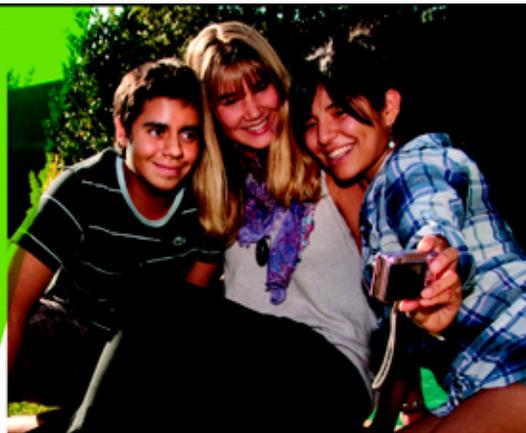
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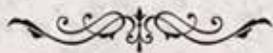
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Endorsements

Jim Laden, Director, Learning and Volunteer Resources

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Redwood Community Action Agency

Liz Smith, MSW, Executive Director

Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods

Fifth 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.

Entries must be received not later than 5 p.m., Friday, March 7, 2014

Cash prizes will be awarded.

Entrants will receive a copy of the **2014 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology** and are encouraged to present their poetry at the **Fifth Annual Peace Poetry & Art Celebration** to be held Sunday, May 4, 2014.

See reverse side of this announcement for contest details.
or visit the VFP web site at www.vfp56.org

The Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest is organized by the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace, Inc., and co-sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Humboldt Chapter, Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Humboldt Chapter, and the Ink People Center for the Arts. Submissions remain the property of the respective authors. Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 is granted an unrestricted license for reuse of submissions at its discretion.

2014 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.

Individual, Group or Class Projects are encouraged.

Entries must be received not later than 5 p.m., Friday, March 7, 2014

Cash prizes will be awarded.

Entrants will receive a copy of the **2014 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology** and are encouraged to introduce their artwork/photography at the **Fifth Annual Peace Poetry & Art Celebration** to be held Sunday, May 4 2014.

All entries will be displayed during the **Fifth Annual Peace Poetry & Art Celebration**. One entry may be chosen for the cover of the **2014 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology**. Other entries may be used inside the anthology and selected entries may be exhibited at public venues.

See reverse side of this announcement for contest details.
or visit the VFP web site at www.vfp56.org

The Redwood Coast "Peace through Art" Contest is organized by the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace, Inc., and co-sponsored by The Ink People Center for the Arts, Buddhist Peace Fellowship Humboldt Chapter, Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Humboldt Chapter. Submissions remain the property of the respective artist/photographer. Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 is granted an unrestricted license for reuse of submissions at its discretion.

"Lennon Wall" used by permission of the photographer, © by Michael Fenichel, www.fenichel.com/2010

5th Annual Redwood Coast Peace Poetry & Art Celebration

**PEACE
POETRY
& ART**

Sunday, May 4, 2014 ~ 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is FREE
All are welcome.

Authors and artists of the Peace Poetry and Art Contest will present their works.


 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom


 The Ink People Center for the Arts


 Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56


 Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee


 Buddhist Peace Fellowship of Humboldt County

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 22 Fellowship Way, Bayside, CA
- a short distance along Jacoby Creek Road from the Bayside Garage

