

A photograph capturing a serene outdoor scene at dusk or night. In the foreground, a woman with short grey hair, wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and a white bandana tied around her neck, is seen from behind, placing a glowing lantern into a dark body of water. The lanterns are numerous, floating in a curved path across the water's surface. Some are brightly lit, while others are partially obscured by the dark water. In the background, two people are in a small boat on the left side of the frame. The setting is a natural landscape with dense green trees and hills under a clear sky.

**Redwood Coast  
Peace Poetry  
& Art**

**2017**



# Redwood Coast Peace Poetry & Art 2017

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

## Project Sponsors:



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Women's International League for Peace  
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Humboldt Branch



Untitled (Peace Heart)  
by Jonathon Chance  
Eureka High School, Eureka , California

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Mark Larson, photographer  
Arcata, California



**VETERANS FOR PEACE, INC.  
Humboldt Bay Chapter 56**

**announces**

**The Kit Crosby-Williams  
Veterans For Peace Scholarship**

**One Award in the Amount of \$1,000**

Kit Crosby-Williams provided the funds for this scholarship. A longtime resident of Humboldt County, she died April 21, 2015 at age 79 in Arcata. She was an Associate Member of Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56, and an advocate for human rights, environmental and land stewardship, and peace.

Candidates should be residents of Humboldt County, preferably upper division undergraduate or graduate students, demonstrating financial need. Applications must include an essay (one page or less), discussing the candidate's commitment to advancing peace at home and abroad, and detailing past and present peace-related activities.

Applications available from January 15, 2018 to March 15, 2018 @  
**[www.hafoundation.org](http://www.hafoundation.org)**

*Peace even in times of  
unrest should be the goal of  
all human communities.  
The Redwood Coast Peace  
Poetry and Art Project is  
an attempt to focus on  
peace in a very troubled  
world.*

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## **Chased Dreams**

Peace is a dream always being chased.

While the world is a decidedly violent place,  
people say peace is the only solution.

The world is so diverse, and they say all its peoples are good.

But the things that distinguish one culture from the next are  
The same things that define one morality from the rest, and  
Peace would force all those differences together.

Like the host of a reunion, it would force them to coexist.

How can questions like religion or abortion or government control  
Be answered with one statement that will satisfy us all?

Those questions are simply no or yes.

There can't be an answer seen by all to be the best.

Arguments which divide us also strengthen us on our own because  
We feel *passion*.

The kind boiling in our blood to tell us to stand up for what we believe;  
Passion, the same which can turn friends to enemies.

When you hurt someone with your passion,

You find how freeing and dangerous it is at once.

My point? I will never abandon my beliefs – they are who I am –  
But there will always be someone who disagrees with them.

Don't get me wrong. I want peace. Like everyone else

I sometimes think if I reach out far enough, I'll touch it.

And then, a pebble creates ripples, maybe a stone.

Something tremendous happens,

Leaving us trying to grab at something we know we no longer can.

I want my children to grow up in a world without seasons of violence –  
Without winters of war and summers of hate.

I don't want to see young people, dirt-stained and bloodied,

Crying because they lost their homes. Yes, I want peace.

But people, they're broken. Like raw spaghetti, they can snap.

Like yesterday's homework, they can be crumpled.

Sure, like a candle, they shine, but they can also be snuffed out.

While we've always chased peace, it has never been realized.

Never. Not once. Not with the whole world on the same side.

It makes you wonder about humanity and the future of this dream.

Now comes the part where I say I didn't mean to leave you without hope.

For while there's one thing we can agree on, that peace isn't coming now,  
And that people have ruined their chances for trust repeatedly,

I still believe in their kindness, that we can make this dream come true.

But we need more time, more people with us from all walks of life.

I'll have to wait it out for utopia, I'll have to bide my time.

So I'll *have* to enjoy the small peace in my life now.

I'm talking *having* to enjoy my parents' love, and

When my sister is on speaking terms with me. Yes, I'll be *forced*  
To hug my friends back, to laugh at their jokes.

I'll be *compelled* to like the smell of the ocean, and the taste of the sky.

To *have* to love wildflowers and laying in meadows,  
for a better view of the clouds,

I'll be *coerced* to smile at the wind and to love the trees,  
And how the light shines golden through redwood leaves.

We all will have to settle for this small peace.

Not world-changing, history-making peace

Because it all has to start somewhere. With individuals driven by passions.  
And starting with our love isn't a hard way to chase that dream.

Jewel Blanchard  
Saint Bernard's Academy

# STOP THE WAR!



## Revelation

I was sitting and staring at a screen  
where I can see everything  
I was talking to that screen about how beautiful my life is  
And that screen said,  
“Oh kid, you are such a careless girl, you don’t even know about this world”  
I said  
“What do you mean? I know everything. I am an educated person”  
The screen was quiet  
and just showed me something  
I saw a couple guys bringing guns  
walking really fast with cruel faces  
I heard a boom sound  
crying and guns shooting  
I smelled smoke  
blood and death  
Kids were walking around  
to find their families  
An old man was falling  
Another man was walking with his head bleeding  
I saw a woman hugging her daughter  
putting her daughter to sleep forever  
Her daughter looked so peaceful  
Because she left this horrible place  
I don’t know where it was  
But I was glad I didn’t live there  
I realized I was so blind  
I was too arrogant  
I just cared about myself  
when people needed me to help  
I told the screen about my revelation  
I can share the message of peace  
Maybe this is one way I can make the world better

Marselina Marcel  
Six Rivers Charter High School

# MAKE PEACE



## The Courageous Soldier

He is looking out on the field of chaos,  
People spread about like pieces of broken glass,  
With bullets whizzing and swords sparring,  
The bloodbath covering what was once beautiful, vivid grass.

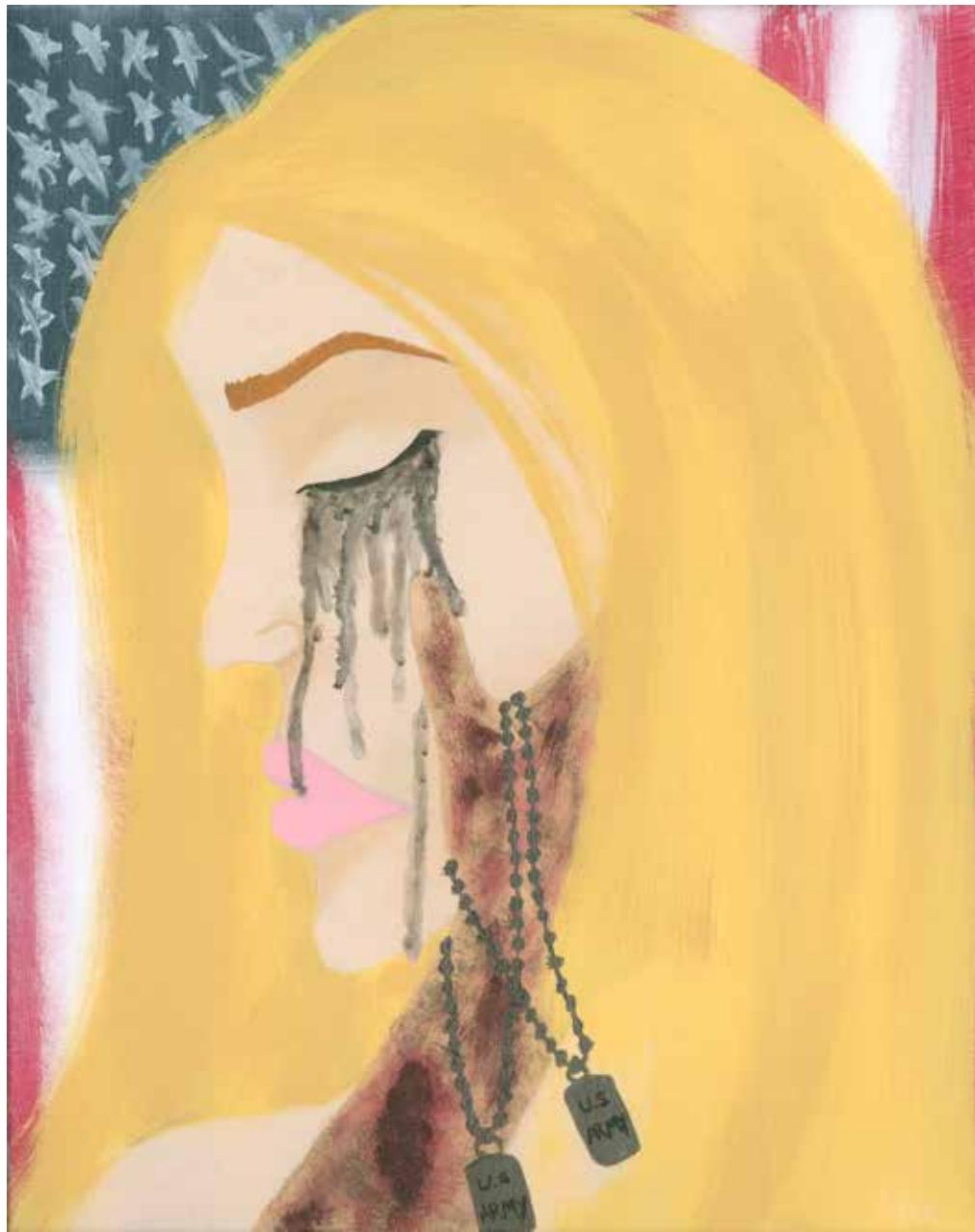
They fought like animals.  
He was petrified at what was below him.  
Why would brethren go at each other like savages?  
Has their common sense grown dim?  
He wants to defend himself for what is waiting back home,  
But the purpose has grown hazy for them.

He did not want to push forward,  
But it is inevitable for him to fight.  
And so he rode into battle atop his steed,  
Moving through the pine branches as if he were a bird in flight,  
But he still had fear in his heart,  
Making everything seem to blur from sight.

And quickly memories shot back into his brain,  
Carriage rides through cobblestone streets,  
Children playing at his side,  
And a woman smiling at him beautifully,  
Blue skies reflecting off the sea by the port,  
His heart burned with a blazing heat.

But this wasn't just any fire,  
For this is what made him not regret, but fight instead,  
Because courage is not the absence of fear,  
But fearing what lies ahead,  
And facing it against all odds.  
Because the ones we love are most important in our heads.

Michaela Childs  
Eureka High School



"A Soldier's Beloved"  
by Rachael Livingston  
Eureka High School

### A Soldier's Beloved

There is an erroneous war inside my head  
I've tried to control it, but have failed  
And without him I may be dead  
He is my peace

When my thoughts consume me  
Dropping atom bombs throughout my battered skull  
A glimpse of his face makes the pandemonium cease  
My heart he has surely stole  
He is my peace

When the mirror becomes an enemy  
And self-hatred takes rusty daggers to my soul  
He restrains their blades with ease  
As off his tongue fall words of gold  
He is my peace

When I'm terrified of my own subconscious mind  
And the bloodshed of insecurity causes me to tremor  
He takes my hands in his  
I feel invulnerable to danger  
He is my peace

When my emotions fill my vision with teargas soaked lies  
And I begin to crumble  
The compassion in his sun colored eyes  
Forces my doubts and worries down to only a mumble  
He is my peace

Amidst all the anguish and destruction  
He fills my life with light  
And only with him I have placidity  
My mind, heart, and soul drip gratification  
He is my peace

He suppresses the bloody battle roaring in my head  
When we're together nothing could be more divine  
But he's been called to war so I must return to mine  
He is my peace

My peace is gone

Rachael Livingston  
Eureka High School



### For Freedom, Equality and Love

I stare at his smile,  
I value his laugh.  
But everytime I hear his voice crack,  
I know it's all an act.

I see the facts.  
How deep down he's sad.  
At home when he's all alone,  
He cries and wants to be dead.

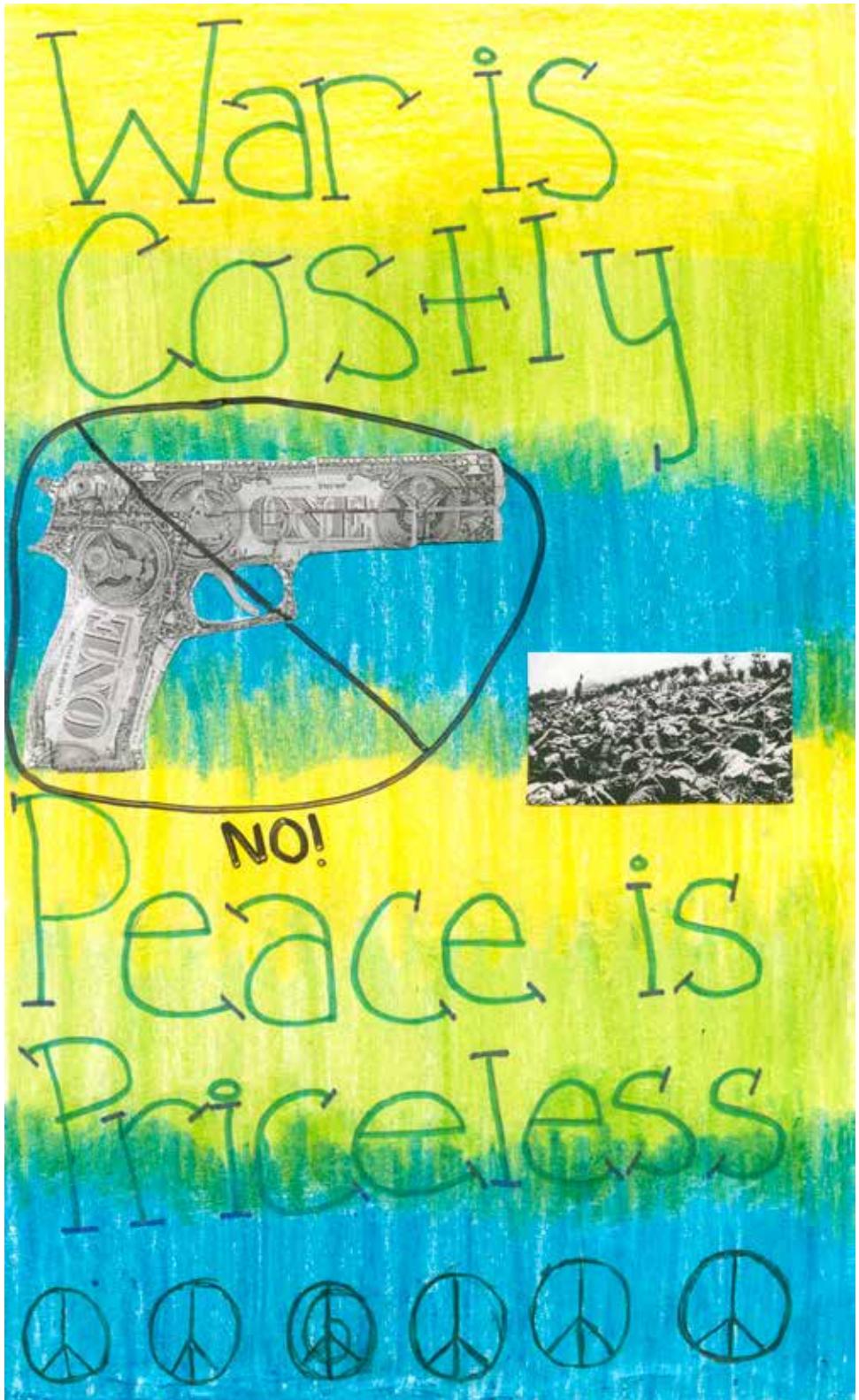
He's beautiful, In every single way that he's not.  
He'll never believe me,  
Because love for self has been long lost.

He will never understand  
Just what I see,  
Because I'll never tell him,  
And it'll never be.

I'm in love with him,  
But the world will never know,  
Because I'm a he, too.

Deja Sirca  
Eureka High School





### Ambivalent Flame

A glorious flame are we,  
Raging furiously in the night.  
The pits of hell burning bright;  
The world bathed in gray  
With torment and dismay.

Anticipating the sacrificial fuel,  
Our machine works on like a mule.  
This flame of war sent from above—  
Sated only with death and lack of love.

But what fools are we!

The flame can be used to warm the old  
The flame can be used to feed the poor  
The flame can be used to repel the dark  
To see the light, work through the night.

But we let the flame use us.

The Titan Prometheus gifted man fire:  
Never with thoughts of damnation nor ire.  
Instead believing in preservation, salvation.

A mere candle in the night  
Can make all the difference with its light.

Alex W. Fridley  
Eureka High School

# Peace



# I want

## I Don't

I don't understand,  
Said a small young boy  
As he clung to his mother's skirt  
When statues like men, who deliver death,  
Stood silhouetted in the doorway  
I don't understand  
Cried a girl of her teen age  
When the men raised their rifles  
Shooting the sorrow into the air  
Burying her grief six feet under  
While the despair rang in her ears  
I don't understand  
Screamed a woman and wife  
As she fell to her knees  
Hearing her lover couldn't find his way home  
From a front line fight, furious with patriotic men  
Like her own  
I don't understand  
Thought a man, in the prime of his timed life,  
Laying in a trench with consistent various booms  
That shook his being, pondering if this moment will be his last,  
Last breath, last heartbeat  
Fingering the picture of his love back home  
I'm lost and I don't understand  
Why we are murdering,  
Why we rob the houses  
Their communion of their loved ones company  
Fathers, Mothers, people  
I don't understand said I,  
Why we are playing reaper  
Walking across pools of blood as if we are anything but human.

Felicity Mindus  
Eureka High School



"Where Have All the Young Men Gone"  
by Fiona Seibert  
Six Rivers Charter High School  
Arcata, California

### Heartbeats

Heartbeats speak with every beat.

They speak of peace

That they cannot reach,

Because they were never taught

To reach for the better.

Some people will talk idly of peace;

While they rage wars in their heads

Not believing peace can be reached.

That it's an illusion given to make us feel.

Others truly believe in peace.

The ones whose minds are calm

Believing peace can stop the pain

Caused by our pride and hate.

Peace can stop the illusion we've put over our eyes

So we can finally admit;

Everything is not alright.

But peace will overcome

Every bad outcome,

Every little doubt,

For our heartbeats scream for peace

And who are we to deny the heart.

The heart beats with that of the world.

The world is who we are;

Everyone of us are defined by this planet

Whose heartbeat is as loud as ours.

Seraphina Dollar  
Eureka High School

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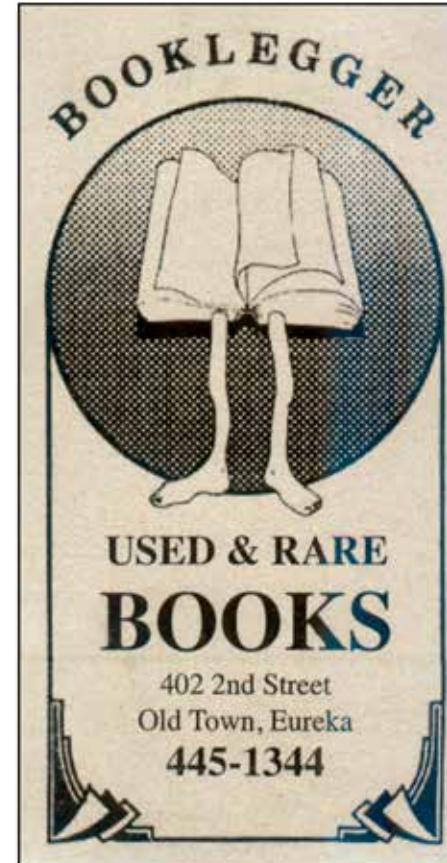


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Our County's High School Students

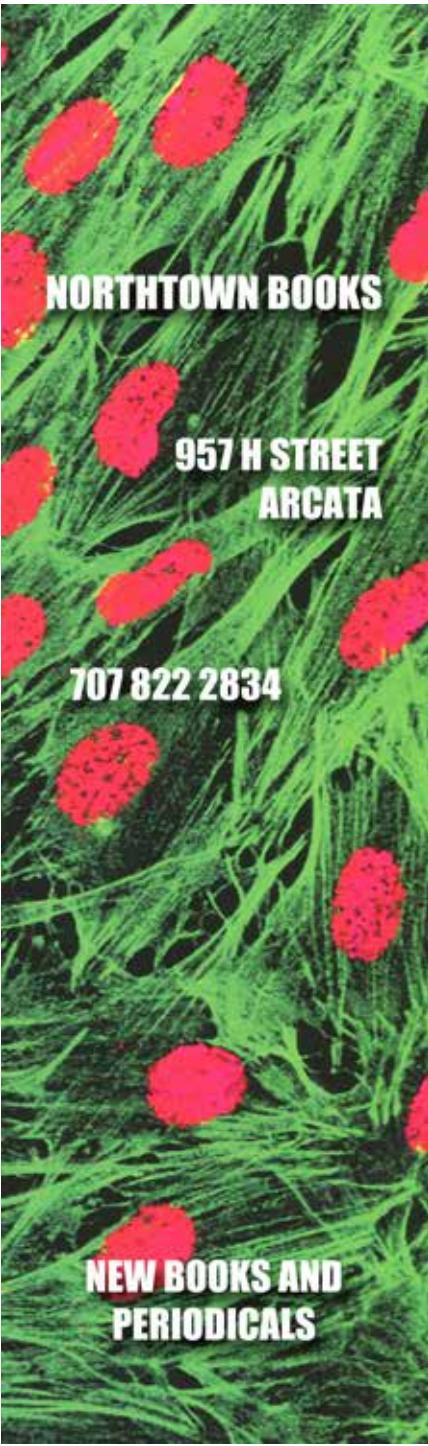


### **Humboldt WILPF** **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is women and men working for peace in branches worldwide since 1915. Our Humboldt Branch sponsors various local peace-related activities. Our projects include:

- o Edilith Eckart Memorial Peace Scholarship each spring
- o International Women's Day Celebration March 8th
- o Jane Addams Children's Book Award books to local libraries
- o July 4th used book sale
- o Co-sponsor of International Day of Peace September 21st, the Arcata Floating Lantern Ceremony in August and this Peace through Art Project
- o Supporting other community peace and justice organizations

We meet monthly and welcome new members. Email us at [wilpf@humboldt1.com](mailto:wilpf@humboldt1.com). More info at [humboldtwilpf.wordpress.com](http://humboldtwilpf.wordpress.com) and [www.wilpfus.com](http://www.wilpfus.com)



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## **BUDDHIST PEACE FELLOWSHIP**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship (BPF), founded in 1978, is to serve as a catalyst for socially engaged Buddhism. Our purpose is to help beings liberate themselves from the suffering that manifests in individuals, relationships, institutions, and social systems. BPF's programs, publications, and practice groups link Buddhist teachings of wisdom and compassion with progressive social change.

## **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.

# **WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM**

## Mission Statement

WILPF members create the peaceful transformation they wish to see in the world by making connections that:

Provide continuity with the past so that knowledge of historical events and patterns informs current activism for change.

Create analysis and action that reflect and reinforce each other.

Link and challenge root causes of oppression, especially racism, sexism, heterosexism, militarism economic disparity, and political disempowerment.

Build and strengthen relationships and movements for justice, peace, and radical democracy.



"Stop War! Stop Hate"  
by Maurice Alvarado  
Eureka High School  
Eureka, California



"Pass Peace Forward"  
by Marselina Marcel  
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