



VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
CHAPTER 56

THE FOGHORN

JUNE
2011

“Cutting Through the Fog of War”

BLOOD ON THE TRACKS: The Life And Times of S. Brian Willson

By S. Brian Willson
Introduction: Daniel Ellsberg

“We are not worth more, they are not worth less.” This is the mantra of S. Brian Willson and the theme that runs throughout his compelling psycho-historical memoir. Willson’s story begins in small-town, rural America, where he grew up as a “Commie-hating, baseball-loving Baptist,” moves through life-changing experiences in Viet Nam, Nicaragua and elsewhere, and culminates with his commitment to a localized, sustainable lifestyle.

In telling his story, Willson provides numerous examples of the types of personal, risk-taking, nonviolent actions he and others have taken in attempts to educate and effect political change: tax refusal, fasting, and obstruction tactics. It was such actions that thrust Brian Willson into the public eye in the mid-’80s, first as a participant in a high-profile, water-only “Veterans Fast for Life” against the Contra war being waged by his government in Nicaragua. Then, on a fateful day in September 1987, the world watched in horror as Willson was run over by a U.S. government munitions train during a nonviolent blocking action in which he expected to be removed from the tracks and arrested.

Throughout his personal journey Willson struggles with the question, “Why was it so easy for me, a ‘good’ man, to follow orders to travel 9,000 miles from home to participate in killing people who clearly were not a threat to me or any of my fellow citizens?” He eventually comes to the realization that the “American Way of Life” is AWOL from humanity, and that the only way to recover our humanity is by changing our consciousness, one individual at a time, while striving for collective cultural changes toward “less and local.” Thus, Willson offers up his personal story as a metaphorical map for anyone who feels the need to be liberated from the American Way of Life—a guidebook for anyone called by conscience to question continued obedience to vertical power structures while longing to reconnect with the human archetypes of cooperation, equity, mutual respect and empathy.

About S. Brian Willson: S. Brian Willson is a Viet Nam veteran whose wartime experiences transformed him into a revolutionary nonviolent pacifist. He gained renown as a participant in a prominent 1986 veterans fast on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. One year later, on September 1, 1987, he was again thrust into the public eye when he was run over and nearly killed by a U.S. Navy Munitions train while engaging in a nonviolent blockade in protest of weapons shipments to El Salvador. Since the 1980s he has continued efforts to educate the public about the diabolical nature of U.S. imperialism while striving to “walk his talk” (on two prosthetic legs and a three-wheeled handcycle) by creating a model of right livelihood including a simpler lifestyle.

About Daniel Ellsberg (Introduction): Daniel Ellsberg is a former United States military analyst who, while employed by the RAND Corporation, precipitated a national political controversy in 1971 when he released the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making about the Vietnam War, to The New York Times and other newspapers.

About the Publisher: PM Press was founded in 2007 as an independent publisher with a veteran staff boasting a wealth of experience in print and online publishing. We seek to create radical and stimulating fiction and non-fiction books, pamphlets, t-shirts, visual and audio materials to entertain, educate and inspire you. We aim to distribute these through every available channel with every available technology.

Subject Category:
Biography/ Politics-Activism/ U.S.
History

Price: \$20.00

ISBN: 978-1-60486-421-2

Page Count: 500

Size: 6 X 9

Format: Paperback

Publication Date: 05/11

Distributed By:
Independent Publishers Group
(312) 337-0747
www.ipgbook.com
◦ PM Press ◦
P.O. Box 23912
Oakland, CA 94623
www.pmpress.org

Submitted by Peter Aronson



Some Final Thoughts on the Death of Osama bin Laden ... a letter from Michael Moore

“The Nazis killed tens of MILLIONS. They got a trial. Why? Because we’re not like them. We’re Americans. We roll different.”
– Michael Moore in an interview Thursday, May 12th, 2011

This month, President Obama fulfilled a campaign promise and killed Osama bin Laden. Well he didn’t actually do the killing himself. It was carried out by a very brave and excellent team of Navy SEALs. Not only does Mr. Obama have the overwhelming support of the country, I think there are millions who gladly wish it could have been their finger on the gun that took out bin Laden.

When I heard the news a week ago Sunday, I immediately felt great. I felt relief. I thought of those who lost a loved one on 9/11. And I was glad we finally had a President who got something done. This is what I had to say on Twitter and elsewhere on the internet in that first hour or two:

I want to point out that Barack Obama took two years to do what Bush couldn’t do in over seven. That’s the difference between STUPID in charge and SMART in charge. STUPID pursues two reckless wars, lets OBL escape from Tora Bora, keeps looking for him in caves and invades the wrong country. He bankrupts us to the tune of \$1.2 trillion for the Iraq War (it will eventually actually be over \$3 trillion), and worse, he cost us the lives of almost 5,000 of our troops, not to mention hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan – and, after all that, he STILL couldn’t bring the perp to justice. In fact, in 2005, Bush closed down the CIA station that was devoted to looking for bin Laden! What does SMART do? He sends in a small elite strike force, no troops are killed, and the perpetrator is stopped for good.

I was thrilled that the Osama bin Laden era was over. There was now an end to the madness.

Being near Ground Zero that night, I decided to head over there and join with others who saw this event as a chance to have some closure. On 9/11, Bill Weems, a good and decent man I knew and worked with (we had just recently completed a shoot together in Boston), was on the plane that was flown into the Twin Towers. I dedicated ‘Fahrenheit 9/11,’ in part, to him.

But before leaving to go to the former World Trade Center site, I turned on the TV, and what I saw down at Ground Zero was not quiet relief and gratification that the culprit had been caught. Rather, I witnessed a frat boy-style party going on, complete with the shaking and spraying of champagne bottles over the crowd. I can completely understand people wanting to celebrate – like I said, I, too, was happy – but something didn’t feel right. It’s one thing to be happy that a criminal has been captured and dealt with. It’s an

other thing to throw a kegger celebrating his death at the site where the remains of his victims are still occasionally found. Is that who we are? Is that what Jesus would do? Is that what Jefferson would do? I was reminded of the tale told to me as a kid, of God’s angels singing with glee as the Red Sea came crashing back down on the Egyptians chasing the Israelites, drowning all of them. God rebuked them, saying, “The work of My hands is drowning in that sea – and you want to friggin’ sing?” (or something like that).

I remember my parents telling me how, on the day it was announced that Hitler was dead, there was no rejoicing in the streets, just private relief and satisfaction. The real celebration came six days later at the announcement that the war in Europe was over. THAT’S what the people wanted to hear – not just the demise of one evil madman, but the end to all the killing.

When the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, people didn’t pour into the streets to whoop it up. Yes, people were happy that it might help end the war, but there was not a public display of “Yip-pee! A hundred thousand Japs have been fried!” If they had done that, well, who could have blamed them after so many tens of thousands of their sons and fathers had been lost in the war (including my uncle, a paratrooper, killed by a sniper near Manila). But the sailor kissing the girl in Times Square was on August 14th, 1945, when the Japanese surrendered and the war was officially over. That’s when America went crazy with joy – not over a killing, but over an announcement of peace.

We are a different people now, aren’t we? Well, sorta. There was no bloodlust euphoria on the day Timothy McVeigh was executed. We were silent. The families of the Oklahoma City dead were silent, relieved. What is the difference between McVeigh and bin Laden, other than the number they slaughtered? I wonder. I think we know the answer.

Though bin Laden is dead, we are told that Orwell’s Permanent War – the “War on Terror” – must continue! Not allowed to have our V-J day and run into Times Square with exhilaration! No, there could be terrorists there. So all we’re left with is to cheer the death of one evil man, and that is supposed to make us feel powerful and good. There can be no celebration for the end of the Afghanistan War because the war isn’t ending. The war must continue! Even though our own CIA tells us there are no more than a few dozen al Qaeda left in Afghanistan. We still have 100,000 troops there fighting a few dozen crazies? We say we’re fighting the Taliban, too, but the Taliban are Afghan citizens, not an invading force, and, for better or worse, they seem to enjoy the support of many of the common people throughout Afghanistan. (If you don’t believe that, ask any soldier who has served there and seen it. Every day is like ‘Apocalypse Now.’ Poppies, anyone?)

Meanwhile, we – me, included – get lost in the weeds of how this one madman was killed. The official story from the Pentagon changed four times in the first four days! It went from OBL firing on

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the troops with one hand and using his wife as a human shield with the other, to, by the fourth day, not single person in the main house, including bin Laden, being armed when killed. Instantly, this created a lot of suspicion about what really happened, which itself was a distraction.

Here's my take: I know a number of Navy SEALs. In fact (and this is something I don't like to talk about publicly, for all the obvious reasons), I hire only ex-SEALs and ex-Special Forces guys to handle my own security (I'll let you pause a moment to appreciate that irony). These SEALs are trained to follow orders. I don't know what their orders were that night in Abbottabad, but it certainly looks like a job (and this is backed up in a piece in the Atlantic) where they were told to not bring bin Laden back alive. The SEALs are pros at what they do and they instantly took out every adult male (every potential threat) within a few minutes – but they also took care to not harm a single one of the nine children who were present. Pretty amazing. This wasn't some Rambo-style operation where they just went in guns blazing, spraying bullets. They acted swiftly and with expert precision. I'm telling you, these guys are so smart and so lethal, they could take you out with a piece of dental floss. (And in fact, one of my ex-SEAL guys showed me how to do that one night. Whoa.)

In a perfect world (yes, I would like to reside there someday, or at least next door to it, in Slightly Imperfect World), I would like the evildoers to be forced to stand trial in front of that world. I know a lot of people see no need for a trial for these bad guys (just hang 'em from the nearest tree!), and think trials are for sissies. "They're guilty, off with their heads!" Well, you see, that is the exact description of the Taliban/al Qaeda/Nazi justice system. I don't like their system. I like ours. And I don't want to be like them. In fact, the reason I like a good trial is that I like to show these bastards this is how it's done in a free country that believes in civilized justice. It's good for the rest of the world to see that, too. Sets a good example.

The other thing a trial does is, it establishes a very public and permanent historic record of the crimes against humanity. This is why we put the Nazis on trial in Nuremberg. We didn't do it for them. We did it for ourselves and for our grandchildren so that they would never forget these horrors and how they were committed. And we did it for the German people so they could see the evidence of what their elected leaders had done. Very helpful. Very necessary. Very powerful.

And for those who wanted blood back then – well, the majority of the Nazis all hanged in the end. So, it doesn't mean the bad guys get away – they still swing from the highest tree.

My own spiritual beliefs do not allow for capital punishment, and I was raised in the state (Michigan) that in the 1840s was the first government in the English-speaking world to outlaw it. So, I'm just not inclined that way. I don't believe in "an eye for an eye." I know the old book said that, but I like its sequel better (a rare case in which the sequel – like Godfather II, Star Trek II, Terminator II – is

better than the original). If you don't believe the way I believe (it's also the official position of the Catholic Church, for whatever that's worth these days), then that's your right, and I understand.

Perhaps there was no way to bring him back alive – I sure as hell wouldn't want to be in that dark house trying to make that snap decision. But if the execution was ordered in advance, then I say we should be told that now, and we can like it or not like it.

For nine years I wrote and I said that Osama bin Laden was not hiding in a cave. I'm not a cave expert, I was just using my common sense. He was a multimillionaire crime boss (using religion as his cover), and those guys just don't live in caves. He had people killed under the guise of religion, and not many in the media bothered to explain that every time Osama referenced Islam, he wasn't really quoting Islam. Just because Osama said he was a "Muslim" didn't make it so. Yet he was called a Muslim by everyone. If a crazy person started running around mass-killing people, and he did so while wearing a Wal-Mart blazer and praising Wal-Mart, we wouldn't automatically call him a Wal-Mart leader or say that Wal-Mart was the philosophy behind his killings, would we?

Yet, we began to fear Muslims and round them up. We profiled people from Muslim nations at airports. We didn't profile multi-millionaires (in fact, they now have their own fast-track line to easily get through security, an oddity considering every murderer on 9/11 flew in first class). We didn't run headlines that said "Multi-Millionaire Behind the Mass Murder of 3,000" (although every word in that headline is true). You can say his wealth had nothing to do with 9/11, but the truth is, there is no way he could have kept Al Qaeda in business without having the millions he had.

Some believe that this was a "war" we were in with al Qaeda – and

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**Next VFP56 meeting will be held
on Thursday, June 2nd at
7:00 PM.
Meeting will be held in the
Commons Room at 550 Union
Street in Arcata.
Veterans and non-veterans are
more than welcome to come and
help us dialogue about what we to-
gether can do to bring about peace
in this complex world.**



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you don't do trials during war. It's thinking like this that makes me fear that, while bin Laden may be dead, he may have "won" the bigger battle. Let's be clear: There is no "war with al Qaeda." Wars are between nations. Al Qaeda was an organization of fanatics who committed crimes. That we elevated them to nation status – they loved it! It was great for their recruiting drive.

We did exactly what bin Laden said he wanted us to do: Give up our freedoms (like the freedom to be assumed innocent until proven guilty), engage our military in Muslim countries so that we will be hated by Muslims, and wipe ourselves out financially in doing so. Done, done and done, Osama. You had our number. You somehow knew we would eagerly give up our constitutional rights and become more like the authoritarian state you dreamed of. You knew we would exhaust our military and willingly go into more debt in eight years than we had accumulated in the previous 200 years combined.

Maybe you knew us so well because you were once one of our mercenaries, funded and armed by us via our friends in Pakistan to fight the other Evil Empire in the last battle of the Cold War. Only, when the killing stopped, the trained killer, our "Frankenstein," couldn't. The monster, you, would soon turn on us.

If we really want to send bin Laden not just to his death, but also to his defeat, may I suggest that we reverse all of that right now. End the wars, bring the troops home, make the rich pay for this mess, and restore our privacy and due process rights that used to distinguish us from any other country. Right now, our democracy looks like Singapore and our economy has gone desperately Greek.

I know it will be hard to turn the clock back to before 9/11 when all we had to worry about were candidates stealing elections. A multi-billion dollar industry has grown up around "homeland security" and the terror wars. These war profiteers will not want to give up their booty so easily. They will want to keep us in fear so they can keep raking it in. We will have to stop them. But first we must stop believing them.

Hideki Tojo killed my uncle and millions of Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos and a hundred thousand other Americans. He was the head of Japan, the Emperor's henchman, the man who was the architect of Pearl Harbor. When the American soldiers went to arrest him, he tried to commit suicide by shooting himself in the chest. The soldiers immediately worked on stopping his bleeding and rushed him to an army hospital where he was saved by our army doctors. He then had his day in court. It was a powerful exercise for the world to see. And on December 23, 1948, after he was found guilty, we hanged him. A killer of millions was forced to stand trial. A killer of 4,000 (counting the African embassies and USS Cole bombings) got double-tapped in his pajamas. Assuming it was possible to take him alive, I think his victims, the future, and the restoration of the

American Way deserved better. That's all I'm saying.

Good riddance Osama. Come back to your ways, my good ol' USA.

Submitted by Don Swall

MOTHERS' DAY

By Dr. Kohls

"...wives and mothers never again having to be put in the position of comforting or applauding their soldier-husbands or soldier-sons when they come home from war "reeking of carnage."

Editor's Note: Mother's Day has become an occasion for sentimental remembrances of moms, celebrated with cards, flowers, brunches and other gifts.

However, at its origin 141 years ago, Mother's Day had a different purpose, an observance of the wastefulness of war and a plea for mothers to stop their husbands and sons from being dispatched for more killing and carnage, as Gary G. Kohls notes in this guest essay:

In 1870 – five years after the American Civil War ended – the disastrous long-term human and economic consequences of the conflict were becoming increasingly apparent, especially to the mothers of the sons and the wives of the husbands who had seen their patriotic men march off to that "inglorious" war and had come home dead or wounded.

Most Civil War-era women on either side of the battle lines had willingly participated in the flag-waving fervor that all war planners and all war-profiteers of all ages cunningly elicit from the people who will be expected to patriotically pay their war taxes.

Such propagandistic techniques are universally aimed at the poor and working-class soldiers who must be fooled into doing the soul-damning dirty work. But the war finally ended in 1865 with the North and South experiencing mutual exhaustion.

The war had resulted in a total of 600,000 dead American soldiers, with no accurate count of the probably much larger number of those soldiers who were wounded, missing in action or committed suicide after the war was over.

Julia Ward Howe, author of the Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870, was a life-long abolitionist and therefore, early on, she was a supporter of the Union Army's anti-slavery rationale for going to war to prevent the pro-slavery politicians and industrialists in the Confederate South from seceding from the Union over the slavery issue.

Howe was a compassionate and well-educated middle child of

...continued on page 6



Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Veterans For Peace Congratulates Winners of 2011 Peace Poetry Contest All Submitted Poems Published in Anthology

May 17, 2011 – Humboldt, CA – Twenty local high school students can now proudly wear the title of published poets thanks to the Humboldt Bay chapter of Veterans For Peace which published the students' work in the 2011 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology. The collection, featuring beautiful and poignant passages about peace authored by the young writers, will be available for purchase at many local bookstores and is also available free at www.vfp56.org/2011Anthology.pdf. Copies will also be donated to county and high school libraries.

An event to celebrate the poets and their work was held on May 6, at the Unitarian Universalists' Meeting Hall in Bayside where many of the poets shared their works publicly with a large and enthusiastic crowd. The event can be viewed on Access Humboldt channel 12 (see AccessHumboldt.net for the broadcast schedule). Five poets were additionally honored by cash prizes for their work:

First Honors – Amy Fontaine, McKinleyville High School for “Serenity Sets Sail”

Second Honors – Katerina Rocker Heppe, Arcata High School for “Two Dinner Tables”

Third Honors – Casey Lynn, Arcata High School for “Poor Teddy Bear”

Honorable Mention – Belinda Mitchell-Rice, Northcoast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy for “Poem 2”

Honorable Mention – Agnes Badu-Mensah, Northcoast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy for “A Search for Peace”

Best Presentation Award - Karina Rinesti, Arcata High School for “Peace is for”

“We’re extremely proud of the contributions from local students and the support they receive from their teachers and families,” said Carl Stancil of Veterans For Peace. “This annual event provides us with such a great opportunity to extend ideas about peace into the learning environment and dialog about it with young people.”



Written poetry award recipients – L to R: Richard Gilchrist, VFP, presenter; Amy Fontaine, “Serenity Sets Sail,” 1st Honors; Casey Lynn, “Poor Teddy Bear,” 3rd Honors; Agnes Badu-Mensah, “A Search for Peace,” Honorable Mention; Jannez ‘Nezzie’ Wade, MC.
Photo by ‘Nate’ Lomba.



Best Performance Award recipient – L to R: Laura Munro, Judge, Dell’Arte International; Karina Rinesti, “Peace is for”; Joan Shirley, Judge, Founding Artistic Director/School Director, Dell’Arte International.
Photo by ‘Nate’ Lomba

VFP56 congratulates all the young authors and thanks event MC Nezzie Wade. Special thanks to the judges: local poet Jerry Martien, emeritus College of the Redwoods English Professor Pat McCutcheon, poet and CR English Professor David Holper, retired English teacher Allen Berger, local activist/actress Lynn Kerman and poet/publisher Joe Shermis.

VFP56 also extends its gratitude to Joan Shirle, Founding Director, Dell’Arte International, and Laura Munoz, Faculty, Dell’Arte International, for making the tough decision for the Best Presentation at the Celebration.

The Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest was sponsored by Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 of Veterans For Peace, Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee, and the Humboldt Chapter of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship.



....continued from page 4

an upper-class family. She was also a poet who, in the early days of the Civil War, wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" using many biblically-based lyrics.

Howe had intended her song to be sung as an abolitionist song; however, because of some of the militant-sounding lyrics and the eminently marchable tune, it was rapidly adopted by the Union Army as its most inspiring war song, a reality that Howe likely regretted when the true nature of the world's first modern "total war" became clear to her.

Howe, who wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" in one sitting (in the early hours of Nov. 18, 1861), later became a pacifist and antiwar activist.

At the time she wrote the song, the Civil War was just starting and had not yet degenerated into the wholesale mutual mass slaughter that was made possible by the technological advances in weaponry that would eventually make cavalry charges, the bayonet and the sword obsolete.

Howe's evolution into pacifism came about because of the horrors of the War Between the States (1861 – 1865). By the time she proposed a national day of mourning for the war's victims, she had also become aware of the carnage that was occurring overseas in the Franco-Prussian War, which had started in July of 1870.

That war, won by Germany, was a very short war but nevertheless it had resulted in almost 100,000 killed in action plus another 100,000 severely wounded.

Howe's awareness of the new realities of war had been made possible because of the relative lack of press censorship about the barbaric nature of modern warfare, which appropriately horrified sensitive humans like her.

It hadn't taken too long for peace-loving, justice-oriented and compassionate observers to recognize that war was indeed, the equivalent of hell on earth. Howe recognized that reality even before the infamous U.S. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman uttered his famous statement about the satanic nature of war.

Sherman's statement had indicted his era's "Chicken Hawks": "I confess without shame that I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded, who cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is Hell."

(Chicken Hawks are flag-waving war-mongers who have never truly experienced the gruesome realities of combat war and yet have no problems sending their nation's sons and daughters off "into harm's way.")

Women have often seen their sons and husbands returning home broken in body, mind and spirit. These men, no matter what side they had fought on and whose side claimed the hollow victory, were all equally defeated when the war ended.

And none of them regarded themselves as heroes. Their minds had been forever changed. They had at last seen through the lie that war was glorious.

What was an unexpected development for many of the families of the returning soldiers - both North and South - was the fact that many of the veterans who had no visible scars were still disabled mentally, many of them getting worse after they came home.

The healing effect of time didn't work like it was supposed to in the combat-traumatized victim of war. These ones commonly became melancholy, suffered horrendous nightmares, couldn't function in society and were frequently suicidal, homicidal and/or turned to a life of crime.

It is a fact that many of the most infamous train and bank robbers and serial killers of the late 1800s got their start as Civil War soldiers (the members of the James gang were a good example).

Because of the inability of normal families to deal with the massive numbers of traumatized warriors, the first "veterans homes" in America were constructed for the long-term care of invalidated ex-soldiers who, without society's help, would have otherwise starved to death - homeless, despairing, jobless and helpless.

Many of these unfortunates were diagnosed as having "Soldiers' Heart", also known in the Civil War era as "Nostalgia", a commonly incurable malady, then as well as now, known today as "Combat-Induced PTSD" (posttraumatic stress disorder).

Julia Ward Howe was a humanist who cared about suffering people. She was also a feminist, a social justice activist and a suffragette, and it was because of her ultimate antiwar commitment that she wrote the famous "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, five years after the end of the Civil War.

The Mother's Day Proclamation was partly a lament for the useless deaths and partly a call to stop future wars. The call to action was not directed at men, most of whom would have refused to admit, because of their masculine pride, that their dead buddies had actually died in vain.

Rather, the call was directed at women, who were more thoughtful, humane and compassionate than the more violence-prone male members of the species.

Sadly, Howe's original intent in calling for a Mother's Day protest against war has been censored from the consciousness of our capitalist, militarized, war-profiteering culture. Her call to action

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has been watered-down to a sentimental shadow of its original intent.

Rather, Mother's Day in America has been exploited into a profit-making venture, as have most other holidays (including the originally religious ones like Easter and Christmas). Mother's Day seems to be just another annual opportunity for gift-buying, gift-giving and the marketing of non-essential consumer goods to a gullible public.

No mention is made of its original purpose. What was originally a call to mobilize outraged mothers to keep their sons and husbands from going off half-cocked to kill and die for some corporate war profiteer or other, has become just another opportunity for boosting the corporate bottom line.

One wonders what "irrelevant agencies" Howe was talking about in line two of the Proclamation below.

One can be sure that the predecessors of our modern militarists, politicians, bankers, media moguls, autocratic corporatists and various bureaucratic agencies that have been royally messing things up in places like Vietnam, Central America, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Muslim oil states, the Gulf of Mexico, Japan (and the rest of the irradiated world), were also ignoring the wishes of compassionate mothers and the critically thinking public back in 1870.

Note in Howe's manifesto how strongly she felt about wives and mothers never again having to be put in the position of comforting or applauding their soldier-husbands or soldier-sons when they come home from war "reeking of carnage."

Howe clearly felt that mothers should never again let war-making institutions make killers out of their sons who they had raised to be ethical, humane sons with a love for humankind. The prevention of such "reeking" is so much simpler than the attempt to reverse the often untreatable consequences of the gruesomeness of combat war.

Let the people of good will begin again to promote the peace-making vision of Julia Ward Howe in our current chaotic time of perpetual war. A good place to begin would be this Mother's Day, 2011.

Julia Ward Howe's 1870 Mother's Day Proclamation

Arise then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or tears!

Say firmly: 'We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies.

Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have

taught them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.

From the bosom of the devastated earth, a voice goes up with our own. It says, "Disarm, disarm!"

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor does violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions and the great and general interests of peace.

Dr. Kohls is a retired physician from the Duluth, Minnesota, who writes about issues of war, peace and mental health.

<http://www.consortiumnews.com/2011/050811a.html>

Submitted by Jack Nounnan

Brian & Becky in Arcata

If things go as planned, which of course can always be altered by unforeseen events, I and my companion cyclist will be arriving into Arcata early on the afternoon of Monday, July 4. Becky might already be there by car. I will stay in Arcata on Tuesday, July 5, then early on Wednesday July 6 we start cycling south to Garberville. My accompanying cyclist is carrying our gear in his panniers. I hope that there will be at least one book talk (North-town Books?), and maybe a separate community event (s).

We plan to be in Garberville on Thursday, July 7 as we work our way to San Francisco Bay area where a number of events are already planned - including in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Palo Alto.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Arcata where I have not been since we left in the moving truck in early September 2008.

Brian





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VSC: Ernie Behm, John Mulloy

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read which might interest the members of VFP-56, please e-mail it to turtldnccer@aol.com, in word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.

For the foreseeable future, acupuncture treatments will continue, and will be offered by JESSICA BAKER and/or JEFF HALOFF at 6:00 p.m. prior to the monthly meetings. Ernie Behm and John Mulloy will have the room set up for them. It's possible to bring in some young vets. We can let these folks know that they are welcome to stay for the meetings. Let us show them our mission is one of peace, that we treat each other with loving kindness.

Jeff Haloff is a licensed acupuncturist and co-founder of Humboldt Veterans Acupuncture Project (HVAP). HVAP provides free "by donation" acupuncture to veterans and their families. Call Jeff at 707-268-8007 with any questions you may have prior to the meeting on Thursday.

Veterans For Peace
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