

IN THIS ISSUE

This newsletter is dedicated to Polly Mann, a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), who continues to be active to this day. As a tribute to her lifelong dedication to peace and justice, WAMM members and friends were asked to write about their thoughts, feelings, experiences, or whatever they chose.

The outpouring of love and admiration for Polly and her work has been overwhelming. People were inspired to send anecdotes, reflections, reminiscences, poems, songs and letters. Some wrote directly to Polly. Others wrote about her. WAMM received many more comments about Polly's life and work than we could fit in our print newsletter. Comments will appear online at womenagainstmilitarymadness.org and will all be given to her.

Also watch for a feature on Polly in the Twin Cities neighborhoods' newspaper, Southside Pride (southsidepride.com), this January.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE EDITION FOR WAMM COFOUNDER

Polly Mann

Speaking Truth to Power



Polly in a Welfare Rights Committee T-shirt. She has always made the connection between war and government cuts to social programs.

Photo: Rose Grengs.

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WAMM NEWSLETTER

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Women Against Military Madness is a nonviolent, feminist organization, founded in 1982, that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. WAMM's purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

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Mon–Fri: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

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Polly Mann: Speaking Truth to Power

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The smartest thing anyone ever thought of and carried through with was a new name for war: MILITARY MADNESS. Men who were against war had to flee the country to avoid arrest—so women protested in great numbers. Dear Polly gave us a name to live up to—Women Against Military Madness: WAMM!

Marianne Hamilton, WAMM Co-founder

Polly met Marianne Hamilton while doing antiwar work and after the war they got together to found WAMM. In June 1983, Polly, as WAMM director, had organized two busloads of women to go to the Seneca Army Base. Once, arriving at the Seneca Women's Encampment for Peace and Justice, where we were camped on a farmer's field, we met the organizers from the East Coast. The purpose of the encampment was to stop the scheduled deployment of Cruise and Pershing II missiles before their suspected shipment from the Seneca Army Depot to Europe that fall. Daily we walked to the army base and stood outside in protest.

Sue Ann Martinson

Greatness is rare. Not many of us have encountered it: the courage to stand up for what you believe and the skill to lead and persuade others to pursue the dreams of social, racial, economic, and gender justice are isolated virtues, given to a very few. Polly Mann is gutsy, scholarly, practical, and effective, a devoted friend and an inspiration to those who dream of freedom, equality, and justice. We have all benefited enormously from her wisdom and leadership and, best of all, continue to do so. So thank you, Polly!

Erica Bouza

Polly, dear friend of many years, co-conspirator, often the instigator—from our first meeting at Clergy and Laity Concerned, I was hooked! You encouraged my class of high school girls to be radical

spokeswomen for positive change. We faced the barricades at Honeywell. At Loretta's "underground" Tea Room you inspired me to join with other strong women to speak "truth to power" and WAMM was birthed. And you have been there for me when I most needed a friend. I love you.

Pat Powers

In deep appreciation of Polly Mann (and her fellow WAMM co-founders) whose vision and leadership nearly 4 decades ago, brought a unique and authentic peace organization to life—which, unfortunately, has only become more and more needed in the "post-Vietnam Syndrome" era of U.S. military empire. Polly has truly served as such a Duracell Bunny model of tireless efforts for the rest of us! May this enormous inspiration continue to guide and lead all women against military madness who strive to make a difference, even in the heart of war for Empire.

Coleen Rowley

In 1996, I went to Subic Bay, Philippines, with Polly and Marianne Hamilton. We were there with workers, peasants, human rights and environmental activists from around the world to protest a trade meeting of world leaders, including Bill Clinton. As with all such agreements, corporations

stood to win and the people to lose. After several successful demonstrations and marches opposing the talks, the notorious Philippine police and army moved in to block any further street protests. In response Polly and the others developed another way to deliver the message of opposition to Clinton. They climbed the small mountain behind them, built a fire, and sent him and the others smoke signals warning of the harm to the people of the world and the inevitable resistance to this agreement, which preceded the Battle of Seattle three years later.

Sarah Martin

I've known Polly for (only) a few decades and envy those who have a longer experience of this wise, strong, committed, and beautiful woman! I especially remember the integrity and simplicity with which she answered a peace conference speaker advocating "Just Policing": "I don't believe in killing."

Carol Masters

Brigid's Song for Polly Mann (To the tune of "Doctor, Doctor Can You Tell?")

Polly, Polly did you know
that we truly love you so?
Not because you're way past youth—
It's 'cuz you always tell the truth.

As long as I have known you
to your calling you've been true.
You always tell it like it is—
in knowing issues you're a whiz.

You still have charm and wit and looks
and can still detect political crooks.
You make deceivers squirm with shame.
Folks listen up when they hear your name.

You write so well in the WAMM newsletter
You make the world so much better.
So keep on speaking Truth to Power
And from the bullies do not cower.

Brigid McDonald

In 1985, I worked for Senior Resources supervising two activity centers for older adults in Minneapolis. One day I overheard some of the seniors grumbling about the Broadway Avenue branch office of the Social Security Administration. It was scheduled to close.

The seniors told me that North Minneapolis always got the raw deal. The North Side—high in poverty and low in services! They'd be forced to take care of their business at the Social Security office on the other side of Minneapolis, a city bus ride with two transfers on each leg of the journey. They had phoned the Social Security Administration to complain and were told it was due to Federal budget cuts. The decision wouldn't be reversed.

Still, the Northside seniors wanted to do something. They wanted to picket the office before it closed permanently. They wanted to make a public statement to point out the unfairness. One of the seniors had phoned WAMM [Women Against Military Madness] for some basic education about planning a protest...

The Northside seniors set a date for the Social Security office protest and called friends to participate. They used tempera and brushes from the craft cupboard to paint "UNFAIR" on poster board and taped the signs to broom handles and yardsticks. On the day of the event, a dozen seniors marched from



Erica Bouza (left) and Polly Mann did not stop protesting after the so-called "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq.

Photo: Rose Grengs

the Center carrying their hand-lettered signs on sticks. A few rode in wheelchairs, and I shuttled others in my car. We were surprised to be joined in front of the office windows by a slim, white-haired woman who bounced out of her car and whisked across Broadway holding her WAMM sign high.

We all recognized Polly Mann from newspaper photos we'd seen, and we gathered around to thank her for coming. We were impressed that the director of WAMM apparently thought the Northside seniors' little protest was important enough for her personal participation.

Polly pointed to an Army recruiting office across Broadway from our picket line. She asked us, in her distinctive Arkansas accent, "If they're so worried about the budget, why doesn't the government shut down that recruiting office along with the Social Security office?"

Lucia Wilkes Smith

ACTION

CALL TO BE ON THE STREETS EVERYWHERE

**No Bombs in the Air,
No Boots on the Ground!**

No advisors, trainers, Special Forces, no weapons, no proxies, no drones

No to war on Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, anywhere in the world.

Join or start an action to end war, wherever you live.

IN THE TWIN CITIES Join the WAMM Peace Vigil!

Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul

Winter Hours: Every Wednesday, rain or snow 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Info on actions:
WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org
or call 612-827-5364

**Can't Join Us?
Support
the Peace
Movement by
Helping Make
2016 a No War
Year—Give to
WAMM today.**

See page 10.

Polly Mann: Speaking Truth to Power

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About four of us women drove to the Hormel plant in a snowstorm. We parked the car and approached the line of National Guardsmen blocking the street to Hormel. The guardsmen were dressed in huge bulky white snowsuits with helmets and face shields. They each carried a large stick that was obviously a defensive—or maybe even an offensive weapon...

Polly did not hesitate. She marched right up to the line of larger than life military men. I could never have guessed what she did next. I was sure there would be an ugly confrontation, and that we were now in physical danger... Fortunately, I did have trust in her. And so I followed her as she approached each guardsman, touched him gently on the shoulder, and said, "I know you don't want to be here, and I know you don't want to be sent to Central America. I will do all I can to not let them send you there." She was not speaking to an enemy. She was making allies. We all followed her lead... We walked through their defense line, and went and stood on the picket line.

Susan Giesen

After founding WAMM, Polly was instrumental in a local activist group called Women's Political Alliance, where I joined forces with her and the other road warriors tackling broader peace, social justice, environmental, and health issues, especially those affecting women and children. Her tenacity and perseverance in the face of abusive power was always an inspiration to me and helped fuel my own staunch activism.

Not merely complaining, WPA would identify injustices, educate ourselves and each other about the issue, the players, and the political situation, and craft strategic actions that worked toward the common good, usually against moneyed special interests warping our democracy. Polly Mann is a true asset to Minnesota. With tall boots no woman or man in my experience can fill. Blessings, Polly!

Diadra Decker



Mentoring and empowering have always been key for Polly: former WAMM staff member/current WAMM Board Co-chair Vanessa Lawrow with Polly Mann. Photo: Rose Grengs

You hear the name Polly Mann, and you think, OMG, she's the Statue of Liberty for the Twin Cities. Not really, Polly moves unlike Lady Liberty. She's a no-BS lady and expects the same of the rest of us—constant service, a lifetime of service from World War II to freedom from imperial U.S. hegemony since the Vietnam War through our nation's series of wars. Polly has lived through America's greatness and decline. And with no complaints Polly keeps going, modeling the right thing to do, to keep doing.

Susu Jeffrey

I want to thank you, Polly, dear friend, on behalf of myself and so many others whose lives have been touched by your wisdom, strength, courage, tenacity, and kindness. I have been inspired by your commitment to nonviolence, your lifelong active resistance to war and the weapons of war, and your appreciation for the many different cultures and peoples throughout the world.

Marie Braun

Every demonstration, up until a few years ago, no matter what the weather was like, she was there marching for peace, marching for justice. She never had a meeting that didn't end in action. She was never satisfied sitting around talking about stuff, she wanted to do something.

Utah Phillips tells the story about Mother Jones when she was meeting with a bunch of organizers in Ludlow, Colorado, and news came about the massacre by the Colorado National Guard that killed more than two dozen strikers, women and children. Mother Jones jumped up and said, "Let's go get those sons of bitches," and she was halfway up the street before she realized no one was behind her.

Mother Jones and Polly Mann share a thirst for justice. There are, of course, important differences. Polly always uses delicate but precise language, and Polly never turns around and never goes back. I wrote a song for her at another of her tributes many years ago: "Good golly,

Miss Polly, where you takin' us now?" and it ended, "We'll follow you somehow." She still leads. And the rest of us are happy to follow.

Ed Felien

Usually I'm juggling several fields of endeavor, and needed advice and even some "backing" in one of them. When I mentioned the situation to Polly, she invited me to her apartment and cleared her calendar for any date I wanted.

When I arrived, she had a warm beverage and treats waiting, but the real treat was her listening intently for as long as I needed. She soon thereafter wrote a letter of advocacy in my behalf. That was going way beyond the call of duty.

Diane Steen-Hinderlie

I have always been impressed, Polly, by your long-term commitment to help create a more just and peaceful world. You keep aware of world news and are fearless in your witness to reject violence and to make the world a more peaceful place. As a co-founder of WAMM you frequently share your views via the WAMM newsletter. Your article "Yes, There Is a Woman against War in Washington, D.C." in the fall of 2015 is illustrative of your insight and conviction.

You have the wisdom that enables you to affirm and work with people who share your central commitment to peace while differing with them on some specifics. I have been greatly encouraged by people like you who continue to work for peace in the face of the tragic wars launched by our country. You give me courage and hope. You are a model and inspiration for us all! God bless you always,

**Lowell O. Erdahl, Bishop Emeritus
St. Paul Area Synod, ELCA**

It is always a delight to encounter you, and I especially like working with you on the Middle East Committee. I am grateful when you volunteer to draft a letter on an issue, solicit our input, and get the letters to their destination. Thank you, Polly, for being a fabulous leader, exemplary activist, and friend. You are truly an elder whose wisdom is showing. Love,

Florence Steichen

Polly, when the publications come out, I always read your column first! We share the same orientation, and your writings citing WAMM's concerns are always insightful. Your vigor remains, benefiting and stimulating younger WAMM members so that they know they need not "retire" when their Social Security checks begin to come! Your insights, spoken or printed, can demonstrate for the younger that they can "hang in there for the long haul," and share what is much needed to confront the challenges that climate change will bring for humanity of all ages now and in the uncertain future.

Don Irish

Typical Polly: When Polly was recovering from her broken hip in rehab, I went to visit, expecting to find her in bed. Instead, Polly was addressing a group in the lunchroom about peace issues and attempting to recruit WAMM members.

Polly Mann is such a lady that I so admire. She comes to the meeting for WAMM Peacemakers at St. Joan of Arc, where she always exhibits such a tremendous amount of knowledge in this area. She obviously is adamant about updating herself on current issues. She is so admired for being the founder of WAMM. This is such a very wholesome and dedicated organization. Polly brings so much into the organization. I want to hug her every time that I see her at meetings and at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

Mary Jane McConnell

Polly: How can I sum her up in a few lines?! For me, Polly is truly our model of PEACEMAKER—what it means to be a PEACEMAKER. And she is a talented writer—Polly took my ramblings, which she wrote down by hand, and made me look wonderful in an article printed in this paper.

Audrey Kvist

My memory of Polly is the vibrant woman who showed up at Channel 4 one windy day. My grandchildren, who at the time were six and four, were along for Grandmothers for Peace day. We held signs, while Polly held the microphone and held her own. There was police presence at Channel 5, which Polly and my grandchildren seemed to like. Polly stands for Peace and Justice and my grandkids, now sixteen and eighteen, will always remember that lady!

Pat Cretilli

The main thing I would say about Polly (whom I first met near the beginning of 1997, when I moved here, because she and John were friends) is that she is one of the warmest and most loving people I have ever known. On a thank-you card for a small contribution I made to WAMM for the Walk against Weapons last year, she wrote, "You are a dear friend, and I love you." To me that is Polly's voice.

Elizabeth Burr

Typical Polly: When Polly was recovering from her broken hip in rehab, I went to visit, expecting to find her in bed. Instead, Polly was addressing a group in the lunchroom about peace issues and attempting to recruit WAMM members. A broken hip did not limit her work for peace, nor did the fact that the people she was addressing were also recovering limit her attempt to educate them. No rest for Polly in her ongoing work for peace.

Clare Fossum

I love Polly Mann. She has been a great source of inspiration and a great example for me in confronting the powers that be in making our world a saner place to live in. I love her ability to speak her mind in spite of opposition or what others think. She has amazing fortitude. I am grateful for her co-founding WAMM and the brother-sister relationship we have at Veterans For Peace with WAMM. May she continue to shine her light.

Barry Riesch, Veterans For Peace

Minnesota's own Dorothy Day. Being a saint is not easy. I'm one small person inspired to protest, write letters, march, and tell all I meet. Now I am gray of head and grateful I've had such a leader/mentor.

Judith Pryor

Polly Mann: Speaking Truth to Power

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Thanks, Polly. We couldn't have done it without you. Thanks to Walter, too, who never objected to all you did, and always supported you. And always gave advice to me and you—wanted or not. The struggle goes on.

Patty Guerrero

Polly, great gratitude to you for reviving the essence of Elder for those of us of European descent. You've rescued our Elders from the Halloween spooks they've been diminished to. You've opened the doors for so many of us in the generations that follow you to step into a powerful, truth-telling, visionary part of ourselves. Thank you forever,

Kaia Svien

For thirty years I have been in awe of you, Polly. Your ability to create WAMM and keep it going strong has been a shining star to all peace-thinking people I know. Your fearless stand on unpopular issues has encouraged me so often. I remember all those street marches against the Kuwait war and meetings opposing the cruel sanctions on Iraq. Since then U.S. actions have gotten worse. But now that you and I are not up to walking much, you are still writing excellent articles for publication and being encouraging at WAMM meetings. Plus, you always dress and look so stylish! Thank you, Polly, for many years of being there for me and for so many others. I know you will never quit!

With warm remembrances and love,

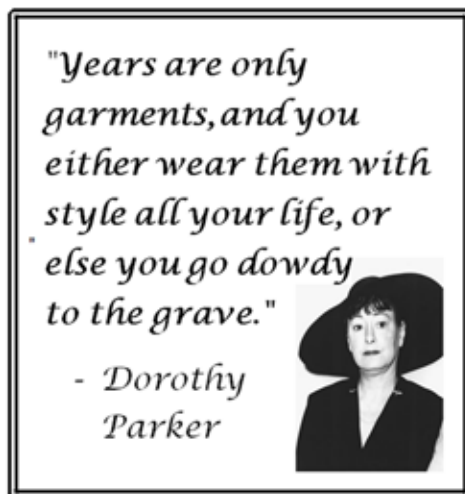
Kay Abbott

Polly: Peace and Sunshine

Ruth Olson

In 1978, I first had the pleasure of meeting Polly Mann. For all of the years since then I have tried to understand how a lifelong radical feminist, totally committed peacenik, justice-seeking socialist who doesn't suffer fools gladly and has never been afraid to speak her mind, originated from Arkansas. Much love, respect, and gratitude for all of the leadership that you have given to Minnesota and the issues we share.

George Mische



For Patty Guerrero this quote from playwright Dorothy Parker captures Polly Mann's distinctive style in all that she has done and continues to do.

Being a WAMM member for only about six years—my association with Polly is probably shorter than that of most who are honoring her here. I will say that, both us also being members of St Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers, I have seen Polly at our meetings often “pushing the envelope” on promoting actions or expressing positions that unequivocally advocate for peace and nonviolence protest following the teaching of Christ. To her, all wars are evil.

A couple of years ago, I witnessed Polly hold firm to her wonderfully uncompromising views on peace and war. Namely, at St Joan of Arc mass. There was a celebration of St. Joan, including actor and puppet simulations of Joan leading France into war against England. During this event, the whole congregation was on their feet in support of Joan's legacy—except for Polly. Later she told me of her protest: “I make no exceptions in my disgust for anything that glorifies war.” That's our Polly! Thanks,

Bill Adamski

Dear Polly, You always greet me enthusiastically with revel, even though we are not acquainted well. I love your voice and your wise words so true. You enlighten us all to think and do.

Jo Schubert

Polly: a most remarkable person—kind, generous, knowledgeable, etc., etc., etc. It's been a wonderful learning experience. So, Polly, it's been good to know ya!

Lee Ross

Polly, I'm a newish WAMM member and have never met you, but I have particularly enjoyed your articles in the *Southside Pride* over the years.

Heidi Uppgaard

Ms Polly Mann: a role model for resistance and persistence respectability and perceptibility commitment to struggle for a better world and much, much more

Linda Hoover

I have early memories of Polly through Mary White and was so impressed then and through the years for her bravery and dedication and wisdom. Thank you, Polly, for being the light at the end of the tunnel for me.

Marie Scheer

Polly, I have known you a long time. You are a continuing inspiration. You are steadfast, loyal, creative, fun, and beautiful. Onward!! Love,

Mary Davies

I met Polly at Women, Work and Welfare in the summer of 1986 after graduating from Metropolitan State U and going onto AFDC because child support was not yet enforced in Minnesota and I couldn't find work that would pay for childcare. Polly invited our working group to meet in her home. As younger women, we were empowered by Polly and her gesture of friendship and solidarity with our efforts. Alas, all these years later the welfare grants in Minnesota are at the same approximate level they were in 1986.

Mary Jean Mulherin

I admire and appreciate Polly Mann for her passion and knowledge about peace and justice causes. She excels in seeing the big picture and is dedicated to doing the hard work. When she calls me, she wastes no time and gets right to the point. The world needs more people like Polly Mann!

Mary White

Polly Mann...Totally irreplaceable!

Karen Hanson

Our Wonderful Polly is Right!

Colleen Bonniwel

What can I say? Polly is a rock star, a role model, a fierce advocate for peace and justice. What an incredible life she has led—an example for us all.

Pam Costain

I was thrilled when hired to work for a women's organization in 1984 that matched my own political beliefs and to work with Polly Mann. I would never have learned to trust my intuitions and creativity if it wasn't for her generosity and encouragement. I watched how she brought people into the organization by allowing them room to become leaders, including myself. I saw how her fearlessness never faltered, even when she was challenged. Her love was always present and her belief in each member gave us all a place in this unique organization called WAMM. I love you, Polly Mann.

Nikki LaSorella

**Roger's Song for Polly Mann
(to the tune of "Polly Wolly Doodle")**

Oh, I went up north, for to see Polly Mann

Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day
Our Polly she did help create WAMM
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day

Chorus:

Served us well, served us well,
Served us well, our fairy fay
Oh we're going to WAMM, to see Polly Mann
Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day

Oh our Polly is a maiden fair
With nimble mind and writing flair
(lines 2 and 4 as in verse 1)

Oh, a grasshopper sittin' on a railroad track
Singin' Polly has a peaceful knack

Oh I went to bed, but it was no use
Thinking about dreams Polly set loose

Behind the barn, down on my knees
I thank you, Polly, for working for peace.

Roger Cuthbertson



Polly Mann delivering her alternative State of the (more perfect) Union in 2005.

Photo: Rose Grengs

In his book *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson could well be describing Polly Mann when he writes of hope: "The kind of hope that creates a willingness to position oneself in a hopeless place and be a witness, that allows one to believe in a better future, even in the face of abusive power. That kind of hope makes one strong." Polly Mann has made us all a little stronger and we will love her forever.

Mary Kohls

When I think of Polly I think of a woman who is courageous, a tireless worker for peace, a passionate voice for justice, and someone who is always coming up with new ways to put her plans into action. She also has a good sense of humor, which is important for the work she does. She has been through health setbacks, but nothing seems to stop her. I met her when I first joined WAMM, and what a fine woman she was along with others who started WAMM. I remember her saying that we didn't have to know everything about a certain thing we were protesting. We just had to know in our gut that it was wrong, and then go out and do something about it. I feel fortunate to know Polly, and look up to her. She has taught me and others.

Marian Wright

All these years and Polly has kept the vision and has gone on and on trying to realize that vision.

Mary Percich

Polly Mann, the highly spirited woman in our midst, willing to take up challenges, try out new ideas, and always loving everyone who comes her way. How blessed we are.

Betty McKenzie

Womens' Political Alliance (WPA) was started in the 1990s by Polly. We actually met at the State Capitol. Such fun to go there for our meetings. Then we met at the State Office Building. We did work for women who get lost in the system. I was so impressed because Polly was always there to support the women and to encourage them, but never took over. What I observed with Polly is her ability to make everyone feel a special bond with her. No favorites. Each one was the favorite.

Maxine McNamara

My relationship with Polly gave me the impetus to be a part of a more progressive political and socially conscious way of life. She is an extraordinary mentor and friend. I love you, Polly!

Lisa Kupcho

For many years the American public has had to deal with lying politicians, endless wars, obscene greed, planet-plundering policies, and propaganda passing as news by corporate-controlled media. With her gift of keen analysis, Polly uses straightforward prose as a searchlight of truth in exposing the lies and destructive policies of our government and corporate elites. And this gracious lady shows us the right way to live in the process—with honesty, fairness, and harmony with each other and the world.

Jay Kvale

Polly, your courage has been an inspiration to me. I've followed your writings over the years and they have been like spiritual readings to me—proving that the power of the pen is stronger than any weapon.

Jane McDonald

I deeply appreciate the affirmation Polly gives to other peacemakers. Her enthusiasm and encouragements are a wonderful gift that she freely shares. THANK YOU, Polly!

Steve Clemens

Polly Mann: Speaking Truth to Power

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We admire her for the values that she upholds, her social conscience, for her intelligence, her ability to find out covert things that our government is doing, courage to write lucidly about them, eloquence in her speaking engagements as well as her writing, fearlessness, putting herself without hesitation in what could well be dangerous situations, perseverance to keep up these efforts when it seems futile and discouraging and for her enduring sense of humor. I could go on and on. She is a wonderful role model. It has been a true honor and a real pleasure to know her.

Joan Meierotto

Polly is a legend in her own time. She faces down issues of war and injustice without the hesitation or fear that might hold ordinary mortals back, and is always inspiring and encouraging about social change actions that are for good in the world, even if the issues are not well understood or accepted by the general public. Her legacy is felt all over the Twin Cities and well beyond with the establishment and continuation of Women Against Military Madness, going strong since 1982. And she herself is still going strong in WAMM—serving on the WAMM Board, participating in events, disseminating information, generating ideas, writing for the WAMM newsletter. Her influence has been felt on other organizations, as well—in fact, she was the spark to ignite a number of them. As fiery as she is when it comes to opposing militarism and oppression, she is warm and gracious in her personal relations. No wonder she is so loved among people who want justice and peace!

Mary Beaudoin

I met Polly Mann in 1982. I was a single mother with a toddler and Polly's insistence on childcare at WAMM events made it possible for me, and a number of other women, to be WAMM members. Polly continues to empower and inform me and so many other people. I love her dearly.

Sally Kundert



Polly has always stood, without hesitation, against war and oppression: Lee Ross (left), Polly Mann (center), Karen Hanson (right). Photo: Tom Bottolene.

It is fitting that an issue of the WAMM newsletter be devoted to Polly, as she well exemplifies the power of the pen. I daresay that no one friend or foe that saw an article by her failed to read it. Over the years it wasn't unusual to receive calls such as "We've got to have a press conference" or "We can't let them get away with this without doing something about it!" (whatever "it" was...fill in the blank). She has a softer side. I remember the sympathy card she sent when my first wife, Diane, died. She always wanted to know how our boys were doing. Although this may be repeated by many—she could communicate with all ages, races, and both sexes, but God help you if you were impeding fairness and justice when you held a position of power.

Steve McKeown

I first met Polly in the '60s when she came to animate our limping peace group in Little Falls, Minnesota. Animate she did. Since then, whenever I see her or read her commentaries on many crucial issues, I say to myself, I KNOW THAT WOMAN. I thank you again, Polly.

Sister Carol Schmit, Annandale

Polly Mann has always made me smile, whether it spread across my face upon seeing her or it came from a laugh elicited by a trenchant observation in one of the many letters she wrote to me when I was in prison.

She never stops working to change the world for the better for the many; in the pages of the WAMM newsletter, via the many events she has organized or sponsored or co-sponsored or marched for or in letters that nobody sees or even knows about other than the receiver on a prison bunk...or through a play she has written.

"Maybe you could look at my play about the life of Victoria Woodhull (the first American woman to run for President... in the 19th century) when you get out. It might be something you'd be interested in," she wrote.

I did, I was, and along with several of Polly's friends performed it. It was my honor to play Polly's vision of Woodhull. It is my honor as well to contribute to the newsletter project highlighting the life of Polly Mann.

Sara Olson



WAMM Co-founders Polly Mann and Mary Ann Hamilton with another original member, Mary White. Photo: Rose Grengs.

Dear Polly, I treasure the memory of every moment we have been together and especially of one long-ago weekend near the shore of Lake Superior! Am tempted to sign this "Carole and Rog" because I know how special you were to Rog as well.

Carole Rydberg

I went with my friend, former WAMM member Virginia Trethewey, to hear Polly speak and was so impressed with a woman who spoke so eloquently that I joined WAMM. I always like to read Polly's articles first in the WAMM newsletter.

Jan Scofield

Polly, we've been friends of years. You are my peace heart. You've always kept your word, and I shall always remember that you are a faithful friend.

Muriel Vaughan

"We did not decide whether or not an action would succeed; we were unconcerned about whether or not a position was popular. What was important was doing the process organically--in that it expanded, took root, grew shoots, or even died. Some call the process 'feminist'. No matter what the name, I believe it provides for creativity and participation, qualities greatly needed in this struggle for world survival."

—Polly Mann

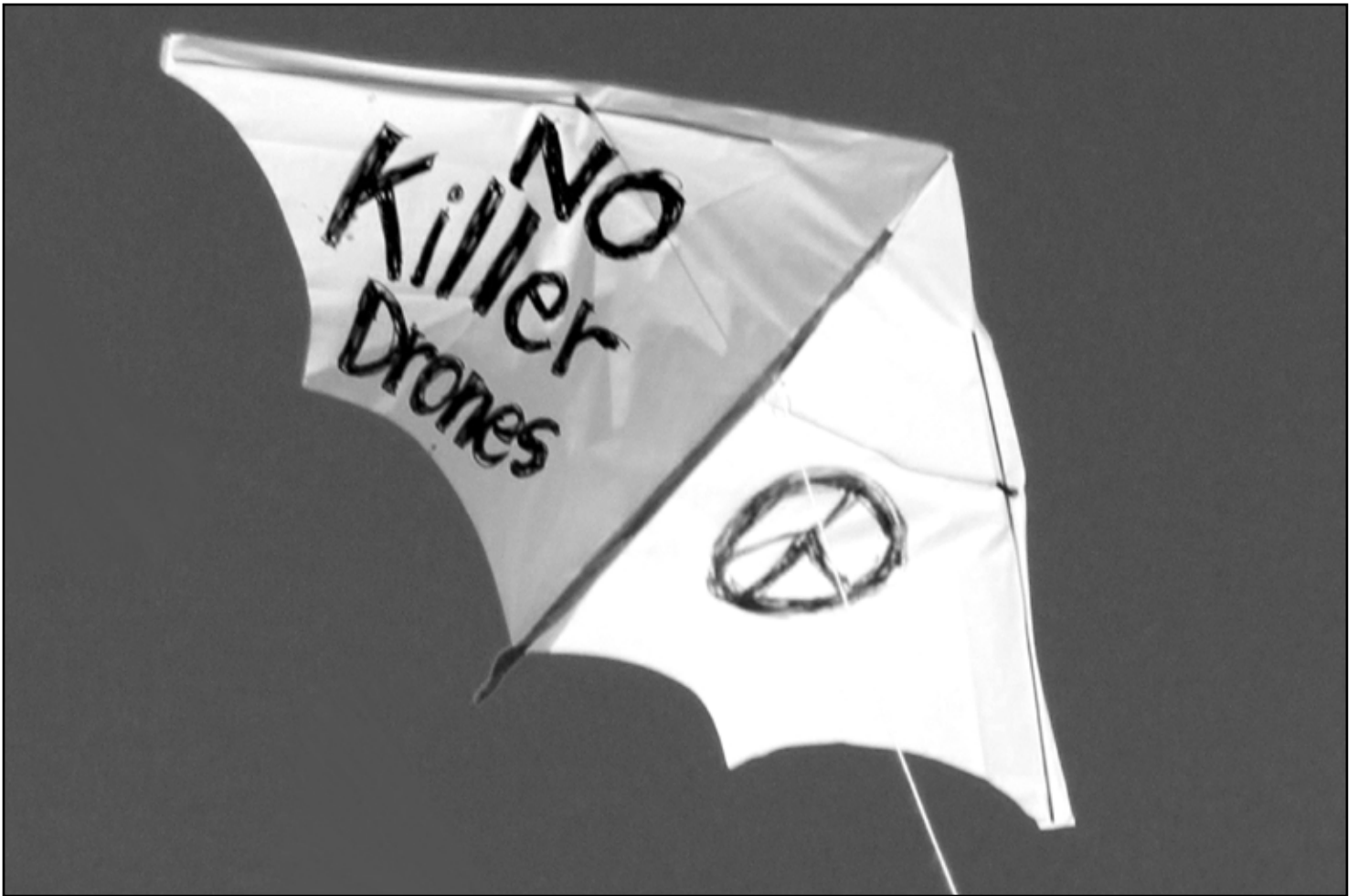
Polly: feisty, clear-sighted, in-sighted, insightful, inspiring. At Seneca Falls listening to lesbians & learning...taught me the power of deep listening and speaking truth to power. At vigils in solidarity with Palestinian people.

Polly's care, humor, listening, and fearless ability to adapt to truth. Polly walking Lake of the Isles wearing a Women Against Military Madness sign, why, of course!

Polly's poetry, Polly's love for her family, her roots. Polly's wonderful gaze full of openness, inviting connection, creativity, and hope. Shalom. Todah Raba, big thanks.

Sharon Jaffe





“Fly a kite, not a drone.” One of the kites from WAMM’s May Day event in Powderhorn Park. For upcoming Ground All Drones actions, see the WAMM calendar. Photo: Tom Bottolene.

No one has to go it alone in the pursuit of peace!

Join, renew, or give the gift of WAMM membership.

And/or donate!

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I want to volunteer for WAMM

WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other groups' events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), i.e., charitable purposes.

Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End War - Every Wednesday. Time from now through April.: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge, signs available at St. Paul side. Also brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul side. FFI: Call WAMM at 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine - 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. every Friday, corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Peace Vigil - Every Tuesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the east side of the Franklin Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis. Sponsored by: Prospect Hill Neighbors for Peace. FFI: 612-379-7398

Grandmothers for Peace Vigils - 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France) Wednesdays, 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. FFI: Marian Wright, 612-927-7607

For information on additional peace vigils in Minnesota and Wisconsin, call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.

Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

Board Meeting - Third Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

The WAMM Book Club - 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Afro Deli, 1939 South 5th Street, Minneapolis. Third Saturday of the month. January 16, 2016, book selection: *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century*, Edition 2, by Grace Lee Boggs and Scott Kurashig. Published May 1, 2012, University of California Press. FFI: 612-827-5364.

End War Committee - Acting Against War and the Threats of War. First Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call Marie on 612-827-5364.

Ground All Drones Committee - First Thursdays of every month, 4:45 to 6:00 p.m.,

4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Middle East Committee - Second Monday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364

St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers - Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Barbara, 612-722-4444

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3) - Second Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis.

Ongoing Events

Committee to Stop FBI Repression - Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. All who stand up and act for justice and solidarity are welcome. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com.

People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast - Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues S. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: www.justviewpoint.org or call 612-333-4772.

Grandmothers for Peace - First Wednesday 12:45 p.m. at Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Programs around justice issues that help us to understand our role in changing unjust systems. FFI: 952-929-1566

Pax Salons - Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 943 West Seventh Street (St. Paul Gallery), St. Paul. Please come. Topics vary. Call for details. Small donations accepted. FFI: 651-227-3228

WAMM Second Monday at the Movies - Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Ave. South, Minneapolis. Projected on big screen. Free admission, popcorn. All welcome. Discussion follows film. FFI: 612-827-5364 and wamm@mtn.org

Middle East Peace Now - Usually second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m., Program 10:00 a.m. Location may vary. FFI: mepn.org

Dignity, Not Detention Vigil - Every first Sunday, 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. at 425 Grove Street (Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center). Vigil for civil immigrant detainees

in jail. Sponsored by: Interfaith Coalition for Immigration, Advocates for Human Rights. FFI: Email interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com or call Michele 612-341-3302, ext. 117

Special Events

The Drone Quilt Project - Saturday, January 16, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Ave. South, Minneapolis. Create a quilt square in commemoration of a child killed by a U.S. drone. Quilt squares and names provided. All squares will eventually be sewn together by an experienced quilter. Sponsored by the WAMM Drone Committee. FFI: 612-827-5364



Above, one of the squares from the Drone Quilt Project, commemorating 17-year old Rahatullah, killed by a U.S. drone in Pakistan in October 2006.

Save the Date: **"The Drone Papers: A Talk"** - Tuesday, February 23, 2016, Jay Kvale presents a talk about a cache of secret documents obtained by the alternative media and investigative reporting site, The Intercept, which reveals the inner workings of the U.S. military's assassination program in Afghanistan, Yemen, and Somalia. The documents, provided by a whistleblower to The Intercept, offer an unprecedented glimpse into Obama's drone wars. Location and exact time to be announced. Sponsored by the WAMM Ground All Drones Committee. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Donate to WAMM to help us work to end war. Please use the form on the facing page.



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Peace and goodwill are needed more than ever in today's world where militarism is the cause of instability, terrorism and fleeing refugees abroad, cuts to social programs and curtailment of civil liberties in the U.S.

For more than 30 years, Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) has been acting against war and oppression, and to end our nation's role in them. WAMM educates and informs, takes firm stands, and empowers people to restore hope to the world. Please make a donation today and help end wars in 2016.

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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
Use the form on page 10.

online at:

womenagainstmilitarymadness.org
or call 612-827-5364.

**Your donation to WAMM empowers the
peace movement in 2016. WAMM is a
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**Peace on Earth
in 2016**