



## We Want Peace, Not War, with North Korea! —South Korean and Japanese Activists

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Prior to Trump's Asian tour, activists made plans through 2018 and beyond.

Ji-Yeon Yuh, a resident of Seoul and Chicago, reported on this in an October 25 webinar produced by Women Cross the DMZ:

Today at the International Airport in South Korea, fifteen South Korean activists preparing to embark on a speaking tour of the United States were prevented from departing and told that they could not enter the U.S. without official printed visas issued by the U.S. Embassy. They learned later that their usual visa waiver for citizens of countries like South Korea with travel agreements with the U.S. had been canceled. This is the first time that the United States has prevented South Korean activists from even departing the country. So apparently, the United States does not want Americans to hear from South Korean activists.

So what is it that the U.S.—and, in this context, the U.S. refers to hawkish U.S. policymakers—doesn't want American citizens to hear? As an expert in Asian American issues, a faculty member in the History Department at Northwestern University and a board member of the Korean Policy Institute, Ji-Yeon Yuh was well positioned to host an online forum that allows Americans to hear the voices



*A South Korean activist shows how to start peace talks between North Korea (DPRK) and U.S./South Korea.*

of Korean and Japanese peace activists. She introduced the webinar by asking the audience to look at realities beyond the comic book version that mass media provides about North Korea:

Take a closer look behind the headlines and it is clear that people in Asia, specifically South Korea and Japan, are thinking about engagement with North Korea ... if you want to look and if you're interested there are signs of the possibility for peace, and some of the clearest signs come from the dedicated peace activists in South Korea and Japan who warn us of the dangers of hostilities and war and show us the many paths that can lead to peace.

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The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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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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**WAMM is funded primarily through the generous contributions of our members.**

**WAMM also receives funding from Community Shares Minnesota**



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# PM: The Rich Bombing and Starving Poor Yemen

by Polly Mann



Why in the world would this rich, rich country choose to help bomb one of the poorest countries on the face of the earth? A country in which children are starving to death—starving because the infrastructure of their country has been bombed and ports are blockaded?

Bombs have directly killed and injured far too many innocent people in Yemen, but starvation follows. Alex de Waal, the executive director of the World Peace Foundation, says: “The main culprits [of starvation in Africa and Yemen] are wars that result in the destruction of farms, livestock herds and markets, and ‘explicit’ decisions by the military to block humanitarian aid.” He says that today’s famines are caused by political decisions and famine has been revived as a weapon of war. (“The Nazis Used It, We Use It.” Vol. 39 No. 12 *London Review of Books*. June 2017).

In the case of Yemen specifically, de Waal says that nation is suffering because: “At Saudi insistence, backed by the U.S. and the UK, the UN Security Council imposed a blockade on Yemen and while there’s an exemption for food, the inspection procedures are slow and laborious.”

In addition to the inspection process, de Waal cites infrastructure damage from bombing as creating conditions in which unloading ships carrying aid and food is extremely difficult.

Doesn't that make the U.S. complicit when the entrance and/or unloading of

ships carrying food, medicine, and other critical aid is impeded so that it results in starvation, and in addition it also has resulted in a preventable cholera epidemic of historic proportions? Even if and when food and medicine can get off ships, storage is imperiled due to destruction of Yemen’s electrical systems.

The reason given today for the U.S. helping to bomb Yemen (by making weapons sales, refueling Saudi bombers, and providing actionable intelligence for bombing) is that it is an enemy of Saudi Arabia and the U.S. government supports Saudi Arabia. A few Americans might approve of the action—those would be the congress-people who support Saudi Arabia in a proxy war against Iran in which Iran is said to be supporting the rebellious Houthi ethnic group.

Recently, some members of Congress introduced a resolution to take back their authority from the overreaching executive branch and, pursuant to the War Powers Resolution, remove the U.S. Armed Forces from unauthorized hostilities in Yemen. Shamefully, others in Congress made sure the resolution was nonbinding. As of this writing, it is undetermined what, if anything, will be the result of this legislature.

The other supporters of war on Yemen would be major stockholders in U.S. corporations that are manufacturing the arms sold to Saudi Arabia.

The British-based nonprofit called Save the Children has been working in Yemen since 1963. Yes, let’s save the Yemeni children. We can start by stopping the bombings and the weapons sales and allow Yemen’s ports to be fully restored. ☺



# PM: Hunger Pangs in the Belly of the Beast

by Polly Mann

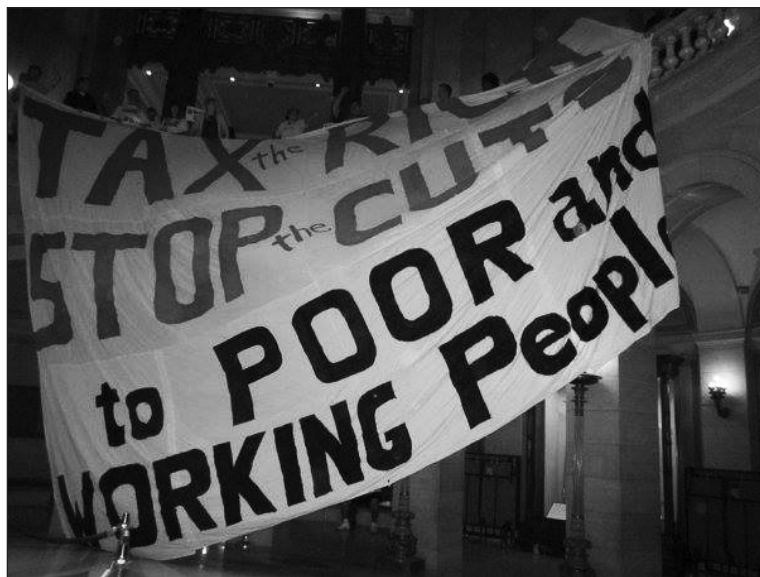
The financial publication *Forbes* reports this astounding fact: “The three wealthiest people in the United States—Bill Gates (Microsoft founder), Jeff Bezos (Amazon), and Warren Buffett (the investment company, Berkshire Hathaway)—now own more wealth than the entire bottom half of the American population combined. And in the entire world, eight of the top ten richest people are U.S. citizens. But blaming individuals ignores how bad the system is. These wealthy individuals are the beneficiaries of a system that enables a massive accumulation of wealth.

While wealth accumulates at the top within the U.S., what’s happening at the bottom? The majority of people are not experiencing famine as they tragically are in Yemen and do not go to bed hungry. But for a distressing 16.5 percent of U.S. households with children “access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources,” according to the most recent statistics reported by the United States Department of Agriculture (“Household Food Security in the United States in 2016.” Summary released 2017. [ers.usda.gov](http://ers.usda.gov)). In addition, eight percent of households with children were “unable to provide adequate nutritious food for their children at some time throughout the year.”

Yet, the numbers of Americans uncertain where their next meal is coming from would be

much higher without the success of supplemental programs. The USDA’s research says that “about 59 percent of food-insecure households surveyed were able to participate in one or more of the three largest federal nutrition assistance programs [SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Program); Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC); and the National School Lunch Program]” Sadly, as of this writing, Congress is working to finalize a tax bill described by the advocacy group, Food Research & Action Center, which will “overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest individuals and corporations, and will ultimately be paid for by cuts to critical programs, like SNAP (the nation’s first line of defense against hunger).” Enacting the pending legislation, the advocates say, “will push millions of already struggling people deeper into poverty, and without question, will make hunger far, far worse in this country...” ☹

*Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM and a regular contributor to this newsletter.*



*Photo: Kim DeFranco. The Welfare Rights Committee-MN hung this banner in the Minnesota State Capitol demanding funding for the social service net essential to the survival of poor and working people.*



## WAMM Committees

### Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- End War Committee
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/  
WAMM Peacemakers
- Ground All Drones Committee
- Tackling Torture at the Top
- WAMM Second Monday Movies

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- Coordinating
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Membership/Outreach
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues
- Silent Auction

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- Carol Walker



A huge thanks to WAMM’s donors, volunteers, attendees and staff who made our Annual Silent Auction an amazing evening of music, shopping and fun! Another successful year for the WAMM community! THANK YOU!

## We Want Peace, not War, with North Korea!

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**Choi Eun-A, chair of the Reunification Committee of the**

**Korean Alliance for Progressive Movements**, was the first to speak. The alliance, based in Seoul, South Korea, was created to bring together various movements and campaigns for peace and Korean reunification. Founded in 1994, it is an NGO with about 12,000 members and has a special consultancy status with the UN:

We see the current conflict between the U.S. and North Korea as fundamentally the product of the unended Korean War and an antagonism that has continued for sixty years since the signing of the armistice in 1953. [The armistice was supposed to be a cessation of hostilities. There was no peace treaty concluded to end the war.] For decades the U.S. has considered North Korea an

enemy state, deploying U.S. troops and weapons of mass destruction in South Korea, holding massive war games—in other words, carrying out shows of force, and also the South Korean government has spent ten times more in the area of defense and has put asymmetric pressure on North Korea.

She said further that lessons learned from the fate of non-nuclear nations were the motivating factor in North Korea's quest for nuclear weapons:

When the multilateral agreements reached through the Six Party Talks\* were ignored or rejected unilaterally by the United States and the U.S. pursued a policy of regime collapse and war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya, these were key in driving North Korea to strengthen its own deterrence capability, particularly in the form of nuclear weapons.

What will the pro-peace movement do to change the dynamic on the Korean peninsula?

Choi Eun-A explained that on their immediate agenda was to seize the opportunity of Trump's visit to South Korea. Peace activists planned a series of actions throughout the country letting it be known that "war-threatening weapons salesman Trump is unwelcome" and that 1) they do

not accept threats of war, military actions, and sanctions against North Korea. 2) They don't want THAAD [The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system which was recently installed by the U.S. in South Korea] and, adding insult to injury, the idea that South Korea should pay for the cost of hosting it and U.S. troops. 3) They want the U.S. to stop demanding the renegotiation of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

In the long term, peace activists want an end to military aggression and a conclusive peace treaty with North Korea. Recognizing that civil society in the U.S. and pro-peace elements in South Korea, Japan, and China have all proposed this before, Choi Eun-A concludes that the task of the coalition she represents is to "translate this into building a movement in South Korea."

**Lee Tae-Ho, deputy secretary general of the Policy Committee of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), South Korea.** This organization—encourages people to recognize the urgency of the current situation and pressure policymakers. Here's how:

Discussing preemptive strike policy, continuing the war games, selling more weapons of mass destruction to South Korea—all of these things will only drive North Korea to continue to strengthen its nuclear and strike capabilities... So what we're planning are many actions to 1) build consensus among the broader public of a more critical consciousness about how real the war threats are and 2) emphasize the fact that these decisions are being made without any consultation of



*The South Korean Air Force dropped live bombs on its military firing range in the northern province of Gangwan-Do on August 29, "simulating the destruction of North Korea's leadership," according to CNN. U.S. bombers and Japanese fighter planes join the South Korean Air Force in a "continuous bomber presence mission" intimidating North Korea. Photo: South Korea Air Force*

the actual people living on the Korean peninsula.

He spoke about the necessity of providing incentives for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons and about what the governments of South Korea and the U.S. need to do to make it happen. But the U.S. is instead intensifying sanctions against North Korea, while the South Korean military defense budget surpasses the entire GDP of North Korea:

The intelligence agencies of the U.S. and South Korea both agree that North Korea's so-called nuclear threat is an asymmetric threat. This term is used to refer to a situation where a militarily weaker nation develops a deterrent capability to counter threats from militarily superior nations.

So it's up to the nations with the superior military strength to act, and that means "talks without conditions" and "the U.S. and South Korean governments coming to the table with a proposal that makes sense for North Koreans?"

In addition:

Our message to both the Trump and Moon [South Korean President Moon Jae-in]

Both North and South Koreans want a peace treaty that effectively ends the Korean War.

**The U.S. has refused.**

North Korea has proposed a "Freeze for a Freeze" that states it will suspend their nuclear weapons program in exchange for a suspension of US War Games in the region.

**The U.S. has refused.**

China and Russia, two major players in the region have agreed to a "Freeze for a Freeze".

**The U.S. has refused.**

**Who is Refusing Peace?** 

www.veteransforpeace.org



*Located as it is near China and Russia, Korea serves as a foothold on the Asian continent to assert U.S. economic and strategic interests.*

administrations is that they should not just focus on North Korea's nuclear weapons. In fact, all surrounding countries around the Korean peninsula have pursued military policies and strategies based on nuclear weapons as a deterrence, so you cannot just focus unilaterally on North Korea.

We're talking about eliminating nuclear threats to all of Asia. And if that sounds like too much of a task, at least in the immediate future there is the Olympics coming up in South Korea in 2018. The U.S. and South Korean governments can at least stop the military exercises scheduled for this spring and demonstrate that they are ready to sit down and negotiate for peace.

**Yoshioka Tatsuya, co-founder and director, Peace Boat, Japan.** Founded in 1983, Peace Boat has launched more than 90 boats sailing the seas manned by international

volunteers engaging in antiwar, peace, and sustainability projects.

Japan is in a different situation than South Korea. Every time North Korea fires a missile, Prime Minister Abe, who was recently reelected, takes advantage of the situation to "promote fear in Japan against North Korea and try to promote and encourage the right wing, or the people who really, really pursue the militarization of Japan." [Article 9 of the Japanese constitution renounces war and the threat of war as a means of settling international disputes.]

Japan regards not only North Korea but also South Korea and China as threats. Tatsuya sees "a dramatic change in Japanese society." As in the U.S., there is a problem with media manipulation of the public, which is generating fear and creating a dangerous atmosphere promoting Japanese militarization, "including,

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## We Want Peace, not War, with North Korea!

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I think, nuclear weapon development in Japan?”

This change has come about in spite of the fact that the Japanese public has long been opposed to nuclear weapons because the nation experienced their effect in 1945 when the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing a quarter of a million people instantly, most of them civilians, and causing others horrible suffering from radiation poisoning in the aftermath.

Still, sentiment remains opposed to nuclear weapons in Japan. Tatsuya says that the peace movement can make use of the momentum gained with the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. (ICAN). Acknowledging that it won't be easy, he remains hopeful that this is an opportunity for the world to shift 180 degrees away from nuclear weapons. He says pro-peace activists in Japan will pressure the U.S. and all nations to sign the treaty.

All of the activists mentioned the 2018 Olympics to be hosted by



*Photo: Kim DeFranco. Protesting nuclear threat to Korea in a Minneapolis rally to end all wars.*

Pyeongchang, South Korea, as did Lee Tae-Ho of the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy. A stop to the war exercises and threats during the time of the Olympics can provide a space for dialogue and peacemaking. Pointing to cooperation with North Korea in the past, activists look ahead to opportunities in the future. In the long term, they are working for an end to the Korean War, a permanent peace treaty between North and South Korea, and reunification of Korea.

Both South Koreans and Japanese have a goal of seeing nuclear weapons eliminated in Asia and the world. And they ask for solidarity with people of peace everywhere.

### Endnote

\*North and South Korea, the U.S., China, Japan, and Russia came together in efforts to reach an agreement on the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear weapon program in 2003 to 2009. ☺



*An international delegation, along with women from North and South Korea, walked together along the DMZ (DeMilitarized Zone) in 2015, advocating for an end to the Korean War and reunification on the 70th anniversary of the division of the Korean peninsula. [womencrossdmz.org](http://womencrossdmz.org)*

## Nuclear Threat from the U.S. to North Korea (DPRK)

**FOCUS ON KOREA** The U.S. maintains a nuclear weapon “umbrella” with nuclear-capable bombers and submarines in the Pacific which threaten North Korea. They are demonstrating increasingly provocative movement at this time moving around the Korean peninsula. The U.S. has also practiced a secret “decapitation” operation to remove the leadership of North Korea, hardly providing incentive for North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

Korea serves as the U.S. economic and strategic foothold on the Asian continent and that is why it wants to control North Korea. Attacking North Korea or its leadership will provoke China and Russia. If the U.S. attacks North Korea, South Korean lives would also be endangered and World War III could be ignited.

## Can Anyone Hear What North Korea Says?

“On October 16, H.E. Mr. Kim In Ryong, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) stated at the First Committee [The First Committee of the UN General Assembly deals with disarmament and international security at the UN]:

In July, under the initiative and leading role of the non-nuclear-weapon states, the UN adopted the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty (NBT) that legally stipulates the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Nuclear-weapon-states including the U.S. and members of the

military alliances like NATO took a negative stand towards the treaty from the beginning and didn’t even attend the UN meeting dealing with the NBT.

The DPRK consistently supports the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the efforts for denuclearization of the entire world. However, as long as the U.S. which constantly threatens and blackmails the DPRK with nuclear weapons rejects the NBT, the DPRK is not in position to accede to the treaty. It is well known to the whole world that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula was created by the U.S.’s hostile policy and nuclear threat against the DPRK. For success of nuclear disarmament efforts, the countries that possess the largest nuclear arsenals should take the lead in dismantling nuclear weapons, roll back nuclear doctrines of aggressive nature, such as ‘preemptive strike’ and withdraw nuclear weapons deployed outside their own territories.” ☺

—reported by Carla Stea, *Global Research Correspondent at the United Nations headquarters, New York. North Korea and the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Global Research. October 19, 2017. [tinyurl.com/y7hbbklo](http://tinyurl.com/y7hbbklo)*

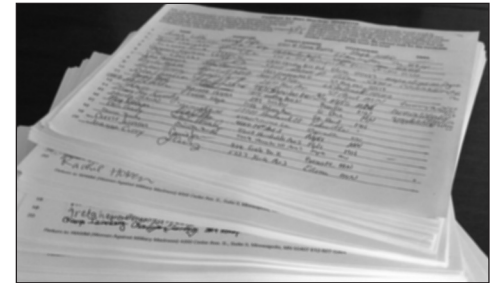
## Together We in the U.S. Can Stop War on North Korea!

If there ever were a need for mass mobilization and opposition to a Trump preventive war on North Korea it is now and the American people are with us. According to the latest polls, there is strong bipartisan support for a diplomatic solution to the U.S. conflict. 68 to 80% of Americans oppose any military action against North Korea

and we know in South Korea that eight out ten South Koreans want reconciliation with their brothers and sisters in the North so now it’s our job, our role, to ensure that the Trump administration is held to account and pursues diplomatic action to resolve a stand-off. ☺

—Christine Ahn of *Women Cross the DMZ*, [womencrossdmz.org](http://womencrossdmz.org)

## ACTION: Ban Nuclear Weapons!



The WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons is delivering paper petitions bearing the signatures of Minnesotans to its ten representatives in the U.S. Congress. So far, 9,000 signatures from 300 cities and towns have been collected. The campaign will continue to collect signatures throughout 2018, hoping to obtain at least one signature from residents of the 854 cities and towns in Minnesota.

YOU, faith communities, peace groups, and others can help! Please pick up a petition form from the WAMM office or ask that one be sent to you, or download copies from the WAMM website.

This is extremely important, especially in light of talk to withdrawal from the Iran deal and provocations of the U.S. toward North Korea.

WAMM is one of 25 organizations in the United States that is a partner group with the International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

**FFI: Marie Braun at 612-275-2720 or WAMM at 612-827-5364.** ☺

# Opportunity to visit Iraq! the English for Reconciliation Program a project of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams



Let us widen the circle of those able to come to Iraq, I thought.

Peace-minded people from the States who grieve the suffering our war-making has caused others could come to Najaf for at least one month to speak English with Iraqis, living and interacting with families and sharing in their rich history, culture, and lifestyle. I am especially hopeful that young people will take advantage of this rare opportunity to form contacts and foster friendships with ordinary people like themselves.—  
*Sami Rasouli, founder and director of Muslim Peacemaker Teams, citizen of Iraq and the United States*

The Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT) promote principles of peacebuilding and reconciliation via cultural exchange, mutual understanding and respect that lead to building lasting friendship

between ordinary Americans and ordinary Iraqis.

Now MPT is offering Americans an opportunity to connect with Iraqis in the beautiful, historic city of Najaf in a program that brings individuals of the two nations together by providing them with an opportunity to converse in English. Iraqi participants want to learn English or improve their English language skills and would like to practice by holding informal conversations with English-speaking Americans. In turn, American participants will become acquainted with Iraqis and Iraqi culture through the program. It is an opportunity for everyone to share cultural knowledge and friendship.

The only qualifications are:

- a desire for mutual understanding and respect

- an ability to converse in ordinary English language. (knowledge of Arabic not needed)
- a commitment to stay a minimum of 30 days

Participants will be provided with a place to stay, meals, and transportation within Iraq. Participants will need to provide their own transportation to and from Najaf, Iraq. (Travelers can fly directly into Najaf International Airport.)

Interested? Please fill out and scan the form below and send via email to [sami.rasouli@gmail.com](mailto:sami.rasouli@gmail.com).

**Questions?** Contact: Sami Rasouli, Founder, Muslim Peacemaker Teams Najaf, Iraq  
+ 1 612 308 8891 Cell USA  
+ 964 780 425 1707 Cell Iraq  
[sami.rasouli@gmail.com](mailto:sami.rasouli@gmail.com) ☺

## U.S. Visitors to Iraq Registration Form

The people of Iraq, the members and their families of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT) will be pleased to welcome you to our city of Najaf. In order that we can prepare for your visit it would be helpful if you give us the following information. Please fill in the form below.

Full Name Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Profession \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State / Province / Zip Code/Country \_\_\_\_\_

What date would you like to arrive in Najaf, Iraq? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you prefer to stay with a  local Iraqi family or  a hotel?

How long are you planning to stay in Iraq? (Circle one) 1 month 2 months 3 months 4 months up to 12 months

Will you be interested in traveling to other cities besides Najaf while in Iraq?  Yes  No

Is there anything you would like us to know about your diet? any dietary restrictions?

Thank you for completing this form. Please send along with this form a copy of your passport, biographical note or CV, and your photo.

*We look forward to meeting you when arrive in Najaf!*



# Marianne Hamilton, Presente! Peace Activist and Co-founder of Women Against Military Madness

by Carol Masters

*Her opposition to war and quest for peace, based in Minnesota, ranged across continents and took her from Vietnam to other parts of Southeast Asia and Central America.*

Marianne was gracious, kind, funny, fearless, and persistent—some of the words her friends and colleagues use to describe her. We remember and miss her throaty and reassuring voice, her dazzling smile.

She was a founding mother of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), described by the *Star Tribune* as “the state’s most enduring antiwar organization” when it celebrated its 35th anniversary this year. She brought to the organization many gifts, not the least of which was her personal and continuing history as an activist. In a 2007 Kevin McKeever vimeo, she describes herself as the precocious child of socially engaged Catholic parents. Her mother, Sally DeFay, encouraged her in public presentations, dancing, and singing in theaters from a very early age. Her elocution teacher, a nun, would accompany her and she’d earn \$5 an evening for her gigs. As a teenager, she began to sing in nightclubs and later moved from Minneapolis to Chicago, where she met and married Norman Hamilton, an artist.

Norman was drafted and served in World War II; thus began Marianne’s life as a peace advocate. “War is a terrible way to solve problems!” her young husband wrote in a letter to her. She moved back to Minneapolis, where she instituted a G.I. wives club, not a peace group, she said,

but a support group for women. When Norman returned, they resolved to do what they could to promote peace. Marianne and lawyer Stanley Platt started a new organization, United World Federalists, which they conceived of as a way to bring law into the world, to “outlaw” war. Ruefully, she admitted, “It’s pretty hard to outlaw war when there are people making money on it!”

“We were never able to do that, unfortunately. So then we started protesting—it was the obvious thing to do, to protest the politicians.” She and her friends and family determined they would be in the streets, write and advocate for peace whenever there was a war or a planned war. Protest she did, to speak truth and press the politicians. Over the years, Marianne traveled to many areas of conflict, including Hanoi during the Vietnam War, to advocate for peace.

She went to Paris in 1970 to meet with several Vietnamese groups during the Paris Peace Talks, joining a group of 30 Americans led by journalist Diana Johnstone. In 1971 Marianne flew to Hanoi, the capital of North Vietnam, with activists Fr. Harry Bury, David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, William Sloane Coffin, and Richard Falk, as well as family members of three prisoners of war, to secure their release.

To Marianne’s joy, among the Committee of North Vietnamese Catholics who met their plane were several of the Vietnamese peace



activists she had met in Paris: “Mr. Pham van Kham, Mr. Nguyen van Dong, Fr. Nguyen The Vinh, as well as Fr. Trinh, Fr. Ho Bien. I kissed them all—it was so marvelous to see familiar faces! Mme. Bui Thi Cam, a lawyer and Catholic Deputy in the North Vietnamese National Assembly, greeted me (and Father Bury) with bouquets! as a sign of welcome.” Later, in conversations with Mme. Cam, Marianne learned that the National Assembly had 125 women: “How many women do you have in Congress?” Mme. Cam asked. Marianne held up one hand: “I can count them on my fingers.”

The Vietnamese led them into their first place of lodging, the Hotel Reunification. “There were so many things called Reunification!” Marianne noted, an indication that the nation did not want the division imposed by foreign governments. Other members of the Committee

*continued on page 10*

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## **Marianne Hamilton, Present! Peace Activist and Co-founder of Women Against Military Madness**

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of North Vietnamese Catholics met them at the hotel, and there was a “friendly protocol of exchanges of greetings and tea. It was less formal because we knew so many—but as at the airport, we were interrupted by an air raid siren. We grabbed our notes and ran to the hotel bomb shelter.”

The weeks of meetings, exchanges, and traveling “under the bombs” had a profound effect on Marianne. Each night, as possible, she wrote meticulous notes in a journal. She was “amazed at the people’s sociability, while the visitors were pained and confused at the ravaged land, they simply went on....Wherever you looked, there were busy activities or social gatherings.” At Nam Dinh, the North’s third largest city

and provincial capital, destruction was everywhere. Seventy percent of the town was in ruins, including the hospital, which had been marked with a huge red cross. A guide took them to an exhibit pointing out “charred rice, melted glass and steel, caused by small mortar fragmentation bombs... there was an exploded guava Honeywell bomb. We explained we came from [the] place they were made. Our guide only smiled at us sympathetically.” (Notes from Marianne’s 1971 diary, in manuscript with Fr. Harry Bury memoir, unpublished.) Marianne visited Vietnam in later years, seeing friends and mourning our country’s seemingly irreversible attachment to wars.

Other countries and conflicts claimed her attention over the years, too: She went to Nicaragua when the U.S. military was trying to overthrow the Sandinista regime, to

the Philippines to protest toxic waste being left behind at U.S. military bases, and to Cambodia and Burma.

On Marianne’s passing, Polly Mann, co-founder of Women Against Military Madness, said, “WAMM experienced a tremendous loss with the death of Marianne Hamilton. It was Marianne who already had a history of peacemaking in Vietnam, who recognized the need for an organization to publicize the need for peace and to work and educate others. Her peace message was part of her intrinsic being, and her presence will be missed by all who knew her.” ☺

*Carol Masters is a longtime peace activist, member of WAMM and the Newsletter Committee. She is the author of You Can’t Do That! Marv Davidov, Nonviolent Revolutionary (Nodin Press, 2009); The Peace Terrorist: Stories (New Rivers Press, 1994); and poems and short stories in literary presses.*

## **Signs of Hope!**

### **Thousands in Asia Pacific Demand No War!**

In spite of government bans during Trump’s Asia tour in November, thousands in South Korea and the Philippines protested demanding no war threats, THAAD missile systems, U.S. militarization and domination.

### **Out on the Street: Out of Afghanistan and Everywhere**

Resistance was strong on the 16th anniversary of the U.S. war on Afghanistan. At least 34 protests took place in cities and towns across the United States.

### **ICAN Receives Peace Prize**

The Nobel Peace Prize, true to its origins, was awarded the International

Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. Women Against Military Madness is one of 25 U.S. partners.

### **Garrisoning the Globe Not Worth the Money**

The Rand Corporation, out of which mutually insured destruction and other war innovations have come, researched the economic value of U.S. troops overseas and discovered that there was “strong evidence that the economic value of those overseas commitments likely exceeds their costs by billions of dollars each year.” See Rand.org “Estimating the Value of Overseas Commitments.”

**California is a Sanctuary State**  
State law enforcement officials are

barred from asking about a detainee’s immigration status and complying with ICE agents enforcing federal immigration law. California is now a sanctuary for illegal immigrants.

### **Venezuela for Venezuelans**

Even Reuters reported: “There’s much to suggest the distribution of funds to opposition groups via organizations such as the National Endowment for Democracy has continued...” And yet governorships were won in 18 of 23 regional elections in Venezuela, soundly thwarting a nationwide coup engineered through election financing and dirty tricks for American, Colombian, and Mexican interests.

# 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 Vigils for Peace

### *Vigil to End War*

Every Wednesday, From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge. Signs available on St. Paul side. Brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul side. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

### *Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine*

Every Friday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. 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: Call 612-379-7398.

### *Grandmothers for Peace Vigil*

Every Wednesday, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France), Edina. FFI: Call Marian Wright 612-927-7607.

## WAMM Committee Meetings

### *Board Meeting*

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

## Book Club

Episcopal Senior Living Complex, Welcome Center, 1860 University Avenue West, St. Paul. Call WAMM for meeting time and date. FFI: Call 612-827-5364.

## End War

First Monday of every month, 6:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

## Ground All Drones

Second Tuesday of every month, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

## Middle East

Second Monday of every 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 every month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call Barbara 612-722-4444.

## Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

Second Wednesday of every month, 10:00 a.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

## Ongoing Events Committee to Stop FBI Repression

Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. FFI: Visit [stopfbi.net](http://stopfbi.net) and [mnStopFBI.wordpress.com](http://mnStopFBI.wordpress.com).

## People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast

Second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues South, Minneapolis. Peace with justice resource, support group. FFI: Visit [justviewpoint.org](http://justviewpoint.org) or call 612-333-4772.

## Grandmothers for Peace

First Wednesday of every month, 12:45 p.m. Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Justice issue programs for understanding our role in changing systems. FFI: Call 952-929-1566.

## Pax Salons

Every Tuesday, call for details and location. Small donations accepted. FFI: Call 651-227-3228.

## Middle East Peace Now

Usually second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m. Program 10:00 a.m. Location varies. FFI: Visit [mepn.org](http://mepn.org).

## WAMM Second Monday Movies

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South (enter on 42nd St.), Minneapolis. Projected on big screen. Free admission, popcorn. All welcome. Discussion follows film. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364. or email [wamm@mtn.org](mailto:wamm@mtn.org).

*All Guantanamo is Ours* (short film plus program), Monday, December 11, Program: "The U.S., Guantanamo, and Cuba: 119 years of U.S. Occupation." Joe Callahan, Minnesota Cuba Committee member, leads discussion, shares updated info on U.S. Cuba policy. Joe visited Cuba 9 times, attended the Fifth Int'l Seminar of Peace & for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases, held in Guantanamo, Cuba. Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Cuba Committee.

Miss a movie? DVD collection from WAMM Second Monday Movies is available for check-out in the WAMM office.

## Special Events

### *Season of Peace presented by Voices for Peace*

Sunday, December 10, 4:00 p.m., Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 420 Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis. Musical celebration for winter holidays including traditions for celebrating longest night of the year and return of light to the world. Tickets \$12 at door. Cash, check, or credit cards. Children under 10 free.

### *Conference on U.S. Military Bases*

Friday, January 12 to Monday, 14, 2018, Learning Commons Town Hall, 1415 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. The U.S. has nearly 20 times the number of foreign bases as all other countries in the world combined. All must be closed! Keynote speakers: Ann Wright, Ajamu Baraka and David Vine as keynote speakers. Sponsored by Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases. FFI and to register: [noforeignbases.org](http://noforeignbases.org)

## Announcement

### *Peace Essay Contest for Students 9–12*

Deadline for entries: May 15, 2018. In memory of prominent Minnesota peace and justice activist Leslie Reindl. Organized through Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. Three prizes will be awarded: \$1,000, \$750, \$500. FFI: [mapm.org](http://mapm.org)

### *Further Resources on Korea: Korean Quarterly*

Free in public venues throughout the Twin Cities or at [koreanquarterly.org](http://koreanquarterly.org) See also: [womenwalkdmz.org](http://womenwalkdmz.org)



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PEACE AND LOVE THIS  
HOLIDAY SEASON!  
FROM ALL OF US AT WAMM

[WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org](http://WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org)

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