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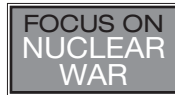
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In All of Minnesota’s 851 Towns and Cities, Someone Says No to Nuclear War!

by Steve McKeown



Our lives and all we’re accustomed to will have been changed forever by the coronavirus but the existential danger presented by nuclear weapons remains unless we act collectively as we have during the pandemic. The remarkable project described here entailed visits to all of the towns and cities in Minnesota and provides proof that throughout every corner of the state, there is a desire to abolish nuclear weapons. Read about it and join further actions you can take now. – editor’s note

In a press release dated January 23, 2020, Rachael Bronson, president and CEO of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said, “It is 100 seconds to midnight. We are now expressing how close the world is to catastrophe in seconds – not hours, or even minutes. It is the closest to Doomsday we have ever been in the history of the Doomsday Clock. We now face a true emergency – an absolutely unacceptable state of world affairs that has eliminated any margin for error or further delay.”

In this same press release, former California Governor Jerry Brown, the Bulletin’s executive chair, said: “Dangerous rivalry among the superpowers increases the likelihood of nuclear blunder. Climate change just compounds the crisis. If there ever was a time to wake up, it’s now.”

Wake up indeed.

There was a time when Americans woke up to this. In the early 1980s Randall Forsberg, founder of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies, issued a call for a freeze on the production, testing, and deployment of nuclear weapons. Grassroots peace groups embraced it. In 1982, one million people marched in New York City to support the “Freeze,” reflecting the millions around the nation who marched, conducted study groups, leafleted, petitioned, and committed civil disobedience, in support of the movement. Thousands in Minneapolis held Mother’s Day parades to renounce these weapons. Even though the Freeze was strongly opposed by the political

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US has enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world 40 times over, but not enough ventilators to save lives during this epidemic.

W.A.M.M. WALK AGAINST WEAPONS MAY 30

See Back Page

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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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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Life in the Time of Quarantine

by *Brigid McDonald*

Oh what a disgusting scene –
all the world on quarantine.

Safe distance is six feet
when walking down the street.

Friends can't stop and hug –
they might catch the bug.

In your home you must stay
and disinfectant you must spray.

No place for coffee break or brunch
and don't you dare go out to lunch.

We'll wash our hands and spray door
knobs
and many folks will lose their jobs.

No one will even hire us
because of this bad virus.

The streets are very quiet.
Good time to start a diet.

It makes our world seem very small,
but glad for phones so we can call.

Even to church no one goes
for how long no one knows.

We're all as careful as can be
but why this catastrophe?

Are some folks profiting today
while others suffer along the way?

With a handy wipe and a face mask,
we hope to take those bugs to task.

Though far apart in this endeavor,
we'll all stay home and be "together."

Brigid McDonald is a long time activist with Women Against Military Madness, and belongs to the Sisters of St. Joseph Carondelet headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota.

From the Director of WAMM

by *Kristin Dooley*

The Corvid-19 pandemic has made the inequality, racism and classism in our society starkly visible. The response of the U.S. government and the cluster of inept, ignorant politicians has led to over 30,000 deaths, endangered the economy and forced thousands into poverty and pain. The race to send money to the wealthy while ignoring the 99 percent is particularly obscene.

We can expect to feel fear, sadness and uncertainty as the virus affects our family, friends and community. When we want to push back against injustice, we will find ourselves physically isolated from one another. Isolation is a dangerous thing for human beings, and not conducive to collective action which is at the core of WAMM's work.

So how will we continue our work, which is so vital in these times? For the duration of the "stay at home" orders, we will use on-line tools to meet and to educate. We will turn to activities that occur at the same time but not in the same place (see WAMM Walk Against Weapons, back page).

We can take this opportunity to renew our commitment to encourage and support each other. We will develop community and collective action in new and creative ways.

Now more than ever we recognize our solidarity with people at home and around the world.

Kristin Dooley is director of Women Against Military Madness.

People Say No....

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conservatives, including the Christian Right (especially the “Moral Majority” founded by the Baptist minister Jerry Falwell Sr.), it attained 72 percent approval by Americans in both 1982 and 1983. The Freeze was supported by major presidential candidates including the eventual nominee, Walter Mondale. Earlier in 1982, in spite of opposition on the right, Congress passed a resolution in support of the Freeze.

Ronald Reagan changed his hawkish position on nuclear weapons largely due to the impact of the Freeze movement, international protests against the weapons, and the conciliatory efforts of Soviet Premier Gorbachev. Later anti-nuclear sentiment when H.W. Bush was president led to the IMF Treaty, Start I, and Start II, which drastically reduced these weapons. The problem was that countries other than the U.S. and Russia started producing these weapons, which led to the two major powers stalling on their agreements to further disarm.

Given this continued disarmament stalemate, in 2007 the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was formed by the Nobel Prize winning (1986) International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. ICAN drew its inspiration from another international peace group – the Campaign to Ban Land Mines – and organized accordingly. ICAN worked with the United Nations, and was instrumental in getting that body’s General Assembly to pass the Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons by a near unanimous vote in 2017. It becomes international law when it is ratified by 50 of the legislative bodies of the signing countries. Thirty-five have done so.

The WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear
WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org

Weapons, a project of the Twin Cities-based grassroots organization Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), joined ICAN and complements its work with educational outreach, large-scale postcard mailings to Minnesota’s U.S. senators, and a petition drive on paper in support of the UN treaty. Shortly after WAMM launched its campaign, the Minneapolis-St. Paul chapter of Veterans for Peace joined the effort.

As partner members of ICAN, Marie Braun representing WAMM and I with Veterans for Peace were on a panel discussion with Beatrice Fihn, the director of ICAN, when she came to Augsburg College in Minneapolis for the annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum in 2018, the second largest one in the world. After the discussion, Beatrice was the keynote speaker in the main assembly. When she finished her speech, some of us were invited on the stage with her. She whispered to me, “Tell them about the map of signatures.” Unfortunately, it had already been whisked away and I did not have it to display, but for those who are wondering, here is what she was referring to about the map and how we made it happen.

After the WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons obtained 8,000 signatures in support of the treaty, we began to take the stacks of paper petitions in to the offices of our congressional representatives and senators. The responses we received, other than that of Keith Ellison (a Minnesota representative at the time), were that they don’t receive many calls on this issue. Our strategy then changed to obtaining signatures from at least one person in all 851 towns and cities (plus

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WAMM Committees

Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- End War
- Ground All Drones
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/
WAMM Peacemakers
- Second Monday Movies
- Solidarity Committee on the Americas
- Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

Standing Committees:

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

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*The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the Domsday Clock to 100 seconds to midnight.
Image: the bulletin.org*

Beware the Other Contagious Diseases! Build Our Immunity! Call for a Cease-Fire!

Polly Mann on VIOLENCE

U.S. General Omar Bradley, whose career spanned major roles in 20th century wars, is ironically renown for this famous quote: “We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.”

When a soldier trained to kill, reminds us that peace should be our purpose, why can we not reject violence?

Coleen Rowley on WAR

Colleagues tell me there is another pandemic more raging and deadly than even the COVID-19 coronavirus! No vaccine is yet in sight for this horrible contagion which spread its infection in some 70 countries. Caused by blinding

exceptionalism and militarism, over the years it has killed millions of people, caused debilitating health problems in millions more, and forced even more to flee their homes. It has destroyed or destabilized governments throughout the world and drained resources from productive sectors of the economy. And yet the US-NATO-Israel’s politicians and mass media glorify this other pandemic. Can the CDC name the non-novel but more horrible contagion?!

Tell them they just need to change one letter from SARS (to get WARS).

Soraya Sepahpour-Ulrich on PROPAGANDA

As someone who has studied propaganda for fifteen years, I have never seen it so prevalent and so dangerous at a time when we are distracted by a viral disease. Having allowed the propaganda virus to spread and go undetected for such

a long time, we’ve lost all ability to recognize it....

For decades, we have been victims of propaganda to the point that we are no longer aware of it. In spite of it, we have not managed to build an immunity to the lies. Quite the opposite – we have become more vulnerable as our resistance erodes with every shot of propaganda. But we are not broken – not yet. It can only affect us if left undetected.

Like COVID-19, the propaganda virus goes undetected until it’s tested for and discovered. We must therefore learn to test for, detect, and reject it. We can do this by refusing to abandon our critical thinking. Pleasant or not, we cannot allow our underlying bias guide us and instead we can use commonsense. Don’t let the propaganda virus infect you – it is deadlier than you can imagine. Full article at ttnyurl.com/u7n9h44



António Guterres ✓ @antonioguterres · Mar 23

#COVID19 does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith. It attacks all, relentlessly.

Meanwhile, armed conflict rages on around the world and the most vulnerable pay the highest price.

That's why I'm calling for an immediate global ceasefire.

363

4.2K

10.4K



The UN Secretary General António Guterres called for an immediate global ceasefire to respond to COVID19. As the dominant military power in the world, the U.S. should lead the way. We also call for an end to the draconian economic sanctions that the U.S. imposed on Venezuela, Iran, Cuba, North Korea, Zimbabwe, and other countries around the world. Sanctionskill.org

PM: The Cost of the U.S. 9/11 Wars on Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq

by Polly Mann

We know that war costs a lot of money so it shouldn't surprise us that the cost has been carefully examined and a project has been devoted to studying it. The Cost of War project is devoted to just this. Located in the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University, the project website publishes user-friendly analysis, data, figures, charts, news articles, academic papers, and details revealing the economic, social, and political aspects focused on the United States 9/11 and post-9/11 wars. The project's directors are three women - Neta C. Crawford, Catherine Lutz, and Stephanie Savell - all of whom have impressive careers that include studying militarism, war and its effects. The

credentials of those on the Board of the project are also impressive.

One of the goals of the project is to shed light on all deaths caused by war - Afghani, Iraqi, and Pakistani civilian deaths - as well as those of contractors, journalists, and combatants.

As for the economic costs, according to the Cost of War project, "through Fiscal Year 2020, the United States has spent or obligated \$6.4 trillion dollars on wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq." The project includes a comprehensive analysis of long-term U.S. healthcare expenditures for veterans care and disabilities, in addition to spending for the Pentagon, the Department of Homeland Security, and foreign assistance.

The section on the social and political costs of war contains fascinating material on the impact of war on human rights, the environment, objectivity, and the media.

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

ACTION: The material is too extensive to include in this newsletter but, if you can, now would be a good time to take a long look at the Cost of War website: watson.brown.edu/costsofwar. If you don't have access to electronics, you might ask a friend or relative if they will look at the site for you and share some of the information with you over the phone or by mail. It could provide a good opportunity to engage someone else on the subject.

Call for a Feminist Foreign Policy to Confront the Pandemic

Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) joins Women Cross the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea) in calling for a feminist foreign policy to confront the coronavirus pandemic with the following actions:

1. Reallocate Pentagon spending towards meeting human needs as outlined by the **People's Bailout** (peoplesbailout.org), including healthcare and paid sick and family leave for all, halting of evictions and foreclosures, and honoring treaty obligations to Indigenous Peoples.

2. Respect and extend the global ceasefire, end active military operations, and permanently change course away from endless wars toward peacebuilding, diplomacy and development.

3. Permanently lift U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and 25 other countries.

4. Stop U.S. political, economic and military support for authoritarian governments, such as Israel and India, that inflict violence on the people of

Palestine and Kashmir.

5. Drastically reduce jail, prison and detention center populations and immediately release people from detention conditions that increase the spread of COVID-19.

Women Cross DMZ website: womencrossdmz.org



Revolution against Neoliberalism in Chile

by Michael Livingston

FOCUS ON CHILE

UPDATE: Almost as soon as the school year resumed after summer break in Chile, schools started closing because of protests against the government of Sebastian Piñera. Then on March 8, over 500,000 women protested for women's rights and against femicide. The women's protests took place at the center of last year's protests at Plaza Baquedano (also called Plaza Italia) now renamed by the Chilean people as Plaza de la Dignidad (Dignity Plaza). Within a week, the government again banned all political gatherings, in part from fear of the protests and in part because of COVID-19, which appears to be spreading in Chile, as it is throughout Latin America. (tinyurl.com/swfxofc)

At present, we do not know if the elections scheduled for April on the process for a new constitution will take place. The Chileans are creative masters of nonviolent protest. It will be fascinating to see how they respond to the latest developments. Revolutions are not discrete events

but social processes. Many if not most revolutions fail, destroyed from without and within. What is clear at this moment is that the revolutionary process that started on October 18 continues. Who knows how far it will go, or how broadly it will impact the rest of Latin America and the world?

It started small. In the week of Monday, October 14, 2019. Small groups of middle-school and high-school students started to jump the turnstiles and barriers at Santiago metro stations to protest a 30 peso (equivalent to approximately 4 cents U.S.) hike. The rate hike took place on October 6 and while it did not affect their fares, it was going to have a serious impact on their parents who also take the metro. In a country where 50 percent of the people earn less than \$550 (USD) a month and where many prices are equal or almost equal to those in the U.S., the protests grew rapidly. Police tried to repress the protests on Thursday, October 17. In response, on Friday, October 18, students and parents sat down on the edge of the train plat-

forms with their legs dangling over the edges. The train drivers refused to endanger the safety of either the protestors or their passengers. The 137 metro stations in Santiago were shut down. When police tried to clear the students using force, a minority of the protestors turned violent. Chilean President Sebastian Piñera (who is a billionaire) declared a state of emergency, calling out the army to maintain order and instituting a curfew in the capital city.

Then all hell broke loose.

At that time, my spouse and I were at a wine tasting, called a cata in Chile, in the city of Viña del Mar located on the Pacific coast of Chile. We had been in Chile for almost four months at that point. This was the third time I had taught in Chile, having spent a semester working there in 2014 and 2016 as well. We started to hear the banging of pots and pans from the apartment buildings and homes nearby. The cell phones of our Chilean friends started buzzing with calls and text messages about the mass protests and state of emergency. The revolution had begun.

The state of emergency and curfew provoked widespread protest. Spontaneous demonstrations formed throughout the capital, with many people banging pots and pans in a typical Chilean form of protest, a form of protest developed during the dictatorship of Pinochet. In addition to the large protests, which were met with tear gas and water cannons, small groups started setting fires to the metro stations or businesses. Others started to loot and rob grocery stores and pharmacies.



Banging pots and pans is a popular form of protest in Chile and was used again in the 2019 demonstrations against the government of Piñera.

The next day, Saturday, October 19, the protests expanded to Valparaíso (Valpo, as the city is affectionately known by its inhabitants). It is home to a large and radical working class. These peaceful protests were also repressed. Police started firing shots into the air and using rubber bullets, in addition to tear gas and water cannons. Protesters burned a metro station that serves the metropolitan area of Valparaíso-Viña del Mar. They also burned cars and the building housing the newspaper *El Mercurio de Valparaíso*, the oldest newspaper in the country.

On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, October 20, 21, and 22 respectively, protests and violence spread to all parts of the country. The state of emergency was extended to all areas with differing curfews imposed. Valparaíso was the last area to have a curfew.

After the outbursts of protest and violence on the 20th through the 22nd, protests became increasingly massive and peaceful. The culmination was a protest in Santiago on Friday, October 25, of 1.5 million people, according to official estimates. This was the largest protest in Chilean history, and as the Chilean media pointed out, official estimates of protests usually cut the real attendance in half. Independent estimates placed the number at almost 2 million in a city of 6.7 million people. Similar large peaceful protests occurred in many other cities.

The next day, Saturday, the curfew was lifted nationwide and on Sunday, October 27, in the Valparaíso-Viña del Mar metropolitan area, 100,000 protested in a large march coming from the hills of Valparaíso and another crowd of protesters marched along the Pacific from Viña del Mar.

The peaceful protests were incredibly diverse, with people of all ages and backgrounds. All were ultimately met by soldiers and police using tear gas and water cannons. Demonstrations and protests, with some occasional violence, have continued but diminished since the high point of protest on the weekend of Friday, October 25 to Sunday, October 27.

President Piñera responded to this massive popular movement with an apology to the Chilean people, and by replacing eight people in his 24-person cabinet, and rushing through measures reversing the fare increase and cutting utility rates. He also proposed a set of more substantial measures to address the protesters' demands (see below). These reform measures, including a call for a constituent assembly to write a new constitution, are now bogged down in the Chilean congress.

Neoliberalism: The root cause

The fare hikes themselves were merely the straw that broke the camel's back. The root cause, as many of the protesters clearly pointed out, was a capitalist system that had been imposed under the Pinochet dictatorship (1973–1990) and was left untouched, remaining through the next democratically elected governments (some from the Socialist Party) for the past 29 years. This neoliberal model, which is now found throughout Latin America, favors the rich with low taxes and little regulation while it privatizes most social services and taxes workers with regressive fees and taxes. In Chile, the top one percent own 33 percent of all the wealth in the country.

Chile is considered a developed country and has the highest per capita GDP in Latin America, at



\$26,667 (USD). This is highly deceptive in a country where half the population make \$6,600 a year, there is no social safety net, and an apartment in Santiago costs as much as an apartment in Minneapolis. Of the ten most unequal countries in the world, Chile is number seven.

Eight of the ten countries with the greatest income inequality in the world are in Latin America. All are characterized by a neoliberal capitalist model imposed by the U.S. and international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The neoliberal model of capitalism was first tested and refined in Chile after the September 11, 1973 coup against a progressive and

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Revolution in Chile....

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democratically elected socialist government led by Dr. Salvador

Allende. The CIA and economic advisors trained at the University of Chicago (and known in Chile as Los Chicago Boys) gave the new military government a plan to restructure the economy, destroy the social safety net, and privatize as much as could be privatized, such as basic utilities, education, and the social security fund. Constraints on capitalist accumulation were removed. The plan was large and very detailed and was known as “the brick” (*el ladrillo* in Spanish) for its size.

The neoliberal model should be familiar to all of us. It was partially imposed in the U.S. starting with President Reagan in 1980 and was known at the time as Reaganomics. While we in this country have generally resisted the more extreme forms of neoliberalism such as the privatization of public schools and social security and the near complete destruction of labor unions, the U.S.

elite has imposed many elements of the neoliberal model here.

Chile returned to democratic rule in 1990 after a 17-year heroic and largely nonviolent struggle against the dictatorship of Pinochet, but with the neoliberal model left untouched, the democratic opposition had to “govern with the enemy” as they say in Chile. If the opposition attacked the neoliberal model, they risked a return to military rule. As a consequence, Chile has been governed for the last 30 years under a constitution written by the dictatorship with an economy run according to the CIA’s economic plan.

The protesters’ demands

The Chilean masses raised several related demands, all attacking the neoliberal state. These demands include:

- 1. A new Chilean constitution** The current Chilean constitution, while it has been tinkered with since the transition to democracy, is essentially the constitution that was written by Pinochet and his advisors before the

transition. The constitution has a number of undemocratic features and ensures that the wealthy and the political right wing have a significant share in the upper and lower chambers. In 2006 there was an effort to revise the

constitution, but that effort was thwarted by the ruling class.

- 2. A change in the pension fund** Under Pinochet, the social security system was converted to a private pension fund system. All workers are required to pay into a private pension fund administered by for-profit entities whose shareholders make fat profits.
- 3. A change in the education system** Pinochet also destroyed the teachers’ unions and created a three-tier education system. There are elite, high quality schools for the rich (these have always existed in Chile), and for-profit schools similar to charter schools in the U.S. that receive a government subsidy for each student, but the parents also have to pay for these schools, which can be very expensive for a middle-class family. Finally, there are underfunded public schools which by all reports are overcrowded and of very poor quality.
- 4. Reduction of fees for basic services** Many of the basic services in Chile were privatized under Pinochet. Electric power, water, and sanitation are all controlled by lightly regulated corporations, many of them transnationals. Chile has faced a number of water crises similar to the Flint water crisis in the U.S. – contaminated water unfit for human consumption. The rate hike in metro fares is one example of these fees for basic services.



Solidarity with the 357 protesters whose eyes were shot at close range by government security forces in Chile. From October to December, in largely peaceful demonstrations, thousands of protesters were injured, tortured or sexually harassed, and arrested. 25 died. Photo: Frente Fotografico



In Santiago, approximately two million joined the largest protest in Chile's history October 25, 2019.

5. An end to corruption in business and politics, and a reduction in the salaries of members of congress

Political corruption scandals are common in Chile, as is insider trading. The members of congress make many times what the average Chilean makes.

6. A change in the health care system

Chile has a private health care system in many ways similar to the U.S. While prices are lower than in the U.S., drug and medical costs are very high compared to most people's wages, insurance is expensive and does not cover what it should, and people often have to wait months to see a doctor or to have a medical procedure performed.

7. A reduction in the work week to 40 hours and a guaranteed minimum income

This is not a demand for a minimum wage, but for a minimum income wherein if your salary falls below a

certain minimum, the government makes up the difference.

8. A change in the tax system

Chile has low taxes on the rich, who often avoid paying taxes altogether, while the middle and working class suffer under a regressive and burdensome tax structure. Taxing the 1 percent and making sure that they actually pay would provide the Chilean government with much of the revenues needed for the social safety net.

In short, the Chilean masses are demanding a new government and a new social pact. While the Piñera government and congress has made some small steps, such as rescinding the metro fare hike and proposing to add government money to the pension funds to augment the benefits the elderly receive, most Chileans see these steps as too little and too late. Approval of Piñera has dropped to 18 percent in the most recent polls, and many are calling for his resignation. Will the protests continue? The answer to this question

depends on the actions of the ruling political elite and the decisions of the Chilean masses. As the Chilean novelist Isabel Allende wrote at the end of October: "This is the way revolutions start."

We left Chile in mid-December to return to the U.S. In Chile, it was the start of summer and school children and university students were out of school. Many headed to the beaches or the mountains, as Santiago and other major urban areas get very hot. While protests continued during the summer, they were smaller. In addition, the Chilean people were dealing with the horrific toll of the earlier protests: over 3,000 protesters with severe eye injuries from the rubber bullets used against them, 30,000 arrests, and investigations of police torture and rape. Current protests and COVID-19 have only deepened the political crisis. (See update at the beginning of this article.) The next six months will be decisive and as I know firsthand you should never underestimate the courage and creativity of the Chilean people. *El pueblo unido jamás será vencido* – The united people will never be defeated!

Michael Livingston is a professor of psychology at St. John's University/ St. Benedict's College in Minnesota. He has lived and worked in Vina del Mar/Valparaiso, Chile and most recently, was residing there during the social uprisings. In the U.S., Michael has a decades-long history as an antiwar and anti-interventionist activist.

People Say No....

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another 41 that aren't incorporated) in Minnesota, and indicating each by marking with a pushpin on a map of the state. We obtained the signatures by traveling throughout the state and visiting the likes of American Legions, VFWs, auto stores, the back and front doors of butcher shops, bait shops, jewelry stores, carnivals, festivals, and 24 county fairs plus the Minnesota State Fair – where we got signatures from young guys waiting to do pull-ups for the Marine recruiters. We even got a signature from a bank. The Veterans for Peace bus went out four times on overnight trips outstate. Thanks to Veterans for Peace member Craig Wood, when we ran out of gas on Interstate Highway 35W, we even obtained a signature from a woman who gave us a ride back to our bus with gas. Another time, while the bus was waiting at a crossroads in northern Minnesota for an ore train, we took the opportunity

to get out and get signatures from those in a long line of cars.

We now have a total of nearly 23,000 signatures, and have started the outreach process asking people to keep the phone lines of Congress busy, especially to our two senators. Marie Braun and I have met with office staff of both Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and Senator Smith, and we were well received. They have been getting calls from constituents about urging the U.S. to sign the treaty. They took photos of our map peppered with pushpins representing all of the Minnesota towns and cities, and sent the photos to Omar and Smith. We await a scheduled meeting with the congresswomen themselves, in response to this evidence that there are people throughout the entire state of Minnesota who want a ban on nuclear weapons.

Steve McKeown was conscripted into the U.S. Army in 1965 and was a radio operator in Vietnam. He was one of the founding members of the

Minneapolis/St. Paul chapter of Veterans for Peace, and is co-coordinator of the chapter's quarterly newsletter. Both he and his wife, Joan Johnson, are longtime members of Women Against Military Madness. Steve is also active on WAMM's End War Committee and the WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. He has traveled all over Minnesota for two years obtaining signatures on the petition urging the U.S. to sign and ratify the Int'l Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

ACTION: We are now asking you make phone calls in support of the abolition of nuclear weapons. **Call Senator Tina Smith: 651-221-1016 email: smith.senate.gov/contact-tina# and call Senator Amy Klobuchar: 612-727-5220 email: klobuchar.senate.gov/public/email-amy.** Urge them to listen to their Minnesota constituents and have the U.S. sign and ratify the International Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. (Details in the process of U.S. treaties: senate.gov/general/Features/Treaties_display.htm)

Keep the light of peace burning!
Give the gift of a WAMM membership to someone, join, or renew.



WAMM Membership		Sustaining Membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15–39 Low Income/Student membership		(Ongoing contributions throughout the year)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40–59 Individual membership		\$_____ Monthly \$_____ Quarterly	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60–199 Household membership		(WAMM will send a coupon book, if by check)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200+ Major Donor			
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a new membership	<input type="checkbox"/> This is a membership renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> This is a gift membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card	Total amount enclosed \$_____	
Credit Card # _____		Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____	
Signature _____			
Name _____		Phone _____	
Address _____			
City _____		State _____ Zip _____	
Email _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Add me to the WAMM email list	
Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.			
Make checks payable to WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407			

WAMM Calendar

NOTE: The Stay at Home order due to the Coronavirus 19 outbreak has meant most group activities have been either canceled or moved to an online setting. Please contact the organizations below to learn more about the status of these recurring activist events.

Ongoing Peace/ Justice Vigils

Vigil to End War
FFI: 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine
FFI: 612-827-5364.

Peace Vigil
FFI: 612-379-7398.

Grandmothers for Peace Vigil
FFI: Call Marian Wright 612-927-7607.

Immigrant Solidarity Vigils
FFI: Call Pepper 612-701-6963 or Mary Lou 612-280-0354

Facebook: Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM).

WAMM Committee Meetings
Board Meeting
Book Club
End War
Ground All Drones Middle East
St. Joan of Arc/

WAMM Peacemakers Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA) Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)
FFI: 612-827-5364.

Ongoing Events
People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast
Justviewpoint.org or call 612-333-4772.

Grandmothers for Peace
FFI: 952-929-1566.

Middle East Peace Now
Visit mepn.org.

WAMM Second Monday at the Movies
FFI: 612-827-5364.

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

Special Events

The Ribbon Project
Create a ribbon of peace to display on the 75th anniversary of the U.S. military bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. FFI: 612-827-5364.

WAMM Walk Against Weapons
Saturday, May 30. This will be a virtual event to be planned. Please check our website at womenagainstmilitarymadness.org. FFI: 612-827-5364.

“Are You Listening Now?” Support Essential Workers and Unionizing

by Mary Beaudoin

The current pandemic has revealed the inadequacy of the U.S. for-profit healthcare system and has shown us who the essential workers are without whom we can't survive. But for years, striking nurses have been trying to alert their employers and the public of staffing shortages and of the need to implement changes in the healthcare system. With the advent of the coronavirus, the situation has worsened. In unions across the country 230,000 registered nurses have joined forces and called for hospitals and the government to put measures in place for the safety of patients, the public, and the healthcare workers themselves – measures that should already have been there. In April, nurses' unions declared: “Our members are dying –

we demand protection now!”

Food industry workers, store clerks, delivery drivers, postal and other government and service workers also have been endangered by lack of protective equipment such as masks as employers have been slow to respond. Now is the time to support workers' voices and unionizing.

Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the Women Against Military Madness Newsletter

ACTION: Support workers' voices

in National Nurses United: nationalnursesunited.org; Minnesota Nurses Association: mnnurses.org; other unions, and unionizing efforts.



“Can you hear us now?” Mary Beaudoin, Sarah Martin (retired RN), Margaret Sarfehjooy (practicing RN), Carol Walker in 2016 on the nurses' picket line in Minneapolis.



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**FREE JULIAN ASSANGE!
 FREE THE TRUTH!**

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL WAMM WALK AGAINST WEAPONS!

Walk to Ban Nuclear Weapons. Walk to End the Madness.

Nuclear weapons remain the only weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited under international law, despite their imminent danger and inhuman and indiscriminate nature. Yet, the U.S. recently withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and is not planning to renew the new START treaty, a treaty which limits the U.S. and Russia to 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers. It is imperative that citizens join together to demand that our government fulfill its commitments under these treaties, and sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Now is the time to speak out! Now is the time to take action!

I WISH I WAS WALKING, TOO!
I can't walk this year, but will support anyone who can! Please thank them for me!

Amount \$ _____

Donor: _____

Clip and send to WAMM address below.

Saturday, May 30, 2020 – Rain or Shine!

This event was originally scheduled for Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis. We do not know if the Stay at Home order will be lifted by the time of the event. In place of a group event at Lake Nokomis, walkers may choose to participate in individual walks in individual spaces. Please consider participating in the Walk and asking your friends and family to sponsor you.

Checks can be made out to WAMM and sent to 4200 Cedar Ave, Suite 3, Minneapolis, MN 55407

Call the WAMM office 612-827-5364 for more information!