

## Summer 2017 Newsletter

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### Ongoing Discussion

#### Inspired by Gorbachev

**Former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev claims in a February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 *Time* magazine commentary piece that it looks to him like the world is preparing for war. He talks about the militarization of politics and a new arms race. He writes "stopping and reversing this ruinous race must be our top priority."**

**For those of us who are dismayed by present trends where our military seems to have no**

### BWNW People



Dr. Martin Jones is currently President of the Board of Beyond War Northwest. He is a former President of the Lane County Medical Society and recently retired from his Internal

**problem ramping up their budgets, Gorbachev's grim forecast seems prescient and all too possible. Paradoxically, he does cite statistics that give some reason for hope. Because of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in the 80's between then Premier Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan, "80% of the nuclear weapons accumulated during the Cold War have been decommissioned and destroyed." Still, Russia has about 7,000 nuclear weapons while the U.S. has about 6,800, but "Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." Many former defense officials on both sides agree that "the ultimate goal should be a world without nuclear weapons."**

**How do we break out of our present situation? Clearly, there are no easy answers but we must begin somewhere. The beginning, it seems to me, is to somehow tone down the rhetoric and realize that very few people are actually in favor of war as they realize that very tragic and highly wasteful**

Medicine practice in Eugene.

He has been active in social and health issues for many years and has volunteered on several medical missions to Central America. He has been honored by the Oregon Medical Association as Oregon Physician Citizen of the Year; and he has received the Distinguished Service award from the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Physicians for his work to improve the health of all Oregonians.

He has volunteered on two of his wife's *months*-long multi-party mediation projects on controversial issues in Lane County.

He's a native of New Orleans where he still has extended family – and returns often to visit and to relish the food, music, architecture and ambiance.

### **Bridging the Cultural Divide**

by Martin Jones

**We're living in a deeply divided and conflicted country. The recent election cycle has pried open a cultural division that now appears as a gaping societal wound that threatens our ability to come together to address and solve the important questions and issues that we all face together. How can we reconcile different world-views?**

outcomes can be assured when countries go to war. It may be too easy to say that dialogue is the answer to these pressing problems, but it is certainly highly preferable to dropping bombs on and shooting each other. What happens if the other side to a conflict is not willing to talk? That seems to be the 64,000 dollar question. Again, there's no one easy answer but a lot of seemingly small steps that can be undertaken to significantly lessen the likelihood of war.

Gorbachev asserts "wars must be outlawed, because none of the problems we are facing can be resolved by war--not poverty, the environment, migration, population growth or shortages of resources." He goes on to propose a United Nations Security Council meeting to adopt a resolution that "nuclear war is unacceptable and must never be fought." These are lofty goals, but they might go some ways to ridding the world of the fears of nuclear annihilation and

As Bill Ury of the Harvard Negotiating Project states in his excellent book The Third Side: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop, "No more critical challenge faces each of us, and all of us together, than how to live together in a world of differences. So much depends on our ability to handle our conflict peacefully -- our happiness at home, our performance at work, the livability of our communities, and, in this age of mass destruction, the survival of our species."

If we cannot resolve conflicts peacefully in our own lives, how can we expect there to be peace in the world? It's natural to be upset or angry about decisions or policies that threaten our core values or beliefs. But when we pose enemies, or vocally demean decision makers, we are contributing to the Us / Them divide that adds to the alienation and separation we so fervently wish to heal. Instead, using that energy to work with others to positively address policies and

**encouraging a common recognition of the unacceptability of nuclear war and perhaps all war in general. We have ignored these issues far too long and the time to engage and act creatively and decisively is here. We brush these issues aside at our peril. The time for action is NOW!**

## Good Reading

**From the Eugene Book Group:**

*Things That Can and Cannot Be Said: Essays and Conversations* by Arundhati Roy and John Cusack

In central India, a forest of tall thin-trunked Sal trees is the home of several protected species including sloth bears and leopards, and local tribes depend on the natural produce of the forest for sustenance. All of this is in jeopardy because of the coal reserves below the forest floor. Tribal people are resisting the plans of multinational companies to exploit these reserves. Arundhati Roy talked to the people involved in the

problems can be far more productive, not to mention mentally calming!

To this end, several of us in Beyond War Northwest are making presentations to service clubs, churches, universities and living rooms. The title is "A Challenge to Change Our Thinking About Conflict, Violence and War." As Carl Jung said, how a society reacts to conflict mirrors how that society's members react to conflict individually. We explore how unaddressed conflict can escalate; how and why we react to conflict as we do; and we present some practical tools that people can use right away to improve their ability to deal with conflict – especially communication and listening skills. The results can be improved interpersonal relationships and the nonviolent resolution of conflicts at all levels.

**If you would like to schedule this talk for your group or organization, or become a**

resistance, “. . . the poorest people in the world have stopped some of the richest mining corporations in their tracks.”

The superintendent of police explained the difficulty. “The problem with these tribals is they don’t understand greed. Unless they become greedy there’s no hope for us. I have told my boss, remove the (police) force and instead put a TV in every home. Everything will be automatically sorted out.” The truth is simple. Greed is the life-blood of capitalism and exploitation. Roy shines a light on this uncomfortable truth that capitalism is the basis of societal ills.

When capitalism is equated with freedom and democracy and all things virtuous, this truth is one of the “things that cannot be said. “

The book of essays and conversations was John Cusack’s idea. He wanted Edward Snowden to meet Daniel Ellsberg because of the similarities of their actions and their courage. They both leaked government secrets. Both have been vilified as well as honored. In fact, on their way to meeting Snowden in Moscow, the party of Roy, Ellsberg, and Cusack stopped off in

**presenter, please call the office at 541-343-5536.**

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**After a Seminar  
On  
Nuclear Waste Management**

The dolmens of Tadenfallow  
Bedell the apple greylor,  
And sharfle starf in lunlit  
They bewhile the nightenflow.

Frumunder stoons of dolmens  
Grumble sprites and ork-tra-ra  
To chortle forth and down the hollow  
Leaching out with caustic omens.

A cask of crimson sky  
- Born of evil goings -  
Streck whild from round the dolmens  
Of hinderform from eye.

The cask was set down deep  
Far more than coffin goe  
Within a granite toom  
No slimery wurm can creep.

Dusk was shroud from high  
And darkness filled to top  
While rancid bubbles burst below  
Within the cask of sky.

Stockholm for the ceremony where Snowden, in absentia, was being honored with the Right Livelihood Award, “the Alternative Nobel.” The Moscow meeting wasn’t a formal interview, so they didn’t get the cautious, diplomatic, and regulated Edward Snowden, which also meant the jokes, the humor, and repartee that took place cannot be reproduced. More “things that cannot be said.”

The image of the two men so pleased to meet each other is a balm to our spirit, as we affirm Daniel Berrigan’s words. *“Every nation-state, by supposition, tends toward the imperial. . .we agree with those who denounce the hideous social arrangements which make war inevitable and human want omnipresent, which fosters corporate selfishness, panders to appetites and disorders and wastes the earth.”*

Review by Dorothy Sampson

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O’er the site there placed  
A minder sign to stay  
In coldest marble cuts  
In pretty words not laced,

“Rest quiet now  
And cease your shifting  
Til come a time  
Of land up-lifting.”

Mike C.Rose (2/1973)

Commentary.

As the title states, this poem was written after attending a seminar by a researcher in the field of nuclear waste management. Pretty grim stuff. As a result, a nonsense poem texture was used to express the frightening madness of the situation.

(For more of the Commentary, click [here](#))

## Upcoming Events

**If you have events you would like to see announced here, local or global, email [annemill@beyondwarnw.org](mailto:annemill@beyondwarnw.org). Newsletter deadline: September 1.**

## Local Events

**June 20:  
World Refugee Day, 5-8:30, UU Church**

**July 20, August 17, September 21:**

## Make Your Voice Heard

Get the App: “**5 Calls**” for your smart phone. It’s easy to use and it’s free.

Become an active participant in social change.

Facebook likes and Twitter retweets can’t create the change you want to see. Calling your government on the phone can.



Beyond War Northwest is a non-partisan 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Oregon, USA. Our Federal EIN is: 20-0912219.

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**Board meeting, 8:00 a.m.**

**Outreach Committee meeting, 9:00 a.m.**

**August 6:**

**Hiroshima Day, Alton Baker Park,  
Eugene**

**September 21:**

**International Day of Peace**