

Handful of Salt

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Dec 2014 - Jan - Feb 2015

PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD ALL.

By Louise Chadez, PJALS Steering Committee member



This is one mantra of the season upon us, the season of giving. And with Thanksgiving just behind us, let us give thanks for all we have, and for what we might give back to our community, and PJALS.

I am honored to have been appointed to the PJALS steering committee earlier this year. Since then, I have had an eye opening experience as to ALL that PJALS is involved with in the community. I have been a member, “on the peripheries” of PJALS since first moving to Spokane in 1981. At that time, it was located near St. Patrick’s Parish in Hillyard. My first protest with PJALS was with my good friend and mentor Al Mangan in 1984 to protest the WHITE TRAINS. (and now it’s coal trains, so some things change very little). It was also the first protest for my then 2 month old daughter (now 30!!)

A year ago, Liz asked me to consider joining the Steering Committee. In doing so, I have come to realize ALL that PJALS does in the community. Look on the calendar, and we have numerous events scheduled each week. AND YOU CAN HELP. Go to our website and see all the great things we are doing. But,

we need YOUR involvement as an active member of PJALS in order for our events to be successful.

I don’t believe in New Year Resolutions, but I do believe in making a commitment to DO MORE of those things of which I am passionate each year. Will you join me in 2015, the kick-off of our 40th year, to joining a committee at PJALS? Will you consider making a greater commitment of both time and money to PJALS, to insure that our great work continues. And my hope is that we truly BRING PEACE ON EARTH.

Louise Chadez has been a social worker and community activist throughout her career. She is passionate about peace, social justice and making a better world for our most vulnerable people. Her mantra? from Pope Paul VI, "If you want PEACE, Work for JUSTICE."

Why I feel hopeful in Spokane

By Liz Moore, PJALS Director

Hope is precious, and when I find it I try to pay attention to it and share it. So I want to tell you about several recent experiences that lifted my spirits, buoyed my energy, and gave me concrete reason for hope.

In October, Shar and I met this year's Young Activist Leaders--and they are wonderful! They talked about their shared values:

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Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

35 W. Main, Ste 120M, Spokane, WA 99201 • 509-838-7870 • www.pjals.org

The Handful of Salt

is published quarterly by the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. Its name comes from Mohandas Gandhi's salt tax protest in India, a successful, nonviolent, grassroots action that created significant social change against overwhelming resource advantages.

Steering Committee: David Brookbank (Vice Chair), Louise Chadez, Cly Evans, Jessica Jahn, Darlene McCarty, Taylor Weech (Secretary), Deb Svoboda (Chair)

Staff: Liz Moore, Director; Shar Lichty, Organizer, Suzy Vennard Halberstadt, Office Manager

Interns: Victoria Huckabee, Teresa Kinder, Jamie McDaniel, EWU School of Social Work

Volunteers: Aaron Crockett, A'dell Whitehead, Alysha Chandra, Andrew Biviano, Beth Weller, Bryan Harnetieaux, Candice Cullitan, Chris Nerison, Christina Kamkosi, Christy Anderson-Crosen, Cly Evans, Deb Conklin, Deb Svoboda, Denise Hairston, Elaine Thorne, Erin Flahive, George Taylor, Jack Delehanty, Janine Warrington, Jeff King, Jeff Mooring, Jim Sheehan, Joy Fradin, Kevin Carroll, Marian Hennings, Mark Hamlin, Mary Alberts, Maurina Ladich, Megan Dicken, Michael Reid, Michael Tooley, Nancy Nelson, Pauline Druffel, Peter Weller, Phil Svoboda, Ray Thorne, Rusty Nelson, Steven Blount, Teresa Nevins, Tom Schmidt, Traci Hauser, Wendy, Wes Dietrick, Ziggy Siegried.

Contact PJALS: 509-838-7870, www.pjals.org, pjals@pjals.org

Volunteers Make It Happen

Contact Shar at 838-7870 or slichty@pjals.org to share your time and talents.

WANTED: Bookkeeping Assistant, Bookkeeper, Treasurer, or CPA

We're seeking new members of our financial team! We need volunteers to work with and eventually replace our current interim Treasurer and bookkeeper, Mike Nuess. Duties include tracking income and expenses in Quickbooks, issuing checks to vendors, semi-monthly payroll, reconciling bank statements, filing various reports and information with the state, completing annual IRS reporting, and reporting monthly to the PJALS Steering Committee.

Become a Handful Contributor.

We welcome your articles, subject to editing for space and appropriateness of content.

Contact slichty@pjals.org

Steering Committee Nominations are now open!

The PJALS Steering Committee is our board equivalent. Steering Committee members set forth the vision of our work, approve and oversee programs, raise funds, and serve for 3 years. For more information and a nomination form, contact Liz Moore at lmoore@pjals.org.

WANTED: Volunteer Coordinator

Recruits volunteers via email/telephone; tracks volunteer hours in database. Plans for volunteer needs for events of various sizes and schedules accordingly. Must possess excellent verbal & written communication skills & have knowledge of Word/Excel and Google Docs; knowledge of Salesforce preferred. 10+ hours a month. Training provided!



**Rusty Nelson on
Peace and War**

**Pre-emptive and
Perpetual Elections**

I still like to vote, but I don't love it, anymore. It's not a matter of a polling place. I rather prefer voting by mail and don't understand why it's not as common as yard signs. I don't love voting because I detest the system, a sewer of good money after dirty, instead of a river of citizen energy.

Most people don't vote. Maybe you've noticed. And maybe you've agonized and organized and been surprised to find community-minded individuals who don't vote. Becoming a Mennonite years ago, I learned some North American Mennonites still choose not to vote because it might blur their line between sacred and secular and cause them to render something to Caesar that's none of Caesar's business. I gradually came to appreciate their integrity, but I remain an eager, if skeptical, voter. My attitude would not be improved if these folks compromised their values and voted, unless certain pious voters forfeited their suffrage.

What I want, I guess, is to blame without polarizing. My scapegoats are the Electoral College and the so-called two-party system. And those feudal institutions share anachronistic roots, although the two-party system tends to dominate every election, while the Electoral College is dusted off only for presidential races. But, for the shipwreck that was the 2014 election, I blame the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

The Electoral College is a hindrance to democracy and has outlived its usefulness by at least 50 years. Any political party interested in "one person, one vote" would work relentlessly to terminate it.

Even the confining EC couldn't keep order in our young representative democracy. Individual interests arose with such acrimony that the founders' intentions of nonpartisan government were set aside. Since then, the biggest and bitterest national election squabbles have been the domain of the dominant parties while winner-take-all prevails in all but two states. Maine and Nebraska apportion their electoral votes.

The only midterm news I saw on the EC explained how apportionment in more states might further diminish the popular vote (Is that now an oxymoron?). Incredibly, your presidential vote could be even less meaningful. And you've been told voting independent or third party was a waste, as we watch the supported parties spar disgracefully while the country sustains the wounds.

Since no one with influence wants to eliminate the EC, we can whine about our disenfranchisement, again, in two years. Locally, we have nonpartisan offices, but odds are against independents and small parties, not to mention actual representation. Many of us had friends pitted against each other in this year's primary, where my county commission vote was taken away by reapportionment. I felt like a black man with only two pieces of ID trying to vote in Texas. And, who could resist voting for Breean Beggs for prosecutor? Thousands, apparently, and I'm embarrassed so few voters know who and what Breean is.

The pitiful turnout hurts, and nobody knows exactly why people bail. We generally survey voters, not non-voters, but we know party impressions begin with national media, and ratings show venom draws more interest than facts.

Worse than the influence of Fox News, media apologists for the Democratic Party rarely show inclinations to promote peace and reconciliation over unlimited

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Building a movement to end the death penalty

By Shar Lichty

Abolishing the death penalty is the issue that brought me into social justice work and ultimately working at PJALS. For this and many other reasons it is an issue I am very passionate about and excited to have it as one of our top three priorities through 2015.



With the Governor's moratorium and increased support for abolition nationally, including from conservatives, we are at the gateway to making history through legislative repeal of the death penalty in Washington State.

Our Inland NW Death Penalty Abolition Group works toward abolition of the death penalty in Washington State through education and outreach, legislative action,



rapid response to litigation and imminent executions and collaboration with other organizations. We recently combined our education, outreach, and legislative work with

two performances of *The Exonerated* at Gonzaga University on Nov 21 & 22. *The Exonerated* is a dramatic reading of the actual words of six wrongfully condemned persons who emerged from death row to reclaim their lives. We were fortunate to have two professional local directors and a cast of local actors dedicate their time and talents to bring this powerful production to Spokane.

I was particularly excited to use the arts as a vehicle for increased public awareness and dialogue on the issue and it proved to be a powerful experience for all who attended!

We filled the theatre both nights providing 400 folks with a new perspective on the issue and collecting hundreds of postcards that will be delivered to legislators during the upcoming legislative session.

(Continued on page 5)

Those whom I spoke with following the performances were deeply affected by the stories portrayed and thanked us for bringing this play to Spokane. I am honored to have played a role in this production and cannot thank the cast, crew, co-sponsors, volunteers, and attendees enough for their contributions to its success. *We are*



building a movement in Eastern Washington to end the death penalty one event, one conversation, one postcard at a time.

To quote MLK, "The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice." *The arc is bending toward justice through repeal of the death penalty in Washington*

State.

As we move forward we want to speak to your faith communities, other organizations and groups, and are planning to host a national speaker from Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation. We will also be



organizing a delegation to Olympia to participate in Lobby Day and help deliver thousands of postcards to legislators



calling for the repeal of the death penalty. If you would like to join us in our efforts please contact me

at slichty@pjals.org to find out how you can make a difference as we build our movement together.

Big thanks to our wonderful

Exonerated volunteers: Mark Hamlin, Elaine and Ray Thorne, Aaron Crockett, Traci Hauser, Cly Evans, Janine Warrington, Maurina Ladich, Christy Anderson-Crosen, Candice Cullitan, Kevin Carroll, Jeff King, Christina Kamkosi, Alysha Chandra, Deb Svobda, Megan Dicken, Erin Flahive, Tim Connor

Deep appreciation for the

Exonerated cast and crew: Mary Alberts, Andrew Biviano, Steven Blount, Wes Dietrick, Denise Hairston, Jeff Mooring, Rusty Nelson, Michael Reid, Jim Sheehan, A'dell Whitehead, Jack Delehanty, Bryan Harnetieaux, and Nancy Nelson

Produced by PJALS Inland NW Death Penalty Abolition Group with support

from: Community Building Foundation, Mary Alberts, Janet Fowler & Tom Schmidt, Myrta & Maurina Ladich, Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, ACLU-WA, Center for Justice, Mary Pat Treuthart, Dennis Medina, Yak Research, Pax Christi, KYRS, Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Criminal Law Society-GU Law School, Spokane NAACP, Veterans for Peace -Spokane Chapter, Student Awareness League of SCC, and EWU School of Social Work.



And huge thanks to producers Shar Lichty and Nancy Nelson for their wonderful work!

No Justice, No Peace

By Liz Moore

This piece was written primarily with white people and non-Black people of color in mind as readers.

I first heard this chant when I was a first-year student at Oberlin College, when I looked out of a classroom window and witnessed a group of mainly African American students and professors protesting the acquittal of the four officers who beat Rodney King in LA. I remember asking

something like "Is it a threat? Or are they saying that without justice there can't be peace?" I was sympathetic but also suspicious and alarmed.

I became a bit more conscious of my ignorance and privilege in a moment years later when, on the first day of an internship in LA, a fellow Organizer in Training, also white, asked me what race relations were like at Oberlin. I sat in embarrassed silence, realizing that I didn't really know enough to

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Hope in Spokane, continued from page 1

equality, education for all, civil rights and liberties, an attainable American dream, world peace, equitable distribution of wealth! And they discussed what they want to make happen to advance those values: prioritize, begin huge things with strategy and confidence, get other people on board and engaged to participate, and map power, resources, allies, and decision-makers.

These dedicated, passionate leaders of our own community are not kidding around about their values or their plans, and knowing them makes me feel hopeful about what's happening in Spokane and what will happen in the future! Even better, I really love knowing we can support them to sharpen their skills and hone their leadership for social justice!

Then, I got to facilitate a powerful



community gathering on Race, Militarization, Body Cameras, and Police Accountability with speakers



Blaine Stum from the Spokane Human Rights Commission, Julie Schaffer from the Center for Justice, and Justin Pimsanguan from Don't Shoot. The room was packed with members of our groups and others, including three members of our new Police Ombudsman Commission. Excellent points and questions were raised by this engaged, smart bunch of our neighbors and friends. The fact that so many people came together in our community to learn and to share their own questions and ideas left me energized and hopeful.

Smart Justice Spokane's Community Symposium on Nov 15 culminated an effort that began in May. I was a member of a wonderful planning team that included Greater Spokane Progress' Anne Martin, I Did the Time's founder Layne Pavey, Spokane Tribal College director Shelly Wynecoop, GU Law School professor Inga Laurent and student Tim Schermetzler, Bob West from city probation, and others including PJALS members

No Justice, No Peace, continued from page 6

answer, and I knew just enough to identify the privilege of my ignorance.

Former PJALS intern Alyssa Henderson shared a podcast from Brant & Sherri "On Race and Jesus" where Brant Hansen asserts "Unity isn't just a thing. Unity is THE thing." It's not trivial, it's not a side project, it's not a tangent. He also asserts white people do not grieve as we should the damage that our racist past and present has done to people of color; this is necessary before we can move forward.

These reflections have moved me to consider again the relationship between justice and peace. I've seen so many admonitions that protestors should be "peaceful" in spite of the outrage and grief African Americans and others are feeling at the injustice of the Ferguson Grand Jury's failure to bring Officer Wilson to trial for his killing of young, unarmed Michael Brown. Who is peaceful, who is violent? The answer to that question in our culture, in our media depictions, in our early-learned subconscious inner voices, is a racialized and racist answer. And that's not new -- for example, Demos' Donovan Ramsey documents "Long Before Ferguson, Authorities Feared Riots at King's March on Washington." (1)

Another permutation: former Seattle police chief Norm Stamper writes in *Breaking Rank: A Top Cop's Exposé of the Dark Side of American Policing*: "Simply put, white cops are afraid of black men. We don't talk about it, we pretend it doesn't exist, we claim 'color blindness,' we say white officers treat black men the same way they treat white men. But

that's a lie. In fact, the bigger, the darker the black man the greater the fear. The African-American community knows this. Hell, most whites know it. Yet, even though it's a central, if not the defining ingredient in the makeup of police racism, white cops won't admit it to themselves, or to others."

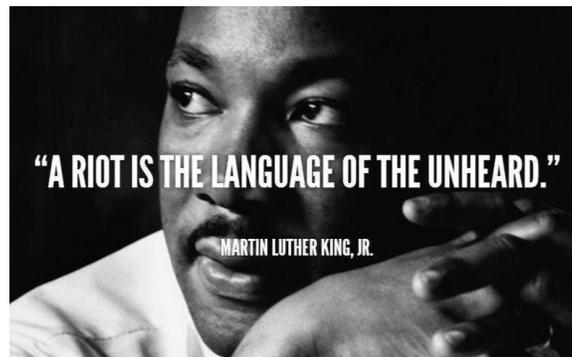
Tim Wise, in "Most White People in America Are Completely Oblivious," shares history of white violence against blacks laid

out by Robin D.G. Kelley, detailing ways that "The law has been a weapon used against black bodies, not a shield intended to defend them, and for a very long time." Who is violent? The history of white domination in America is violent, in

daily acts, in legal structures, in culture.

With candles and pictures of African American women and men killed by law enforcement, over 200 people marched together the day after the Ferguson grand jury decision was announced, chanting together, "No Justice, No Peace!" As we walked through downtown Spokane, I greeted friends and acquaintances. What I observed is that I and other whites seemed to respond lightly to the standard but genuine "Nice to see you. How are you?" while African Americans were not feeling light inside. They were in deep and great pain, sorrow and anger, and did not answer "fine." Instead, a young woman put her fist to her heart, shook her head, and moaned. An older man said he wished we were seeing each other in better circumstances--the kind of answer I have mostly heard at funerals. I take comfort and joy in the unity of marching together. But that is a mark of my privilege. It

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Condi Rice Guilty: Lies, Torture, Lost Lives

A great crowd of PJALS members gathered Oct 9 to tell the truth about Condoleezza Rice's record and legacy as she spoke at Whitworth's Presidential Leadership Forum. We earned coverage in the Spokesman, Inlander, KHQ, and KREM.

Many thanks to our co-organizers with Occupy Spokane

and Veterans for Peace and event co-sponsors IWW and Socialist Alternative.

Special appreciation to our great speakers: Pastor Deb Conklin from The Oak Tree, Rusty Nelson, president of Veterans for Peace of Spokane, and Rev. George Taylor. Thanks to our new interns Victoria and Jamie who got to experience the magic of the bullhorn yesterday for the first time! And big thanks to the volunteers who wore those fantastic and hot costumes, led chants, took sign-in, and handed out leaflets to passersby and attendees.

No Justice, No Peace, cont from page 6

and interns. The synergy we built together was palpable on the day of the event, when 300 people crowded into GU Law School in an



energetic commitment to reforming the criminal justice system to address racial disparities, addiction, mental illness, and mass incarceration. I left grateful, invigorated, appreciative, brain-cultivated and hopeful!

There are plenty of reasons we can feel down or angry, and justifiably so. So, when there are concrete reasons to feel a sense of hope, community, and possibility -- let's share those examples and move forward with greater energy!

No Justice, No Peace, Cont from page 7

is not my white sons who may face mortal danger every time they leave the house.

Pondering that privilege, no matter how often, does not mean I don't forget it every time, because that is one way privilege operates.

Tim Wise asks "Can we perhaps, just this once, admit our collective blind spot? Admit that there are things going on, and that have been going on a very long time, about which we know nothing? Might we suspend our disbelief, just long enough to gain some much needed insights about the society we share? One wonders what it will take for us to not merely listen but actually to hear the voices of black parents, fearful that the next time their child walks out the door may be the last, and all because someone—an officer or a self-appointed vigilante—sees them as dangerous, as disrespectful, as reaching for their gun? Might we be able to hear that without deftly pivoting to the much more comfortable (for us) topic of black crime or single-parent homes? Without deflecting the real and understandable fear of police abuse with lectures about the danger of having a victim mentality—especially ironic given that such lectures come from a people who apparently see ourselves as the always imminent victims of big black men?" (2)

The parents of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown and Renisha McBride and so many others, and African American parents

and family members joining protests all over the country, are publicly sharing their pain, fear, loss, and anger.

Rachel Dolezal, writing in the

Inlander, says "The flames erupting in Ferguson are the fires burning in the hearts of mothers of black sons in this nation. We cry for the life nurtured inside us those nine months, for the years of tending and mending our child, for the brief pride we felt in his manhood before the light left his eyes. We tell our sons to walk with both eyes open, hands visible and quick feet ready to run. We advise them to keep receipts for everything they purchase, speak politely and dress

sensibly. We hoped that the toil of our ancestors would have freed them from the curse of these limitations and the threat of harm, and we dreamed that we would never awake to feel this pain." (3)

The horrific power of parents' pain is beginning to transform public dialog by making it more possible for white parents like me and others to witness their heartbreak and to imagine the pain of losing a child to oppressive violence and the fear and anger at the prospect of that possibility. I hurt for the fact that our education is at their expense.

(1) <http://www.demos.org/blog/11/21/14/long-ferguson-authorities-feared-riots-king%E2%80%99s-march-washington>

(2) <http://www.alternet.org/most-white-people-america-are-completely-oblivious>

(3) <http://www.inlander.com/Bloglander/archives/2014/11/25/ferguson-calm-down-for-what>

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

Trayvon Martin - Eric Garner - Michael Brown - Tamir Rice - Ezell Ford
 Orlando Barlow - Oscar Grant - Renisha McBride - Dante Parker
 Jordan Davis - John Crawford - Alonzo Ashley - Kimani Gray
 Dante Price - Steven Eugene Washington - Victor Steen - Sean Bell
 Aiyana Stanley-Jones - Wendell Allen - Aaron Campbell - Kendrec McDade
 Bo Morrison - Timothy Stansbury Jr. - Timothy Russell - Jerean Blake
 Jonathan Ferrell - Amadou Diallo - Ervin Jefferson - Patrick Dorismond
 Ousmane Zongo - Ronald Madison - James Brissette - Ramarley Graham
 Travares McGill - Jersey Green - Sheron Jackson - Duane Brown
 Angelo Clark - Steven Rodriguez - Christopher Kissane - Raymond Allen
 Justin Sipp - Melvin Lawhorn - Nehemiah Dillard - Michael Lembhard
 Marquez Smart - Tendai Nhekaire - Rekia Boyd - Stephon Watts
 Manuel Loggins Jr. - Johnnie Kamahi Warren



***(Cycle of Violence, cont from page 3)
military spending and escalating armed
conflicts, even if they loudly oppose “boots
on the ground.”***

I've had an affinity for Democrats most of my life, with an independent streak from national elections in which I felt compelled to vote for someone I actually admired. I love the Green Party, but I've only had one opportunity to vote Green outside presidential elections. I'd like to help the brave Greens who keep the party alive in this area, but I'm not as feisty a punching bag as I once was. When I was young, I cast some Republican votes, perhaps rebelling against my Democratic parents. Mother's family was imbedded in Georgia politics, and my father grew up literate and poor in Arkansas. As I was impressed by the likes of Goldwater and Nixon, he carefully told me it was Democrats who had the interests of common people in mind.

It's hard to imagine an excuse for Northwesterners who aren't greedy and xenophobic to support Republican causes. Unfortunately, Democrats only grade well in comparison to the GOP. An Idaho Democrat was quoted in the Spokesman Review, saying President Obama could come to Idaho, register as a Republican and get elected without regard to issues. With obvious qualifiers, the point is taken and could apply to Eastern Washington, outside the 3rd Legislative District.

I don't expect Republican control of the Senate to make much difference in our congressional malaise. Congress members, Democrat and Republican, live in a different economy than most of us, and it's the economy to which their parties, their patrons and the media cater, demanding an abstract view of human rights and setting aside peace and environmental concerns. It's a bi-partisan economy that will have its pipelines, for dirty

oil and campaign cash.

A comprehensive plan to eliminate our voting dilemmas is problematic. It seems responsible to peck away from outside until major upheaval demands real change, but most voters dread upheaval more than continuing corporate domination. It's tragic that reform of campaign spending has been stifled, but we deserved to know that the Supreme Court sides with big money.

Our best hope for a healthy party system may be for both major parties to divest elements who demand rescue of the middle class or an end to the wall between military and social funding. That could introduce structure for several parties reliant upon people power rather than big money and the impetus for other leaders to act out of principle over profits. Four or five strong parties would require coalitions for decisions that affect all of us, and I like that idea, even when I see other countries struggling with too many political entities. It's a more wholesome problem than too many lobbyists and too much money.

Meanwhile, look for better options than the status quo or not voting. I'm sure we agree that Citizens United must be overturned, and buying and selling elections is bad. Reserve your support for candidates who represent your hopes and values. Require parties to address your political aspirations before you commit time, money or votes. Try to avoid sweeping generalities, like the ones I use all the time. Give candidates consideration beyond party and the ability to win, and don't encourage anyone who puts party ahead of human needs.

When it comes to Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee, you don't have to mark every ballot item. And you can write in candidates. It caused no trouble for me to get a few votes for state legislature, this year, and it was

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(Cycle of Violence, cont from page 10)

exciting to see primary write-ins qualify for November. There's no shame in supporting unsuccessful candidates or issues, or losing, even to an inept opponent. It is a shame for an avid voter to depend upon the lesser of two evils.

A single party will never offer all the best solutions, locally or globally. A good party system could ***put the love back into voting.***

VFP #035 DONATES TO VFP#160 HOA BINH (PEACE) CHAPTER IN VIET NAM

By Hollis Higgins

With the U.S. Government about to spend \$65 million rewriting the history of the Viet Nam War that bitterly divided our citizens, you may be interested to know that Veterans For Peace has established the Hoa Binh Chapter #160 in Viet Nam. San Francisco Chapter donated \$4000 for Hoa Binh, twice! And it has collected our local chapter's \$100 donation for support of programs. These include:

Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign [vn-agentorange.org] advocates for three-million Vietnamese families affected by application(1961-75) of 20 million gallons of herbicides (13 were Agent Orange/dioxin) as well as cleanup of environmental "hot spots."

Unexploded Ordinance (UXO); ten percent of 15 million tons of munitions did not explode, and has killed or wounded more than 100,000 persons, one-third of whom are children. VFP, through Project RENEW, seeks to increase the \$4 million/year the U.S. budgets for cleanup and educating about the dangers UXO presents.

Friendship Village, vietnamfriendship.org, near Hanoi, is an international center providing medical care, physical therapy, education and vocational training.

VFP Spring Tour of Vietnam: A two-week

tour hosted by Hoa Binh Chapter re-introduces VFP members to the Vietnamese people and the war legacies that remain, visiting battle zones, cemeteries, hospitals major cities, and restoration sites. (More: vfp-vn.ning.com/).

President's letter accompanying our donation:

To Our Cherished Comrades In VFP;

Spokane VFP #035 feels a great affinity for the leaders and members of #160. Even those of us who never came close to the RVN feel strongly that our lives were altered by our country's military blundering there, and we want to be part of the reconciliation and peacemaking of our fellow veterans who live and work in Vietnam.

Personally, I have great admiration for Chuck Searcy, whom I met in Thomson, Georgia before we were both deployed to Vietnam. Through VFP, I have followed his devotion to building relationships to the Vietnamese people, and I'm proud that my brothers and sisters in Spokane feel the need to be even a small part of that work.

Please see that our token gift of appreciation and encouragement is directed to #160, and that the leaders of VFP know that we are indebted to them for creating an environment in which men and women may love and serve their country without the hatred and fear that continues to deteriorate most of our country's resources. Any pride we ever had in our military participation can only be sustained by the ability of so many warriors to reject violence and the notion of enemies, and build, against all odds, a peaceful world.

We are proud of our organization and the members of #160.

Peace, Rusty Nelson, President, Spokane Veterans for Peace #035

You can be part of our work to abolish war. Monthly meetings are 2nd Wednesday, 6:45 PM at the Community Building. See spokaneveteransforpeace.org.

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PJALS Holiday Party

Festivus — for all of us! This is a joint event of PJALS, Don't Shoot, & I Did The Time!

Bring something to share in our finger food potluck.

Share your thoughts in our Airing of Hopes and Wishes! All welcome!

Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Community Building Lobby, 35 W. Main

Please support PJALS!

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane depends upon gifts and dues from members to continue to work for peace and justice, locally and globally. We welcome anyone who favors free exchange of ideas and nonviolent action to war or to inaction and ignorance. PJALS, 35 W Main, Suite 120M, Spokane, WA 99201.

You determine your own level of support and participation. Members also determine issues and projects that get the most attention and effort. PJALS is a 501©3 nonprofit corporation.

Call 838-7870 to discuss the by-the-month options, or visit www.pjals.org and click "Contribute" in upper right corner.

Other membership options:

Name(s) _____

Essential/Vintage members \$60/year

Address _____

Living Lightly (low income) \$20/year

Phone/email _____











