

National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee



of RESISTANCE Taxes for Peace NOT WAR

Operate from Significance

Bill Durland on the Founding of NWTRCC

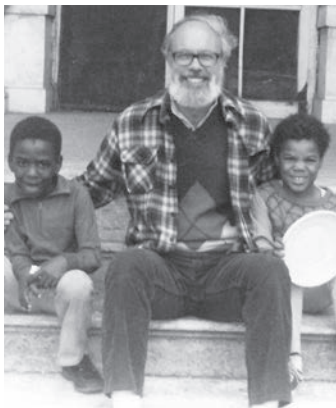
Bill Durland is an attorney with degrees in Jurisprudence and Philosophy. He has taught at seminaries, colleges, and law schools. He played a key role in the founding of NWTRCC in 1982, and Ruth Benn spoke with him about then and now.

Ruth: Let's start by learning about the Center on Law and Pacifism, which you started before the founding of NWTRCC.

Bill: In 1978, Genie and I lived in Philadelphia. We had been involved with War Resisters League (WRL) and others in the broad antiwar, pro-peace groups. People came to us, Quakers or people who were spiritual or philosophical or theological, as well as the war tax resisters with cases where the ACLU let them fall through the cracks. Bob Anthony, who was a Quaker and war tax refuser, came to us. We met with Father Dick McSorley [1914-2002] in Washington, DC, and the three of us formed the Center on Law and Pacifism (CLP).

We formed this group from a sort of religious aspect, what the gospels meant to Christians or any religious or moral people where their church was supporting war. We weren't really so much trying to

continued on page 3 ➞



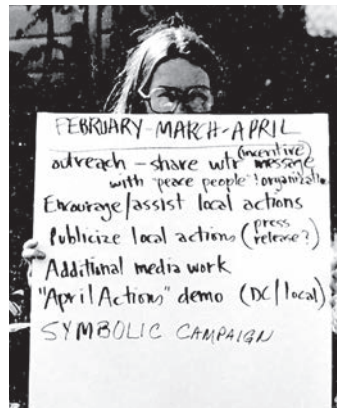
Bill Durland with Catholic Worker youngsters at the second meeting that created NWTRCC, St. Louis, November 1982.

Photo courtesy of Bill and Genie Durland.



The National Action Conference where NWTRCC was founded, Washington, DC, September 1982.

Photo by Ed Hedemann.



Kathy Levine, first NWTRCC Coordinator, showing the time-honored results of a discussion at a meeting in Houston, January, 1985.

Photo by Ed Hedemann.

Newsletter News

“Network News” was the predecessor of this newsletter and began with a December 1984 mailing from the office in East Patchogue, New York. That 4-page typed and photocopied mailing started with news about auctions and seizures — with some names still familiar to NWTRCC today. Robert and



Linda Randall's house in Woodstock, Georgia, had been auctioned and protest bids were submitted; the Randalls bought the house back after the sale. In Chicago, Karl Meyer reported on the cancellation of a public auction when 60 protesters showed up to protest the sale of Michael McConnell's property. And in Colorado Springs (join us there November 2-4, 2012), the IRS removed

continued on page 14 ➞

More Than a Paycheck 30th Anniversary Issue

Editor Ruth Benn

Production Rick Bickhart

Printing and Mailing

Lakeside Printing Cooperative,
Madison, WI

Printed on Recycled Paper

More Than a Paycheck: Refusing to Pay for War is a bimonthly publication of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, a clearing-house and resource center for the conscientious war tax resistance movement in the United States. NWTRCC is a coalition of local, regional and national affiliate groups working on war tax related issues.

NWTRCC sees poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, economic exploitation, environmental destruction and militarization of law enforcement as integrally linked with the militarism which we abhor. Through the redirection of our tax dollars, NWTRCC members contribute directly to the struggle for peace and justice for all.

Subscriptions are \$15 per year.

NWTRCC

PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215

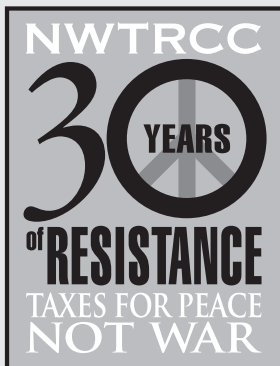
(718) 768.3420

(800) 269.7464

Fax: (718) 768.4388

nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org

www.nwtrcc.org



Counseling Notes

Support Fund

The Pacific Yearly Meeting has established what it calls the "Fund of Concerns" with which it will help individual Monthly Meetings help individual Quakers in their war tax refusal. "Up to \$100 per fiscal year per person will be available to help with the interest and penalty expenses of war tax resisters who are members or regular attenders of a Monthly Meeting. The Monthly Meeting must indicate approval and provide matching funds." For more information see pacificyearlymeeting.org/2012/pym-docs/3344.

Drop In Counseling

Spanish tax resisters have established what they call "Offices of Economic Disobedience" in Zaragoza, Barcelona, Madrid, Ávila, Castellón, Sevilla, and Mallorca. These offer counseling on "how to resist taxes for military spending, payments on the national debt, or for the church and monarchy," according to the head of the Madrid office, and also information on how to create worker-managed businesses and other such cooperatives that function outside of the government tax and regulation structure. For more details see sniggle.net/Experiment/index5.php?entry=02Sep12.

The 47% and WTR

"Forty-seven percent of the people who will vote for the president no matter what...who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it. ... These are people who pay no income tax."

Mitt Romney's statements at a Florida fundraiser have been circulated widely since the video was released by *Mother Jones* in September. We're not writing about this to get into electoral politics, but to consider what it means for war tax resistance organizing and outreach since war tax resistance has generally focused on income taxes and war. Are we ignoring that 47%?

Telephone tax refusal was one way to involve many more people in WTR. We continue to offer information about the federal excise tax on local phone service, but because there is no tax on long distance, cell phone, voice-over-internet, or mixed use phone service, that effort is much reduced. NWTRCC has expanded its information about other federal excise taxes like those on tobacco, alcohol, cruises, and air travel, with a web page, nwtrcc.org/other_taxes.php. In most cases, the only way to refuse these taxes is to not consume the product.

The big federal taxes that Romney ignored and that most people do pay are the payroll taxes for Social Security and Medicare. Opinions vary among war tax resisters regarding

continued on page 15 ➔

Many Thanks

To all who took out ads in this anniversary issue! We added extra pages to accommodate them, and we think you will find the ads worth a read too! Thanks to Ed Hedemann for his help in designing many of the ads that came in, and thanks to Jerry Chernow at Lakeside Press in Madison, Wisconsin, for the extra time required to fold and mail this issue. If you missed out on placing an ad this time, contact us for rates or see nwtrcc.org/ads.php. We're in our 30th anniversary year, and we put ads in every issue.

Thank you to these affiliates for their recent dues payments:

Pioneer Valley War Tax Resistance, Greenfield, MA

Taxes for Peace Not War! Eugene, OR

War Resisters League National

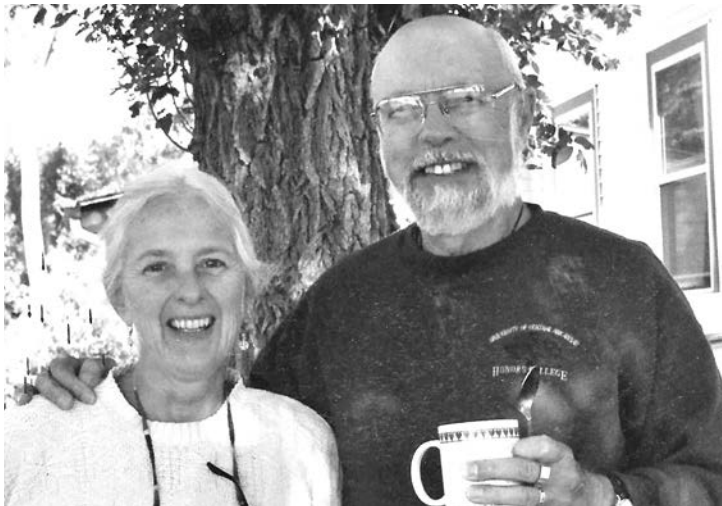
Network Updates

Thanks to everyone on the network list who returned the contact update postcard. We're in the process of making the changes, and you still have time to reply. NWTRCC's Network List of Affiliates, Area Contacts, Counselors, and Alternative Funds appear on the website, or request a list from the NWTRCC office.

Please let us know if you are interested in being a contact on our network list: nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org or 1-800-269-7464.

change churches but give people in churches an opportunity to be defended and applauded in what they were doing. Our first case was Bob Anthony's. I eventually took that and several cases to the Supreme Court. I took prison cases and poverty cases and conscientious objection and civil disobedience.

Then we moved to Colorado Springs in 1980 with the idea to have a western office as well as the eastern office. Eventually the western office became dominant, and the eastern office faded after a couple years. I took a lot of cases to a lot of courts, mostly federal. I was criticized by a couple of attorneys because "you don't take a case where you can't tell your clients there's a good chance of winning," but we were witnessing. Part of that witness was the religious calling to be nonviolent and be against war and to not pay war taxes.



Bill and Genie Durland, 2012. Photo courtesy of the Durlands.

What inspired you to call the conference that got NWTRCC started.

We were extremely busy. WRL was busy. Everyone was busy. We all felt like if we worked hard enough we were going to get something done. Besides WRL there was another group, Ed Pearson's Conscience and Military Tax Campaign (CMTC). We met him about six months after we formed CLP. Another one was Peacemakers. It came to my attention there was some duplication and overlapping of these organizations. That was #1, and #2 was, wouldn't it be nice if we could communicate better and have a common approach. In 1982 Reagan was getting stronger, so I just had this little bubble in my head and mentioned it to Genie and said "I'm going to call up Ed Pearson (CMTC) and Ed Hedemann (WRL), which I did. That's what brought us together in September 1982 in Washington, DC, for the National Action Conference at which we organized NWTRCC.

So CMTC was involved along with WRL and you? Was Peacemakers involved in the conference?

The Bromleys, Wally and Juanita Nelson, and others from Peacemakers were at the September meeting. It had 17 states represented and 60-plus people. We talked about coordinating actions and policies and representing people. One of the things that CLP did more than the other groups was organize the national legal advisors network. We had

advisors in almost every state at one time, and these people were available to war resisters and anybody who was doing war tax resistance (WTR). So by getting together we found that we could share the distinctive characteristics of each organization.

There was humor involved as well. We were spending a lot of time over the name. Ed Pearson wanted to get "redirection" in there: National War Tax Resistance and Redirection Coordinating Committee. But that just got too long. [The acronym] was suggested as "new-trick." I was more protective than anyone else and wanted to make it "new-track," and then everybody said they'd call it "new track" even though it sounds like "new trick." So that is how history is made.

Then we met in November at St. Louis Catholic Worker and that was a nice meeting. We did more of these things — structure, specifics on legal and education, actions, and planning for future meetings. We decided to adopt a logo. Three were suggested, all done by Mary Lynn Sheetz in Colorado Springs. Someone didn't like a flower at the end of the gun as not being the right image so that got changed to a dove. Can you think — people came all the way to St. Louis, there were all these things we were doing — and we spent two or three hours on the logo!

We elected a board in St. Louis, and from 1985 on NWTRCC was the formidable organization and did a lot of good work. Genie and I and some of the others faded out, and it continued. After 30 years it's just a gem.

So NWTRCC has fulfilled your hopes?

I envisioned all of these groups continuing and that NWTRCC would be the least active of the three, but the most necessary, because it would be simply people of all the different groups coming together and coordinating thing but not a national organization. I think WRL was happy to have these other groups, because they did a lot of other things, and they were the biggest group of course. NWTRCC became the go-to group, the clearinghouse for all the others, and it certainly fulfilled my hopes.

You have done a lot over the years on what some might see as hopeless causes. How do you keep going?

I think early on we decided that you operate from significance rather than effectiveness. Americans sometimes don't realize how long it can take to be effective, and they give up. We've been able to contain our disappointments. Around here there are fewer and fewer people that are out on the streets. It's much more difficult. In the case of the Catholics, a pope came in about the same time we were so active and put in conservative priests in South America and wherever. It's like a conservative president stacking the Supreme Court and the judges. After a while it starts changing.

What stands out from your years of activism?

When I was teaching, the teaching was so enhanced by my antiwar experience. What I was able to amplify in the books and ask students to think about, I think made a great impression. When the Iraq war started, the second one, I issued a statement to my students and the administration that I would not participate in anything that had to do with war-making. They are all part of the same thing — war tax resistance, antiwar, civil disobedience, standing up for your morality whether you are religious or an atheist. I guess I wouldn't trade the life that we've had. We're so glad at our late age that there are people who continue. ●

Afghan Friends

Voices for Creative Nonviolence, a NWTRCC affiliate, and the indefatigable and courageous peace activist Kathy Kelly, have built a relationship over the years with thousands of war victims and anti-war activists in Iraq and Afghanistan. Kathy and other Voices speakers have toured the country telling the stories they've learned in their travels, and they've connected us all with a special group, the Afghan Peace Volunteers. Recently Voices sent out the following request:

"Afghan Peace Volunteers face grave threats of escalated violence in their country. Most have already experienced traumas of displacement and bereavement. Yet, rather than seek revenge over the deaths of 2 million people in the past four decades of war, the Afghan Peace Volunteers steadfastly insist they want to build 2 million friendships, allied in the cause of seeking a ceasefire and an end to wars in Afghanistan. Could you kindly help us reach out to people in your network, encouraging them to visit the 2millionfriends.org website? The website includes a petition we hope you'll sign, and gives information for everyone interested in setting up December 10th (International Human Rights Day) solidarity events in their communities."



Photo from facebook.com/2millionfriends.

Please visit the website, participate, and make your refusal to pay for war public when you have the opportunity. You may also contact the Afghan Peace Volunteers through the website.

Talk Nation Radio

Another energetic war resister who is often on the speaker's platform is David Swanson. Somehow between his writing and traveling he also finds the time to host an online radio show. The September program features NWTRCC Coordinator Ruth Benn speaking about,



what else, war tax resistance. Reviews are in all the way from Australia! Robert Burrowes had this to say:

"I just listened to your interview about war tax resistance on 'Talk Nation Radio' and thoroughly enjoyed it for several reasons! ...I liked your informative, no nonsense but 'it's up to the individual' answers Ruth. I also appreciated your relaxed, 'give-the-interviewee-time-to-tell-their-story' style David: rare, in my experience!"

Tune in and see what you think. Go to davidswanson.org/talknationradio. You'll also find interviews about political theater on the West Bank, how young people shut down strip mining in West Virginia, the war on whistleblowers, the march to war in Iran, and more.

Virtual Penny Poll

Titus Peachey at the Mennonite Central Committee sent a link to their new web page, a virtual penny poll. mcc.org/FearNot/world/pennypoll/virtual. After you take the poll a comparison to federal spending pops up.

While glancing at the conscientious objection/war taxes pages on their website, co.mcc.org/wartaxes, a quote "from the elders of the Church that men call Hutterian, May 14, 1590," came to our attention. In NWTRCC's 30th year, this is a reminder of the long struggle we face.

"We pay no taxes for vengeance, nor do we give anything as substitute for such taxes... We would be willing to pay an annual sum on each house where we have a communal kitchen,

as long as we can be assured that the money will be used profitably for the country and for people in need."

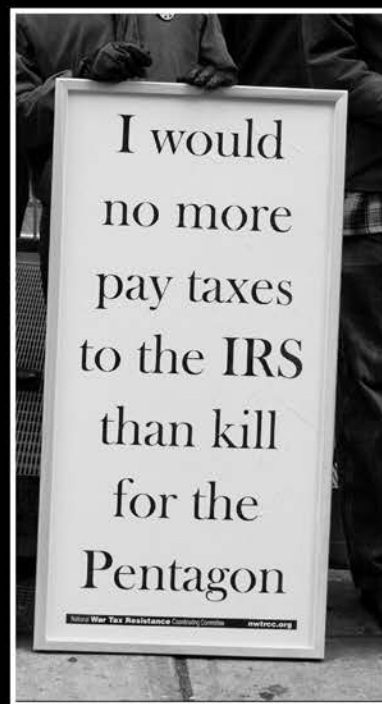
Transform Now Plowshares

On Saturday, July 28, 2012, three antinuclear activists took an action that put them in headlines across the country for shutting down a nuclear plant pending an investigation. Calling themselves the Transform Now Plowshares, Sr. Megan Rice, Greg Boertje-Obed, and Michael Walli made their way onto the property of the Oak

continued on page 13 ➞



“ There’s a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can’t take part . . . and you’ve got to put your bodies upon the gears and . . . make it stop! And you’ve got to indicate to the people who run it . . . the machine will be prevented from working at all!* ”



NATIONAL
WAR TAX RESISTANCE
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

30 years of assisting bodies on the gears of the war machine

*QUOTE: Mario Savio, Dec. 2, 1964; PHOTO: Eraseanna Robinson, Jan. 26, 1960

Congratulate NWTRCC, its Activists, and Coordinators on 30 Years of Education, Agitation, and Resistance

We also honor three deceased resisters who bequeathed SCWTAF their escrow deposits
Franklin Zahn • Betty Rottger • Robert Koenig

FRANKLIN left his WW II C.O. civilian public service camp and found a public service job on his own – and was jailed for this independence. In jail he read the news of the atomic bombing of Japan and knew right away that the bomb meant big trouble for the future. When he refused to pay the federal excise tax on phone service during the Korean War, his phone company canceled his phone service (their practice back then). He was arrested sailing on the Phoenix into the Pacific U.S. nuclear bomb test site. He staffed a Fellowship of Reconciliation “shelters for the shelterless” project in India (a protest against bomb shelter building in the U.S.). During the Vietnam War the IRS had a tow truck get ready to seize his station wagon for \$6 in refused phone taxes (he didn’t relent – but they did); he “swam-

in” in Long Beach harbor to block a navy ship from leaving for Vietnam. Franklin was a founder of SCWTR and SCWTAF in 1979. See his book *Deserter From Violence*.

BETTY was also a founder of SCWTR and SCWTAF. She recalled that as a child during WW I when her father was in the U.S. military she fantasized slicing the German Kaiser into pieces. In adulthood her being both a Communist and a pacifist was a rare combination. For decades she was the office coordinator of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation. Partly disabled from polio, she was once arrested in a wheelchair for blocking a street in a draft resistance action. She wore a big “Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays” button even before learning of her son’s homosexuality, and regularly

nominated lesser-known innovative AIDS projects for SCWTAF grants.

ROBERT, a Navy veteran and retired L.A. Fire Dept. Captain, met the L.A. Catholic Worker and moved from conservative Republicanism to peace and social justice activism. He volunteered at the L.A. Catholic Worker kitchen, protested at the Nevada nuclear test site and the School of the Americas, visited Nicaragua, and joined numerous other actions. The L.A. Catholic Agitator wrote following his death in 2008 that he had made a “spiritual journey of epic proportions” and that “The same loyalty and dedication he once gave to the military and Fire Dept. he now gave to the Catholic Worker and peace movements.” For more about Robert, see lacatholicworker.org/agitator/Oct 08 Agitator Web.pdf.

Southern California War Tax Alternative Fund / Project of So. Calif. War Tax Resistance • 2436 Armstrong Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039 • www.so-cal-war-tax-resist.org



PAID ADVERTISEMENTS



Thank you, NWTRCC...

and thanks to all our WTR friends and supporters who stood, sat down, walked, and vigiled with us in nonviolent opposition to the U.S. government's seizure of our home (1989-1993).

We love you!

Betsy Corner AND Randy Kehler

*When we have accepted poverty
there will be peace among men . . .*

*Only when we love God shall we
love our fellow men . . .*

*Only when we love our fellow men
shall we have peace.*

*When we have peace we shall have
poverty and where we have poverty
we shall have the Kingdom of God.*



John Brophy
NWTRCC Supporter

Support from the WTR Movement and from Mom

When I was a NWTRCC Coordinator in 1985, a U.S. Marshall came to my door with an order demanding my appearance at the federal district court in Brooklyn. I was receiving special attention from the government because I had decided to take some personal responsibility for the fact that my country was spending most of the federal income taxes that I paid for military escalation. The case was *U.S.A. v. Bassett*. Many people supported me in many ways through that year: letters to the judge, donations for a legal defense, publicity, hugs. Support during that tense year was critical for me. NWTRCC members helped me educate, agitate and organize. My Mom came from Michigan to give her support – and hugs. By the way, we won the case and it established a precedent about refusing to cooperate with the IRS.



Steven Boms, 1986/Whole Life Times

LARRY BASSETT, Lynchburg, Virginia



We cannot silently and voluntarily participate in dominance and violence. Our God and our faith demand more from us.

We resist because we have experienced the most powerful transformative force in the world: love.

CHARLIE HURST AND MARIA SMITH

Thank you, NWTRCC!

xO,
Chilly Mammoth

This ad funded by a solidarity grant from the Maine Campaign to Bring Our War \$\$ Home, www.bringourwardollarshome.org

“ If people refuse to pay for war, and refuse military service, the present government cannot stand. Let people go to prison. The government cannot put the entire population in prison, and even if it could, it would still be without money and people to support an army. ”

Leo Tolstoy AND Mike Levinson

All honor and thanks to NWTRCC for so steadily and concretely helping us to remember this simple exhortation: if you oppose war, you shouldn't pay for it.

LAWRENCE ROSENWALD
Wellesley, Massachusetts

**Congrats and thanks to
NWTRCC for 30 great
years of affiliation,
organizing, and support!**

NEW ENGLAND WAR TAX RESISTANCE
617-282-3783

I want to celebrate the 30th anniversary of NWTRCC by recognizing a group that was instrumental in the war tax resistance movement since WWII and in my becoming a committed WTRer.

PEACEMAKERS

Peacemakers started in the late 1940s and faded in the early 1990s. There are 5 people from that original group that I became friends with and was influenced greatly by: Wally and Juanita Nelson, Ernest and Marion Bromley, and Maurice McCrackin. Juanita is the only one still alive. Thanks for being such great examples of how to live one's life to its fullest.

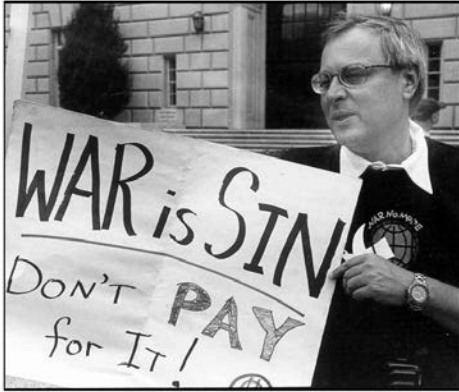
ROD NIPPERT



Ed Hedemann, 1991

Thank you, Robert Randall

... for your
con-
stancy
... for your
humor
... for your
serious-
ness of
purpose,
and,



... for throwing yourself into the business
of keeping NWTRCC going over 30
years and 45 meetings — from Atlanta
to Albuquerque, Birmingham to Berke-
ley, Cambridge to Cleveland, Durham
to Denver, Swarthmore to Seattle,
Washington to Worcester!

*With love and appreciation
from your NWTRCC family*



National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund

For the Sake of Conscience

2121 Decatur Pl., NW
Washington, DC 20008-1923

www.peacetaxfund.org

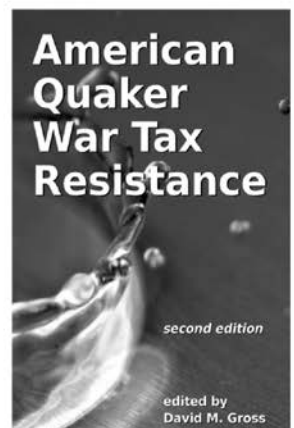
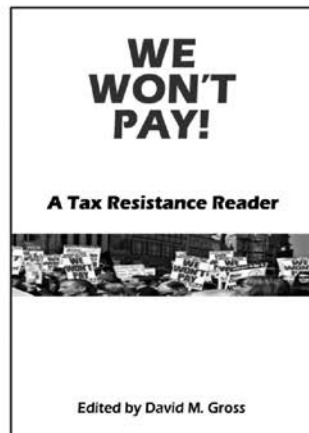
888-PEACETAX

888-483-3751

Congratulations to NWTRCC on 30 years of supporting war tax resisters!

Picket Line Press

<http://sniggle.net/Experiment/>



NWTRCC would not have made it through 30 years without volunteers and the countless hours they have spent at meetings, serving on committees, reviewing literature, producing this newsletter, writing articles, contributing to the website, making slideshows and films, talking to the media, creating skits and songs, signing onto statements, stuffing envelopes, taking photos, tabling, and all it takes to keep an organization going, plus all of your generous financial contributions. Thanks to each individual who has given NWTRCC some of their time and money and to everyone who continues to work to put an end to war.



Workshop, May 1983, New York City. Photo by Ed Hedemann.



Workshop, November 2011, Kansas City. Photo by Susan Miller.

**CITIZENS' TAX MORATORIUM FOR
ABOLITION of the DEATH PENALTY
and UNCONSTITUTIONAL MILITARY
CONSCRIPTION & REGISTRATION
("SOLOMON" BANS)**

JOHN M. KLOTZ
125 W. 9th St., #404 • Dubuque, Iowa 52001-6738
1-563-583-2586 • john-klotz@uiowa.edu

Lakeside Press
MADISON, WISCONSIN

CONGRATULATIONS

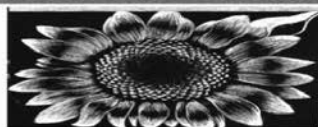
on 30 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

IF YOU WORK
FOR PEACE



**NATIONAL WAR TAX
RESISTANCE COORDINATING
COMMITTEE**

NUKEWATCH



Palo Alto Friends Meeting



We celebrate NWTRCC's 30 years of
providing resources, vision and inspiration to
those of us supporting war tax resistance.

Syracuse Peace Council



CAT LOVERS AGAINST THE BOMB 2013

wall calendar \$8.95 + \$2 postage

Order from: CLAB-NW,

PO Box 83466, Lincoln, NE 68501

Elizabeth Boardman

*Davis, California
Activist & Writer*

Cheers for NWTRCC!

We love you

We need you

Keep on with your great work!

TAXES FOR PEACE NOT WAR

Eugene, Oregon • TEL. 541-342-2914

EMAIL: sarahandcarrie@comcast.net



Take the natural path to optimal health!

Acupuncture • Herbs • Homeopathy • Detox • NRCT



THE REDWOOD CLINIC

berkeleyacupuncture.com **510.849.1176**



**1/2
of every
tax dollar
pays for
war.**

**I'm not
buying it!**

**Not with
my body, not with
my money, not with
my mind.**



*... Because a chest
is a terrible thing
to waste!*

T-SHIRTS

806 Nichols Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80907

TOLL FREE: 1-888-822-6512



Many consider the **IRS** a cabal of
JACK-BOOTED THUGS

who deliberately
foster a climate of
FEAR based on their
threats to seize bank

accounts, wages, property,
and freedom. However, the IRS –

bagman for the Pentagon's **WORLD WIDE**

WEB of **WARS** – cannot force us to stop

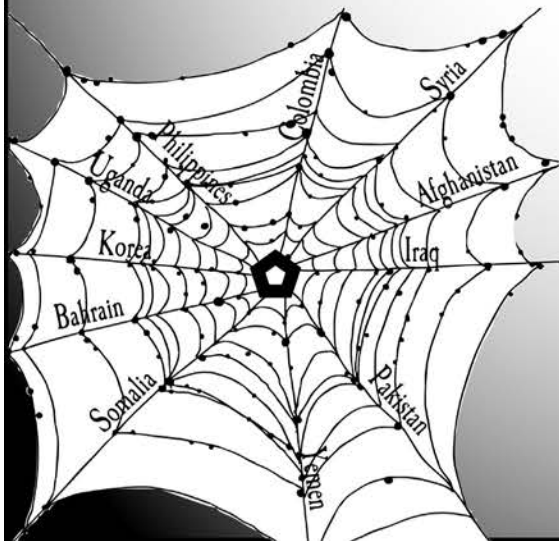
RESISTING and willingly **COOPERATE** with its desperate
war-funding machinery.

Since 1982 **NWTRCC** has provided critical
organizing resources, networking, legal
updates, news from around the world,

and moral
support as
it's stood with
us against the
government's tax-
collection efforts.

*"Uncontrolled
search and seizure
is one of the
first and most
effective weapons
... in cowing
a population,
crushing the spirit
of the individual
and putting terror
in every heart."*

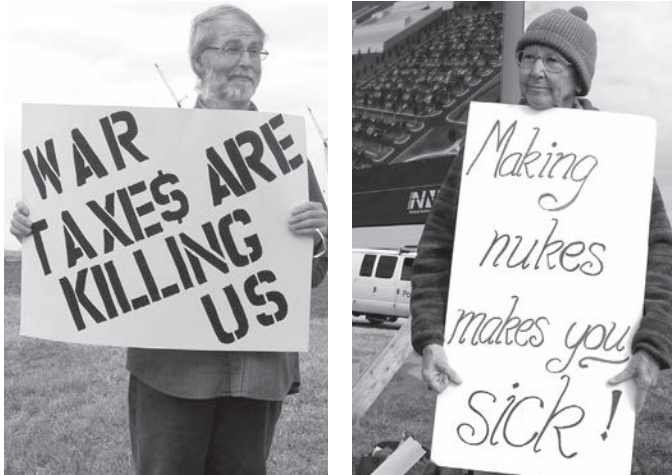
–JUSTICE ROBERT
H. JACKSON, 1949



Ed Hedemann

Tax Resistance Ideas and Actions

WTR Ideas and Actions continued from page 4



Greg Boertje-Obed and Sr. Megan Rice at NWTRCC's November 2011 protest at the Kansas City nuclear weapons parts plant. **NWTRCC photos.**

Ridge nuclear reservation in Tennessee and splashed blood and hung "Swords into Plowshares" banners on the building housing the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility.

Hundreds or thousands of individuals came to war tax resistance specifically because of the nuclear weapons issue. In the early 1980s the antinuclear movement was growing and visible, to the point that Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle was moved to say, "I think the teaching of Jesus tells us to render to a nuclear-arms Caesar what that Caesar deserves, tax resistance." He followed that talk with his own resistance.

Megan and Greg joined war tax resisters in November 2011, when we met in Kansas City and held a protest at the Kansas City Plant. Thanks to them and to Michael for their persistent actions and for risking years in prison to bring attention to the need for complete nuclear disarmament.

A trial date is currently set for February 26, 2013, at Federal court in Knoxville, Tennessee. Learn more at transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com. Contributions towards trial-related expenses and jail support can be mailed to Catholic Worker, PO Box 29179, Washington DC 20017.

Iran Pledge of Resistance

NWTRCC has links with the Iran Pledge of Resistance, a campaign initiated by United for Peace and Justice to build an effective and rapid response to preempt a U.S. war with Iran. Visit the website, iranpledge.org, to learn more and to sign the pledge to "join with others to engage in acts of legal protest and/or nonviolent civil disobedience to prevent or halt the death and destruction which U.S. military actions would cause to the people of Iran, the Middle East, our communities at home, and the planet itself." •

Resources

"I'm Not Buying It"

Tee Shirts from NWTRCC

FRONT: Dove color graphic and "War No More - Not with my body, Not with my money, Not with my mind"

BACK: "I'm Not Buying It" and wartaxboycott.org in white letters
Adult M, L, XL (Black)

FRONT: "Stop the War Machine" with color machine gear graphic

BACK: "I'm Not Buying It" and wartaxboycott.org in black letters
Adult M, L, XL (Red)

Shirts are printed on top quality 100% heavyweight cotton t-shirts and created by AlterniTees in Colorado Springs. They are "pre shrunk," but washing in cool water and using a cool dryer or line dry are recommended.

\$15 each plus \$5 postage and handling

Back to School

"Thoreau and His Heirs. The History and Legacy of Thoreau's Civil Disobedience" Teaching Kit, \$30 postpaid. (Includes **Death & Taxes DVD**, *Thoreau's essay, questions for students, and select list of historic civil disobedience actions*). The kit pieces are free online at nwtrcc.org/thoreau.php.

A Persistent Voice

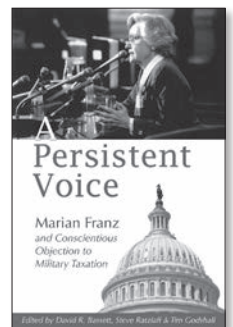
Marian Franz and Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation

Edited by David R. Bassett, Steve Ratzlaff, and Tim Godshall (2009)

Special price **\$15 (includes postage)**

From 1982 to 2005, Marian Franz led the American effort to allow those conscientiously opposed to participation in war to pay taxes into a fund for non-military purposes only. This book compiles the best of her writing from over 20 years' worth of inspiring and informative newsletter columns. Additional essays submitted by several of Marian's colleagues reflect on the rationale for, history of, and challenges facing the movement for conscientious objection to military taxation.

To order any of the above: Send a check made out to NWTRCC to PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215, or pay online through WePay or Paypal (use the comment section to list your order or send an email). Call **1-800-269-7464** with questions or for a resource list by mail.



Join Us in Colorado!

National War Tax Resistance Gathering and Coordinating Committee Meeting
November 2 - 4, 2012, Colorado College,
Colorado Springs

Our program begins with a 4:30 pm vigil on Friday in downtown Colorado Springs, followed by dinner and a program on "Resistance, Risks, Realities." Presenters will talk about the risks of war tax resistance, military resistance, and the realities of prison. Saturday's program is mini-conference style with workshops and plenaries on sustaining local organizing, the frivolous penalty, banking and interest, WTR 101 for newcomers, social media, mutual aid, and more. NWTRCC's business



Join us on Friday, November 2, for bannering in Colorado Springs at the start of our weekend gathering. **Photo by Donna Johnson.**

meeting (open to all) is Sunday morning, and we end with lunch on Sunday. For more details and registration information see nwtrcc.org/meetings.php or call **800-269-7464**.

27th Annual New England Gathering

**"Forms of War Tax Resistance:
Where We've Been & Where We're Going"**

October 26 - 28 · Cambridge, MA

Cambridge Friends Meeting,
9 Longfellow Park (Friday-Saturday)

Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn St. (Sunday)

A panel discussion, "Does WTR Have a Political Future?" starts off the weekend and other challenging topics include: Why resist? Why keep on resisting? Why stop resisting? How is WTR different in this "age of inequity"? Is a new WTR movement needed—and possible?

Contact the NWTRCC office for a brochure, **800-269-7464** or for questions contact Alan Clemence, **207-631-1158**, breezyfield@yahoo.com, or Larry Dansinger, **207-525-7776**, rosc@psouth.net.

SOAW Tabling

Once again NWTRCC will be tabling at the Shut Down the School of the Americas vigil, November 16–18 in Fort Benning, Georgia. Contact the NWTRCC office if you would like to help leaflet, table, or have a WTR workshop.

14th International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns

February 3 - 9, 2013
Bogotá, Colombia

Everyone interested in the links between militarization, taxation, and conscience and who want to learn more about and support the vigorous anti-militarist movement in Colombia is invited to attend. The conference is hosted by Acción Colectiva de Objetores y Objetoras de Conciencia (ACOOC) and endorsed by NWTRCC, Netzwerk Friedenssteuer, and Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI). Sessions will take place at Casa Kolping, in Bogotá, and accommodations are at Hotel Teusacá, a short distance away. David Gross, Northern California War Tax Resistance, will be NWTRCC's representative at the conference, but we hope that others will be able to attend also. For more information and registration see peacetaconference.org or call the NWTRCC office for copies by mail, **800-269-7464**. ●

Newsletter News continued from page 1

a seizure notice for the property of Donna Johnson, because the IRS agreed that they would need to take her to court to prove that she had an interest in the group-owned property.

The newsletter included notes about telephone tax resistance, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting support for an employee/resister, and tax law with relevance to alternative funds. Our friend Carol Katonik Coney was also in the process of making the film *Paying for Peace*, which served as

an excellent organizing tool for war tax resisters for many years and holds up well today. It includes wonderful footage of Wally and Juanita Nelson, Ernest Bromley, Maurice McCracken, and other key figures in the modern war tax resistance movement.

As you can see, we're now in the process of a newsletter redesign, thanks to graphic artist Rick Bickhart. The next issue will unveil the new permanent masthead to go with the style changes that you see in this issue. ●

payment of Social Security taxes, which contribute to war spending because the Trust Funds can be borrowed for general federal spending, or the surplus is invested in U.S. treasury bonds, which finance federal spending. As a salaried employee it is impossible to refuse these taxes; they are a straight percentage of gross salary and are not affected by the number of allowances you put on the W-4 form. Self-employed/below-taxable resisters

can—and many do—refuse to make Social Security payments. The IRS power to collect these taxes is the same as for income taxes. We hope to write more on the question of “to pay or not to pay” into Social Security in a future issue of this newsletter. If you have an opinion on this topic and are willing to write a paragraph (or so) about why, please send your statement to the NWTGCC office or email nwtgcc@nwtgcc.org. •

Oakland Youth continued from back cover

Guayo shared:

**It's all fueled by greed
And the broken backs of those who work hard,
Brown and black is their mark,
Currencies and government policies,
Political and financial self-interest capitalist infrastructure and war
There is no difference
When it's strictly business
Government jedis perform mind tricks
When economics replaces moral logic
You can either take the path of a scholar
Or chase the American dollar
Either way we're still leashed to the street
By a government collar**

Although the security guards at the Federal Building hung back, we had several encounters with private security at banks where we stopped. Luckily, our group included several skilled peacemakers who were able to calm the agitated guards long enough to let the youth have their say and move on. During one of these confrontations, Michael shared a poem written to the prompt “War is not my occupation,” which included the lines:

**I refuse to occupy war!
I will not put my time,
or my money
into this machine of killing!
I refuse to deposit
My resources into this ATM!
This Aristocratic Torture Method
I refuse to be taxed
For this American Terrorism Massacre!
I refuse to occupy War!
And I refuse to let war
Occupy me!**

We made a special point of stopping in front of Wells Fargo to highlight the fact that their money is invested in private immigrant detention facilities that are part of this country's militarization of our borders and communities. Wells Fargo responded by shutting down their bank while we enjoyed street theater by headRush that broke down the racist impacts of the bank's practices outside their locked doors.

After reaching the Federal Building, we decided to close our action by modeling the kind of redirection we are calling for on a national level. While war tax resisters redirected \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills to passers by, the

BAY-Peace youth handed out sandwiches and books to participants and onlookers. Our demonstration ended as a circle of sharing, with bystanders stepping up to the mic to sing, recite poetry and enjoy a simple meal together under the shadow of the Oakland Federal Building.

In the words of BAY-Peace youth leader Guayo, “Tax money is the fuel for the military, the fuel for violence. Let's change the input for a better output!”

Postscript: I asked two of the BAY-Peace youth leaders, Lawrence New-some and Megan Mansalas Torio, how they felt about their Tax Day Action.

How did it feel to be out there on the street expressing your feelings about military spending?

L: ...[I]t made me feel as if someone was listening to my story and all the problems I see with how we spend our money.... It was good to have people with the same mindset to back you up on a big problem in the world.

M: I felt empowered. Just to have the knowledge about the truth of the military felt great. But to be able to acknowledge other people felt amazing.

If you were in charge of the budget, where would our taxes be spent?

L: Personally I would spend most of our money in schools and on the kids' education because I believe that the kids are the future and that they will always be able to change the world, but they have to have an education to do it.

M: I would direct the taxes towards the community, like the construction people do, or the projects to build more parks or more recreation centers, anything that'll help make the community better. Also I would push our taxes towards schools, colleges, more resource centers, and definitely health care.

How did the public react to our action?

L: We had a lot of people come to us and ask us what we were doing and so many people joined us, which was amazing, seeing so many different people come together and fight for a change!

M: The public was supportive and curious. I feel like those who supported us wanted to know more and were interested and engaged because, hey, it's their money too that's being misused. •

Susan Quinlan is a long time member of Northern California War Tax Resistance. For the last eight years she has enjoyed the privilege of volunteering as Coordinator of BAY-Peace.

Oakland Youth Lead Creative Action

By Susan Quinlan

It's not often that you find young people who are inspired to sing, dance and write poetry about taxes! But that's exactly what happened in Oakland on Tax Day 2012 when BAY-Peace: Better Alternatives for Youth and Northern California War Tax Resistance teamed up to protest militarism and war.

In the words of Ima, one of the BAY-Peace youth leaders, "We have a right to care where our tax money goes... Most of our tax money goes to the military and prisons, and not education! We have a right to redirect and organize where our tax money should go!"

On the way to joining the all-day action at the Oakland Federal Building, organized by Code Pink and involving a wide range of organizations, the BAY-Peace Youth Action Team, war tax resisters and friends "flash mobbed" our way through downtown Oakland. The group stopped every block or two to offer a round of poetry, a skit or a dance set to original lyrics about military spending:

People People People, can't you see? / They kill around the world with tax money – / Stealing from workers how their money's made / I guess that's why we broke and they so paid!

Leading our parade was a small group of millionaires pushing a wheelbarrow that held a large bag labeled "Your Tax Dollars." Behind them youth carried military boots hanging from poles to represent the 6,500 U.S. deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a sign stating "The wars of the 1% are waged on the backs of the 99%."

Other placards highlighted the trade offs when \$1.6 million is taken out of Oakland each day to fund the military. Using the "Trade Offs" calculator on the National Priorities Project's website, BAY-Peace youth carried signs stating "Instead of paying for war, we could be giving a



Bay-Peace livened up the rally in front of the Federal Building in Oakland with their poems and song. Photo by Susan Quinlan.

\$55,000 college scholarship to every high school student in Oakland," and "Instead of paying for war, we could provide full health insurance coverage for a year for 29,000 Oakland families."

In front of CitiBank BAY-Peace youth poets shared pieces they had written to the prompt "If my money could talk." Megan's poem included the lines

**If my money could talk
It would sing you a melody
Tell you to stop killing trees
Just to make more of me
I'm useless, you'll see
Crumpled up in your pocket
Ended up to profit
The military
We're funding a war so unnecessary**

continued on page 15 ➞



NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 150553, Brooklyn, New York 11215
(800) 269-7464 · (718) 768-3420
www.nwtrcc.org

Please Note:

If there is a (red) circle around your address label, this is the last issue of *More Than a Paycheck* on your subscription. Send in a renewal ASAP!