The world is getting hotter.

Globally, July was the hottest month on the historical record, eclipsing ten straight months of record-breaking temperatures. The nation of Kuwait set a temperature reading of 129 degrees Fahrenheit—the hottest ever recorded on earth.

This heat has huge implications for our way of life, from coastal population areas inundated by rising sea levels, to our capacity to grow food, to even our ability to be out in the sun.

In the opening keynote speech of the 2016 Annual Peace Conference—“The Climate Crisis: Coming to Grips with the Truth of Our Situation”—Richard Miller, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Creighton University, will address the harsh reality of the perils we face.

But as we all well know, many people (the Republican presidential nominee and our own Gov. among them) deny the science of climate change. Scientific evidence and facts do not faze their thinking. They hold to their opinions regardless.

In a second keynote presentation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Political Science Foundation Professor John Hibbing will discuss this dismaying sociological phenomenon in a talk entitled, “The Limits of Rationality: Biological Influences on Political Beliefs.”

And finally, as a special bonus feature of this year’s conference, State Senator Ernie Chambers will deliver a half-hour talk over the noon luncheon. Two ‘one-hour’ sets of educational workshops covering a variety of Peace & Justice issues will complete the day’s activities.

The 2016 Annual Peace Conference promises to be one of the best in our storied 46-year-long history. Plan now to attend this all-day event (lunch included) for just $20.

You can register for the conference by contacting the NFP State Office directly at nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org (phone 402-475-4620) or by downloading the registration form from the NFP website: nebraskansforpeace.org.
Paws-ing to Transfer the CLAB Baton

by Caryl Guisinger

Thirty-four years in the making, three power-packed teams, and a slew of volunteers: creatively developed by Esther Cope and DeCourcy Squire in 1984; led by Betty Olson from 1989 until her passing in 1999; and managed for the last 16 years by Loyal and Mary Alice Park. All have contributed in making the Cat Lovers Against the Bomb (CLAB) calendar what it is today... highly treasured.

With over eight thousand CLAB calendars distributed to peace activists from countries far and wide just in 2016, this cherished historical calendar is like no other.

Merging feline and peace/social justice historical anecdotes, CLAB uniquely touches the hearts of legions of peace activists across all 50 states, but also from many countries including Canada, Mexico, U.K., France, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, and even Pakistan.

It has been more than one and a half decades since Loyal and Mary Alice have been leading a group of busy volunteers with developing each annual calendar and increasing its market base. So they decided in early 2015 that it was time to set aside CLAB responsibilities.

Not wanting to see CLAB disappear after 34 years of passion and dedication, long-time NFP board member/secretary Caryl Guisinger, with board approval, assumed CLAB responsibilities.

During the summer and fall of 2015, the NFP staff worked with Caryl to transition CLAB to its new organization, Cat Lovers Calendar. CLAB continues to be sponsored by NFP, and each NFP member will continue to receive a calendar during its end-of-the-year fundraising appeal.

Effective with the start of 2016, 100 percent of CLAB responsibilities reside with Cat Lovers Calendar. Caryl is ideally suited to manage CLAB with her many years experience in desktop publishing, running...
We Refuse To Be Targets in This Nuclear World

This article by Paul A. Olson, who serves on the Nebraskans for Peace Anti-War Committee and is Kate Foster Professor of English emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Kevin Martin, the Executive Director of Peace Action—the country’s largest peace and disarmament organization with 100,000 members and over 70,000 on-line supporters, was originally posted on the commondreams.org website, August 3, 2016.

When Barack Obama was elected president, one of his stated hopes was the global elimination of nuclear weapons. Now that he is about to conclude his presidency, his hope (expressed in his visit to Hiroshima) is still that such weapons might be eliminated. But serious steps toward the elimination of nuclear weapons never happen. Almost a decade ago, four of our most powerful retired politicians—Sam Nunn, George Shultz, Henry Kissinger and William Perry—called for an initiative to end nuclear weapons, and nothing happened. Now William Perry, President Clinton’s former Secretary of Defense has written a book in which he argues, “Today, the danger of some sort of a nuclear catastrophe is greater than it was during the Cold War, and most people are blissfully unaware of this danger.” And still, nothing happens.

Recently, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Yukiya Amano said, “Terrorism is spreading and the possibility of using nuclear material cannot be excluded” and argued for strengthened nuclear security against the use of fissile materials by terrorists. Indeed, Belgian police investigating the November 13 Paris terror attacks found ten hours of videotaping of a Belgian nuclear official located in the hands of known terrorists. What the jihadists would have done with the nuclear official or his information, had they gone further or been able to acquire radioactive material, can only be guessed. Today, we have over 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world and tons of fissionable material floating around—enough to destroy virtually all cultures. In addition, we have many scientists with the knowledge to provide nuclear weapons information to rogue regimes as did Pakistan’s Abdul Qadeer Khan, perhaps with the assistance of the Pakistani army.

We believe the targets of this destructive intent have to be brought into the process. For example, the authors of this article live near Washington D.C. and Omaha, Nebraska. As the seat of government for the United States, Washington has always been treated as a ‘ground zero’ target. (In 2011 the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory released a report called the “National Capital Region Key Response Planning Factors for the Aftermath of Nuclear Terrorism” that instructs people what to do when Washington is attacked.)

Eastern Nebraska surprisingly is not very different. Since the 1950s, Offutt Air Force Base outside of Omaha has been the command center for the U.S.’s nuclear arsenal, and the residents of this part of the state have lived under the cloud of nuclear attack for most of our lives.

Since the 1950s, Offutt Air Force Base outside of Omaha has been the command center for the U.S.’s nuclear arsenal, and the residents of this part of the state have lived under the cloud of nuclear attack for most of our lives.

In 1959, the Rev. Abraham Muste and other members of the peace community marched to Mead, Nebraska, to protest the existence of intercontinental ballistic missiles at the Mead site. In the early ’60s, Alastair Hetherington, editor of the Manchester Guardian, visited Lincoln to ask how it felt to be a primary nuclear target. For more than half a century, Nebraska peace activists have sought to spotlight the doomsday mission of first Strategic Air Command and now U.S. Strategic Command (StratCom). We do not wish to be targets. One of us spoke to a Junior Chamber of Commerce at the Nebraska State Penitentiary about eastern Nebraska’s ground zero status. Afterward a prisoner came up and said, “I am not all right in the head; I can’t read; but I sure understood what your speech meant for me in this prison.” We are all in this prison.

Our efforts to end this stand-off and get out of the crosshairs have not been successful. The reasons for this are not far to seek. For the cities of Omaha and Bellevue, StratCom and its satellite companies constitute employment for about 100,000 people, much of it quite high-level employment. Dozens of large and small corporations in Omaha and eastern Nebraska depend on StratCom for their existence. Our congress members are expected to deliver appropriations that feed the nuclear monster and—though

Conclusion on page 4
some of our representatives have a good sense of how dangerous nuclear proliferation is—they cannot act effectively to limit the central industry of our largest city and retain office. Since the Nuclear Freeze movement in the 1980s, we have had precious little progress on meaningful international negotiations to reduce the nuclear military forces in the world.

Under the radar for most Americans, the Department of Defense is mounting a soup-to-nuts nuclear weapons “modernization” program estimated to cost at least $1 trillion over the next 30 years. New or upgraded weapons laboratories, warheads, missiles, submarines and bombers are all part of this scheme. Predictably, every other nuclear weapons state has followed suit, announcing their own “modernization” plans.

Though the modernization program, which more appropriately ought to be called “The New Arms Race” program, proposes to stay within the boundaries of present treaties, it seems likely this sort of expenditure on nuclear arms will lead to proliferation in other countries (or suspicions of proliferation). It may lead to steps by other countries to acquire more nukes or more destructive ones. The outrageous statements on the use of nuclear weapons by some presidential candidates suggest how dangerous the situation is.

We need a new Nuclear Freeze and then systematic reductions with a protocol for controlling fissionable materials. Despite our unsuccessful local efforts, we do not wish to be targets any more. We believe the millions of human beings who are tired of dreaming the nuclear nightmare need to be brought into the process. We are not alone in this goal. Mayors of 5,300 cities across the world have asked that their cities not be targets any more—targets of national military decisions in which their communities have no voice or role. We are proposing the creation of an international campaign that stands up to say “We refuse to be targets”—to ask governments in the U.S., Russia, Britain, France, China, Pakistan, India, Israel and other countries having, or contemplating having nuclear weapons across the world, to cease and desist.

We need a new Nuclear Freeze and then systematic reductions with a protocol for controlling fissionable materials. Our suggestion would be that the campaign advocate for gradual reductions: first of 25 percent or more (which has at least been proposed for U.S./Russian bilateral reductions to follow-up the New START agreement), then of 50 percent, then of 75 percent, and finally of 95 percent both in nuclear warheads and in fissionable materials. This would require the creation of infrastructure for monitoring and verifying compliance with agreed reductions.

We are confident the peoples of the world will ultimately demand the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The situations in Pakistan and India, Russia and Ukraine, Syria and Iraq, and several other countries in the world, however, make near-term reductions a matter of some urgency. As we approach the August 6 and 9 anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, President Obama is reportedly considering executive actions to reduce nuclear dangers. He certainly should announce further reductions, taking U.S. warheads off hair-trigger alert status, and declaring a No First Use policy for our nuclear arsenal.

These steps could help re-invigorate the mostly stalled international nuclear arms reduction process, but civil society must demand more. We believe that although the people of Nebraska and Washington have been relatively impotent by ourselves, we could act in concert with the peace movements across the world to make happen what the politicians and military have not been able to.
Loring Wirbel of “Citizens for Peace in Space” in Colorado Springs was the featured speaker for the 2016 Lantern Float commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at Lincoln’s Holmes Lake August 6. The article below is a combination of his remarks at the Lantern Float and a longer public presentation he made during his visit to Nebraska.

On August 8, following my recent visit to Lincoln for the Hiroshima commemoration, the New York Times used a lead editorial to chide the Obama Administration for throwing away the aims of the President’s 2009 speech supporting nuclear disarmament, in favor of the “Strategic Force Modernization Plan,” which would spend close to $1 trillion through 2040 to modernize all three legs of the strategic nuclear triad. The editorial was one of the first major mainstream-media acknowledgements of a program that had moved into production in midsummer with scarcely a notice from the press or public.

In the absence of any Congressional or White House cabinet debate, the Air Force Global Strike Command (part of Omaha’s Strategic Command) announced in late July it was seeking contracts for two new elements of force modernization: a Minuteman III missile to replace the existing land-based missiles in the nation’s strategic arsenal, and a “stealthy cruise missile” (LRSO, for Long-Range Standoff Weapon), which would be placed on B-1 and future B-21 bombers as part of the airborne triad component. On August 1, the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration announced first production of the B61, Mod 12—the first new nuclear warhead in nearly 30 years. The warhead also would be used as a tactical nuke, on board the F-35 fighter in Europe. Not to be outdone, the Navy began coordination plans to update the Trident sea-launched cruise missile in concert with the new British Tory government, and the Navy also opened a new nuclear bunker in Kitsap, Washington, to store more than 1,300 nuclear warheads.

While Hillary Clinton has not commented on the new $960 billion modernization proposal, her running mate Tim Kaine was one of ten senators to sign a July 8 letter to Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, praising the new nuclear weapons plan. The sad truth is that there is next to no support within the Beltway for the William Perry and Robert McNamara plans to reach an eventual zero in nuclear weapons, and plenty of bipartisan support to modernize the current strategic forces of more than 7,000 nuclear weapons. Some youthful supporters of the Sanders Campaign watch the election-year hi-jinks in Washington and assume Clinton is the center of an unspeakably evil national security elite. But the sadder truth is that she represents business as usual since the end of the Cold War. A rare window for a ‘Peace Dividend’ opened at the end of the George Bush, Sr. and beginning of the Bill Clinton Administrations, but that door slammed quickly as both major parties exploited the collapse of the Soviet Union by building up NATO. Since the early 1990s, the

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Two-Headed Hydra
Top-down Nuclear Re-armament Meets Bottom-up Conservative Populism
Two-Headed Hydra, continued

practical interest in nuclear disarmament within either party has been nonexistent. We in Citizens for Peace in Space believe that peace activists with integrity should also recognize that, even though Russia and China have been surrounded in certain senses by U.S. and NATO expansion, such actions do not excuse these nations’ own aggressive moves. Putin has announced development of a new nuclear torpedo, while China is almost certain to station fighter jets, possibly nuclear-armed, on the artificial islands it is building in the South China Sea. To reflect the seriousness of the new arms race, both Putin and Xi Jinping have increased domestic repression, while attempting to ratchet up populist fervor against the United States. It is within such a backdrop that North Korea undertook new nuclear tests in early August, landing missiles 125 miles off Japan’s shores.

Sadly, the new strategic crisis does not end with the actions of the nuclear elite. Donald Trump’s campaign is representative of a new conservative populism that is winning adherents in Poland, Hungary, France, the U.K., Israel, Turkey and, to a certain extent, within Russia. Polls have consistently shown that many populist leaders begin with centrist trade or immigrant-exclusion arguments, only to be driven further and further to the right by their followers. Thus, the populist revolt is a bottom-up movement in which those at the bottom represent the most racist and reactionary elements. Many peace activists seem hesitant to challenge this movement, perhaps because Trump’s campaign in the U.S. seems destined for comical self-destruction, and also because many activists are uncomfortable admitting that ‘The People’ are not to be trusted in this case. But hoping that such populism burns itself out seems akin to ignoring Hitler’s threat in 1930.

Luckily, there is not a common ideology as there was among the Axis powers in the 1930s. But there is a common methodology, shared through social media and adopted for the realities of specific countries. A demagogic leader points to two or three decades of rule by a modern secular party, and claims that the reasons many workers are harmed through globalized capitalism is because of minority races, immigrants, gays, and other false scapegoats. Rabid followers drive the arguments further to the right, a trend particularly visible during the Brexit vote in the U.K. In three of four cases, the populists do not win. But every now and then, in Poland or The Philippines for example, a virulent populist leader wins, immediately restricts the media, and attempts to close or re-staff national-level courts so that the work of the populists may not be undone at a later date.

This has a practical effect on nuclear security, as the ability to protect nuclear weapons from populist forces is no longer guaranteed. (Nuclear weapons may not be launched without a rebel force conclusion on page 13
A’Jamal Byndon is a Community Initiative Consultant with Nebraska Families Collaborative and a Nebraskans for Peace State Board member. He is also an adjunct teacher at Metro Community College and University of Nebraska at Omaha where he teaches in the Black Studies Department.

A few months ago I asked a white colleague who is a local expert on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) why American Indians are given special treatment in the child welfare field. She sent me a link to a blog posting written by tribally enrolled Nambe Pueblo member and academic scholar Debbie Reese that had the title, “We are not People of Color.”

ICWA is the law that forbids child welfare agencies and adoption organizations from permanently removing children from their respective tribes to white or non-native homes without a process of checks and balances. This act was established in 1978 as federal law to protect the stability of tribes and families. For years, high numbers of Indian children had been being removed from their families under the guise of providing them a safer and healthier environment. But in actuality, it was a continuation, by other means, of the U.S. government’s horrendous “Indian Boarding School” policy to transform Indians into Euro-centric Americans. White America’s ideology of “Manifest Destiny,” whether conducted by open warfare or assimilation policy, inflicted incalculable harm on indigenous people.

ICWA only applies to the 500-plus federally recognized tribes in the United States. What caused me to explore this unique law further, though, was a quote in the blog from another Indian scholar, Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, a member of the Crow Creek Sioux tribe. Cook-Lynn wrote:

Native populations in America are not ‘ethnic’ populations; they are not ‘minority’ populations, neither immigrant nor tourist, nor ‘people of color.’ They are the indigenous peoples of this continent. They are landlords, with very special political and cultural status in the realm of American identity and citizenship. Since 1924, they have possessed dual citizenship, tribal and U.S., and are the only population that has not been required to deny their previous national citizenship in order to possess U.S. citizenship. They are known and documented as citizens by their tribal nations.

These scholars double down on the point that Native Nations are the only such recognized group in the U.S.—recognized, I’d add, by the very folks who waged the historical genocide against their people.

It was difficult to comprehend the reasoning being advanced by scholars I would have hoped would know better. By rejecting the ‘people of color’ unity paradigm, they fell into the age-old trap of playing one oppressed group against another. As a person of color who so keenly understands that many inhabitants of America were forcibly abducted from Africa, it sometimes becomes problematic to engage in honest discussion with whites or with whites about slavery, genocide against Native Americans, and government-sanctioned discrimination against and exploitation of Asians and Latinos, when many whites are still enjoying the benefits of those heinous histories. Moreover, we should not allow conversations about race to descend into theorizing and semantics when the legacy of white privilege (and even the backlash of ‘reverse conclusion on page 14
Acute Drought & Civil Wars
The New Climactic Normal

While warmer air holds more moisture, not everyone will see more precipitation in a globally warmed world. Many deserts already are expanding, in a worldwide pattern influenced by atmospheric circulation patterns that meteorologists call “Hadley Cells.”

Most deserts range between 20 and 40 degrees north and south latitude. While precipitation patterns are also influenced by other factors (such as ready access, or lack thereof, to ocean-borne moisture), rainfall is strongly influenced by Hadley Cells, which determine whether air generally rises or falls at certain latitudes. Rising air portends instability, low pressure, and storminess; descending air generally provides high pressure and clear skies. In a warmer world, Hadley Cells expand, which causes deserts to expand, a process that is already evident from news reports around the world.

Droughts in regions where Hadley Cells favor descending air now span the globe, from Australia to Spain, Iraq, Afghanistan, parts of China, and the United States Southwest, including California.

Drought and Syria’s Civil War
Syria’s civil war and the rise of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have been associated by scientists with prolonged drought in the region (beginning in 2007) which, in turn, has roots in global warming. The drought intensified after that. According to Elizabeth Kolbert, writing in The New Yorker, “The country [in 2008] experienced its driest winter on record. Wheat production failed, many small farmers lost their herds, and prices of basic commodities more than doubled.” Within months, as the drought continued, hundreds of thousands of people abandoned their homes and farms in the countryside and moved to Damascus, Homs, and other cities, joining more than a million refugees from war in Iraq. By 2015, more than 4 million Syrian refugees had moved to Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, as well as several European countries. By 2016, NASA had issued a report using tree rings to determine that the drought in this region from 1998 to 2012 was the worst in at least 900 years (NASA, 2016).

Researchers from the University of California Santa Barbara and Columbia University described civil unrest linked to collapse of farming in Syria and the migration of 1.5 million farmers to cities, with related poverty that provoked civil unrest from 2007 to at least 2010. Because of the civil war, weather records after that time are scarce. Droughts have become more frequent and intense in Syria; three of Syria’s longest droughts
An Introduction to Permaculture in Nebraska, Part 3

by Gus Von Roenn
Omaha Permaculture

Driving less, using public transportation, riding a bike, avoiding single-use plastic, buying local, turning lights off, mowing less, tiny homes, throwing away less ‘trash’ and eating fresh are easy ways to reduce your footprint as a world citizen. As a U.S. citizen, we are accustomed to consuming three times more of everything than other people in most countries per capita. In Nebraska, reducing our rate of consumption can be the most impactful way to clean our local environment and fulfill our duty as a responsible world citizen: one who does not pollute air and waterways. In this chapter, please join me in exploring how permaculture reconnects humanity to nature through compassionate stewardship of earth’s biodiversity.

Now that the Olympics are over, I cannot help but feel quite inadequate with my daily achievements. I remind myself that I am very proud of my desire to make small footprints as an individual. I do not intend to detract from the Olympian’s desire to taste gold, but rather I would simply like to make a case for moderation, minimalism and, more importantly, the desire to tread lightly as a consumer in daily living. I invite you to please be an example for your family, friends, coworkers and neighbors to value these practices as a way to save more than just the polar bears.

This may not totally surprise you, but permaculture is environmentalism. Permaculture is modern humans’ best foot forward to feed, clothe, heat and shelter people throughout the world in the most ecologically-conscious ways. Combining efforts to conserve nature and nurturing the instinct toward naturally improving our soils will benefit all of earth’s living creatures. For these reasons, permaculture is becoming popular as a way to grow food effortlessly for our crowded population centers. For this to work effectively, we must reintroduce the knowledge of nature to our city populations. I do not think I am creating controversy by stating urban centers are places that generally lack an understanding of how nature brings food to our tables. This must change.

Before express transportation, food was raised and grown in our cities. Before the age of oil, sustainable crops like hemp or bamboo were grown around city centers to provide textiles, building materials, medicine, soil fertility and water clarification. Now, combinations of mowed grass, concrete, steel and mirrored glass are considered the only media worthy of city landscapes. Now, the last expanses of prairies and forests are being razed to grow food ‘stuffs’ for export, food for animals and food for fuel—all hallmarks of an affluent society. These ‘befores & nows’ are an important story about the ‘path’ of modern humanity.

As efficiently delivered products became the expected status quo, our society began to reduce the time within a day that is socially acceptable to celebrate food. Additionally, meat at every meal has become a benchmark sought by every aspiring modern society. Once refrigeration and efficient transportation became ubiquitous in our society, our umbilical cord to nature was effectively severed.

Towards the latter half of the last century, our culture transformed food from being a central ritual in our lives to something that is an efficiently performed chore. Towards the latter half of the last century, a globally connected world expanded our taste for global goods. Towards the latter half of the last century, our culture has outsourced the production of our locally used products to wherever they are produced most cheaply. Towards the latter half of the last century, people responded to corporate products more readily than to locally sourced products distributed by local ‘Ma & Pa’ shops.

Do you see a pattern here, a pathway that has brought us to this juncture? This path was laid down by the individual choices of consumers—a path leading away from Mother Nature. As 20th-century humanity drifted away from nature, science was used to exert dominion over nature. As an opposite reaction to the destructive 20th century, the 21st-century endeavor of permaculture harnesses science to restore our severed connection with nature through community-based education. Great permaculture leaders all around the world are laying down the foundation of a new path toward harmony with all living creatures.

conclusion on page 11
World-wide

The Syrian civil war is only one example of a country where climate-related crises have been fundamental to violent conflict. A paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences traces conflict and climate generally to societies with existing social and political conflicts that fracture along ethnic lines. Authors of this paper assigned climate change a role as a triggering mechanism: “This overall state of affairs is likely to be exacerbated by anthropogenic climate change and in particular climate-related natural disasters. Ethnic divides might serve as predetermined conflict lines in case of rapidly emerging societal tensions arising from disruptive events like natural disasters. Here, we hypothesize that climate-related disaster occurrence enhances armed-conflict outbreak risk in ethnically fractionalized countries.”

“We cannot explain the full complexity of the emergence of violent conflict, but here we have found something really robust, a factor that really matters,” Schellnhuber said.

REFERENCES


Bruce E. Johansen is Jacob J. Isaacson University Research Professor in the School of Communication, University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is presently completing a 3-volume encyclopedia on climate change for ABC-CLIO.
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Permaculture, conclusion

In the 21st century, I am mostly concerned about our youth. Millennials see little hope on an Earth that has been manhandled into submission. Comedian Stephen Colbert quipped at a presidential state dinner in 2010 that “baby-boomers have deep-fried our oceans.” Today, our children are still being taught the behaviors of that 20th-century legacy—the most destructive era to biodiversity (excluding meteor strikes) in the earth’s history. With carbon dioxide concentrations rocketing past 400 parts per million this last year and set to go higher, we are consigning those children to a far more inhospitable world. Future generations will invariably look back and wonder why our world leaders didn’t do anything to affect humans’ stranglehold on earth’s ecosystem before pushing it to the precipice of imminent collapse? Optimism in the face of climate change means we believe we can inspire an indelible spirit in our youth to be stubbornly dedicated toward healing the earth from this point forward.

Island nations understand our relationships with the environment more acutely than modern land-locked nations. Iceland created harsh regulations around the very valuable cod fisheries decades before other countries felt inclined to do so. Historically, cod is the most valuable commodity to Iceland. Instead of selling as many cod as possible, Iceland saw value in creating a stable cod fishing ecosystem. Beginning in the 1950s, Iceland turned down lucrative fishery contracts with other countries to protect future cod fisheries. This example of ‘doing what is necessary’ in the face of marketplace pressures is unparalleled in the world today. This example of fortitude is what is needed from our future leaders all over the world today.

Early accounts of Cape Cod fishing described scenes of natural abundance in which you could ‘walk on the backs of fish’ in the ocean. My imagination is truly enamored with this vision of Eden. As an advocate for permaculture in Nebraska, how can I preach the good word of nature’s abundance when the last two centuries have been focused on removing nature’s abundance?

Twenty-first century humanity can continue single-mindedly pursuing technological fixes to our global food system in order to feed our growing populations...

Or, we can work towards healing Mother Nature which once created abundance for everyone.
Palestinian Tour in Nebraska

by Sandie Hanna
Leader of the Omaha NFP Chapter’s Palestinian Rights Task Force

Tarek Abuata, born in Bethlehem to a Palestinian Christian family, is a life-long worker for peace. He arrived in the U.S. as a 12-year-old boy during the First Palestinian “Intifada.”

Intifada is an Arabic word for “civil uprising.” The First Intifada was a Palestinian grassroots uprising against Israel’s occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. That intifada lasted from 1987 to 1991. During it, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) under Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin—with his slogan of “break their bones”—killed over 1,100 Palestinians and injured tens of thousands more. 160 Israeli Jews were killed and 3,100 injured. The majority of Palestinians were youth participating in marches and throwing stones against armed IDF soldiers and adults engaging in strikes, nonviolent demonstrations, refusal to pay taxes and boycotts of Israeli products. News coverage of the civil protest generated international sympathy for the Palestinian cause.

What has happened to that both-sided media coverage as the Occupation of Palestine by Israel drags on for almost 50 years?

Today, as human rights abuses and illegal settlements continue at the hands of the State of Israel, Tarek Abuata is working as the Executive Director of “Friends of Sabeel North America” (FOSNA). Sabeel is an organization of Palestinian Christians formed to raise consciousness around the world about the plight Palestinians face. Sister organizations like Friends of Sabeel North America have grown up around the world to assist this effort.

The last week in September NFP is sponsoring opportunities to hear Tarek Abuata speak on “Nonviolent Efforts in Palestine and Israel & Advocacy Efforts in the USA.”

1. In Omaha at a pot-luck meal (bring a food dish to share) at Hanscom Park United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 25th at 1:00pm. 4444 Frances St. (one block south of Center St.)

2. In Crete on Sunday evening, Sept. 25th at 7pm

3. On Monday, Sept. 26th at 10am at the University of Nebraska at Kearney as part of their annual James E. Smith Conference on the topic “Refugee Focus: The Palestinian Diaspora,” Ponderosa Rooms A-B, Nebraska Student Union, UNK

4. Monday evening, Sept. 26th at 7pm at First Lutheran Church of Lincoln, Fellowship Hall, 1551 S. 70th St., Lincoln, NE

We hope to see you and your friends at these events!

CLAB, conclusion

a small business, and teaching high school English.

But Caryl does not take the responsibilities of CLAB lightly. She teams with her husband, Roy, who provides occasional technical expertise; Lois Todd-Meyer, an adjunct professor in English Education and wife of NFP’s current president Ron Todd-Meyer; Kathleen Johnson, UNL librarian; and Brittany Cooper and Susan Alleman, NFP’s ‘whatever-it-takes’ staff members.

Although a few changes are in store with CLAB, its basic premise—black and white kitty photos and historical dates of note—will remain the same. The 2017 calendar has a new stylized look that is infused with color. Featured kitties will be selected by its new team, but the design work will be under the development of Caryl with her many years of expertise.

To provide an easy portal for customers to order calendars and merchandise, a new storefront website was developed in advance of the 2017 calendar sales season. Development of a Cat Lovers Calendar Facebook page is also allowing peace activists to stay abreast of progressive happenings as well as share historical anecdotes and articles with their activist friends.

Previous purr-chasers of CLAB calendars will continue to receive an early fall newsletter, now titled “CLAB Mews,” with order details.

Holding the vision of CLAB staying strong for another 30-plus years, it is imperative that the generations after the Baby Boomers paw-se to reflect. (Thank you, Baby Boomers, for starting a great tradition!)

So connect with your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren and impress upon them the importance of understanding our history, so they can make new inroads toward a more peaceful future.

Feel free to contact Caryl at Cat Lovers Calendar via:

Email: CatLoversCalendar@gmail.com
Storefront Website: www.CatLoversCalendar.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/catloverscalendar/
Two-Headed Hydra, conclusion

knowing the launch codes and encrypted permissive action links, but employment of a ‘dirty bomb’ for a terror explosion is certainly possible.) This is why it is incorrect to say that the nuclear elite is secretly promoting populists as ‘stalking horses’ in order get people to vote for elite hawks like Clinton. The nuclear elite does not understand and is terrified of conservative populism, as well they should be. Obama was chided by many for keeping the summer NATO meetings and war games in Warsaw, since few in NATO trusted the conservative “Law and Justice” (PiS) party.

At times, however, the military within a populist nation represents the most liberal force within the nation. In Israel, the IDF and intelligence agency heads are far more cautious in deploying nuclear weapons than Israeli citizens, who have grown increasingly rightist in recent years. In the same vein, several dozen Republican former national-security and intelligence chiefs declared mid-summer that commanders should not obey unconstitutional commands from Trump, should he become president. Of course, this brings up the danger of a Seven Days in May military-coup scenario, in which the military takes over for the safety of the country’s nukes.

Struggles between populist and military wings can take unusual forms. After the attempted Gulenist coup in Turkey, President Erdogan encouraged protesters to surround the Incirlik Air Base to demand that U.S. troops leave—a demand peace activists could certainly support. But in trying to make U.S. bases in Turkey look like Greenham Commons, Erdogan is cynically making a grab for the dozens of H-bombs stored at Incirlik. If the U.S. does not extradite Gulen, it is highly likely Erdogan will grab the nukes.

The issue for peace activists is not whether to focus on the elite or the populists first. The unpleasant reality is that either end of the spectrum could represent the more immediate threat, based on unpredictable random events. We must be prepared to challenge both elite and populists with equal fervor, without turning our protests into de facto rallies to support mainstream political parties running for office.

Because many experts have called 2016 the most unstable year since the end of World War II, many activists are ready to succumb to despair. I closed my talks in Lincoln with a few practical points on remaining committed and positive in very dangerous times.

First, activists should not buy into the fear propaganda promoted by all political sides. We should not suppress fear, we should simply reject fear, committing ourselves to be joyful and fearless. We should avoid ‘passionate clinging’ to a particular person, deity or ideology. This does not mean one needs to be an atheist, or maintain a Zen-like aloofness from all political races. It means recognizing that no person or ideology is above reproach, and that no one gets a free pass, since passionate clinging leads to faulty thinking. Finally, no one should expect a particular campaign to take a few months or a year to achieve results. Adopting the mantra of ‘very low expectations’ means being ready to commit to a campaign for decades, often seeing only minimal positive results over the course of a lifetime.

When educating others, one should assume that the vast majority of Americans have no idea that any nuclear weapons remain in the U.S. arsenal since the end of the Cold War. This kind of thinking is simply unacceptable. We are all working on important issues, and we will only coalesce as one if we respect one another.

Despite the prodding of the New York Times editorial, Obama is likely to leave office without making any more headway on nuclear arms reduction—in fact, the force modernization program is likely to plow ahead at full steam. No matter what the November elections bring us, the coming years are likely to be extremely dangerous ones. We cannot afford to hide from challenging tasks. We must re-commit ourselves to opposing the modernization of nuclear weapons, and on opposing the rise of militaristic, anti-democratic forces globally.
What’s in a Name, conclusion

discrimination”) is still all around us. Indulging in this kind of ‘navel gaz- ing’ is not appropriate when so many people are suffering.

This blog about “American Indians in Children’s Literature” spotlight- ed comments by Laura Ingalls Wilder who is best known for her Little House on the Prairie book. In the novel of that name, one of the characters, Mrs. Scott, says of the land they’re home- steadling:

“All they [Indians] do is roam around over it like wild animals. Treaties or no treaties, the land belongs to folks that’ll farm it.”

This is why proponents of Native American rights and people of color dare not waste time fighting over semantics. These books are force-fed to children of color in the educational system without exposure to our real history. At the end of the day, non-white constituencies have had their culture and way of life stripped from them by those who control our mainstream institutions and educational system. Our goal should be to avoid fighting over who is king of the mountain when almost one third of our respective groups live in poverty.

Several weeks ago, I participated in a meeting that was to address state- wide issues confronting all Nebras- kans. As I walked into the room of 50 or more whites, I quickly ‘discovered’ I was the only African American. Based upon appearances, there were three real Native Americans and one Latina in the room. Meanwhile, we were clearly outnumbered. It is this disproportionate ratio that people of color continually have to contend with whenever we try to engage in the ‘democratic’ process.

Majority rule and few rights for the so-called ‘minorities’ is the legacy of this country. How does a person of color keep a sense of optimism in the face of such biased odds? Why are we expected to play by rules that are stacked against us? If, as a nation, we are to enact policies and laws for all—then there should be safeguards, stipulations and opportunities to participate at the table. It is the height of injustice when Native Americans, Asians, Latinos and African Americans aren’t allowed to control the destiny of their own communities of color. This is a continuation of the same reprehensible white ethic that consciously and deliberately denied African Americans constitutional rights and repeatedly broke treaties with Native tribes.

In a later addendum to the blog post, the author conceded that Indians are ‘people of color,’ but argued that they don’t want to lose their sovereign ty and the distinctions of their nation- hood. As Malcolm X so eloquently noted, however, regardless of one’s achieved position or ascribed status, there are folks who still refer to people of color in disparaging terms. Social justice (and the policies and programs that come with it) is best achieved when groups drop their differences and work to transform a system that has been far from fair to us all.
sent the piece to Kevin Martin of Peace Action, the largest peace organization in the United States, and he professed to having had similar feelings. He added his bits to the piece. We then sent it out to a whole lot of newspapers and to a large number of blogs that are interested in the future of the human race. The piece was published in several newspapers and on blogs (see page 3) in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and Great Britain. What the next steps will be is under discussion in the international peace movement, the American peace movement and Nebraskans for Peace. My plea is that we do something before we all are nothing.

The world now has 15,000 nuclear weapons—and tons of fissionable materials—in the hands of nine nations. Many of these weapons and materials could be seized by non-state actors and made into dirty bombs. Yet, the United States is planning a near trillion dollar “modernization” for new nukes. The rest of the world will follow suit in spending more on other nukes. Non-state actors clearly want to get their hands on dirty bombs and private nukes. Jihadists are spying on nuclear scientists and seeking to seize fissionable materials. Nuclear weapons proliferate in unstable North Korea and Pakistan. We also have presidential candidates who propose using nukes.

Enough we say:

- The world has 5,300 mayors of cities who have said ‘no’ to their cities’ being a target.
- One-hundred-thirty-eight nations have created a UN working group on “legal measures, legal provisions and norms” for achieving a nuclear-free world and have done so in spite of the opposition of five of the nine nations who possess nuclear arms—namely China, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and the United States. (The five have declared that a ban would undermine the 1968 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, but have never explained why or in what way.)
- The Marshall Islands is suing at the International Court of Justice to hold the nine nuclear-armed states accountable for violations of international law with respect to their nuclear disarmament obligations under this same Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- Yet, nothing serious happens. The targets themselves must now be the ones to act. And we are the targets:
  - We believe that the new nukes violate our promises and commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
  - We believe that modernization money would be better spent on education, health, infrastructure, climate mitigation and food in a hungry and ignorant world.
  - We believe that we should march, message, develop nonviolent actions, and speak to the nations if the five nations, their elites and the experts won’t act.
  - We believe that we should reduce conventional arms sufficiently so that no nation feels that is must possess nukes to survive.
  - We believe we should refuse to remain targets.
  - We believe that we should Twitter and Facebook about it, talk and act. Most of all act. The nations will not stop the new nukes, but we can. As President Eisenhower said in another context:

> Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

We do not wish to remain hanging from a “cross of iron” tortured by fissionable materials. We do not wish to remain targets. Do what you can. Call. Lobby. Post. Protest. Act.

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**Your Foundation Speaks**

*by Loyal Park, Nebraska Peace Foundation President*

Planning for the future of NFP concerns us all at the Nebraska Peace Foundation. We see a diminished funding by the NFP membership and a greater need for funding from the Foundation.

In the past, quite a few have let us know they have either remembered the Foundation in their wills or designated an amount from an IRA or other savings.

However, we need an update on current plans and whatever you are planning now and in the future. Please call me (402) 489-6662 so we can update our records and make plans for the future. It is critical we know what we can expect for the Foundation.
Speaking Our Peace  
by Paul Olson, NFP President Emeritus  

On the End of the World

Robert Frost once considered whether the world would end in fire or ice. After deliberating for a few lines, he says, “I hold with those who favor fire. But if it had to perish twice, I think I know enough of hate. To say that for destruction ice. Is also great.” We now face not poetry but a real and similar dichotomy—whether the world will end in the melting elements of nuclear holocaust or the slow drip of climate change, raising the mean global temperature, the seas, drought probabilities, and precipitating the end of most species. In either case, wars and terrorism will play a major role.

Now the U.S. government is about to undertake a near-trillion-dollar expenditure on nuclear arms and nuclear modernization.

Last month, the Antiwar Committee of Nebraskans for Peace decided to issue a call to people everywhere to act against the nuclear threat by jointly calling upon nine nations that possess these weapons (and the many private and public actors that possess fissionable materials) to create a regimen of control that would freeze the number of bombs and the amount of fissionable material and then reduce these stockpiles by first 25 percent, then 50 percent, then 75 percent. Finally, we would seek abolition.

I wrote a draft op-ed rehearsing how Nebraska had been a prime nuclear target since the 1950s and how Nebraskans have demonstrated against being such targets in the ’50s, ’60s, ’70s, ’80s, ’90s, and now in the 21st century. I also wrote about how President Obama has called for total disarmament—as have some of our most conservative politicians (Sam Nunn, Henry Kissinger, William Perry, and George Schultz). Nothing happens. I