



Update

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Inside this Issue

- 1 Children's Peace Garden
- 2 Americans Who Tell the Truth
- 3 Narrative Control

Celebrating a Garden Memorial Dedicated to Children and Peace

By Doug Garnar

On May 8th, the public and members of Broome County Veterans for Peace and Peace Action celebrated the dedication of a children's peace garden within **Otsiningo Park** adjacent to the children's playground. The ceremony culminates my sixty-year engagement in war and peace issues, especially as it relates to 'collateral damage' – the death of innocent children and civilians. The central theme of the garden is that it be a welcoming place that celebrates children and facilitates activities which increase the possibilities of a world beyond war. A major feature of the garden is a small schoolhouse lending library containing children's books.



Creativity was highlighted in the dedication ceremony which featured the following –

- 50 pictures drawn by **Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School** students depicting their vision of peace and the children's peace garden
- Children unveiling the peace garden monument
- **Andru Bemis** playing several of his stringed instruments
- Children from **Glee** performing inspirational dance routines
- **Rose Garrity** speaking eloquently about the problems and solutions of domestic (child/spouse) abuse
- **Judy McMahon**, dressed in costume, reading Julia Ward Howe's "Mother's Day Proclamation"
- Sisters, **Cayden and Emma Cacala**, singing a beautiful duet, "The Best Day"
- **Abigail Bennett** reading her poem that included the following verses –

*“There are stories with
unwritten pages.
Conclusions to life that
should have continued.
Moments that should
have been experienced.
Love that should have
been felt...
We can not erase the
past, we can simply do
our best to heal the
future,
And give life to the
legacies of those we
could not save.
May their stories bloom
with the growth of the
garden,
And may their memories
live on within us.”*

As the garden matures, we intend to have herbs for children to smell, occasional story readings and a Linden tree planted adjacent to the garden. The Linden tree is a symbol of peace, compassion, love, and hope. If you are interested in developing a similar peace garden project – contact me at garnardc@sunnybroome.edu



AMERICANS WHO TELL THE TRUTH

By Jack Gilroy

Our **Peace Action/Veterans for Peace** team has, like most progressive thinkers and actors, focused on telling the truth, especially as it relates to militarism in American culture and history. We know that American leaders have often lied, particularly regarding war making. Yet, the lies of Donald Trump as President of the United States 2016–2020 were unlike any in American history. In fact, the Washington Post created a Pinocchio Index to keep track of his untruths. It recorded 50 or more false or misleading statements each day or about 30,000 over his four years as President of the U.S.

The American public deserves better. To that end we decided to highlight trustworthy Americans by sponsoring an exhibition of **Americans Who Tell the Truth** by **Robert Shetterly**, an artist/activist from the state of Maine.

During the first two weeks of October 2021, BCPA/VFP will display in the **Broome County Library** (with text), 16 out of Mr. Shetterly's 250 oil portraits. We then move the exhibition for the second two weeks of October to **Maine-Endwell High School**. For the entire month of November, the artwork will be on the walls of the **Human Ecology Department at Cornell University**.

Featured portraits include:

Michelle Alexander
Ella Baker
Smedley Butler
Cesar Chavez
Shirley Chisholm
Rachel Corrie
Dorothy Day
Eugene Debs
Frederick Douglas
Harry Hay
Mother Jones
John Lewis
Oren Lyons
Paul Robeson
Ann Wright
Lily Yeh

To help support this project, go to bcpeaceaction.org
To check out all of the truth-teller portraits, go to Americanswhotellthetruth.org

Narrative Control

By Tim Wolcott

The enemy is within. We create dysfunction in ourselves and allow it in our government by *not* being deeply conscious of our **retained** assumptions and the manipulation of the **exterior** narrative. We have become so disconnected from our insight and from the land that we allow Hollywood and Washington to manufacture our consent in determining what is worth living for and what is worth dying for. That delusion serves the rich and powerful.

When you have a better understanding of the basis of your perception, you can then more ably consume media through a lens of skepticism and facts. Recognition of the tactics of narrative managers is central to this process. The following are ways resist the propaganda machine:

1. Do not disregard truth just because it is derived from a targeted nation.
2. Look for omissions and commissions in media. What is not being said and who is behind the messaging? For example, the New York Times can be depended upon to support military interventions, and PBS does not give voice to anti-imperialists.
3. Be vigilant for 'memory holing' (any mechanism of deliberate disappearance of embarrassing documents, etc. that give the impression that something never happened. Examples include the Hunter Biden/Ukraine corruption story or the Afghanistan Papers (40% of American funding since 2001 went to corrupt officials, warlords, and insurgents) story that the Washington Post buried.
4. Be concerned about censorship of a source, even if you do not like their perspective. The website Parler should be back online. Even it can reveal 'inconvenient' truth.
5. Build support for whistleblowers. They are our greatest leverage to truth.
6. Frame your message carefully to minimize blowback when you are dispelling the lies of corporations and/or government/military/mainstream media. Overly strident language can reflexively lead to popular disregard.
7. Reject the validity of the common pejoratives (Russian bot, CCP shill, Genocide denier (anyone who points out the glaring plot holes in the Uyghur narrative), and Tankie (anyone who opposes Western domination agendas against China). These pejoratives are used to undermine the source when the media cannot attack the argument.

Sharing these considerations can help build a common basis of truth and solidarity.

Peace Action Update June 2021

What Does Code Mean On Your Mailing Label?

Take a look at the letter code on your mailing label. It tells if you have a paid-up membership in Peace Action or if you need to contribute to stay on the mailing list. The different codes are:

21: You have already paid your membership in 2019. THANK YOU!

20, 19, 18: Your last paid membership was in 2020, 2019, 2018, etc. Please renew using the form on page 3.

If you would prefer to not receive **UPDATE**, just call 607-797-9126 or e-mail twolcott@stny.rr.com and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

UPDATE

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Mail in Form:

Here are my dues. They entitle me to local, state, and national membership in Peace Action. Make check payable to: Broome County Peace Action (**BCPA**). If you are not already a member, you can select a free, **one-year-only** trial membership.

_____ \$35 household _____ \$25 individual _____ \$10 student/low-income _____ Free, trial membership

I would like to make an additional contribution (not tax deductible) to the Southern Tier Peace Makers Memorial Fund (STPMMF) \$ _____

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