2012
Redwood Coast
Peace Poetry Anthology
Peace even in times of unrest should be the goal of all human communities.

The Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest is an attempt to focus on peace in a very troubled world.
Guy Kuttner
1946–2011

Guy had a lot of fun and made a difference in the world by truly being himself. As a teacher, father, friend and husband he encouraged us to do the same: to take our place in the world, do some good, and participate fully in life. Guy was courageous speaking truth to power, whether it was J. Edgar Hoover (when he turned in his draft card), or to an irresponsible landlord, or to colleagues at school, or to friends and family at the dinner table. He was hilarious and passionate about peace and justice. Guy's letters to the editor, columns in the Arcata Eye, and his books sound just like him. He would say “hurray!” to the poets in this anthology, speaking out from their hearts and minds!

We dedicate this Anthology to our friend and comrade

Photo by Cindy Kuttner
VETERANS FOR PEACE INC.

Our Mission

Veterans For Peace is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational and humanitarian organization dedicated to the abolishment of war.

Statement of Purpose

We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others:

(a) To increase public awareness of the costs of war;
(b) To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations;
(c) To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons;
(d) To seek justice for veterans and victims of war;
(e) To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.
War is over if you want it.
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Dell’Arte International
The Ink People Center for the Arts

— Poetry Judges —

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“Peace ‘Splosion” .............................. Back Cover
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Zoe Barnum High School, Eureka, California
*** Third Honors Award Recipient ***
Footprints

They march, their footsteps leaving tracks in the mud,
Their uniforms dirty and torn, their arms heavy at their sides.
Their boots dig into the barren soil, and they march in time,
Because they are not many, but one.

As they march, they carry their guns, loaded and at the ready
For the battle. They are no longer humans, but hard, cold robots.
In place of heart and soul, they now have a hollow emptiness,
And as they march, if you watch closely, you can almost see

The wind-up cranks upon their backs, slowly turning,
Loosening the springs which turn the gears that compel
Them to march. With each step forward, the group
Leaves more of itself behind as soldier after soldier is

Blown off his feet by flying bullets. The soldiers are no longer
People, but slaves of the war, driven by madness, provoked by
A feeling known only to intelligent beings…the need for revenge.
The soldiers are killed, not by people, but by shells of people,

People who look like people, but are not people. They are only
Pieces of people, humans who have momentarily lost all sentimentality
And compassion. And they are killing their equals, because they, too, are
Slaves, slaves of the firearms that have turned them into soulless beings.

Gunshots ring throughout the land, making warm beating hearts cold
And lifeless. As gun after gun is fired, one soldier after another drops to the
Ground. As the ammunition is diminished, the many survivors keep shooting
From both sides, stepping over the dead bodies to kill more soldiers.

After the last shot is fired, the last guns are slowly dropped
From mindless hands, and the robots are humans again
As they help the wounded get up, and slowly, hopelessly,
Traipse back the way they came. The dead bodies bleed

Endlessly, and the soldiers’ sweat mingles with the blood…
And then the rain begins to fall, and as the soldiers
Walk slowly back, the dead bodies carried between them, they
Leave only footprints, which are filled with rain and washed away.

Amy Peterson
Alder Grove Charter School
Eureka, California

*** Honorable Mention Award Recipient ***
**Peace in the World**

Fathers are lying
Mothers are denying
Brothers are fighting
Sisters are sighing
Children are crying
OUR WORLD IS DYING

Michael Harrison
South Fork High School
Miranda, California

**Somelove**

Someone simply sings,
Sitting beside our heartstrings.
It is a small wonder,
Soft and shushing secrets.

Somewhere sanctuary sleeps,
Awaiting alongside our animosity.
It is a patient plethora,
Embracing our essence.

Something sweet sits,
centered within our being.
It is a molten magma center,
candied hearts and succulent sympathies.

Somehow peace surfaces,
Swimming along the somber.
It is a bright wish
In the depths of humanity.

Angela Rouse
McKinleyville High School
McKinleyville, California

*** Honorable Mention Award Recipient ***
What is Peace
What is peace ...
Is it a balance of power and weakness?
Is it love for everything and everyone around you?
Or is peace the clear feeling of a fresh mindset?

What is peace ...
Is it the quiet flowing of a stream?
Is it the silence of a calm, elegant palace?
Perhaps peace is the settle of a storm in the mind.

Where is peace ...
Is it in the words of brothers and sisters?
Is it in the hearts of the wounded, and the healthy?
Maybe it is in the hands of the young and innocent.

Peace is the bond between brothers and sisters
it is in the hands of the strong and the weak
it is in the words of the young and old,
in the innocent and the knowing

Peace is in the hearts of everyone around the world.

Brandon Bemis
East High School
Fortuna, California
Something Worth Fighting For

Tortured day by day, year by year
Though always fighting back
Always trying to take a place in the world
No matter how big or small.
Against the most evil dictator, the most violent terrorists,
And even just verbal abuse, or someone just being hard on themselves.
Against Fascism, racism, stereotypes, hatred.
It tries to take a foothold in every situation possible.
Inspiring non violent protesters
Or helping raise the courage of those stepped on over and over
The olive branch and the dove forever remembered
And every language has a word for such a thing.
Something so strong and powerful, though always a villain to tear it down
To corrupt something so beautiful, so wonderful
This thing which is known worldwide but yet not physical in the least sense
Something to bring people together, to fight for, to die for
To feel a smile upon their face when thinking about such a thing.
A sense of utter calmness and a goal which many strive for
This that inspires religion, charity, and all that is beautiful
It's all these things, and yet it is only one word, five letters
And that's all it takes to help spread this joyous essence
Peace
Something worth looking up to
Always fighting for what's right
Though peace is not always the picture of the wolf and the lamb
Or bestowed by haloed winged beings
It is seen in calm scenery with flowers and tree's
But it is only really accomplished by oneself
Peace will not come by just sitting there, wishing for it
It is something to achieve, something to aim for
Something to work on day by day till evil is but a distant memory
And if not you, then who?
If not now, then when?
We should not even remember the days of war
The days where we lost someone.
A husband, a father, a brother
A wife, a mother, a sister
Or even just a friend or neighbor.
Though we may always have to lock our doors, our cars, and even our lives away.
Peace is the hope that we will not have to worry about such things someday.
That our children will not be kidnapped or hurt.
That we do not need nuclear bombs, and that a neighborhood watch program will be enough.
Peace
It is the last hope
Against fear, against death, against violence
Though we may only know certain peace in heaven
Let's hope we find it before then.
So if you will not help fight for peace, then who?
If you will not fight for it now, then when?

Cavanaugh Carter
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

Peace Can be Fulfilled

Peace is something we can hold on to
We just have to believe in me and you
When we fight, bicker, and ignore
You know I’ll be there knocking on your door
Asking for forgiveness because all I want is peace
Once it is fulfilled we will be complete
Suffering and crying is not how I want to see
Maybe inside you will believe
We can all end this from the very start
If you believe from your very heart

Camille Holderman
McKinleyville High School
McKinleyville, California
**No More Wars**

The pollution of the world
The confusing qualities of life
The thought of maybe one day
There will be peace
No more wars

---

Daryl Chadbourne
South Fork High School
Miranda, California

**PEACE**

Peace is something that we lack in this world
Everyone needs to unite
And make this world a safer place
Creating a unified world where
Everyone can feel safe, and there is no more hate

---

Joseph McCants
South Fork High School
Miranda, California
Swallowed in Flames

I believe
That I can rise from ashes
Burnt to the ground by a fire
The red flames licking at my life
I emerge a new person
Not a woman
An individual
Dealing with the earthquake
Shaking my thoughts
Pressing my memories and dreams
Into a single bond
I was born from fire
Birds fall silent
Trees quiver
I walk alone
Self-reflection sweeps over
The mirror reflects
Truth combined with twisted reality
This is not me
But time flows down stream
And I am meant to keep up with it
Not to burn what has been broken
To fix the unsolvable puzzle
Searching for a hidden cipher
The pieces are only imagined
Dreams into a different world
A world of rest
Wind blows fresh breath into life
I would be born from soil
A single rose
Blurred by droplets of dew
Peace within every living soul
Connected by fog
But dreams conflict the mind
As memories fade into black and white
Erupting into flames
And I will rise again

Dakota Rose Goodman
Arcata High School
Arcata, California
The Answer to War

Mothers cry
Fathers scream
Babies whine as
Children dream

Blood blood everywhere
Devil's touch anywhere

Man may run
From their fear
Yet, their children
Will live in their tears

Once was thought pure
Now is thought sad
Even though one may think
The outcome will always be bad

So what is the answer
We ask all together
Children's answer is peace
May it be forever

Dayton Dean
McKinleyville High School
McKinleyville, California
**War of Peace**

1...2...3...All there is
is a white hot flash and the sound of thunder.
What is that? One would wonder.
The Atom bomb is a disturbance of peace
It rings a sound of a thousand beating drums.

Killing millions in its wake.
Thousands flee for what's at stake.
Then is gone just like that.
All is nothing, just flat

Not a sound, not a being,
Not a thing in sight. For all we've done is fight.
Now everything is still.

The peace is back.
no bird singing sweet tunes,
no dog barking, nobody talking.
Just quiet, still, peace
Ashes of men, women and child
Still blowing in the wind at last

War of Peace is at an end.

Daniel Jimenez
East High School
Fortuna, California
WE MUST GET TOGETHER SOMEDAY

I have no room in my heart
For hatred,
For pride.
I have no room for these,
So I replace them with PEACE.

Oh Man, why is there so much bitterness in your heart?
Why do you live in so much hatred?
Why do you curse each other?
Why do you want to kill for my religion?
It does not make any sense,
Destroying lives
As though they were leaves blown by the wind on a cold winter day.
Why can't you be like the birds of the sky and the flowers in the field?
They do not have as much as we do,
Yet they blossom and smile as we look at them.

Take a look at Darfur, the case of genocide.
Take a look at Nigeria, killing because of religion.
How do we expect a change in our World
If we are not that change ourselves?
“We must get together someday”

Imagine a child
Left alone
With no parents in the world to care.
Imagine those killed.
Imagine all the tension.
Do we ever stop to think about this?
“We must get together someday.”
Stop fighting, stop killing,
And make the world a better place.

When I think about the past
I feel I can make the future come fast
That I may tackle the task
Which is so wide and vast.
But really I see you with a mask which hides the reality
That life is without distinct measure;
Blood flowed,
And in great number, heads rolled.
But why the strife, I ask?
Having gone through all the thorns in the past
I think there should have been a club
For you who have no grasp.
Oh, why don't you make up your mind
About clearing the cloud in the wind?
A cry for ease,
And a cry for peace
Across rivers and seas,
Is all I plea.

Living in strife and hatred,
Killing each other with swords and bombs
Is not the best way to live,
But in PEACE.
“We must get together someday.”

Elizabeth Time
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

**Pure Happiness**

Today a white, graceful dove landed on my window sill,
   All of the sudden the Earth began to lay still.
I gazed at the dove who was so carefree and gay,
   That my very own worries began to drift away.
All those heartless people who have hurt me had fled my mind,
   For I was no longer ignorant and blind.
I realize that happiness is a drift,
   So my smile began to lift.
The glorious sky was a beautiful shade of baby blue,
   The lively flower were covered with dew.
The sun light ray had lead the way,
   Down to a place where everyone was at play.
No longer is medication needed to lift me into bliss,
   For peace has flooded the world and brought pure happiness.

Mickenzie Grubb
Arcata High School
Arcata, California
Spread the Word

That old beaten wall, patched up by the fact
That you can’t divide sympathy
That ridiculous excuse that carries no meaning
The answer that never comes to the question of why
Why do they hate? Why hate others
Because of race or religion?
The color of their skin, or the church they attend
Blinded by the fact that you’re not all that different
That repetitive line, the truth that disproves your spite
Uncovers that shadow and brings hate to light
Did know that it doesn’t have to be this way
That you can make a difference, start right here
Help fight against the odds, against the waves
It’s not too late to spread the word

The darkness you can cause
The pain you can bring along
With the poison you speak
The words of pure ignorance
That exhibits no real meaning
Just foolish lines, spoken by foolish hearts
Who know nothing but bitterness
They know not the truth,
Because they hide behind lies
Release yourself from the hatred you were taught
Don’t carry on such a pointless tradition
Let history be your guiding light
It doesn’t have to be this way
Fight against the odds, against the waves
It’s not too late, so spread the word
Just realize that it really doesn’t affect you
   It’s not your life, so respect others
You could do better things with your time
   Instead of spreading your outdated ideas
   You think you’re so strong,
   But your morals are weak
These delusions only drag you down
But you can change; you can be a better person
   When you learn to accept others
   Of every creed or religion
So fight against the odds, against the waves
   It’s not too late, spread the word

Jenna Caldwell
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

The Last Battle

There was nothing but darkness
Firing guns numbed my eyes and ears
   A piece of light fell
   But I couldn’t see
With blood and bullet holes on my armor
   I forgot how to pray

The flower of death
Blossomed by me
I held my brother in my arms
I heard my children laughing
   I saw my wife smiling

Crying my eyes out in the trench

Siri Jiahe Wang
High School
McKinleyville, California
A Rose

The rose is a multi-emotional flower.

You can give it as a gift of love to your partner.

The rose is a doorway of passion and understanding.

But the rose is not always on joyful terms.

Somewhere, a soldier dies, and a rose is placed upon his coffin by his mother.

The soldier's friends and relatives each place a rose upon his coffin.

But do not think that these roses are for sadness and dispare. Oh no, they are quite just the same as before.

These roses are for love, love to a brother, love to a son, love to a friend, and love to a partner.

The rose is always there. Even if it becomes wilted and dried, it never goes away.

Just like the spirit the rose intends.

Dillon Carbiener
McKinleyville High School
McKinleyville, California

LIFE

Living together as one
In one home together
Forever in unity
Everyone at peace

Neil Brown
South Fork High School
Miranda, California
Our World

Today I was walking,
Just walking with no direction,
With no destination in mind,
Taking in the wonderful world,
And the nature that surrounds us.
There is the beautiful sound of birds,
Singing their little songs,
The river, running so strong.
It is spring now,
So the hard winter just got over,
And the wildlife is just coming out again.
I look around and see the amazing land,
The land without roads or power lines,
The land that only wildlife lives on.
As I'm taking all of this in,
I think of our world,
The world of war and fighting,
The world where nobody gets along,
The world where nobody is happy.
I picture us,
Our world,
With no fighting or war,
With no drama or politics.
Just as I feel this state of peace in my mind,
Like we have stopped the fighting,
I wake up.
I had been dreaming,
About this amazing world I wish to be in,
This world where all everyone wishes for is,
Peace.

Kassie Humphrey
South Fork High School
Miranda, California
The War on Ignorance

Supercilious, economy sized war
  Broken and uneven
  Nothing is clean or pure
A pollutant born of human ignorance
  Corroding the soulless children's hearts
who, with eyes of terror watch unmoving the human sacrifice
  until it is their turn to face the hand of God.
But don't they pray to the same God we do?
  Whose prayers are answered?
And whose are left to wilt like an unshed tear.
  God doesn't decide

The tears are a product of the demon ignorance
  Blissfully infringing upon rights
Obliterating the line between right and wrong
  Saying all people are different
The sweet tasting lie
We were all born of the same earth
Everyone loves, laughs and stubs their toes all the same
  We are equal

Sometimes I lay awake thinking about the soulless children's cries
I answer with a dove
  A hope for peace
We the People must unite against human ignorance
Like a vicious, poison taking over reason and love
Peace is the anecdote for the poison,
  A hand in the shadows
A light shining through even the darkest of hearts
We fight a war on ignorance

Kayla McClelland
Six Rivers Charter High School
Arcata, California
The Apple Tree

This eave is charred and mangled
With the stench of death entangled
A drop of dew upon the gutter
Proceeds to fall in a peaceful splutter
A bare patch of earth is where it rests
A patch of hope lies amidst this mess
Melancholy skies and burning metal
A once rich land is now disheveled
Once filled with crime and cruelty
This patch of earth lies solitary
And where this dew has nestled root
A tree of vibrant green will shoot
High above the battle ground
Its limbs of gold arch boldly out
And produce red fruit of opportunity
In this once dead land stands an apple tree
And when fall comes around and canopies of green
Atop rolling mountains a lush land is seen
In this purified valley, earth's natural chapel
Grows an ambrosial surplus of rosy red apples

Jazminh Lambley
South Fork High School
Miranda, California
*** Third Honors Award Recipient ***
Peace

We all walk around
We all turn and frown
With no peace around
How are we still walking
On this ground?

Look around the corner
And there is bloodshed and tears.
We have little kids telling their moms
To get over their fears.

We need peace to get along, we need peace to stay strong
Now we're overseas in a place we don't belong
Fighting a war that we egged on

We are there for oil, not for peace
And war is one thing we need the least
We need peace so we have no fear
We need peace to hold the world here

Country to country, sea to sea
We need peace to be free
Peace does not come from control and power
Peace comes from the ones we love and adore
Peace comes from having no fear,
Peace comes from people we hold dear
Let peace in
Let peace breathe
Let peace be between you and I everyone we see

Ty Nelson
East High School
Fortuna, California
What Once Was

Faces that represent races
In places
Unjustified
in empty spaces
Where filth reigns supreme
Separated, segregated, unvindicated
Where war reigns supreme
In a world where hate makes hate
And blame is blameless
Children nameless
Dictators faithless
And it is all okay.
Freedom paid for
With blood sweat and tears
And fears
Lived by children who whisper in our ears
They miss their mothers,
Fathers,
Sisters,
Brothers,
Taken by race wars
Door to door
As bodies hit floors
And we fight ground wars
Air wars,
No more.
Can we stand the unadulterated slaughter
Of what was?
A united front,
Against all things unjust,
Make love, not war
A peace shall reign supreme.

Lakia Solomon
McKinleyville High School
McKinleyville, California
*** Second Honors Award Recipient ***
For the World

Take your sisters hand

take your brothers hand
    In this world
we must rise together
    stand together
    stay strong
    together
    in this moment
we will achieve the highest greatness
    together we may not back down
    when the trumpets sound
we will love with all our might
    we will not be discouraged
we will fight for what's right
    together we stand
    hand in hand
    to live
    and love
    for the world
    together

Madelyn MacMullin
McKinleyville High School
McKinleyville, California
**SELFISH**

A long time ago
People were filled with love not hate
But the corruption of money has pulled us apart

**SELFISH**

Not a care for anyone else in the world
Just money in their pockets
Everyone has turned into objects
And left our human selves
In exchange for inanimate objects

**SELFISH**
Come back to the earth
Help your fellow people
With no desire for nothing in return
But that is just too much to ask for because everyone is

**SELFISH**

Ryver Gribi
South Fork High School
Miranda, California
Silent Dove

Noise shatters peaceful, appreciated silence,
They're blinded to a life of chatter,
Forgetting life can be calm if we clean up the clatter.
Leave me, let me be!
Of these obnoxious words I wish to be free.
Plug your ears, intensifying your childish fears,
you’ll just find yourself in tears,
Hooray, Cheers! This is what you’ve got from all these years.
Shh, close your eyes, reality won’t lie,
soon you must say goodbye,
to all the petty words that don’t mean a thing.
Face it. Peace is not available to such a being.
One that focuses on chaos to produce revolution,
When the truth hides behind the materialistic confusion.
Is there a simple way of life?
One with peace instead of strife.
The mind-set of a teenage girl,
Cornered in society’s grip and needs to hurl,
because all she wants is to fit in,
and still be comfortable in her own skin.
Life has a funny way,
To conform its members or throw them away,
Where is love and communal peace?
That will make violence and discrimination cease.
Peace is the unforgettable cry of the wife when the soldiers return home,
Because she knows her loved one is not in a tomb,
The children will wake in the morning and see,
They will have Christmas with a united family.
If one were to stop and look,
At the incredible world around us, open like a book,
Can you see we’re all connected?
We’re separated through culture, and that should be respected.
It is time to set aside our differences and make amends.
Then maybe someday we will all become friends,
peacefully.

Sophie Lefuel
Arcata High School
Arcata, California

Everyone Needs Their Rest

Sleep well my friend
All your work is done
It's reached its end
You had a good run

Sleep well my friend
You've made us all proud
No need to amend
Now pull back the shroud

Sleep well my lover
Who fits like a cover
My last humble request
Go have a good rest

Abram Hart
South Fork High School
Miranda, California
Patrio-tick

Wave your flag
Red, white, and blue
Suck your hopes with teeth of greed.
Point the barrel at you.
They are born with wealth
And make you sacrifice your health.
Always sucking it out of you
Always will you be another, “Who?”

Tyler Hensley
South Fork High School
Miranda, California
The Need for Peace

I am looking at this world with a positive perspective
I wonder if the wars will ever stop
I hear starving children crying
I see veterans on our streets begging for help
I want peace
I am looking at this world with a positive perspective

I pretend that it doesn't bother me too badly
I feel sick though, when I look at those in pain
I touch a child’s hand
I worry if that child will ever make it to a university
I cry when I learn they didn't make it past the age of ten
I am pretending that it doesn't bother me to badly

I understand that asking for the whole world to be in harmony is unlikely
I say that if we can all work together it will happen
I dream that every child will be fed
I try to help those in need
I hope for world peace
I am looking at this world with a positive perspective

Samantha Baker
South Fork High School
Miranda, California
Peace

From country to country, sea to sea
There's one thing important, in a family
Like green is to grass, and apples are to tree
And red is to roses, and cup is to tea
This thing I speak of, is a word of the kind
It helps angry people calm down, and stressful people unwind.
Peace is what I speak of,
Now go spread the word loud,
Peace makes all of us safe,
And our ancestors proud,
It keeps the Earth safe from people,
And people safe from the earth,
Protects older people at death
And young people at birth.
The streets could be safe,
Crime would be clean,
People will be nice,
And none would be mean
So bye bye bin Laden,
See ya later Sadam,
NO more violence,
Like death and Vietnam

Kyle Mangin
East High School
Fortuna, California
Music & peace

Breathe deep
First holding your sorrows in
Then let go
Let them go away

Time is weathering
Weathering and wearing
Ripping and tearing
Singing and swearing
Surrounding and chaotic
A cacophony of sound

Then the music starts
Starts to take away
Starts to make me sway
The soft notes are growing louder
The uniting sounds soft and calming
Or loud and liberating

Just a few strums of a guitar
And people who seemed so opposite can find common ground
A couple of heads may nod
And loathing is forsaken for conversation

Just listen
Listen as a women’s voice grows wide then narrow
Listen when a man’s emotions expand and contract in sound
Listen as a child jumps up and down
Listen as grandparents sigh out in perfect timing

Those small fleeting moments of unison
That second where sounds band together to create release
That’s what the world needs more of
That’s where I find peace

Taylor Christiansen
McKinleyville High School
McKinleyville, California
*** First Honors Award Recipient ***
Peace in the Eyes of Greatness

We can all spread World peace in one form or another. Some are much more outspoken, take the hand of your mother. Dr. King showed the world what peace can do. He changed life, for many people, including you. Dr. King had a dream, to make everything equal. Every one who follows him creates the sequel. Few know the true meaning of peace, Yet everyone never does appease.

John Lennon: The Definition of Greatness
He created a following bigger than The Beatles. Spreading out wisdom, and peace with every lyric. Give peace a chance, for it is easily achievable. In the past it seems like everyone is against peace. Why were both these great men shot? Did they do anything worthy of such violence? Everyone has the ability to promote peace.

King, Lennon, Mother Teresa, and Gandhi took the reigns. And slid violence aside, a slimy stain. Mother Teresa helped the poor, the sick, the orphaned. She’s the true hero, handled the situation with grace. Gandhi pioneered the use of non-violence, Which formed a track to follow hence worth. Dr. King followed those, and achieved great things. It’s all said and done, and Dr. King got his wish. But what makes peace so difficult?
The greater good is shown with drops of peace. The dewdrops of peace awaken the world’s tracks. And set fire for all who proceed in violent acts. Its so hard to stay peaceful, when violence is seen everywhere. Videogames, movies, and guns all have a share. Fly, my dove, fly high and reach the olive branch. Forsaken as a symbol of peace, we look to you as being bigger than the world. All we are saying is give peace a chance.

Tyler Keil
Arcata High School
Arcata, California
One Second of Peace

One second of peace can make
Several moments of peace.
Peace is like a flower, always growing
Always there to make life brighter.
Peace can be found deep down, buried in the heart:
The inner peace that passes understanding,
As well as in the white dove flying in the skies.
Or you can find it, unexpectedly, in the homeless man
In the back row of church every Saturday night.
But if you have to look for it, you'll find it's much closer than you think.

It’s in you.
Peace is like laughter or a musical bell
When you laugh with joy and happiness
Love spills out and, peace rushes in.
You allow love and peace to flow through you.
The Greeks call it “Eirene”
The Hebrews say it’s "Shalom"
The Dutch speak “Vrede”
Peace is peace and it’s universal.
If one second of peace can make
Several moments of peace
Then it can make a world of peace.
If there is a world of peace there's
An eternity of peace.
If the world wants peace with all its heart and mind
And it craves peace with all its soul
Why doesn’t one second of peace
Make an eternity of love and peace?
Here is the simple truth:
Because it is the same for hate and war.

Yanet Salazar
Arcata High School
Arcata, California
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- Gandhi

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Endorsements

Jim Laden, Director, Learning and Volunteer Resources
AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc

Maura Eastman, Director, Youth Services Division
Redwood Community Action Agency

Liz Smith, MSW, Executive Director
Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods
February 13, 2012
Veterans for Peace
Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest
P.O. Box 532
Bayside, CA 95524-0532

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of AFS Intercultural Programs/USA, I endorse the Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest.

We applaud and support like-minded organizations that encourage high school students to focus on peace in their communities and around the world. The goal of the contest is reflective of our mission: AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to youth in your community.

Sincerely,

Jim Laden
Director, Learning and Volunteer Resources
April 6, 2012

Veterans for Peace  
Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest  
P.O. Box 532  
Bayside, CA 95524-0532

To Whom It May Concern:

The Youth Service Bureau of the Redwood Community Action Agency enthusiastically endorses the Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest.

The contest encourages local youth to reflect upon important issues challenging our community and nation and to express their insights through poetry. We applaud any effort that encourages youth to think for themselves and question standard assumptions. The process challenges myths and stereotypes and leads to a broader understanding of social justice.

Thank you for sponsoring this very worthwhile event.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Maura Eastman  
Director – Youth Service Bureau  
Redwood Community Action Agency
April 14, 2011

Veterans for Peace
Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest
P.O. Box 532.
Bayside, CA 95524-0532

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your commitment to promoting peace locally and abroad and by including our young people by hosting a Peace Poetry Contest. On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods, I enthusiastically endorse this contest.

Encouraging youth to deal with issues of unrest and adversity and to be able to challenge these issues through artistic means is empowering and a reminder that as our future leaders, they have the power to effect monumental change.

Sincerely,

[Liz Smith, MSW]
Executive Director
3rd Annual Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest

The Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace

Invites Humboldt County High School Students
to submit an original poem directly focusing on peace; the abolition of war, hate, or violence; or peace-making in our communities.

Peace even in times of unrest should be the goal of all human communities. This contest is an attempt to focus on peace in a very troubled world.

Entries must be received not later than 5 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2012

Entrants will receive a copy of the 2012 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology and are encouraged to present their poetry at the 3rd Annual Peace Poetry Celebration to be held Friday, May 4, 2012.

Cash prizes will be awarded to three written entries.

There will also be a cash award for the “Best Presentation” that conveys the meaning of the author’s written poem. To qualify, the presentation must be made by the author at the Peace Poetry Celebration in May.

See reverse side of this announcement for submission requirements.
or visit the VFP web site at www.vfp56.org

The Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest is sponsored by the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace, Inc., the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Humboldt Chapter, Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee, Dell’Arte International, and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom Humboldt Chapter, and is supported in part by a grant from the Carl Nielsen Memorial Fund, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation. Submissions remain the property of the respective authors. Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 is granted an unrestricted license for reuse at its discretion.
The Redwood Coast "Peace through Art" Contest

THE HUMBOLDT BAY CHAPTER OF VETERANS FOR PEACE

Invites Humboldt County High School Students to submit an original piece of artwork or photography depicting and focusing on peace; the abolition of war, hate, or violence; or peace-making in our communities.

Peace even in times of unrest should be the goal of all human communities. This contest is an attempt to focus on peace in a very troubled world.

Entries must be received no later than 5 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2012

All entries will be displayed during the 3rd Annual Peace Poetry Celebration. One entry may be chosen for the cover of the 2012 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology. Other entries may be used inside the anthology and selected entries may be circulated for display at public venues. All entrants are encouraged to attend the 3rd Annual Peace Poetry Celebration to be held Friday, May 4, 2012. Entrants whose artwork is featured in the anthology will receive a copy of the publication.

Cash prizes may be awarded to three entries.

See reverse side of this announcement for submission requirements.

or visit the VFP web site at www.vfp56.org

The Redwood Coast "Peace through Art" Contest is sponsored by the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace, Inc., The Ink People Center for the Arts, the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Humboldt Chapter, the Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee, Dell’Arte International, and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom Humboldt Chapter, and is supported in part by a grant from the Carl Nielson Memorial Fund, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation. Submissions remain the property of the respective artist/photographer. Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 is granted an unrestricted license for reuse at its discretion.

PEACE POETRY CONTEST CELEBRATION

FRIDAY MAY 4TH
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