

# Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2022



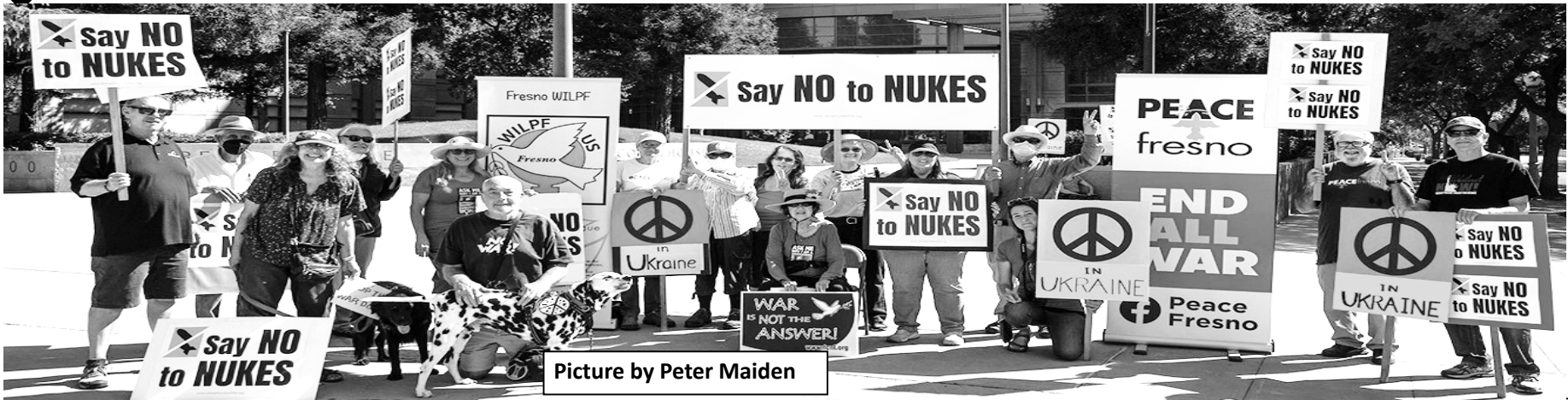
December 2022

**“Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable. – JFK.**

(War is so profitable to so few that it could have been one of the reasons that they had to kill him.)

Edited by  
Richard  
Gomez

**Dedicated to PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE through  
SIMPLICITY ~ JUSTICE ~ INCLUSIVENESS ~ NON-INJURY**  
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Picture by Peter Maiden

## Warriors for Peace - Richard Rohr

<https://email.cac.org/t/ViewEmail/d/4B0C0AFF7C1D81122540EF23F30FEDED/1F5B76E3FAC3B4A222947492D9797BBC?alternativeLink=False>

*For those of us committed to nonviolence, what do we do with the warrior imagery in our religious traditions? Zen priest and activist angel Kyodo Williams writes about living with a nonviolent “warrior-spirit” inspired by the Buddha:*

The man who became the Buddha was known as Gautama, and he was born into a warrior clan known as the Shakyas. But even before Gautama was born as a Shakya warrior, he had been a warrior of another kind. In previous lives, Gautama had been a *bodhisattva*. Bodhisattva means “awakening being” and refers to a person of any culture that is brave and willing to walk on the path of wakefulness. . . . They are awakening warriors that give up floating through life aimlessly and being concerned only with themselves. Awakening warriors live in a way that is of benefit to all, and their work is done here in this world. They see that we must all take responsibility for ending suffering, not just for our own individual freedom, but for that of others as well. What these awakening warriors realize is that in order to live harmoniously and with joy, they must take their natural place in the world.

Does this mean that in order to live with more joy and grace and less fear and anger we need to run out and take up arms or develop aggressiveness and a warlike stance? Not at all. What we want to do is embody the spirit of a warrior and bring that to function in our daily lives. “Spirit” refers to that which gives life. “Warriors” live a life of action and clear direction. We can bring warrior-spirit to the cause of peace and harmonious connection because it is about life and living, not power and aggression. Warrior-spirit is a frame of mind that lets us make a habit of cultivating the qualities and skills that are already available to all of us.

*Valarie Kaur of the Revolutionary Love Project understands her Sikh warrior tradition through a nonviolent lens that asks, “Who will you fight for?” on behalf of justice and peace.*

What does it mean to be a warrior-sage for a new time? Who will you fight for? What will you risk? It begins with honoring the fight impulse in you. Think about what breaks your heart. Notice what it feels like to have your fists clench, your jaw close, your pulse quickens. Notice what it feels like to want to fight back. Honor that in yourself. You are alive and have something worth fighting for. Now comes the second moment: How will you channel that into something that delivers life instead of death? Breathe. Think. Then choose your sword and shield. You don’t have to know the answers. You just have to be ready for the moment when the world says: *Now*.



Well, this has been a long, strange trip of a year for me. Did some time in the hospital, twice, more than I ever did since I was born. Unfortunately, I’m not the only that got hospitalized either. Old age creeps on us like a thief to rob us of our youth. So, 2023 should be an interesting time for these old decaying bones. Whereas the Holidays should be of good cheer and happiness, I will be glad to get a chance to recuperate. Fat chance. From everyone here at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Give Peace a Chance, please, but of course that will only happen if we all want it to be. At least think about it. You will be glad you did. Best of joy, love, caring for others and so much more. We love to see you next year and what we could do to make it better and don’t forget our fury friends, they need love too. May 2023 take us toward peace. Happy Holiday. -RG

**KFCF 88.1 FM Stir it. UP!**

**Wednesday December 14th at 3 pm**

We end the year with our show with our guest host Josh Shurley and his guest to be announced. For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org).

In November, your host Josh Shurley was peace activist and veteran Susann Schnall, current President of Veterans for Peace. The discussion will be of VFP’s campaign to reclaim Armistice Day and of broader issues related to her work and the work of Veteran for Peace, which is to expose the true cost of war and to abolish war as an instrument of national policy. To hear again: <https://soundcloud.com/joshua-shurley>

Inn October, our host Josh Shurley and guest Bernard Navarro, Native American Instructor of Fresno City College. To hear again: [Stream Stir It Up - October 12, 2022 by Dr\\_Shurl | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#)

