

Making Meaning of Vietnam

7:00 pm Thursday, April 9
Plymouth Congregational Church,
1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN

Writing - Reading – Making Meaning

Jim Northrup,

Michael Orange,

Wendell Affield,

Larry Johnson,

Robbie Orr and others

Making Meaning of Vietnam Project

Tell the stories of your Vietnam experience

Share the lessons we've learned

What does "Vietnam" mean to you? How have America's wars changed your life?

Help us organize readings, concerts, lectures, art exhibits, film series, and story-sharing sessions during the year leading up to the 40th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon in April 2015

Sponsored by the **National Writers Union & Vets for Peace**

Making Meaning of Vietnam

Like us on Facebook ([Click Here](#))

Contact Robbie at 651-208-5836 or vietnamfortyyears@gmail.com



SEVEN STORIES I WISH THEY'D TELL ABOUT THE WAR IN VIETNAM

World Storytelling Day 2015

Macalester Plymouth United Church in St. Paul

"If I Can Hear Your Story, It's Harder For Me To Hate You"

WSD Logo by Mats Rehnman
Swedish Storyteller

Thanks to Ken Stewart for the slides from Vietnam, a beautiful country. The War in Vietnam was not.

Welcome

Larry Johnson

Larry is a Veteran for Peace, member of MAP Leadership team, and helped organize WSD in 2003.

Greeting from Sponsors

Rob Ramer – Making Meaning of Vietnam

Molly Redmond – Mac Plymouth United Church Peacemakers

THE STORIES

Gary Melom – "What Happened?"

Gary is a Vietnam Vet, social worker, writer/storyteller.

George Mische – "Resisting Resisters of Peace and Justice"

George is a veteran of the U.S. Army and of fighting the system that imprisons resisters of illegal wars and injustice.

Chante Wolf – "Rape is an Instrument of All Warfare"

Chante is an activist writer/speaker/photographer, and Gulf War Veteran. She is active with Women Veterans Initiative, advocating for holistic healing and art for veterans.

Gerald Ganann – "The Times They Are a Changing"

Gerald is a Vietnam era veteran, Medivac. 40 years in IT; All his life singing the stories that moved us in the 60s.

Dick Foley – "The Worst Day of My Life"

Dick is a Vietnam Veteran and VA volunteer. He speaks frequently to students so they hear what recruiters leave out.

Catrina Huynh-Weiss – "We Had to Leave Our Home"

Airlifted out of Vietnam at Saigon's fall, Catrina grew up in the U.S., working as a writer and producer of PBS Public Affairs.

Steve McKeown – "Our Hands Were Tied"

Steve was a radio operator in Vietnam. One of the founders of Vets for Peace Ch. 27, Steve instituted the powerful, symbolic use of the original Armistice Bells for Peace.

CLOSING

Please go to the other side for resources to keep these and all the other important stories going.

RESOURCES FOR STORIES LEFT OUT OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM

Compiled by Larry Johnson

March 20 donations go to VIETNAM AGENT ORANGE RELIEF CAMPAIGN, or donate directly at www.vn-agentorange.org. Read Waiting For An Army To Die by Fred Wilcox, for sad Agent Orange history. www.petronellaytsma.com, photo documentation on AO, includes Doug Drews, VFP member.

There will be follow-up, more informal, story circles, for individuals to tell their own "left out" stories. MAP, www.mapm.org, is sponsoring first Leslie Reindl Peace Essay contest, open to all Minnesota juniors and seniors; September 1-October 15, 2015. Scholarship prizes. Details on both from Larry at larryjvfp@gmail.com or 612-747-3904.

Go to www.makingmeaningofvietnam.com, or to www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org, for more resources reflecting what's missing in the official commemoration at www.vietnamwar50th.com.

Go to FREE PRESS at www.freepress.net, or Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting at www.fair.org. Both working for media responsibility. Move to Amend at www.movetoamend.org is about big money out of politics, a major factor in important stories left out of Vietnam and other war narratives.

Mayday Books at 301 Cedar in Mpls, 612-333-4719, for books like Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character by Jonathan Shay; Kill Anything that Moves by Nick Turse; Fire in the Hole by Michael Orange; Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, The Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam by H.R. McMaster; Ideologies of Forgetting: Rape in the Vietnam War by Gina Marie Weaver; 365 Days by Dr. Ron Glasser;

Google "Martin Luther King Jr. Why I am opposed to the War in Vietnam" to hear the speech, or read The Radical King by Cornel West. Google "Nixon's War and Vietnamization", or try "Lyndon Johnson's Tapes" at www.bbc.com/news/magazine-21768668. Again, google "Peace Crimes Backstage: The Minnesota 8" for TPT's video on that important action.

Peacestock July 11, near Red Wing, at www.peacestockvfp.org. This year, "The War on Climate", which didn't just start. Check The World According to Monsanto, or Barry Sanders' The Green Zone.

Beyond the Divide at www.quietislandfilms.com, a new film about a Vietnam Marine Veteran and a long-time peace activist finding common ground. Feature length films include Born on the 4th of July and The Trial of the Catonsville 9.

Like sports? Pay attention to Nation sportswriter Dave Zirin, who writes regularly about, e.g., Dave Meggyesy leaving pro football in 1969 because the violence conditioned fans to accept War in Nam.

Go to Veterans for Peace, nationally, www.veteransforpeace.org, or locally, www.vfpchapter27.org.

TRUTH, CONSCIENCE, AND THE PERVERSION OF JUST WAR REASONING

Larry Johnson 612-747-3904 larryjvfp@gmail.com www.keyofsee.mn

As a storyteller, I look at how important stories get twisted or not told at all. As a Veteran for Peace, I see they rarely tell us "To be a just war, civilians can't be harmed."

WEBSITES/ORGANIZATIONS

www.mayorsforpeace.org Mayors worldwide, saying, "It's not OK to bomb my city."

www.centeronconscience.org Center on Conscience and War

www.ploughshares.org Ploughshares, working nationally to eliminate nuclear weapons

www.christianpeacewitness.org Conscience in War Project

www.forusa.org Fellowship of Reconciliation, long-time interfaith peace organization

www.movetoamend.org Move to Amend, working to get big money out of political influence, including the truth about selling weapons to both sides in a conflict.

www.davidswanson.org Books like War is a Lie, or When the World Outlawed War

www.NationalTelemediaCouncil.org National Telemedia Council, oldest media literacy organization in the country, teaching critical thinking skills about media messages.

www.couragetoresist.org Newer organization helping soldiers conscientiously opposed to what they're asked to do. Very active in Bradley Manning support.

BOOKS AND VIDEOS

Jesus for President by Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw. Written by young people coming out of Evangelical Christianity, telling the secret truth of early Christians refusing war, and the drastic change when Constantine combined church and state with Just War.

Bombing Civilians by Yuki Tanaka and Marilyn Young. We didn't prosecute Germans bombing Europe, because we'd have been in equal violation of International Law.

The Forgotten Hero of My Lai: The Hugh Thompson Story by Trent Angers

Christian Just War Theory: The Logic of Deceit by Father Emmanuel Charles McCarthy

War is a Racket by Major General Smedley Butler. War makes arms dealers wealthy. If it's a "just war", shouldn't they show the same sacrifice asked of soldiers?"

Franz Jagerstatter: Man of Conscience (video). German farmer, executed August 9, 1943, for refusing to participate in the Nazi army.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY CHAPTER 27 ON JANUARY 13, 2013

Members of VFP 27 will strive to refrain from derogatory language. We will treat everyone, no matter how extreme their opinions seem, as someone with whom we could talk frankly, learn from, and build a relationship with the potential to bring them closer to our mission of abolishing war. Further, we will strive to function similarly with the broader peace community, not letting "doctrinal differences" get in the way of our common goal. If we have a difference with someone, we will avoid derogatory mass emails, but rather discuss such differences in person, with the intent of deepening our relationship and commitment to building a powerful, cohesive movement together.

We must get the stories into the hands of those with something to tell, not just major corporations with something to sell. George Gerbner, Communications Researcher



STOP U.S. WARS

No war in Iraq

No bombing, troops, advisors, weapons,
or contractors

Stop bombing Syria

Out of Afghanistan

Say NO to drone strikes & endless war

Say NO to Racism

Stop targeting people of color
Demilitarize the police
Stop attacks on democratic rights

Say NO to Islamophobia

For a full employment peace economy

Anti-War Protest: Saturday March 21, 2015

1:00 pm Gather at
Lake Street &
Hiawatha Avenue, Mpls

1:30 pm March

2:00 pm Program
Walker Community Church
3104 16th Avenue, Mpls

March 2015 will mark 12 years since the 2003 "Shock & Awe" launch of the U.S. war in Iraq. The Minneapolis March 21 protest will coincide with spring anti-war actions March 18–21 in Washington, D.C.

Initiated by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition.
Endorsed by: AFSCME Local 3800, Anti-War Committee, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Marxist Student Federation, Mayday Books, Military Families Speak Out (MN chapter), Minneapolis Green Party, Peace and Justice Committee of Sacred Heart Catholic Church (St. Paul), Socialist Action, Students for a Democratic Society (UMN), St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers, St. Paul Eastside Neighbors for Peace, Twin Cities Peace Campaign, Veterans for Peace, Welfare Rights Committee, Women Against Military Madness, Workers International League.

For more information: 612-827-5364 or 612-275-2720



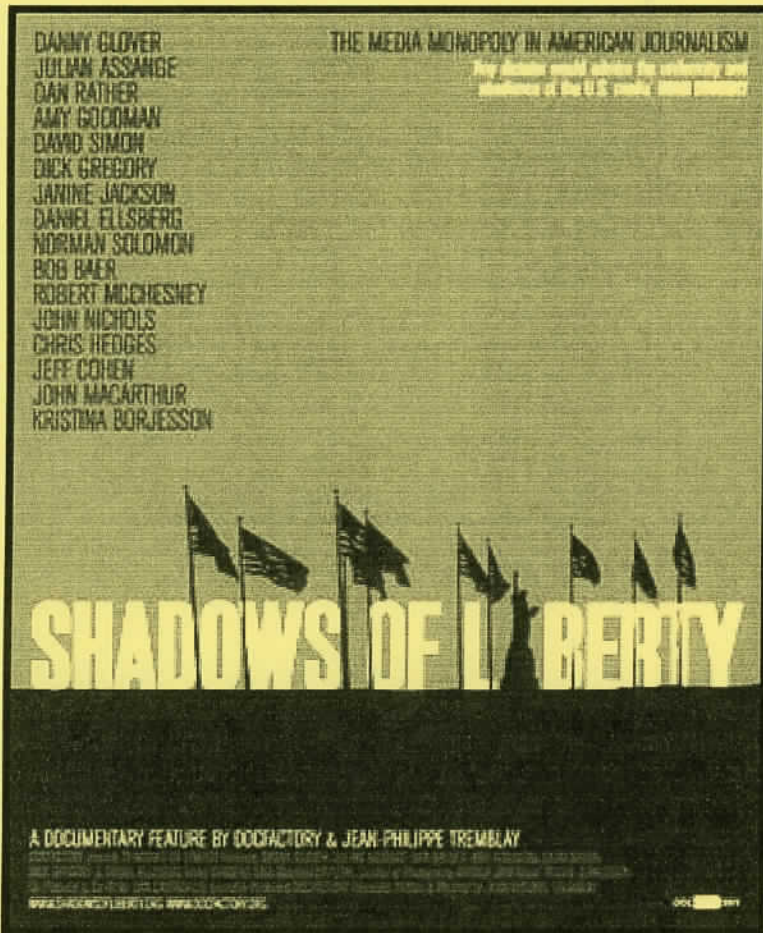
WAMM Second Monday Movies
Free Admission. Free Popcorn.
Welcome All

Pass the popcorn, please



MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015 7 PM

4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis



APRIL FEATURE
SHADOWS OF LIBERTY

Shadows of Liberty reveals the extraordinary truth behind the news media: censorship, cover-ups and corporate control. Filmmaker Jean-Philippe Tremblay takes an intrepid journey through the darker corridors of the American media landscape, where global conglomerates call the shots. For decades, their overwhelming influence has distorted news journalism and compromised its values.

In highly revealing stories, renowned journalists, activists and academics give insider accounts of a broken media system. Controversial news reports are suppressed, people are censored for speaking out, and lives are shattered as the arena for public expression is turned into a private profit zone.

Tracing the story of media manipulation through the years, *Shadows of Liberty* poses a crucial question: why have we let a handful of powerful corporations write the news? We're left in no doubt – media reform is urgent and freedom of the press is fundamental.

Documentary. 2012. 93 minutes.

limited engagement - one night only

Connecting the dots... Lively discussion follows. Everybody needs to see *Shadows of Liberty* to spark conversation and action.

MAY FEATURE TBD

Coming May 11th. Limited Engagement.

For more information contact the W A M M office. 612.827.5364

