

Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project

The Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project formed in the spring of 2004. We all lived and worked in the community. Many of us had children in the public schools. As parents and community members we were concerned about the role of the military in our schools. This became very clear in the run-up to the Iraq war. The government was beating the drums of war and the military recruiters were all over the high schools trying to recruit young people. We felt the need to offer an alternative view.

District 214 is the second largest high school district in the state of Illinois. It includes the suburbs of Elk Grove Village, Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, Wheeling, Mt Prospect, Prospect Heights and Buffalo Grove. There are six high schools. Together this includes about 12,000 students.

Starting in 2004 until 2019 we set up a table in the commons area in each high school usually once a month. We talked to the students; offered career alternatives; and tried to raise their awareness of the militarism in society. We often had a theme centered on a particular event – e.g. International Day of Peace, Memorial Day, Mother’s Day. We produced a zine which included submissions from District 214 students. And we hosted public events.

We had been losing members over the years. None of us have children or grandchildren in any D214 schools any longer. Then in 2019 the school district essentially made the decision for us by implementing a new policy which restricts all outside groups to one visit/semester. Although there were slight differences in how the policy was administered between the six high schools, it was a game changer for us. To be clear, the same policy applied to the military. In fact there was a rumor that the policy came about by a parent angry about the presence of recruiters at the school with free access to the students. Then the pandemic hit and access to students was limited. At that point we decided to disband.

Our blog, which we started in 2010, follows.

Libby Frank
June 2021

Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project BLOG

Tabling at Rolling Meadows 3/3/2020

This is a very quiet day. But quite a few students have zipped by the table and grabbed candy. None are interested in talking. But two separate boys have told me they are Air Force bound. One said he'll be joining the Air Force Reserve, where he'll start his service while attending Harper and studying theater. Another said he's going to join the Air Force like his dad. But his dad was a Medic, which this kid won't be. I forgot what specialty the kid says he's pursuing himself.

A 9th grade girl came by and picked up my next-to-last copy of "The Military's Not Just a Job . . ." for her sister, who is also a 9th grader, but they're not twins. (?) Her sister is interested in the military. IDK if she wants to encourage or discourage her sister's interest in the military. I hope the brochure will prompt the sister to ask some questions.

I'm giving away lots of Starburst candies today. I'm glad I bought a fresh package the other day.

I neglected to say that the first air Force bound boy to come by this morning expressed appreciation for my being here. But he politely declined to take or wear peace bling.

A boy and a girl came by in second lunch. Both plan to go to college. The girl hopes to attend ISU and become a teacher. The boy hasn't chosen a college yet but wants to study business.

Lynne

Tabling at Rolling Meadows 1/7/2020

It's a quiet day at Rolling Meadows High School. An armed police officer smiled and said, "hello" as he walked past the peace table. Both ways.

I have a new phone. It's determined to auto correct Rolling Meadows to Rollicking Meadows.

Tabling at Rolling Meadows 12/3/2019

Apparently Army recruiters are doing a great job here. I just had a 14 year-old boy tell me he has already enlisted. He wants "to serve my country." The young boys traipsing along behind him have all drunk the same Flavor-Ade. He was happy to eat my Starburst candy. He didn't believe me when I told him he wasn't legally old enough to enlist. (?)

Two girls who are into theater came by. They were delighted to choose peace patches.

A gang of boys were teasing a smaller friend by taking his bottled drink and tossing it around to each other as he chased after it. They ceased their "game" before I could say more than the word "Gentlemen" to end the bullying.

More girls came by for peace patches and candy. Shari, your handiwork is seeing a revival of popularity today.

Between lunch periods two armed police officers walked through the largely empty cafeteria. They greeted me as they strolled past. I responded in kind. Maybe I should've asked why they were there?

It's now second lunch period. Most students are just walking around and ignoring me. My candy supply is more than sufficient, but definitely decreasing.

A boy I see each time I visit here walked by and greeted me.

I had a conversation with a neat 12th grader named Bella. She's a musician. She has been accepted at Columbia, where she'll study music in the fall. She's concerned about the heavily macho attitude of friends who are in J-ROTC. She's a compassionate individual who believes in kindness. She wishes I could be here more often. I told her we're lucky RMHS let's me visit monthly, since some other schools only let us visit once a semester.

A handful of nice boys came by and chatted. Most haven't decided about careers. They have no interest in the military. They kindly finished off my dish of candy.

Tabling at Hersey HS 11/6/2019

Very quiet. Only a few students stopped at the table. Those that did pause and ask about us, seemed to understand our purpose.

Students are so focused on their cell phones and their cliques; it's hard to break through. And to them the wars are so remote.

Libby

Tabling at Rolling Meadows 11/5/2019

It was a quiet day at Rolling Meadows High School today. I chatted with several students. None of them expressed any interest in the military. Almost all planned to go to college and start at Harper.

I read somewhere that the military was meeting their recruitment goals currently. Based on the students I talked with, the military isn't experiencing much interest in Rolling Meadows.

A couple girls expressed interest in becoming oral hygienists. Another hoped to become a doctor.

The main interest I saw was in candy. Numerous young people zipped by, grabbed candy, and kept going. Others politely asked for and received candy. Between the two lunch periods, I took a quick restroom break. When I returned, all the candy on the table had been taken. I had to refill my candy dish several times today. Sugar consumption suggests there'll be plenty of future need for dentists and oral hygienists.

Tabling at Wheeling HS 10/15/2019

Wheeling has instituted the new policy governing visits by outside groups. All groups are allowed one visit/semester. If students want to meet with a group (college representative, military recruiter, us) they need to make an appointment and meet with that representative in the college and career counseling office.

Sadly no one signed up today.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the military didn't get anyone either. So . . .

Another interesting statistic I learned from the college and career assistant. About 71% of Wheeling students are first generation. This came up because we were discussing how ridiculous that the schools in D214 have just one college and career counselor and one part-time assistant. They're supposed to serve 1,700 students. This is a comparatively rich school district. They should have double that staff.

Libby

Tabling at Rolling Meadows 10/1/2019

Today I've seen mostly 9th grade boys who want candy. Two of them have already been recruited into the military. Freshmen! Can you imagine pressuring children barely in their teens to sign up to kill people?

Tabling at EGHS 9/16/2019

The school apparently forgot I was coming, after our careful planning and scheduling. I had to wait about 15 minutes for a nice maintenance guy to bring me a table and chair after a nice security guy requested it.

Several individual boys came by our table and got candy and/or brochures. A couple boys took peace patches. All said, "Thank you." All looked like 9th graders.

A group of about 5 9th grade boys then came by together. Their ring leader informed me he was going to join the military once he got out of college. (I encouraged him to check out ROTC and get his college paid for by the military.) Soon I realized these kids didn't know what they were talking about. These boys obviously were here to harass me. I told them they didn't need to be here if they were just here to harass me. They all left, didn't even take candy. Nothing like that has happened in years. Not since those dreadful twins who harassed Esther and me here. We reported those twins to the school, who knew them, and dealt with them sternly. I should've gotten this boy's name (he would've lied, I'm sure.) Esther raised houses full of sons and grandsons. She recognized and didn't put up with BS from anybody.

Tabling at Wheeling HS 5/17/2019



Roger and I talked to probably a half dozen or more students. One advantage of sitting inside the commons area. The tombstones drew attention. Several stopped to look at the various counties. In retrospect almost wish we'd had all the tombstones or maybe display the 30 highest counties.

Tabling at EGHS 5/16/2019

Very slow. The display of tombstones did draw attention and quite a few students slowed down to take a closer look, but only a few stopped to talk. The longest conversation I had was with one of the security guards. He talked at some length about all the wars our country has been involved in and now the threat of war with Iran.

Tabling at BGHS 5/13/2019

It has been a quiet but not quite dead day at Buffalo Grove. Normally they provide a rectangular table for me, but all those tables were being used for the vast amount of end-of-year testing being done this week. So they gave me a square table, which is perfect for our cemetery display.

I should have labeled it clearly as the combat deaths of people from Illinois 2001-2018. The other half, of course, is being displayed at another school.

One gentle student told me he was sorry for my loss. I told him it wasn't my loss, but everyone's loss. He assured me he had no intention of joining the military: he plans to become a cartoonist. He doesn't want to end up under a military grave stone.

A security guy told me, well, they signed up for it. But we agreed that probably none of them signed up to die.

One student recognized the cemetery as a place he'd been recently when his grandfather died. I'm not sure if he got the point we were trying to make about combat deaths.

A teacher came by and gazed at the cemetery. I explained the tombstones represented about half the combat deaths of people from Illinois 2001-2018. She actually took the time to read some tombstones. She said she was not aware of this (I guess that there'd been so many losses from).

Lynne



Tabling at EGHS 4/18/2019

Once again this month the Elk Grove Park District is at the adjacent table they are recruiting students to be life guards this summer @\$11 an hour. They have a steady trickle of business. I don't. This school is so not worth visiting monthly.

The school had set up tables for us ahead of time, but no chairs today. Standing for over two hours is taking its toll on my ancient knees. I stood and sang for two hours each on Saturday and Sunday, but I had an intermission. And I was singing, not just standing there.

The people at the park district table are wandering through the cafeteria and chatting up students. They have a staff member and two students. They take turns. One is always at the table. Two wander through the cafeteria. If I could snag a staff member, I would request a chair.

Only one student has wandered by for candy. He's a special needs student. Probably the military isn't trying to recruit him.

Lynne

Tabling at Rolling Meadows 5/7/2019

It has been a quiet day at Rolling Meadows High School.

Our prolific writer came by briefly. He will graduate soon and attend Harper. I gave him a business card and asked him to stay in touch. He's a keeper.

Mostly people have zipped past the table. A few have taken candy. Little or no conversation has occurred. Yes, it's a waste of time.

Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS 4/2/2019

It's a peaceful day at Rolling Meadows High School. This morning I was greeted in the cafeteria by the mayor of Rolling Meadows, who is on the security staff at the school. No table was set up. I had to make considerable effort to get one. During that time I saw several boys walking around (like other students) in their khaki and black JROTC uniforms. Nobody paid any attention to them.

I had been alerted by the security guy at the entrance that the area where I usually sit had been rearranged, and I would need to find another spot. I did. My new spot is better, gets more traffic.

Tabling at Elk Grove HS 3/21/2019

Peace people,

It's been a quiet day at EGHS today. They forgot I was coming. I had to wait for a table and chair.

Next to our table is a table recruiting students to be life guards for the Elk Grove Village Parks District. The district has student accomplices. Both they and the Park District representative have roamed the cafeteria, not just sat at the table.

The Park District is handing out free sunglasses. They are doing brisk business. I am not, in spite of my unlimited supply of free Starbursts. I'm glad I brought myself a healthy lunch, so my time here hasn't been a total waste.

A couple different students have started to approach our table, then turned away upon realizing I'm not offering summer jobs. Hey! Peace patches and buttons are cool, folks!

A few students have taken a Starburst or three. Elk Grove area dentists would view me as dangerous, if they could see what I'm doing.

Tabling at BGHS 3/11/2019

I forgot to pack a cookie in my lunch. How can I be sweet without one?

It's a pleasant day at Buffalo Grove High School. Students have been coming by the table. Most are college bound. Maybe all.

One who came by is in JROTC, which he insisted is a community service organization. Clearly he has bought into their whole line. He's a smart kid, though. He plans to major in software engineering, possibly at U of I. His buddy, who actually initiated the conversation, has similar career interests, but isn't in JROTC. I wish I'd asked the boy why he chose to be in JROTC. You see, it's a tradition in his family to serve in the military. Uh-huh. So now we're in "Fiddler on a Roof."

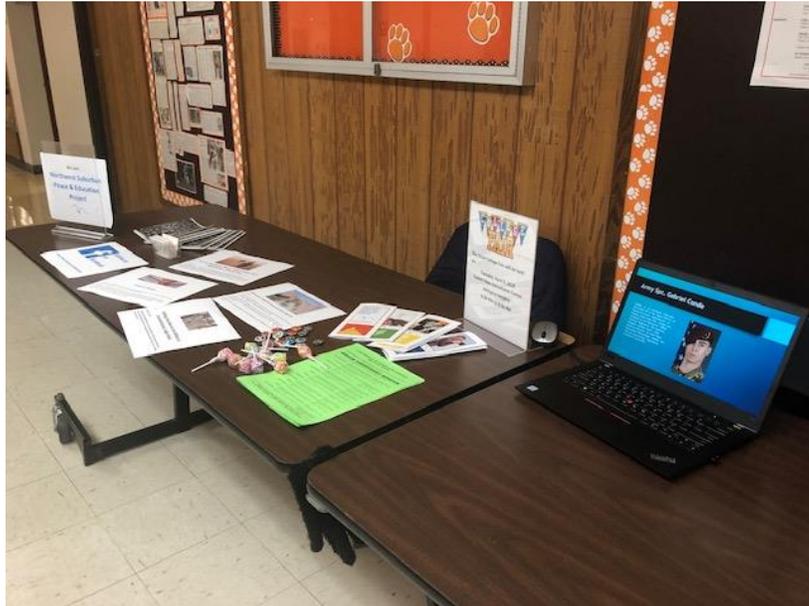
Tabling at Hersey HS 3/5/2019

Chatted with probably 6 - 8 students even though so many walked by; glued to their devices.

We table at Hersey only twice a year - usually in November and March. This is their policy; not ours. And as far as I can tell they are consistent. In other words the same policy applies to military recruiters. But I realize how

difficult it is to build any kind of connection with the school. At the other schools we often see the same students month after month.

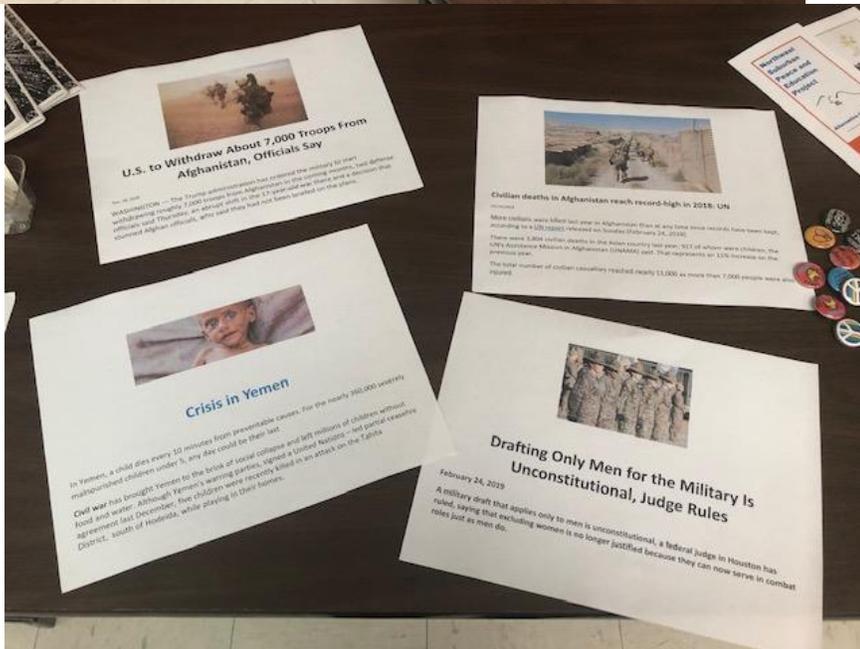
I have a slideshow of all the men and women killed in service in 2017 which I played in a continuous loop. It generated some interest. I realize I need to update it. It covers all 2017 but I haven't updated for 2018. Would be good to do so. Seeing faces brings the wars home for people.



One young woman I talked to wants to be a writer. I gave her a zine. One young man wants to be a lawyer. I resisted the temptation to talk him out of it. (I know MANY very unhappy lawyers). But I pointed out different fields of law (e.g. intellectual property) that he might not have thought of. One young woman stopped by and thanked us for all we do.

I created 5 flyers of recent war-related events that have happened recently. Didn't generate a lot of interest though.

Libby



Tabling at Elk Grove HS 2/21/19

It's been a quiet day. I had several boys zip by for candy. One girl I'd met before came by and took a brochure. She came back a while later for peace patches. She didn't seem interested in pursuing conversation. But reading our literature apparently inspired her to take a stand with peace patches and safety pins . . . somewhere . . .

Lynne

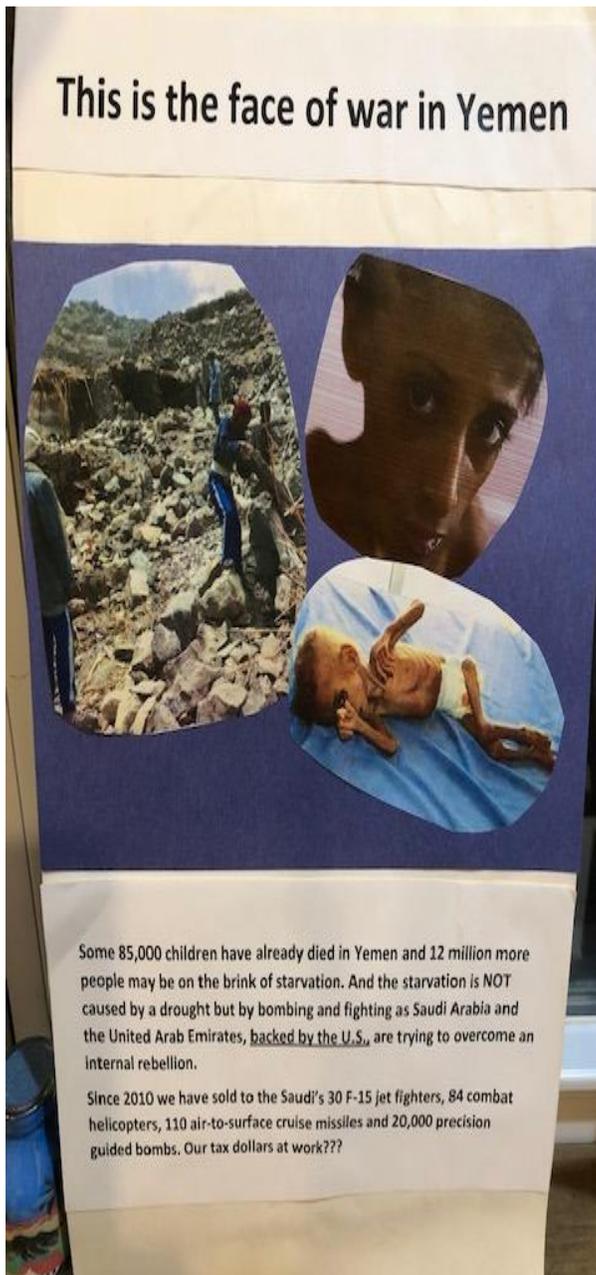
Tabling at Prospect HS February 5, 2019

It was a quiet day punctuated by a visit from V, who informed me that she and a few others in the school have been selected to attend a mock UN conference in Boston in a couple of weeks. Ironically, she has to represent herself as an Idaho Congressman known for his reactionary views and so has to familiarize herself with arguments she finds anathema---which is actually helpful under the heading 'know-your-enemy,' as well as a way to develop her forensic capacity (i.e., putting your opponent's position in language that is even more persuasive than he can put it in---before demolishing it completely---is an effective tactic that works well on audiences).

What's neat about the students I've met at Prospect---and shows how they are already starting to develop effective organizing strategies on their own---is that each month they make a real effort to bring a friend or acquaintance with them to introduce me to. And each time I've taken it as an opportunity to get that person's email and send them a thank-you for showing interest in anti-war organizing. The new student's name is L.; she is also attending this Boston debate gathering with Violet. It's a bit sad they're all seniors and won't be starting a kind of tradition, but such is the way of organizing...

I promised both L and V that I would send them information about two events that I know are upcoming----first, the event that Chicago Committee Against War & Racism (CCAWR) is organizing at a Congressman's office near the anniversary of the 2003 Iraq War and, second, the anti-war conference at Loyola in April organized by Loyola students with assistance from the same group. If any of you have information about any anti-war stuff going on in the northwest suburbs, please let me know. I can be like a clearing house for these students informing them of upcoming events.

Roger



Tabling at Wheeling HS January 8, 2019

We wondered why the kids were so squirrely until we found out that today was their first day back after winter break. No wonder!

We had some information on Yemen which generated a small amount of interest. The pictures of the starving children are hard to handle and I debated for a long time that they might be too much. But most of the pictures were published in the New York Times so I figured fair game.

Libby & Roger

Tabling at Wheeling HS December 11, 2018

We continued with our informal survey – asking students and staff what they think about changing the Selective Service System into some form of mandatory service which would include a military option.

It was a bit challenging to get the student's attention to take our informal survey but we talked to about 8 or 9 people including a teacher, JROTC instructor and staff. Almost all were in favor of mandatory service even when we emphasized that it was mandatory.

Also talked to a student who wants to join the military after school. He was motivated by his father who was in the Polish Army until a congenital heart condition forced him out. This young man has the same condition but he said he's been

checked out by a cardiologist and he's fine. We cautioned him about his choice; pointing out the difference between service in the Polish Army and the United States which has soldiers stationed all over the world. He thanked us for our advice.

One of the JROTC instructors stopped by. He was in the Navy for 23 years; retired and now is a JROTC instructor. He was surprised that so many students seemed favorable to the idea of mandatory service. We got the impression that he wasn't that impressed by the students he's encountered.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS December 10,2018

It's a quiet day at Buffalo Grove High School. Two female students stopped by and asked what this was about. Both plan to attend college after High School. One hopes to be a teacher. The other plans a career in medicine. I didn't think to warn her that recruiters will promise to pay for med school if she'll enlist, and enlisting's not a good idea for women.

Through 3 lunch periods at BGHS, only two girls came by the table briefly. I think the main attraction for them was candy. Both are college bound, one to become a teacher, and the other a physician. In the last few minutes of the final lunch period, and into the passing period, 6--count 'em--6 boys came over to the table separately, and expressed appreciation for what we're doing. They're tired of seeing the military at their school. 5 of the 6 plan to go to college. The 6th is thinking about becoming a mechanic. :-) We need peace-loving mechanics. I love these young people! That's why I invested most of my mid-day sitting alone at their school. ♥

Lynne

Tabling at Prospect HS 12/4/2018

Great day at PHS! Long conversation with three students; all interested in forming a peace club; all very engaged in what's happening in the world.

Again we polled the students as to whether they would be in favor of some sort of mandatory service after high school; similar to the system they have in countries like Israel, Norway, etc. The commission formed to evaluate the Selective Service System seems to have a clear bias in that regard.

One of the teachers with whom we've formed a good relationship stopped by and was very interested in the information about the Selective Service system; specifically the idea of instituting some sort of mandatory service.

This time we had five people vote in favor of mandatory service; six against. In almost every case they liked the idea of service but had doubts about whether they liked the idea of "mandatory" service.

Roger and Libby

Tabling at Elk Grove HS November 15, 2018

C. came by and took the quiz. She did well:. 4 or 5 right answers. She won her choice of peace patch for being so well informed. She also took a cool "No War" button.

Two more days came along and took the quiz. They didn't do well, but received peace patches, anyway. They learned some stuff.



Tabling at Wheeling HS November 13, 2018

It was fun today discussing all kinds of family stuff, movies, kids, even the philosopher Gottlob Frege... Thanks to Libby and Lynne for joining me for the whole day.

Libby had the wonderful idea of promoting a quiz put out by Ben & Jerry on the real cost of the military budget. Three students (two girls and a boy) tried it, and the guy. I'm embarrassed to say, outperformed me. Though the quiz didn't lead to an extended conversation with us, it's a start and we reminded the three to stop by next month to visit. (The trick, as Lynne said, will be to remember their faces).

Roger



Tabling at Prospect HS November 6, 2018

Hi, Comrades

What a remarkable day!

The two students I met last month brought another student, a young art student, around *to meet me (!)* (Boy, was I flattered!) We talked at length, me pontificating as usual until my better nature told me to shut up and listen...

V reported on the difficulty of establishing a Peace Club---"it'll only be us three" and teachers are reluctant to sponsor---but she said if I could line up cogent speakers she could set it up with another club (perhaps Amnesty Int. club, I forget which one she mentioned) to entertain him/her. I thought of Kathy Kelly. Do any of you have her phone number or email?

I spoke at length with R the art student after the other students had to leave to get lunch. It was as invigorating and stimulating for me as I hope it was for her. I just emailed her a lengthy analysis of her artwork on display which I saw before leaving the building.

As long and tedious each month as visiting these high schools has proven to be, and no matter how I grouse about it beforehand, it's doing me a world of good...

Roger

Tabling at Elk Grove HS October 18, 2018

Peace friends,

Elk Grove was a bust today. I put up my little sign for Spirit Day (qv) along with the usual stuff, and was ignored. A few boys passing by grabbed some candy. That's it.

Lynne

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS October 8, 2018

Slow day

I talked with one boy who has made up his mind to join the military. He likes the camaraderie. He doesn't think killing people is a problem. He would not acknowledge that killing people legally is why the military exists. Maybe he's thinking about the Boy Scouts?

One girl, who I think may have come by last month, is still considering her options, and military is among them.

Lynne

Tabling at Wheeling October 9, 2018

Wheeling, again, found me separated from students by a policy that makes visiting with the latter onerous and difficult.

Only one student approached the table, took a flyer, and immediately left without speaking. The good news is that I saw our liaison at Wheeling, who stopped by to welcome me. I told her the issue and she was surprised; she didn't know of any rule that kids could not be in the halls during lunch except to pass to and from classes. She promised to look into the matter, understood my frustration, and will try to see if we can't set the table up in the cafeteria next month. I'll be sure to contact her beforehand.

Roger

Tabling at Prospect HS October 2, 2018

My first solo! And it started as a disaster. I forgot to take the name of the person who is my connection to Prospect H.S. and of course I forgot her name, so security wouldn't let me in. Fortunately it got sorted out---I won't bore you with the details.

Slow day except for meeting two seniors, one a boy the other a girl, who promised to get the word to a civics or history teacher about our interest in debating the military in a classroom. They also thought getting a Peace Club sponsored by a teacher was a great idea. Plus, best of all, they wanted to attend our demo this Friday at Congressman Quigley's office. Alas, it's during school hours but they wanted to be kept in form of other anti-war actions.

I got a lot of reading done. I distributed four of the large anti-war buttons made by CCAW last spring saying "No Wars at Home or Abroad" and "No Wars for U.S. Empire." I told the takers to wear them with pride and start engaging their fellow students in conversation about war and peace. "It's later than you think!"

Roger

Tabling at Rolling Meadows October 2, 2018

I'm at Rolling Meadows High School today. The main interest here has been candy. Some students in first have helped themselves to fistfuls of Starburst fruit chews.

I also met a delightful student. She's lovely, and very interested in peace AND in a peace club. I have her email address.

Our prodigious writer is also in school today. He zipped past me during passing period for first lunch, said he'd be back during second lunch and show me an excellent project he turned in today.

Second lunch is beginning. My candy pile is still significant, buy reduced by greedy kids in first lunch. Even at first lunch, most students politely took only one piece. But two or three acted like vacuum cleaners. ;-)

My friend, Helen, who is a substitute teacher, dropped by the table. Her adult daughter lives in NJ and has worked about 17 years for Doctors Without Borders. Helen has always been supportive of our peace work. Her High School boyfriend was killed in the Army in Vietnam. That cemented her opposition to war.

Students in second lunch haven't been greedy for candy. I've read that people tend to be greedy if you have a big mound of candy, as I did at the beginning of first lunch, but shy away if you only have a small amount, as I do now.

OK. I added some more candy to the pile, so students won't shy away from my small pile. ;-) As usual, some girls travel in pairs or trios, with one of them in charge. A pair just walked by. The submissive one reached out

to take Starbursts. But the dominant one grabbed her hand away and apologized to me, then both rushed away. SMH.

Our security guy friend who used to work at Prospect came by. We talked about how everyone we knew who served in Vietnam came back messed up, and was unsuccessful in relationships. I don't know any reason to expect different for combat vet's these days.

The main candy grabber came back during passing period after second lunch and took another huge handful. SMH. I can only assume he didn't have any lunch. :'-(I have plenty.

TTYL - Lynne

Tabling at Elk Grove High School September 20, 2018

Quiet day at Elk Grove.

My table was next to the table of Career Counselor Todd Braaten. Nice guy. For the first couple lunch periods BGHS' new college and career counselor, Rachel Valentine, was with him. Nice lady.

A few students wandered by for candy. No interest in literature or conversation or peace patches.

One nice student came by for candy and a refresher on why I'm here. I'll try to talk with Todd a bit more.

Lynne

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS September 17, 2018

Welcome back! First visit of the school year.

I'm at BGHS today. On a whim I put out an old sign up sheet, and a couple girls have signed up. It's actually the peace group sheet. Maybe if I follow up with an email, they'll respond?

No table was in place for me when I arrived. A pleasant security guy arranged for a table and chair. We agreed that we're here, and most teachers are here out of love for young people, liking them and also being committed their well being.

Well-mannered young people are taking candy. A few are taking literature, mostly zines. The candy has been sitting in my hot car for a week, so I tried a random sample. It's fine.

Most students ignore my table. Others grab candy and move on. Some stop and ask what this is about. Their responses are invariably positive. I don't think this school is fertile recruiting ground for the military. Or maybe it is, and future recruits are avoiding any table.

A girl came by and said she wants to go into the biomedical sciences. She also said she's in JROTC, and the military is a very real possibility for her future, but she's open to other perspectives. She took a copy of the old "What Every Girl Should Know . . ." brochure. I told her I was glad she had taken it, and it was probably the most important thing she would read today. Note that I didn't hand it to her as I often do with girls who say they're going to enlist. She chose it of her own volition.

I probably have some of the newer "What Every Girl Should Know . . ." brochures in my boxes. I'll have to find them. I don't think BGHS demographics would find them appealing. But girls at EGHS might. Girls at RMHS might also.

I have our flier about Parkland students sitting front and center of our table. No notice by students. :-(

A tenth grader named Sophia stopped by and signed up that she's interested in starting a peace club. She's living up to her name, which means "wisdom." :-) Sophia hopes to attend NIU after high school and major in sociology or something related. Sophia didn't linger long enough to discuss Parkland students.

Girls usually seem to travel in two's or three's, with one dominant girl. The group of girls I mentioned earlier were a trio whose leader came to our table. I've seen several pairs or trios where a submissive girl gazed with interest at the table, but kept following the leader. Of course, I'm not allowed (by schools) to flag them down, even if one girl looks like she wants to be flagged down.

I have excellent literature on the table. Hardly anyone takes it. Some do, though. Today's most popular literature has been old zines.

A number of students have taken peace patches. The ones with peace signs continue to be the most popular patches. Starburst candies are the most popular items on the table.

Lunch is finished. I'll head home now.

Lynne

Tabling at Wheeling HS May 7, 2018

Since Memorial Day is this month, we decided to do a display with the total number (251) soldiers from Illinois that have been killed in the current conflicts; since 9/11. We decided to group them by county. Shari and Jon put together these amazing tombstones for each county with the total number killed.

There certainly was more interest in the table because of that. The tombstones were very eye-catching and a number of people stopped by. It seemed to me that the teachers and staff were much more serious about what the tombstones represented than the students.

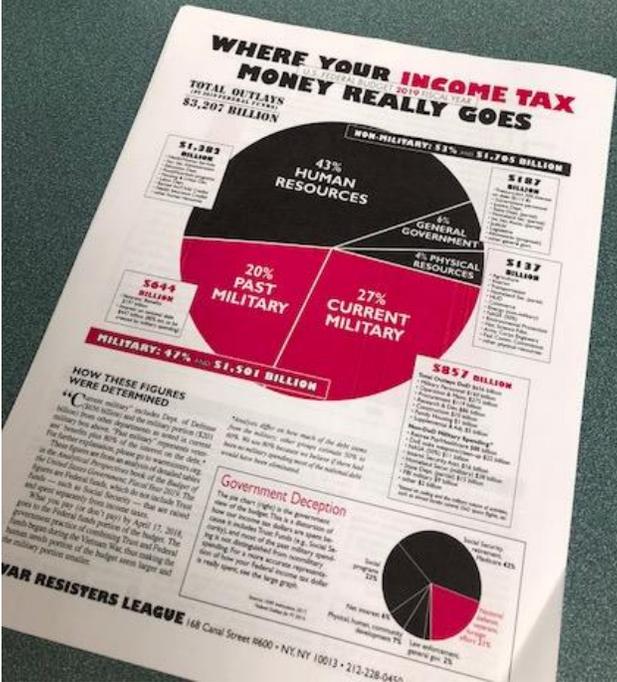
Two Hispanic boys took a flyer on the top 10 jobs. We talked about how several in the top 10 involve new green technology like solar panel installer, wind turbine installer, etc.

One woman thanked us for being there.

Libby



The world is over-armed
and
peace is under-funded



Tabling at Elk Grove HS May 3, 2018

I'm at EGHS today. Our little cemetery is getting a little bit more attention than we got at RMHS.

Students in the dance program are selling cookies for a dollar apiece at the table adjacent to ours. They're getting a little more action than we are. The cookies look like frosted sugar cookies from Jewel, placed in individual plastic sandwich bags.

As planned, I crammed the whole cemetery onto a smaller table. I still have room for a few stacks of our literature.

A few students and security staffers have stopped by and asked about the table. Most either ignore it or take a candy and walk away. The few who have stopped to talk have seemed in agreement with our perspective that it's sad young people have lost their lives fighting for profits for wealthiest Americans.

It's hard to find an individual county's headstone in our little cemetery unless you know where to look. One security guy came over and said in an accusatory tone that Cook County wasn't here. I showed it to him. 55 deaths. He pointed out that in the same time period more people have died from gun violence in Chicago. I guess his point is that young people are better off going into the military than living as civilians in Chicago.

Students most affected by the loss of life we're showing are girls. Girls at the next table don't want to look at our table because the cemetery makes them sad. It doesn't seem to occur to them that opposing U.S. wars might stop some people from getting killed.

The very sweet maintenance person who sets up our table each month came by. She looked at our display, and was sad at the number of people killed in combat.

That's a typical reaction from young and old. Everybody's sad about it, but it doesn't seem to occur to them that we might intentionally teach young people not to kill other people. Many well-meaning people still seem to think the military is noble rather than destructive.

I wish our democratically elected legislature didn't think it appropriate to force public high schools to be complicit in pressuring young people to become paid killers available for slaughter at the hands of paid killers from other nations. :-(

Lynne



Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS 5/1/2018

Here's a picture of today's display at Rolling Meadows High School. It includes the array of headstones made by Shari and Jon. The stones show, by county, how many troops from each Illinois county have been killed in combat 2001-2017.

Students in the first lunch period showed little interest in our table. But those who came over and found out about the ad hoc cemetery tended to express appreciation for the dead people's service, not even a bit of dismay that our young people have been slaughtered for the political and financial goals of wealthy and powerful Americans. I guess I should've asked kids what they thought these people had died for. They would probably parrot the usual stuff about they died for our country or to keep us free or something.

Our friend the special education aide came by. He festooned the wheelchair of a special needs student with peace patches.

Lynne



Tabling at Wheeling HS April 16, 2018

I expected a quiet day and it was. Nothing on my table really drew much attention. Hopefully if we follow through on our plan for May we will have better attention.

Long discussion with young woman who plans to attend school in Missouri and wants to double-major -- biomedical engineering and video gaming. I'm still trying to process how you combine those two things but she seems to have a plan. She is also learning to play the violin; paying for her own lessons.

We informed the students that stopped by about the antiwar march on Saturday, April 21. Unfortunately, it's difficult for many of them to get downtown.

After talking with the young woman who is double-majoring, we had a long discussion about how bright and talented these kids are and how school really smothers that. So much time is taken up with testing and rote memorization. What if students could study whatever they wanted and go to classes based on their interest?

There has been some pushback from parents and teachers on the amount of testing with some parents opting out of the testing. Would be interesting to see the result.

Libby & Roger

Tabling at Elk Grove HS April 5, 2018

The organization at the next table is called, "Teen Resources." One of their students gave me their card. They are basically doing the same sort of table presentation as we do sometimes. They have a wheel like a Wheel of Fortune Wheel that you spin, and you then answer a question. Whether you answer correctly or not, you win. You get your choice of candy or a button. Everybody who comes to the table gets a free pencil and a card, a business card, and the student I talked with gave me one of those cards and a pencil and two pin on ribbons.

I talked with one of the students, and they explain very politely. The best I can tell, it is pretty much a student resources organization. It is run by students. They all seem to be awesome young people. Lots of people are flocking to their table. We probably could learn something from them, but I don't know what it is. Some people who go over to their table then come over two ours. One of them was a female Junior, who actually had a meaningful conversation with me. I gave her a copy of the flyer about the upcoming peace demonstration in downtown Chicago. The student who came to my table right after visiting the student resources table seemed like a keeper, but of course, I did not get her name. She is a junior. She is College Bound. She is interested in what we are doing. I gave her a flyer about the anti-war event in Chicago April 21. I asked her if she had participated in the walkout, and she had done so.

They had a walk out here at Elk Grove High School early on, and they also had the one that was being done nationally. Both events were supported by faculty. And by the administration. She participated in both. For the first one, she was unprepared, because it was sort of a surprise. But for the second one she had planned in advance, and she printed out a bunch of Flyers about the event and stopping gun violence, and shared them with a lot of people that day. Apparently a number of her fellow students gave her a hard time for walking out of the class. But all students who wanted to walk out had the administration's permission to do so, provided they did not miss the bulk of the class, and provided their behavior was orderly and appropriate during the walk out

Right now I see a student visiting the next table. She is wearing a camouflage backpack emblazoned, "USMC." A necklace that looks like a military dog tag dangles from the backpack.

Lynne

Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS April 3, 2018

Tuesday was an interesting day at RMHS. A few students came to the table, grabbed candy, and took off. Students were not the interesting part. Faculty were.

A teacher whose name I didn't get, and a social education aide came to the table and talked with Roger and me. Roger asked the teacher, who graduated from Prospect, and knows Libby, what we should do to attract student interest. He recommended rap music. Well, the only rap music I have is the sound track from "Hamilton." Does anyone know of a rap album or artist whose music would mesh with our message? I don't. I'll have to ask around. My conversation with the special education aide was even more interesting.

Rolling Meadows high school now has a student organization that is focused on justice issues. He gave me the name of the organization, as well as the faculty sponsor of the organization.

Name of the organization is M. O. S. T. It stands for Mustangs Organized for Social Transformation. The Faculty sponsor is Gabriel Popovich, who is an English teacher. The special education aide who gave me this information is Just Ibarra Flores. I'll have to go online to the RMHS website to get their email addresses and communicate with them.

Lynne

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS April 9, 2018

Other than on young man who stopped and chatted most of my conversations were with administrative and security staff. The young man wants to be a video gamer and plans to start by getting his general ed requirements at Harper College before transferring.

One the way in I walked by the Buffalo Grove police officer. I had to ask her what she thought about arming teachers. Without hesitation she stated she thought it was a REALLY BAD IDEA. I have yet to meet anyone (teacher, parent, staff) that thinks arming teachers is a good idea except our crazy President and even crazier Secretary of Education.

There is a female security guard who has been saying since the election that our President will be impeached before he finishes out his term. I'm beginning to think she might be right.

Another security guard was talking about the gang banging that goes on in the school. Which might seem surprising given that it's Buffalo Grove but I think it reflects the fact that the demographics are changing. More and more families are escaping the violence in the city and settling in the northwest suburbs. They're trying to escape the gangs, but sometimes they follow them.

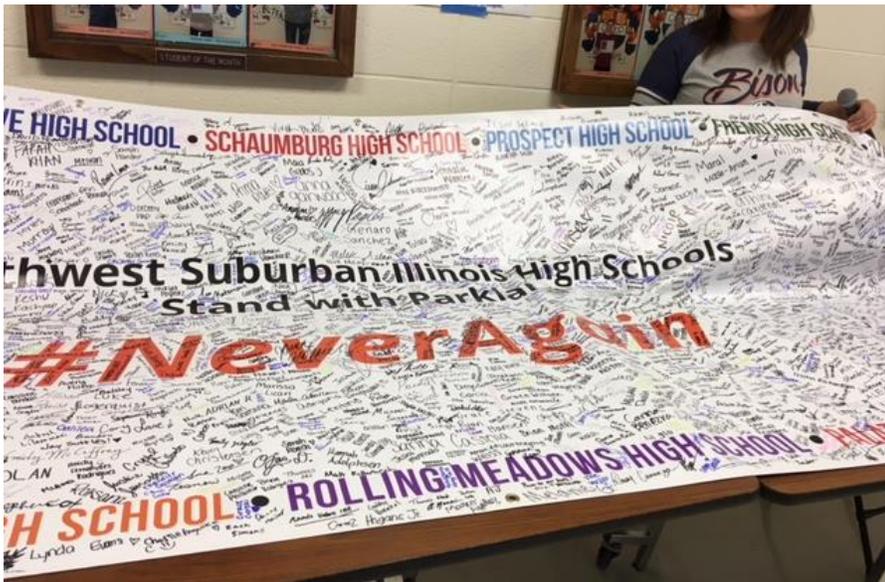
Libby

Tabling at Prospect HS April 3, 2018

The big news at PHS today - I found out from one of the staff that over 500 students walked out March 14 in solidarity with the victims of the school shooting in Parkland FL. That's about 25% of the student body. Not bad. Would have been nice if it had been 100% but still.

The picture below was taken by a friend that is a teacher at BGHS. It is a picture of a banner that was signed by students in all six of the District 214 schools. It made the rounds of the schools and then was sent to Parkland FL in a show of solidarity. Very encouraging to see the students engaged in this way. Hopefully it will have some lasting effect.

Libby



Tabling at Wheeling HS 3/13/2018

Continuing on our very very informal survey about whether women should be required to register for Selective Service - we had 6 "yes" and 1 "no". I've been keeping track because the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service is taking written statements through April 19 and has begun a series of public forums across the US. There has already been one in Pennsylvania. Illinois is one of the states that will have a forum; where and when has not yet been announced. But if it works out we could maybe present the students' feelings at the public forum.

Thanks to Roger for joining me. Nice to have company.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS 3/12/2018

Hard to compete with ping pong tournament. Yes, they were having a ping pong tournament in the cafeteria during all the lunch hours. It was pretty loud and wild.

Nevertheless I did get a few students to vote on whether selective service should be extended to women - 11 yes; 1 no.

My friend Kate who teaches there came down for part of her lunch hour. She isn't always able to do this but when she does it's always a treat. I learned that the students at BG are participating in the walkout Wednesday, March 14. She also told me that all the schools in District 214 and District 211 developed a banner which made its way to all the schools and over 1,000 students signed it. The plan is to send it to the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland FL as a show of support. She has a picture of the banner and as soon as she sends it to me I'll post it.

We also talked about the insanity of arming teachers. She's retiring soon and just in time. She has no interest in carrying a gun. Eventually the gun will be used by one of the teachers or staff the wrong way. It's inevitable.

Libby



Tabling at Hersey HS March 8, 2018

Happy International Women's Day!

I haven't been to Hersey HS in years. For the past several years Pat has been going, but, sadly she's no longer with us.

Wasn't able to draw as many students to the table as I had hoped. Everyone was walking by with their eyes glued to their phones. But there were a few.

One young man has already enlisted in the Delayed Entry Program. We talked for a few minutes. I just emphasized that he needed to understand what he was getting into. I'm not sure they ever do. I couldn't tell from his expression if he was having second thoughts or just didn't want to think about it. I didn't tell him he was making a mistake; I just emphasized that he needed to know what he was getting into. Later I realized I should have given him our brochure on the DEP and a card for the GI Rights hotline. Darn! His final comment was "Well, someone's got to do it". I thought to myself "Really? Someone has to do it???"

This group voted 3 "no" and 6 "yes". That's the most "no's" I've gotten anywhere.

One student and I talked for a few minutes to a teacher about the March 14 walkout. He was aware and felt he couldn't endorse a position one way or the other. But he did say the students wouldn't be stopped from doing so.



Libby

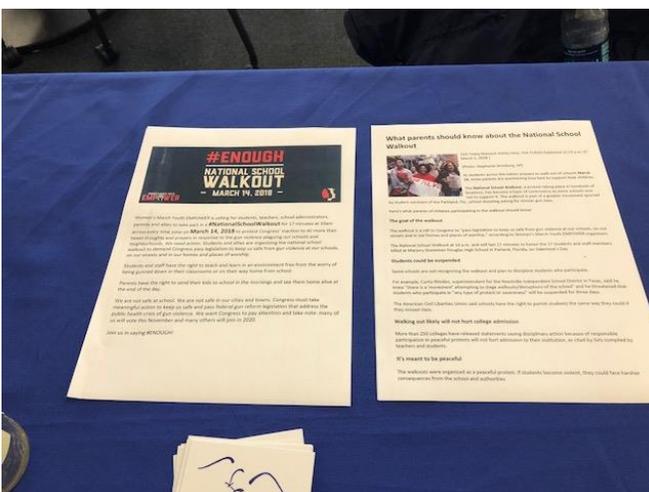
Tabling at Prospect HS March 6, 2018

Since it was Women's History Month, I put up the display about women and selective service and asked the students to vote "yes" or "no" to the question "Should women be required to register for Selective Service". Twenty-two voted "yes"; one voted "no".

One of the young women voting asked who voted "no". I told her I didn't know the name but it was a young man. To which she replied "Figure it'd be a guy". Which I found pretty amusing.

Long talk with one of the security guards who did two tours in Iraq. He feels we did the right thing in Iraq because he was there when they had their first election and he thought it was a positive step forward. Generally people have the opposite opinion - they think we were somewhat justified in invading Afghanistan since they had harbored the 9/11 bombers but that we had no business in Iraq. He seemed to suggest that he had returned with his own set of demons but feels he was fortunate in finding help.

Talked to a few students about the proposed March 14 walkout. Most seemed oblivious. It's possible more interest will be generated closer to the date. I will be at a school on the 12th and 13th so I'll see if there is more interest.



Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS February 12, 2018

Not a lot of interest in making valentines even though it was only two days before Valentine's Day. Here are some of the quotes we picked to put on the valentines:

*If you want to end the war then Instead of sending guns, send books. Instead of sending tanks, send pens. Instead of sending soldiers, send teachers. **Malala Yousafzai** (17 year-old Noble Peace Laureate)*

*Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding. **Albert Einstein***

*Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. **Martin Luther King, Jr.***

*More than just an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars. **Franklin D. Roosevelt** (Written night before he died)*

*Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world. **Desmond Tutu***

The young woman who planned to do a gap year stopped by. She's decided not to do a gap year. She's going to Harper instead.

Libby



Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS February 6, 2018

We tried to mix Valentine's Day with Peace - with mixed results. We brought materials to make valentines including some peace-related quotes to put on the valentines.

I couldn't get anyone else interested so I made my own. Maybe rich, suburban teens do store-bought valentines or electronic.

But a very nice fellow wearing one of our buttons came to the table at the last minute and got materials to make a valentine.



Lynne

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS January 8, 2018

First day back from winter break at BGHS and the cafeteria was crowded. Unfortunately, that didn't translate into much traffic at my table. But I did talk to one young woman, one of my regulars, who gave me a couple of names of teachers who might be interested in sponsoring a peace club. This particular young woman is interested in being in a peace club.

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS December 11, 2017

Another first - I talked to a young woman, a Senior, that is planning a Gap Year after she graduates. In fact she is moving to Canada with her boyfriend; plans to do a Gap Year in Canada and possibly, at some later point, go to college. She is doing the Gap Year because (surprise!) she's not sure what she wants to do. I just wish more students did this because so many don't really know what they want to do and waste a lot of time and money trying to figure it out. I congratulated her on have the presence of mind to realize that and the confidence to not bow to peer pressure. I told her that New Trier hosts a Gap Year fair every year in January. Which reminds me that we should put a flyer out on our tables in January.

She is planning to become a Canadian citizen. And she noted that college is so much more affordable there than here. Oh Canada!

Libby



Tabling at Wheeling HS December 12, 2017

When I got there I was a bit taken aback to see that two Army recruiters were occupying the table right next to mine. That's been the only restriction in our tabling at D214 schools; they don't want us there on the same day as the military recruiters.

I asked the guy (young Hispanic male) how was business. He responded "So So". I then went on to ask him about the recent changes in policy to allow people with some mental illnesses and drug use into the Army. He was unaware of these changes. He told me that his regulations had not changed. He said they still screen for those things. I got his card and intend to forward the articles. One came out of Military Times. (I've posted them on our Facebook page). We talked a little bit about Erik Prince's proposal to the top military brass to outsource the Afghanistan conflict to his company. Part of his pitch is that it will pay for itself because they US will be able to extract all these precious metals like lithium. He agreed it didn't seem like it was such a good idea.

I was also amazed by how extraordinarily ignorant this guy was. He had not heard of the guy that killed 26 people in Texas; the guy that had been kicked out of the Air Force. I brought that up because they guy had a history of mental illness and violent behavior. It just happened in November; not like it was years ago.

A little later they started giving out water bottles and lanyards for kids that would do 25 pushups. I briefly toyed with the idea of dropping and doing 25 myself but I didn't. (Assuming I could do 25!) That's the first time I've actually witnessed this practice although I know it happens. I did not, thankfully, see the recruiter take down anyone's contact information. He gave out his card but he had no sign up sheet. That surprised me a little.

Around noon my contact at the school wandered by and that was the end of it. She discovered they were supposed to come on Wednesday; not Tuesday. She told them they could stay since they were already there, but they packed up and left.

One young woman I talked to said she thought about joining the military but couldn't because she has bipolar disorder and PTSD. Didn't have the heart to tell her that it seems the Army has lifted that restriction.



Libby

Tabling at Prospect HS December 5, 2017

Finally I had an opportunity to distribute the brochure "Signed Up For The Military And Want To Get Out?" A brochure about the DEP (Delayed Enlistment Program). It explains what you can and cannot do if you've agreed to enlist but then had a change of heart and it includes a sample letter that you can send to the command. A young man stopped by - big kid, senior, plans to join the military right after high school. We talked for a few minutes. He seems pretty clear on what he's getting into. I honestly don't think he has any illusions about how messed up the situation is. I didn't think about the brochure until after he had left but fortunately he passed by again and I handed him a brochure.

Long chat with a young woman who wants to go into journalism and we talked about how few investigative journalists there are left anymore. She was reading a book by a woman who was embedded with the Taliban and ended up writing a book about her experiences because her newspaper or magazine wouldn't publish her stories. Stories about the real situation. Apparently the situation on the ground didn't agree with the newspaper's narrative so they squashed her story. Pitiful. But not surprising.

Young man stopped by wanting to know if we had information on the West Suburban Faith Based Peace Initiative essay contest. I don't believe they've launched the contest for 2018 yet but I'll try to remember to check. It would be awesome if he writes an essay. He wants to be a diplomat and we talked a bit about how diplomacy seems to be taking a back burner these days.

Libby



Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS December 5, 2017

This morning Libby dropped off posters and materials for my peace table. ☺ I put them all into my big, wheeled box in my car and made sure the lid was securely in place. I drove to RMHS and parked in their lot. I pulled my rolling box towards the school. Suddenly the wind grabbed the lid and blew it away, along with the nice plastic bag of stuff Libby had brought me. I chased it. I managed to capture the lid, as well as sheets about international Human Rights Day and fastest growing jobs. I took everything into the school and left it all with the sweet security lady while I went outside and found a few more sheets, which were blown all the way to the fence past the east end of the parking lot. I found no trace of the lovely cardboard posters Libby had made by hand.

Feeling shattered, I went into the building, retrieved my purse and visitor badge, and set up my peace table in the cafeteria. I was so windblown, students were probably afraid to approach me. But a nice substitute teacher stopped by and asked if I was okay.

Our prolific writer came by and showed me on his tablet articles he had written for us. He then emailed them to me. I'll send them to the group later.

To make everything perfect, I realized I had left my candy home in the kitchen cabinet. I left between lunch periods. I found more of my stuff blown against the fence, including one of Libby's two posters and the black plastic bag in which she had brought stuff. I found more of her sheets on human rights day.

I went home and grabbed my candy. Then I returned to the school. My table there is near a window from the cafeteria to the kitchen. A 9th grade boy I have noticed before, because he tends to emit a shrill tone (his voice hasn't changed yet), and seems very alone, joined me by the window. He said that was where he always ate lunch. He stood there and ate his cafeteria lunch. I tried to have conversation with him while I ate my lunch. Nobody else talked to me. At the end of the lunch period, two students came over after I was nearly packed up. They asked why I was there. I told them the basics and gave them their choice of peace buttons.

Today I'm at EGHS. Only one student has visited the table, at the end of first lunch. She loves our peace buttons, and took one.

Lynne

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS November 13, 2017

War Resisters International has designated the week of November 20 - 26 a call to action against the militarization of youth. We decided to work with that theme and explore the question "What is militarization". We came up with a list of things that demonstrate militarization of society; things that demonstrate demilitarization of society. Shari turned them into a bunch of cubes with the idea of having the students roll the die and identify if the thing demonstrates militarization or demilitarization. To date, the game hasn't been particularly popular. I had not seen the cubes until today so I wasn't prepared with a sign but I came up with one since and will try at Wheeling November 14.

In any case, we decided to give it another try in December. Maybe with some better signage; clearer explanation?

Otherwise it was rather quiet at BG today. Several students signed up for the peace club.

One of the security guards had not heard that the young man that opened fire on the Baptist church in Texas had been in the Air Force. He was horrified. Especially after I told him that the Army has decided to relax their prohibition on admitting people with a history of mental illness. They did this in August. It will be interesting to see if they reverse this after the recent Texas shooting.

Talked with one teacher that had signed an online petition to impeach our President. But he was disturbed to see his name published after he had done so. It made me wonder how cautious teachers are about expressing their political views.

Libby

Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS November 7, 2017

It has been a quiet day at Rolling Meadows High School.

At school, I was positioned near the soda pop and candy machines in the cafeteria. A student trying to buy something from one of the machines requested my assistance. The machine she was trying to use wouldn't accept the coin she had thought was a quarter. She asked to trade it to me for a quarter, and I obliged. She bought her treat from the machine and went on her way.

I examined the coin, and saw that it was a Polish zloty. According to the internet, it's worth about \$.27. So I guess I made money on the deal. ;-) I'll pass it on to a friend who has a small international coin collection. They'll get a kick out of it.

The first lunch period I mostly saw folks who were interested in candy. At least I have packages of fresh Starburst candies. I tasted a new flavor from my new package: blackberry. Pretty good.

Early in the second lunch period a couple female students came by, and we talked about colleges. I'm still painfully aware, based on my experience with my kid, that the college and career office here is horrible. I think I was helpful to one of the future college students today. Maybe?

I have seen a couple different boys sauntering past in U.S. Navy t-shirts. IDK if they have been recruited or what.

I haven't gotten anybody interested in the game. I have plenty of candy prizes if anyone comes along. I have the Peace club sign up sheet on the table. No interest today.

Several students came by and took peace buttons.

A girl with health issues that make her ineligible for military service stopped by. She seemed interested in the demilitarization idea, but didn't stay long enough to learn about the game.

Our prolific writer at RMHS stopped by the table. He said he had articles he had written. I urged him to email them to me.

As the final lunch period was drawing to a close, a pleasant young male student came by. He wants to go to a culinary college in New Orleans. But he is convinced he can't get into college, let alone pay for it, without first serving in the military. I don't know who has apparently brainwashed this young person. I tried to convince him he had other options. I gave him one of our cards. I encouraged him to check out our website site. As bells were ringing, and he ran off to class, I urged him to talk with me at the table again next month. I failed to get his name.

Lynne

Tabling at Elk Grove HS November 2, 2017

When I started unpacking my stuff at EGHS, I was horrified to discover that all my candy had been stolen from my box of peace materials that I had stored in my garage. It had all the signs of a mouse attack in the box. It shredded all my Starburst wrappers, left the shreds, and ate all the candy. I found one factory wrapped berry pomegranate Starburst unmolested. Maybe mice don't like that flavor??

When I arrived I was greeted by a pair of 12th grade girls offering to help. Sweet young women.

Since I was focused on cleaning up rodent damage, which I didn't want to dump on them, I chatted with one of them about peace club. Evidently she hadn't been contacted about the meeting this past Monday, although I'm pretty sure she had signed up. I asked her to write down her name and contact info for me.

For the first time in history, I'm trying to counter recruit without candy. This is not pretty. :-)

A security guy, a friend of Esther, began lambasting me about his belief that the guy who was arrested for the attack in NYC should not be hospitalized at taxpayer expense, but should be shot. "The Bible says, 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,'" he said.

I advised him not to start on the Bible with me, because I'm a minister, and I know more about the Bible than he does. I excused myself to go to the lady's room. (I didn't tell him I had to go wash sticky little paw prints off my plastic sign holder. Yech.)

May I please go home now? :-)

The special needs student who tries to take all the peace buttons asked if she could have the game cubes/dice Shari had given to me. Libby, Shari gave me 2 sets, one of which is for you. The special needs student declined to play. The student added two buttons to her collection. She picked her favorites.

I haven't gotten anybody to play the game, except for the young woman interested in the peace club, who won, but I had no candy prizes. :-)

A nice student has dropped by the table a couple times today. She told me her name. I failed to get her to play the game.

Now that I been at the table for a while, the security guard wanders by and chats. I can always have cordial conversation with Navy veterans like him, because my brother Curtis was in the Navy, and served 2 years active duty at Gitmo during the Cuban Missile Crisis. And because my nephew, Curtis' son Tyler, is a Marine sergeant now. And because I grew up in a Navy town, where my parents owned and rented out apartments, mostly to Navy families. Veterans return to special times in their youth when they tell me about their experiences. It's easier to chat with them that way than argue with them about nonviolent conflict resolution. And they learn I'm not their enemy, but a sister and Aunt of guys like them. And maybe I have something worthwhile to say?

A couple girls came by just now. One played the game and won the peace button of her choice. One of them took a peace patch.

Lynne

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Otherwise it was rather quiet at BG today. Several students signed up for the peace club.

One of the security guards had not heard that the young man that opened fire on the Baptist church in Texas had been in the Air Force. He was horrified. Especially after I told him that the Army has decided to relax their prohibition on admitting people with a history of mental illness. They did this in August. It will be interesting to see if they reverse this after the recent Texas shooting.

Talked with one teacher that had signed an online petition to impeach our President. But he was disturbed to see his name published after he had done so. It made me wonder how cautious teachers are about expressing their political views.

Libby

Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS November 7, 2017

It has been a quiet day at Rolling Meadows High School.

At school, I was positioned near the soda pop and candy machines in the cafeteria. A student trying to buy something from one of the machines requested my assistance. The machine she was trying to use wouldn't accept the coin she had thought was a quarter. She asked to trade it to me for a quarter, and I obliged. She bought her treat from the machine and went on her way.

I examined the coin, and saw that it was a Polish zloty. According to the internet, it's worth about \$.27. So I guess I made money on the deal. ;-) I'll pass it on to a friend who has a small international coin collection. They'll get a kick out of it.

The first lunch period I mostly saw folks who were interested in candy. At least I have packages of fresh Starburst candies. I tasted a new flavor from my new package: blackberry. Pretty good.

Early in the second lunch period a couple female students came by, and we talked about colleges. I'm still painfully aware, based on my experience with my kid, that the college and career office here is horrible. I think I was helpful to one of the future college students today. Maybe?

I have seen a couple different boys sauntering past in U.S. Navy t-shirts. IDK if they have been recruited or what.

I haven't gotten anybody interested in the game. I have plenty of candy prizes if anyone comes along. I have the Peace club sign up sheet on the table. No interest today.

Several students came by and took peace buttons.

A girl with health issues that make her ineligible for military service stopped by. She seemed interested in the demilitarization idea, but didn't stay long enough to learn about the game.

Our prolific writer at RMHS stopped by the table. He said he had articles he had written. I urged him to email them to me.

As the final lunch period was drawing to a close, a pleasant young male student came by. He wants to go to a culinary college in New Orleans. But he is convinced he can't get into college, let alone pay for it, without first serving in the military. I don't know who has apparently brainwashed this young person. I tried to convince him he had other options. I gave him one of our cards. I encouraged him to check out our website site. As bells were ringing, and he ran off to class, I urged him to talk with me at the table again next month. I failed to get his name.

Lynne

Tabling at Elk Grove HS November 2, 2017

When I started unpacking my stuff at EGHS, I was horrified to discover that all my candy had been stolen from my box of peace materials that I had stored in my garage. It had all the signs of a mouse attack in the box. It shredded all my Starburst wrappers, left the shreds, and ate all the candy. I found one factory wrapped berry pomegranate Starburst unmolested. Maybe mice don't like that flavor??

When I arrived I was greeted by a pair of 12th grade girls offering to help. Sweet young women.

Since I was focused on cleaning up rodent damage, which I didn't want to dump on them, I chatted with one of them about peace club. Evidently she hadn't been contacted about the meeting this past Monday, although I'm pretty sure she had signed up. I asked her to write down her name and contact info for me.

For the first time in history, I'm trying to counter recruit without candy. This is not pretty. :-)

A security guy, a friend of Esther, began lambasting me about his belief that the guy who was arrested for the attack in NYC should not be hospitalized at taxpayer expense, but should be shot. "The Bible says, 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,'" he said.

I advised him not to start on the Bible with me, because I'm a minister, and I know more about the Bible than he does. I excused myself to go to the lady's room. (I didn't tell him I had to go wash sticky little paw prints off my plastic sign holder. Yech.)

May I please go home now? :-)

The special needs student who tries to take all the peace buttons asked if she could have the game cubes/dice Shari had given to me. Libby, Shari gave me 2 sets, one of which is for you. The special needs student declined to play. The student added two buttons to her collection. She picked her favorites.

I haven't gotten anybody to play the game, except for the young woman interested in the peace club, who won, but I had no candy prizes. :-)

A nice student has dropped by the table a couple times today. She told me her name. I failed to get her to play the game.

Now that I been at the table for a while, the security guard wanders by and chats. I can always have cordial conversation with Navy veterans like him, because my brother Curtis was in the Navy, and served 2 years active duty at Gitmo during the Cuban Missile Crisis. And because my nephew, Curtis' son Tyler, is a Marine sergeant now. And because I grew up in a Navy town, where my parents owned and rented out apartments, mostly to Navy families. Veterans return to special times in their youth when they tell me about their experiences. It's easier to chat with them that way than argue with them about nonviolent conflict resolution. And they learn I'm not their enemy, but a sister and Aunt of guys like them. And maybe I have something worthwhile to say?

A couple girls came by just now. One played the game and won the peace button of her choice. One of them took a peace patch.

Lynne

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS 1/11/2016

Tuesday, 26 January 2016 23:53 Libby Frank

The first thing I noticed was that in spite of the fact that it is extremely cold outside (single digits) some students are eating a blizzard. (Dairy Queen is across the street). It made me shiver just watching them.

Long talk with a young woman from the Sudan. I had a half page flyer on the table that talked about the number of children killed in armed conflict around the world. Sudan was one of the countries listed. She happened to notice it and commented that the number was very low. After some back and forth she concluded that the source that we use on the flyer (United Nations) was probably the most reliable but we should made a note that the number was probably much higher.

The young woman is Muslim and wears a hijab. We talked quite a bit about her adjustment to our culture; some of the things she found amusing; some of the things she found disturbing.

Libby

Tabling at Prospect HS 12/1/2015

Really good day at Prospect today.

Two young women stopped by. They saw the word "peace" in our tablecloth and that caught their attention. After I explained who we are they immediately wanted to know what they could do to help - give money, whatever. I encouraged them to write something for the zine. I asked them if they would be interested in starting a peace club. They really liked that idea. When I suggested they ask Mr. Camardella if he would be willing to be the sponsor, they said they were thinking the same thing. I told them to tell Mr Camardella that they would do all the work with our help. Hopefully something will come of this.

Later a young man stopped by. We got to talking and he ended up sitting and talking to me for the entire lunch hour. He said he was diagnosed as ADHD as a child and we had a long conversation about whether he has a "defect" or just learns in a different way. We had a long wide-ranging conversation about problems in the

world, how to fix them, tolerance, respecting people's differences, how high school really sucks for a lot of young people.

He started a meditation club at Prospect and has found meditation very helpful in his life. He also is very interested in a peace club. He pointed out, quite accurately, that our method of tabling at the school and trying to change hearts and minds through a series of short conversations isn't particularly useful; that we need to use more social media. He's absolutely right.

And for whatever reason, Prospect always announces our group on the hall monitor -



Libby

Tabling at RMHS December 1, 2015

A bright young man named Joseph Maltese came by. He's a 9th grader at RMHS. He gave me a lengthy speech about his political views. He loves animals and cares deeply about the environment. He introduced me to Sea Shepherd, q.v. I gave him a zine and asked him to send us an article. Brilliant, articulate kid. I hope we'll hear from him. I told him our contact info was in the zine.

A 10th grader named Rebecca came by. Sharp woman! She loves to write. I gave her a zine and asked her to write and send us an article. I'm not clear where we are on the new issue.

A trio of boys, probably 9th graders, came by. Said they would write their thoughts on what the Afghanistan war has accomplished. We'll see. A young woman named Annie came by. She's a substitute security person. She lives in Mt. Prospect. She's interested in what we're doing. I gave her a zine. Lots of awesome people at RMHS today!

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS 11/11/2015

Due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict (a funeral) I switched my day at BGHS and was there on Veterans Day. Having a big sign with the caption "Today is Armistice Day. What is Armistice Day?" seemed to attract more visitors. We were pleased to find out that many of the students knew about Armistice Day. It appears it was discussed in social studies. Unfortunately many had not heard of the Kellogg-Briand Pact; including several teachers. But to be fair, I had not heard of the Kellogg-Briand Pact until a few years ago and it was because the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition sponsors a peace essay contest every year with the pact as the focus.

Included below is the text of the handout we distributed:

What is Armistice Day?

Armistice Day is November 11

The Armistice of 1918 ended the terrible slaughter of World War I. The U.S. alone had experienced the death of over 116,000 soldiers, plus many more who were physically and mentally disabled. For one moment, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the world agreed World War I would be the war to end all wars.

On June 1, 1954, Congress changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

In 1918, after Armistice Day, a 10-year campaign launched that year resulted in the ratification of the Kellogg-Briand Pact which legally banned all war making.

What is the Kellogg-Briand Pact?

The Kellogg-Briand Pact was a 1928 international agreement in which signatory states promised not to use war to resolve "disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them." Parties failing to abide by this promise "should be denied of the benefits furnished by this treaty." It was signed by Germany, France and the United States on August 27, 1928, and by most other nations soon after. Theoretically it is still in effect today.

Libby

Tabling at Wheeling HS November 10, 2015

This time I decided I needed something to attract the students to my table so since it was the day before Armistice Day (aka Veterans Day) I made a sign that said "Tomorrow is Armistice Day. What is Armistice Day?" Most of the students that wandered over had not heard of Armistice Day but they had heard of Veterans Day. And most were mildly amused to realize that, when the armistice was signed, the point was to avoid any future wars. Everyone agreed that they would not use war to resolve conflict.

Hard to believe that we signed such an agreement.

The sign did help spark some discussion which was the goal. I had an interesting conversation with two young Hispanic students who had contrasting opinions on the effectiveness of war. One young man said that the wars we've been involved in recently are making us stronger and safer from terrorism. His friend took the position that they were only building up hatred and resentment of the United States and we would be better served by not interfering.

Tabling at Elk Grove HS November 5, 2015

Tabling was a bit slow last Thursday, aside from the cake shots donated from a local bakery and being sold as a fund raiser for needy kids ... then three young male students walked over wondering what my table was about and why I was there.

So, I asked my usual question "are any of you thinking of joining the military?" One young man spoke up and said he and one of his friends were planning on joining. So my next question was "why?" – then I shut up and waited to hear what they had to say.

It was the usual - my grandfather was in the military, my uncles were too so I'm planning to enlist. "Why?" - to serve my country ...

Then we talked a bit about how his grandfather was drafted and maybe his uncles too and he now has the ability to make his mom very happy and break the cycle.

I explain we're not against the military; just want the students of D214 to make that decision after they've gone to community college, trade school or a university...mentioning how their brains aren't developed until they're at least age 25. Then ask the question "What if you waited to make that decision until you're 24/25 instead of at age 18? Do you think you'll still make the same decision then? If you're not sure; why commit yourself to eight years in the military?"

They think about that for a minute and I say "look. You're sophomores now – you have a long time to think about it. Will you at least give it more thought over the next two years and allow that maybe you'll decide against it?"

They agree that "yes, you made a good point"

So, they have some candy and go on their way ~

Tabling at WHS October 13, 2015

Almost everybody who walked past my table at Wheeling High School today ignored me. There was no interest in the Power Point presentation about folks from Illinois who have been killed in war in Iraq or Afghanistan. BUT there were some interesting encounters.

3 young women came by and enjoyed some candy. 2 said they had no interest in the military. The third was quieter and took brochures about what girls need to know about the military, and about militarization being anti-women.

A teacher (maybe a sub?) came by and thought I was a military recruiter. I quickly corrected her assumption and told her about our organization and what we do. She was interested and wanted to know about our meeting time and place. I gave her a brochure about our group. She has our web site URL. She also took some of our other brochures, including the ones about women, and the one about "son ocho anos de tu vida." I don't have any more of those in English, by the way.

I didn't talk with a lot of people, but I think what I did was important for a couple of them.

Lynne

Tabling at RMHS October 6, 2015

Rolling Meadows High School was lively today. Many students have stopped by the table. The new peace buttons are a hit! I have chatted with some sharp folks.

One of the bright young women said she is thinking of various options, including becoming a military nurse so she can help people who are hurting. Somebody must be advising bright young women to become military nurses, even though these students are anti-war. I encountered this last year as well.

A group of 9th grade girls came by. One said she was going to join the military. She refused to accept the brochure "What Every Girl Should Know Before Joining the US Military". Each of the girls gladly accepted a starburst, though.

Lynne

Tabling at PHS October 6, 2015

Prospect High School was very slow today. It was homecoming week and so it was quite a zoo. Today the seniors were dressed in togas. The juniors appeared to be dressed as 80's aerobics instructors. At least that's what I'm thinking. In any event, it was a zoo and the focus clearly was elsewhere.

However, the buttons were a huge hit. And so were my lollipops.

The biggest surprise was that over the summer they reconfigured the entryway. Most of the schools are doing this; with the intent, I'm told, of creating a more controlled and secure entrance. Students now have to show their student ID to get in the building although teenagers being teenagers . . . I was told by one of the staff that they rushed the construction to finish before school started and, as a result, paid a lot of money. Prospect is also building a swimming pool.

For several years our tabling dates have appeared on the TV screen that sits in the cafeteria. I don't know who started this; we did not request it; and the tradition has continued even though my contact at the school in the College and Career Counseling Center has changed. Here is the picture, taken directly from our website:



Tabling at RMHS October 6, 2015

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Lynne

Tabling at Hersey HS May 14, 2015

At Hersey High School today. Very busy handing out note to parents about opting out when they register their student in the fall so their contact information isn't forwarded to the military. (We'll see how many actually make it into the parents' hands.) Handed out about 60 and could have used more but ran out during the last lunch period. Luckily I was sharing a table with someone signing up the juniors for yearbook pictures so I had plenty of traffic.

Esther

Tabling at WHS May 12, 2015

Wheeling High School fairly quiet today with the school year winding down. A friendly member of the maintenance staff stopped by. He was a Navy vet long ago. (I suspect Vietnam era). He enjoyed a couple of Jolly Rancher candies. A security person checked out our literature with interest and seemed to approve. A couple of students were interested in our literature. Some students took notes about opting out to give to their parents. We're trying to remind parents about opting out of the No Child Left Behind law when they register their student this fall so their name isn't forwarded to the military recruiters.

I saw a girl wearing a USNA jacket; she did not stop by. While I was packing up to go at the end, a staff member complimented my peace sign table cloth.

Lynne

Tabling at Prospect High School April 7, 2015

We have been trying to get responses from the students to the following question "What has the U.S. war in Afghanistan (October 7, 2001 to December 28, 2014) accomplished?" I wasn't having any luck so I made a sign that says "Answer the question; pick a lollipop". That seems to be working. Today I had so many students answer the question that I ran out of questions. Most of the answers are pretty basic and echo our sentiments completely e.g. "nothing", "I have no clue". The point is to try to jolt them into thinking about our country's role in the conflict there and what it means in terms of blood and treasure. But of course, appealing to teens' love of sweets almost always works.

There was a very interesting article in the student newspaper about racism with a particular focus on District 214 and Prospect High School in particular - noting the lack of diversity and what effects that has. I will make copies to share. I have not been able to find it online.

Libby

Tabling at WHS March 10, 2015

After my dreadfully boring day at Buffalo Grove yesterday (not one student stopped by my table) I decided maybe I needed better signage. So I made a colorful sign that said "Answer the question; pick a lollipop". Whether it was the new sign or just a different group of students, it seemed to work. Talked to a lot of students and actually ran out of questions.

But first I had to resolve the conflict with a group that was selling lollipops for Operation Snowball. Operation Snowball, which I found out, is an international alcohol, tobacco and other drug-use prevention program focusing on leadership development. I moved my stuff to the opposite end of the hall so we didn't compete.

There was also a table selling tickets to the turn around dance. When they showed up, all the attention shifted to their table.

The students were having a really hard time with the question. [What has the U.S. war in Afghanistan (October 7, 2001 to December 28, 2014) accomplished?] You could tell they were straining to get the "right" answer; thinking that there must be some reason we went there and spent so much money and lost so many lives. One young woman was clearly puzzling on the answer "We built schools, right?" "Something about oil, right?" But mostly I received a lot of "I don't know". Which is certainly a legitimate answer.

Libby

Tabling at Elk Grove High School February 20

My Elk Grove table was quite busy this month with many freshman students stopping by, as well as, juniors and a few seniors.

Have approximately 15/16 responses to the question of the month: What has the U.S. accomplished by being in Afghanistan? Most students preferred to remain anonymous and knew very little about our even being in Afghanistan.

In addition, I was able to pass out quite a number of the 'rules to enter the peace essay contest' from the faith based activist group. I offered a little incentive from us and promised each student that submits an essay and also will allow us to publish it in our zine...a free NWSUBPEP t-shirt just for entering and submitting their essay to the contest and our website. They don't have to win – just submit their essay! Some were excited about that; we'll see if we receive any entrants.

Esther

Tabling at Wheeling HS February 9, 2015

Several interested students stopped by to ask about us. We had a long discussion with a young man who wants to be either an architect or an actor. Another young woman aspires to be an electrical engineer. It's going to take some effort on her part. She doesn't have a lot of money but she plans to work and attend Harper and then eventually transfer to a four-year university to finish. If so, she will be the first in her family to attend college. Her parents didn't even complete high school. Her mother dropped out and her father got his GED after dropping out.

We got several to respond to the question we have been asking - "What has the U.S. war in Afghanistan (October 7, 2001 to December 28, 2014) accomplished?" Several more took the slip of paper and said they would email us a response.

Inspired by a short article I read in the newspaper I put together a half-page handout on the number of children that were killed in armed conflict around the world; just in 2014. They estimate around 2,500 children. This kind of data captures the attention of most of the students. Something about killing children just seems wrong. (Which it is).

Libby & Nancy

Tabling at PHS February 3, 2015

Although we had decided at the beginning of the school year not to return to Prospect this year, we changed our mind after analyzing the opt-out statistics and realizing that they had pretty much remained stagnant. Also with the re-entry to Afghanistan (as though we ever left!) and the chaos in Iraq, it seemed appropriate.

But there wasn't a lot of traffic at the table. I talked to several students and several more grabbed suckers as they rushed to class. We were asking students to respond to the following question: "What has the U.S. war in Afghanistan (October 7, 2001 to December 28, 2014) accomplished?" One young woman summed it up succinctly - "I have absolutely no idea".

I enjoyed a long discussion with one of the security guards; an African-American man that has been there for many years. He is a certified teacher and has been trying to get a teaching position in the District for years. At the same time they talk about increasing the diversity of their teaching staff they won't hire him to teach social studies. Strange? Do you think race has anything to do with it?



Tabling at WHS January 13, 2015

I was struck by the United Nations character at the school. The display case next to my table showing students of the month featured Hispanic surnames, African, Italian, Eastern European. Students were speaking Spanish and Polish in the hallways.

I had made stickers with my favorite Martin Luther King Jr anti-war quote "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom." I was able to pass out quite a few stickers. I was not, however, able to get anyone to fill out one of the questionnaires asking the question "What has the U.S. war in Afghanistan (October 7, 2001 to December 28, 2014) accomplished?" But it's the day before finals. The students seemed distracted and a bit squirrely. I also noticed that since the school has started giving all the students tablets, they spend a lot of time fiddling with their electronic devices. So it appears we aren't getting the students that wandered over to our table out of boredom.

All the District 214 schools have a police officer roaming the halls. I found out today that the guns they carry are real guns; not tasers. I just assumed they were tasers since they're in a school. That's disturbing.

Libby

Tabling at RMHS January 5, 2015

Your intrepid reporter on the ground at Rolling Meadows High School is handing out candy and asking students "What has the U.S. war in Afghanistan accomplished? (October 7, 2001 – December 28, 2014)" The first student to stop by answered, "Not much." A security guy claimed that at first the U.S. gave the Afghans freedom from the Taliban and should have left then. The students are smarter and admit they have no clue. Nobody knew why the U.S. had invaded Afghanistan in the first place.

A student who has already enlisted in the Marines came by. He is going to go kill people and feel good about himself, he said. Bragged that he is "a one-sided thinker." I think the young man sadly lacks a moral compass. He is probably perfect for the Marines. Will take orders without asking questions.

Towards the end of the day a couple of young men came over and got candy and peace patches. One of them came back with a young girl and she got candy and patches too. Then another girl came and got patches. So, several students are now roaming the halls of RMHS with peace patches on their shirts. Maybe they'll prompt some good discussions. Peace out!

Lynne

Community Resource Fair October 15, 2014

Every year District 214 hosts a community resource fair at the Forest View Education Center. The purpose of the fair is to connect District 214 teachers and staff to resources in the community - social service organizations, advocacy groups, etc. We participated this year, bringing copies of our brochures and business cards for distribution.

We gave away all of our brochures on alternative careers. A counselor from Rolling Meadows took a stack of brochures in Spanish on "The Military's Not Just A Job: It's Eight Years of Your Life". She works primarily with Latino students and parents. We hope she shares the brochures with the parents.

There seemed to be a lot of interest if measured by how quickly the materials disappeared from our table. On the whole, the response has not been overwhelming but has been excellent. Helpful for building our credibility with faculty and staff.

Lynne

Tabling at RMHS October 7, 2014

I did have a nice chat with a young man at Rolling Meadows High School. His name is Jimmy. He wants to be a police officer when he grows up. He said he was going to go into the Navy, which will give him experience he needs to prepare for a career in law enforcement, and when he got out he would go to college, major in criminal justice, and then become a policeman. He was a really sweet young man. I told him that the best preparation for the police academy was to go to college and earn a degree--at least an associate's degree--in criminal justice. NOT the Navy. That degree makes you a very desirable commodity. I learned this when my ex-niece was finishing her degree in criminal justice and planning to become a police officer. Chicago PD did not snap her up fast enough, so Dallas PD wooed and won her. She was told by police officers (before she finished her degree) that such a degree was the most desirable path to the police academy. Jimmy obviously had been hearing a recruiter's spiel. I very respectfully gave him a different perspective. I asked him to come back to see me next month. I told him that getting GI bill benefits from the Navy was not automatic if he joined; I explained how it works. How he'll be better off going to college out of high school and not risk spending eight years being shot at and killing people. I like Jimmy. He seemed to be listening to me. I hope I'll see him again. If I manage to influence Jimmy away from the military and toward education, all my time with NWSUBPEP and sitting at peace tables will be worth it.

Lynne

Tabling at EGHS September 18

My table was quite busy today; I probably spoke with, at least, 20+ students.

I found the following interesting: I asked each student I spoke with how they felt about ISIS and what POTUS is proposing...not one student agreed we should be there...some were very vocal at how much they were against our going back to the Middle East in any way!

Esther

Tabling at WHS 9/8/2014

This was our first visit of the year. Since September 21 is the International Day of Peace we decided to build peace cranes as we've done in the past. The theme for peace day this year is "The Right of Peoples to Peace". We had quite a few students stop and take origami paper and instructions to build their own crane. Some already knew how. One young man created an origami heart; another young woman created an origami flower. The origami crane has become an international symbol of peace through the sad story of Sadako Sasaki, a young Japanese girl. She was born in 1943 and was only two years old when we dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. At the age of 11 she developed Leukemia which people in Japan referred to as the "atom bomb disease". While in the hospital she was told an old Japanese legend which said that anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes would be granted a wish. Sadako hoped that by folding the paper cranes she would get well again. So she began making the cranes and completed over 1000 before dying on October 25, 1955.

We also had a sociology teacher stop by and express an interest in having someone from our group talk to her class. We gave her all our contact information.

Libby

Tabling at PHS 5/6/2014

Very quiet today. First warm day in what seems like forever; I think the students just wanted to get outside.

Talked for a bit with two freshmen about drones and drone warfare. They seemed to share the same concerns that we have. They are using drones in places like Africa to catch poachers which seems like a good thing but can we trust the government to curtail the use of drones to protecting elephants and not spying and killing? Probably not.

Long talk with one of the security guards. He has been there for many years but started talking to me more this year for some reason. He seems concerned about the future his grandkids will be facing.

This will be the last visit at Prospect for the year.

Libby

Tabling at WHS 4/22/2014

The young woman who is a former Buffalo Grove student and now mentor with AVID (*Advancement Via Individual Determination*) stopped by the table. She was the one who told us about the Zine Fest. I told her we didn't sign up in time to get a table but one of our members was able to get some of our zines there anyway. We will try to remember in December to register.

Rather long chat with a young African American student who wants to study forensics. He's also in several sports - including football. We talked about the changes in football with the recent attention on concussions. The current football coach at Wheeling used to be the football coach at Prospect so I'm familiar with him. He has no intention of joining the military.

Our tabling theme this month is drone warfare. I think most students, being generally removed from any armed conflict that is being waged by our country, think of drone warfare as a way to protect ourselves from the "bad guys" while protecting our own military from harm. But when I tell them that recent studies have shown drone pilots suffer from PTSD and that the several second delay between when they press the button from their seat in Nevada to when the drone strikes in Afghanistan can result in a small child walking into the target area, they pause. It's clear this information is disturbing. We need to think of ways to promote that message.

Tabling at WHS 2/11/2014

I saw a lot of "Vamos Gatos" t-shirts and sweatshirts today. The Wheeling mascot is the wildcat; hence the "gatos". It also reflects the fact that Wheeling is almost 51% Hispanic. I was under the impression that it was more like a third but my information was quite dated. The website for District 214 posts school report cards which break down a lot of the this data.

I talked for a bit with a young African American girl who is planning to attend Columbia College in the Fall. She wants to pursue photography. She was particularly interested in scholarship information I had. Several other students dropped by and we talked a bit. Sadly, I couldn't help but reflect on how irrelevant the whole "war and peace" issue is to most of these students. For all they know, the United States isn't involved in any armed conflicts anywhere in the world. There's nothing in the news. And unless they know someone personally, they are blissfully unaware. I suppose that's why they keep enlisting.

Most of the traffic bypassed my table for the adjoining table that was selling valentines to your "secret admirer".

Libby

Tabling at BGHS 2/10/2014

Early in my visit to BG today a young man who I think must be a regular came by the table. He took a zine, which he said he had not seen previously. He said that in the fall he will attend Columbia College and study photography. He appears to be safe from recruiters.

I saw the little boy who hassled us in December and January. He walked past the peace table with his eyes averted. Maybe he didn't recognize me without Libby. Nobody hassled me today.

A couple of 9th grade girls came along. The submissive member of the pair was sweetly sharing Hershey's kisses. The dominant one took a zine. She said that when she graduates from High School she will go to college and study psychology, sociology and spiritual geometry (?). She explained, when I asked, that the last of these is patterns for spiritual developments in the world, especially in the middle east. (Sounds like she's talking about a numerology-based thing for ancient temples more commonly called sacred geometry.) She loves conspiracy theories. Her disciple does, too.

Very few people came by. Mostly they seemed interested in candy. Nobody expressed interest in the military. Those thinking about the future all planned to attend college.

I saw a girl who bore a strong resemblance to the Navy veteran Libby and I met a few years ago who had been raped by a NCO while in boot camp at Great Lakes. The girl who looked like her had a U. S. Navy sweatshirt. No doubt there's no relationship between them, since the vet was a Californian. But seeing another beautiful girl apparently drawn to the Navy made me sad.

Lynne

Tabling at PHS 2/4/2014

After seeing the 4th or 5th male student with bleach blonde hair I began to wonder if this was a new fad. I am told that they are all on the boys swim team and this is something they do as a team. When my kids were in high school the members of the boys swim team shaved their heads. I'm not sure which I like better.

Anyway, I had a few meaningful conversations with students but otherwise it was pretty quiet. Since we come to the school on the first Tuesday I try to make the association with the civil defense siren which also sounds on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Most of the students know what I'm talking about.

One of the social studies teachers I know stopped by briefly and we talked about the student privacy issue and inBloom. I directed him to the article on our website. I've now talked to 3 or 4 teachers about this and not one has heard of it.

Libby

Tabling at WHS 1/24/14

Although we had the usual stream of students that really just wanted candy but thought they had to talk to us to "qualify" for the handout, there were a few interesting discussions.

We talked for a few minutes to a nice young man who plans to join the Marines. I pointed out a few things he should think about. He said that he wouldn't kill innocent people and I pointed out that he just may not be given that choice. We're you're in the middle of a situation things often get out of control. You could see his eyes clouding over. I had to disappoint a young man but I certainly would rather he go into the Marines with "eyes wide open" than be disappointed.

I left a bunch of zines and a flyer advertising the peace essay contest with one of the teachers there. It would be great if a D214 student applied for to the contest.

Libby

Tabling at JHHS 1/23/14

The following is a brief synopsis of activity that happened. There were visits from the usual students stopping over including:

- A very nice tall, thin, young man who often stops by announced that he has turned 18 but did not register for the draft . . . it's his personal protest against the wars. I told him I very much appreciated his sentiments and asked him to look into something: Will he still be able to qualify for student financial aid at a community, state or private college? He'll let me know next month. I guess we know the answer but I want him to look into it himself.

Then there was some troubling news from a couple of students:

- A senior plans on joining the military right after graduation from high school.
- Another senior has already signed up for the Marines and will enter right after graduation.

And some that give a person hope yet:

- A junior interested in taking engineering classes also was thinking about going into the military and work on equipment, etc. After talking, he has now promised to think it over and may even write a submission for the peace essay contest.
- Another senior - very birhg - anticipates attending McGill University in Canada and will major in linguistics. She too may write and submit a peace essay.

Then:

- Two teachers that just stopped by for a moment and when asked how they feel about private personal information of students being sold by the ACT - both said they were not aware of it or the lawsuit (and one teacher said it didn't surprise her) however both seem unfazed. I didn't even have a chance to ask what they thought of the inBloom project.

Esther

Tabling at Wheeling High School December 10, 2013

Sadly I had to compete with a bake sale for AVID. That never works out well. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It's a college readiness system for elementary through higher education. I don't know how many of the D214 high schools have an active AVID program. Obviously Wheeling does. I talked for quite awhile with two young women who are at Wheeling as mentors for AVID. And, ironically, they both attended Buffalo Grove High School. Of course, they never saw us. The cafeteria at BG is huge and we are

always placed at the West end. Students tend to sit in the same spot and sometimes even the same table every day.

One of the mentors really liked the zine. She suggested we check out the Chicago Zine Fest. She said it costs a little bit of money to have a table there, but might be worth. I will certainly do so and report back at our next meeting.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove High School December 9, 2013

Lynne joined me today and we both concluded that we could table two times/year at BGHS and that would probably be enough. No one comes over. I wasn't there in October because it was Columbus Day and November the 2nd Monday was Veterans Day.

The only excitement was a rather contentious discussion with a young man who told us that the reason the drone operators work 12 hour shifts is that money was taken away from the military by the human rights groups. He claims this was the subject of an article in the Foreign Policy Journal in July. Seems very unlikely to us, but I will look for the article anyway.

Libby

Tabling at Rolling Meadows High School December 3, 2013

The first lunch period at Rolling Meadows today was pretty quiet. Mostly the occasional student came by the table and enjoyed some candy. Things became livelier in the second lunch period.

Dumb question of the day: "Is this [table] for snowboarding and ski club?" I shook my head no, and the inquirer walked away quickly. What about a table occupied by an old fat woman with brochures about peace suggested snowboarding or skiing? lol

Two boys strolled past, gave me a glance, and muttered something about the military. They said to each other that they were not interested in the military and kept going. It's surprising how many kids assume that an adult at a table in the cafeteria wants them to enlist in the service.

Most of the students who came by were either planning to go to college, or had no clue what they wanted, or both. I gave out quite a few check lists about applying for college and financial aid.

One girl came by and seemed to like what she saw of our literature. She was wearing a sweat shirt from a from a state university in Wisconsin. She said she was going to go there and become a vet tech because of her love for animals. She didn't seem to grasp that she could go to Harper for a few months and get all the certification she needed to be a vet tech. *sigh* She had thought about becoming a zoologist, but that would require a Ph.D.—too much school. She indicated she didn't want to stay in school long enough to actually become a vet. She seemed sweet and smart, just uninformed. I trust somebody will tell her what she needs to do to accomplish her goals of caring for animals. She'll be a good vet.

A boy in the 11th grade came by and chatted. I asked him what he was going to do after high school. He said he was going to open his own business—shoes. Or clothing. Or maybe a restaurant. At least he was not interested in the military.

Two girls in hijabs came by together. I think they said they were juniors. Girl A said she liked peace and picked up a zine and some other material. Girl B said she was going to join the military. When I asked why, she said she thought it was really interesting. "Killing people is interesting?" I asked. "I want to heal people," said B. Then A explained that B wanted to be a military doctor. Why a military doctor rather than a civilian doctor, I asked. B didn't seem to know, but she liked the military recruiters. B said she wanted to join the military and had talked with the recruiters at school. She had made an appointment for the recruiters to come to her home and talk with her parents, but the recruiters never showed up. So I asked B about her plans for education. She said she planned to attend Harper. It became clear that she had no clue of how far beyond Harper she would have to go to become a doctor. I encouraged her to complete college and med school before committing to the military. I guess the recruiters had not taken the time to tell her about how the military might pay for her education. Maybe the recruiters were afraid of her hijab?

Our friend Daniel came by. He said he was planning to audition to be in the school play next semester, when they'll do *The Laramie Project*. Good for him! I remembered going to BGHS a few years ago when they did *The Laramie Project* and Westboro Baptist Church said they were coming to protest against it. Westboro never showed up, of course. I didn't mention that to Daniel. We'll see what happens when RM does the play. I hope to see it and support Daniel.

During the 2nd lunch period a girl and boy were hanging out together near the table. They were rough-housing quite a bit. She seemed to keep trying to do massage-like moves on him and hurting him. He told her to stop and kept yelling in pain. I told her, "Don't do that. It hurts." She replied, "What?" I told her to stop hurting him. They seemed to settle down. After a long while I looked over and saw that she was at it again. I gestured for her to come over. They both came. I told her she needed to think about how she was treating this young man. I told her my son's girlfriend in 9th grade had hurt him like that and it had ended badly. She said, "We're just messing around." I said, "So were they. Hitting and hurting each other is not healthy and it's a bad habit to get into." I hope they'll think about treating each other more respectfully. If an old lady I didn't know had called me out on my behavior, I would have given it some thought (eventually). But who knows.

Moments before the bell rang to close the lunch period, a girl dashed over and grabbed a brochure about what girls need to know about the military. I asked her if she was planning to join the military. With a confident smile she nodded and said yes. "Then you definitely need to read that," I told her. She took off as the bell rang. I didn't get to talk with her.

I did a candy experiment today. In the past we have observed that Starburst seems to be a favorite among students, even beyond chocolate, which I don't personally understand. One girl at RM greets us as the "Starburst people." Today I had three dishes: one of Starburst, one of small candy canes, and one of Werther's Original. All were enjoyed, but Starburst was again the clear winner.

I don't know if I accomplished anything today. Most counter-recruiting days you never know. All you can do is plant a seed or two.

Lynne

Tabling at Elk Grove High School November 21, 2013

Lynne, Lana and myself, were looking forward to this visit since I'd talked with a female, senior, last month that had paperwork from the Navy and was set to enlist either right after graduation or possibly sooner into the DEP (Delayed Entry Program), as a friend had done.

I viewed it as promising that she came over to talk, accompanied by a couple of friends, and we talked for quite a long time. As her friends wandered off, we probably talked almost her entire lunch period. We discussed a lot

of things pertaining to enlisting in the military. Of course, I was discouraging her from enlisting right out of HS and to think about it some more.

Well, you can imagine my joy when she came back to our table again this month with a solid plan for what she'll be doing after graduation that doesn't include the military. She has assured me that she will not be joining and in fact has talked to that friend enrolled in the DEP and now the friend would like to back out...we gave her the information to pass on to her friend and, hopefully, that young woman will also decline final enlistment.

In addition, some of our old student regulars, as well as, other new students stopped over. All in all it was a good day and made our time there worthwhile!

Esther

Tabling at Hersey High School November 14, 2013

Very quiet with some old student-regulars stopping by the table to say hello and also a group of young boys came over – I think at first they were going to hassle me but I ignored their antics and they came back to talk for a little while... one boy has a brother in the military another a cousin – none of them seemed interested in enlisting and each indicated a desire to attend a college. Two senior girls also stopped over and both are going on to nursing schools —there were, of course, others but nothing outstanding; so, it was a quiet but pleasant afternoon.

Esther

Tabling at Elk Grove High School October 17, 2013

Very busy at the beginning on the lunch hour. One girl (I hope) has been talked out of joining the Navy – the recruiter continues to try to contact her on Facebook. She has no phone so that's good and she said she'll block him on Facebook. She promises to stop back again to talk. I gave her a lot of reading material – she says she'll read it.

Also had a young man who brought over several friends to talk. All that plus the usual regulars made for a busy day.

Esther

Tabling at Wheeling HS, October 8, 2013

We had copies of our latest zine today; fresh from the printer. A group of young men all took a zine. The content related to something they were studying. They got away before I could find out exactly what.

Talked with one young man about the federal budget and how much goes to the military. I've been trying to interest some D214 students in developing a film for the "If I Had A Trillion Dollars" film contest. The deadline is not until January of next year. But no takers so far. I left the information with one of the English teachers.

Talked with a group of young women about their future plans. One said she was considering architecture and cosmetology. That seemed an odd combination but . . .

Libby

Tabling at Prospect High School October 1, 2013

Interviewed for the school newspaper today. That should be interesting. She asked what message I wanted to send. My reply was that the students own their own futures; it is theirs and not their parents or school counselor or teachers. And we just want to make sure that if the military is in their future, they understand what they're getting into. We also talked about the American Public Health Association's policy about banning military recruiters from high schools.

Otherwise, pretty quiet day. We had some copies of the new zine available.

Libby

Tabling at Wheeling High School Sept 10, 2013

Talked to a number of students about drones. Good? Bad? Some of both? One student knew quite a bit about them. He had been studying them on his own. (A bit scary). He identified the type of drone in the picture we had on our flyer. One of the security guards made an interesting comment. He said that in the old days, a combat unit would have to send out a scout to see where the enemy was. Now they can use a drone. He has a point although that presupposes we need combat units out scouting for enemies; that assumes we will always be at war.

The school seems a bit edgier this year. Got the distinct impression that the students were testing the boundaries with the security guards.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove High School Sept 9 2013

Talked to a number of students about the pending attack on Syria. None were in favor. Although I couldn't get anyone to write something for our survey, several did take a card and promise to send us something via email. We shall see.

I did find one person that thought we should do something – one of the security guards. And he was not gung ho – he just thought the chemical attack deserved some kind of response on our part.

Tabling at Prospect High School September 3 2013

First day back at school for the new school year. The students seem louder than I remember!

There was a lot of discussion about Syria; among the students and the staff. I have yet to find anyone (outside of the idiots in Washington D.C.) that think invading Syria is a good thing.

Trying to promote our upcoming forum on drones. A number of students took flyers. It's still three weeks away so not sure how many will remember.

libby

Tabling at Elk Grove High School May 16 2013

Very quiet today. Spent a few minutes in serious discussion. Probably too nice out; looks like fewer kids are here.

Last school day is June 6 – early this year.

Esther

Tabling at Wheeling High School May 14, 2013

Talked to a number of students today and got several to share their thoughts on gun violence – what should we do about it. One young man, who also has two older brothers at Wheeling, said his family moved from the Logan Square neighborhood shortly after someone was shot on their block. I've talked to several students who have moved to the suburbs to escape the violence. One young woman actually is living with a cousin and can only see her mother on weekends.

Just as I was getting ready to pack up, the school librarian walked by and stopped to talk. He was very glad to see us and said we could post information on the library bulletin board. There were guidelines, obviously, but he would like to support our cause.

I understand Wheeling is getting a new principal. She starts in July.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS May 13, 2013

Beautiful spring day and so many students were outside; enjoying the weather. Can't say I blame them. But I did get a few students to share their thoughts about gun violence. Hopefully by next fall we will have raised enough money to publish a new zine.

Long talk with an older man that often subs at BG. (By "older" I mean Vietnam era). He is definitely anti-war and was lamenting the fact that the students he has in his US History class right now know nothing about the Vietnam war. With such ignorance we are forced to repeat our mistakes.

Libby

Tabling at Prospect HS April 2, 2013

Got several students interested in filling out our survey about gun violence. One young man believes that teachers and administrators should be allowed to have firearms. (Yikes!) He thinks that if the teacher is willing and has been trained, it should be allowed. And that led us to a discussion about psychiatric medications. He told us about a YouTube video called "Dead Wrong: How Psychiatric Drugs Can Kill Your Child". Definitely worth watching.

One young man asked for a peace button. When I asked him what he planned to do after high school (he's a senior this year) he told us he was joining the Navy. We laughed about wearing the peace button when he reports for basic training. We talked a bit about his choice. I told him to be careful.

Libby & Nancy

Tabling at Wheeling High School March 12, 2013

As part of Women's History Month we showed a slide show of all the women that have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan since the war(s) began. This, on the heels of the Pentagon's announcement to allow women in combat. As if they haven't already been dying!

We shared a table with some students having a bake sale to raise money for AVID. Hard to compete with a bake sale. And there was no electrical outlet by our table so eventually my laptop died. Then there was a girl fight so

...

Too many distractions; not a particularly productive day

Tabling at Wheeling HS February 13, 2013

One of our regulars stopped by and told me that she will be entering UIC in the fall; majoring in gender studies. I tried to get her to write something about gun violence for our information survey but she is swamped right now. Several female students willingly filled out a form.

A number of students stopped by to ask about selective service. Most wanted to know if they needed to register. They need to register when they turn 18 but in Illinois (and 39 other states) you are automatically registered for selective service when you apply for a driver's license. We take it for granted that most young men get a driver's license but that's not always the case.

There was a girl fight in the hallway not too far from our table. That was the excitement for the day.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS February 11, 2013

I think BGHS has the most injuries and the worst cafeteria food. But I suppose that's irrelevant; just an observation.

Very quiet at the table today. I thought there would be a bit more traffic because the weather outside was so nasty.

Long talk with a young man who said he had observed our table for all the four years he was in school (he is a Senior) and finally decided to come by and see what we were about. He is in NJROTC; plans to attend university in Texas after graduation on a NJROTC scholarship; then join the Navy. He took a brochure that has the questions to ask recruiters. (Probably a little late for that, but whatever).

The lady from the attendance office stopped by to see what new buttons we had and to thank us for being there.

Short chat with one of the security guys. He was wondering if they would make women register for selective service now that they are being allowed in combat. Interesting question; something I've wondered about as well.

Libby

Tabling at Prospect HS February 5, 2013

Since January marked the 40th year since the draft was eliminated we decided to do a little history lesson on selective service and the draft. We had the lottery from 1972 and the students got involved finding their birthdate and what their lottery number would have been. Pity the poor soul that was born March 6 – their lottery number was 1. The students had heard about the draft but most were unaware of the lottery or how it worked.

We also were polling the students about the issue of gun control – what they thought should be done. Several students recorded their comments. I had a very long talk with one student who is a gun enthusiast and is all upset about the government taking away his 2nd amendment rights. However, when pressed he believes there should be tighter background checks and tighter control at gun shows.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove High School January 14, 2013

I think the poster of Martin Luther King caught the students' eyes today – maybe because they realize they have next Monday off? Not sure. I put out any materials I had on peace including the “Wage Peace” bracelets which one girl took and promised to wear proudly.

One teacher stopped by and chatted for a bit. He took one of our cards so I hope we hear from him soon.

Libby

Tabling at Wheeling HS January 8, 2013

Since Martin Luther King's birthday falls in January we decided to work our tabling theme for the month around him. We have a die that we made last year. Each side contains a MLK quote. We ask the students to roll the die and see if they can guess who is responsible for the quote. Of course, the answer in every case is Martin Luther King.

Several students stopped by the table and participated in the game. Several were intrigued by some of the quotes. Had a long talk with a young woman who wants to be a writer and plans to go to the University of Iowa next year. I gave her a copy of the zine and encouraged her to write something for our next issue.

Tabling at Buffalo Grove and Wheeling High Schools December 10 and 11 2012

Long discussion with a young man at BGHS who saw the handout on drones and thought they were a good thing because they kept the terrorists at bay and didn't really endanger American lives. He felt that some collateral damage (e.g. civilian casualties) was worth the price. Not sure he would feel the same way if the collateral damage was his family.

Had a bit better luck at WHS – more students took the handout that lists the Declaration of Human Rights (although I couldn't vouch for how many actually read it). I certainly hadn't read the Declaration until we decided to do this.

Libby

Tabling at Prospect HS December 4 2012

I guess the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not a very interesting topic. Human Rights Day, which celebrates the day in 1948 when the Declaration was adopted, is our theme for December. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is actually a very powerful document with a preamble and 30 articles. But the students just weren't interested. It was a very quiet day.

Libby

Tabling at BGHS and WHS November 12 and 13 2012

Since I went to Buffalo Grove and Wheeling High Schools back to back this month, I decided to combine them into one post.

I wasn't able to find out if BG had a mock election but Wheeling did. Wheeling's election was on the same day as the national election (November 6) and Obama won; although no one knew by what margin. Wheeling let only registered voters vote in their mock election.

Nice long chat with one of our friends at WHS. She is applying to the School of the Art Institute. I hope she gets in. She is very creative. She is in the process of putting together her portfolio and I told her if she finds anything she thinks would be appropriate for the zine, please forward it on.

There wasn't a lot of interest among the students on the drones. I think it's way under their radar. More interest among the teachers and staff. Several security guards came by to chat. Several expressed concern about the spying capabilities of the drones. One security guard who is retired from the police force, took one of our patches for his daughter.

Talked to one young man who plans to join the Marines, although his buddy doesn't think it's such a good idea. He seems very confident and self-assured. When asked about his ultimate goal, he tells us that he wants to study computers. We talked about other ways to achieve that goal; even trade school would provide those skills without a huge investment in time or money.

Libby

Tabling at Prospect High School November 6, 2012

Election day! Prospect had a mock election several weeks ago and, interestingly, Obama won by a landslide – among the students AND the staff. Among the staff Obama won by 76.1% to 23.9%. Among the students Obama won 65.8% to 34.2%. Not very many of the staff were polled and of those that were, most were in the Social Studies Department.

Otherwise, a bit quiet. Our theme for the month is drones. We need some visual to draw the students' attention. A fact sheet on drone warfare just doesn't do it.

Libby

Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS October 2, 2012

I did fairly brisk business. 2 entire bags of Starburst were consumed. Many patches and buttons were taken and worn.

I displayed the photos of U.S. fatalities in Afghanistan. Some people were surprised it had been going on for 11 years (virtually their entire lifetimes). Nobody knew why the U.S. was at war there. Somebody guessed, "Oil?"

Discussing the question with students prompted me to look at the zine article we published last year with their answers. I shared it with several students. I looked at our old zines and saw that they were very good. They are also old. In addition to including undated (timeless) peace articles, they promoted some events from long ago. We need a fresh issue.

One young woman came and was clearly in agreement with our cause. She opined that war was stupid, and there are better ways to settle differences. How about that? Must've learned it at home. 😊

Daniel, our jewel at RMHS, came by twice. The first time we chatted briefly about the list of war euphemisms he has been assembling for our zine. Daniel asked me how to talk someone out of joining the military. I said it depends on whether it's a girl or a guy. He said it was a guy. I told him it helps to listen first and ask questions about what he really likes to do, and what activities make him feel good about himself. I gave Daniel the brochure about how it's not just a job, it's 8 years of your life. The second time he came by, Daniel asked how to talk a girl out of enlisting. I gave him the brochure about what every girl should know. We talked a bit about sexual abuse in the military, and how the perpetrators are rarely punished, and are not placed on a registry of sex offenders, which exists only in the civilian world. Daniel listened with concern. He is a very nice young man who cares about justice and treating people fairly.

One young man, a senior, came by and said he had already enlisted in the National Guard through the DEP. He will report for basic training right after graduation. I told him, "You can get out of that, you know." He said he didn't want to get out of it, and wasn't going to. He said, "I love what I do." "Killing people?" I asked. No, he loves all the physical exercise and emphasis on fitness. I told him that basic training would involve practicing hand-to-hand combat and yelling "Kill! Kill! Kill!" I don't think he believed me. I told him I truly hoped things would work out for him. Sad. I hope he'll come back and we can talk some more. He seemed like a nice kid, not a born killing machine.

One young woman came by and examined the button with a picture of a broken rifle. She said her mom would kill her if she wore something like that, because there are lots of marines in her family. But she had no desire to enter the military. She took the button. I said I didn't want to give her something that would cause her mother to hurt her. She said she wouldn't show it to her mom. I told her it's not a good idea to keep secrets from your mom. She liked the button and kept it, but I don't think she wore it.

A young man came by and said he wanted to be a writer, a novelist, and plans to go to college after high school. But he came by a second time and said maybe he'd go to law school. Or maybe the military. Bottom line is he's a young kid who has no idea what he wants to do. I hope the recruiters won't get him.

Lynne

Tabling at Prospect HS October 2, 2012

Please, please remind me not to table during Homecoming week! Every year I vow not to and then forget to check the schedule. Today was "Toga Day" so all the seniors were wearing bedsheets around the halls. Plus the weather was absolutely gorgeous so anyone that could was outside. (Sigh)

Nevertheless, Esther and I had a few good conversations with students and staff. This month we are focusing on the Afghanistan War. Next week marks our 11th year.

Libby

Tabling at Hersey HS September 27, 2012

Results of the mock election:

Obama	33
Romney	8
Derrick Rose	1
Brett Miller	1
Me	2
Mickey Mouse	1
Christina Rinaldo	1

Esther

Tabling at Elk Grove High School September 20, 2012

It was a good day at Elk Grove. We were joined by Lana; a new addition to our team. Lana is a natural! She spoke comfortably with students, and they warmed to her. 😊

Shayla (see below) engaged in brazen politicking at the voting place as well as ballot box stuffing. She was a hoot! lol

Esther registered a bunch of people to vote.

Here are the results of the mock election:

Obama	14
Romney	4
Sean Limning	1
Hannah	1
Me	1
Ron Paul	1
Shayla	12

Lana felt like she didn't do much but learned a lot 😊)))))) And thought it interesting to see the results of the voting...and hear the comments

A compilation of the reports from Lynne, Esther and Lana

Tabling at WHS September 11, 2012

Not surprisingly the tally for Wheeling High School was: Obama 19; Romney 2; Jill Stein 1. (I'm pretty sure I know who wrote in Jill Stein). Otherwise – very quiet. Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove High School September 10, 2012

The mock election continues. At BGHS there were 13 votes for Obama; 7 for Romney; one each for write-in candidates Ralph Nader and Esteban Miranda. (Who the heck is Esteban Miranda??) Libby

Tabling at PHS September 4, 2012

For the month of September we are having a mock presidential election. We are also registering students to vote; one of our volunteers is a deputy registrar.

Here is the breakdown at Prospect:

Obama – 15
Romney – 9
Jack Tobin – 1
Danny Thomas – 1

Jack Tobin and Danny Thomas?????

Libby

Tabling at RMHS September 4, 2012

We conducted a mock presidential election. The ballots allowed students to vote for anyone they chose to support, whether an official candidate or not. Votes were secret and ballots were collected in a decorative bag. Representatives of NWSUBPEP did not discuss candidates with students or advise them in any way how to vote. The vast majority of participating students were under 18 years old. Representatives of NWSUBPEP did not ask students how they had voted or why; nor did NWSUBPEP volunteers examine ballots before they were dropped into the bag.

When the ballots were counted, it was observed that two students had voted for both LeBron James and Barack Obama. The counts below include both votes. Those students' comment is listed under both candidates.

The results of the mock election were:

Barack Obama	34
Mitt Romney	8
LeBron James	3
Me	1

On the ballots, students were invited (but not required) to explain their choices in writing. Some chose not to write an explanation; many wrote a comment. Their comments were as follows, in random order, by candidate:

OBAMA

“I’m sure not choosing Mitt Romney.”
“Because he is changing many things in America”
“he’s a nice person”
“he’s a good person”
“cause [*sic*] I like what he’s doing for the U.S [*sic*]”

“Supports gay marriage”

“Although I object to him not being pro life or pacifist or more progressive I really support the health care law and it did not go far enough. He supports immigration reform, gay marriage, ending Afghanistan”

“Because he is not Mitt Romney, and he’s democrat [*sic*], and he’s black.”

“In my opinion he is better than Romney.”

“B/c he’s not Romney”

“he was ours be for . . . I don’t [*sic*] know much about it.”

“B/c I totally disagree with Romney”

“Because hes [*sic*] my hero”

“he needs more time to fix things”

“Because he’s best.”

“He cares for the little people J”

“Because”

“He accomplished a lot than oher [*sic*] presidents”

“I think he is the most open to new ideas.”

“He’s a good president.”

“He’s the King”

“Hes [*sic*] nice to America”

ROMNEY

“I Hate Obama”

“Parents [*sic*] view”

“Because Obama made it worse and I do not think he will improve he contery [*sic*]”

“Because he’ll Be Better for economy.”

“because Obama makes the economy more hard”

“fair”

JAMES

“He’s the King”

“Hes [*sic*] nice to America”

“hes [*sic*] great”

Esther and Lynne

Report written by Lynne Kelley

The Invisible War – August 10, 2012

On Friday we hosted a screening of “The Invisible War” – a newly released documentary on military sexual trauma. We partnered with Iraq Veterans Against the War, Families for Peace and North/Northwest Suburban Chapter of the National Organization for Women. Turnout was decent – about 40 people. We also reached out to organizations in the Northwest suburbs that work in the area of sexual assault. Several representatives from Northwest CASA (Coalition Against Sexual Assault) and Children’s Advocacy Center attended. I think the most significant thing to come out of this event was the connection made between mainline groups working on the issue of sexual assault and veterans.

In the picture below Sabrina Waller, veteran and member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, leads the follow-up discussion. Several more pictures are available on our gallery.



leading Q&A

Passing out flyers for our upcoming event – August 3, 2012

This is another example of what makes the work in the schools worthwhile: So, the other day I was out and about passing out flyers for The Invisible War when I ran into a girl from EGHS and she says: “oh, you’re the lady that comes to my school and because of what you told me I’m not going in the military after graduation!”

She tells me that I talked with her and gave her the brochures about women in the military and the dangers they face every day from their fellow military personal. Apparently our talk and her actually reading the brochures she was given seems to have (almost) made her decision 100% against joining – then her mom saw the brochures and said: ‘no-way you’re not enlisting!!’

The encounter ended with a hug and her taking extra flyers I was passing out to give to friends...

Esther

Advisory Board meeting July 14, 2012

As we do every year, we convened an open community meeting/advisory board meeting. The purpose is to get input from our community on how we can be more effective. We will meet in August before school starts to digest all the valuable input we received and plan for the upcoming school year. Stay posted.

Tabling at Prospect High School May 1, 2012

Happy May Day! Not a very active day at our table. Most students went outside for lunch.

Mr Camardella stopped by. He had taken some of his students to see the Nobel Peace Laureates in Chicago and then for an event with the Dalai Lama at Loyola University. Both events went well. He showed me a bulletin board where he had displayed their follow up essays from the events.

Libby

Global Activism Fair – April 20, 2012

We had the privilege of participating in a Global Activism Fair organized by the Youth Labor Committee at Dundee-Crown High School. Although many of the organizations that were supposed to show didn't make it, I would still count it as a success. I was really impressed by how well the fair was organized. They did a great job.

The Youth Labor Committee is a club at Dundee-Crown. They focus on labor issues e.g. sweat shop, Imokolee Workers, etc. The faculty sponsor is Bruce Taylor.

The highlight of the day was the Q&A with Noam Chomsky who was hooked in via Skype. Chomsky is always interesting but I was really impressed by the students' questions. Here are a few: "Who do you think will win the election this fall and how much will things change"; "Do you have any comments on the NDAA that was recently passed";

Libby

Tabling at Wheeling High School April 10, 2012

Of all the District 214 schools I've been in, Wheeling has the most activity in the commons area at lunch. By far. Today there were six organizations represented including a relay race, interesting display on Angola, and other groups raising money for various causes. But the activity brought visitors to our table. Hope to see some of the students at our event on Friday evening (April 13).

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove High School April 9, 2012

Joined today by a young man I met through the Occupy movement that graduated from BG in 2006. Unfortunately, it happened to be a beautiful day so most students took their lunch outdoors.

But we did have several good discussions with several students. One young man asked what I thought about our government's authorizing the killing of US citizens with drones; without a trial. I've talked to him before and, although I know there are a number of things we do not agree on, I think we both agree that this (extrajudicial killing) just isn't right. I didn't think the US did that kind of thing.

Libby

Tabling at Prospect High School April 3, 2012

Most notable conversation was with a young woman who is a Senior and is planning to major in environmental scientist. She was lamenting the fact that environmental science has become so political. People on the Right would like to eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency and some even question the science behind global warming.

Brief conversation with young man regarding Kony 2012 – the international campaign to stop Joseph Kony. (Leader of the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda and one of the worst war criminals ever – which is saying a lot). Seems this campaign has caught on with young people.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS February 13, 2012

Pretty slow day. Put out a display of African American inventors for Black History Month. (Decided the presidential challenge wasn't very popular). One security guard was bemoaning the fact that Black History Month wasn't even celebrated anymore. That seems regrettable.

Libby

Tabling at Prospect HS February 7, 2012

Tried the presidential challenge this year to mark President's Day. The challenge is to match some quotes to the president that made them. I remember now from last year that the quotes are a bit challenging. Had several students wad up the paper after checking their answers. However, Mr. Camardella (Social Studies) got them all right.

New issue of the zine is out. Looks great!

Libby

Tabling at Wheeling High School, January 10, 2012

Nice chat with one of the science teachers who happened to be sitting at the other end of my table. Her students were taking a survey. She was sitting at the table collecting the ipads in between class periods. The survey was about sleep. We both agreed that teenagers don't get enough sleep. She thanked us for being there.

Otherwise, rather quiet day.

Libby

Tabling at Prospect High School January 3 2012

Chatted a bit with a young man who is joining the Army right after high school. I asked him what his folks thought – Dad for (thinks it will 'build character'); Mom against. Gave him the questions for recruiters.

One young woman made the comment that no one approaches the Army table – “They lie. They get you in there and change.” How true.

Libby

Tabling at Wheeling HS, Tuesday December 13 2011

Had quite a few students take the pledge; less were interested in the questions. Several offered to submit articles/poetry/drawings/photos for the next zine. The have two weeks off starting Friday. Who knows? Unfortunately, our table was a bit over-shadowed by four other organizations selling things to raise money for their particular organization. We were next to a bake sale. We were holding our own until they brought out the churros! Then it was a mad house.

Two of our regulars stopped by. One has been wanting to make it down to the city to visit Occupy Chicago. Her parents have so far nixed the idea.

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS, Monday December 12 2011

Had several students take the “I Shall Not Kill” pledge and several students pick and answer one of the three questions.

A number of comments on the map. Students are still amazed that we’ve been in Afghanistan for 10 years. One student guessed eight; he was closer than most.

Had a long discussion with a young woman who would like to volunteer. She had not seen our table before and she is a Senior. I’m always amazed at how often students have never seen us despite the fact we are there every month.

Someone who works in the office stopped by the table to give their support. We were talking about the “If I Had A Trillion Dollars” contest. She ran off to find the faculty sponsor for the film club. I dropped several flyers in that person’s mailbox and followed up with an email. I heard back from her the next day. She thanked me for the information and said she would pass it on to the students in the club. Wouldn’t it be great to have a D214 student win!

Tabling at Prospect High School December 6, 2011

Quite a bit of traffic at the table today and a good number of meaningful discussions. Most were of a general nature; the map of all the major wars we’ve been in and the length of each prompted a lot of the conversations. The students were amazed to realize that we’ve been in Afghanistan 10 years; longer than ANY war to date. Most of them were in kindergarten or first grade. Many talked about where they were when the planes hit the World Trade Towers. I got a few to take the “I shall not kill” pledge and a few more to answer one of our three questions regarding the war in Afghanistan that we intend to put in the next zine.

Libby

Tabling at Hersey High School November 10 2011

The visit to JHHS today was quite eventful. Our table was across from a bake sale for the “wounded warriors – celebrate our heroes”. During a slow time I attempted to hand the female leader at the table our JFK quote that reads: “War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.” But she wouldn’t read it and gave it back with the comment – “you don’t get it . . . we’re not on the same side!”. I’m shocked and simply state that I hope we are – all we’re interested in is the safety of our fighting force and their safe return home. I later observed the bringing of mentally challenged students to the table to put a fake dog tag around their necks declaring that she is awarding them this ‘medal’ for helping out at the table.

A group of macho young men (either already a part of or determined to be in the DEP) stop over and momentarily act interested but become very loud and defensive of the U.S. actions in other countries and declare how those military personnel are protecting us here at home, etc etc. When I inquire where they get their information one of them offers ‘at my church from a former marine’. At this point I just ask if they’d like to answer the couple of questions here and put their feelings down on paper. Of course they won’t do it.

A marine recruiter is seen about — he smiles a few times as he passes the table. Soon he’s in the student services office interviewing one of the boys. Meanwhile Zach has arrived and now the recruiter is chatting with a small gaggle of boys across from the wounded warrior table. Zach comments “Doesn’t that make a picture?”. I agree and go over to see if the recruiter will respond with his opinion regarding the questions and I also ask if I can take a picture of him in front of the wounded warriors table. He declines.

A woman who works security and has a daughter in the Air Force comes by to complain about the placement of our table. While she realizes that we're entitled to be at the school she thinks that having our table in front of the glass case honoring military alumni of JHHS is disrespectful. Just at that time one of the administrators came by and said that he was the one that had decided where to put the tables. She walks off, muttering grumpily.

In between all the commotion there were a few good discussions with various students and our friend Mr. G.

Esther

Tabling at Wheeling High School November 8 2011

Wheeling went very well – it so happens that this week is Peace Week at Wheeling and there was a table set up to send pencils to other students w/a note attached and purchase peace t-shirts. The fund raiser went to one of the departments, as well as, Rachel's Fund...not really sure what that is...seems to have something to do with bullying.

A young man and a couple of his female friends stopped over – the young man is already signed up for the DEP, wears a dog tag and is planning to report for early boot camp soon (could even be over the winter break). The thing is he struck me as a gentle guy so I was taken aback to hear what he had to say. Turns out his mother was in the military, stationed out of TX years ago, and has a brother currently in the air force in Afghanistan so seems as though he felt compelled to join. Claims he'll be going to college on the military then right into the military. His friends were very much against him going in – and he actually seemed ambivalent. In the short time we had together (he did stay to listen) I dug out the instructions and sample letter to the commanding officer...will he do it (?) doubtful.

Maybe it'll get him thinking. Pointed out that although others in his family have gone into the service; because he's his own man, he's not implored to enlist with so much to be done here to serve his country. He said he'll think about it. Made a point of giving him the 10 questions and the JFK quote, as well as the DEP letter. Map went over well with large amounts of students shocked re how long we've been at war in Afghanistan. We drew the comparison to WW1 and WW2, actually being world changing wars, and then Vietnam, Golf War, Iraq and Afghanistan...asked each student what they saw as having been changed by our going to war in those countries – no one was able to point out anything besides thousands of more deaths.

Esther

Tabling at Prospect High School November 1, 2011

For November and Veteran's Day, we had a display showing a map of the world with all the major conflicts the US has been involved in. Of course, as one student pointed out, this didn't cover even half of the conflicts we've been involved in.

There was interest in the map but possibly even more importantly, it was eye-catching so people came over to check us out. It's important to be visible.

Tabling at Hersey High School October 27 2011

JHHS tabling started out very quiet and even fewer students came to the table as the lunch periods continued due to a rousing fight in the lunchroom between two girls during second period lunch and that was all the students could talk about for the rest of the day.

Naturally, there were some of our usual visitors and we were able to speak with some re the domestic violence theme, as well as encouraging submissions to the zine.

By the end of the day most peace patches and all of the starbursts were gone so we did see traffic but in general

the table was fairly quiet.

Esther

Tabling at Elk Grove High School October 20 2011

Lynne and I were pleased to see Zach join us for tabling at his '07 alma mater. A number of teachers, students and staff members all stopped over to say "hi" to Zach.

Our theme for October has been Domestic Violence and how bullying and domestic violence is on the rise among our returning veterans with PTSD, as well as, those that have never left our shores and are increasingly bullying and committing violence on their family members and girlfriends.

On a poignant note; one young girl visiting our table became quite emotional and has obviously been very much affected by domestic violence...we encouraged her to read our handout, see a school counselor and step up to report the perpetrator.

Purple ribbon pins are the symbol and we made them and passed them out to students coming to visit our table along with the usual peace patches, buttons and (ever popular) starbursts. We encouraged submissions to the zine and received a lot of support from the staff with a small monetary contribution from a teacher.

Esther

Tabling at WHS October 11 2011

One young man spent his entire lunch hour at the table and we had a very interesting and wide-ranging discussion. After school his plan is to travel to Canada and live off the land; completely off the grid. And when I challenged him about not being able to change the society he is so critical of by dropping out of it, he countered that he feels he will be able to change attitudes of the people he meets and therefore change society.

One of our regulars attended Occupy Chicago yesterday with her parents. Awesome!

One young man started out by saying that he disagreed with our position but after talking a bit it became clear that he thought that being anti-war was anti-soldier. "Honor the warrior; not the war" was my response. He realized that we were pretty much on the same page.

But the principal thing I took away from the experience today was the number of students that don't know what they want to do after high school; that feel a lot of pressure to have a 'goal'; that think their only options are college or the military. I think it's too bad that society can't give them the space to take a year or two to mature and figure out what they want to do.

Tabling at PHS October 4 2011

Had several meaningful conversations with students but otherwise pretty slow. Mr. Camardella stopped by. He is teaching World Religions and they are studying Ghandhi right now so he was interestd in the brochure from the War Resisters League which contains an essay on "What Is Nonviolence". A couple of students took a copy of the zine and seemed interested in writing an article for the next issue.

I placed a sign on the table that posed the question "Where The Heck Is Afghanistan And Why Are We Still There?". No one could find any rationale for our continued presence there. Several were shocked to learn that we've been in Afghanistan for 10 years – longer than ANY OTHER war.

Libby

Tabling at EGHS and JHHS in September 2011

We had origami paper and directions, as well as, pre-made peace cranes to pass out in celebration of Peace Day, September 21. EGHS and JHHS were actually both a lot of fun in September, with lots of students stopping at

the tables and many interested in making peace cranes. (Shari's large crane went over big – next time we do need to figure a way to hang these sorts of things on a flagpole-like apparatus!)

There were two male students at Hersey that both knew very well how to make the origami cranes and had some fun making them again – it had been a number of years since both young men had last made them. The young men had different lunch periods and were at the table at different times but, interestingly, both told of the ancient Japanese legend that says anyone (or group of people) who folds one thousand paper cranes will have their heart's desire/wish for the wellness of a friend or family member come true. One of the young men had a long period of time off school, due to an illness, and he alone made 500 cranes. He later brought the very long string of cranes back to his middle school as a thank-you to his classmates for their origami cranes, letters, cards and drawings they had sent to him while he was off sick.

Esther

Tabling at Prospect HS September 6, 2011

Rather slow at PHS today. Several students were interested in the peace cranes. Quite a few seemed to remember how to make them from their childhood. One young man took a piece of paper, disappeared into the cafeteria and proudly emerged 10 minutes later with a perfectly folded origami crane!

Libby

Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS September 6, 2011

The high school freshmen this fall don't remember a world or their nation before 9/11. For them, living in a nation at war is normal. These kids have no idea what living in peace means! One of the 9th graders asked me, "what on earth our nation would do if it didn't have a war to fight?" What indeed? BTW, nobody I talked to today, whether faculty or student or staff, had any idea why the US is at war in Afghanistan.

Lots and lots of students came to the table. Frosh and sophs. We had so much interesting stuff on the table that it was a challenge for one person to manage it all with a steady stream of students. (Because September 21 is International Peace Day we decided to use that as our theme for September tabling and made cranes out of origami paper.) One young man tried to show me how to make an origami crane that flapped its wings. The students really liked the new buttons and the peace patches. It was fun to see kids walking around with peace buttons and patches on their shirts.

Tabling at Buffalo Grove HS Monday May 9, 2011

Not a lot of traffic at our table today. However, several students commented that they had studied the Freedom Riders in U.S. History. So, that's encouraging.

Lynne

Tabling at Prospect HS May 27, 2011

Prospect High School was pretty quiet but we did have some very nice conversations with quite a few of the students – one student that apparently regularly stops to see Libby while she's tabling also stopped to chat with Lynne and me. Quite a few students came to visit our table; all were supportive of our volunteer antiwar work

and the theme for May which was the Freedom Riders from 1961 and the affect the Riders had on the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The day was quite uneventful until towards the end of the lunch periods when some kids put off stink bombs – first in the cafeteria washroom area then in the commons hallway...the natives are getting restless and are ready for school to be over for the summer!

Esther

Tabling at Wheeling HS April 12, 2011

Check our gallery of photos for a picture of the penny pole at Wheeling High School.

Pat and I had a long discussion with two students about the federal budget and what portion goes to the military. We have a handout from the War Resisters League. They produce an analysis of the budget every year and although I know they get their information from the federal government, we were not able to explain why the WRL analysis differed so much from their US History textbook. I will try to find out before we are there in May.

Libby

Tabling at Buffalo Grove High School April 11, 2011

Since Tax Day is in April we decided to use our tax dollars and how they're spent as the theme. We brought the penny pole. There are five 'poles' – education, military, housing, healthcare and environment. Each student was given five pennies and asked to divide up their money the way they would spend it. Between 25 – 30 students played the game. Clearly their priorities reflect their own personal experiences; one young woman was putting all her pennies into housing because her uncle is getting foreclosed. So far looks like a virtual tie between education and healthcare.

Libby

Tabling at Wheeling High School March 8, 2011

Note to self – Do NOT schedule to table on Fat Tuesday. We were sandwiched between the Italian Club selling pastries and the French Club selling candy and students selling tickets to the turn-about dance. Hectic.

But overall it was a good day. We had a number of people stop to talk and reflect on the 8 years of the Iraq war; even if they didn't try to put the events in order.

Tabling at Rolling Meadows HS March 1, 2011

Esther and I had a good day at Rolling Meadows today. From the time things were laid out on the table, we were busy through the first lunch period. The peace patches were well-received, as were the zines and the Starbursts. The patches with peace signs on them were snapped up quickly. So were the ones with two fingers giving the "V" peace sign. Most students were reluctant to try to sort out the time line for the Iraq war, but those who explored it generally were pleased to learn something. The idea that Bush had announced "Mission Accomplished" early on, but the war was still in progress, was not a surprise to most, but they generally thought it was odd and wondered why he had done that. Business was not as brisk during the second lunch period, but we still had quite a few visitors.

A teacher who had visited our table previously came by and shared that he did not understand why a ton of money was being spent on wars while schools were not getting enough funding. I gave him a “Books Not Bombs” patch.

We had literature about women in the military, since March is Women’s History Month and next Tuesday will be International Woman’s Day (the centenary!) Today we did not speak with a single girl who was interested in enlisting in the military.

Lynne

Tabling at Prospect HS March 1, 2011

This month’s theme is the 8th anniversary of the war in Iraq and to raise awareness about this fact we put together a timeline of events. The trick for the students is to put the events in the correct order. The game attracted some attention and it sparked a number of comments – “It’s been EIGHT YEARS???”

Libby

Tabling at Elk Grove High School, February 17, 2011

Lynne and I had fun with a female student that came to visit with us and helped with other students playing the presidential quote game during one lunch period. Many other students stopped; mainly interested in the starburst candy.

Esther

Tabling at Hersey HS February 16, 2011

The day was pretty uneventful – the students that stopped at the table to say hello or inquire what the table was about had some fun with the presidential quotes game...few students knew any answers – maybe less obscure quotes next time – still had fun with it. Kat joined me at the table and she was very good speaking with the students.

Esther

Tabling at Wheeling HS February 8, 2011

It takes some time to play the ‘presidential challenge’ but those that do enjoy it and it sparks quite a bit of discussion. Who knew that Reagan said ‘Trees cause more pollution than automobiles do’. I guess we shouldn’t be too surprised.

The principal stopped by and commented that he would not have been able to match very many of the quotes with the presidents.

Tabling at Prospect High School February 1, 2011

To celebrate President’s Day we had a display (see photo in gallery) matching presidential quotes to the author. Pretty challenging; even for those that know their U.S. History. Not a ton of students tried the game, but those that did enjoyed it and they learned something.

Libby

Tabling at Elk Grove High School January 27, 2011

Today our first encounter at EGHS was a warm greeting and introduction from the new school psychologist offering us bottles of water...that was a wonderful first!

Again, most students coming to our table indicated little or no mention in any of their classes of Martin Luther King and knew little of what he accomplished before being assassinated; even though they had a day off commemorating him. Many of the flyers Libby had put together re significant MLK quotes were handed out today at EGHS, as well as, at JHHS yesterday. The cube/quote game was a success with only a few students actually recognizing any of the quotes...but we had fun with it anyway and King was brought to their attention.

We had a set of twins visit our table today for the first time – it was a pleasure meeting the girls; they seemed quite interested and I'm sure will be back from time to time.

Other than the few obnoxiously annoying kids that love to harass our table and steal handfuls of candy every month; the day went well and was fairly uneventful until—the very end. The bell was about to ring on the close of the last lunch period of the day when a young man named John came over and introduced himself to us as the son of an Anti-War – LBGT activist. John's dad had been just a teenage kid himself when he was brutalized by grown armed men that were supposed to protect him. John's dad was one of the many people attacked and hospitalized due to the beating he received at the hands of the Chicago police while outside the 1968 Democratic Convention. We look forward to visiting again with John and hope he and/or his father will write a piece for our zine re his dad's experiences and how his activism has affected their family. We remarked on what a lucky kid John is to have someone share those experiences with him. Meanwhile the bell rang, we quickly exchanged information, Lynne wrote him a hall pass (he was now late for his class) and hope he and his dad will be contacting us!

- Esther

Tabling at Hersey High School, January 26, 2011

A number of familiar faces dropped by the Hersey table today, as well as, some new faces. Sadly, not one student that stopped by could relay even the slightest mention of MLK in any of their classrooms – I asked that question at each lunch period!

Tabling at Rolling Meadows High School, January 4, 2011

Rolling Meadows High School was fairly quiet today. Nobody came over just to talk. Those who came to the table wanted candy.

Most folks were happy to play the “Who Said That?” game. Without exception, nobody got it on the first guess, even though a life-size picture of MLK, Jr. was sitting next to me. A couple of security staff paused to play the game as they were passing by. They performed no better than the students who played. lol

We made it clear that you didn't have to guess correctly or even guess at all to have candy. Most folks chose to play anyway and had fun. Most eventually figured out the answer was MLK.

One person came over and thought we were from the Special Education district. She took a zine and seemed surprised and intrigued to learn about JAMRS.

A student wearing a United States Navy hoodie walked past the table several times. A group of people was following her. None of them stopped to play the game; they didn't even come quite close enough for me to greet them.

Most students when asked claimed to have already known that MLK was a peace activist. A few said they had not known and were glad to have learned something new.

One student had no idea that she was getting January 17 off from school in honor of MLK—I don't think she had any idea who he was.

That's the report.

The game was a diversion that brought smiles. It also was a distraction from serious conversation. But nobody wanted serious conversation. They were there for the candy.

- Lynne

Tabling at Prospect High School, January 4, 2011

At our last meeting we decided to promote a 'theme' at our table. Since January is the month of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday and since they get that Monday off, we thought that would be an appropriate theme. We decided to create a die. Each side would have one of his anti-war quotes. We would ask the students to roll the die and tell us who was the author of the quote. (The answer, of course, in each case is Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Interest in the poster and die was modest, sadly. One young man asked if Martin Luther King Jr. was still living. Two students noted that they had seen the MLK memorial in Atlanta when they were there on a band trip. A young woman who belongs to the Ebony Club stopped by. She liked the display and stated that she wished the club was a bit more active.

- Libby

Protesting AFTAH

On Saturday, November 13th, I finally got a chance to stand up for something that I care strongly about. Putting aside the idea that it was 39 degrees outside and all I had for warmth was a thin sweatshirt, protesting the horrendous ways of AFTAH was the only thing that mattered. AFTAH (or Americans for Truth about Homosexuality) is a homosexual hate group that runs a "Truth Academy" every year at Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights. The "Truth Academy" preaches lies of "gay tyranny" and ways to put an end to homosexuality in mainstream America. As if defamation of LGBTQ culture isn't bad enough, their target market of this "Truth Academy" is students, ranging from Kindergarten to Seniors in High School.

On that cold Saturday, AFTAH had planned a gala dinner at Christian Liberty Academy and honestly, I didn't know what the idea behind the dinner was. All I knew was that I didn't want that kind of open hatred in my neighborhood. For the past 2 years, much to my parents she-grin, I have been openly bisexual and have been involved in the Gay-Straight Alliance at my school. After having gone to the counter protest (vs. Westboro Baptist Church) at Buffalo Grove High School, I was more pumped than ever to become even further involved in the fight for equality.

The Gay-Liberation Network organized the protest on the 13th, bringing Gay Pride flags and a megaphone to the Academy. A few friends and I arrived around 5:30 PM and we were greeted by members of PFLAG (Parents,

Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gay). The energy level wasn't near as high as I would have expected it to be, but it picked up once the members of the GLN showed up. Our faithful megaphone-screamer was a man named Ryne (pronounces Ryan), who looked like one of the quietest people I have ever seen. We bellowed chants, like "2, 4, 6, 8, Only LOVE can conquer HATE!", "What Do We Want? Equality! When Do We Want It? Now!", and my personal favorite: "Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Homophobia Has Got To Go!". Instead of standing still and chanting without gusto, we started a picket line next to the AFTAH entrance. One woman got very vocal with us, but I guess that's expected. You can't have a good protest without at least an attempted counter-protest.

The best part of the whole night had to have been when one of the GLN leaders invited us all back to his house for vegetarian chili. The conversations I had with some of my peers and some of my elders about how life is for LGBTQ youth and LGBTQ adults today are some that I will never forget. Simply knowing that I am not alone in my proverbial boat fills me with joy. I have never felt such a sense of comradery as I did that November night.

-Kat

Tabling at WHS November 9 2011

Several good discussions with students on career choices/options. Several were interested in AFSC's 'If I Had A Trillion Dollars' video training. I hope a District 214 student will apply. That would be awesome.

Two new staff stopped by our table and we talked to them for a long time. We might have someone interested in sponsoring a peace club at the school; probably not this year but possibly in the future.

Tabling at BGHS November 8 2011

Very slow today until the Marines showed up. Hoo-rah! I was a bit surprised since schools have made a point of NOT having NWSUBPEP and the military at the same time. Apparently one of the recruiters is a former BG student and has to leave town on their normally scheduled day and so they asked if they could come a day early. We coexisted in peace. But the irony was not lost on the students. In fact one student insisted on taking a picture of our table next to the Marines.

Long discussion with a young man who told us Obama is an animal; he wasn't born in this country; he is against Israel. I'm not sure you can interpret the phrase 'Obama is an animal' as anything but racism. He is clearly parroting what he has heard at home. Sad

Tabling at RMHS September 7, 2010

Esther and I tabled at Rolling Meadows on Tuesday, September 7.

Most visitors to the table were freshmen. They clearly had no clue about current events. One girl said she was going to join the army. She had no reason for doing so. We gave her the brochure for girls. Esther encouraged her to go to college before joining the military.

One of the major foci at the table was the question of why we are in Afghanistan and Iraq. We provided sheets of paper and pens for writing thoughts on the subject. Most responses were along the lines of "to kill the bad people."

A few students wrote something about peace. Some appeared to think fighting was intended to lead to peace. Others wanted peace rather than war.

One security person visited with a rant against the proposed Muslim community center in Manhattan. I guess she's disappointed that the right-wingers in Gainesville decided not to burn Korans this coming Saturday.

The primary interest students had in our table was, of course, free candy. *sigh*

Lynne