



MotherSpeak UPDATE

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Long Time Passing: Mothers Speak about War and Terror

After four years of gathering stories from all over the Middle East, Afghanistan, and the US, MotherSpeak founder and author Susan Galleymore's book, *Long Time Passing: Mothers Speak about War and Terror* is available – just in time for Mothers Day!

In 2004, this panicked "military mom," visited her son on a military base in Iraq. What she found there led her to continue her travels to Israel, West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria -- as well as the U.S. and Afghanistan -- to gather the stories of ordinary people caught up in war.

She writes,

when "my son was deployed to Afghanistan in 2003 I awoke from nightmares almost every night: the knock on the door, uniformed military personnel on the doorstep, "We're sorry to inform you...", images of my son disabled like the soldier in *Johnny Got His Gun*, bombs raining on a family's home while a mother screamed out her children's names..., try as I might, I couldn't hold for more than a few seconds the thought of my own child's direct involvement: the pain was overwhelming. I couldn't imagine how mothers could—how I might have to—adjust to the unthinkable: the death or maiming of a beloved child, the nightmare vision of that child killing or maiming others."

Galleymore presents the verbatim stories of mothers, troops, and others from each of these countries in an effort to share how those beyond US borders actually view American activities. It is an indispensable view that gets beyond the media headlines and politicians' scare tactics that "they hate us" for our freedom and our democracy. In fact, "they" don't hate us at all although "they'd" like us to understand their points of view and cultures.

This book is endorsed by **Mary Tillman**, author and mother of slain football star Pat Tillman who states the book "*Eloquently presents the*

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universal fear, sorrow, and suffering experienced by mothers whose lives have been profoundly affected by war.

Dr. Andrew Bacevich whose son was killed in Iraq says this book is "**a must read for anyone wanting to understand the effects of modern war.**"

Published by Pluto Press/Palgrave MacMillan, order the book or find out how to attend a book event at www.mothersspeakaboutwarandterror.org.

Gifts for Your Favorite Mother on Mothers Day

Purchase a gift basket containing an autographed edition of *Long Time Passing*, a hardcover edition of Capt. Chappell's *Will War Ever End? A Soldier's Vision of Peace for the 21st Century...* and hand-crafted luxury items from Juniper Tree:

3 bath salts with aromas:
Pomegranate White Tea
Lavender

Cucumber Rose
3 handcrafted soaps:
Fig and Vanilla Sugar
Lavender
Rosemary

and

1oz herbal facial steam: Rose petals, Lavender, Sage, Chamomile, Lemon Verbena, and Lemon Balm.

Also available: single hardcover edition *Long Time Passing: Mothers Speak about War and Terror*. Order now for delivery by Mother's Day:

www.mothersspeakaboutwarandterror.org/gifts.php

UPDATES

Convention on Cluster Munitions treaty signed!

On December 4, 2008 in Oslo, Norway governments from around the world celebrated the signature of the historic Convention on Cluster Munitions treaty that bans the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions. This Convention, the highest standard in international law for assistance to victims and their communities, also obliges nations to destroy all stockpiles within eight years and to clear contaminated land within ten. As with the treaty banning antipersonnel landmines, this treaty will make it difficult for countries who have not signed to ever use these weapons again. This is result of a "coalition of the willing" campaigning to ban the bombs began after Israel's 2006 war against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Britain – a convert to the treaty – is among the 107 nations committed to signing. America, China, and Russia are among the major powers refusing to sign. Russia and the US have used cluster bombs in Afghanistan despite the drive to ban them. Russia and Georgia – equipped by Israel – are accused using cluster bombs in Georgia where 17 civilians were killed and dozens wounded.

"This is an historic moment, the world has come together and today we have banned cluster bombs forever." said Thomas Nash, coordinator of

the Cluster Munition Coalition. "The sooner thirty governments ratify the treaty, the sooner this remarkable achievement translates into action to save lives."

Signatories include dozens of users, producers and stockpilers and affected states including the Lao PDR, Lebanon and Afghanistan. With 18 of 26 NATO countries signing the treaty, future use by the US will be severely hampered. Other countries not signing in Oslo are also feeling the effect of the two day conference.

Steve Goose, co-chair CMC and Arms Division Director Human Rights Watch, said that this marks "the beginning of the end for cluster munitions, no nations can ever again use these weapons without suffering intense international condemnation. Those who did not sign are on the wrong side of history [and] even those who haven't joined will be under pressure to meet the new international standard."

Raising Sand Radio (www.raisingandradio.org)

Raising Sand Radio airs every Monday from 2 - 3 p.m. (Pacific) at KZSU FM 90.1. Shows air live, stream, and are archived online.

Recent shows:

- Cpt. Paul Chappell, active duty Army and author of *Will War Ever End? A Soldier's Vision of Peace for the 21st Century* (See his special book offer below.)
- With the situation of **Iraqi refugees in the Greater Middle East** out of the headlines in the U.S., many might believe the problems facing displaced people have been solved. Sasha Crowe and Maha are based in Amman, Jordan with the organization Collateral Repair Project. They update listeners on the day-to-day realities facing refugees in Jordan.

Upcoming shows:

- Voices around the country at the *Long Time Passing* Mother's Day book tour
- Focus on Afghanistan

Visit the website for more information, to view a list of all shows, or to search for and download specific shows: (<http://www.raisingandradio.org>)

A Very Special Offer

US Army Captain Paul Chappell

graduated from West Point in 2002, deployed to Baghdad during 2006 and 2007, and is currently deployed as the commander of a Patriot Battery.

Will War Ever End? A Soldier's Version of Peace for the 21st Century is his manifesto for waging peace, making a difference, and building a brighter future. In the foreword Lt. **Col. Dave Grossman**, author of *On Killing*, writes, "I sincerely



believe that the fields of philosophy, anthropology, history, military science, peace studies, and many others, will be able to build upon the concepts set forth in this book in order to help guide our civilization toward a world without war."

Cpt. Chappell generously donated

books to support MotherSpeak. Buy a hardcover edition for \$8. Add \$4 and get a CD of Capt. Chappell's Raising Sand Radio interview. Order at <http://www.raising sandradio.org/promo.php>

All proceeds benefit MotherSpeak's 2009 and 2010 campaigns.

2009 is a big year for MotherSpeak!

We're launching several campaigns in parallel with the publication of the book, *Long Time Passing: Mothers Speak about War and Terror*.

- Networking with mothers and families around the U.S. Middle East, and Central Asia
- Conducting workshops to surface common assumptions about war and activism...and increase capacity to enact effective political activism
- Creating community by sharing skills and talents, art and creativity, hopes and dreams
- Bringing mothers to the U.S. to share stories, end militarism, and build healthy communities
- Preparing to travel to other countries to network, learn from, and support one another in culturally appropriate ways.

Be part of our movement for peace.

MotherSpeak Workshops

We promote progressive ideas and actions...and we understand that that is easier said than done!

Attend a workshop to uncover your assumptions and worldview on diverse topics. We promise that you'll be stimulated as you examine your ways of thinking and being. You'll also be challenged to explore other ways, increase your capacity for effective activism, and develop more effective, productive, and self-reflective skills to bring to your activism.

Learn more at www.motherspeak.org/todo.php.

Get Involved!

MotherSpeak is all about networking people and communities across the country and the world. Wherever you are, welcome to our community. We

can use your ideas, energy, vision, skills, and yes, your muscle to create peaceful ways of being.

Volunteer!

Share your talents, skills, and creativity while expanding your skill set in multiple areas. Or, simply host a book event at your home, church, community hall or other venue.

MotherSpeak Media Podcasts

Compelling audio clips bringing news and views between regular weekly show. Subscribe to or simply download [MotherSpeak Podcasts](http://www.motherspeak.org). (www.motherspeak.org)

Donate!

Ann Frank said, "*No one has ever become poor by giving.*"

It is during tough times that we're challenged to broaden our worldview and create a more generous world.

Our success is your success and every little bit helps. Please, donate whatever you can – no amount is too small – and get Pink Piggy back on her feet! Then track her progress on twitter@motherspeak.org.

All gifts are tax-deductible. Fill out the donation form on the website or send a check to: MotherSpeak: P.O. Box 487, Alameda, Ca 94501



Submissions to MotherSpeak Update, Issue 6

MotherSpeak seeks news about families and military personnel. We are also interested in news and stories that present views from beyond U.S. borders that inform Americans about diverse cultures and lands. Articles can be up to 500 words.

eMail Update@motherspeak.org, subject line: MS Update.

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