

Janet Weil On The Changing Nature Of War

Old Age Is An Excellent Time For Outrage--Maggie Kuhn

Janet Weil, of Code Pink, the in-your face folks who do the protests in front of Berkeley's Marine Recruiting Station, told Gray Panthers April meeting how to look at our wars. Her topic was "The Changing Nature of War under Obama." She began by calling for hands of people who had protested the drones at Creech AFB. There were 5 in our audience.

She gave us two great quotes, one on her T-shirt: "The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off" – Gloria Steinem. The other was from Gray Panther founder Maggie Kuhn: "My goal is to do something outrageous every day."

Janet said she comes from a military family and joined Code Pink in 2003. Since 2007, she's been a staff member. She noted that there's been some terminology change under Obama. "Global War on Terror" has become "Overseas Contingency Operations." The reply renamed "Operation Enduring Freedom" to "enduring f--up." Just as with Bush, there has never been a declaration of war.

Code Pink is especially upset about the drones, the remotely-piloted aircraft which have become the "weapon of choice of the Obama administration." Obama has authorized at least 239 drone strikes (more than Bush did).

Janet finished by telling us to stop demonizing military contractors. "The most powerful force in my life is ME!" We need to get active. The talk was followed by Q&A, with the theme "What Can We Do?"

Some of the ideas:

- Support the occupy movement
- Object to plans to attack Iran
- Educate kids so fewer of them think the military is their only post-school option
- Vote! To elect people who share our views
- Participate in the Living Graveyard demonstration
- Call Barbara Lee to thank her for HR780 (Get Out of Afghanistan)
- Bring up the drones at our monthly Peace Rally
- Personal Conversations – this is how minds are changed.
- *Steve Geller with Avis Worthington*

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If your home needs repairs to keep you safe and healthy, please contact John Stevens at 644-8979 or john@rtebn. April is Rebuilding Together Month.

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