

# Vietnam:

## THE POWER OF PROTEST

Telling the truth.  
Learning the lessons.

MAY 1-2  
WASHINGTON DC

[www.lessonsofvietnam.org](http://www.lessonsofvietnam.org)

April 13, 2015

Dear Walter Teague,

### *WHO WILL TELL OUR STORY?*

*By tom hayden*

*Who will tell our story when we are gone? So much was never remembered, and now the time is rapidly passing.*

*We need to resist the military occupation of our minds. Long-discredited falsehoods are being resurrected again. As one example, the recent acclaimed film "Last Days of Vietnam" depicts the war as one of aggression from the North with a green dagger of invasion pointed to the South. That was the false claim of the State Department's "white paper" we debunked in 1965.*

*As other examples, the Pentagon's recent website trivializes the Pentagon Papers, and restores the Phoenix assassination program, shut down in 1971, as a misunderstood program that was succeeding. We were winning the war in the South, many claim today, when Congress and the peace movement pulled the plug.*

*The Official History becomes a hecatomb covering our truths. So this becomes our last campaign, our legacy to the next generation.*

*The warmakers could win on the battlefield of memory what they lost on the battlefields of war.*

*We must not let that happen. We must unite for the future to overcome our divisions of the past.*

*We need everyone in the peace movement to transcribe their stories so that an oral history of the peace movement can be preserved in a living archive. That's how the stories*



*of past social movements were recorded.*

*We need a new generation of historians to document the peace movement as a truly historic resistance which helped end a war, terminated the forced draft, toppled two American presidents, might have elected a president were it not for assassinations, and shook the country to its foundations until the madness finally was ended.*

*We need to protest the continuing exclusion of our viewpoints from the the think tanks of the powerful.*

*We need to widen the spectrum of legitimate opinion to include a genuine peace option. Having been wrong about past wars should not be a qualification for high political or editorial office. We need to ostracize all those who have never apologized.*

*Healing the wounds of war should mean a faithful commitment to removing the unexploded bombs and mines from the soil of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and preventing Agent Orange from dooming future generations to birth defects and disabilities.*

*The disaster that began in Vietnam still spirals on as a conflict between empire and democracy. The cycle of war continues its familiar path, with memory its casualty. The demonization of enemies. The fabricated pretexts. The secrecy in the name of security. The casualties covered up. The costs hidden off budget. The lights always at the end of tunnels.*

*We need to end this future and assert ourselves in history.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**May 1-2 in Washington** is the place to begin to tell our story. Click [here](#) for the agenda and to register for the conference.

A registration donation of at least \$25 assures reserved seating at the Saturday conference. General admission is a nominal \$5.

Saturday registration at the church requires a donation of at least \$30 for reserved seating.

There is no cost for the Friday night program or to participate in the walk to the Martin Luther King memorial.

Saturday's on site lunch and a special dinner of Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian cuisine must be reserved on line and purchased no later than Wednesday, April 29.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Speakers, Entertainers, Moderators (revised 4/10/15)**

- Jan Barry
- Elizabeth Becker
- Phyllis Bennis
- Jeff Blum
- Becky Bond
- Julian Bond
- Heather Booth
- Taylor Branch

Leslie Cagan  
Alan Canfora  
Rufus Cappadocia  
Robert Cohen  
Jo Comerford  
John Conyers  
David Cortright  
Ron Dellums  
Bernadine Dohrn  
Phil Donahue  
Rev. Ray East  
Bill Ehrhart  
Dan Ellsberg  
Jodie Evans  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Frances Fitzgerald  
Todd Gitlin  
Juan Gonzalez  
Amy Goodman  
Judy Gumbo Albert  
Susan Hammond  
David Harris  
David Hawk  
Tom Hayden  
Julian Hipkins  
Elizabeth Holtzman  
Doug Hostetter  
Gerald Horne  
Jonathan Hutto  
Raed Jarrar  
Channapha Khamvongsa  
Michael Klare  
Larry Korb  
Carol Kurtz  
Judith LeBlanc  
Barbara Lee  
Judy Lerner  
James Loewen  
Staughton Lynd  
Myra Macpherson  
Jorge Mariscal  
John McAuliff  
David McReynolds  
Betty Medsger  
Stephen Miles  
David Morris  
Jack Ballange Morris  
Bob Muehlenkamp  
Rosalio Munoz  
Robert Musil  
Holly Near  
Martha Noonan  
Don North  
Nguyen Nguyet  
Margaret Prescod  
Sophie Quinn-Judge  
Bonnie Raines  
Marcus Raskin  
George Regas  
Brewster Rhoads  
Luis Rodriguez  
Randy Ross  
Mark Rudd

Vivian Rothstein  
Andre Sauvageot  
Susan Schnall  
Pat Schroeder  
Frank Smith  
Wayne Smith  
Marge Tabankin  
Arthur Waskow  
Barbara Webster  
Rick Weidman  
Cora Weiss  
Barbara Williams  
Bethany Yarrow  
Peter Yarrow  
Marilyn Young  
Ron Young

\*\*\*\*\*

### Additional reading

The 40th anniversary of the end of the war is prompting many reflective pieces. Among the most interesting:

"The Scene of the Crime: A reporter's journey to My Lai and the secrets of the past."  
by Seymour M. Hersh

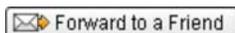
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/03/30/the-scene-of-the-crime>

"After the Fall of Saigon"  
by Ngo Vinh Long

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/Cairoreview/Pages/articleDetails.aspx?aid=794>

"America's Memory of the Vietnam War in the Epoch of the Forever War"  
by H. Bruce Franklin

<http://lareviewofbooks.org/essay/americas-memory-vietnam-war-epoch-forever-war>



#### Vietnam Peace Commemoration Committee

Ira Arlook • Sally Benson • Julian Bond • Heather Booth • David Cortright • Susan Hammond  
Tom Hayden • John McAuliff • Sophie Quinn-Judge • Paul Ryder • Chuck Searcy • Marge Tabankin

---

National Coordinator  
Alan Charney  
646.250.5439

Capitol Coordinator  
Terry Provance  
202.686.7483

Recruitment  
Barbara Helmick  
202.462.6702