

[Reeni

Today's topic is. Women and War.

Okay. And as I said, Rena is not here.

But she sent me the opening statement because she's way better at that than I am. So I'm gonna read that and then we can discuss things.

Women have fought bravely in wars of resistance from the Amazon defenders of Troy to the female gorillas in Vietnam, to Irish rebels like Maud Gunn.

But from the beginning of patriarchy from the Old Testament to the Trojan War to the Armenian Rwandan Bosnian and Gaza genocides women have primarily been wars victims. Enslaved, raped and murdered. And/or they have been left to suffer and grieve the loss of husbands, brothers, friends, sons who were sacrificed to the gods and merchants of war.

Militarism, the ethos of war extends beyond its blood drenched fields and ruined cities.

It ravages our society in peace as well as in battle. It values and cultivates aggression while it devalues compassion mercy and empathy. It pollutes male socialization, crippling men emotionally and fostering violent behaviours and attitudes.

The ethos of militarism is founded in power as force. In the creation and domination of enemies.

It extends to and supports capitalism the economy that aspires to making killings on Wall Street and waging a relentless war on Mother Earth.

Militarism prioritizes destruction over life. Impoverishes many dimensions of our lives and our society.

Here in the most advanced patriarchy on the globe, obscene US so called defense budget illustrates the inverse relation of militarism and quality of life. Our resources are wasted on weapons and endless wars while we starve life quality. Health care, elder care, daycare, homelessness and poverty are the shameful stigmata of the richest country in the world.

These comments and insights are the fruit of the second wave genius. We reflect the many brilliant feminists who brought to light and criticized the intertwining of militarism and sexism.

And those who continued the long noble tradition of women warrior for peace and justice.

Because war and militarism so pervade our lives, our psychologies, our culture and our social economic conditions.

We can approach this conversation on many fronts. We can decide where to begin. By simply starting with the question: how have the many wars our country has been involved in or initiated affected your life?

[Sue Reamer]

Well, hi everybody. This is a critical. we have so many important discussions.

But, this is a hidden fact. Did you know that one out of 3 women historically before Antibiotics before died in childbirth.

I believe that so many nations, including our nation, are against birth control because they want the boy babies to be in more.

I know this is a fact. This has been studied. They want more babies for war and they want females to keep procreating.

And that is in addition to everything else you have mentioned

in addition and that is a fact that millions of women have died historically in childbirth for the sake of war.

Thank you.

[Terry Baum

This is the 1st time that I've been intensely motivated enough to join these. Well, of course I'm also free.

I happen to be much freer now, but thank you for having this discussion. First, I just wanna say that rape used to be a plunder of war. Men were entitled to rape.

The women that they conquered, even raped the women who were freeing from an invader.

It was they were entitled to it and it was not considered a crime and it was changed. I can't remember her name anymore.

But she's, the Costa Rican.

Okay, she was a Costa Rican minister of justice and she was a lesbian.

I knew her because her girlfriend, I was the girlfriend after the Minister of Justice and And she was appointed to the War Crimes Tribunal with the intention of making rape a war crime. And she succeeded in that.

So I think I think that's pretty special and it that the fact that it was a dike who did it.

Is a big deal. She took away my girlfriend too, but you know, what the hell? If you're gonna lose somebody, should be to the vice president of the war crimes tribunal.

And also, the woman who wrote. Great, the grapes of wrath, you know, the Anyhow, she originally Mother's Day was Mother's Day for Peace.

Julia Ward Howe founded it after the world after the Civil War and it was a holiday focused on organizing women to take action all over the world on the same day for peace. And I think it would be a wonderful idea to bring that back.

And there's a wonderful proclamation that she has that I could send to everybody and I felt that statement that you read Reeni was wonderful and I would love to have a copy of that.

[Tina Minkowitz]

Okay, so. I wrote down just a few thoughts and not all of it is necessarily you know, explicitly related to sexism or that I can't necessarily see, but just thinking of how the wars our country has engaged and affect me.

The main thing that came to me is it really chokes our society and

I remember I was just, you know, I guess a young teenager when the Vietnam War ended.

And I just sort of witnessed all of that, you know. That passing out of things. And then the US wasn't making any war on anybody for a while as far as I knew although I'm sure they still had their military bases everywhere.

And then they bomb the small island country of Grenada. And then they went after I guess it was Noriega in Panama and then they just kept going on and on and on from there.

You know, they did the thing in Iraq. Related to Kuwait and then after 9 /11 all hell broke loose and now we have them supporting genocide in Gaza.

And I mean the military budget chokes the society. But I think also

I mean, I feel like deep weight of grief over all of these wars. It isolates the US in the world. It makes us, you know.

At the same time as we're pouring all this money into the military. The economic equality and class inequality is stark in this country has expanded. Just magnified over my lifetime. And.

You know, the infrastructure is crumbling. I'm always afraid when I travel, you know, if I'm going over a bridge or in a tunnel, is it going to fall where's gonna be the next failure?

And with airplanes, I mean, that's more global capitalism, but you know, everything feels risky right now and climate change where we haven't done anything certainly not good enough to fix any of that.

So. That's really what I feel has been the the main impact on me that I feel a lot of grief about it.

It isolates this country just in so many ways our posture internationally and that affects me as somebody who's active in a lot of international human rights work and things of that nature.

And yeah, that I care about the world and it's choking our society the whole military and security state both and how they're related.

[Valerie Hauch

Hi everybody, I'm Valerie, even though I was. Really for a few minutes when I came on.

Anyway, this is such an all-encompassing question about how have the many wars affected my life?

You know, when I was a child the Cuban Missile Crisis was happening and, the height of that posturing at that time of the US and Soviet Union threatening each other and I grew up around Washington, DC. Arlington, Virginia and, And I think for that reason I felt it as a child even more intensely, but I was terribly afraid.

I was, terribly afraid of nuclear war and we were having these, so-called, air raid drills in school where the the siren would go off in the school and we would hide under our desks.

Consider the absurdity of that. When Washington DC would have been the target. But, I'm just saying that I had that fear active.

Conscious fear that I traveled with. And in college. You know, I mean, well, even in high school, but especially in college, we were protesting the Vietnam War.

With that kind of youthful hope, you know, assurance that our generation would like, Do away with or at least have an impact.

And I think the fact that this awareness of war and the global fear of nuclear war.

Really, helped, and then coming out, helped radicalize me and I was raised to be a good citizen.

You know, the good citizenship of kind of white middle class America. And, you know, by the 19 eighties, my partner and I were protesting in Minneapolis and St.

Paul and with the Honeywell Project, the Honeywell Corporation didn't just produce thermostats.

You know, they were making cluster bombs that were used in many wars in Southeast Asia and were blowing up children and adults.

So where because they were buried in the earth and we were actively protesting and then going to jail for that.

Or being assigned to, you know Community service and but it was it was difficult for me. It wasn't like an easy thing to do. I had to cross borders in myself of like, quote, breaking the law and realize who was really breaking the law.

Human rights laws and we went on with that and we're very involved in the women's peace camp in Minneapolis and St. Paul and just continued to protest and in the eighties and nineties and then you

know when after 9 11 these terrible wars broke out it was just sickening I mean and we also participated in the Mother's Day March for peace that was organized by women against war in the Twin Cities and yes, Mother's Day as it should be observed as a peace movement.

So I guess, and now that I'm older, I feel I really appreciate the comment on grief.

I feel a deep sense of sadness. Because of with all of the current wars and just the understanding that we live in a state of constant wars. Whether they're initiated or supported by our country or started in other areas of the world. That we live in a state of constant warfare. And how sad that makes me.

It doesn't make me less appreciative of all the efforts in the past and present to confront this.

But it does leave me with a deep sense of grief and loss. Because I no longer have that youthful, assumption that somehow we'll get things fixed.

So, it's deeply affecting my life and, and I do see it as a mainstay of patriarchy. Continual war. And it is a war against women and children. Oh, war against all human beings, the war against all creatures.

A war against our planet. It's all goes together. And so I still am a protester at heart. I can't be out on the streets as I once was, but I have friends my age who are.

And I'm very grateful to all. Of us who can still do that at our age. I just don't have the mobility to do that.

So, I'll pass with that, and thank you.

[Stets

Okay. A war has always sort of been in my life. I was like in 1st or second grade when World War 2

began.

And I basically find that war as such is almost created to give males the feeling of privilege. Of being able to be in charge and to I guess I want to say order or force other people to do their wishes.

And each and every war has caused more of it. But what I remember about World War 2 and how it affected my life was I learned a lot about grief. Because there were many gold star mothers on my street. And my mother would always send me to them with a cake or whatever.

To wish them well. And to hope all worked out for them. I can remember one of them and I said to her afterwards, is there anything else I can do besides deliver this fruit cake?

Anyway, long story short, I asked if I could do anything else and she put the fruit cake down and she hugged me and cried. And thanked me for being the person who allowed her to cry over her 3rd son who had been killed within the last 4 months.

I don't know how to explain what it gave me, but it made my life very different from a very early age. And so war became I guess I wanna say something I hate and yet don't know what to do about because I am aware it is the balls that are taking over.

And pushing everyone else around. It means they can make money. Big cause, oh yes, war costs money.

They can be in charge. Oh yes, because war means we have to control things. I mean, there are so many different aspects.

It all depends on where you're looking at. But all I know was I learned very early on just how hard it is to lose someone you love. I that has made a lot of difference in my life and how I live it.

Thank you.

[Sue Reamer]

Thank you. Valerie, I loved what you said about all your war activity.

I mean, your anti-war activities for peace over the years. I'm ashamed. I wasn't a nurse, though I was working in the hospitals, and a visiting nurse field.

But, and also Stets I too grew up in World War 2. I always remember 2 of my dearest friends their fathers were killed in World War 2.

My dad was just a dentist. They kept them an extra year in Europe and he said you don't want to even hear about what the damage he followed the front lines.

And did repair work, you might say, surgeries. So anyway, but what I'm going to say, it affects me not only the way it affects Stets and Valerie, but also we're coming to a war in America.

This is what really scares me. Unfortunately, I subscribe to what I call very left liberal magazines, the best of which is the Nation.

Anyone else here get the nation? Well, I can hardly read it. Barely read it these days because they tell the truth.

Now here are the facts and I can tell you as a nurse. Guns, we are an armed, arsenal here in America and we do have guns that are equivalent and even better than what our army is equipped with because the idiots who are called our

legislators, let any kind of gun be owned and carried and blah blah blah.

Then we have a split in our country and I am scared to death. If Biden is reelected, they're promising to turn to deny the elections to say it's wrong and the white nationalist the half that I'm not for that are very scary they want to war and they have the guns and I don't know that all they did was attack the capital on my 79th birthday.

Thank you. But I don't know what they're going to do when Biden loses If I mean wins and then if Trump wins, we are in deep deep warlike trouble.

And that is how it affects me. I don't even watch TV except for a very slow TV.

I tend to watch movies and stuff like that. I cannot watch the news because people, the newscasters are in total denial of what's coming down the track.

People don't want to hear about war. That's why there are only 15 of us on this, this wonderful discussion. I don't know whose idea it was.

I'm on the planning committee but I can't remember who brought it up but we should all be on this discussion because like it like the Vietnam affected Valerie so much and and World War II affected Stets and me.

The future war is gonna be bad for all of us and I am so sorry to bring up a future war here on our country.

Oh by the way the Civil War we're still paying the price not for the Civil War but for the half of America that lost the Civil War, the White Nationalists I've read.

I was shocked. I did not know the real history of slavery in America. I was totally naive.

And boy, I've tried to learn not only through programs that we've had here on Oloc, but a lot of reading and it is shocking how the wight nationalists go right back to this.

The owners of slavery of slaves, they still have that attitude. So I'm sorry to yell, scream and speak my piece, but I am so thrilled you are here because then maybe tonight I'll sleep a little more peacefully knowing that we're here together and that's it.

And maybe we will save America. Thank you.

[Terry Baum

Thank you for that reminder. I'm really glad to go after Sue who talked for the 1st time about elections. And the relationship between a electoral politics and war. And I think it's very, very important and I feel I'm not saying protest isn't important.

But I feel my generation got stuck in protest. Meanwhile, the Republicans were figuring out how to win elections first, you know, on the library and board of education and going up and up.

And I think it's very important to remember that when a war is stopped, it's also stopped by elected representatives and the plan to get out of Vietnam, which I think we're all old enough to remember that, which was incredibly abrupt with really people, if you remember, hanging on to the helicopters to get the hell out of there.

That was the plan of Bella Abzug. Now she did not have, she had the idea of just stopping the appropriations.

Boom, like that, which the House of Representatives can do. And in order to get it passed, she did not have her name on it.

Because she was known to be radical. Much more radical than other people. So she had other people carry the bill, but it was her plan that did it.

I didn't know this until I saw this that documentary about her that was made and so I am proud to say I was her personal aid on her very first congressional campaign.

But, I think we have to have more focus on electing people who truly represent people like us.

And not only protest. Protest is important. But ultimately we have to elect people who agree with us.

And Sue mentioned the absolute, quite frankly, the absolute necessity of us doing everything we can to reelect Biden.

Although perhaps none of us are enthusiastic about him at this moment but if the reality is that is a crucial moment for everybody alive in the United States who's a voting age.

What are you going to do in this election? And it has a lot to do with war.

[Batya]

I'm in Virginia and I want to apologize for coming in late.

I, my car was total and I've been involved in car shopping but I guess we're talking about how war affects us.

That's the topic. So, I'll probably start crying while I'm talking, but this is really a mass war is really

affecting me.

I'm spending a lot of time studying because they print what's going on in much more detail than just listening to democracy now and I have friends over there.

There's bombing on the northern border. There's massive protests against Netanyahu.

The society is being torn apart, the war council quit. And, you know Iran might bomb if Lebanon gets involved and you know we're living in a firecracker the whole thing could blow up and become a nuclear war so fast and so I'm worried about my people there. I'm worried about all the horrible things that are happening to the Palestinians.

I just heard a broadcast that the Hamas leader is not likely to make an agreement that would, that was on NPR if people want to know the source.

He's way underground and he knows a lot about Israeli politics and he's waiting till the ultimate last moment to make any kind of agreement.

And it's scary to me. It's also affecting me because I feel like I can't talk about it with anybody or with hardly anybody because immediately people start trashing the Israelis and they don't understand there's a difference between the Israeli government and all the people that are protesting.

They don't understand the complexity. And if I try to open my mouth about anything like that at all, I just learned to keep it shut.

So I've been very isolated during this war. And the Vietnam War affected me because I went to jail, you know, to try to stop it with the slogan if we can't stop the war, we'll start, if the government won't stop the war, we'll stop.

The government, and even though that was my youth. I'm very split about what's going on in the campuses because I don't feel like the protests are pro-peace.

They're pro one side instead of wanting to be pro peace or at least, you know, there's terrible.

So my identity as a war protester is at the root of who I am and yet if I was on campuses now I don't know what I would be doing.

I'd be terrified to be on at campus right now. When it was so easy when I was, you know, 18 or 19 to just jump in a van and go to jail to stop the war.

With very little information, I'm afraid that people are doing the same thing. And sometimes I've seen protesters interviewed and they don't even know why they're protesting and that really really scares me. And also World War II has really affected me. I go to the Women's Declaration International Film showing every Saturday and we just saw a terrible film about the the head of Auschwitz and eventually he was killed by the Nuremberg trials but you know just even seeing what happened during World War II puts me out for a few days.

So I really wanted to come and I'm apologizing again for being late and it also really bothers me how sexual assault happens during war and I don't want to get unpopular here, but there was some sexual assault on October 7th and Kamala Harris is now speaking out about it.

It was very hard to speak out about it on the Women's Studies list. A lot of us would just shut down and shut out of reporting anything because they said it had to be women's studies and not current politics and I was saying look you know if people study the history of women in war as part of women's studies they have to know what goes on during war and not just wait till you know, it's a less popular war or more unpopular war, whatever, like the Bosnia massive rapes of women happen. So, again, I'm sorry for coming late, but, I'm on edge about the Israeli war right now.

And I'm spending a lot of time following it and I have no one to talk about it with.

So that's why I wanted to come even though I'm late. So thank you, I pass.

[Phyllis Solow

Okay.

Thank you. Everybody for speaking. This is a really painful topic. For me.

I think I was, I grew up really sheltered and protected during the war and really didn't know the truth

about a lot of things until I became an adult and became involved politically and I see I have I always felt like, okay, we can do something, we can do something.

And I feel really cynical and hopeless now about the state of the world and it feels really awful and painful.

The Republicans. Project 2025.

Sounds to me very much like, Minecraft. And that terrifies me.

I mean the Nazis laid it all out. And now Trump and his people have laid it all out.

And in Germany, everything happened within 6 months. It was so fast. And I'm really frightened.

I'm too old to move and move where? I'm just too old to start a new life somewhere.

And it's very, very scary. I think I'm continually amazed that human beings don't learn.

That we keep doing the same thing over and over and over again. And that's really depressing to me.

And I I'm frightened, I'm frightened of what's going to happen after the election in November. Either way. It frightens me.

So I really, really, really appreciate this group. Because there aren't many people I can talk to about this.

People say, oh, that's really depressing. I don't wanna hear that.

I can't ignore it. I just can't. So thank you everybody for being here.

I appreciate all of you. That's it.

[sally tatnall

What's happening with Israel and Palestine is picking one abuser over the other and I see it all the time.

And a lot less you know, protect the Palestinians. I see that as a way to raise anti-Semitism in this country. I am appalled and it all comes back to It's man and man war.

We are women. We do something. I get passionate about this. I'm sorry.

But don't we, have we forgotten our analysis of sexism. There's no reason any Oloc person should support either one of those teams.

They are not our teams. Men war. There is pain and abuse. And oppression on both sides.

We have to stay clear. We have to support each other. We end this. This group on sexism?

I'm just even more and more. One and to put this out in oloc. Because there are so many examples where an understanding of sexism is not apparent. And I don't know what happened. I mean, I sort of do know what happened because we sort of moved on.

And you know, there was no public way where sexism was addressed. You know, they just went on the way they was gone.

So for me, I feel we have work to do. And thank you. Thank you so much for being here.

Thank you for this sexism series, thank you.

[Sally Goldin, Emelle Sonh]

Hi. So, Reeni and I grew up. We're red diaper babies, which means that our folks were in the Communist Party U.S.A. and we grew up with radical anti-war politics.

And that, I mean, so from very young like somebody was talking about getting under your desk to get away from the A bomb or the H. Or whatever they were doing then.

And I mean, I remember that Reeni and I were in elementary school where we were a couple of grades apart and they would say crawl under your desk and what I remember is that I wouldn't do it and Reeni wouldn't do it.

And so we both get sent to the principal's office because I mean what the fuck is it gonna help if you crawl under your desk?

Is that going to prevent you from being incinerated? It was so bizarre. But that was the feeling in the country.

Right. When I was in college. Which was around 1966.

I joined, I studied Russian at that point. Because my father was born in Russia. And came over here

when he was 6.

And so I was interested in the language. And so I joined the study tour from Ohio State University to go on a six-week language study tour of Russia and we were told that we could bring stuff that the Russians didn't have.

Like from that they like to get in the black market like records or jeans and stuff and what I decided to bring were all my anti-war anti-Vietnam war buttons.

You know, US out of Vietnam and you know, like that. And because I was really worried that if I went over to Russia as an American they would think that I was part of the establishment views that I hated Russia. And so I was trying to figure out a way to bring something that would separate me out from that perspective and Ohio State University when they heard I was gonna do that said you can't bring them. And I was like, watch me, you know?

And eventually I brought them, they couldn't stop me. And I gave away probably 80 to a hundred buttons and people love them in Russia right so that's how we grew up and that's always, you know, that's been our perspective is that war is bad.

I don't care what the war is. It's we don't want. Stop killing people it seems really really basic stop killing people and code pink has who I love.

I really love that organization and they're very much they keep their target on anti-war stuff and I also agree with all of you who have said that it's really scary what's happening in the coming election. No matter who wins. And for me it's true also I have some disabilities now and mobility issues so that I can't go running out into the streets as easily as I used to.

But it's really true that it's terrifying to think that we could be in the middle of a civil war ourselves and what are we gonna do?

What's gonna happen, you know, and. I am really glad that there are so many people here that are willing to talk about this and are willing to admit and be part of a conversation, even if we don't exactly know what to do.

What I had wanted to do originally, but I'm on my iPad and I can't do it from here is there's a lot of really wonderful folk songs that deal with anti-war. Buffy St. Marie has a song called The Universal Soldier. Phil Oakes wrote, I ain't marching anymore.

Bob Dylan, wrote Masters of War and Mavina Reynolds who's just a magnificent woman who started writing her folk songs at the age of 60 something wrote a song called, I forget what it's called, but It's an anti-war song and it says the bankers and the diplomats are marching in the army.

We hate to see them go, but it's like. Oh, we hate to see them go the gentleman of distinction in the Army and it's about sending away to war all the bankers and the rich people who love to plan the wars And they go marching away and and they'll we'll give them a gold shovel to to dig their hole in the war and when they come home we'll bury them in fort Knox.

So you should look up that song. It's a marvelous song, Melvina Reynolds.

[Reeni Goldin

It's called, We hate to see them go.

[Sally Goldin, Emelle Sonh]

We hate to see them go. It's just. Phenomenal.

It's really phenomenal. Worth listening to.

[Beth York

Thank you for doing this. How timely. My goodness and how wonderfully educated we all are on different aspects, the multiple layers of war and violence perpetuated upon women and children. Perpetuated upon the planet. The level of violence in our world just overwhelms me.

I grew up learning the 10 Commandments and I took thou shalt not kill very literally. How incredibly



wise is that. We should be loving the planet who gives us birth. We should be loving our mothers. We should be respectful. And as I grew older, and learned about how war has been perpetuated through my lifetime.

My grandfather, my father all fought in their respective wars. I also protested against the Vietnam War. And just recently have been much more affected, I think in a long time by what's happening in the Middle East. I have visited Israel. I have a dear Palestinian friend and both of those experiences have given me, even a deeper understanding of the hypocrisy of a establishing a state that perpetuates militaristic activity against another people. Much as that I'm not speaking of Israelis right now.

Is how The Jews were decimated by the Germans in World War 2. It's just beyond my comprehension that the state of Israel can perpetuate this kind of atrocity against the Palestinians.

And I too have a difficulty talking about this with many, many of my, even my Jewish friends who feel that if I talk this way that I am expressing anti-Semitism and I am not expressing anti-Semitism.

I am expressing Thou shalt not kill, what's wrong with that?

What is wrong with that? Why can't we at least consider? I also recognize that as I look at the quote unquote peace process that's been happening with various Middle Eastern countries attempting to negotiate some kind of ceasefire or some kind of peace to at least let medical equipment and food into into Gaza. I'm also realizing that people that are sitting around these peace tables, there are no women sitting around these peace tables. They're all men and they're all countries that perpetuate misogyny against the women in their own countries.

And it's just where are the women in the negotiating the peace process? I want to find them.

I want to know who is speaking out against the war I do my friend in Israel right now lives in Haifa And she tells me I'm on WhatsApp with her rather currently and she tells me about the every day there's protests all over the country.

Every day they're protesting and wanting a new election. To get Netanyahu out of the picture.

But they also have to do the same thing with Hamas because I hear the Palestinians are very much against the Hamas leadership.

And want to get them out of the picture. Some leadership needs to change on both sides. And just the incredible difficulty of seeing that happen.

My friend from Haifa says, I'm not sure this will happen in my lifetime. And that makes me incredibly sad.

I'm sad and I care for her. And all she is going through the post-traumatic stress is incredibly deep i don't know how she lives from day to day and her son lives in Akko, which is right near the Lebanese border.

And she fears for his life. And so this is affecting me very personally right now.

And in a way that it never has. Thank you.

[Stets

I hear what everyone is saying and I certainly agree with you and my heart feels for many of you.

But the one realistic thing I think we can do for ourselves is to be sure to have a plan.

Because as I can see what is going on it does not matter who wins in November. Our American grown Hitler is going to have a war because he wants to rape another woman.

And I am sorry that's what it's all about as far as what I can see. From our American Grove.

And please, I don't even like to say his name because we all know it only too well.

And I pray they won't make it in. But I have a feeling we'll have war either way.

Please, I hope all of you have an alternative plan of where to go. Particularly if you live on the East Coast, cause I think you're gonna get it first.

Sorry about that. Thank you.

[Ariane]

Yeah, so I'm just trying to get a little something to eat. I am so glad you all said that.

Beth, I couldn't agree with you more. I, my father was a theologian worked on Christian and Jewish theology.

And I, you know, go over there and listen to him in the seventys but in 2012 I went with a Palestinian Christian to Palestine and it was horrible.

It was really horrible. Talk about apartheid. Really, really bad. The institutional situation.

and the poverty and the settlements and all that. So I feel just completely devastated seeing the pictures I watch Democracy Now and just pictures of the families and the children.

Oh god. People whose whole family's been destroyed and then they just moved 5 times and being bombed and it's just so awful.

3,000 people for one shower and 800 people for one toilet and then they get bombed and have to move again.

It's unbelievable. So I just, I feel devastated that our tax dollars are providing the arms for this. And I respond to everything I see but definitely to feel like I'm not doing enough and that this is what genocide looks like with the rest of us living our lives. I'm just so devastated by it. I'm glad to hear you mention that.

[Tina Minkowitz]

So There's a few things I want to respond to, but. Mainly, there was one other thing where 2 other things that affected me in relation to war growing up.

I went to Yeshiva's in elementary school. I was in elementary school during The 6 Day War.

In 67. And I remember, you know, we were all cheering. You know, for Israel, like mighty little Israel, won against all those Arab countries.

I remember also going to a camp. Think it was one that was run from something called Educational Alliance in New York City.

I think it may have been related to workmen circle, now worker circle. That was the year I was almost 11 and I was with some older kids. I remember they had us form into like Teams.

That we were sort of playing it wasn't quite war games but playing like going around even at night in it was a weird thing, but I thought that they let us do this, you know.

We were in teams that like some were the Israelis and some were the British. And that was really intense to me.

Like that they're having us not just doing kinda war games almost, not with guns or anything, but thinking of ourselves as as fighting a war and that we weren't at that time, I thought. it's not even Israelis against the Arabs they're doing.

It's Israelis against the British. Which was about like the founding narrative and even more intensely militaristic thing that they were promoting in us.

They were promoting the idea of having an awareness that as Zionists, but really as Jews that our identity and our relationship to Israel was bound up with militarism.

In my early twenties. I came in contact with the leftist group in New York City, they were communist, anti-imperialist, run by lesbians.

Was groups related to the May 19th communist organization for any of you who may note some of the details of leftist group history.

And they were anti imperialist, anti-whitesupremists, pro women's liberation.

I came out as a lesbian in that setting and I started to challenge I was challenged in my Zionism.

And for me that was the beginning of like, oh, wait a minute, Israel is doing some wrong things like there's reasons to question.

Like, but I would start saying, you know, like sort of grudgingly, yes, I support the Palestinians, but emotionally very attached to Israel.

For many years it gradually just went away. But this I do have to call genocide in Gaza has broken my

heart to an even greater degree and it has wiped out any last vestige of attachment to Israel and to the idea of Israel as a Jewish state. Israel does not represent me. It's not a place I would ever look to for refuge.

I've read a whole lot of stuff starting with things that Andrea Dworkin has written that just really opened my eyes as to the whole history of how Israel was founded and the whole history.

And I do see and experience also anti-Semitism in some quarters around all the stuff going on now and in relation to it I think anti-Semitism has been brought out.

But it anti-Semitism is not what Elise Stefanik says it is. It's not what a lot of people like to say it is that, you know, criticising Israel is anti semitic.

It's not. And I think the existence of the state of Israel puts Jews in danger.

I also wanna challenge like what this is bringing up for me. The whole issue of states created by war. Israel, the United States. The whole history of the development of the state as a political entity in Europe.

As this entity that has a monopoly on the use of violence within its borders is all about war.

And it was all connected with global imperialism. So I think we need to look at war as intimately bound up with the existence of the state. And how the state relates to us as humans and as women.

And one more thing. The Haudenosaunee great law of peace. It's a document that inspires me greatly that I have studied in a number of versions and books written about it.

I mean, this was back, I think some of the dates on it, some of the, you know, the ideas of when it dated to would have been in like the 11 hundreds or the 13 hundreds before colonizers came and they were at war with each other. The women were part of the peacemakers. So very much like what I think Beth was saying, like where are the women?

The security council has a resolution saying women have to be involved in peace making. But that doesn't quite happen when you're actually trying to get the warring parties to stop.

And, but in the Haudenosaunee great law of peace story, the women were involved.

You know, the women had power and they were involved and some of that depends on which version you read.

But the war makers have to be involved and women also have to be involved. So I pass thanks.

[Terry Baum

Could I say something? Cause I might have to leave before this over but I would love, we've talked about 4 different documents.

And I would be happy, put my email in the chat, I would be happy to make a document of all these 4 peace documents which include the original statement on war that Reeni read the Mother's Day for peace proclamation from Julia Ward Howe.

The, I don't know how to pronounce it, but I know you're talking about the New York article that inspired the whole women's movement and the link to the Marvina Reynolds songs. I would love to put those into a document. And send them one document and send it to Reeni who could send it to all of us listed on the zoom, I'm very happy to do it.

So now I'm gonna put my email in the chat because I might I have another appointment and I might have to leave before this is over.

[Reeni Goldin

There is so much going on here. It's making my head spin a little bit.

Cuban missile crisis. I think I was 14. I had a little radio alarm clock near my bed and I heard the news come on.

And I was terrified. And I knew I had to do something. Because as Sally said, the family we grew up in.

So I got up and went and told my parents that I was going to Washington, DC to protest this situation

because I didn't want to get blown up.

And they arranged that I could go with someone, another kid, whose parents were also going.

And we went to Washington, DC and protested the militaristic response of Kennedy. And on the way back in the bus.

A thinker, a progressive radical thinker of the time I.F. Stone was speaking on the radio or something and everyone in the bus was crying.

We were so terrified. He was saying, you know, that there's sort of no way out of this and everyone was crying. I was 14.

The protests against the war in Vietnam.

We were of course part of that and I have to believe that we hastened the end of that war.

We were everywhere. College campuses, on the streets, in Washington. Blowing stuff up if need be and at that point I think there was a need for that, burning draft cards.

I think we hastened the end of that war. And I think we have to remember that.

2 weeks ago I went to Washington

This t-shirt says Not in our name on the front.

It also says Jews say stop arming Israel on the back. We are spending our tax dollars. If you think about it, this came to me recently.

The military budget in this country is bigger than almost all the other budgets put together. We're not educating people. We're not housing people. We're not feeding people. But we're taking money, think about this we're taking money and blowing it up.

All over the world. That's what we do. With your money. And my money, we blow it up.

How can that make any kind of sense? Anywhere, and not just us, I get it. But that's what we're doing in Israel. We're sending our money over there and blowing it up. And killing close to 40,000 people.

The vast majority are women and children and they're innocent. And I say this as a Jew. Not in my name. This is heartbreaking as Tina said. Why the fuck didn't we learn? It happened to us.

And we are turning around and doing it to someone else. How can that be? That's not a Jewish value. That's not a human value. How can we do that? I don't want this whole thing to be about Gaza.

But that's what's happening now. And if you can get out in the streets, do it.

I was at the Encampment in my little town of New Paltz, Upstate New York.

They arrested a 133 people with Gestapo tactics. They had helicopters flying above.

They had spotlights. On a peaceful encampment. They told them to take down the tents.

The kids took down the tents. They had dogs. They had pepper spray.

They dragged these kids off. And recently, all the charges were dropped for over the overwhelming majority of these kids. The cops ought to be arrested and the administration ought to be arrested for arresting these kids for no reason, a peaceful demonstration. But of course that's not gonna happen.

One of my friends in Women in Black, an 83 year old woman got arrested. She got dragged off and then they realized, oh my god. They took it directly to the hospital. Because they had hurt her.

This is Democracy? That's what we say we're fighting for in Israel? Are you kidding me?

And this has nothing to do with anti-Semitism and they're labeling that like Tina said to scare people to make us kowtow, that's bullshit. It's not anti-Semitism but there is a rise in anti-Semitism and you know why? Because of what Israel is doing. Around the world they are creating more anti-Semitism and that affects me because I'm going to be the brunt of that.

That's scares the shit out of me. And the American grown Nazi as Stets said is equally scary. And I don't really know what to do with that because it's very hard for me to think of voting for Biden.

And I hope it doesn't happen. And whatever we can do today in this war situation and the Ukraine, throw that in as well.

Whatever we can do. Write letters make telephone calls. Get out in the streets if you can.

Stand there on a street corner. I have a shirt that says free Palestine. It brings up wonderful conversations in the supermarket. Whatever we can do.

sally tatnall 1937

Okay, I'm gonna quote myself. As long as you are in response, you are not driving the train. And Stets, I want to say you're absolutely right. We don't have a plan. Lesbians love to argue about patriarchy. We love to focus on how bad they are. How wrong they are. I don't want to talk about any of it. Although I don't want to say, I think this is a great session. I loved hearing about how it all affects you. And I want to talk about the heart of lesbians. How come we're not building together? There isn't real solidarity among lesbians. We're too busy. Sort of protecting our own idea or our own identity. And that's what makes us argue. I, you know, I've been in OLOC a long time. And I, you know, watched the group, the discussions on that. Where is our building a plan of solidarity among lesbians? I mean, I've been doing a lot of writing about this and it's so clear to me. That as long as we're focused on the patriarchy. We're not driving our own train. I think that we, you know, this identity politics thing. Very powerful, very powerful, and it is male. The genetic demand of men is to spread your seed. And protect your own DNA. That's in their genes. It will never change. And as long as we go along with it, as long as we protect our own DNA, our own ideas, our own idea. You know that's not how women are. Women are about the community. You know, we are genetically programmed, to take care of someone outside of ourselves. It doesn't mean just have a baby. It means the community is paramount. But I don't see us working toward that, I don't see a plan to that. I'm old. I don't know how much longer I have. And that's what hurts my heart. To see women, my peeps, Lesbians, women arguing. And staying apart because of some small idea about patriarchy. They are all evil. Men are on the planet to help their own DNA. That is their sole purpose. And that's where we are right now. I have a lot of emotional response, especially in a setting like this where we're all struggling, we all feel terrible about what's going on. But how do we turn that tide? How do we begin to say, what is it that women will do? What will we as a community of lesbians do to build solidarity, so an argument about the patriarchy doesn't separate us? This is all this feels so essential to me. And sometimes, in the Google group, or the forum. there'll be an argument and I'll say, well, you know, this is really about men. It's about sexism, This isn't helping. And then silence. Nobody wants to hear that. Nobody wants to respond. So I guess I'll just keep trying to talk about it, but for me solidarity among lesbians is primary. And it doesn't help to argue about the patriarchy.

[Batya]

Okay, thank you. Yeah, I wanted to say that Lesbians were very prominent in starting the women in black over in Israel and there are a whole host of women's organizations working over there. When I was over there, I went with a coalition of women including Mothers For Peace to take things to the childcare center, take toys in Janine. So it breaks my heart when I see what's happening in Janine because I've actually been there. I also wrote a book of 10 years of interviewing of Palestinian Israeli women called searching for peace on hostile grounds: Voices of Palestinian and Israeli women. You can get it by putting Batya Weinbaum into Amazon. I also found when I was over there, I don't want to direct this to anybody, but not all women are for peace. One of the leading of leading women Peacemakers was killed in the October 7th attack. There were a lot of peaceniks on that kibbutz. So, one of my friends who lived in Israel for many years, she was coordinator of the Haifa women's center in Haifa where a lot of this activity convenes. She's giving money right now to an organization called Stand Together, where Palestinians and Jews are working together to do different things. So, I've been trying to get the information from her of how I could promote that. They might seem like really small things, taking toys to a daycare center in Janine, or finding ways for Jews and Palestinians to work together. But what else do we have? So I just wanna say that the book that I wrote gave a lot of visibility to the women peace activists. Because even in that time when I wrote it in the 90s there was a lot of generalization about the Israelis and the women's peace movement wasn't getting much visibility. And they're there, our counterparts are working very hard. So I just don't want us to get lost in

generalizations. And also, we haven't said the word hostages at all. And there are huge demonstrations in Israel asking, demanding to be focused on hostage release. Yeah, I know Hannah Stefan, yeah, we probably know a lot of the same women. But they're there, we're there. Finding ways to work with them to break down the stereotypes of the 2 nationalist regimes. There are people in the Palestinian community that are for peace, there's people in the Israeli community that are for peace, but unfortunately it's the people that are for violence that are dominating the daily life. So I just wanted to speak from my heart about these things. I don't have any answers, but look for Standing Together. It's a little teeny bit of an answer. Thank you.

[Reeni Goldin

Next month is Women and Sports. And Retts and Bonnie are facilitating it.

[Sue Reamer

You pulled it off beautifully. This was the best discussion. I think it was Phyllis. Phyllis said how good it was to be here with you. This is a big worry for me and thank you for helping me really in a way feel a little more positive about it.

[Reeni Goldin

If anyone is interested in joining the planning group and/or has tech skills would be real helpful.

[Sue Reamer

I'm on the National Zoom Planning Committee, so is Stets. And Sally, are you on the planning committee too? Why don't we bring it up to the planning committee because they have the technical specialists. You should you should be getting more help from us and our meeting is July, 12 so at least we can bring that up. Stets and I will mention that you need more support and that's our job.

[Reeni Goldin

Great. Patti O'donnell was helping me for a while, but then she got sidetracked and I've just been leaning on Mev and I know she is way overburdened.

[Stets

One last thing, Be sure each and every one of us pats ourselves on the back. How long these things have needed to be said out loud. We need to do more of this to begin to know where to start to build the things we actually need on the positive side. Because we've all been living on the negative.