



## Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

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Newsletter no. 23

April 2020

Greetings Dear Friends of Peace and Love,

This month we will consider an upcoming historic anniversary. There are a couple other news items, but that will dominate the issue. In addition, I am asking you all to voice your ideas about how our little band of peace seekers proceeds during this season of new normals. Any thoughts on how better to promote nuclear disarmament and all varieties of peace work are welcome. If you wish to submit a story or opinion for future newsletters, please do that too. If you don't want to receive this any more, please tell me, and I'll take you off the email list, but I hope you will stay. Thank you

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The **Honored Hibakusha**, survivors of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, whose numbers are dwindling, have issued an appeal to the people of all nations, urging us to work ever harder to persuade our governments to sign on and ratify the ICAN Treaty, and pledge to dismantle, destroy, and abolish all our nuclear weapons. Their petition, linked here through WPSR's Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, is for signing by individuals, and has been distributed all over the world. I encourage you to sign it, and share it. The intention is to demonstrate the universal will of ordinary citizens. Our organization has already joined the campaign. Thank you.

<https://www.wanwcoalition.org/hibakusha-appeal>

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In conjunction with recognizing the Hibakusha appeal, there is a movement growing, here and around the world, to commemorate the **75th anniversaries** of the August 6 and 9 nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A working group has been established, combining the efforts of many Peace and Justice groups, including Union of Concerned Scientists, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Beyond the Bomb, Code Pink, Arms Control Association, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and by now over a hundred local and regional faith and peace groups, including our own No More Bombs. The idea is to coordinate the actions of all, from local in-person gatherings such as the lantern launching at Green Lake, and online events like lectures, music, and study workshops. In particular, because of the current Covid 19 protocols, and the uncertain conditions in August, virtual programming is a part of all of them. I was fortunate to sit in on a Zoom meeting with many of these folks recently, and was impressed by their dedication to common cause, and their creative skills in planning and coordinating all these events. Many of these groups are now being led by young people who

understand these new technologies. Way beyond me. They are putting up a comprehensive website soon that will show the processes as they develop, and provide technical assistance for any of the groups to use. I have taken the liberty of signing us on to this working group, making no commitments yet as to our participation, and will keep in touch and report to you what happens.

Our opportunity to join this crowd consists in being free to develop our own event locally if we want, or participate in some other group's actions, or all of the above.

**Here is the position statement:**

Seventy-five years ago, the United States conducted two nuclear attacks against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, devastating their populations and destroying their infrastructure. In the process of manufacturing and testing these weapons, civilians within downwind communities, nuclear workers, uranium miners and their families, and military personnel were also exposed to harmful and sometimes deadly levels of ionizing radiation. Following their use in Japan, the production and past testing of nuclear weapons in the United States and internationally continues to harm the health, environment, and cultures of communities around the world.

Today, we are living in a time of extraordinary nuclear dangers. Vital international agreements to reduce and control nuclear weapons worldwide are being abandoned. Budgets for the development and production of new nuclear weapons are growing. Tensions among nuclear-armed nations are rising to levels not seen since the Cold War.

As the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki warn: "We are badly off course in efforts to honor the plea of the hibakusha and end the nuclear threat."

People created these weapons and designed the systems governing their use; people can work to eliminate them.

As the only country to use nuclear weapons in conflict, the United States has a moral obligation to lead the world in ending this menace and restoring communities impacted by nuclear weapons.

We must press our leaders to take the actions necessary to ensure nuclear weapons are never used again and to negotiate in good faith the global elimination of these most devastating weapons of mass destruction.

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**The DOE's** National Nuclear Security Administration has recently announced plans to build a new plutonium pit production facility at Savannah River South Carolina, to refit the Pantex Plant in Texas to do the same, and expand existing pit production at Los Alamos, to at least double annual capacity to make new plutonium pits. There are already 20,000 pits in storage. More info here: <https://nukewatch.org/>

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WPSR is asking us to **contact our Senators** about the 2021 budget now before Congress, to move money from Nuclear Weapons to Health Care for the pandemic. [link here](#) for more information and sample phone and email messages. **Urgent !**

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Ploughshares Fund has a weekly podcast called Push the Button. Past President Joe Cirincione and other members of their team discuss Nuclear Weapons issues, with some very interesting guests.

<https://www.ploughshares.org/pressthebutton> I use the Soundcloud version. Its free.

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Until we can hold another meeting, we encourage you to stay in touch by visiting our website <https://www.nomorebombs.org/> or the Coalition of which we are a member group <https://www.wanwcoalition.org/> where you can connect to Carly Brooks' newsletters.

Also Ground Zero <https://www.gzcenter.org/> Arms Control Association <https://www.armscontrol.org/> and Beyond the Bomb <https://beyondthebomb.org/>

All excellent sources of information, and good people.

We will keep you updated about future meetings, and other activities, and are always open to your suggestions. You can contact us anytime. Our steering committee members are Bud Anderson [budathome2012@hotmail.com](mailto:budathome2012@hotmail.com), Julia Hurd [hurdjulia@gmail.com](mailto:hurdjulia@gmail.com), Wim Houppermans [wh5314b@gmail.com](mailto:wh5314b@gmail.com), and me Tracy Powell [tracy@nomorebombs.org](mailto:tracy@nomorebombs.org). You can also call or text me at 360-840-3826. If you wish to get more involved, and help plan more activities, please join in. We need your guidance and help.

Thank you, for Peace and Love,

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**peace quote:**

"I don't know how great the chance is that the world will survive the next few decades and not be plunged into a nuclear war. If any human beings are alive 50 years from now, they may look back on today's situation as a virulent case of collective mental disease that gripped humanity."

- Victor Weisskopf (1908-2002) , American theoretical physicist who worked on the Manhattan Project

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