



Special Report by Kathleen Flanagan and Julia Hurd  
with Bud Anderson and Wim Houppermans



## COMMEMORATING 76 YEARS

Four of us from *No More Bombs* were graciously greeted August 7<sup>th</sup> at the *Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action*, a peace site bordering the Trident nuclear submarine Naval Base at Kitsap-Bangor, home to the largest concentration of nuclear weapons in the US. We were attending one day of an event titled *A Call to Action, Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki from Testing to Trident to Treaty*, commemorating the first atomic bombs dropped 76 years ago. With COVID numbers on the rise, major changes were made in scheduling, but the flexibility and commitment of an amazing team of volunteers kept key parts of the program intact via Zoom as well as in-person.





Following a tour of the grounds, we greeted two monks from the Bainbridge Island Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple along with fellow walkers traveling by foot from Poulsbo as part of their annual [Pacific NW Peace Walk](#), originating in Salem, OR. Representatives from the Marshall Islands joined the gathering. In a documentary, [The Coming War on China](#), horrifying details of nuclear weapons testing and the results on Marshall Islanders were shown. Rachel Hoffman, secretary of The Marshallese Women's Association, presented some of the challenges facing her people from the 67 tests exploded there between 1946-1958: destruction of their homelands; deadly health effects, including severe birth defects; poverty. Washington State is home to the third largest population of Marshallese in the US.

Dr. David Hall, a Board Member of *Physicians for Social Responsibility*, updated us on the current status of nuclear weaponry, another frightening topic inspiring calls to actions. Tara Villalba, with [Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility](#) as well as coordinator for [Washington Against Nuclear Weapons](#), spoke of her work, as well as her personal story growing up under a dictator in the Philippines, prompting action around demilitarization and dismantling nuclear weapons.

It was a long day, but well worth the effort in the time we spent together, in seeing what we'd heard about for years, in the opportunity to tie origami peace doves to the cyclone fence between the Center and the Base, in witnessing the power of volunteerism, and for re-invigorating a commitment to activism. The event is held annually every August, and we encourage attendance for part of a day, or any of the usual three days. Check out Ground Zero's website: [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org).

See this letter asking President Biden to defund nuclear weapons, signed by our own Dave Paul, WA State 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Representative:



[preventnuclearwar.org/us-officials-letter](http://preventnuclearwar.org/us-officials-letter). Or sign this *No First Use* (Kos) petition sponsored by Ground Zero and others: [Congress must pass No First Use policy](#).

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Thank you Kathleen, Julia, Bud, and Wim for representing No More Bombs on the 76th Anniversary weekend, as we all paid respect to the victims and survivors, and their descendants, of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We are all especially grateful for the active Peace and Disarmament networks our little group is connecting with. All of these groups, and many more, are dedicated to abolishing nuclear weapons, and healing the devastation they have caused. Most are also connected via the [Washington Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#) as listed above.

[From Hiroshima to Hope, Hibakusha, families and friends in Seattle](#)  
[Ground Zero and the Buddhist Community building the Peace Pagoda there](#)  
[Beyond the Bomb](#)  
[Whatcom Peace and Justice Center](#)  
[Nuclear Voices and their contingents of Survivors and Downwinders](#)

We will be making plans soon for our continuing Peacework, including meetings of our larger membership. Our steering committee now consists of Bud Anderson: [budathome2012@hotmail.com](mailto:budathome2012@hotmail.com) , Julia Hurd: [hurdjulia@gmail.com](mailto:hurdjulia@gmail.com) , Kathleen Flanagan: [tomflanagan1@comcast.net](mailto:tomflanagan1@comcast.net) , Wim Houppermans: [wh5314b@gmail.com](mailto:wh5314b@gmail.com) , and Tracy Powell: [tracy@nomorebombs.org](mailto:tracy@nomorebombs.org). Call or text me at **360-840-3826**. If you wish to join in and participate more directly in our activities, please contact any of us, we welcome new ideas and new connections. Thank You! For Peace and Love, tracy

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"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." **Albert Einstein**

"As long as such weapons exist, it is inevitable that the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be repeated."  
**Takashi Hiraoka, former Mayor of Hiroshima.**

