

No More Bombs



Information and Advocacy for Nuclear Disarmament

Newsletter no. 14

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Friends of Peace, Justice, and Compassion,

The summer months are full of big moments, big dates to remember, big ironies. We just experienced one, the day when explosive devices perform as party favors, when selfish bluster masquerades as patriotic righteousness. Next up is Trinity Day, July 16, when the Manhattan Project scientists blew the lid off Pandora's Box. Back in 1945, this amazingly destructive weapon was born at the very moment when the war it was meant to win was already over. Hitler was dead, Nazi Germany was defeated, Europe lay in ruins, as did Japan. Our fire-bombing campaign had already consumed the populations of the biggest Japanese cities, and Russian forces were assembling in Manchuria, poised to invade in a matter of days, when our fledgling president suddenly realized he possessed the most powerful bomb ever made, just waiting to be hurled onto the world stage. We know what happened, August 6 at Hiroshima, and again August 9 at Nagasaki.

This issue is sketchier than usual, I am sorry. To be honest, I am overwhelmed by the enormity of inter-related current events, and unable to sort things out properly, without ranting off into incoherence. So I will just refer you to some better sources of information and commentary. Click away.

[Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#) is one of the most active and effective groups around, lead by several well informed and thoughtful people. Their newsletter is the [Sunflower](#) , and I highly recommend it to all of you. They also publish books and pamphlets that I have found to be fine resources in the study of peacemaking.

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility have graciously included our little group in their [Washington Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons](#). Although we are obviously not doctors or nurses, they have made us welcome among the other mostly bigger and more active member organizations. The coalition's first organizer Lilly Adams, who was our generous mentor the last year, has moved up in the NGO world, and is now leading the nonproliferation office of the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#). Her replacement Carly Brook has also reached out to us, and offered to help us as well. We hope to maintain contact as they plan new initiatives in the state, such as resubmitting the [5 point back-from-the-brink legislative resolution](#) that didn't quite make it in the last session.

One task I am focusing on now is divestment, that is learning about the way big money works in the world of warmaking, and how citizens can influence that process. I recently watched a great [webinar](#) put on by [World Beyond War](#) and [Code Pink](#) that is a good start. If this is something that interests you, please check it out. We hope to start a study group this fall to help each other learn more, and see if there are things we can do as individuals in our own community. In the past, these kinds of strategies were successfully employed to end apartheid in South Africa, and to establish UN treaties banning land mines and cluster bombs. There is an international campaign developing now to do the same in support of the [ICAN treaty](#) to ban nuclear weapons worldwide. The best resource on financial stakeholders is [Don't Bank on the Bomb](#).

I want to leave you with this [story in a recent issue of Crosscut online magazine](#), by a brilliant Seattle based writer Lola E. Peters. She lays out a broad perspective on our nation's history, and shares a new biological interpretation, wherein our penchant for stumbling into wars is like an autoimmune disease of the body politic. I urge you all to read it.

Please let us know what you think. We desperately need new ideas, and we are counting on everyone who cares about the future of life on this planet to join in the conversation, and then to join hands and do the work together. If not here, then anywhere you can.

Thanks,

Bud Anderson, budathome2012@hotmail.com, Wim Houppermans wh5314b@gmail.com, Lyndon Greene anacomaritimectr@msn.com, and tracy w powell tracy@nomorebombs.org, call me or text at 360-840-3826. We really do appreciate your complaints, comments, and suggestions, and will always respond.

Peace Quote:

"I believe it is a fundamental principle that everyone has the right not to be killed and the responsibility not to kill or support the killing of others.

We must encourage all people of good will to join the work of abolishing war and weapons -- not out of fear of dying, but out of the joy of living."

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate

