

# Love the World: Ban the Bombs

73 Years After the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Sunday, August 5, 2018

6:00 pm

## A Program of Remembrance, Grief, Reflection, & Hope

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley & Tondabayashi Serenity Garden (weather permitting)  
Bethlehem

Gathering with Drums

Monica McLaughon & Friends

Welcome & Opening

“Do You Recall...”

Mimi Lang, facilitator

“Hiroshima Sutra”

by Rene J. Navarro

Reader: Monica McLaughon

(This poem was read by the poet at local Hiroshima-Nagasaki gatherings in years past.

Rene Navarro lives in Easton, but is visiting family in the Philippines at this time,

where he plans to organize a poetry reading for Hiroshima Day.)

“Hiroshima Child”

LEPOCO Peace Singers

Lyrics by Nazim Hikmet. Music by Pete Seeger. Arranged by Chris Klump.

Led by Chris Klump.

I come and stand by ev'ry door, But none can hear my silent tread,

And none can see me where I stand, For I am dead, for I am dead.

I'm only seven though I died, In Hiroshima long ago,

I'm seven now as I was then, When children die, they do not grow...

All I need is that for peace, You work today you work today,

So that the children of this world, Can live and grow and laugh and play.

Honoring Those Who Walk for Peace

Readers: Monica McLaughon & Susie Ravitz

(The reading includes excerpts from “Some” by Dan Berrigan, dedicated to the Plowshare 8; excerpts from a *Reuters* report from June 18, 2018 and from a *New York Times* report of June 16, 2018; and news from Voices for Creative Nonviolence and the Afghan Peace Volunteers.)

A Walk with Drumming & Banners to the Tondabayashi Garden (weather permitting)

Honoring the Resisters Who Are Fracturing the Good Order

Part I

Readers: Jim & Debbie Orben

(The reading includes excerpts from Dan Berrigan's Statement on the Act of Resistance

at the Catonsville Nine Trial; and, reports on the Kings Bay Plowshares.

See Kings BayPlowshares7.org for more information.)

Part II

Readers: Susie Ravitz & Mick Baylor

(The reading includes excerpts from writing by David McReynolds at Edge Left;

Excerpts from an article by Peter Drzier, “We Need Nonstop Protests Against Trump,” from The Daily Beast,

and excerpts from the poem, “A People's Historian,” by Kenneth Carroll, written for Howard Zinn.)

## A Moment for Quiet Reflection

### Honoring the Need for Peace & the Witnesses for Peace

**Readers:** Sharlze DiMenichi, Bill Rosebrock, My Lien Nguyen, Nancy Tatz, Everyone

**Reader I:** Ron Dellums, the legendary U.S. Congressperson and anti-war activist, who fought against U.S. intervention around the globe for three decades, died last week. In 2015 he spoke at "Vietnam: the Power of Protest," where he said, "...We must challenge all forms of injustice, because Martin Luther King said we cannot segregate our moral concerns... To come together under the banner of peace forces us to challenge all forms of injustice... Peace is more than simply the absence of war. It is the absence of conditions that give rise to war..."

**Everyone:** Love the World; Ban the Bombs.

**Reader II:** Wildfires rage in California, a lethal heat wave grips Japan, and flames explode near the Arctic Circle. We know we are living climate change. But are we ignoring the role of the U.S. military in creating climate change? The Pentagon uses more petroleum per day than all the consumption by 175 countries. The Pentagon generates more than 70 percent of the nation's total greenhouse gas emissions.

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader III:** Those children may come from abroad, but they are our babies. They represent the legacy of U.S. policies that go back decades... It was the United States that financed the...U.S. Army School of the Americas... The refugees at our southern border are part of the blowback from the wars in Central America... War is one way to kill children; putting them in concentration camps is another...

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader I:** Over 500 women were arrested in the Hart Senate Office Building, in June, for staging a concentric circle sit-in in the building's large atrium. Their banner read, "Families belong Together in Freedom."

At least six caravans of "Grannies Respond" are traveling across the U.S. from various points north to McAllen, Texas, to protest family separations.

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader II:** Singer-songwriter, Roy Brown, said, "Our self-esteem is suffering... Not only because of the hurricane, but because of what has happened since. There's a sense of confusion and disorganization... Most of us are living in the abnormality...that everything that we possess as a Puerto Rican nation is for sale." Writer Nelson Dennis, said, "We are on the verge of the possibility that the entire infrastructure will become one giant ATM for Wall Street."

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader IV:** The credit for the progress for peace goes to the Korean people who supported diplomacy between the two Korean states – the inclusive Winter Olympics, the April 27 Panmunjom Declaration, the June 12 summit. The credit also goes to the International community, including U.S. peace organizations like the Korea Peace Network and Women Cross the DMZ.

The president who matters most in this process is not Trump, but South Korea's Moon Jae-in, who has been brilliant in pursuing peace and diplomacy with both Trump and Kim Jong-un.

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader I:** Richard Falk wrote in May, "The occasions for outrage about the treatment of the Palestinian people are many, but the Israeli reaction to this Palestinian march reaches a new level of moral, political, and legal wretchedness. It recalls the cry of religious leader of conscience in the last stage of the Vietnam War who said: Not In Our Name."

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader II:** In June another “Freedom Flotilla” set sail from Italy with humanitarian aid bound for Gaza. Norway is asking Israel to explain their legal grounds for seizing one of the ships, which was flying a Norwegian flag at the time of its capture.

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader III:** Matt Taibbi wrote in Rolling Stone recently, “Can You Think of Any other Ways to Spend \$716 Billion?” The amount refers to the recently passed John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. Taibbi suggests free higher education at public colleges and universities, which he says could easily fit into the a \$80 billion-per-year outlay. That is the amount of just the annual increase in military spending for 2019.

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader I:** The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has requested a hearing before the UN Human Rights Council on the state of poverty in the U.S. Why? They say 43 percent of all U.S. children live below the minimum income level considered necessary to meet basic family needs. And fifty-three cents of every federal discretionary dollar goes to military spending, while only 15 cents is spent on anti-poverty programs.

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader II:** The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, also called the Ban the Bomb Treaty, is an honest effort to change the world. But, it is up to all of us who desire the abolition of nuclear weapons, to take this treaty and make it work for us. Setsuko Thurlow, an atomic bomb survivor, said, “Leaders of countries around the world, I beseech you, if you love this planet, you will sign this treaty!”

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

**Reader IV:** Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Nonviolence wrote recently, “Yemeni civilians, especially children, pose no threat whatsoever to U.S. people. Yet U.S. support for airstrikes, blockades and the chaos inevitably caused by prolonged war threatens Yemeni civilians, including vulnerable children, punishing them to death for committing no crime.”

**Everyone:** Love the World, Ban the Bombs.

## Sending Messages for Peace about Yemen & Ban the Bomb

Monica McElghon

### “Higher Ground”

LEPOCO Peace Singers

Original hymn by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel (1856-1932). New lyrics by Charlie King (2007)

Arranged by Christopher J. Klump.

Lead by Chris Klump. Solo: Ron Clever.

I have no desire to stay, Where lies destroy and fears dismay,  
Where money talks and fortune frowns, Come help me find some higher ground.

The way we live will take its toll, In broken lives and tortured souls  
Open our ears, turn us around, And guide our feet to higher ground.

O lift me up, let me stand, Upon some decent, honest land,  
Sweeter soil than I have found, O plant my feet on higher ground.

This weary world has had its fill, Of eras of war on ev’ry hill  
But you can hear that joyful sound, A song of peace from higher ground.

### Walls Dividing Us Can Come Down

Reader: Bernie Berg

(A reading from the script of the Michael Moore movie, “Where to Invade Next?”)

**Everyone:** “If I had a hammer”

# Responsive Reading from “You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train: A Personal History of Our Times”

By Howard Zinn

Readers: Addison Bross & Malachi Greene

**Reader I:** The good things that happen are unexpected.

Unexpected, yet explainable by certain truths which spring at us from time to time, but which we tend to forget:

Political power, however formidable, is more fragile than we think. (Note how nervous are those who hold it.)

**Reader II:** Ordinary people can be intimidated for a time, can be fooled for a time, but they have a down-deep common sense, and sooner or later they find a way to challenge the power that oppresses them.

People are not *naturally* violent or cruel or greedy, although they can be made so. Human beings everywhere want the same things: they are moved by the sight of abandoned children, homeless families, the casualties of war; they long for peace, for friendship and affection across lines of race and nationality.

**Reader I:** Revolutionary change does not come as one cataclysmic moment (beware of such moments!) but as an endless succession of surprises, moving zig-zag towards a more decent society.

We don’t have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.

**Everyone:** To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

**Reader II:** What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something.

**Reader I:** If we remember those times and places -- and there are so many -- where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

**Everyone:** And if we do act, in however small a way, we don’t have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.

## “God’s Counting on You”

LEPOCO Peace Singers

Music & Words by Lorre Wyath & Pete Seeger. 2010.

Led by Barbara Wurth

When we look and we can see things are not what they should be,  
God’s counting on me. God’s counting on you...

Hoping we’ll all pull thru, Hoping we’ll all pull thru, Hoping we’ll all pull thru, me and you.

There’s big problems to be solved, Let’s get everyone involved.  
God’s counting on me. God’s counting on you.

It’s time to turn things around, Trickle up not trickle down.  
God’s counting on me. God’s counting on you.

When we look and we can see things are not what they should be,  
God’s counting on me. God’s counting on you.

Don’t give up, don’t give in, workin’ together we all can win.  
God’s counting on me. God’s counting on you.

Closing

Mimi Lang

Please participate as you are able:

**Monday, August 6 (Hiroshima Day), 6-7:30 pm:** *Leafletting at Musikfest.* If you can join this effort please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 or arrive at 5:15 pm at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., south Bethlehem. We will walk or ride from the Peace Center to our leafletting location.

**Thursday, August 9 (Nagasaki Day), 4:30-5:30 pm:** *Monthly Peace Vigil* at south end of Hill-to-Hill Bridge, Third & Wyandotte Sts., (south) Bethlehem. We will be reaching out to the cars loaded with people headed to Musikfest. Please join Ellen Buck and friends in this important witness.  
(Signs will be available for those who cannot bring their own.)

**Peace Singers:** Amanda Zaniesienko, Barbara Wurth, Chris Klump, Donna Hartmann, Jeff Vitelli, Marie Lightwood, Margie Danciger, Nancy Tatz, Rick Weaver, Ron Clever, Sheila Clever.

A special thank you to the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley for hosting this gathering and to Cari Poole for facilitating the hosting. Thank you to Tom Stinnett, Stefan Rogers, Rick Dow and others for logistical support for the program.

A donation basket is available at the Garden. Donations will cover postage for the postcards we sign and for advance mailings, the fee to the city for the use of the Tondabayashi Serenity Garden and for a donation to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley for the use of their building.

This program was planned by the Stop the Wars Committee of LEPOCO, the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern. Members of the Committee involved in the planning of this program:  
Monica McLaughon, Mimi Lang, Susie Ravitz, Brenda Havens, Nancy Tatz.

Some of the sources for "Honoring the Need for Peace & the Witnesses for Peace": "Is Climate the Worst Casualty of War?" by Stacy Bannerman, CommonDreams.org, 7/31/18. "Blood, Soil, and Trauma: America's fraught history of family separation," by Patricia J. Williams, The Nation, 7/16-23/18. Special to The Morning Call, 5/13/18, by Milton Carrero Galarza, "Protests Roil Puerto Rico Amid Hurricane Aftermath." "How Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons Changed the World: A Year After 122 Nations Adopted a Nuclear-Weapons Ban, the Treaty is Showing Results," by Ray Aheson, The Nation, early July 2018. Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Chicago, venv.org.

The LEPOCO Peace Center is located at 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., south Bethlehem.  
[www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org) / 610-691-8730 / [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)