

Ban the Bomb

74 Years After the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Making the United Nations Nuclear Weapons Treaty Reality

Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 6:00 pm

A Program of Remembrance, Grief, Reflection, & Hope

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley & Tondabayashi Serenity Garden
Bethlehem

These (nuclear) bombs were built as "weapons" for war, but their significance greatly transcends war and all its causes and outcomes. They grew out of history, yet they threaten to end history. They were made by men, but they threaten to annihilate man. They are a pit into which the whole world can fall - a nemesis of all human intentions, actions and hopes.

- Jonathan Schell, "The Fate of the Earth," 1982

Gathering with Drums

Monica McAghon & Friends

Welcome

Susie Ravitz, co-facilitator

Local Events & the UN Treaty

Monica McAghon, co-facilitator

"What Have They Done to the Rain"

LEPOCO Peace Singers

Music & Lyrics by Malvina Reynolds. Arranged by Bob Riggs.

Led by Nancy Tate.

Just a little rain, Just a little rain,
What have they done to the rain?

Just a little rain falling all around,
The grass lifts its head to the heavenly sound,
Just a little rain, Just a little rain,
What have done to the rain?

Just a little breeze out of the sky,
The leaves pat their hands as the breeze blows by,
Just a little breeze with some smoke in its eye,
What have they done to the rain?

Just a little boy standing in the rain,
The gentle rain that falls for years,
And the grass is gone, the boy disappears
And rain keeps falling like helpless tears,
And what have they done to rain?
What have they done to the rain?

"We Go on Record..."

Reader: Terry Briscoe

Dorothy Day writing in *The Catholic Worker*, September 1945.

Published in "War No More: Three Centuries of American Antiwar & Peace Writing," Lawrence Rosenwald, editor, 2016

Our Friends at the Kings Bay Plowshares 7

Readers: Mimi Lang & Bill Rosebrock

People are fasting and vigiling in Georgia, today through Friday. It is expected that a court hearing will be held in their case on August 7. You can learn more about the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 at kingsbayplowshares7.org.

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

Aoi Sorawa (Skies of Blue)

Reader: Lucia Ardizzone

By Jim Mason, March 2002

Jim Mason wrote this poem as his translation of “Hiroshima Song,” sung by Japanese flame walkers with whom he walked on the Hiroshima Flame Walk from Seattle (1/15/02) to Washington, DC (4/20/02), where they delivered prayers for peace.

Excerpts from the **UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

Readers: Sharlee DiMenichi & Peter Crownfield

The complete text of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons can be read at www.icanw.org. ICAN is the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. They were given the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for their work on the Treaty.

“(Last Night I Had) The Strangest Dream”

LEPOCO Peace Singers

Music & Lyrics by Ed McCurdy. Arranged by Robert de Cormier.
Additional lyrics by Jeff Vitelli.
Led by Jeff Vitelli.

Last night I had the strangest dream I'd ever dreamed before.
I dreamed the world had all agreed to put an end to war,
I dreamed I saw a mighty room filled with women and men
And the paper they were signing said they'd never fight again.
And when the paper was all signed and a million copies made
They all joined hands and bowed their heads, and grateful prayers were prayed.
And the people in the streets below were dancin' round and round
While swords and guns and uniforms were scattered on the ground.
In towns and cities 'round the world the people all agreed
To use all of their resources for meeting human needs.
And homes, and schools, and nature parks were springing from the ground
With art and music everywhere, green gardens all around.
Last night I had the strangest dream I'd ever dreamed before.
I dreamed the world had all agreed to put an end to war.

Hell Is Coming & We've Got To Do Something to Stop It

Readers: Dan Miller, Annette Carpien, Bill Thomas, Everyone

Reader I: *Nuke Watch Quarterly* reports that, “The amount of human-made radioactivity moving into the Pacific is mushrooming.” United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has raised concern over a leaking concrete dome built in the Marshall Islands to cover radioactive debris collected from the detonation of the 67 nuclear bomb tests done by the U.S. Radioactive materials from the testing in the Marshall Islands were pushed into an unlined pit and capped with the concrete.

Everyone: **Hell is coming, and we've got to do something to stop it.**

Reader II: **Fourteen Russian submarine crew members died on July 1st aboard a small nuclear-powered submarine in the Barents Sea. They were attempting to combat a fire that could have destroyed the vessel – and contaminated the ocean. The 14 prevented a larger disaster by sealing themselves into the area of the sub that was aflame, protecting the rest of the crew and the sub's nuclear reactor and propulsion system from the fire.**

Everyone: **Hell is coming, and we've got to do something to stop it.**

Reader III: In 2011 the Fukushima catastrophe of earthquake, tsunami and meltdown caused the largest dump of radioactivity to the Pacific Ocean ever – and the dumping continues. Airborne radiation brought radioactive iodine-131 to rainwater in Pennsylvania and other states in heightened levels. Fukushima is the world’s worst reactor disaster by volume of fuel melted and waste in cooling pools. This information is from *NukeWatch Quarterly*.

Everyone: Hell is coming, and we’ve got to do something to stop it.

Reader I: In late 2018 the Energy Department secretly shipped a half metric ton of weapons-grade plutonium from South Carolina to Nevada in defiance of Nevada’s public opposition, resistance from elected officials, and the National Environmental Policy Act. According to *NukeWatch Quarterly*, the DOE’s National Nuclear Security Administration secretly sent the extremely hazardous shipment across the country without notifying first responders or emergency preparedness officials in any city or state through which the plutonium passed, and without first completing an environmental impact assessment.

Everyone: Hell is coming, and we’ve got to do something to stop it.

Reader II: *Democracy Now!* reported on August 2nd that a heat dome that shattered temperature records across Europe in late July moved over Greenland and the region is now losing ice by the billions of tons. We can link climate change disasters to the world’s largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels: the U.S. military.

Everyone: Hell is coming, and we’ve got to do something to stop it.

Reader III: 18-year-old Kehkashan Basu, winner of the 2016 International Children’s Peace Prize, recently wrote, “Every second, a person dies of hunger... And yet the nuclear-armed states continue to spend billions of dollars building nuclear stockpiles..., threatening current and future generations and violating the rights of children to a peaceful and non-irradiated planet.”

Everyone: Hell is coming, and we’ve got to do something to stop it.

Reader I: Ed Flaherty of Veterans for Peace wrote recently, “We have become a welfare state for the military-industrial complex.” *Democracy Now!* reported last week that the Pentagon will receive a staggering \$738 billion for the coming fiscal year. The U.S. spends more on its military than 144 other countries combined.

Everyone: Hell is coming, and we’ve got to do something to stop it.

Reader II: As of last Friday, the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty negotiated by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is dead. The Council for a Livable World said Russia was in violation of the treaty, but the U.S. refused to pursue diplomatic options to resolve any concerns, because National Security Advisor John Bolton wanted the treaty dead.

Everyone: Hell is coming, and we’ve got to do something to stop it.

“If the People Live Their Lives”

LEPOCO Peace Singers

Russian Folk Song.

Source: Paul Winter “Concert at the UN” album.

Led by Marcie Lightwood.

If the people lived their lives as if it were a song for singing out of light
Provides the music for the stars to be dancing circles in the night.

Remembering Hiroshima & Looking Ahead

Lloyd Steffen
University Chaplain, Lehigh University

A Moment for Quiet Reflection

We Celebrate the Many Actions for Peace. We Celebrate Our Actions for Peace.

Readers: My Lien Nguyen, Tom Pietrzak, Nancy Johnston, Everyone

Reader I: A resolution in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons passed the New Jersey Assembly in May. Major world cities including Paris, Toronto, Los Angeles, and Berlin, have signed a Cities Appeal supporting the Treaty.

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader II: Japanese Parish priests have issued a statement *Affirming the preciousness of Life, in Order that Life may be Lived*, which reads in part, “We believe that it is highly important that this issue of nuclear power generation be considered from the perspective of the dignity of life.” It points to the connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons as “two sides of the same coin.”

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader III: Zia Mian, co-director of Princeton University’s Program on Science and Global Security, said at an April conference, “Only 9 countries have nuclear weapons. Disarmament is doable! Don’t wait for the leaders to initiate further actions against proliferation.”

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader I: Three Lehigh Valley women, Karen Hicks, Beth Taylor and Nancy Weston, attended the national conference of the Poor People’s Campaign in June. They are leading local organizing around the Campaign and building support for a national gathering of thousands on June 20, 2020.

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader II: On July 1st the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously passed a resolution calling on all U.S. presidential candidates to make their positions on nuclear weapons known, and to pledge U.S. global leadership in preventing nuclear war, returning to diplomacy, and negotiating the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader III: In mid-August, sixteen-year-old Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg, will travel to the Americas on board a fossil fuel emissions-free boat. She will attend the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York City and the U.N climate summit in Santiago, Chile.

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader I: Dr. Scott Warren, is being prosecuted for the second time for leaving water and food in the harsh Sonoran Desert to assist migrants on the U.S./Mexican border. His first trial ended in a mistrial with the jury unable to reach a verdict. Dr. Warren is one of many humanitarian aid volunteers who leave supplies for people crossing the border.

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader II: Volunteers in Ethiopia planted 350 million trees in late July, as part of a national campaign to help tackle the global climate crisis.

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader III: October 24-30, people will gather in New York City to count out \$1 trillion, the nuclear weapons budget for 10 years, to demonstrate the massive waste of money that is going into weapons that could destroy our planet and to highlight better uses for the money – climate protection, education, health, ending hunger....

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

Reader I: In early July eleven peace activists from the United States joined German activists at a peace camp at Büchel Air Base where US B61 hydrogen bombs are based. The U.S. is the only country in the world that deploys its nuclear weapons in other countries.

Everyone: We celebrate the many actions for peace. We celebrate our actions for peace.

“(We’re All a Family) Under One Sky”

Everyone with LEPOCO Peace Singers

Words & Music by Ruth Pelham.

This is a favorite Peace Camp song that says so much.

Led by Ron Clever.

Chorus:

We’re all a family under one sky, A family under one sky (repeat).

Verse:

We’re people (echo), we’re animals (echo)

We’re flowers, and we’re birds in flight.

(repeat)

Chorus again.

Plans for Our Postcard to Our Representative

Supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Nancy Tate

A Collective Reading of: *A Sunflower Meditation*

By Mimi Lang

Readers: Donna Hartmann & Everyone

Everyone:

A simple flower grown for seeds to feed the birds

And ourselves,

Planted in place of missiles,

Oh sacred flower!

We imagine all the seeds like those we hold

Bursting forth, green stems reaching for the sun.

Donna Hartmann:

We imagine sunflowers in the place of all nuclear weapons

Think of it!

Sunflowers in space,

Sunflowers hidden away in Iraq or Libya,

Sunflowers stored by the thousands in special hidden sites in the U.S.

Imagine the surprise of the General who opens his silo to find

Sunflowers instead of a Titan missile or

The Navy commander who finds a submarine full of Sunflowers

Instead of nuclear warheads.

Imagine if he had to direct the tending and growth of his batch of Golden Sunflowers.

Imagine Sunflowers pointed at strategic sites in Israel or Russia.

Oh sacred Sunflower, with what great delight would we replace

Each nuclear weapon with your viney presence!

Everyone:

We honor your energy in always reaching for the sun

As we reach for the day

When we can hold our faces to the light

Of a world brightened by Sunflowers instead of nuclear weapons.

This Sunflower Meditation was inspired by the statement, “Sunflowers instead of missiles in the soil will insure peace for future generations,” made by Secretary of Defense William Perry in 1996 at the dismantling of nuclear missile sites in the Ukraine. Sunflowers were planted in the place of the missile sites and have since become an international symbol for nuclear disarmament.

“Higher Ground”

LEPOCO Peace Singers

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

Arranged by Christopher J. Klump.

Led by Nancy Tate. Solo: Ebony Alicea.

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 hears, 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 cries of war on ev'ry hill
But you can hear that joyful sound, A song of peace from higher ground.

Closing

Monica McAghon & Susie Ravitz

Please participate as you are able:

Thursday, August 8, 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.)

Saturday, August 10, 10 am-Noon: *Leafleting* at the Easton Farmers Market, Center Square.

If you can join this effort please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

Peace Singers: Amanda Zaniesienko, Anastasia Caltabiano, Bob Riggs, Donna Hartmann, Ebony Alicea, Jeff Vitelli, Marcie Lightwood, Nancy Johnston, Nancy Tate, Ron 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 Tom Ulrich for facilitating the hosting.

Thank you to Tom Stinnett, Stefan Rogers, Dan Miller, My Lien Nguyen, Khoi Nguyen, and others for logistical support for the program.

A donation basket is available at the Garden/the Church. 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 McAghon, Mimi Lang, Susie Ravitz, Nancy Tate, Stefan Rogers, Sharlee DiMenichi..

The LEPOCO Peace Center is located at 313 W. 4th St., south Bethlehem.

www.lepoco.org / 610-691-8730 / lepoco@fast.net