Welcome to the 27th annual **UNplaza Art Fair: Sept 23-24**

For 27 years the UNplaza Art Fair has filled a unique niche in the Kansas City art scene, and 80 artisans are gearing up to do it again, Sept. 23-24.

The annual fall event offers a unique blend of quality artwork at affordable prices, nearly all created locally. And the juried show not only supports local artists, but also benefits the peacemaking efforts of its sponsor—PeaceWorks, Kansas City.

This year’s event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24. Hosted since 2000 at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, the fair this year will be held at Southmoreland Park, just west of the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum, at Oak Street and Emanuel Cleaver Boulevard.

Two thousand patrons are anticipated for the event. The UNplaza Art Fair has developed a loyal, growing following of patrons who come in search of original works they can afford and enjoy, or to shop early for holiday gifts. The original art forms range from ceramics to jewelry, from glass art to fiber art, from wood carving to mixed media, from photos to paintings—plus a variety of candles and teas, scents and soaps.

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**Two nuclear documentaries go nuclear, close to home**

Art may yet save us.

The nuclear shadow casts such a thick pall it often seems impenetrable—layer upon layer of denial, cover-up, and disinformation.

But filmmakers have a way of cutting through the fog. Two recent documentaries have lain bare both past and future consequences of the nuclear age.

Both are set in the heartland of America—St. Louis. And both tell the story of Mallinkrodt Chemical Works—the company that processed tons of uranium needed for the Manhattan Project and the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, during World War II.

**The Safe Side of the Fence**

Filmmaker and St. Louis native Tony West digs into the past to uncover the effects of radioactive contamination at three St. Louis-area sites—Coldwater Creek, West Lake Landfill, and Weldon Springs. *The Safe Side of the Fence* tells the story of the hundreds of St. Louis workers whose health was compromised by on-the-job exposure to radioactive and toxic materials.

The St. Louis story has a familiar ring for Kansas City workers similarly exposed during the 65-year history of the Bannister Federal Complex. And it’s a story repeated by workers at some 300 other nuclear weapons production sites scattered throughout the US.

“The government is not in a hurry to spend a lot of money on anything, especially cleaning up things,” West said. “I think that if you live by this material or you’ve got a family member that worked in one of these plants, this really hits home for you” (St.

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Mallinkrodt Chemical Company dumped it on government-owned land near Lambert Field, home of the St. Louis airport. Over the years, neighborhoods grew up around the site.

Some neighbors had no idea about the contaminants until the school board sent home a letter with their students cautioning them about a landfill fire that has been burning underground for 6 years—a fire that cannot be extinguished, and has now burned within several hundred feet of the radioactive waste. Two citizen activist groups have since been formed: JustMoms St. Louis and Coldwater Creek.

Viewers be advised: this film depicts outrageous and irresponsible behavior, courageous acts of resistance, and an uncertain outcome that may be disturbing.

— Review by Jim Hannah, PeaceWorks Board member

Louis Public Radio, KWMU).

**Atomic Homefront**

The latest film on St. Louis’ nuclear waste was directed by Rebecca Cammisa and held its Kansas City premiere this summer: *Atomic Homefront.*

It’s not a disaster movie … yet.

But it has all the makings.

It’s a cliffhanger documentary about masses of buried radioactive material, an underground fire burning toward it from a landfill just a few hundred feet away, and the potential calamity of radioactive smoke being released in the heart of a major Midwest metropolis.

And the truly scary part is, it’s fact, not fiction.

Have you ever wondered what happened to the radioactive waste from materials processed in the 1940s for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Forgotten, but not gone, it turns out.

Much of it’s still buried in the St. Louis area, along with waste from uranium processing until 1957. When the waste started piling up over the years,
Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration marks 72nd anniversary of bombings

“Lament and Sorrow. Hope for Tomorrow!” was the theme of PeaceWorks’ annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration held Aug. 6 at Loose Park in KC MO.

Keynote speaker Jim Hannah commended the 70 persons in attendance for their willingness to “face into the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki rather than look away, as our nation has mostly done for 72 years.”

Rather than denial, Hannah called for lament—lament for the massive death and suffering caused by the Aug. 6 and Aug. 9 bombings; lament for the 500 atmospheric nuclear tests “making each of us unwitting and unwilling subjects in a global lab experiment”; lament for the “profligate waste of human resources squandered on nuclear weapons, estimated at more than ten trillion dollars”; and lament for the immorality of omnicidal nuclear weapons.

Hannah, a PeaceWorks Board member, quoted from a hymn to urge the assembly to express “laments of sorrow that release our needed tears,” and also to “reach toward tomorrow and look beyond our fears.”

He spoke hopefully of the hundreds of grassroots movements around the world that are moving public opinion toward a nuclear-weapons-free world. Particularly he pointed to the recent United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which “categorically prohibits the possession, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons.” Hannah said of the treaty, adopted by nearly two-thirds of the UN’s member nations, that it “may be the most significant step in our lifetime to stop the existential threat of nuclear weapons.”

Hannah then used John Lennon’s “Imagine” theme, urging the assembly, “Imagine that day foreseen by prophets Jimmy Hendrix and Mahatma Gandhi: When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”

The remarks closed with the 70 persons in the assembly reciting, in unison, the Hiroshima/Nagasaki pledge: Never again!

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Do you want a new hat? Look no further! Do you crave a scarf or baubles, bangles, and beads? Come to the fair!

The UNplaza Art Fair is the primary fundraiser of PeaceWorks, which since 1982 has worked for peace in Kansas City and the world. The fair is staffed by volunteers, so all proceeds go to peace-related projects, such as conflict resolution training for the Urban Ranger Corps in KC MO and peace studies scholarships for Avila University students.

Note: All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut, will hold its annual bookfair the same weekend as the UNplaza Art Fair, Sept. 22-24. To donate books, bring them to the church’s Coat Room through Sept. 19.
Peace before us.
Peace behind us.
Peace under our feet.

Intoning this Navaho Peace Song, Lauren Hall led 70 PeaceWorks members and friends in closing the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance on Aug. 6.

Hall, a member of the PeaceWorks Board, gave us gestures for the song at Loose Park in KC MO. “In the peace and quiet of this beautiful park we’ve been in this evening,” she said, “there is hope for tomorrow!”

Weaving sorrow and hope, Ron Faust, also of the PeaceWorks Board, read his poem “Pursuing Peace.” Focusing on remembering, each Aug. 6, the attack on Hiroshima that day in 1945, Faust said:

I mourn
How any enemy deserves
The unleashing of such fury...
pausing to remember this day
Implies the restraint on any bully
Whoever owns nuclear weapons...
PeaceWorks calls for a ban
On nuclear weapons.
Let it be soul,
So we are sending out a message
To pulsate the heart waves
That peace is already here
As we breathe it
And dream it
And pursue it.

Michael McGrath, a flutist, played “Tis the Gift to Be Simple,” a Shaker hymn including these lines:

When we find ourselves in the place just right,
’Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

That evening, the yearning for love and delight indeed took center stage. Gayle June spoke of his mother, Michiko Okada June, “small but mighty.” As an 18-year-old in Nagasaki, she was spared during the US attack because she and her classmates were at work in an underground factory. Eight hours after the blast, they were allowed to go outside. “It was a nightmare. People were burnt and bleeding. She had to walk through Ground Zero to get home,” said June.

Michiko later met her future husband, a young soldier from Tuscumbia, GA, at a USO gathering, said June. Four years after his mother died in 2011, June asked people to mail him origami peace cranes to place over his mother’s grave. “I received 1,600 cranes from all over the world in ten weeks,” he said. “We are not alone! ... We confuse force with power. People who lack power need force. Truly powerful people need no force because real power is love.”

Gayle June displays pictures of his mother, Michiko Okada June.
UN treaty advocates nuclear weapons prohibition

At the Aug. 6 Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration, Mary Hladky, a PeaceWorks Board member, provided information about the UN Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Signed by nearly two-thirds of the UN’s member nations July 7, the treaty prohibits the possession, development, testing, use, and threatened use of nuclear weapons. The treaty opens for nations’ signatures on Sept. 20 and enters into legal force 90 days after being ratified by 50 countries. In her remarks, Hladky said:

“The countries supporting this treaty know that nuclear warfare knows no boundaries, makes no distinction between soldier and civilian, and would endanger the lives of hundreds of millions of human beings. They know that a crisis like the one now growing in North Korea could leap from a spark to an uncontrollable inferno in unanticipated ways.

“With the nuclear-armed states opposed to any such treaty, it will be a long road to the elimination of nuclear arsenals, via a route still largely uncharted. Our work is cut out for us.”

Among the action steps advocated by Hladky are:

a) Opposing modernization of the US nuclear arsenal;

b) Less heated rhetoric, and more dialogue, between adversaries; and

c) Citizen advocacy with legislators, toward a nuclear-weapons-free world.
Toxic, radioactive waste sites: in KC, St. Louis, Idaho

Ann Suellentrop, of the PeaceWorks Board, spoke at the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance Aug. 6 about nuclear weapons and nuclear energy waste. Here are excerpts from her talk.

A new group in Kansas City, MO, called the Coalition Against Contamination started forming this summer to link Kansas City and St. Louis efforts to deal with contamination [created from nuclear weapons production]. Kansas City has produced so-called “non-nuclear” parts for nuclear weapons since 1949. In 2013-14 they moved to the new plant. There are plans to demolish the old plant at the Bannister Federal Complex on Troost and Bannister. This month the Missouri governor will possibly sign off on plans for the federal government to transfer the title of most of the Bannister property to a private company, Centerpoint. They plan to remove some of the contamination (they can never fully clean it up) and build new businesses on the site.

Meanwhile, a whistleblower from the federal program to compensate sick workers from nuclear weapons plants like the Bannister one has spoken out this summer. He said the program knowingly, willfully cheated workers from getting medical care and compensation. As a result of KC citizen activists’ call for an investigation [a few years ago], the number of toxins revealed at the plant was increased from a few hundred in 2010 to over 2,000 now. So we need to keep on pushing for the truth!

I’m on the board of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), a network of 30 US organizations including PeaceWorks that advocate for those affected by local radioactive and toxic waste. ANA came to Kansas City in about 2006 to warn us the Kansas City Plant was going to close and build a new plant, the first new nuclear bomb plant in the US in 32 years. ANA helped us file a lawsuit against the government’s plans, which delayed the new plant about a year. Now ANA is helping activists in Oak Ridge, TN, sue to stop the [nation’s] second new nuclear bomb plant being planned there. Every spring ANA lobbies Congress in DC, and we have a fall meeting at one of the nuclear production or storage sites around the country. This October 11-14 we will meet in Idaho and tour the Idaho National Laboratory, one of three massive nuclear waste storage sites in the US. If you would like to go, contact me at 913-271-7925.

Note: Longer versions of this story, and others from the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance, are at www.PeaceWorksKC.org.
Sandy Hook mom to speak 10/9 at forum

Nicole Hockley, the mother of first-grader Dylan who died in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in 2012 in Newtown, CT, will give the keynote address at a forum on Monday, Oct. 9, Columbus Day. Grandparents Against Gun Violence sponsors the annual community forum, this year from 9:30 am to 2 pm at Pearson Hall, UMKC, 5000 Holmes. PeaceWorks is a cosponsor.

Hockley co-leads Sandy Hook Promise, an organization seeking to prevent other tragedies through changes in mental health services and gun safety. People recognized Hockley last year as one of 25 Women Changing the World.

Registration begins online, at moksgagv.org, Sept. 1, and will also be held the day of the forum at 8:30-9:15 am.

Remembering Muted Voices
Register by 9/8 for lower cost


“Intolerance and repression often mute the voices of war critics,” according to the conference description. “Almost overnight in 1917, individuals and groups who opposed the war faced constraints on their freedom to advocate, organize, and protest.” Many PeaceWorks members know those constraints. Anyone who’s been arrested for protest or relegated to a sidewalk instead of being allowed into a conference knows those constraints.

“Yet those who opposed World War I helped initiate modern peace movements and left a legacy that continues to influence anti-war activism,” the conference description reads.

Early-bird registration for most of the museum conferences costs $195, but Remembering Muted Voices costs $99 for those who register by Sept. 8 and $125 after that. (Why the lower cost? Because PeaceWorks and others donated funds to lower the cost.) Online registration at www.theworldwar.org/learn/remembering-muted-voices is open. Conference sessions extend from Thursday evening, Oct. 19, through Saturday, Oct. 21, with a memorial service and Fort Leavenworth tour Sunday. Dinner Thursday and lunches Saturday and Sunday are provided. A few topics the speakers will cover:

- Making a Stand: German Opposition to World War One;
- Mustering Support for War: Gender Conformity and the “Inevitability” of the First World War;
- War Against War: The American Fight for Peace, 1914-1918, and Implications for Today; and
Mark your calendar ...  

→ Sat., 9/16, The Safe Side of the Fence, Tivoli Theater (see story, p. 1).

→ Sat.-Sun., 9/23-24, UNplaza Art Fair, Southmoreland Park, 10 am – 6 pm Sat., 10 am – 5 pm Sun.

→ Mon., 10/9, 9:30 am – 2 pm, Grandparents Against Gun Violence Community Forum, at Pearson Hall, UMKC, 5000 Holmes (see story, p. 7).

→ Thurs.-Sun., 10/19-22, Remembering Muted Voices, World War I Museum (see story, p. 7).

UNplaza Art Fair beckons (See story, p. 1.)