

Take heart!

By *Jim Hannah*

If you are of the progressive persuasion, these are disheartening times.

Incredibly, many of the forward strides taken by our society in recent decades now seem up for review, or even rejection. Could our nation really go back to the worst days of Cold War mentality, environmental pollution, racial discrimination, blind nationalism, and patriarchy? I thought we'd moved on, never to return. Maybe not.

So I've been struggling to retain a hopeful stance, rather than yield to cynicism or despair. A friend helped me greatly by introducing me to Robert Keck's book, *Sacred Quest*. Here are some of his thoughts, mixed with my own:

- a) What at first may be seen as the beginning of a reactionary time may instead be its dying gasp, as a new and forward-looking alternative is birthed.
- b) Everything in the cosmos is in motion, so attempts to cling to the status quo, or to re-create a static condition, are ultimately futile and self-defeating.
- c) Evolution is not just about biology, but also about social, spiritual, and political changes that move human societies toward greater compassion, justice, and peace.
- d) Evolution is messy and meandering, not an instantaneous straight-line process. It takes time.

I pondered all this recently during PeaceWorks'

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*Zoe Ross, 6, brimming with heart at the Walk/Ride/Die-in on Memorial Day.
—Jim Hannah photo*

Become Ambassadors for PeaceWorks-KC

By *Scarlett Swall*

Do you believe peace is possible? We do. Together, in PeaceWorks-KC, we know we can make a profound difference in bringing about change in the world.

We are asking our members (present and future) to become Ambassadors for PeaceWorks. Doing that means you would bring others into our dynamic organization by sharing with them the **many positives** of being involved in PeaceWorks. Our vision: "A healthy world of justice and peace

Ambassadors — *continued on p. 2*

Contact elected officials

- **Mayor Sly James:** 816-513-3500
- **City Council:** 816-513-1368
- **President Donald Trump:**
202-456-1111 *comments*
202-456-1414 *switchboard*
- **Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.):**
202-224-6154
- **Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.):**
202-224-5721
- **Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-5th dist., Mo.):**
202-225-4535
- **Rep. Sam Graves (R-6th district, Mo.):**
202-225-7041
- **Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-4th district, Mo.):**
202-225-2876
- **Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.):**
202-224-4774
- **Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.):**
202-224-6521
- **Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-3rd district, Kan.):**
202-225-2865

Take heart!

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sixth annual Memorial Day Walk.

During that 10-mile trek we passed beautiful fields and woods that evidenced the wonders of nature, and the evolutionary creative process. ... And then we arrived at the new nuclear weapons parts plant, where a once *un*-blighted soybean field is now acre upon acre of asphalt and concrete.

What can one do in the face of this massive monument to the military-corporate-entertainment-advertising-educational complex? Since silence is assent, some 50 people gathered to raise a peace witness—staging a “die-in” to mourn the lives poisoned in nuclear weapons production, and raising the vision of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

This is what we can do. Seek the truth. Join with others. Witness for justice and peace. Persist. And above all, don't lose heart! Forces much larger than petty self-interest are already at work, visible to those with eyes to see.

—*Jim Hannah is a PeaceWorks-KC board member.*

Ambassadors for PeaceWorks-KC

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without war and its weapons.” Share how PeaceWorks continues to fight against war and its weapons; how our members continue to speak out against social, economic, and racial injustices; and how we promote the healing of the environment.

For a full summary of PeaceWorks activities, please visit our website at PeaceWorksKC.org. The numerous links to peace and justice issues on our site provide you access to an amazing world of information.

Feel free to call the PeaceWorks Board chairperson, Henry Stoeber, at 913-375-0045, about becoming an Ambassador for PeaceWorks.

PeaceWorks is a not-for-profit organization offering various options for memberships. If you are not already a member, please join us today (use the membership box to the right).

—*Scarlett Swall is PeaceWorks' membership coordinator.*

Here is my annual membership for PeaceWorks

- Membership \$40
- Donor \$50+
- Major Donor \$100+
- Family Membership \$60
- Group Membership \$75
- Limited-Income Membership .. \$5+
- Newsletter Subscription \$10
- Lifetime Membership \$1,000
- Sustaining Membership \$5+/mo.
- Send newsletter electronically**

Mail to:
PeaceWorks
4509 Walnut St.
Kansas City, MO 64111

Make check to:
PeaceWorks
*or, for tax deductibility, to
Missouri Peace Foundation.*

E-mail address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Daytime phone: (____) _____ Evening phone: (____) _____

A hawk flies over the rally: Oh, freedom!
—Mark Semet photo



Media swarm to rally on Manning's release

Bravo, Chelsea!

Seven years after she began imprisonment as Bradley Manning, a delighted Chelsea Manning left Fort Leavenworth at about 2am May 17. She had shared classified documents and video with WikiLeaks in 2010, revealing US atrocities against civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan. President Obama commuted her sentence from 35 to 7 years in January.

PeaceWorks, which had previously held rallies on Manning's behalf, gathered about 20 members and friends on short notice for its afternoon rally that day.

The Kansas City Star, on May 18, noted that Sara Hazan held a placard saying, "I am Chelsea Manning." She had brought her sign to rallies since 2013, "long enough for 'Chelsea' to be taped over 'Bradley,'" *The Star* said.

Asked by *The Star* whether she thought Obama commuted Chelsea's sentence because she was transgender, the vice-chair of the PeaceWorks board, Lu Mountenay, said no. Rather, she said, it was about conscience: "To be silent about war crimes is to be complicit."



Chelsea E. Manning —Chelsea Manning photo

Henry Stoever, who called the rally, sent *The Star* a letter published May 18. Referring to earlier coverage, Stoever said he was struck by the irony that "Trump revealed highly classified information to Russian foreign minister" (the headline in *The Star*), while Manning served seven years for releasing classified information.

"Should our commander in chief face a court-martial trial, as Manning did?" asked Stoever.

"President Donald Trump acts as if he is above the law. A trial for his revealing highly classified information could be a great teaching moment for our nation."

In an interview with KCTV5, Stoever compared Manning's 2010 sharing of info to that of Daniel Ellsberg in revealing the Pentagon Papers about Vietnam War atrocities.

Other coverage of PeaceWorks leaders' views included Reuters and TV stations Channel 4 and Channel 9. Ron Faust said Chelsea's actions led many to address questions of war and peace. Ann Suellentrop said we all need to know what's going on and what's being kept secret. Her sign: "Transparency is the key to Democracy."



Sign-holders send a message to car-drivers at 47th & Main.
—Mark Semet photo

Henry Stoever: ‘We are instruments of truth’

“We are instruments of truth and hope in working to expose the production and procurement of more nuclear weapons when the world is crying out for the elimination of these weapons of mass destruction,” Henry Stoever, chair of the PeaceWorks board, told about 50 persons gathered May 29, Memorial Day. They had come to Kansas City’s *new* nuclear weapons parts plant, the National Security Campus, to recall the deaths of many from contaminants at the *old* plant at Bannister Federal Complex.

“We are here at the site of nuclear weapons bomb-making,” said Stoever. “This is where Ground Zero starts. ... Weapons of mass destruction ... have no valid purpose but to destroy many lives: a capital crime.”

Some persons walked 10 miles from the *old* to the *new* nuke-parts plant; some walked and rode; some walked only the last mile. Unconsciously, as we walk, we ask ourselves what we can do,” said Stoever. “We reflect on our spiritual and moral values. We focus on our *soul power*—your soul power and my soul power. We must be peace.”



Diana Layes proclaims 154 deaths from toxins at Bannister Federal Complex, plus 65 million deaths worldwide from nuclear pollution. —Mark Semet photo



Lu Mountenay and Henry Stoever take the lead along the trail crossing the National Security Campus grounds. —Mark Semet photo

Ann Suellentrop: ‘Trump calls for billions more for nukes’

President Trump’s proposed budget calls for billions of dollars more for nuclear weapons, said Ann Suellentrop, of the PeaceWorks Board of Directors, at the



—Jim Hannah photo

Walk/Ride/Die-in May 29. She lobbied Congress against such spending during “DC Days” in May with the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. Part of Trump’s budget for 2018 is \$671 million for activities in KC, MO, to support making parts for nukes and the related National Nuclear Security Administration

office. This year’s request tops the amount allotted for 2017 by \$127 million.

“We are already spending twice the Cold War level” on nuclear weapons, Suellentrop said. “The Life Extension Programs, which the KC Plant is heavily involved in, make new nukes with new military capabilities, making them more likely to be used.”

Everywhere nuclear weapons are made, they leave behind contamination, she said. “Near the atomic dump in the St. Louis area (from the uranium used to make the Nagasaki bomb), a regular dump is on fire. The neighborhood is suffering illnesses and deaths” like cancer.

During DC Days, the congressional offices Suellentrop visited were those of Missouri Reps. Emanuel Cleaver and Sam Graves and Sens. Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt, and Kansas Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran.

Wife says toxins at old plant caused husband's death



Debbie Penniston's husband, Bob, died at 50 from an inoperable brain tumor in 2008. He had worked 27 years as an engineer at the KC Plant, the nuclear weapons parts plant at Bannister Federal Complex. Penniston walked 10 miles with PeaceWorks from the complex to the new plant on Memorial Day and shared her story. Excerpts:

I would like to tell you about my love story with a man who was taken tragically from brain cancer that I believe was caused by the toxins at the KC Plant.

My husband and I loved spending time together. I used to jokingly say to him, "I wish you could buy additional vacation so we could have more time together." I cherished the times we had coffee together and discussed future plans. Then our son was born. Our love story grew even bigger to include Robert. We did a lot of making plans, laughing, playing tricks on each other, and having fun as a family.

When Bob was diagnosed in April of 2008, our beautiful love story was shattered. The planning, laughing, and pulling tricks ended. Treatment started. Bob would fall, say things that didn't make sense, and he lost muscle mass in his legs. He began bleeding profusely at our home and then died at Research Hospital.

I had had a beautiful marriage, but my 16-year-old son was left without his father. My son had "Gone But Not Forgotten" tattooed on his back. That is his only tattoo, a tribute to his dad.

We can't let more of these love stories end.

Why didn't those who knew about the toxins and

dangers in this plant tell employees they could run the risk of getting sick or dying, and allow the employees to find employment elsewhere?

How dare they?!

Periodic background checks were done on my husband and other engineers to be sure they were still the best they could be. How ironic. Maybe the engineers should have been checking out those at the top to see if they were being honest and not covering up one big lie about the horrible conditions these men and women worked in.

Above: Debbie Penniston, with her husband's picture on her poster, leads walkers past the new nuke-parts plant and toward the entry road for the PeaceWorks program.

Below: Each person in the die-in represents someone who reportedly died from contaminants at Bannister Federal Complex. —Photos by Jim Hannah



Depleted uranium found at Bannister complex

By Jane Stoever

Maurice Copeland, a 32-year employee at the Kansas City Plant (now closed), keeps an eye on Bannister Federal Complex. Located at Troost and Bannister, the site was home to facilities including the KC Plant, where employees made non-nuclear parts for nuclear weapons from 1949 to 2014.

“They found depleted uranium on-site at Bannister Federal Complex,” Copeland told participants in PeaceWorks’ Memorial Day Walk/Ride/Die-in. When I asked him about that later, Copeland said Centerpoint is handling remediation at the contaminated complex, and a firm under contract with Centerpoint shared the information at a recent meeting about finding depleted uranium in the ground outside the KC Plant.

“Were you aware earlier that depleted uranium had been used at the plant?” I asked.

Depleted uranium — *continued on p. 7*



Maurice Copeland wonders when the federal government has told the truth to its weapons-makers. —Jim Hannah photo

Is It a Good Job?

By Ron Faust



Ron Faust confronts the “reason” KC supported the new nuke-parts plant: Good jobs.

—Jim Hannah photo

Long before we wandered
over the face of this earth
protesting nuclear weapons
from the old plant to the new
We also wondered how we got here
When it all seemed innocent enough
When ordinarily good people
Surreptitiously slipped in the idea
That we are creating jobs,
The magical words that
Mesmerize the human brain
That every job is a good job
Even if it is not \$15 per hour
Not thinking much about morality
Or whether we are placed here
To be constructive or destructive
Or whether a job helps the earth
Or hurts the earth like so many jobs
That use up valuable resources
Because jobs are hard to come by
Stuck in feeding our family
And stuck on basic survival
Little time for higher values
But that is what we need most

To discern a good job from a bad job
To recognize that a bad job
Should not flirt around
with radioactive release
and instruments of destruction
so wherein lies our hope
when life is unfair
when bad jobs are promoted
as ordinary good people
ignore a faith consciousness
that we are lucky
to survive a nuclear accident
that some can switch
from bad to good jobs
that we can resist a
substandard value system
that we can still be sad
to commemorate the loss
of those who go before us
that we can be here
to support one another
and be a community of peace
Good Job!

(On occasion of Memorial Day, May 29, when we questioned the rationale of jobs as we did a Die-in and commemorated those who died at the old nuclear weapons plant)

Depleted uranium — *continued from p. 6*

“Yes!” he said. “We machined DU in the 1980s and 1990s.”

Copeland was a supervisor in the tool-and-die department. “I was surprised it was *outside* the building. All these years, they haven’t told us,” he said.

Scientific studies indicate being exposed to depleted uranium can lead to problems with the kidney, brain, liver, and heart, plus reproductive damage.

Ann Suellentrop, MSRN, a PeaceWorks board member who also tracks developments at Bannister Federal Complex, says the Centerpoint contractor reported digging up the affected soil and disposing of the DU in appropriate landfills designed for hazardous substances.

Centerpoint proposes to demolish the plant, excavate a lot of contaminated earth, improve the drainage system, pump and treat wells, and construct buildings for industrial businesses that will employ about 700 people, says Suellentrop. Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens will need to assure that the federal funding is approved before allowing the title to be transferred from the federal government to Centerpoint, which may happen as soon as August. The demolition and cleanup would start right away after that, and it would take about 4 years to complete, says Suellentrop.

—*Jane Stoeber is a PeaceWorks member.*

Avila will not hold science fair in 2018 with Honeywell; new sponsor(s)?

By Ann Suellentrop

Through a series of events, Avila University decided in May not to host a Honeywell-sponsored Science Bowl for high school students next year, as it has recently. An Avila nursing graduate and award recipient, I wrote to Avila last October and this April to oppose that sponsorship precisely because Honeywell operates the nuclear weapons parts plant in KC, MO, a function at odds with Avila’s longtime commitment to peace and justice.

It turns out that there is a lack of funding for future Science Bowls, other than that formerly provided by Honeywell. So I will be working to find alternative funding from sources promoting green, healthy industries that work for the common good. Please contact me at 913-271-7925 if you have ideas on where we could obtain such funding or if you would like to make a donation!

—*Ann Suellentrop, MSRN, is a PeaceWorks board member, past president of the national Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, and a leader in Physicians for Social Responsibility-KC.*

Mark your calendar

Thurs., 6/22, 7pm, **The Secret History of the Attack on the USS Liberty: 50 Years Without Resolution—A Survivor Speaks** at VFW Post 7397, at 9550 Pfluum Rd., Lenexa KS. A Liberty survivor will reflect on the 1967 attack by Israel air/naval forces. Was it deliberate? Sponsor: Citizens for Justice in the Middle East. Info: www.cjme.org.

Planting Seeds of Peace

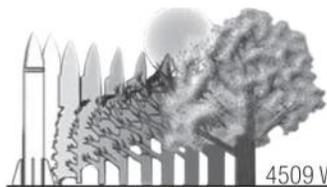
By Mary Hladky

On April 22, PeaceWorks-KC celebrated Earth Day and the dedication of our volunteers who strive to make our community and world a better place for all. Calling our party Planting Seeds of Peace, we invited community members to join in the fun and learn about the work we do. MC Sunny Hamrick introduced our games, speakers, and music.

We enjoyed a delectable meal of authentic, homemade tamales, plus rice and beans, all prepared by the Tamale Kitchen. Our guests enjoyed planting marigold seeds to take home to observe Earth Day. Many of us sang along to several musical performances. Lu Mountenay had us all laughing with her clever commentary on Trump, his Cabinet, and Sean Spicer.

We hope we planted seeds with our guests. We hope that those who may be discouraged by the direction of our country have found a home. A place to plant seeds of peace in our community.

—*Mary Hladky serves on the PeaceWorks board.*



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PEACEWORKS JUNE 2017



UNplaza Art Fair

Ask your artist friends to join our fair!

Artists, apply **by July 14** to the
UNplaza Art Fair, Sept. 23-24,
at Southmoreland Park,
west of the Nelson-Atkins Art Gallery,
between Oak St. and Warwick Blvd.

Application: PeaceWorksKC.org

Questions: PeaceWorksKC@gmail.com



Sunday, August 6

PeaceWorks-KC will hold the
annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Remembrance ceremony.

Come to the Loose Park lagoon, 53rd St.
and Wornall Road, to recall the tragedies of
72 years ago and recommit to **saving**
Earth from nuclear weapons.

6:30pm potluck

7:30pm program

with music, reflections,
peace cranes, lanterns