Save Aug. 7 for remembering Hiroshima, Nagasaki

Please plan to come Sunday, Aug. 7, to our PeaceWorks Kansas City annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance. As we did last year, we’ll park at 6:15 pm on Prospect near Mo. Hwy. 150 and walk 1 mile to the entry road to the KC National Security Campus at 14510 Botts Road, KC MO. The KCNSC eats up $1.2 billion of our tax dollars each year, making parts for nuclear weapons.

In our 7 pm rally at the entry road to the KCNSC, we’ll call for cutting nuke dollars and other outrageous war dollars. We seek a caring economy, caring for our Earth and all of us, rather than the violent economy of militarism.

Hiroshima, Nagasaki
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Prohibit Nukes, Promote HOPE—walk, rally, line-crossing

By Mary Hladky

On a glorious Memorial Day, May 30, 65 persons took time from their holiday weekend to walk, rally and support a line-crossing at the National Security Campus. At this facility in KC MO, 85% of the mechanical and electronic parts for US nuclear weapons are made or procured. During a 1-mile walk to the plant, activists carried flags from 60 countries that have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Along the way, they began a die-in, mourning lives lost to war as well as lives cut short by toxins from the former nuclear weapon parts plant at Bannister Federal Complex. Once the marchers reached the National Security Campus entry road, they completed the die-in, with Taps played by

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We’ll recall the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima on Aug. 6 and of Nagasaki on Aug. 9. We’ll ponder our need for nonviolence—in our own hearts, our own spirits, our relationships, our wider world. We’ll be at one with our brothers and sisters in Japan and with those around the world seeking peace.

For info on this Aug. 7 evening observance, contact Henry Stoever: henrystoever@sbcglobal.net, 913-375-0045.

In a separate effort, PeaceWorks activist Daniel Karam is going to pray at the KCNSC entry road at 14510 Botts Road at the exact times the US attacked Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For info on the dates and times (day or night) of Daniel’s two vigils, contact him: danieldavida@gmail.com, 816-800-2914.

Kosuke Mori-Kreiner, of Warrensburg, MO, strikes the gong for each year from 1945 to 2021 at last year’s Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance. Henry Stoever holds the gong.

—Photo by Jim Hannah

Check out new PeaceWorks flier and brochure

Our old PeaceWorks Kansas City brochures were just that. Old. No longer perfect. Almost gone.

Voila! An opportunity for wordsmiths and pics.

Our brochure team met eight times, ending up with a slim flier and a 12-page brochure. The difference? The flier easily rolls out of our copiers. It’s a small, two-sided intro to us. It gives our vision, our mission, our verbs. We advocate justice and peace. We embrace the cultivation of inner peace, fundamental to peace activism. We act against racism, oppression, violence, militarism.

Our brochure bursts with color photos. It spells out our core values, our concern for the world, our history since 1982. It also describes our annual events, our commitment to nonviolence, our care for the Earth. And our brochure ends with a cut-out letting folks say, “Yes! I want to get involved with PeaceWorks!” They can mail us the cut-out with their contact info and the ways they may wish to be active with us, such as attending our rallies for justice and peace, lobbying, and joining one of our teams.

Our brochure is perfect for those who want to learn MORE about us. Contact our office, PeaceWorksKC@gmail.com, to ask for fliers and/or brochures.

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……………. $1000
- 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: (______)________
Protesters at Whiteman AFB seek peace, deplore drone warfare

By Kristin Scheer
PeaceWorks Kansas City gathered 23 people together at Whiteman Air Force Base on the blustery morning of April 30. The base near Knob Noster, MO, plays a part in US international drone operations.

Brian Terrell, of Maloy, IA, said Whiteman AFB’s 20th Attack Squadron—a unit that includes technicians, administrators, and pilots who operate the MQ-9 Reaper drone—is engaged in combat operations by remote control, without ever leaving this base. Killer drones are promoted as a safer, cheaper way to wage war, said Terrell. “The military, politicians and weapons dealers cite the advantages of keeping our soldiers far from the battlefield, safe from harm, fighting with ‘no boots on the ground,’ in the words of President Biden.” Terrell’s full statement is at https://peaceworkskc.org/nonviolence/brian-terrell-at-entry-to-whiteman-afb-denounces-drone-warfare.

Our event was cosponsored by PeaceWorks, Veterans for Peace, and EarthDayStrike 2022.org (including the Green Party). Ann Suellentrop—a leader in the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, PeaceWorks, and Physicians for Social Responsibility—pointed out that the US military emits more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than entire countries, such as Denmark or Portugal.

In the words of Chris Overfelt, of Veterans for Peace and the PeaceWorks Board, “We gather to celebrate peace and stand united with people around the world telling our governments that we do not want war in any form, anywhere.”

After our event, while we shared a meal, Terrell quoted Cornell West: “People don’t act because they hope. They hope because they act.”

—Kristin Scheer serves on the PeaceWorks Board of Directors.

Come to our next visit to Whiteman AFB to protest drone warfare. We’ll be there by 11 am on Saturday, Oct. 1.

For information, call Henry Stoever, 913-375-0045.
Ben Anderson. Then the annual rally for a nuclear-free world began.

**Speakers**

Frank Lawrence, of the Green Party, spoke about his son’s war experience as an Army MP and a dog handler in Afghanistan. Frank’s son and his bomb sniffer walked the point trying to save his comrades from roadside bombs. “Like my uncles who fought in historic battles,” Frank said about his son, “he doesn’t want to talk about it. Their memories rob them of sleep. Some sounds may trigger physical and mental reactions. They may wake up with cold sweats from some reoccurring nightmare.” Frank continued, “I suggested that my son join the military. I wish I had not done that. It changed him. Now I pray that he doesn’t commit suicide.”

Lois Swimmer, of Cherith Brook Catholic Worker, reflected on how changed her uncle was when he came home from the Vietnam War, and how difficult his years afterward have been. Lois and her relatives will soon gather with this elderly uncle, perhaps for the last time, at the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in Eagle Butte, SD.

Brian Terrell, of Strangers and Guests Catholic Worker in Maloy, IA, said the KC National Security Campus recently celebrated its completion of the B61-12 bomb’s Life Extension Program’s first production unit. The KC plant is responsible for producing 39 major non-nuclear component assemblies of the B61-12, an air-launched thermonuclear gravity bomb, a weapon of mass destruction. Brian insisted, “The growing delusion among war planners that a nuclear war can be won places the world in unprecedented peril. In this time of climate catastrophe, famine and pandemic, the waste of resources to build nuclear weapons is an unspeakable crime.”

Steve Kellogg, of the Independence, MO, Friends Committee on National Legislation, spoke about FCNL, which supports an end to war and nuclear weapons, and calls for moving money from defense spending to meeting human needs. Steve invited PeaceWorks members to join the Independence FCNL in lobbying.

Jeff Humfeld, of Veterans for Peace, read us VFP’s 76th anniversary statement on the US nuclear bombings of civilians at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. VFP calls on the president to implement a “No First Use Policy” taking nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert and to take leadership for the US to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Sonja Griffith, pastor of the First Central Church of the Brethren in Kansas City, KS, spoke to us about hope—building a peaceful world and seeking oneness with all people. She had us envision a world based on nonviolence, taking care of each other and making service the watchword for all countries and all people.

Kristin Scheer, a PeaceWorks Board member, spoke of the book club she leads on Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants. Kristin read passages from...
Why I trespassed at a nuclear weapons plant

By Thomas C. Fox

Here are excerpts from the column posted at https://ncronline.org/news/opinion/why-i-trespassed-nuclear-weapons-plant-memorial-day; reprinted with permission.

It was in the early 1980s, not long after I became editor of the National Catholic Reporter, that the US bishops’ conference took up the issue of the morality of US nuclear deterrence. After several drafts, the bishops, in May 1983, published “The Challenge of Peace.” The document quoted Pope John Paul II: “In current conditions ‘deterrence’ based on balance, certainly not as an end in itself but as a step on the way toward a progressive disarmament, may still be judged morally acceptable.”

Arguably, the 1980s and 1990s experienced periods of “progressive disarmament.” The US and Russia cut the size of their strategic nuclear stockpiles. However, for the past two decades the real nuclear story, largely not covered by the media, is the addition to US nuclear stockpiles of generations of smaller, and more precisely targeted, nuclear weapons.

The terrifying result is that the line between conventional and nuclear weapons is getting thinner and thinner. Consider only Russia’s threat to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

It seems what is happening now is a form of human madness. Our nuclear weapons cannot be viewed as acceptable or moral—as we are moving forward building new nuclear weapons, not disarming old ones.

So, on Memorial Day, my wife and I spoke out with our bodies. We acted for our children and grandchildren and for all the children and grandchildren of the world.

We purposely trespassed onto the grounds of a nuclear weapons plant in Kansas City, MO. I crossed a line painted in purple. I knelt, made the sign of the cross, and recited the Prayer of St. Francis (“Make me an instrument of your peace”) before being led away by the guards. Plant officials have one year to charge us with having violated their private property.

Yes, we will continue to protest this madness, this assault against God’s creation plan.

—Thomas C. Fox is National Catholic Reporter’s editor/publisher emeritus.
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the chapter “Allegiance to Gratitude,” discussing a culture in which gratitude is the first priority, and it is a duty to live in harmony with each other and all living things.

Line-crossing with ‘peace and compassion’
Over a 12-year span of time, PeaceWorks KC has been instrumental in over 150 crossings of the property line at the first and now the second KC MO plant making parts for nukes. This Memorial Day, five persons crossed the National Security Campus property line: Maurice Copeland, Ron Faust, Tom Fox and his wife Kim Hoa Fox, and Kimmy Igl (former staff member at Cherith Brook). The police used no handcuffs, choosing not to arrest the five line-crossers, simply reserving the right to issue a ticket for any later trespass within a year. Retired attorney Henry Stoever, a PeaceWorks co-chair, said, “Peace and compassion prevailed.” We ended the day with Ron Faust’s Poem “Arrested Development.” KSHB Channel 41 filmed the crossing and interviewed Tom Fox, past editor/publisher of the National Catholic Reporter. To see the full day’s events, view this livestream (https://fb.watch/dlWWLpI7Wc) by Andrei Stoica of Independent Media Association. The talks by Frank Lawrence, Brian Terrell, Sonja Griffith, and Kristin Scheer, plus Ron Faust’s poem, are at PeaceWorksKC.org. ❘
—Mary Hladky is vice chair of PeaceWorks.

Henry Stoever comes before jury 9/6 for nuke resistance
For Henry’s line-crossing at the KC National Security Campus in 2021, he is going to be tried by a jury on 9/6. He says our line-crossings are “an act of intervention in this time of crisis” with new nukes being made and fewer dismantled. Attend the trial 9/6 at 9:30 am at Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th St., KC MO. Courtroom to be assigned. For info, contact Henry, 913-375-0045. ❘

Book club to delve into Thích Nhất Hạnh’s The Art of Living
By Tom Mountenay
Thích Nhất Hạnh, one of the world’s most revered spiritual leaders, reveals the art of living in mindfulness. Starting in September, our book club will explore his book The Art of Living: Peace and Freedom in the Here and Now. The book offers seven transformative meditations on gratitude for our lives and our interconnectedness with the world. These seven meditations can free us to live happy, peaceful, and active lives, and face aging and dying with curiosity and joy and without fear. The book will help us live deeply in each moment of life, right where we are.
Many, if not all nonviolent activists, stress the importance of having a spiritual source and practice for engaging in the hard work of nonviolence to bring justice and healing, not only to our world and our communities, but to ourselves. Beyond all books I have read, this book gave me daily practices and a way for being in daily living to do better at being courageous, compassionate, and generous towards others and myself. Thích Nhất Hạnh refers to us as inter-beings—connected to each other and our world in ways to bring healing. For info on our zoom discussions, contact me at mountenay@att.net. ❘
—Tom Mountenay, a PeaceWorks KC activist, has been coordinating a peace- and-justice book club for a year.

*Henry Stoever, right, chats with KCPD Sgt. Craig Hope about reasons for crossing the National Security Campus property line on Memorial Day in 2021. —Photo by Tom Fox*
Dee Berry died at 96; celebrate her life 7/14

Dee Berry died at age 96 on April 27. Come celebrate her life on Thursday, July 14, at Simpson House, 4509 Walnut, KC MO, with visitation at 4:30 pm, a service at 6 pm, and a reception.

Dee was born in Audubon, IA, and—as she wrote in her own obituary—always cherished her small-town background. After graduating magna cum laude from the University of Iowa, Dee came to KC, where she married, had five children, and obtained her master’s degree at UMKC. She wrote that she was “caught up in the turbulent ’60s, becoming involved in the peace and justice community, a commitment she kept the rest of her life.” PeaceWorks KC bestowed its Charles E. Bebb Peace Merit Award on Dee in 2015 for outstanding service to the cause of peace.

Dee helped bring the international Green Party to the US, becoming its national clearinghouse coordinator. The Green Party proclaimed Dee “Grandmother of the Greens” during its inaugural US convention.

Dee’s friend Sharon Lockhart says, “Dee and I were members of a feminist book club as well as a Pagan Ritual group. I consider being asked by Dee to be Priestess at her Memorial Celebration of Life one of the most significant honors of my life.”

The obituary suggests donations in Dee’s memory to Harvester’s at Harvesters.org or to PeaceWorks KC at PeaceWorksKC.org.

Contact elected officials
Mayor Quinton Lucas: 816-513-3500
City Council: 816-513-1368
President Joe Biden: 202-456-1111 comments, 202-456-1414 switchboard
Sen. Josh Hawley (R-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 dist., Mo.): 202-225-7041
Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-4th district, Mo.): 202-225-2876
Sen. Roger Marshall, MD (R-Kan.): 202-224-4774
Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.): 202-224-6521
Rep. Sharice Davids (D-3rd dist., Kan.): 913-621-0832

Ranked choice voting team to stage parallel election

By Rachel MacNair

Ranked choice voting (RCV) allows you to select first the candidate you want, and then if you want to help the “lesser evil” who can actually win, you rank them lower. You’ve communicated what you want. That’s greater democracy.

Better Ballot KC is trying to get RCV on the ballot in KC MO. City Council members are friendly to the idea, but they need more push to act. KC MO citizens, please call your City Council members. Find your reps at https://kcmo.gov/city-hall/city-officials/city-council-members.

Parallel election. In KC’s US Senate primary Aug. 2, many candidates are running in both major parties. The danger someone could win with a small percentage is likely. Better Ballot KC will be outside polling places, offering voters a chance to rank the same candidates. The results of this parallel election should help with educating and lobbying for RCV.

For hire? We’re hiring people for the one-day gig of asking voters to fill out those ballots (base pay $100, plus $1 for every ballot turned in). You can donate that to PeaceWorks KC if you want. For more info and to apply, go to https://betterballotkc.org/get-involved/application.

—Rachel MacNair coordinates the KC MO drive for ranked choice voting.
Needed: artists, volunteers for 9/24-25 art fair

After skipping a year, it’s back again—the PeaceWorks KC Local Art Fair. Because of coronavirus, the fair was all online in 2020 and was cancelled last year. But now, have fun at PeaceWorks' 31st fair!

When: Sat. 9/24, 10am-6pm, and Sun., 9/25, 10am-5pm
Where: Theis Park, south of Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, at Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd. and Oak Street in KC MO.

The artists sell their treasures, ranging from pottery to paintings, from photos to clothes. The artists keep most of the income, and PeaceWorks keeps some to support peace-and-justice efforts. “Art and peace. What a combo!” says Ann Suellentrop of the PeaceWorks Board.

“We’ll take precautions with masks and distancing. The fair will be a re-blossoming of local talent,” says Henry Stoever, a PeaceWorks co-chair. “We look forward to blending our artists’ creativity with the art of peace, the blessing of diversity, the joy of being together,” says Stoever. The artists’ application highlights inclusivity, encouraging submissions from communities of color, persons of all genders, LGBTQIA, and persons with disabilities.

Artists, the application is at https://bit.ly/PWKCArtFair2022. The deadline to apply is Aug. 26; apply online or by mailing in the application.

Volunteers, e-mail us at PeaceWorksKC@gmail.com. We need cashiers, traffic guides, and heavy-lifting help for set-up and tear-down. *

—Artwork by David Bayard