Our 9/24-25 art fair: fabulous art, diverse artists

The PeaceWorks KC Local Art Fair, in person, is back! After 2 years without our face-to-face fair, we’re holding our annual fundraiser on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24-25, at Theis Park. That’s south of the shuttlecocks at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, along Oak Street, south of Cleaver Boulevard in KC MO.

Because of Covid-19, we cancelled our fair last year, and held it online in 2020. But with art, you want to see, hold, feel what you’re getting.

“The artists are so excited we’re back in person,” says Bennette Dibben of PeaceWorks, our art fair coordinator. “The artists know Theis Park, they know they’ll be in the shade, and they like being part of our peace and justice work!”

PeaceWorks Treasurer Dave Pack says, “In a normal year, the art fair provides almost half our annual income, with the other half being memberships and donations.” He highlights the community aspect of our fair. “There’s a sense of... Art fair — continued on p. 7

Recalling 1945 bombings of Hiroshima, Nagasaki

By Jane Stoever

Echoes. Hope. Two hands.

These came into play at “Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Never Again!” PeaceWorks Kansas City and Veterans for Peace cosponsored this annual event on Aug. 7 at the entry road to the KC National Security Campus (KC-NSC). Despite the 92° heat at 7 pm, 40 persons came, and a breeze and shade lifted our spirits. The KCNSC is a sprawling $1.2 billion-a-year facility that makes or procure 85 percent of the non-nuclear components of US nukes.

Hiroshima, Nagasaki — cont. on p. 4

Inside
- Join drone protest Oct. 1 at Whiteman AFB, p.2
- Hope for Earth: a climate response course in KC, p. 2
- US military: one of largest contributors to climate crisis, p. 3
- Ask universities to stop being allies to nuke industry, p. 6
- Interested in Thích Nhất Hạnh’s The Art of Living?, p. 6
- Poem: “Knotty Karma,” p. 7
- Nuke resister has jury trial in KC Sept. 6, p. 8

Glimpses of artwork by just a few of the artists in our 2022 fair: (above), art by Theo Wren; (at right, top to bottom), art by Cigdem Unalan, Haley Sellmeyer, Jason Winfrey, Tarris Rosell, Riso Prints for Ukraine, Bridget J Gardner.
Join drone protest Oct. 1 at Whiteman AFB

Knowing that training in drone operations continues at Whiteman Air Force Base, PeaceWorks and other groups will be protesting at Whiteman AFB in Knob Noster, MO, 11-noon on Sat., Oct. 1. Two longtime peace activists plan to join us: Brian Terrell of Maloy, Iowa, coordinator of the Nevada Desert Experience—his Whiteman resistance in 2012 landed him in prison for 6 months—and Jeff Stack of Columbia, MO, director of the Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation. To carpool from the KC area, contact Henry Stoever, 913-375-0045.

Before our April 30 peace witness at Whiteman, Chris Overfelt wrote, “Whiteman AFB is home to the B-2 bombers that are capable of delivering nuclear payloads around the world. It is also part of the

Drone protest — cont. on p. 7

Hope for Earth: a climate response course in KC

By Kristin Scheer

Our PeaceWorks vision is a healthy world of justice and peace without war and its weapons. It’s important to reflect on how our work and our vision are related to the climate crisis. In a climate response course, I was inspired by the work of Joanna Macy, who suggests this: We make meaning by the cultural stories we tell, and there are three stories in our time. One story is “business as usual” in the industrial growth society. The second story tells of the great unraveling of living systems on Earth. The third is the Great Turning, the shift from the industrial growth society to a life-sustaining society.

The first story, she says, tells us to “consume, be silent, and obey.” Corporate profits and market shares grow, we are comfortable, and our lives are convenient. But you cannot maximize a system for one variable, economic growth, without it going out of control. And that’s what we have done, sliding us into the second story, where the sixth mass extinction, the melting of our glaciers, deadly weather patterns, and the meltdown of economic systems prevail.

And yet, the third story is rising, says Macy. “We are witnessing a revolution: farmers’ markets, green buildings, indigenous voices, science, and spirituality—a recognition that our Earth is alive.” It is an exciting story, and its ending has yet to be written.

This climate response course is created and is being piloted by Kansas City’s June Holte. She has been actively participating in the Great Turning for nearly 40 years, long before she had the term to describe her work.

When the dates of the next climate response pilot course are announced, we will post the dates on our website. For now, the longer version of this story is at: https://peaceworkskc.org/ecology/climate-response-course-in-kc-offers-hope-for-earth.

—Kristin Scheer is an environmental activist on the PeaceWorks Kansas City Board of Directors.
US military: one of largest contributors to climate crisis

By Chris Overfelt

I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, Aug. 2-4. An organization I am active with, Veterans for Peace, held a direct action in the streets in front of the Capitol on Wednesday, Aug. 3. Seven members of VFP were arrested as we held signs and chanted while blocking traffic. Our action sought to bring awareness to the role of the US military in the climate crisis and the need to pass effective climate change legislation immediately.

The US military is one of the world’s largest contributors to the climate crisis. Our military emits more emissions than the entire nation of Portugal. The data on the entirety of US military pollution is only partial because the military is not required by Congress to report its emissions. We need Congress to pass legislation requiring the military to report its full emissions and to pass legislation reducing the military budget.

Slashing the military budget in half and directing that money toward the transition to renewable energies is vital to addressing climate change. We are on the precipice of climate disaster, and the inflated military budget is driving us toward destruction. We can provide security to our citizens without spending a trillion dollars a year on war and without driving ourselves toward extinction.

—Chris Overfelt, a member of the PeaceWorks Board, served in the Air Force National Guard in Topeka, KS, from 2002 to 2011 as an aircraft hydraulics mechanic. He deployed to Turkey and Qatar in 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

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: (___)_______
Echoes

Hiroko Komiya, raised in Chiba, a suburb of Tokyo, echoed the words of Mrs. Keiko Baker, who spoke at this event last year. Mrs. Baker, raised near Nagasaki and now 90, said of nuclear weapons: “The bomb was made by humans, dropped by humans, and suffered by humans … an utter devastation of human lives.”

Ms. Komiya insisted that the bomb can also be taken apart by humans, adding, “The Russian invasion of Ukraine has raised the fear of nuclear weapons to a level not seen since the end of the war,” World War II—an echo of fear. Mrs. Baker is the honorary principal and founder of the Kansas City Japanese School, and Ms. Komiya is the principal.

Henry Stoever, a co-chair of PeaceWorks, told us, “Today we face our own global Hiroshima and Nagasaki” with the renewed nuclear arms race. He said some people say today’s bombs are 200-300 times more powerful than those we used in 1945, and some say they are 3,000 times more powerful. Henry said, “We are at the brink of destruction, and we must save ourselves.”

Hope

Ms. Atsuki Mori, who came from Osaka, Japan, and is a nurse who lives in Warrensburg, MO, hoped to reach a person via an Internet search. That person, whom Ms. Mori had met, is a hibakusha, a survivor of the Hiroshima blast. Ms. Mori lived with her grandmother, a physician, until age 14, and they had gone together a few times to visit friends in Hiroshima, including the family of her grandmother’s former fiancé, Dr. Ueki, who died from tuberculosis before the US bombed Hiroshima. The fiancé had a nephew who, as a baby, lost the sight in his left eye from the glass in a kitchen window that shattered with the bomb blast. The nephew’s mother was able to shield her baby, all but his left eye. Ms. Mori and her grandmother visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial when Ms. Mori was 6 or 7 years old, and visited the former fiancé’s brother and nephew.

Ms. Mori could not forget the scar on the nephew’s eye. “Even though the only clues I had were the last name and scarred eye,” she told us, “I was hopeful. So I entered keywords in the search engine, and soon I found an older man with a scarred eye named Kensuke Ueki. Somehow, I found his home phone number. So I thought to give it a shot. A woman answered the phone and said it was the Ueki residence. I asked her if she knew Atsuki Mori (me), and she did. I was able to talk to Dr. Ueki’s nephew, also a Dr. Ueki.” He’s been a leader in...
ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which PeaceWorks joined last year, and he said of our Hiroshima/Nagasaki memorials, “I thank my American friends for seeking the truth about Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That gives me hope for abolishing nuclear weapons.” Referring to the flags at our event, Ann Suellentrop of the PeaceWorks Board asked, “Why do we fly these colorful flags today? Because they are a sign of great hope! They are the flags of the countries (by now 66 countries) that have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.” It’s the first treaty, said Ann, to call for complete destruction of all nuclear weapons and for compensation for the victims of nuclear production, use and testing, as well as for environmental remediation.

“Good news is steadily being reported,” she added, “such as a bank in Italy deciding to totally divest from nuclear weapons. The Treaty has stigmatized nuclear weapons, making them controversial investments.” On page 6, see Ann’s challenge: ask universities to stop collaborating with nuclear weapon facilities concerning students’ careers.

Two hands

Sunny Hamrick of the PeaceWorks Board chose “With My Own Two Hands,” by Ben Harper, for our closing song. Sunny echoed the words of Mrs. Baker and Ms. Komiya, saying, “The bombs are made by humans, dropped by humans, and can be taken apart by humans.” Sunny asked us to look at our own two hands and think of how we can make peace. Referring to the huge complex of buildings on the “campus,” the National Security Campus, he said, “The people in these buildings are creating nothing but destruction.” Then he led us in singing:

I can change the world with my own two hands.
I can make peace on Earth with my own two hands.
I can clean up the Earth with my own two hands.
I can take bombs apart with my own two hands.

—Jane Stoever serves on the PeaceWorks Communications Team. For transcripts of talks by Hiroko Komiya, Atsuki Mori, and Ann Suellentrop, plus more stories/pictures, see PeaceWorksKC.org.
Ask your university to stop being an ally to the nuclear weapon industry

By Ann Suellentrop

Many universities in our region have relationships with Honeywell, which operates the KC National Security Campus (KCNSC), a nuclear weapons production facility. Our universities encourage students to take temp jobs at the KCNSC and pursue careers there. ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) urges us to go online to sign a pledge asking our colleges and universities to separate themselves from nuclear weapons production and funding.

Among universities that ICAN lists with alliances with the nuclear weapons industry are KSU, MU, KU, and UMKC. If you attended another school, note that as you take the pledge. Alumni count!

ICAN asks: Will you take the pledge to save the world? Seriously. Nuclear weapons are an existential threat—if they are ever used, it will essentially be the end of life on the planet. The nuclear powers have 13,000 nuclear weapons now and are spending billions of dollars building more.

Since universities and colleges play a key role in US nuclear weapons production, we need to break that connection and separate our schools from the nuclear weapons complex. Your school may be on the Schools of Mass Destruction list—directly involved in nuclear weapons production—or it may be investing in companies and financial institutions that are paying for nuclear weapons through its endowment. Either way, you can say “No!” Sign the pledge at https://universities.icanw.org/university_pledge.

The University PLEDGE for Universities, Colleges, and Schools

We, the undersigned …

Hereby declare our deep concern about the links between our universities, colleges or schools and the US nuclear weapons production complex, which contradict our personal values as well as the mission of our institutions, and

Hereby urge our universities, colleges or schools to cut all ties with the US nuclear weapons production complex, and to pursue the abolition of nuclear weapons as a global public good of the highest order.

Interested in Thích Nhật Hạnh’s The Art of Living?

By Tom Mountenay

We’re planning a book club by Zoom, and the start date and schedule will be determined by those who want to participate. The book will be The Art of Living: Peace and Freedom in the Here and Now, by Thích Nhật Hạnh. If you are interested:

• Contact Tom Mountenay by email: moun tenay@att.net.

• Put Book Club in the subject line.

• Give your preference for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings (7 PM Central Time).

Hopefully, we’ll have a start date in September and will meet, with flexibility, every other week on the same night. We’ll also invite others to join.

Our eight sessions will explore seven meditations for living 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.  

—Tom Mountenay has coordinated a book club for about a year.
**Knotty Karma**

By Ron Faust

As long as arms desperately cling to nuclear arms
We have a dilemma
   Our fear shows in the violence of weapons
As long as we keep saying
   Our weapons are safer, better, smarter
   We have an enemy, and it turns out to be us
As long as we only rely on force to solve problems
   We are not free to walk away or be ourselves
   The pride to win skews any diplomacy for peace
As long as we think MAD works
   We will have 13000 with overwhelming power
   We cannot stockpile or handle the uranium
As long as we are stuck in the human condition
   Unable to raise a rational critique of our dilemma
   We will shorten the time of the Doomsday Clock

8/7/22 (On occasion to bring attention to the problem of nuclear weapons and our flirtation with the Doomsday Clock)

---

**Drone protest** — continued from page 2

sprawling network of drone warfare where remote strikes are carried out in countries thousands of miles from the operator’s location.” Later he spelled out this reason for our rallies at Whiteman: “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.”

---

**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
Nuke resister has jury trial in KC Sept. 6

By Henry Stoever

For resisting nuclear weapons, I have a jury trial at the Jackson County Courthouse, 415 E. 12th St., in Kansas City, MO, on Sept. 6. The trial starts at 9:30 am before Judge Sarah A. Castle, in Court 1 on the 10th Floor.

I am charged with trespass—stepping across a marked line last year at the nuclear weapons plant, the Kansas City National Security Campus at 14510 Botts Rd. Although contested by the prosecutor, I call my act a peace witness, an act of conscience, an intervention to nuclear madness. I was found guilty by a judge in Municipal Court and am appealing that decision.

I hope to tell the jury that I have already been trespassed upon by the creation of and threat to use our own nuclear weapons.

I am responding to the evil and to the harm that has been inflicted upon all of us.

Proceeding to this jury trial is an act of hope, love, faith, and conscience. An act of courage. This is the first jury trial for one of us. Since 2010, there have been some 150 instances of a person protesting nuclear weapons in KC, by stepping across the property line and risking arrest.

I want to speak to my life, my intent, my motive, my purpose.

The prosecutor may resist all of this. I may appeal my case further if I am found guilty. This is in the long tradition of civil disobedience and seeking to speak truth to power. *

—Henry Stoever, a co-chair of PeaceWorks Kansas City, has civilly resisted the nuclear weapons plant in south KC MO 4 times and was not found guilty until his trial this year for his 2021 line-crossing.

Henry Stoever talks with Sgt. Craig Hope about reasons for crossing the purple line, marking the nuke facility’s property line.

—Photo by Tom Fox, May 31, 2021