



REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA

by Julie Byrnes Enslow

This month we commemorate the 77th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 6, 1945, 140,000 people in Hiroshima were killed and the city obliterated. Then on August 9, three days later, a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki, killing 74,000.



demonstrating the atomic bomb, the US would have leverage over Russia in negotiating the post-war world order. Many historians today see the dropping of the atomic bombs as not ending WWII, but as beginning the Cold War with Russia. The US

emerged from WWII as a world power to be feared and immediately began testing and building a stockpile of more and more powerful nuclear weapons.

There are still two versions as to why US President Harry Truman chose to drop those dreadful bombs. The original public relations rationale given by our government is that the Japanese, who were losing the war, were refusing to surrender unconditionally. They wanted to retain their emperor as a figure head, (which they did even after the bombings). Ending the war would require a ground invasion of Japan and that meant many thousands of US soldiers would die.

After the war, public statements were made by nearly every top WWII military leader, including President Eisenhower, that using the atomic bomb to end the war was not necessary.

The revised analysis of most historians today (initiated by historian Gar Alperovitz) paints a different picture. As the war was winding down, the Russian army was about to invade Japan from the north and the US did not want to share the victory over Japan with the Russians. President Harry Truman saw it as necessary to win the war quickly to keep the Russians out and dropping the "Big One" seemed the way to do it. By

In the nuclear age, conventional warfare opens the door to the threat of a nuclear holocaust. It has been either the grace of God or sheer luck that we have avoided the unthinkable so far. Those of us who lived through the Cuban Missile Crisis in November of 1962 remember the moment-to-moment threat of nuclear annihilation. Today, according to nuclear analysts at the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, with the war in Ukraine we are even closer to nuclear war than we were in 1962. Their Doomsday Clock is now set for only 100 seconds to midnight.

Ukraine and Nuclear War

The longer the war in Ukraine goes on, the greater the danger of it escalating to a nuclear confrontation. Russia's nuclear threats have been aimed at discouraging the US and NATO from supplying weapons to Ukraine. It may only be a matter of time before supply lines of incoming arms and military equipment are targeted by Russia and the war spills over into an adjoining NATO country such as Poland. This could lead to World War III.

Former US Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA), a nuclear weapons expert and founder of the Nuclear Threat Initiative, states that three fundamental things are essential for avoiding a nuclear catastrophe: rational leaders, accurate information, and no major blunders. "And all three are now in some degree of doubt," he says.

According to The New York Times, the Biden administration has formed a Tiger Team of national-security officials to run war games on what to do if Russia uses a nuclear weapon.

Unfortunately, except for peace organizations, we hear few appeals for a ceasefire or negotiated settlement between Russia and Ukraine. Instead, the US and our NATO allies talk of seriously weakening Russia with a prolonged war - a dangerous tactic that can push Russia closer to using nuclear weapons. We are playing with fire, literally.

Recently, US Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) wrote an excellent letter to President Biden seeking a diplomatic end to the war in Ukraine. It has been endorsed by several national peace organizations including Peace Action. Jayapal stated that "given the destruction created by this war for Ukraine and the world, as well as the risk of catastrophic escalation, we believe it is in the interests of Ukraine, the United States, and the world to avoid a prolonged conflict." She urges "a proactive diplomatic push, redoubling efforts to seek a realistic framework for a ceasefire." [Read the complete letter on our Peace Action WI website.]

This war will either end with compromise and a negotiated settlement or it could be the trigger of the unthinkable - a nuclear war.

Call your Congressperson to sign on to Rep. Jayapal's letter to Pres. Biden. DC Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

**No More Hiroshimas.
No More Nagasakis.
No More Nuclear Weapons.**

PEACE CALENDAR • AUG/SEPT 2022

- **Stand for Peace - Every Saturday from Noon to 1 pm.** Flags and signs supplied by Peace Action of WI. *See our website for weekly locations.*
 - **Stand for a Livable Climate - Every Friday 12 Noon to 1pm.** Chase Bank, downtown Milwaukee, Water and Wisconsin. Organized by 350MKE and endorsed by Peace Action WI.
 - **Sat. August 6 - Hiroshima Day - Annual Lanterns for Peace Program and Vigil. 6pm** Commemoration of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Riverside Park Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park St., Milwaukee. (See ad on next pg. for details.)
 - **Wed. Aug. 24, 7pm End the Wars Coalition Meeting on Zoom.** Call PA office for zoom contact.
 - **Sat. Aug. 20, 2pm Annual Peace Action Wisconsin Picnic.** Kern Park, corner of Humboldt and Keefe. Pot luck, free drinks, brats and veggie burgers. Entertainment by Raging Grannies, poet Suzanne Rosenblatt, Peace Troubadour David Drake. JOIN US!
 - **Sun. Aug. 28 and Sept. 25, 12:30pm Cuba Coalition MKE Rally and Car & Bike Caravan.** Meet at Zao MKE Church, 2319 Kenwood Blvd, across from UWM Union. Be part of the call to end the U.S. economic blockade on Cuba and all policies that divide Latinx families.
 - **Mon. Sept. 5, 11am Labor Day Parade and Festival.** Peace Action WI will be tabling at the festival after the parade on Summerfest festival grounds. Volunteers needed.
 - **Wed. Sept. 21, 6:30am Unity Fire for World Peace, United Nations International Day of Peace.** Alice's Garden 2136 N. 21st St, Milwaukee, near North Av. Sunrise opening at 6:37am, lighting of the fire. Native American ceremony celebrating the equinox. Closing of the program at sunset, 6:50pm.
 - **Sun. Sept. 25, 11am-4pm Harbor Fest** 600 E. Greenfield Ave. Peace Action WI will have a table.
 - **Wed. Sept. 28, 7pm End the Wars Coalition Meeting on Zoom.** Call PA office for zoom contact.
- More updated information on local peace and justice events can be found on our website, www.peaceactionwi.org*

The Mobilizer

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End Military Intervention, Transfer Military Spending to Human Needs, Abolish Nuclear Weapons & Power. Oppose Racism & Sexism, Protect the Environment.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF THE ATOMIC BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI



LANTERNS FOR PEACE

SATURDAY AUGUST 6, FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM

Riverside Park Urban Ecology Center- 1500 E. Park Pl, Milwaukee, WI
OUTDOORS IN THE BEAUTIFUL RIVERLAND TENT

A beautiful, family friendly, cultural event based on a traditional Japanese ritual.

6:00 pm Family Activities: Making of traditional Japanese lanterns in memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, folding of origami peace cranes, story-telling of "Sadako and the 1000 Paper Cranes," peace games.

7:00 pm Commemorative Program: Traditional Irish Music by Ceol Cairde (Music of Friends), music by James Oldenberg. Speakers - Pam Richards, Julie Enslow, George Martin.

8:00 pm Ceremonial floating of Japanese Lanterns in the small pond.

8:30 pm Peace Procession with Lighted Lanterns to Oakland Avenue.

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS! NO MORE NAGASAKIS! NO MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

Organized by Peace Action of Wisconsin. • Co-sponsored by Milwaukee End the Wars Coalition.

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Time for a Bit More Retirement *Editorial - Julie Byrnes Enslow*

After retiring from the staff of Peace Action WI in 2009, I continued to voluntarily edit our newsletter, The Mobilizer. It is now time to lay down this responsibility. I am passing this on to a Newsletter Committee of contributors and editors. I may occasionally write articles as a contributing member (as I have not run out of opinions.)

It has been a privilege to serve the peace movement and be a part of Peace Action Wisconsin since its beginning as Mobilization for Survival in 1977. I continue to be active in anti-war/disarmament work as well as addressing the rapidly escalating climate crisis. The two existential threats of nuclear war climate change demand that we all commit to building a peaceful, healthy, livable planet for ourselves and future generations.

Peace Action WI Annual Picnic



SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022 AT 2 PM
At Kern Park in Milwaukee - Picnic Area 2
3614 N. Humboldt Blvd, near Keefe Ave.

We will be joined and co-sponsored by the
United Nations Association of Milwaukee

AN AMAZING POTLUCK - BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH!
Free bratwurst, veggie burgers, potato salad and beer.

Entertainment by the Raging Grannies,
the poetry of Suzanne Rosenblatt
and music by David Drake.

For more information call Peace Action WI at 414-269-9525