Our sincere thanks to everyone who attended *70 Years After Hiroshima & Nagasaki: The Ever-Present Nuclear Threat*. Held on August 6th at the Japanese American Historical Plaza in Portland, the event was a great success. More than 300 attendees gathered to remember the victims of nuclear weapons and get more engaged in the movement for a nuclear-free future.

The memorial, which marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, featured atomic bomb survivor Michiko Kornhauser, Marshall Islands representative Joe Enlet, and anti-nuclear activist Carol Urner, along with emcee Ronault LS Catalani and performances by Portland Taiko, Tomodachi Chorus, and more.

In addition to informing and entertaining our audience, we also engaged them in our efforts to end the unacceptable threat to human health and survival posed by nuclear weapons. We collected more than 120 petition signatures encouraging the Obama administration to sign the international humanitarian pledge to ban nuclear weapons and added many new emails to our action alert list.

We also participated in a series of related events. Working with members of Peace and Justice Works on *The Zones Project*, volunteers distributed posters around Portland as reminders of the destructive power of nuclear weapons. We sponsored Concordia University’s *Educating for Peace: Poets Respond to the Nuclear Age 70 Years After Hiroshima and Nagasaki*, which featured Oregon Poet Laureate Peter Sears, past Washington Poet Laureate Kathleen Flenniken, Leah Stenson and 2015 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship winner Chelsea Lin. We also sponsored the *Educating for Peace Art Exhibit*, which included pieces from the Hiroshima Ground Zero Museum and new work by artist Yukiyo Kawano.

Special thanks to our event co-sponsors and the members of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial planning committee, as well as to the Oregon PSR members whose financial support makes this annual event possible. With your support, we will continue to highlight the threats posed by nuclear weapons and engage new activists in our work for a nuclear weapons free world.

### This Can Be Our Time to Change the World

*Regna Merritt, Healthy Climate Program Director*

Stephen V. Sundborg is a Jesuit priest and president of Seattle University. Howard Frumkin, a public health physician, is dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Washington. Together they wrote an opinion piece, published July 5th, for *The Seattle Times*. Here are some excerpts:

““The long-anticipated encyclical by Pope Francis to the world on the environment was released mid-June. The Lancet Commission, a distinguished United Kingdom-based health body, the following week released its report on health and climate change. The next day, the White House hosted a summit on the same subject. Will this unprecedented alignment of key official voices — religious, scientific and governmental — change the conversation on ecological destruction and whom it impacts? Pope Francis has already changed the conversation in the Catholic Church by prioritizing issues of justice and mercy... Health professionals and scientists are also changing the conversation by calling attention to the ways in which environmental destruction, such as climate change, threatens human health and well-being. We feel the effects through more severe storms, risks of infectious diseases, food scarcity and more.

*(continued on page 3)*
Dear Oregon PSR Supporter:

The work of Oregon PSR is to confront the gravest threats to human health and survival. In this edition of The Folded Crane you can read about the many forms that this work takes. The August 6th memorial of the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a powerful reminder that we must prevent that which we cannot cure, and so Oregon PSR remains steadfast in our call to abolish nuclear weapons.

Climate change is another existential problem that we face. We are working closely with the Renew Oregon campaign to jumpstart the sluggish Oregon legislature into real climate action, beginning with getting out-of-state coal out of Oregon's energy mix through a ballot initiative. Oregon PSR continues to work in coalition to fight myriad fossil fuel export projects — coal trains and barges, oil trains, oil-by-rail storage facilities, propane terminals and liquid natural gas pipelines. We are committed to a clean energy future for a vibrant, efficient, and healthy society, and we understand that commercial nuclear power remains unsafe and uneconomical and is not a viable solution to climate change.

Common threads run through all of the work that we do. Rather than weakening any one area of focus, these connections bind and strengthen our work as a whole. Peace is at the heart of our efforts. Promoting peace by ending and preventing U.S. involvement in controversial foreign wars and abolishing nuclear weapons will not only make us all safer but will also save the U.S. government huge sums of money. This peace dividend can be used in more constructive and beneficial ways for things like clean energy, public transit, education, and public health programs.

All of our work takes place within the context of a dysfunctional political system. However, the very nature of our work at Oregon PSR challenges this system and its failure to prioritize human health, happiness, and well-being. Our successes, which proclaim that we as a society care about human beings and their welfare, help to transform that system into one that reflects our shared values.

I find encouragement and hope knowing that the sort of society that protects its citizens from nuclear war will also act to address climate change, protect children from toxic exposures, and emphasize equity in our transition to low carbon energy.

Our dedicated efforts are resulting in important successes. These successes include the passage of the Toxic Free Kids Act, the growing momentum of the healthy climate movement, and effectively stopping three of the six coal export proposals in our region.

And there is so much more to do. Now more than ever we need everyone to raise their voice and lend their support. I look forward to working with you.

Peace,

Patrick O’Herron, MD
Oregon PSR Board President

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“There is strong evidence that the world’s poor are among the most vulnerable — a common-sense, but often overlooked, fact that Lancet and the encyclical spotlight. The Lancet report shows that combating climate change is an unprecedented opportunity to advance health, equitable development and sustainability...

“What is especially new about this moment is a reframing of the climate issue, putting people at its center. The consistent focus is not on ourselves, but on others — the poor and the most vulnerable. It is a joint call to solidarity with those who most need our efforts because they are the ones who most experience the destructive effects of climate change.

“We are the ones who can most do what is needed to mitigate those effects causing their suffering. Climate change affects us all. We are called to look beyond ourselves to others, to ensure and protect the human dignity of the most vulnerable out of our own humanity.

“For us, the current moment is this unique alignment of world-leading voices seeking to change the conversation on climate change. They are calling for a moral conversion, grounded in science and appealing to our faith and our humanity for justice and mercy and the sake of others. This can be a time that will change the world.”

**So how can we help bring about this needed change?**

Effective communications about the link between climate and human health is essential. Edward Maibach of the Center for Climate Change Communication offers us thoughtful (and tested) advice: Simple, clear messages, repeated often by a variety of trusted voices help move and motivate people.

1) Remember, it’s not our job as health professionals to be climate scientists. It is our job to help people understand that more than 97% of climate scientists are convinced that human-caused climate change is happening now.

2) We can share the message that polluted air, polluted water and climate change are hurting our health and that it’s going to get much worse if we don’t take actions to protect ourselves, the poor and the most vulnerable.

3) We must help others understand that each individual, family, community, business, state, and our nation as a whole can take steps that will protect our health and our climate, including reducing energy waste and using and/or supporting clean energy.

Finally, we have many (far too many!) timely opportunities in Oregon and SW Washington to stop dirty, toxic fossil fuels (including coal and the largest oil-by-rail facility in the nation) to protect our health.

Please contact Regna Merritt, Healthy Climate Program Director, at regna@oregonpsr.org if you’d like more information or wish to participate in monthly meetings by phone of our new Healthy Climate Action Team.

**Volunteer Spotlight: Piper Nash, Environmental Health Working Group**

Hi! My name is Piper Nash, and I’m a 24-year-old second year medical student from Bend. A few months ago, I attended a lunchtime presentation organized by OHSU medical students. The speaker was Dr. Pat O’Herron, and he invited us all to become involved with Oregon PSR. I took his invitation seriously.

I have been amazed by how active Oregon PSR members are and by how many projects are run simultaneously. The environmental movement is huge and complex, but Oregon PSR is consistently up-to-date and working hard to protect the health of Oregon communities, the state’s natural environment, and the way of life so many Oregonians enjoy.

As a member of the Environmental Health Working Group, I have testified against the Pembina propane terminal and worked to involve Oregon medical societies to take an active stance regarding the human health impacts of climate change. I would like to launch a PSR student group at OHSU to help plug more medical students into the climate movement and Oregon PSR’s work.

I taught biology at a high school in Delaware after college, and at the end of the year I taught my students about climate change. In addition to teaching the most current scientific explanations of why Earth’s climates are changing, I also felt responsible for empowering my students to become climate activists.

Now that I’m in medical school, I’ve learned that many medical students are worried about climate change, but often feel that working to become physicians is enough to handle. I believe that climate change is the greatest threat to health that humans face, and volunteering with Oregon PSR helps me fulfill a need, beyond treating individual patients when they become sick, to improve the health of our community.
Nuclear Power Isn’t the Answer
Debra Higbee-Sudyka, Sierra Club Nuclear Free Campaign

Providing for America’s energy needs in light of the climate crisis is of critical global importance.

However, there are real concerns about the resurgence of nuclear power, and how this energy source will impact the environment and our economy. We need a comprehensive clean energy policy that supports the most efficient, economical and environmentally safe energy sources. These sources must not only reduce greenhouse gases but also do so in the cleanest, fastest, and safest way possible.

The Sierra Club does not see how new nuclear power, including small modular reactors, meets the criteria necessary for a safe and secure energy future. We wish to call attention to some of the reasons why Sierra Club believes nuclear is the wrong choice:

• **Nuclear energy does not address climate change**: Building a fleet of new reactors will take decades, not nearly fast enough to address climate change. And nuclear energy is not carbon-free, especially if you factor into the equation the construction of the plant, the sourcing of uranium, the transportation and ultimately the long-term storage of its waste. Climate change and energy independence can be achieved much cheaper and faster through efficiency measures as well as readily available clean renewable resources.

• **It’s too expensive for consumers and taxpayers**: Nuclear power is not just expensive; it is becoming the most cost-prohibitive energy source. The estimated costs of new nuclear power plants have tripled since 2000. Cost comparisons show that building a new fleet of nuclear power plants (especially small modular reactors, which lack economies of scale) will far exceed the costs of other, better energy options. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the likelihood of default for loans made to nuclear reactor developers to be “well above 50 percent.” The signal coming from the market place is clear: the nuclear industry, even after high levels of cradle-to-grave subsidies, handouts, and incentives provided by the federal government, is too expensive and risky. Overall, electricity produced by new reactors would cost two to three times more than renewable energy and efficiency measures.

• **It’s poisonous and will pollute long into the future**: Nuclear power, despite attempts to characterize it as such, is not clean. From the mining of uranium to the disposition of nuclear waste, enormous streams of toxic chemicals and long-lived radioactive wastes are created at every step of the fuel chain. These poisonous waste streams will be a deadly legacy to future generations, and will continue to cost taxpayers far into the future. We have an unfortunate example in our own backyard: The Hanford Nuclear Reservation continues to stumble while trying to find the ultimate solution for high-level radioactive waste.

• **Nuclear power is not “homegrown”**: Virtually every part of the nuclear chain is dependent on foreign corporations, governments, or nationalized companies. In 2013, more than 83% of the uranium used for U.S. nuclear power plants was imported from other countries. The United States’ high-priced uranium resources, subject to world uranium price volatility, mean that our dependence on foreign uranium is not likely to change significantly in the future.

Nuclear power is an ineffective and risky choice for addressing the global challenge of climate change. The Sierra Club believes in options that will not only be cheaper, cleaner and faster to bring on-line, but also will create more jobs, stimulate our economy, be truly home-grown and will not contribute to the risk of terrorism or require centuries of waste management.

Debra Higbee-Sudyka, of Corvallis, is a Conservation Committee member of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter. Reprinted from The Corvallis Gazette-Times.

The Sierra Club’s response to articles and editorials boosting the small modular reactor design being developed by Fluor Corporation’s NuScale subsidiary illustrates that the environmental response to climate change takes a dirty detour if it expands the use of nuclear energy.

Fluor’s NuScale design for small modular reactors will not be sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for approval for another year under their current time table. They hope to build the first of these experimental reactors along the Snake River in Idaho by 2023 and boosters in the Hanford area are pushing hard to get one built there, as well.

To assist in the efforts of our Nuclear Power Task Force, including shutting down the aging Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant on the Columbia River and fighting off new nuclear threats including small modular reactors, contact Chuck Johnson at 503-777-2794 or chuck@oregonpsr, or visit www.nuclearfreenw.org.
Renew Oregon for a Clean Energy Economy
Kelly Campbell, Executive Director

Oregon PSR has joined Renew Oregon, a growing coalition of businesses and workers, healthcare professionals and parents, farmers and ranchers, faith and community organizations, and individuals coming together to move our state away from polluting energy to a clean energy economy. We are working to create good-paying jobs for all Oregonians, protect air and water from pollution, and help families stay healthy.

In early October, Renew Oregon Action Fund filed ballot measures that will allow Oregonians to be the first in the nation to go coal free by public vote.

Renew Oregon is educating Oregonians about the need for action on climate, building a base of active supporters, and shifting the frame of the public discourse in the media. As part of this, Renew Oregon is asking Oregonians to pledge their support to policies, investments and actions that will create local, good-paying jobs in a clean energy economy, reduce pollution and help families stay healthy. We are providing a place to connect and share stories and ideas — neighbor to neighbor. This is an opportunity for Oregonians to decide together what kind of energy future we want and to show that there is opportunity for everyone in it.

As Oregon PSR’s Executive Director, I serve on the coalition’s advisory committee and will be reaching out to health professional associations to support Renew Oregon’s campaigns. If you are a member of a health professional association, please let me know! And be sure to check out Renew Oregon’s website to pledge to:

- Transition Oregon off coal power to clean energy sources like solar and wind and improve energy efficiency
- Support good-paying jobs and healthy communities for all Oregon families
- Expand clean fuel choices and options for transit
- Hold big polluters accountable for the true cost of their pollution of our air and water

For more information on how you can get involved in helping create the clean energy future that Oregonians deserve, contact me at 503-274-2720 or kelly@oregonpsr.org.

Success! Oregon Passes the Toxic Free Kids Act

Victory! The Toxic Free Kids Act (SB 478) that we have supported for the past several years finally passed in July of this year. The bill requires that manufacturers disclose and phase out hazardous chemicals in consumer products targeted at children. Our thanks to Susan Katz, MD, Andy Harris, MD, Margie Kircher, MS, OTR and John Pearson, MD for testifying on our behalf and to the many Oregon PSR members who wrote and called their legislators in support of this important bill. Thank you!

Oregon Governor Kate Brown and public health advocates, including Oregon PSR’s Dr. Susan Katz, at the signing of the Toxic Free Kids Act.

Thank You to Our Outstanding Volunteers!

Oregon PSR expresses our sincere appreciation to all of the wonderful volunteers who make our work for a healthier and more peaceful world possible. We would like to recognize the following volunteers, in particular, who have provided invaluable assistance to our organization over the past few months: Ulita Hager, Maher Hawash, Margie Kircher, Nicki Nabavizadeh, Piper Nash, Maura Olcese, Orly Stampfer, Theodora Tsongas and Phoebe Wagner. Thank you all so much!
The Time to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is Now
Sean Tenney, Associate Director

Seventy years ago, on August 6th and 9th, 1945, the United States military decimated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with nuclear weapons, killing upwards of 200,000 people. Since then, the production of these weapons has become a multi-billion dollar industry that imperils the life of every human being on Earth.

As examined in the Physicians for Social Responsibility 2013 report Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk?, even a relatively limited, localized conflict between two nuclear-armed nations would cause massive loss of human life on a global scale. The scenario of a full-scale nuclear war would wipe out most life on the planet. From a humanitarian and human health perspective, this is unacceptable.

Let’s be clear: nuclear weapons serve no purpose other than the annihilation of human life. They do nothing to keep us safe from threats to our health and survival. They won’t stop terrorism nor address any of the security threats America faces in 2015, but rather will continue to exacerbate these problems.

Nuclear weapons won’t end the growing threat of climate change. They won’t prevent a single disease, build one road or school or hospital, feed our hungry, house those without shelter or educate our children. Nuclear weapons do not contribute positively to our society in any way, and yet our government spends billions on these weapons annually.

As the 2015 National Security Strategy laid out by the Obama administration states: “No threat poses as grave a danger to our security and well-being as the potential use of nuclear weapons and materials by irresponsible states or terrorists. We therefore seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.”

Despite the administration’s rhetoric, plans are underway to spend $12.6 billion in 2016 to modernize America’s nuclear arsenal. These weapons pose a threat to the peace and security of countries across the globe, so why spend billions of dollars annually to secure, maintain and modernize them?

Our tax dollars fund the nuclear weapons industry. We as taxpayers should be outraged, and this outrage must shake us out of our complacency. We risk destroying the one planet that we know is capable of sustaining human life when we should be redirecting these funds to improving our society.

It is up to us to make sure that such a loss of life as occurred at Hiroshima and Nagasaki is never repeated. We must demand that the U.S. and other nuclear-armed nations follow international law by living up to, rather than circumventing, nuclear abolition treaties. We can start by becoming the first of the nuclear-armed nations to join the 110 countries that support the humanitarian pledge to ban nuclear weapons. We must pursue peaceful, diplomatic solutions to international conflicts rather than rattle the saber of mutually assured destruction.

It is up to us, as Americans, to lead the way towards the nuclear-free future that humankind deserves. Tomorrow may be too late, so the time for procrastination is over. The time for nuclear weapons abolition is now.

This article was published as an op-ed in The Oregonian on August 1st, 2015.

Oregon PSR Announces 2016 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship

It is with great pleasure that Oregon PSR announces our eighth annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship. Any 11th or 12th grade Oregon high school student may enter by submitting an original essay, poem, or narrative work in response to the following question:

“How would a successful movement to confront climate change help create a more just and peaceful world?”

Entry forms, suggested resources, and all peace writing scholarship details can be found on our website. Submissions may be sent by email (preferred) or postal mail and are due by 5:00 PM on Monday, March 14th, 2016. A panel of judges comprised of local writers, activists and distinguished community members will select the winning entries. The first prize winner will receive a scholarship award of $1,000, the second $750 and the third $500. Oregon PSR will host an awards ceremony in April at which the scholarship winners will be honored.

Please help us in spreading the word about the Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship to students, parents and educators throughout Oregon. For more information, visit our website or call us at 503-274-2720. Thank you!
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Contact Kelly Campbell at 503-274-2720 to join Oregon PSR’s Leadership Circle.
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Help Us Conserve Resources
Oregon PSR also sends out an electronic version of this newsletter. If you would prefer to receive only the electronic version, please email us at info@oregonpsr.org to let us know. Thank you!

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