Growing Our Movement for a Healthy Climate
Damon Motz-Storey, Healthy Climate Program Director

As 2019 nears an end, the call for action to address climate change has never felt clearer. Worldwide, July 2019 was the hottest month ever recorded. We heard the anguish of storm-battered island communities and despaired as huge sections of Brazilian rainforest — the lungs of our earth — burned at the hands of a far-right regime. Southern Oregonians and Southwest Washingtonians live with the frightening possibility of massive fracked gas projects in their communities. In response to these and other threats to our climate, tens of thousands took to the streets in September as young people throughout our region joined Swedish youth climate activist Greta Thunberg in striking for a livable future for all.

Our Healthy Climate Program has been hard at work to bring the voice of public health to the forefront of the movement by participating in effective coalitions and advocacy efforts to protect a healthy climate. Though the scope and complexity of climate change are immense, there is much that we can do to get closer to a healthy, sustainable world.

Coal, Oil, Gas: None Shall Pass!

We know that we need to halt the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure to protect our climate, and in the past few months, we and our partners have had a slew of inspiring victories:

In June of 2019, Oregon’s House of Representatives voted to approve Senate Joint Memorial 5 (SJM 5), which urges Congress to lead a global effort to reduce the threat of nuclear war, making it the second state in the nation (after California) to pass such legislation in both chambers.

The bill was introduced at the request of Oregon PSR and the support of 31 partner organizations around the state and garnered moving testimony from a Japanese hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor), a Hanford Downwinder, an Atomic Veteran, the Oregon Marshallese Community, a Corvallis city councilor, and others. Chief Sponsors included Senator Michael Dembrow and Representatives Tawna Sanchez and Alissa Keny-Guyer, along with 15 other Oregon state legislators.

SJM 5 acknowledges that Oregon taxpayers are spending roughly $188 million annually on nuclear weapons, money that could be better spent on health care, education, infrastructure, and the environment. It calls out the racial injustice and harm to human health that nuclear weapons have
Dear Oregon PSR Supporter,

This has been a year of transition, growth, and transformative partnerships for Oregon PSR. When I look back at the past year, I am proud to see how we’ve strengthened authentic partnership with communities most impacted by the injustices of climate chaos and nuclear weapons. At the same time, we’ve had more elected officials reaching out to us for our input on policy, as well as more health professionals finding a home for their activism within Oregon PSR. In the face of the overwhelming challenges of our times, I am convinced that Oregon PSR has a critical role to play in building movements for a healthy future.

As you’ll read in this latest edition of The Folded Crane, we’ve been bringing the health perspective to support coalitions led by communities on the frontlines of climate disruption. After a period of mentorship by Regna Merritt before her retirement earlier this year, Damon Motz-Story has transitioned to a leadership role in our Healthy Climate Program. Together with our fantastic new Energy Justice Organizer, Lluvia Merello, and our dynamic Healthy Climate Action Team volunteers, we’ve sprung into high gear to transition our region away from the outdated fossil fuel and nuclear power economy towards the clean, renewable, and just energy policies that will protect our climate and the health of our communities. They’re supported in this work by Maria Landin, our new Quaker Voluntary Service fellow, who is organizing our annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship, which this year highlights the intersections of immigration and climate justice.

You will also read about how we’ve celebrated a tremendous victory for nuclear disarmament this year as we led the campaign for successful passage of Oregon Senate Joint Memorial 5, which puts our state on record in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and calls on Congress to take common-sense measures to protect us from nuclear war. I’m especially pleased that the bill, supported by a wide range of partners, was unique in focusing on nuclear weapons as an issue of justice. We’re now working with partners to pass a similar resolutions in Portland, Eugene, Corvallis, and other communities, raising the discussion of nuclear justice and building support for the nuclear ban treaty at the local level. You can also read about this year’s Portland-area Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial, which focused on the unequal impacts of nuclear weapons on women, children, indigenous communities, and communities of color. Next year, we’ll build on these campaigns for nuclear disarmament as we mark the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

You, our volunteers and donors, are the heart of our work, and I deeply appreciate the contributions of time, talent, ideas, and financial donations from members like you. Thank you for being part of our growing community by putting your values into action for peace, justice, and health.

Kelly Campbell, Executive Director
Growing Our Movement for a Healthy Climate (continued from page 1)

The OR Dept. of Environmental Quality denied a water quality permit needed by Pembina, the Canadian corporation seeking to build the Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline in Southern Oregon. Oregon PSR submitted extensive technical comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development to make a science-based case for further permit denials for Jordan Cove LNG.

Washington Governor Jay Inslee changed his position on the Tacoma LNG and Kalama methanol refinery projects after hearing from Oregon & Washington PSR and partners, stating that he “cannot in good conscience support” those fracked gas projects. After hearing from Oregon PSR and partners, the Port of Vancouver, WA approved a resolution to not pursue new bulk fossil fuel terminals. With Washington PSR, we released a resource for decision-makers and communities throughout the Pacific Northwest entitled Fracked Gas: A Threat to Healthy Communities. The need for this report was underscored when Cowlitz County approved a shoreline permit for the proposed Kalama fracked gas-to-methanol refinery, giving the WA Dept. of Ecology 30 days to decide the fate of this climate-busting plant, which would consume more methane gas than any other Washington industry.

We’ve also been working to counter the expansion and existence of the Zenith Energy facility in NW Portland, where tar sands crude oil is being shipped to Pacific markets after traveling by rail through Portland and Vancouver, WA. In July, we helped coordinate a turnout of over 500 attendees and five Oregon PSR speakers opposed to Zenith oil shipments at a community forum hosted by Portland’s mayor. We’ve organized frequent testimony on the public health threats posed by Zenith at Portland City Hall to apply pressure to elected officials. We continue working with partners by helping organize events like September’s 60-hour Vigil at Zenith, a mammoth effort of legal surveillance to bring attention to, and document activity at, the facility.

In a stirring reminder of the successes we’ve had and the future we seek, the Port of Longview, WA celebrated job growth in the wind energy industry after receiving parts for a wind power facility planned for western Washington. News of this uptick in the clean energy economy of SW Washington came on the heels of a court decision that upheld a key permit denial for the Millennium coal export project in Longview. It is increasingly clear that Longview has a prosperous future in clean energy, not dirty coal exports.

Victories in Oregon’s Legislative Session

Despite the drama in the 2019 Oregon legislative session, we successfully advocated for the passage of new oil train safety rules, improved diesel regulations, and the blocking of subsidies and loopholes for waste incineration and nuclear power. We will collaborate with our partners to bring bold, effective climate policy to Salem in upcoming legislative sessions.

Time’s Up for Nuclear Power in the Northwest

Our Program Assistant, Madison Arnold-Scerbo, was the principal author of our new report titled (continued on next page)
Replacing Columbia Generating Station with Renewable Energy. The report lays out how decision-makers can create a plan to replace the Pacific Northwest’s only commercial nuclear power plant with clean energy and guarantee retraining programs for plant workers. We’re also educating regional stakeholders regarding the misleading claims made by NuScale Power, an Oregon-based company that seeks to build small modular nuclear reactors in Idaho. The economic, environmental, and social costs of new and existing nuclear power make it unsuitable for the just transition from fossil fuels to clean energy that our region needs.

Heeding the Youth Call for Action

September’s global Climate Strike was a great opportunity for our community to come together and take action on climate issues. We supported youth organizers in Portland by attending planning meetings, helping organizers connect to local resources, spreading the word, and participating in the events. We had Oregon PSR members and staff in the march, in kayaks in the Willamette River, at an action booth at the festival, and at the Climate Strike for Immigrant Justice action. It was inspiring to be a part of such a well-organized, well-attended effort.

Portland Clean Energy Fund Takes Shape

Our landslide victory, with the support of 65% of Portland voters, carried the Portland Clean Energy Fund from a years-long vision to fruition, and we are now collaborating with coalition members and city leaders to build a $54-71 million annual fund for renewable energy, job training, and green infrastructure investments, prioritizing communities affected first and worst by the climate crisis. In September, we welcomed the first five members of the Fund’s grant committee, who’ll solicit, oversee, and recommend applications for funding. These funds, which will be made available by next spring, will go a long way towards correcting existing environmental health inequalities and redirecting resources towards a just transition from an unhealthy fossil fuel economy to a sustainable, climate-protective one.

Fond Farewells and New Beginnings

We were thrilled to hire Lluvia Merello as our Energy Justice Organizer in May. We hope that you had a chance to send your best wishes to Regna Merritt as she began a well-deserved retirement on July 1st. Regna spent an incredible seven years directing Oregon PSR’s Healthy Climate Program, providing leadership to secure denial after denial of regional fossil fuel projects while advancing clean energy policies. After years of working closely with Regna on a wide range of projects, I am excited and honored to step into the role of Healthy Climate Program Director and build upon her momentum for a stable and healthy climate.

We could not do this work without your involvement and your financial support. I hope that you will join me in this work and consider inviting a friend to donate to support our unique public health voice for the climate. Together, we will continue to work for a healthy climate and a livable future for all.
already caused from uranium mining on indigenous land to weapons testing in the Marshall Islands to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the contamination of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation upriver from our state. It asserts that treaties and international agreements that are now being abandoned by the US administration, such as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the Iran Nuclear Deal, are important for keeping Oregonians safe.

The bill supports federal legislation that would stop the President’s sole unchecked power to launch nuclear weapons, end nuclear first-strike, take nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, stop wasteful spending on a new nuclear arms race, and lead negotiations with other nuclear-armed states to eliminate nuclear weapons. It also calls on the US government to join the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which is supported by the majority of the world’s nations.

We are now following up with legislators who supported SJM 5 to ask them to sign the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) “parliamentary pledge,” joining their colleagues around the world in supporting the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Take Action: Contact your Oregon state legislator and ask them to take the “parliamentary pledge.”

What’s Next? Taking It to the Cities

We’re taking the campaign even more local by asking cities in Oregon to pass resolutions for nuclear disarmament. On Wednesday, November 13th at 3:30 PM, please join us at Portland City Hall (1221 SW 4th Avenue) as the Portland City Council considers two important resolutions in support of the UN nuclear weapons ban treaty and in support of diplomacy, not war, with Iran.

Visit oregonpsr.org to sign the petition urging Portland City Council to support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and on November 13th, show up to pack the room in support of these important resolutions.

Don’t live in Portland? We’re also working with community partners in Eugene and Corvallis on similar resolutions. Contact me at kelly@oregonpsr.org or at 503-274-2720 for help with organizing a resolution in your community.
We are thrilled to welcome Lluvia Merello to our staff as our Energy Justice Organizer, expanding our capacity to build a just transition away from fossil fuels and nuclear power and towards a healthy climate future for all. Lluvia, who joined our staff in May of this year, brings extensive experience organizing for environmental and social justice movements, including work as an early organizer with the Portland Clean Energy Fund coalition.

In addition to her organizing experience here in Oregon, Lluvia has worked in Texas and Louisiana, and her passions for organizing include social justice and social change, energy justice, prison reform and prisoners rights, foster care reform, public education and the school-to-prison pipeline, and culturally-specific services and opportunities.

Over the past few months, Lluvia has hit the ground running by testifying at hearings, engaging in community outreach, and organizing events with our Healthy Climate Action Team and community partners. Welcome, Lluvia!

Regna Merritt (left) and Kelly Campbell (right).

National PSR will be hosting the Visionary Leaders Awards Reception and Symposium on November 7th in Washington, DC. Now in its fourth year, the awards recognize individuals and organizations for their exemplary efforts in advancing nuclear weapons abolition and addressing environmental risks to human health, including the catastrophic consequences caused by climate change, through collaborations that strengthen PSR’s mission.

We are excited to announce that among this year’s honorees are Kelly Campbell, Executive Director of Oregon PSR, and Regna Merritt, our recently retired Healthy Climate Program Director. The Sunrise Movement, a youth-led nonprofit pushing for immediate political action on climate change, and Marylia Kelley, Co-Founder and Executive Director of TriValley CAREs, will also be honored, and Dr. Helen Caldicott will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her internationally-renowned work to educate the public about the health hazards of nuclear war. Oregon PSR expresses our congratulations to all of the award winners!

Kelly will be a panelist at an afternoon symposium of Women Leaders on Nuclear Disarmament and Climate Disruption on Thursday, November 7th from 2:00 until 4:00 PM at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Both Regna and Kelly will receive their awards at the Visionary Leaders Reception at the same location at 7:00 PM.

For more information regarding the National PSR Visionary Leaders Awards, or to purchase tickets to the November 7th awards ceremony in Washington, DC, please visit our events page at oregonpsr.org/calendar.
Oregon PSR expresses our tremendous appreciation for three people who substantially advanced our work over the past year.

Madison Arnold-Scerbo, our previous Program Assistant and Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow, was instrumental in developing our 2019 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship, working on the passage and implementation of the Portland Clean Energy Fund, representing us in a number of community coalitions, and authoring a report on replacing nuclear power with clean energy. We are happy to keep Madison “in the movement,” as she has followed her year-long fellowship with us by joining the Union of Concerned Scientists staff as an Outreach Associate on their nuclear disarmament work.

Erin Lee, who interned with us over the summer, supported the work of our Healthy Climate and Peace Programs and developed a series of new factsheets on the health impacts of climate change in Oregon, the impacts of nuclear weapons in our state, and the unequal impacts of nuclear weapons on women, children, and communities of color.

Bill Yang, who volunteered on a near-daily basis in our office this summer, assisted with the “parliamentary pledge” campaign and helped get the Portland City Council resolution on nuclear weapons up and running. Back at Carleton College in Minnesota this fall, Bill has started a student organization called Public Health Advocates to connect students with advocacy campaigns.

Thanks so much to Madison, Erin, Bill, and all of the other volunteers who make our work possible. Visit our website to learn about volunteering with us!

Meet Maria F. Landin, Our New Program Assistant

We are excited to welcome Maria, who started her one-year fellowship position as a Program Assistant with Oregon PSR through a collaboration with Quaker Voluntary Service in September of 2019.

Maria recently graduated from Earlham College, where she majored in Psychology and Sociology/Anthropology. Throughout her life, she’s been involved with communities that advocate for social justice and equity. She is excited to incorporate her passion for immigrant rights and advocacy for racial and ethnic minorities into her work at Oregon PSR.

Maria will be developing our 2020 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship project, assisting with our Healthy Climate and Peace Programs, and representing us in a variety of community coalitions. Welcome, Maria!
The Unequal Impacts of Nuclear Weapons

Oregon PSR expresses our sincere appreciation to everyone who joined us on August 6th for the annual Portland-area Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial event. This year’s event, The Unequal Impacts of Nuclear Weapons: Hiroshima & Nagasaki Memorial 2019, explored the disproportionate impacts that nuclear weapons have had, and continue to have, on women, children, indigenous communities, and communities of color around the world.

Following an audience welcome and introductions by event emcee Kurt Ikeda, Education Manager at Oregon Nikkei Endowment, our event began with a traditional Native American drum and song performance by artist John Edmo. Andrea Cano, Clinical and Palliative Care Chaplain with Providence Health & Services, provided our opening invocation, and a land acknowledgement was given by Shoshone-Bannock poet and storyteller Ed Edmo. We were also treated to a performance by the Ikoi-no-kai House Band, and Andrew Tolman provided American Sign Language interpretation throughout the event.

Michiko Kornhauser, a hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor), discussed her first-hand experiences as a young girl living near Hiroshima during and subsequent to the August 6th, 1945 bombing. Michiko spoke movingly about the stark and gruesome realities of nuclear weapons use, of the impacts on her and her young classmates of seeing the city of Hiroshima largely reduced to irradiated cinders by a US-made nuclear weapon.

As a Hanford Downwinder, Patricia Hoover spoke on the lasting health impacts that radioactive contamination from Hanford has had on her and her family. Women are unequally impacted by exposure to radiation, with at least three women getting cancer for every two men with the same levels of radiation exposure. Patricia told us of seeing the numerous gravestones of infants in the local cemetery, many of whom lived only a few days or less before succumbing to the effects of radiation-related genetic damage, which impacts developing infants and children far more than adults. Patricia also spoke about the Oregon PSR-led SJM 5 nuclear weapons legislation (see page #1 for more).

Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer, one of the leading voices for nuclear disarmament in Congress, reminded our audience of the critical need to stay informed and involved in the struggle against nuclear weapons. We will continue to work with Congressman Blumenauer and other elected representatives to advocate for common-sense nuclear weapons policies to protect the health and survival of our communities and our world.

Event emcee Kurt Ikeda, joined on stage by our event speakers, then led our audience in a ceremonial moment of reflection developed by artist, educator, and Oregon PSR Advisory Board member Chisao Hata. Kurt reflected on our speakers’ words, drawing a connection between Michiko’s story of the...
The Unequal Impacts of Nuclear Weapons  (continued from previous page)

use of nuclear weapons in Japan, Patricia’s story of the production of those weapons at Hanford in our own region, uranium mining on indigenous lands, the testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific Islands, and waste storage on native lands and, as is common, near communities of color.

Our thanks again to everyone who attended, our event speakers and performers, our event planning committee, and our community co-sponsors, without whom this event would not have been possible. Thanks, also, to the many Oregon PSR members whose financial support allows us to organize this annual memorial event and engage members of our community in the growing movement for nuclear weapons abolition. With your support, we are making real progress for a nuclear-free future. Thank you!

Next year will be the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Oregon PSR will once again be working with our community partners to mark the occasion with events and actions to build our movement for a world free from the existential threat of nuclear weapons. Contact me at sean@oregonpsr.org or 503-274-2720 to learn more and get involved.

Celebrating Regna Merritt

For the past seven years, we had the immense privilege of working alongside Regna Merritt, who helped build and direct our Healthy Climate Program. Regna amassed the formidable group of over 100 health professionals and public health advocates that comprise our Healthy Climate Action Team and was a recognized leader in numerous coalitions that achieved major victories in preventing the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest.

Regna retired from our staff at the end of June, and we are thrilled that she has agreed to join the Oregon PSR Advisory Board and volunteer with us after a long and well-deserved vacation. Regna leaves our Healthy Climate Program in the capable hands of Damon Motz-Storey, who has been on our team for the past three years. Damon has taken on the Healthy Climate Program Director role and he, along with our recently hired Energy Justice Organizer, Lluvia Merello, will continue to build upon the strong foundation initiated by Regna to bring the voice of health to the climate justice movement.

On behalf of our staff, Board, members, and volunteers, we give our most sincere thanks and best wishes to Regna, who we very much look forward to continuing to work with in her new role as a member of our Advisory Board.
Donor Spotlight: Greg Fishwick, PhD, Oregon PSR Sustaining Member

A teacher, counselor, administrator, and policy-maker living in Eastern Oregon, Greg has spent his life committed to working for social responsibility and policies that help people and the planet. In one such role, he was a workforce development coordinator for the Oregon Economic Development Department, bringing socially responsible family-wage jobs to our state.

Greg is interested in many of the program areas Oregon PSR works on, including abolishing nuclear weapons and remediating nuclear waste, preventing gun violence, stopping fossil fuel projects, and promoting clean and renewable green energy.

One of the reasons Greg became a recurring donor was because he knows that his resources are being leveraged effectively through Oregon PSR action. He believes in the importance of connecting peace, climate, and human health. Our thanks to Greg for his generous support!

To join Greg in becoming an Oregon PSR Sustaining Member, visit oregonpsr.org/recurring_donation and select an amount to be automatically billed to your bank account or credit card each month.

Ways to Support Oregon PSR

In addition to making one-time donations, there are many other ways that you can support our work.

**Become an Oregon PSR Sustaining Member:** An easy way to support Oregon PSR throughout the year is by setting up recurring monthly donations. Recurring monthly donations from our Sustaining Members help us plan our work, and it’s a hassle-free way for you to support our efforts. Visit oregonpsr.org/recurring_donation to become a Sustaining Member. You can update or cancel your recurring monthly donation at any time.

**Join Oregon PSR’s Legacy Circle:** A legacy gift to a small, strategic organization like Oregon PSR ensures that your bequest will make a significant local impact on the world’s most pressing concerns for years to come. We would be honored to work with you to ensure that your values of peace, justice, and health are promoted for future generations. For information on joining Oregon PSR’s Legacy Circle, contact Kelly Campbell at 503-274-2720.

**Employee Workplace Giving and Matching Gifts:** Many employers will match contributions from their employees to Oregon PSR. Kaiser Permanente does, and your workplace may, as well. Contact your employer, or check with your human resources office, to see if your company has a workplace giving program and to learn more regarding matching donations.

**EarthShare Oregon:** Oregon PSR is a member of EarthShare Oregon. EarthShare is an employer-based giving program, so if your employer participates in EarthShare Oregon, please inquire about designating Oregon PSR as your preferred workplace giving recipient.

To learn more ways to support the work of Oregon PSR, contact Sean Tenney, Associate Director, at sean@oregonpsr.org or 503-274-2720.
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2020 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship Now Open

Our 12th annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship is now open for submissions. All 11th and 12th grade Oregon students are invited to submit an essay, poem, or narrative work of 600 words or less in response to the following question:

“How would an effective movement for climate justice benefit immigrant communities?”

The top three winners will be awarded $1,000, $750, and $500 and will be invited to share their thoughts at our awards ceremony in April, as well as through interviews with local media. Students from underrepresented communities are particularly encouraged to apply. Entries are due March 2nd, 2020.

Learn more at oregonpsr.org.