The Folded Crane
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Fall/Winter 2020

A Livable Future Where We Can Breathe Easy
Damon Motz-Storey, Healthy Climate Program Director

Pandemic. Racist violence. Wildfires and smoke. Recession. This year has tested us in a multitude of ways, while also giving us a snapshot of what lies ahead should we be unable to rise to the global challenge of mitigating the climate crisis.

All of us who care about public health are being called in this moment to work together for a livable future. It starts with Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) being able to live without fear of being murdered or brutalized by the police. It includes addressing the fact that the brunt of environmental pollution is borne by communities of color and low-income Oregonians, who are more likely to live in the blast zones of oil trains or along busy roads with high concentrations of diesel particulate matter.

Many in Oregon who have been impacted by recent climate-fueled wildfires don’t have a home to return to. Latinx farmworkers must breathe the outdoor air whether it is thick with wildfire smoke or merely saturated with year-round diesel and waste incineration emissions. These intensifying wildfires are proof that climate chaos is happening now, and that colonialism and white supremacy are at the root of both climate change and the large-scale thinning and fire suppression that make these

Peace In a Time of Intersecting Crises
Sean Tenney, Associate Director

Oregon PSR approaches the work of our Peace Program with an acknowledgement of the interconnected nature of the multiple public health crises that we now face. We work for peace knowing that there can be no real peace without justice, and that systemic failures in our society must be met with strategic thinking, innovative ideas, and direct engagement with our communities.

Working in coalition with our many partners, we bring the trusted voice of health to bear on nuclear disarmament, building peace and anti-militarism, ending gun violence, and supporting the movements for racial justice, immigrant justice, and police accountability. That all of these intersecting societal ills are severe public health threats means that health professionals and public health advocates can play a vital role in creating a more just and peaceful future.

Ending the Nuclear Threat

We express our appreciation to all who attended, supported, and cosponsored 75 Years Later Is Now: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, & Ending the Nuclear Threat, an

Volunteers in Portland load supplies for Oregonians impacted by wildfires in September.

(continued on page 4)

(continued on page 5)
Dear Oregon PSR Supporter,

2020 has been quite the year. From the global coronavirus pandemic to the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the ensuing Black Lives Matter uprisings for racial justice to the climate-fueled wildfires and hazardous smoky air devastating our region, we have learned time and again that the basic act of breathing is not to be taken for granted.

Taking a collective deep breath, Oregon PSR’s volunteers and staff have creatively navigated the challenges of this year together, keeping our vision of a just, peaceful, and healthy world front and center as we figure out new ways to connect with each other and to bring a public health lens to address the intersecting crises we face.

As you’ll read in this newsletter, we’ve made progress on our foundational program work for nuclear justice, organizing a powerful program to mark the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki featuring the voices of people directly impacted by nuclear injustice, garnering attention with our new report on the dangers of small modular nuclear reactors, and launching a petition to ask OSU to use their $4.3 million nuclear security grant to model nuclear disarmament. Visit oregonpsr.org to sign the petition.

As the local affiliate of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, we celebrated the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in late October, making nuclear weapons illegal under international law.

You’ll also read here about how we’ve expanded our reach to bring a public health lens to the injustice of mass incarceration, especially during the pandemic, and to police violence and racism as public health issues, including testifying to Oregon’s legislature and Portland City Council regarding the health impacts of police brutality, tear gas, and impact munitions used against Black Lives Matter movement supporters.

We’ve deepened our work on climate chaos as a health issue, bringing our health lens to the leadership of coalitions to “stop the bad” fossil fuel projects such as the Zenith oil terminal, Kalama methanol facility, and Jordan Cove LNG, and leading a campaign for a just transition away from the polluting waste incinerator in Marion County. At the same time, we are supporting forward-thinking efforts led by frontline communities to “build the new,” including implementation of the groundbreaking Portland Clean Energy Fund and the new statewide Energy Democracy campaign to begin implementing Oregon’s Green New Deal.

You are thrilled to welcome five new Board of Directors members this year, each of them bringing a health background along with a wealth of connections to communities most
impacted by the issues we work on and impressive skills and perspectives that will help guide our organization into its 40th year of advocacy and education. You can read a short profile on each of our new Board members on pages #9 and #10.

While we’ve been unable to gather in person, we have made the most of videoconferencing and webinar technologies to keep connected, informed, and actively making change. If you missed any of our public events this year, such as the Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship Awards Ceremony, which featured youth on the intersections of climate justice and immigration, or our webinar on mass incarceration as a public health crisis with the Oregon Justice Resource Center, you can find them on our website and watch whenever and wherever you are. Our Healthy Climate Action Team and Peace Work Group continue to meet remotely, and we welcome new volunteers to bring their energy and ideas to expand our reach. Contact me at kelly@oregonpsr.org if you’re ready to volunteer.

We’ve also continued our internal work to deepen our understanding and commitment to bringing justice and equity to the center of our work. Over the summer, our staff, Board, and active volunteers participated in a two-part virtual training exploring the concept of cultural humility and discussed Ibram X. Kendi’s How to Be an Antiracist at our inaugural antiracist book club. We recognize that this is a journey we’ll always be on as individuals and as an organization, and we invite you to join us in listening, learning, and centering equity and justice into your life and your activism.

In this uncertain time, as we cherish each breath, listening to the voices of public health and medicine has never been more important. We thank each of you out there on the front lines of caring for the health of our communities during this time of intersecting crises. Oregon PSR is demonstrating how health voices can also build movements and make policy change, regardless of who holds political power.

As the pandemic and the related economic fallout continue, we rely on our members who believe in this work for your enthusiasm, as well as for your financial support, which keeps our organization strong and effective. Thank you for giving as generously as you can to ensure that we weather this storm together.

In Peace and Health,

Kelly Campbell, Executive Director

2021 Greenfield Peace Scholarship

Oregon PSR’s annual Greenfield Peace Scholarship is undergoing a significant redevelopment this fall in order to create a more equitable opportunity for Oregon’s youth to weigh in on some of the greatest challenges of our time. Once the guidelines and prompt have been finalized, we will make those available through our website, social media accounts, and email communications.

Named in honor of Del Greenfield (pictured here), our longtime Executive Director, the scholarship is now in its 13th consecutive year.

Please email peacecontest@oregonpsr.org if you have any questions. We also encourage you to visit our website to watch our April 25th 2020 Awards Ceremony, which was hosted online by Maria Landin, our former Program Associate, and featured environmental activist and political asylee Wendi Garcia as keynote speaker.
wildfires more intense. We need systemic change to ensure that everyone has a healthy home to shelter in and the tools to safely coexist with fires. At Oregon PSR, we recognize that all of these issues are connected to each other: housing, public safety, and racial justice are all climate issues.

An Antidote to Despair

Clearly, there has been a lot of reason for despair lately. But hope is a tool that is always at our side even when times are hard. Envisioning the better world that we seek is an antidote to the very reasonable feelings of distress that many of us feel in this moment.

A better world is not only possible, it’s already being built: we’re excited to have been invited by communities on the front lines of the climate crisis who are charting a course for a Green New Deal for Oregon that will drive down our greenhouse gas emissions and energy bills while creating good, green jobs statewide through the new Energy Democracy campaign. Oregon PSR is also proud to be part of the coalition that developed the Portland Clean Energy Fund, which just opened its very first grantmaking cycle to fund job training, home improvements, and green infrastructure prioritizing BIPOC, low-income folks, women, and people with disabilities.

Thanks to widespread opposition to the proposed Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline in southern Oregon, the state of Oregon has not approved any of three essential permits for the project and has joined tribes, community groups including Oregon PSR, and landowners in suing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for their flawed approval of the project. Our new report on the problems with small modular nuclear reactors authored by M. V. Ramana, PhD has helped convince public utilities to divest from Oregon-based NuScale Power’s costly and untested nuclear power gambit.

Our Healthy Climate Action Team submitted extensive comments to the Washington Department of Ecology urging them to deny Northwest Innovation Works’ proposed Kalama Methanol fracked gas-to-methanol refinery. Using a wide range of research and data, our comments break down the reasons why Kalama Methanol would drive up regional greenhouse gas emissions that cannot be mitigated. In teaming up with community groups on both sides of the Columbia River, we sent a strong message that Kalama Methanol has no place in our healthy climate future.

The Boardman coal plant, Oregon’s single largest emitter of greenhouse gas, has been shut down for good. The culmination of long years of activism and advocacy by Oregon PSR and our partners, this signals the direction our state is heading in: towards keeping fossil fuels in the ground and cleaning up the air we breathe. Though coal is no longer burning in our state, our electric utilities still serve us power generated by out-of-state coal and fracked gas, meaning that a strong 100% renewable energy mandate statewide must be next.

The challenges ahead of us are many, but so are our accomplishments. We know that when we come together and join the voice of public health with our community partners, we can win real results. There is much to do, but the promise of a world where we can all breathe freely is within reach.
online memorial event honoring the lives lost to nuclear weapons and exploring how we can create a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. Our guest speakers included Tricia Pritikin, a Hanford Downwinder, legal advocate, and author; Harvey Thorstad, an Atomic Veteran and peace activist; and Oregon PSR Advisory Board members Chisao Hata, a Japanese-American performing artist, educator, and community organizer, and Yukiyo Kawano, an artist and third-generation hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor). Our opening land acknowledgement statement was delivered by Cathy Sampson-Kruse, an enrolled member of the Walla Walla Tribe, and our event emcee was Kyle Iboshi, an investigative reporter with KGW News.

Our speakers shared their own deeply personal accounts of the impacts of nuclear weapons on their own lives and of the inherent injustice of nuclear weapons production, testing, and use. These powerful stories remind us of the urgent need to abolish nuclear weapons and to invest in healthy and resilient communities instead of funding these dangerous weapons of indiscriminate mass murder. In case you missed it, or to hear these poignant first-hand accounts again, please view video of our August 6th online memorial event at www.oregonpsr.org.

In addition to our own online audience to honor the lives lost, draw attention to the progress being made towards nuclear abolition, and bring forward the perspectives, voices, and leadership of those most impacted by 75 years of nuclear weapons. We also helped gather hundreds of signatures for the Appeal of the Hibakusha for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons at the request of the atomic bomb survivors in Japan. We’ve also supported the ratification of the UN’s Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was ratified by the 50 nations needed to enter into force on October 24th of this year, making nuclear weapons illegal under international law (see page #10), and other legislative and diplomatic efforts towards international nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear abolition has become a local issue, as we’ve also recently engaged in a new campaign upon learning that Oregon State University (OSU) has received a $4.3 million grant from the National Nuclear Security Administration to work on computer simulations relative to ensuring the safety and security of the United States’ nuclear weapons stockpile. We need your help to encourage OSU to consider dismantling the US nuclear stockpile in their simulations, as the safest way by far to secure nuclear weapons is to dismantle and dispose of them altogether. Please sign the petition on our website today urging OSU to use this opportunity to direct their respected scientists and researchers to work towards true nuclear safety and security by mapping out a path for the US to join the world community and embrace nuclear disarmament, the safest and most realistic way to prevent further nuclear injustice and a catastrophic nuclear war.

Police Violence as a Public Health Threat

In the wake of the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, Oregon PSR has stepped up our work to learn more about racism as a public health issue and explore how we can best support the movement for Black Lives. We’ve also taken steps to address increasingly militarized police violence as a public health threat. We’ve been actively participating in a network of groups concerned about these issues in Portland, and have provided testimony to the City of Portland and the state legislature about the health effects of chemical munitions, such as the tear gas that’s been deployed against peaceful demonstrators, and other forms of police violence. We’ve also connected our partners at Physicians for Human Rights with medics and activists on the ground for their report on

(continued on next page)
dangerous crowd control weapons use against protesters and medics in Portland, and we’re supporting Measure 26-217, which authorizes a new, independent police review board in Portland. Read more about this measure on page #9.

Planning for Peace

Members of our Peace Work Group have been gathering virtually over the last month to discuss strategic planning for our Peace Program, with considerable progress already having been made. To ground this process in a responsiveness to the needs of our community, we have conducted a series of surveys of our members, the members of our Peace Work Group, and representatives of dozens of the community partners with whom we have collaborated closely in recent years. Guided by our volunteers and staff and with these survey responses in mind, we are assessing our strengths and ascertaining challenges, identifying key stakeholders and allies, discussing intersections with our other program areas, and charting our work for the coming year and beyond.

In addition to our strategic planning work, we’re also planning something new with our 2021 Greenfield Peace Scholarship, which engages Oregon’s youth on some of the most pressing issues of our time. We believe that our new approach will make the scholarship more equitable for Oregon’s students, and we very much look forward to hearing their thoughts and being inspired by their ideas. Our new Program Assistant and Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow, Katy Morrow, will be leading this planning process in collaboration with members of our Peace Work Group, and we’ll be letting you know more soon as the planning for this year’s scholarship opportunity develops.

Get Involved!

With your support and involvement, we will continue to bring the voice of health, the energy of our amazing and dedicated volunteers, and a clear strategic framework to these and other pressing issues. We have our work cut out for us like never before, but by working together, we can create a world that is more just, healthy, and peaceful for everyone who calls this planet home. We welcome you to join us in this critically important work, and I hope that you will contact me today at sean@oregonpsr.org to learn more and get involved. We very much look forward to working with you soon!

Meet Katy Morrow, Our New Program Assistant & Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow

Katy, who began her work with Oregon PSR in September, is a recent graduate of Earlham College, a small liberal arts college with Quaker roots located in the Midwest. She is a fellow in the Quaker Voluntary Service and will be working with Oregon PSR over the next year. Raised in Sheridan, Oregon, Katy is excited to bring her perspectives to our work surrounding mass incarceration as a health issue, as well her past experience researching and reaching out to her community about the dangers of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. One of Katy’s primary projects will be developing our Peace Program’s annual Greenfield Peace Scholarship. Please join us in welcoming Katy!
At the beginning of 2020, Oregon PSR began a campaign aimed at closing the waste incinerator that has been in operation for 34 years in Brooks, Oregon, just north of Salem. This incinerator has been burning not only residential waste but also out-of-state medical waste which, when burned, releases toxic chemicals into the air that our communities breathe. We know that not only is spewing toxic fumes harmful to the environment and the health of our communities, but that there are more efficient and truly clean solutions to waste reduction and energy production. We also know that, in order for our waste and energy solutions to be truly equitable, we must include the communities most affected in the conversations as we move towards better solutions.

The Covanta incinerator is surrounded by a predominantly Latinx community, farmworkers, and rural residents. Concerns surrounding the health effects of the incinerator include increased cases of respiratory illness which, as we also have seen with the COVID-19 pandemic, have hit the Latinx community disproportionately hard. Compounding these concerns were the wildfires in the surrounding area that made local air quality dangerous for all groups. Many of these communities were forced to continue to work picking crops during a global pandemic and unprecedented wildfire smoke in addition to an incinerator in their backyard. These issues have made it clear that we cannot afford to continue burning waste and increasing the risks for these communities.

That is why we lobbied state representatives to vote no on a bill that would have allowed Covanta to be able to receive renewable energy credits during the 2020 Oregon legislative session. We have provided testimony about the health effects of the incinerator, and we have been hard at work building a coalition of community members and educating the community about the incinerator’s effects. We’ve been collaborating with other cities that are also working to close their own incinerators and others that have been successful in that endeavor. We are also working with partner organizations to prioritize systems that move waste away from both incineration and landfills and towards zero-waste solutions that are healthier for both our communities and our planet. We hope that our work will lead to solutions in which all of our communities can take part and which will protect the health of their families.
Oregon PSR began this past May to advocate for Oregon state prisoners out of concerns relative to the COVID-19 pandemic and the dire consequences of a deadly outbreak in our state prisons. Since then, we’ve written several letters to the Governor’s office, which manages the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC), and have partnered with Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC) for the recent Mass Incarceration and Public Health webinar to better educate ourselves and others on the issues facing Oregon state prisons and the communities that live within them. We will be partnering with OJRC, which continues to advocate for prisoners around the state and provides resources regarding incarceration issues, for more webinars in the near future, including one on the intersections of climate change and mass incarceration.

The recent wildfires in Oregon and the rest of the West Coast continue to cause disruptions and despair, and that has been no different for many incarcerated communities and those who serve them. As wildfires closed in, thousands of incarcerated people were transferred from already crowded and unsafe prisons to extremely overcrowded prisons. Since these emergency evacuations, COVID-19 cases and deaths have significantly increased in several of our state prisons. We are advocating for an independent third-party investigation into the inhumane conditions that many incarcerated people were placed under throughout these evacuations, which would allow ODOC an opportunity to be better prepared for any further prison evacuations in the future.

We will continue to advocate for safer conditions for those incarcerated in Oregon prisons, and we will continue to find ways that our supporters can join us in this work to protect the health of all Oregonians.

November 2020 Ballot Measure Endorsement Guide

Oregon PSR endorses the following ballot measures in the November 2020 election. Please note that our lack of endorsement doesn’t necessarily mean that we oppose a ballot measure, only that our Board of Directors has decided not to make a formal endorsement.

- YES on Measure 107 (Campaign Finance Limits Amendment 2020)
- YES on Measure 110 (Drug Decriminalization & Addiction Treatment Initiative 2020)
- YES on Measure 26-213 (Portland Parks and Recreation Levy)
- YES on Measure 26-214 (Preschool For All in Multnomah County)
- YES on Measure 26-217 (Authorizes New, Independent Police Oversight Board in Portland)

Learn more about why Oregon PSR endorses these ballot measures in the November 2020 election by visiting our website at www.oregonpsr.org.
Meet Oregon PSR’s Newest Board Members

Alejandrina “Alé” Felipe, RN, BSN

Alejandrina is a native indigenous woman from Oaxaca, Mexico, and has lived in Oregon since she was eight. She currently works as a nurse in Obstetrics at Legacy Health in Gresham. She graduated from Linfield College in 2009 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing.

“I believe that we can all build a better future by addressing racism, climate change, and all forms of injustice. I come from and have lived in underserved communities that need organizations like Oregon PSR to work closely with community partners to advocate for policy changes. I’m a mother of a 2 year-old boy and a 6 month-old girl. My children are the joy of my life. My biggest motivations to stay focused and active.”

Candice Jimenez, MPH

Candice is a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from Concordia University and a Master’s in Public Health from OHSU. In her work as a public health professional, she supports tribal community-driven efforts that amplify child passenger and motor vehicle safety as well as maternal child health that includes breastfeeding promotion and support.

“I joined Oregon PSR because the organization shares my commitment to moving from acknowledgement into collective action for community-wide health equity; a place where collaboration takes place across land, language, and culture.”

Elis Madrigal, MD

Elis is a solo family physician and telehealth provider in Portland. They graduated from OHSU School of Medicine and trained in Family and Community Medicine at UC Davis. During residency, they started a student-run transgender clinic in Sacramento. Post-residency, they worked in primary and urgent care at Kaiser Permanente NW for six years, where they also provided transgender health care through their Gender Pathways clinic, before deciding to open their own solo practice to be more available to their patients.

“I’ve been interested in getting involved in Oregon PSR ever since I heard about the group in medical school, but never found the time. When the opportunity came up, I knew I had to take part. Environmental health and public health go hand in hand and overlap in many areas. Unfortunately, there are many special interest groups that are willing to do irreparable harm to both for capital gain. It’s important that we use our voices in the healthcare field to stand against these tactics and do our best to protect the public’s well-being.”
Meet Oregon PSR’s Newest Board Members (continued from previous page)

Anita Randolph, PhD

Anita has extensive community service experience, including serving on organizational boards focused on human rights (Don’t Shoot PDX), recovery, and reentry, underrepresented youth (Youth Engaged in Science!), and African women and children (Harambee Center). She co-founded the Safer Space program, a peer-to-peer mental health support group for the BIPOC community and Black Lives Matter movement supporters. She also founded Building Everyday Alliances by Delivering Support (BEADS), which aims to make science, technology, engineering, & mathematics (STEM) more accessible to underrepresented minorities in villages, hospitals, and orphanages around the world. Her greatest mission in life is to be a link in the chain, a bond of connection between people, and she is committed to using her link in the chain to strengthen the bridge with the community through work with Oregon PSR.

“I’m thrilled to contribute to Oregon PSR’s work because it allows me to use my strengths as an academic scientist to fight social justice issues that plague America, and it brings me great joy to find like-minded individuals that use their skills to fight systemic oppression in order to enact policy and community change.”

Akash Singh

Akash is an attorney-in-training and an advocate for environmental, migration, and public health justice. They are receiving their law degree from Vermont Law School and completing their legal externship at OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon. They are working on a series of novels about colonization, essays, and some stand-up comedy bits. They identify as openly gay, genderqueer, and use they/them pronouns.

“I joined the board of Oregon PSR because I’m interested in writing a new chapter in the history of science. The history of environmentalism and public health is fraught with racism, classism, misogyny, and queer and transphobia. It is a history that’s been shrouded by a misplaced commitment to objectivity and the erasure of our most marginalized communities upon whose backs scientific progress has been made. Oregon PSR seeks to correct these historical injustices, and I am honored to do this work with them.”

UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Has Been Ratified!

In 2017, a United Nations conference adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. On October 24th, 2020, Honduras became the 50th country to ratify the treaty, which will begin to take effect in 90 days. This historic treaty was led by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their work. Oregon PSR is the local affiliate of ICAN and in 2019 secured support for the treaty from the Oregon legislature and the City of Portland.

The treaty prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, possessing, stockpiling, using, or threatening to use nuclear weapons. Ratification of this treaty is a significant step forward in the global effort to abolish nuclear weapons, though much work remains to pressure the 9 nuclear-armed states, including the US, to support the treaty and curtail nuclear weapons development and spending.
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Help Us Conserve Resources
To receive this newsletter by email rather than by postal mail to help us reduce resource use, email us at info@oregonpsr.org. Thank you!

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. Please 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 our Legacy Circle, contact Kelly Campbell at 503-274-2720.

Employee Workplace Giving & 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.