



Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki:

A Candlelight Vigil for Peace and Global Nuclear Disarmament

It is 75 years this August since the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For 75 years we have lived in the shadow of the bombs, hoping and praying that they would never again be used. But the bombs have proliferated, and a nuclear arms race has placed us in grave danger of annihilation. Hard-won gains in bringing this insanity under control with nuclear weapons treaties are now being reversed by the current US president.

Please join **Peace Action of Wisconsin** on **Thursday, August 6th, 8pm** for a candlelight vigil along Lincoln Memorial Drive to commemorate this **75th anniversary** of the atomic bombings and renew our commitment to a world free from nuclear weapons.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have created a safe plan to commemorate this very important 75th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. Instead of gathering in a large group for a formal program and the floating of lanterns, we will safely stretch out along the curbsides of Lincoln Memorial Drive, **staying 10 feet apart, wearing masks**, quietly holding our traditional Japanese lanterns in memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all the victims of the nuclear age.

Volunteers will make lanterns in advance and distribute them safely in the two parking lots near Bradford Beach beginning at 8pm. Other volunteers will help people line up at a safe distance along the roadside. By 8:30, when it becomes dark, we should be well spread out with some signs interspersed here

and there. Others will hold large banners on the nearby pedestrian bridge leading to Bradford Beach which passing cars can easily read. At 9:30 volunteers will gather the lanterns and we will safely disperse and return to our cars.

This will be a safe activity for families and people of all ages as we quietly (and safely) remember the victims of the nuclear age and commit to work for peace and disarmament.

Everyone please wear masks. Special peace masks will also be available for sale.



**No More Nuclear Weapons!
No More Hiroshimas!**

RACISM AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

From an article by Vincent Intondi
in *Arms Control Today*, July/August 2020.

Jobs, racial equality, climate change, war, class, gender, and nuclear weapons are all connected and part of the same fight: universal human rights, with the most important human right being the freedom to live...live free from the fear of nuclear war.

Contrary to the narrative that nuclear disarmament has been and remains a “white” issue, since 1945, the anti-nuclear movement has included diverse voices who saw the value in connecting all of these issues. Moreover, the nuclear disarmament movement has been most successful when it left room for diverse voices and combined the nuclear issue with social justice. For some, nuclear weapons were directly linked to racism.

Many African Americans agreed with Langston Hughes’ assertion that racism was at the heart of President Harry Truman’s decision to use nuclear weapons in Japan. Why did the United States not drop atomic bombs on Italy or Germany, Hughes asked.

The Black community’s fear that race played a role in the decision to use nuclear weapons only increased when the U.S. leaders threatened to use nuclear weapons in Korea in the 1950s and Vietnam a decade later. For others, the nuclear issue was connected to colonialism. From the United States obtaining uranium from Belgian-controlled Congo to the French testing a nuclear weapon in the Sahara, activists saw a direct link between those who possessed nuclear weapons and those who colonized the nonwhite world. For many ordinary citizens, Black and white, however, fighting for nuclear disarmament simply meant escaping the fear of mutually assured nuclear destruction.

Throughout his life, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made the connections of what he called the “triple evils” of capitalism, racism, and militarism. King was not alone among civil rights activists in making these connections.

Singer, actor, and activist Paul Robeson, not only spoke out about racism in the United States but also pointed out that the US got its uranium for nuclear weapons by using Native American miners on native lands. W.E.B. Du Bois not only formed the NAACP, but also got millions to sign the “Ban the Bomb” pledge to stop another Hiroshima in Korea. Civil rights leader Bayard Rustin not only organized the March on

Washington but also traveled to Ghana to stop France from testing its first nuclear weapon in Africa. Lorraine Hansberry not only wrote *A Raisin in the Sun*, but *Les Blancs*, her last play, was about nuclear abolition. Representative Ronald Dellums (D-Calif.), not only brought jobs and education to Oakland, California, but also worked to ensure that President Ronald Reagan did not build the MX missile.



Civil rights leader Bayard Rustin worked to stop France from testing atomic bombs in Ghana.

The prominent Black writer James Baldwin put it best on April 1, 1961, when he addressed a large group of peace activists in Washington. Baldwin was one of the headlining speakers for the rally, titled “Security Through World Disarmament.”

When asked why he chose to speak at such an event, Baldwin responded, “What am I doing here? Only those who would fail to see the relationship between the fight for civil rights and the struggle for world peace would be surprised to see me. Both fights are the same. It is just as difficult for the white American to think of peace as it is of no color... Confrontation of both dilemmas demands inner courage.” Baldwin considered both problems in the same breath because “racial hatred and the atom bomb both threaten the destruction of man as created free by God.”

We need to make connections. Our power is in our diversity. The anti-nuclear movement needs to continue to reach out to marginalized communities and show the links between the amount of money spent on nuclear weapons and how those funds could be used for food, health care, jobs, housing, and education. Whether it is connecting with the religious, immigrant, LGBTQ, or Black communities, half the battle is showing up for each other.

Trump Moves Toward Resuming Nuclear Tests

July 16th was the 75th anniversary of the testing of the first atomic bomb in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico. It was named “Trinity.” At the time, the atomic scientists who created the bomb did not know if the explosion would be self-contained or if it would create a nuclear chain reaction that would destroy the earth.

Physicist Robert Oppenheimer, head of the Manhattan Project to build the bomb, was so alarmed at what he witnessed that he famously quoted the Bhagavad-Gita, “Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.”

Two weeks later two atomic bombs were dropped on civilian populations in Japan.

Nuclear testing continued in Nevada and on Pacific atolls until 1963 when the Atmospheric Test Ban Treaty went into effect. The US then tested underground at the nuclear test site in Nevada, 80 miles north of Las Vegas. A moratorium on underground testing began in 1992. However, the test site remained ready to use again.

Now the Trump administration has signaled that it may resume nuclear weapons testing at the test site as part of the ongoing project to “modernize” the entire US nuclear arsenal. This would accelerate the international arms race as well as being an environmental threat.

Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) has initiated an open letter to the nation’s scientific community from dozens of scientists and nuclear opponents opposing the resumption of nuclear weapons testing. It calls for Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and passage of Sen. Markey’s PLANET Act (S.3886), which would prohibit the renewal of such testing.

“Nuclear testing will only increase the likelihood of worldwide proliferation and the use of nuclear weapons, and weaken the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which is a vital step toward decreasing and ultimately eliminating the threat of the nuclear obliteration of civilization as we know it.” said Physics Nobel Laureate Professor Jerome Friedman.

According to Physics Nobel Laureate Professor Sheldon Glashow, “For our country to resume nuclear weapon testing would be an act of madness. Rather,

we must ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and strive to reduce and ultimately eliminate the world’s huge stockpile of these infernal devices, thereby preventing an otherwise inevitable nuclear catastrophe.”

Dr. David Ozonoff, of the Boston University School of Public Health, notes, “The Trump Administration has little interest in testing for a virus to control a catastrophic pandemic. It seems to have unlimited appetite to promote testing to perfect the ability of nuclear weapons to kill people.”

What You Can Do: Contact your Senators to support Senator Ed Markey’s PLANET Act (S.3886) to prohibit the renewal of nuclear weapons testing.
Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121



NO MORE NUCLEAR BOMBS!

Support MAJOR CUT in Military Budget

Source: Roots Action and Beyond War

Hold on to your hats! Two significant moves have been made in D.C. to actually cut military spending!

An amendment to the National Defense Appropriation Act to move 10% of the Pentagon's budget to useful human and environmental purposes was brought to a vote in the House of Representatives on July 22. Unfortunately, it only received 93 yeas - all Democrats. Ten percent doesn't sound like much, but we haven't seen this sort of thing in Washington, D.C., since the days of the collapse of the Soviet Union. And 10% of the proposed \$740 billion budget for the coming fiscal year would have been \$74 billion.

But something much bigger and significant is brewing.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee, with support from Congresswomen Pramila Jayapal and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, has introduced a resolution **to move \$350 billion per year** from militarism and into human needs.

The U.S. government is expected to spend, in its discretionary budget in 2021, \$740 billion on the military and \$660 billion on everything else: environmental protections, energy, education, transportation, diplomacy, housing, agriculture, science, disease pandemics, parks, foreign (non-weapons) aid, etc.

Moving \$74 billion would have resulted in \$666 billion on militarism and \$734 billion on everything else.

However, moving \$350 billion would result in \$390 billion on militarism and \$1,010 billion on everything else.

Where would the money come from? According to Rep. Lee's resolution:

- (1) eliminating the Overseas Contingency Operations account - \$68.8 billion
- (2) closing 60 percent of foreign bases - \$90 billion
- (3) ending wars and war funding - \$66 billion
- (4) cutting unnecessary weapons that are obsolete, excessive, and dangerous - \$57.9 billion
- (5) cutting military overhead by 15 percent - \$38 billion
- (6) cutting private service contracting by 15 percent - \$26 billion
- (7) eliminating the proposal for the Space Force - \$2.6 billion
- (8) ending use-it-or-lose-it contract spending - \$18 billion
- (9) freezing operations and maintenance budget levels - \$6 billion
- (10) reducing United States presence in Afghanistan by half - \$23.15 billion

Where would the money go?

The priorities of the U.S. government have been wildly out of touch with both morality and public opinion for decades. It would cost about \$30 billion per year, according to UN figures, to end starvation on earth, and about \$11 billion to provide the world with clean drinking water. Less than \$70 billion per year would wipe out poverty in the United States. Spent wisely, \$350 billion could transform the United States and the world.

What you can do: Call your Congressional Representative NOW and ask her/his support for Rep. Barbara Lee's resolution (H.R.1003) to cut military spending by \$350 billion and transfer that money to fund human needs. Wisconsin's Rep. Mark Pocan is a co-sponsor. Let's thank him and let's make sure that Rep. Gwen Moore gets on board as a co-sponsor. (They both voted yes on the failed 10% cut.)
Capitol Switchboard - 202-224-3121



August On-Line Series – The Dropping of the Atomic Bombs and the Impact on US Foreign Policy

Peace Action of Wisconsin is sponsoring a Friday night series in August on the decision to drop the Atomic Bombs on Japan and the impact on US foreign policy to this day. It will address how the dropping of the bombs signaled the launch of the Cold War and the United States efforts to achieve global hegemony. While the peace movement is hampered by the pandemic, we still can educate ourselves and others, sharing ideas via the electronic media. Please save these Friday night dates in August and join us. Email reminders for each Friday program will be sent with the Zoom link.

Friday, Aug. 7 – The Decision to Drop the Bomb. Prof. Emeritus Harry Targ of Purdue University gives an overview of the controversial decision to drop the bomb. Viewing of video interview with renowned historian and political economist Gar Alperowitz, the expert on this issue. Followed by discussion. 7pm.

Friday, Aug. 14. – *Command and Control* (2016) 90 minutes. PBS documentary highlighting how close we have come to destroying ourselves in the pursuit of nuclear superiority. Atomic weapons are man-made machines. Man-made machines sooner or later break. A very serious accident, or even atomic apocalypse is only a matter of time. 7pm

Friday Aug. 21 – **Imperialism Today** with panelists **Medea Benjamin**, Code Pink; **Jerry Harris**, Global Studies Association; **Vijay Prashad**, Tricontinental. Excellent presentations from the July 18th On-Line Anti-Imperialism Conference. 7pm

Friday Aug. 28 – Film “The Atomic Cafe”. (1982) Disturbing collection of 1940s and 1950s United States government-issued propaganda films designed to reassure Americans that the atomic bomb was not a threat to their safety. “A stunner - has one roaring with laughter, horror and disbelief!” Remember duck and cover? 7pm



What Are Our Priorities?

“We would not be giving local police departments who are undertrained A TANK if we didn’t give the military too much money to have extra damn tanks lying around to begin with.”

Which member of the U.S. Congress recently said that and got it played on corporate media?

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) (D-NY), who continued: *“The same problems that we are seeing on a city council level . . . half of that budget goes to policing, and a shred to education, a shred to mental health services, a crumb for hospitals -- that is mirrored on the federal level.”*

And who do you think just said this?

“When we say #DefundPolice, what we mean is people are dying and we need to invest in people’s livelihoods instead. Example: Detroit spent \$294 million on police last year, and \$9 million on health. This is systemic oppression in numbers.”

It was said by Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), who together with AOC is leading in Congress on issue after issue. Not coincidentally, both of these Congress members are now facing corporate-friendly challengers to their reelection.

Locally:

We know that the Pentagon is looking to get 54% of all discretionary spending in next year’s federal budget. Here in Milwaukee, the Police Department receives 53% of the city’s budget. When we say “Move the Money” or “Defund the Police” we are saying “let’s set new priorities.” Fund human needs and human services - nationally and locally.



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



Rashida Tlaib

PEACE CALENDAR

June/July 2020

With the limitations of the COVID-19 social distancing order, we have had to cancel many of our normal outdoor and in-person summer peace events. Our traditional Lanterns for Peace will have a new, safe distancing format. But there are many opportunities for on-line webinars, meetings, film series and other virtual gatherings. Check these out:

Sat. Aug. 1, Stand for Peace. 12 noon. Safe distance, wear masks. See weekly schedule.

Thurs. Aug. 6, Candlelight Vigil Commemoration of Hiroshima. 8pm. Lincoln Memorial Drive near Bradford Beach. Safe distance; wear masks. See ad on back page and article.

Fri. Aug. 7, Friday Freedom Flick. 7pm. Special On-Line August Film Series on The Dropping of the Bomb and its impact on US foreign policy ever since. Watch for email alert with Zoom viewing link. See article for details.

Sat. Aug. 8, Campaign Nonviolence National On-Line Conference - “Embracing the Nonviolent Shift” with 15 outstanding presenters. Organized by Pace E Bene. 11am to 6pm central time. Special \$25 registration for Peace Action Wisconsin members (discounted from \$50). See ad for more details.

Sun. Aug. 16, Push Biden on Peace. Join peace activists and some DNC delegates at the Peace Billboard on 7th and Wells St., Milw., to propose a peaceful foreign policy to candidate Biden. 3pm.

Wed. Aug. 19, End the Wars Coalition meeting on Zoom. 7pm.

Fri. Aug. 14, Friday Freedom Flicks. Summer On-Line Film Series: Check our e-alert for Zoom link. See article for details.

Fri. Aug. 21, Friday Freedom Flicks. Summer On-Line Film Series: Check our e-alerts with the Zoom link.

Fri. Aug. 28, Friday Freedom Flicks. Summer On-Line Film Series: Check our e-alerts for the Zoom link.

Wed. Sept. 16, End the Wars Coalition meeting on Zoom. 7pm.

Watch for more Sept. events on our website or email alerts.

Fridays, 6pm & 10pm If you are in broadcast range, you might like to listen to the “Grass is Greener” show on Riverwest Radio, WXRW, 104.1 FM. Peace Action members Babette Grunow and Gary Green host programs of interest to peace and social justice advocates.

Watch for our Peace Action email alerts with more upcoming on-line webinars and events.

Campaign Nonviolence National Online Conference - “Embracing the Nonviolent Shift” Sat. Aug. 8 – 11am to 6pm central time.

Special \$25 registration
(discounted from \$50 for Peace Action Wisconsin members)

Organized by Pace e Bene.

Take advantage of this special opportunity to participate in an exceptional online national conference on nonviolence organized by Pace e Bene. You will experience the wisdom of nonviolence visionaries, scholars and practitioners. Fifteen outstanding presenters include Rev. Richard Rohr, Rev. Lenox Yearwood, Rivera Sun, and Rev. John Dear. Peace Action Wisconsin’s George Martin will be closing the conference.

In this time of great transition ushered in by a worldwide crisis, nonviolence offers us what we need right now: a vision, strategies, and practices that will equip us to live and lead in the direction of personal and societal transformation.

To see the complete program and to register go to paceebene.org.
Use discount code *peaceactionwi*



Stand for Peace

Saturdays Noon-1 PM

August 1	Michigan/Lincoln Memorial
August 8	43rd/Forest Home
August 15	Sherman/North
August 22	Hwy 100/Bluemound
August 29	Howell/Layton

Look for September locations on our e-alerts and website. We are standing 6 feet apart and stand on corners that do not have heavy pedestrian traffic. Please wear a face mask.

Convention Delegates and Peace Activists

Push Biden on Peace:

Join Them Sunday, August 16 at 3 p.m.

by Jim Carpenter

Delegates to the Democratic National Convention are joining peace activists in pushing Biden to adopt a more principled foreign policy that prioritizes diplomacy and multilateralism over militarism and cuts the bloated Pentagon budget.

This peace initiative will have several components.

1) An Action Network petition will be circulated and sent to Biden and Sanders asking them to join us at a news conference at the Peace Billboard on Sunday, August 16 at 3 p.m., where they can listen and respond to delegates and peace activists as they outline this new foreign policy. The Peace Billboard is at 7th (James Lovell) and Wells Streets in Milwaukee. The news conference will be live streamed.

2) The Action Network will also ask people to sign a letter to Vice-President Biden outlining this new foreign policy. This letter can be found at codepink.org/lettertobiden. You can read it and sign it now. Among other things, this policy requires us to abide by international law and use our military solely for the defense of the people in our country. It calls for ending regime change interventions and broad-based sanctions and prioritizes diplomatic engagement rather than militarizing our relations with rising powers, such as Russia and China.

3) The news conference will also explain why H. Res. 1003 introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee to cut the bloated Pentagon budget by \$350 billion makes fiscal and moral sense. It cuts wars, unneeded bases, stops nuclear weapon “modernization” and the Space Force and ends other waste. Read it on congress.gov.

For more info: Laura Valderrama (201) 706-0826, Jim Carpenter (414) 347-0353



The “Peace Billboard” on 7th and Wells in Milwaukee.

JOIN US / RENEW



____ New Member ____ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ \$30 individual ____ \$10 limited income

____ \$50 household ____ \$100 supporter

____ \$1000 lifetime membership

Additional donation of support \$ _____

Make checks out to Peace Action of Wisconsin

1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212

Call office for information on monthly sustainers.

Get On Our E-Mail Alert List!

Make sure we have your email address, so you can receive our action alerts and calendar updates. Keep up to date with lobbying calls, on-line webinars and films, and special demonstrations and events.

DON'T BE OUT OF THE LOOP!

SEND US YOUR EMAIL AT:

INFO@PEACEACTIONWI.ORG

“Do not get lost in a sea of despair. - Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month or a year. It is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”



Rep. John R. Lewis,
1940-2020

Remember his words,
remember his courage,
remember his life of
nonviolence.

- Rep. John R. Lewis, civil rights icon.

Peace Action Wisconsin
1001 E. Keefe Ave.
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DATED MATERIAL

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki:

A Candlelight Vigil for Peace and Global Nuclear Disarmament

75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings



Thursday, August 6th, 8pm – 9:30pm

Along Lincoln Memorial Drive - Near Bradford Beach Pedestrian Bridge

(Free Parking in the lot across from Bradford Beach and the North Point lot just south of there. Meet in either one of the two parking lots to pick up lanterns, signs and banners.)

SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING - 10 feet apart.

Everyone please wear masks. Special peace masks will be available for sale.

Organized by Peace Action Wisconsin. Co-sponsors: End the Wars Coalition of Milwaukee, Veterans for Peace, UNA of Milwaukee, WILPF, WI Green Party, 350 Milwaukee, Mother's Organizing Center, Casa Maria Catholic Worker, Progressive Dems, Catholics for Peace and Justice, FCNL, Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Coalition.

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