

beyondwar northwest

Ongoing Discussion

Nagasaki-Hanford Bridge Project

By A. Rose

The Nagasaki-Hanford Bridge Project was a conference held in Walla Walla, WA in early March sponsored by Global Studies at Whitman College and Consequences of Radiation Exposure (CORE). A special guest was a hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor) from Nagasaki, Mitsugi Moriguchi, who came to visit Hanford, where the plutonium was produced for Fat Man, the bomb dropped on Nagasaki, killing over 70,000 people. The focus of the conference was on cancer and other radiogenic diseases caused by exposure to radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons production, testing or use in warfare. Speakers at the conference included a professor studying the radiation effects from the Fukushima disaster, a Hanford downwinder, Mr. Moriguchi, and a Japanese man who was in his mother's womb when the bomb fell on Hiroshima.

A featured film was "Hibakusha at the End of the World." It begins in Iraq (before the 2nd war) looking at children who developed diseases from exposure to depleted uranium. Traveling to the Hanford, WA area, the film examines victims exposed to plutonium production. The film concludes in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with interviews of hibakusha and doctors who monitored radiation health effects from the bombs, emphasizing how US doctors examined but did not treat victims in the aftermath of the bombing.

On the third day, the conference moved to the Richland, WA area where Tom Baile, a lifelong farmer in the area, welcomed conference visitors to his farm. He drove participants around the perimeter of his farm, on what he called the "Death Mile," where in every house he could name at least one person who had become ill or who had died of cancer, leukemia, thyroid disease or other afflictions associated with radiation exposure.

BWNW People



The University of Oregon Beyond War Club hosted a March letter-writing event to newspapers and Congress, promoting diplomatic talks between North Korea and the United States. Left to right: Kara Steffensen (Beyond War Northwest Executive Director); University of Oregon Beyond War Club students: Abha Joshi (Social Media and Recruitment), Natalie Perez (Event Marketing and Recruitment), [Anne Millhollen club advisor], and Liana Hu (President and Treasurer).

One stop was to Richland High School, home of the "Bombers." The name honors employees at Hanford who had donated one day's pay to purchase a bomber for the war effort. A picture of the bomber named "Day's Pay" is on the side of the gymnasium. But on the basketball court floor, there is a picture of a mushroom cloud. This was distressing to Mr. Moriguchi; he said it was as if people were walking over the dead of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On a more hopeful note, the principal of the school led the group on a tour of the school, ending in the library where there were artifacts from the war days. Mr. Moriguchi gave the principal a book of testimonials of Nagasaki bombing victims, which Mr. Moriguchi helped collect and edit. The principal said he would encourage students to read it.

On the final day, Mr. Moriguchi visited the Hanford reactor that produced the plutonium for the bomb dropped on Nagasaki. Although impressed by the technology that made the bomb possible, he lamented, "There was nothing — nothing about the suffering."

During the time of the conference, two articles appeared in the Richland, WA newspaper about Hanford workers and the current nuclear power plant. Washington just passed a law making it easier for the workers to receive compensation (how much easier is still to be seen). And the Richland (Fukushima-type) nuclear power plant remains under federal scrutiny for safety reasons. It continues to pose a danger to all downwind and downstream. There is currently an effort underway to persuade the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) to stop using power from the Richland facility. Currently 7.5% of EWEB's power is nuclear; it is more expensive than renewables and creates waste for which we have not yet found a satisfactory solution.

For more detailed newspaper coverage and photos click [here](#) and [here](#).

Good Reading

From the Eugene Book Group: Materialism and Peace

Need a dose of inspiration? Long for happiness and healthy abundance? This is not a book about decluttering, per se, but after reading it you might find yourself wanting to remove some of the sludge of consumerism and take more time enjoying nature, art, and fellow humans.

The Abundance of Less: Lessons in Simple Living from Rural Japan by Andy Couturier follows ten people who have chosen to live sustainable, fulfilling lives. The author includes "an anarchist potter," a "collector of fragrances," a "philosopher of the rice fields," and a mother and activist who believes in "making time to stop and think." Each person in this book offers a humble, eloquent version of wisdom. In his afterword, Couturier suggests five words that will help us make similar choices: "Gentle. Small. Humble. Slow. Simple."



For their next activity, the students are planning to create an informative display based on the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. The minute hand of this clock represents how close humanity currently is to the risk of catastrophic nuclear war. The hand was moved to 11:58 this year. This is as close to midnight (apocalyptic nuclear war) as it was at the height of Cold War tensions in 1953.

Students plan to put images of these evocative clocks on the lawn between Condon and Chapman Halls at UO, and in the wider Eugene community during spring term. A scientific leader states, "This is a dangerous time, but the danger is of our own making. Humankind has invented the implements of apocalypse; so can it invent the methods of controlling and eventually eliminating them. This year, leaders and citizens of the world can move the Doomsday Clock and the world away from the metaphorical midnight of global catastrophe" by taking common sense actions. (John Mecklin, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists)

Please learn about the common sense actions we can take by joining with our student leaders, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, and people everywhere longing and working for peace around the world. You can read how at the [website](#) for the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, in their report, "It Is Two Minutes to Midnight."

"Nuclear Conflict Possibilities and the Dangerous Facade of Missile Defense" was presented by Dr. Jane Cramer, University of Oregon, on January 25. A video recording of the talk is available [here](#). The event also celebrated that the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize went to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

Upcoming Events

According to Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, "This is subversive in the best possible way." The most compelling thing I can say about the book is that I have dog-eared and highlighted my copy, and given many to family and friends. Do yourself a favor and find time to read about a different definition of richness.

Rebecca Wolle

Beyond War Northwest is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Oregon, USA. Our Federal EIN is: 20-0912219.



#NoWar2018
designing a world beyond war:
legalizing peace
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Local Events

Sunday, Apr. 15, 1 PM

Tax Justice Day Rally & March

How do you want your tax money spent???

EWEB River Edge Plaza, 500 East Fourth Ave., Eugene

The rally will have speakers and music and will be followed by a march to the Free Speech Plaza, with a return to EWEB Plaza. Come share your energy, bringing your voices, signs and enthusiasm. Sponsored by CALC and allies.

Thursday, May 3, 2018, 5:00 PM; Friday May 4, 8:30 AM-6:00 PM

"Beyond the Headlines: North Korea: Politics, Society, and Culture in Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the UO Asian Studies Program"

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Ford Lecture Hall

North Korea is so much in the news these days, yet the country remains mysterious to most Americans. By bringing together world renowned experts on North Korea to campus, we aim to offer the public an opportunity to learn about what is behind the headlines and how to interpret the ongoing tensions between North Korea and the international community. The two-day event opens with a showing of a North Korean film, "Comrade Kim Goes Flying" (2012), followed by a panel discussion on the film. The next day will feature a keynote speaker and four panels. Free and open to the public.

August 5, at 2:00 pm at Tsunami Books.

"Exposed", a play written by Salt Lake City journalist and activist Mary Dickson, will be performed as a staged reading. Based on actual events, government documents and personal experiences, the play focuses on U.S. civilians harmed by radioactive fallout from decades of nuclear testing, and exposes lies the government made to cover up its breach of trust. Tickets will be sold on a sliding scale of \$5.00 to \$50.00, with no one turned away for lack of funds. Ticket proceeds will benefit Tsunami Books and Women's Action for New Directions (WAND).

Monday August 6, 7:15 PM. Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration

Alton Baker Park

Taiko drumming, peace choir, Oban dancing, and a floating of lanterns at dusk.

Second Thursday of every month: Beyond War Northwest Board meeting, 9:00 a.m.
Outreach Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m.

For more information, email us at info@beyondwarnw.org

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