

beyondwar northwest

Ongoing Discussion



Beyond War/Northwest is proud to be a part of a production of Mary Dickson's **EXPOSED**, a play written about downwinders and how four decades of nuclear testing in Nevada spread radiation throughout the United States. The play will be presented as a staged reading, with readers from the local community and directed by Eugene's own Carol Dennis. "Exposed" premiered in 2007 at the Plan-B Theater Company in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mary Dickson will be attending the Eugene performance.

Part memoir, part oral history, and part journalistic investigation, **EXPOSED** puts a much-needed human face on what happened to unsuspecting Americans as a result of 928 atomic bombs exploded in the desert near Las Vegas from 1951 to 1992. The fallout from those tests had tragic consequences for tens of thousands of Americans living

BWNW People

University of Oregon Beyond War students created a Doomsday Clock exhibit on campus using the data from the [Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#)



Rotary International Peace Conference in Vancouver, B.C. February 9-11th, 2018.
by Jim Anderson

downwind.

EXPOSED tells the harrowing yet inspiring story of two sisters — a writer and a stay-at-home mother — through their struggles with illness, their discovery of the government's betrayal, their fight to expose the truth, and their determination not to let the mistakes of the past be repeated. EXPOSED combines the playwright's very personal experience with powerful documentation of a living history with international repercussions.

Mary Dickson is in the unique position of being a widely-published writer, a downwinder with a compelling personal story to share, a journalist who has spent years chronicling the effects of testing, and an activist who has worked to increase public awareness about what decades of nuclear testing did to Americans living downwind.

The play is relevant today as recent events have again brought nuclear weapons to the forefront. Saber rattling between North Korea and Trump, the nuclear alert in Hawaii, or the billions of dollars the administration is investing in nuclear weapons modernization along with the possibility of renewed testing have all heightened the interest in the dangers of nuclear weapons. Too many people still are unaware of what nuclear testing did in our country. As the 75th anniversaries of Trinity (the first test of a nuclear weapon) and the bombing of Japan approach and as we lose more downwinders and their stories with them, it is more important than ever that a new generation understands our nuclear past.

Mary Dickson's play EXPOSED will be performed as a staged reading on August 5, at 2:00 pm at Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette, Eugene, Oregon. Tickets can be purchased at Tsunami Books after July 17th, or by calling 541.345.8986 to reserve. Tickets are on a sliding scale of \$5.00 to \$50.00. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit both Tsunami Books and WAND (Women's Action for New Directions).

To arrange an interview with the playwright, please contact Mary Dickson at mdickson@kued.org

RI President Ian Risley led off the conference Friday night with a welcoming speech to the assembled Rotarians (1,000+) from all over the world. He highlighted Rotary's role in promoting Peace around the world and the crucial importance of our efforts in presenting viable alternatives to international and domestic conflicts. The reception that followed was a preview of an active and committed group eager to put forward workable solutions to the difficult issues of our time.

Saturday morning's keynote speech was presented by Dr. David Suzuki, a world-renowned geneticist, author of 55 books and a Canadian Public TV personality with a gift for presenting complex scientific theories in an understandable way for non-scientists. His speech emphasized the importance of taking the global warming crisis seriously. He reported that the vast majority of credible scientists with whom he is in contact feel that we are in the "59th minute of a 60 minute hour" meaning that we are in a very serious ecological situation worldwide and if we don't prioritize our response to it, the consequences of inaction can be disastrous. Devoting even a small portion of the monies currently dedicated to the military could have some very positive effects on the climate change issue.

Dr. Suzuki mentioned that the Haida, first nation's people of the British Columbia Coast had been living there for some 7,000+ years in harmony with nature whereas Europeans have been there 4-500 years and have created a crisis that poses serious questions for the future of our civilization. In his view, the environment cannot handle much more economic "growth" and that will not bode well for the future, so we have to begin serious discussions about how to re-configure our society to take into account the downsides of economic development. He cited the current dispute between Alberta and B.C. over building a pipeline from the tar sands in Alberta. British Columbia mainly does not want it and we really don't need it, so the best solution may be to leave it in the ground while we develop alternatives like wind and solar and geothermal. Pure water and air can be great places to start from and Rotary is doing a lot of good work in this area and he congratulated us for that.

Dr. Johnathan Patz, the next presenter, gave us some good reasons for hope. He is both an M.D. and a Public Health Professional and is Director of the Global Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin. He framed the debate over Climate Change as the "greatest human health opportunity of our lifetime." Every ton of carbon dioxide that we avoid emitting saves \$200 in health costs and it costs only \$30 to bring about. So...it's time to put a price on carbon notwithstanding all the disinformation campaigns of industry that remind us of all the similar campaigns of the tobacco industry. He also pointed out that "green jobs" can employ more workers than the oil and coal industries, so again it's a great opportunity because jobs are important for the health of any community. We have an extreme over-reliance on automobiles-over 40% of auto trips are for 2 miles or less and if we cut down on these, we could realize better physical fitness as well as less carbon emission. We need to take these actions to mitigate climate change which can become a great natural disaster if we don't mobilize to meet the challenge. Around the world, air pollution currently costs our economies approximately 5 trillion dollars annually but we have a great opportunity to do something about it.

The third presentation was on the beneficial effects of trees to the environment in their role as sequestrers of carbon dioxide and emitters of oxygen. Indeed, President Risley has set a goal for Rotary Clubs world wide to plant one million trees in this 2018 year. Here is another positive thing that can be done for the environment and to combat global warming.

It was a great conference which gives our clubs some wonderful guidelines for impacting the future in highly beneficial ways. Onward!

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Save the Date

"Exposed" staged reading
Sunday, August 5, 2:00 pm
at Tsunami Books
2585 Willamette, Eugene, OR.
Tickets can be purchased at
Tsunami Books after July 17th,
or by calling 541.345.8986 to
reserve.

Upcoming Events

See our [website](#) for event details.

August 5--"Exposed" (see adjacent article)

August 6--Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration

August 9--Know Nukes - Community Conversation

September 21 & 22-- World Beyond War Conference, Toronto

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

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