

Fall 2018 Newsletter

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beyondwar northwest

Ongoing Discussion

Art and Activism

EXPOSED, a play about the government's complicity in exposing its "down wind" citizens to radiation from hundreds of nuclear bombs tested in the Mohave desert, left the audience stunned at the enormity of the damage in human lives, livestock, and land. The intimacy of a dramatic reading spoke to the hearts of the participants. Though emotion devastated the room, creativity and solutions began to percolate in the aftermath when the audience could speak with the playwright, Mary Dickson, whose sister died of downwind radiation exposure.

Thus the power of art to touch hearts and minds and lead to creative solutions.

BWNW People



Our Executive Director, Kara Steffensen, the 2018 Eugene Slug



BWNW embraces art for our message. In the past, we sponsored a mural at Churchill High School (above). The lawn display of Doomsday Clocks created by the University of Oregon Beyond War Club students was recognized for its creativity by the Union of Atomic Scientists <https://thebulletin.org/2018/07/doomsday-clocks-on-display/>. We include music resources on our website and art and poems in our newsletter. The haiku written by Mike Rose became a focal point of our Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration display this August. The performance art by our Executive Director, who is now Slug Queen, uses humor, song and dance. Eugene may be unique in having a Slug Queen competition, but we can use all the creativity we have to keep communicating.

Send us your ideas and we will share them.

Nuclear Non-proliferation

President Trump has been quoted as saying that "Perhaps someday in the future there will be a magical moment when the countries of the world will get together to eliminate their nuclear

Queen with her message that reducing global warming is also working for a more peaceful world.

Good Reading

Spain in Our Hearts by Adam Hochschild

A review by Dorothy Sampson

Throughout history there have been rare moments of moral clarity. The Spanish Civil War was one. In 1936 the Popular Front won the election with a promise of bringing Spain out of a feudal system where 1% of the population held all the wealth of the country and the remaining 99% were no better off than serfs. As equalitarian euphoria swept through Catalonia, normal hierarchies were set on their head. George Orwell, who came to Spain to fight for the new democracy, found himself under the spell of a transformed classless Barcelona.

"Waiters and shop-walkers looked you in the face and treated you as an equal. Servile and even ceremonial forms of speech had disappeared. Nobody said *Senor* or *Don* or even *usted*, everyone called everyone else Comrade and Thou."

Other reports from Barcelona were equally tantalizing. "The great Liceu opera house had been turned into a people's theater. . . pawnshops were forced to give back objects to their poorer customers. Mansions confiscated from the wealthy had been converted into housing for the

weapons. Unfortunately, we are not there yet."

Well...one is tempted to ask, When will this magic moment arrive and why not begin now to develop the wherewithal to rid the world of these terrible weapons that would be disastrous for any nation to use? Why this insistence on continuing a buildup that inevitably will lead to a new arms race? After all, just keeping our present nuclear force maintained costs \$26 billion dollars per year. Does it make sense to build more of these horrendous killing machines? Does it lead to more global security and cooperation and harmonious interaction among the worlds' nations? I think the answer is obvious.

Recently, I heard an expert on nuclear issues saying that with so many nuclear weapons available in too many countries that it was likely that someone would eventually use a nuclear weapon. That was a chilling reminder that we are unfortunately getting closer to a horrific tragedy should a country or a terrorist group decide that it was in their best interest to utilize a nuclear weapon, which would likely set off multiple reactions that could devastate our world.

Fortunately, there has been much good work done by concerned citizens both in the U.S. and the world community. Thirteen steps have been delineated in the "2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty", available here: <http://www.acronym.org.uk/old/official-and-govt-documents/2000-npt-review-conference-final-document-13-steps?page=show> on how to get to the elimination of nuclear weapons and to relieve the world of this ever present threat. A book has been written by Joseph Rotblat entitled *Nuclear Weapons: The Road to Zero* which probes the very complex issues that must be resolved before the world can get to this desired state. In addition, four American statesman, Sam Nunn, William Perry, George Shultz, and Henry Kissinger have written five articles for general publication that lay

homeless; union cooks and waiters at the restaurant of the city's Hotel Ritz, with its elaborate chandeliers, white linen and monogrammed china, had pushed the tables together into long rows and turned it into a people's cafeteria for working-class families and the city's poor."

For those used to privilege this was a great threat, and it didn't take long for Francisco Franco to lead a fascist coup against the new democratic government. Franco made it clear that his aim was to turn the country into a military dictatorship. Hitler and Mussolini quickly allied with him and provided the arsenal and forces he needed. Western democracies, the United States, France and Britain, demurred, refusing to help the struggling Republic. With no other options, the Republic accepted arms and aid from Communist Russia. The irony was that "defenders of the Republic were fighting for one of the finest causes beside one of the nastiest of allies." To continue reading, click [here](#).

Lyrics by Jim Sampson and Brett Levine

Keep Breathing

Woke one day in a far off land
And crossed the line from boy to man
Sworn to serve the land he loves
He takes his guidance from above

One day he's found face down in sand
No rounds left in either hand
Hot metal ripped right through his cries
And come to rest deep down inside

out the rationale for moving away from nuclear weapons entirely for the sake of the safety of the world. Shultz and Kissinger were past U.S. Secretaries of State, Sam Nunn was chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and William Perry was a U.S. Secretary of Defense. These four have helped lead an initiative called the Nuclear Security Project to help free us from our "dangerous complacency" with regard to nuclear weapons. See

<https://www.nti.org/about/projects/nuclear-security-project/>)

The New Start Treaty and the 2010 and 2012 Nuclear Security Summits have given positive glimpses of where the world might go with regard to eliminating the scourge of nuclear weapons. Let us continue to build on the past efforts and good work that has been done and complete the task of ridding the world of these tragically destructive weapons.

Jim Anderson



Keep Breathing – Don't leave us now
we need you so

Keep Breathing – There's a little girl
that wants you home

Keep Breathing – Keep Breathing

He swallows hard as the sun goes
down

He cries out loud but he makes no
sound

Another man in another world

Breaking down from the weight of war

His angel says

Keep Breathing – There are many
here that love you so

Keep Breathing – We're never ever
gonna let you go

Keep Breathing – Keep Breathing

I remember how it feels to hold you so
And just have to let you know I'm
reeling

So won't you just please come home
I'm never going to let you go

I need you right here by my side

Don't let go keep holding on

It's for you that we sing this song
Remember no man is left behind

Keep Breathing.

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

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