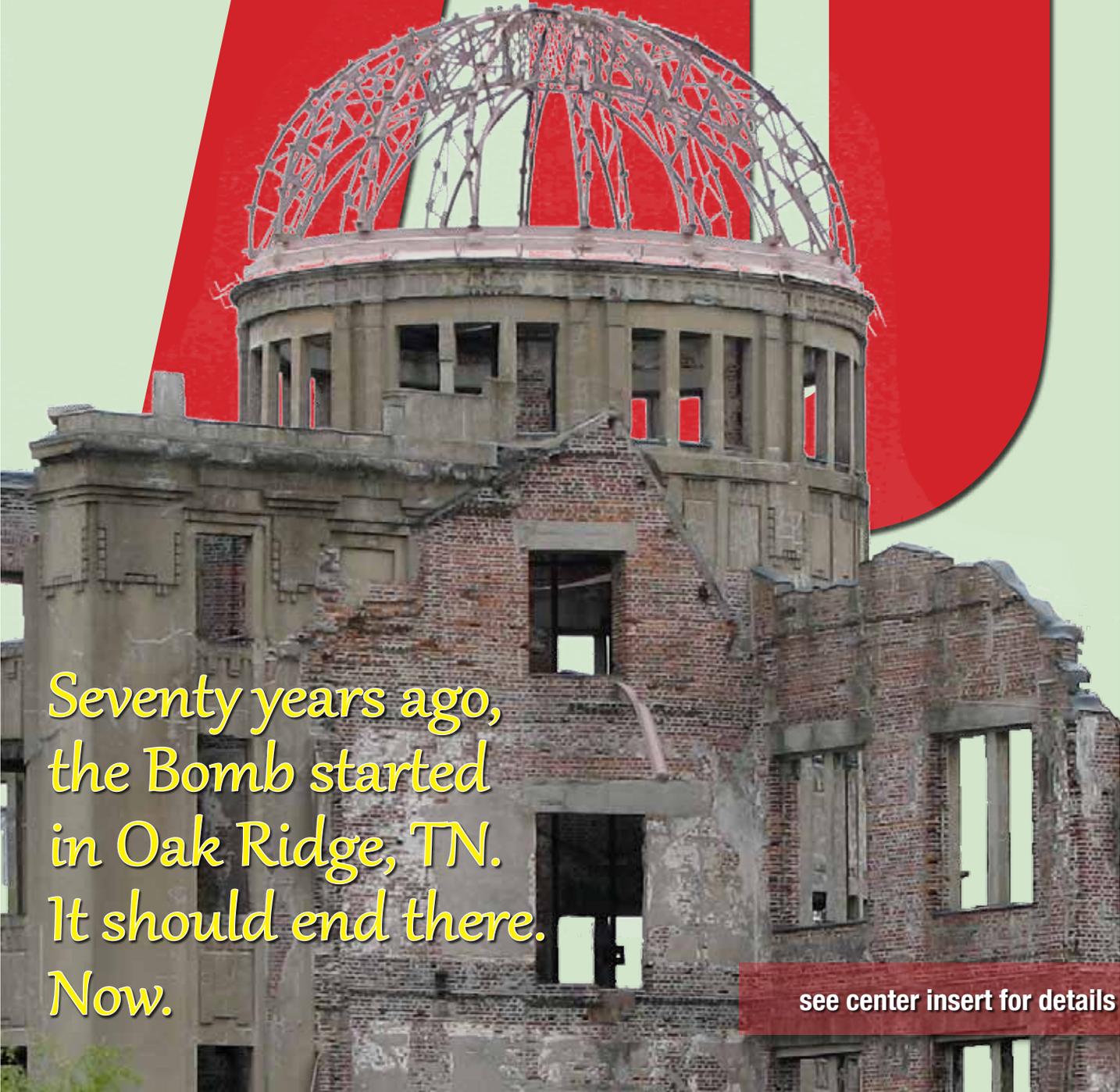




70



*Seventy years ago,
the Bomb started
in Oak Ridge, TN.
It should end there.
Now.*

see center insert for details

Time to take a stand

Standing to say “NO!” to nuclear weapons and “YES!” to nuclear abolition in Oak Ridge, TN, in August may be the single most important thing you can do to stop plans for a multi-billion dollar bomb plant slated to be built here.

The Bomb started in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, when the Y12 Plant produced the highly enriched uranium fuel for Little Boy, the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, Japan.

Seventy years later, Y12 is still in the bomb business. In 2015, it is making thermonuclear cores for the W-76 Life Extension Program—refurbishing the nuclear warhead so it will last for decades.

If the federal government has its way, Y12 will also be building bombs long into the future—current plans call for a new bomb plant, the Uranium Processing Facility, to be built at Y12 in Oak Ridge. The sole mission of the UPF bomb plant is to manufacture the thermonuclear cores and cases for nuclear warheads and bombs.

WHY COME TO OAK RIDGE?

The UPF bomb plant is the flagship facility for the “modernization” of the US nuclear weapons complex. By the end of 2016, more than \$2 billion dollars will have been spent designing the UPF bomb plant. The first cost estimates, in 2006, put the cost of the design at \$92 million.

Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander, bagman for the bomb plant, claims it can be built for \$6.5 billion. Of course, it will cost much more than that if it is ever built—but for now, that’s a marker for how much can be saved by abandoning the plan before construction begins.

Pope Francis, in a December paper called “Time for Abolition” declared that spending on nuclear weapons “squanders the wealth of nations.” We ran a few numbers—for \$6.5 billion, Habitat for Humanity could build 118,000 homes. Or Tennessee could hire more than 800 teachers for

ten years in every county in the state. Or build three new state-of-the-art schools in every county. Or feed billions of children free meals at school.

STANDING TOGETHER IN AUGUST

OREPA is inviting everyone to come to Oak Ridge in August to stand with the *hibakusha*, Japanese survivors of the Bomb, to say “Never Again!” You’ll find the lineup of events listed in the middle of the newsletter; it will be

updated on the OREPA web site.

Here are just a few highlights:

Gar Alperovitz, author of *The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb: The Architecture of an American Myth*, will speak at the East Tennessee History Center in Knoxville on Sunday, August 2. Alperovitz is a leading scholar of the historical record and his presentation will frame the upcoming discussion of how to interpret history at the Manhattan Project National Park.

On Monday, religious leaders in East Tennessee will release a Pastoral Letter on Nuclear Weapons; on Tuesday, we’ll fold 1,000 cranes in downtown Knoxville on Market Square.

Thursday marks the 70th commemoration of Hiroshima, and OREPA will gather at the gates of the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex at 6:00am for our annual Names and Remembrance Ceremony.

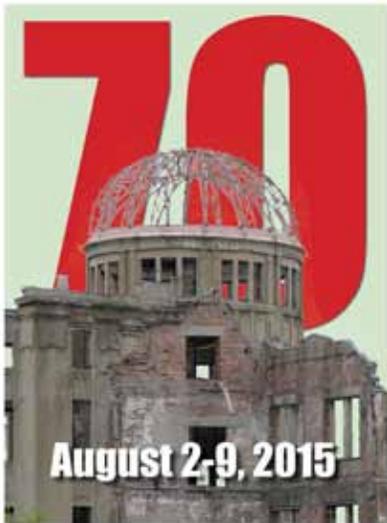
Friday afternoon, we’ll hold a nonviolence training at Church of the Savior in Knoxville; the training will include a Peacekeeper training for the events on Saturday.

Friday evening, the three principals of Transform Now Plowshares will reunite in Knoxville, the first time they’ll be together in East Tennessee since they were sentenced to serve time in federal prison in early 2014. We’ll celebrate the power of nonviolence and their release from prison after their sabotage convictions were overturned by the Court of Appeals with a gathering at Church of the Savior at 7:00pm.

On Saturday, August 8, we’ll have a rally and concert for peace at Alvin K. Bissell Park in Oak Ridge, TN, followed by a march to the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex gates and an action for nuclear abolition—the theme of the day will be “NO UPF Bomb Plant!”

There’s more—please refer to the insert and OREPA’s website: www.orepa.org. For those interested in building puppets for a theatre piece on August 8, we’ll have a puppet build running all week in south Knoxville; details will be posted at orepa.org. If you want to bike for peace, the footprints gang is traveling by bike from Chattanooga to Oak Ridge—check out footprintsforpeace.org for details. If you want to walk, Nipponzan Myohoji will sponsor a 70 mile walk to Oak Ridge that will start in Asheville, North Carolina: check out www.smokey-mountainpeacepagoda.com for details.

We welcome everyone to OREPA events; we are committed to nonviolence in tone as well as action, and we don’t allow drugs or alcohol.



No bomb plant this year. Or next.

OREPA's effort to stop the construction of the Uranium Processing Facility Bomb Plant in Oak Ridge enters its second decade as a qualified success. Qualified because there is no bomb plant yet—but by the end of next year, more than \$2 billion will have been spent on designing the bomb plant.

There will be no bomb plant next year, either. Congress is including \$430 million dollars for the UPF in next year's budget, but Senator Lamar Alexander's office says it is "all for design."

Why aren't they building it?

The problems that have plagued the UPF from the outset continue to thwart plans for the bomb plant. First among them: it is a bomb plant we do not need. The National Nuclear Security Administration has asserted the bomb plant is necessary to maintain the US nuclear stockpile, but they have yet to offer any documentation of that claim. Congress told them last year to back up their claim with a report on the need to replace the thermonuclear cores (the sole planned mission of the UPF bomb plant). That report was due in April but has not yet appeared.

The UPF design team continues to try to do the impossible—design a bomb plant for equipment that does not yet exist. If that sounds like a crazy idea to you, it's not because you've lost your grip on rational thought. Standard practice requires new technologies to be mature—demonstrated to work in real-life conditions—before they are included in blueprints. NNSA doesn't want to wait that long. It's part of what cost taxpayers half a billion dollars when the first UPF design plan went belly up—but NNSA doesn't learn quickly.

Other challenges include the failure to provide the legally required environmental analysis for the new bomb plant design. NNSA has now taken more than a year to decide whether they can get away with using the old Environmental Impact Statement for the new bomb plant—they can't, and every day they wait to bite the bullet and admit it is another day's delay for the bomb plant, so we're not really complaining. If they try to skirt the law, though, we will complain. Eventually, we will have new environmental hearings, and we'll need

you to come to Oak Ridge.

Then there is safety—part of the new scaled down UPF "modernization" plan for Y12 will require NNSA to use deteriorating buildings for major operations for twenty-five years or more even though they don't meet seismic standards today and can not be brought up to code. So much for worker safety and mission continuity. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board says the old buildings can never be seismically qualified—at the same the US Geological Survey says the risk of a significant earthquake in Oak Ridge is greater than previously thought. Can you say "Perfect storm?"

Money and magic

Finally, there is the pricetag. Management incompetence doomed the first UPF design plan in 2012; skyrocketing cost estimates doomed the second plan in late 2013. In an effort to shield the UPF from further fiscal scrutiny, NNSA says it won't release any numbers until the design is 90% complete. Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander, the bagman for the UPF bomb plant, says he is confident the project can be completed for \$6.5 billion.

There are some uncertainties associated with the number, but Alexander is apparently in deep denial. The biggest problem with the number is that it is made up out of fairy dust—it's not derived from a design; it doesn't calculate materials and labor; it's just a number pulled from thin air and thrown at the contractor. Depending on your point of view, it's a ceiling they dare not break through or a blank check.

But the number has other defects as well. For one, Alexander seems to have determined, based on nothing, that \$6.5

billion is a reasonable and acceptable amount to spend on a bomb plant. It's not, especially a bomb plant the NNSA itself says is being designed with a capacity eight times greater than necessary.

It's also not an achievable cap on spending. While critics of the NNSA, including OREPA, often say the agency can do nothing right, the truth is NNSA is expert at one thing: taking taxpayer dollars and handing them to private corporations. If Senator Alexander was serious about constraining spending on his bomb plant, he would institute public accountability for the money being spent. Instead, he has secret meetings with NNSA and the contractors and then announces he is satisfied they are trying real hard.

Senator Alexander appears to have embraced some tools from the realm of magic in crafting his ongoing support and sunny outlook for the UPF. OREPA prefers to rely on actual documentation—reports from the Safety Board, the Government Accountability Office, the DOE Inspector General.

And of course, the Magic 8-ball, oracle of our youth. You remember it, don't you? You ask a question and turn the ball over and a small triangle appears out of the murky fluid inside, rising to the window

so you can read the response. Well, there's an on-line version. Type in your question and it answers. We tried it. Twice. Same answer both times. "Will the UPF be built?" we queried. Came the 8-ball's sage reply: "Very

doubtful."

Guess we should send Alexander a Magic 8-ball. If he stopped spending money on the UPF now, we could still build tens of thousands of Habitat homes.



SUNDAY August 2

Telling the Story of the Bomb

AN EVENING
WITH GAR ALPEROVITZ

7:00pm
East Tennessee History
Center Auditorium
600 South Gay Street
Knoxville, TN



Telling the story of the Bomb will be a critical part of the Manhattan Project National Park established last year by Congress.

Gar Alperovitz, author of **The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb: The Architecture of an American Myth**, will present the historical context of the decision drawn from his decades-long research into the political and military record.

The presentation is free and open to the public and will be followed by a moderated discussion.

MONDAY August 3

Speaking of the Bomb Today

THE URGENCY OF NOW: A
PASTORAL LETTER
FROM
RELIGIOUS LEADERS
IN EAST TENNESSEE

1:00pm
Location TBA

Knoxville, TN

The proposal to spend more than \$6 billion to build a new nuclear weapons production facility in Oak Ridge provides an opportunity for reflection and decision for people of faith.

Leaders from East Tennessee faith communities will release a Pastoral Letter addressing the continued production of nuclear weapons at the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, calling all people to consider their responsibility to address the existential threat of nuclear weapons and the moral dimension of participation in the production of weapons of mass destruction.

TUESDAY August 4

Creating the Dream of Peace

THE PROMISE OF
A THOUSAND CRANES

10:00am
Market Square
Knoxville, TN

The origami crane has become the symbol of dreams of peace around the world—drawn from the story of Sadako Sasaki, survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, who developed leukemia when she was twelve years old.



According to custom, folding 1,000 cranes granted one's wish—Sadako died before completing her mission, but millions of people since have folded cranes to add their wishes for a world free of nuclear weapons to hers.

On August 4, OREPA members invite you to join us in Market Square to fold 1,000 cranes—we'll have paper and directions and offer hands-on help. All you need to do is bring your fingers. We'll start at 10:00am and fold for as long as it takes!

THURSDAY August 6

Remembering Hiroshima: Never Again!

NAMES AND
REMEMBRANCE
CEREMONY

6:00 - 9:00am
East Bear Creek Entrance
Y12 Nuclear Weapons
Complex
Intersection of Scarboro &
Bear Creek Road
Oak Ridge, TN

A solemn morning ceremony combines the reading of names of victims of the August 6, 1945 destruction of Hiroshima, Japan by the Little Boy atomic bomb—fueled with Highly Enriched Uranium produced at the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Plant in Oak Ridge—with first hand accounts of witnesses to the bomb along with poetry and readings reflecting the prayers of the hibakusha—*Never Again!*



Readings are punctuated by the tolling of a peace bell and tying cranes on the fence.

Everyone is welcome. Come when you can; read if you'd like; leave when you must.

FRIDAY August 7

Hungry for Disarmament

A DAY-LONG FAST FOR NUCLEAR ABOLITION

all day



Around the globe, people are renouncing food as part of a fast for nuclear abolition. Fasting is a discipline of self-denial that permits one to focus energy on something other than food—in this case the universal desire to live free from the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

The global fast for nuclear disarmament is being held from August 6 - 9. OREPA is encouraging people to observe the fast on Friday, August 7. Perhaps you could spend lunchtime writing and sending a letter to the editor of your local paper asking why billions are being spent on modernizing nuclear weapons while millions go hungry.

You can fast wherever you are. There may be a public gathering in support of those who are fasting—watch OREPA's web site: www.orepa.org for details.

FRIDAY August 7

Creating the Peace We Seek

NONVIOLENCE WORKSHOP

1:00 - 5:00pm
Church of the Savior
934 N Weisgarber Rd
Knoxville, TN 37909

Brush up your nonviolence skills and enjoy an afternoon with a great group of people in preparation for the August 8 peace rally and action in Oak Ridge. Training for peacekeepers will be included.



FRIDAY August 7

Celebrating the Power Of Nonviolence

AN EVENING WITH TRANSFORM NOW PLOWSHARES

7:00pm
Church of the Savior
934 N Weisgarber Rd
Knoxville, TN 37909

Join Greg Boertje-Obed, Megan Rice and Michael Walli for an evening of celebration and conversation.

SATURDAY August 8

NO! to the UPF Bomb Plant

A RALLY FOR PEACE AND A MARCH AND ACTION FOR DISARMAMENT

11:00am
Amphitheater
Alvin K. Bissell Park
Corner of Tulane Avenue & Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN

Music by the Emancipators, a skit by the Catalystica Players, updates on nuclear plans for Oak Ridge, distinguished speakers, songs we'll all sing and more, beginning at the park at 11:00am. Bring your lunch, a chair or blanket if you want, sunscreen and maybe an umbrella.

Between 1:30 and 2:00, we will march from Bissell Park to the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex (1.75 miles) where we will demonstrate with peace cranes and say NO! to the \$6.5 billion Uranium Processing Facility proposed for Y12.

SUNDAY August 9

Remembering Nagasaki

PEACE LANTERN CEREMONY

8:15pm
Sequoyah Hills Park
west end parking lot,
Cherokee Drive
Knoxville, TN



Music, litanies, Buddhist drumming and chanting and peace lanterns—with traditional Japanese dancing if we can arrange it—close the commemorative week with a remembrance of the destruction of Nagasaki, Japan on August 9, 1945 by a second US atomic bomb.

Children will have a chance to decorate their own peace lantern and everyone will have an opportunity to launch a lantern into the Tennessee River in keeping with the Japanese tradition of honoring the dead and setting our dreams and hopes for a peaceful future afloat.

All OREPA events are free; everyone is welcome.
No drugs or alcohol.
Nonviolent in tone as well as action.

If you are not able to abide by these standards, please do not attend the event.

Taking responsibility for the bomb: Youth lead Action for Peace and Disarmament

“We ask you directly: How can you think you have the power to bring us closer to nuclear war? The project you manage endangers the wellbeing of the entire world. While we often think of these threats as huge and impersonal, the truth is they are the result of actions taken by individuals. Each of us bears moral responsibility for what we do.”

The underlying theme of the Spring Action for Disarmament—taking responsibility—was captured in the paragraph of a letter crafted by the youth action planning committee to John Eschenberg, project manager for the Uranium Processing Facility bomb plant.

It was that sense of responsibility that led the young people on the planning committee to develop a plan for an action in Oak Ridge on May 2; they recruited other young people, created signs and banners, organized a rally and action, developed and issued a Call to Action, met with the Oak Ridge police chief, schooled themselves in the principles and tools of nonviolent direct action, and even arranged for perfect weather.

A hundred people joined them in Oak Ridge to

say “No!” to the UPF bomb plant and to call on the United States to keep its promise to disarm.

“We are the future,” began the Call to Action. “We have a responsibility to create the world we want to live in, the world we want to work and play in, the world we want to raise our children in.

“For seventy years, the world has lived with the threat of nuclear destruction,” read the call. “We will not allow our children to be raised under that same cloud of fear.”

Following a rally in the park, complete with music by the Emancipators, the planning team—Kayce Collins, Carmella Cole, Emma McLeod, Evora Kreis and Will Collins—led a march to the gates of the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex where they built a fence for paper cranes.

By day’s end, the young people, supported by some not-so-young peace activists, had delivered a clear and powerful message to the community and the weaponers, claiming the future for peace.

As the Call to Action put it in closing: “Our energy, our ideas, our commitment, our fresh faces and young enthusiastic spirits will show Y12 that their bombs are not wanted here or anywhere else!”

PHOTO MARCUS ATKINSON



top left: The youth leadership team issues a Call to Action to the gathered crowd at Bissell Park.

center, left: By the time we finished, the letter to UPF project manager John Eschenberg was covered with signatures.

bottom left: Leaving Bissell Park on the march to the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex.

right: tying peace cranes on the fence at the main gates to the bomb plant.

Walkers, Runners and Riders take “Nuclear Free Future” message to United Nations

It started at the very end of March, at the gates of the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex—an ambitious, 730-mile journey from the bomb plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee to New York City, taking the call for the United States to live up to its promise to disarm to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference at the United Nations.

The travelers walked, biked and ran the distance, hosted by families, churches and others along the way as they made their way through Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and finally crossed the George Washington Bridge and marched down Broadway—by the end there were three walks converging and more than one hundred marchers.

We arrived in New York City on Saturday in time for the conclusion of the Peace and Planet symposium on the eve of the opening of the NPT Review. The next day, we were joined by thousands of others as we marched from Union Square North Park to the United Nations.

The Oak Ridge to New York journey was an international affair organized by Footprints for Peace, with walkers from the United



States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and France. The number ebbed and swelled as they were joined along the route for days or weeks by others who heard about the walk/bike/march.

OREPA launched the journey, and OREPA members walked, ran and biked portions of the route, then traveled to Pennsylvania and New Jersey to reunite for the final week of the trek. In New Jersey, we joined two other walks organized by Nipponzan Myohoji, one which originated in San Francisco, the other in Massachusetts.

Following the walk/bike/run several members stayed for the opening of the NPT Review Conference at the United Nations where OREPA Coordinator Ralph Hutchison was part of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability team that organized and led a presentation at the UN on US plans to modernize our nuclear weapons stockpile and infrastructure.

photo: The journey ended in a Sunday march to the United Nations with thousands from around the world.

Did the Bomb end the war?

Hiroshima Nagasaki: The Real Story of the Atomic Bombings and Their Aftermath. St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books, 2014. 978-1-250-04711-3

Historical narratives of wars fought are inevitably shaped and controlled by the victors. In the case of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, competing narratives emerged almost immediately following Japan's surrender.

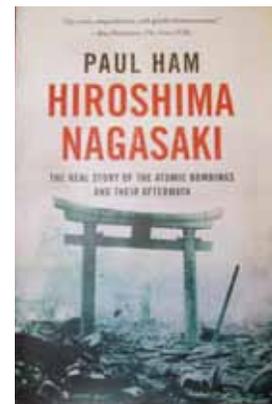
It has long been claimed the bombings forced Japan's capitulation, forgoing a mass invasion of the home islands and thus saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and millions of Japanese. Early critics of the bombings declared that Japan was trying to surrender when blindsided by the nuclear weapon. Some historians assert the bomb was deployed against an already defeated Japan to deter Soviet expansionism.

Paul Ham, a former Australian correspondent of the *Sunday Times* of London, looks closely at the facts behind these narratives and deconstructs them to reveal that the bombings played no role at all in the surrender of Japan. Ham dismisses as simplistic the theory that the bombs were used to deter Soviet aggression. As for forcing Japan's surrender, Ham concludes: "While the bombs obviously contributed to Japan's general sense of defeat, not a shred of evidence supports the contention that the Japanese leadership surrendered in direct response to the atomic bombs. On the contrary, Tokyo's hardline militarists shrugged as the two irradiated cities were added to the tally of 66 already destroyed, and overrode the protests of the moderates."

Ham persuasively argues that it was Japan's feared entry of the Soviet Union into the war made real that was the deciding factor to unconditionally surrender.

Other books have made similar arguments but none so comprehensively and convincingly as this one. Particularly effective is Ham's alternating between the American and Japanese perspectives. An impeccably researched, skillfully written, comprehensive, provocative, work of history challenging popularly held misconceptions.

Reviewed by Edward T. Sullivan



Taking the message to Washington

OREPA members travel to DC to stop the UPF

Caroline Best, Larry Osborne, Mary Dennis Lentsch, Jim Ullrich, Kim Bergier and Ralph Hutchison, with Ed Best providing support and valet services, traveled to Washington, DC, in May to take OREPA's message to Capitol Hill and Administration decision-makers during the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's 27th annual DC Days.

OREPA's folk were joined by more than sixty activists from across the country, mostly people living near other nuclear weapons sites, for three days of intensive messaging and endless walking punctuated by an Awards Ceremony and pizza party.

"We often learn as much as we teach," said OREPA coordinator Ralph Hutchison. "On Capitol Hill, we find a lot of people don't know much about what is happening in Oak Ridge. So we told them about

plans to waste \$6.5 billion on the Uranium Processing Facility bomb plant and asked them to exercise some kind of oversight over the mess underway at Y12."

The OREPA delegation met with staff for Tennessee's Senators and several Tennessee Representatives along with others on key committees responsible for spending on nuclear issues and cleanup of nuclear messes. We also held meetings with other officials—in the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Government Accountability Office, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and others—to discuss problems and learn about future plans.

What did we learn? Powerful people want the UPF bomb plant built. But the bomb plant has significant safety, technology and budget hurdles to overcome. So

we have our work cut out for us.

Larry Osborne wrote on his facebook page after the DC Days training: "Learning a lot and enjoying the company of this bunch of bright, informed, engaged, funny and loving people in DC to advocate on behalf of public health and safety and world peace."

It was a good summary of the experience. Invariably, OREPA members who make the trip to DC come home with a much clearer understanding of the challenges facing us across the weapons complex, and a broader and deeper commitment to making a change.

It's not too early for you to decide to be part of the team next year. DC Days will be held in April or May (depends on Congress's calendar) and will be announced around the first of the year.

It takes all of us—and OREPA needs you now!

There is lots of work to do and many ways to do it if we are to reach our goal of a nuclear free world. Stopping bomb production in Oak Ridge is one crucial part of that, and it's OREPA's main mission.

As the eyes of the world look to Oak Ridge this August, 70 years after Hiroshima, we want to send a strong message from the people of the United States. To do that we need YOU!

Specifically, we need you in person on Saturday, August 8.

But we also need your financial support to cover the costs of the many events we will hold in August.

Summer is the hardest time for non-profits to raise money. This year, it is also the time of greatest need for OREPA. If you are able to make a special contribution, please use the envelope included in your newsletter today.

You can also plan to support OREPA over the long

haul by talking with your financial planner about including a gift to OREPA in your will. Bequests have not been frequent, but they have enabled OREPA to do some special things we would otherwise not have been able to do.

The work of OREPA has always been the work of a community dedicated to creating the world we want to live in. We've always relied on everyone to do what they can.

Please reaffirm your part in our community—come join

us in August, and support the work with a donation today!

All contributions to OREPA are tax deductible.

No envelope? Send your gift to OREPA, P O Box 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

Thank you!

THE OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE ALLIANCE PRESENTS

Telling the Story of the Bomb

An evening with Gar Alperovitz

Author of *The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb* and *The Architecture of an American Myth*

The decision to create a Manhattan Project National Park encompassing Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico and Richland, Washington, raises a question that will likely be controversial in some quarters: How does the United States tell the story of the atomic bomb?

Gar Alperovitz, recent Lionel L. Bauman Professor of Political Economy at the University of Maryland, is one of the foremost scholars of the history of the bomb. Drawing on his intensive research of the historical record, Alperovitz wrote *Atomic Diplomacy: Hiroshima and Potsdam* (1965) and, following the release of additional formerly classified material, *The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb and the Architecture of an American Myth* (1995) which the *San Francisco Chronicle* called "A massively detailed yet fascinating and readable work of scholarship."

An Evening with Gar Alperovitz will include a presentation and a moderated discussion in order to set the discussion about the Manhattan Project National Park in its historical context.



Sunday, August 2, 2015
7:00pm

East Tennessee History Center Auditorium
601 South Gay Street
Knoxville, TN

Free and open to the public

For more information: Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance • www.orepa.org • 865 776 5050 • orep@earthlink.net