

Calendar:

- **THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 7 PM**, Screening of “Nuclear Savage” about effects of H-Bomb testing in Marshall Islands. Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place.
- **SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 11 AM**, Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration: 70 years after the Bomb. Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 312 Fillmore St. (at Clinton Ave.)
- **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 6-10 pm**. Wm Sloane Coffin Peacemaker Award Gala honoring Rev. Herbert Daughtry, All Souls Church, Manhattan.
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24. MAKE FOOD NOT WAR** awards dinner. Olivet Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 97 Myrtle, S.I.

Inside:

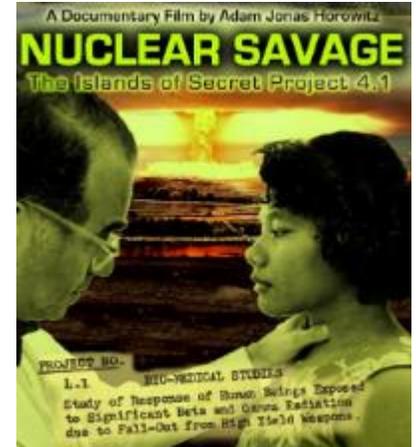
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Screening of Nuclear Savage
The Islands of Secret Project 4.1

The story of the Marshall Islanders, the hibakusha of H-Bomb testing in the Pacific.

Thursday, August 6, 2015 7-9 PM

Staten Island Museum
75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island
(across from SI Ferry Terminal)



The first of two events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the A-bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is the screening of a provocative award-winning documentary *Nuclear Savage* describing the effects of hydrogen bomb testing in the Pacific near the Marshall Islands. The Castle Bravo test on March 1, 1954 over Bikini Atoll resulted in the heavy contamination of Rongelap and Utirik atolls. Its fallout spread around the world. Sixty years later, the Marshallese are still pursuing justice.



Honoring the Hibakusha

Interactive stations for children & adults
Child Care, Origami Making
Music by the Young Musicians of Staten Island
Sharing Hibakusha Stories
Light refreshments

Sunday, August 9, 2015 11 AM
Unitarian Church of Staten Island
312 Fillmore Street (at Clinton Ave)

The survivors of the A-bomb attacks of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (the hibakusha) did not tell their stories right away. Many were ostracized by their own neighbors and suffered loss after loss as family members became ill and died. Gradually, however, the stories of the hibakusha became the emotional core of the Japanese peace movement as they bravely stepped forward to tell what happened to them on August 6, 1945 in Hiroshima or on August 9th in Nagasaki. This year’s commemoration in Staten Island wishes to honor the hibakusha with learning stations, music, and taking on the responsibility of telling their stories in our own voices. Children are welcome.

Both events are sponsored by Peace Action of Staten Island, the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Church of Staten Island, and ISLA.



Japan's Pacifist Constitution in the Balance

by Eileen Bardel, PASI Chair

It was Monday, August 6, 1945, in Hiroshima. The weather was good that day, very hot, not windy. At 8:15 AM, the first atomic bomb was dropped. Three days later at 11:02 AM, the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The two cities were in ruins. Tens of thousands of people died in an instant. Survivors lived with unbearable physical injuries and mental anguish. After only a few weeks, the number of casualties rose to 140,000 in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki.

Under U.S. Military Occupation after World War II, Japan adopted a new Constitution. The preface of the constitution states "we will never make war again." Article 9 states "we will not make war" and that "we will not possess an army or weapons for the purpose of war." Many in Japan embraced this new pacifism because of the horrors they had suffered.

On July 16, 2015, despite opposition from the Japanese public, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe secured a vote in Parliament that would allow the Japanese military to be involved in foreign conflicts for the first time since World War II.

Because changing the Constitution requires a 2/3 majority vote in both houses of Parliament followed by a national referendum, Mr. Abe chose the approach of "reinterpreting" the Constitution through legislation. His goal, he says, is to have Japan operate as a "normal" country without post-war constraints.

Will the desires of the majority of the Japanese people who support their pacifist Constitution be out-manuevered by the political machinations of Prime Minister Abe and his supporters? That remains to be seen. The desire to live in peace is strong in the hearts and minds of the citizenry. The Flame of Peace remains burning in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park until all nuclear weapons have been abolished.

Let us support our Japanese partners who remain steadfast in working for peace in our world and in our time. As one A-bomb survivor of Hiroshima said, "There is nothing worse than war."

John Lawrence's Recommendation:

Talk Radio Nation: An Excellent Peace and Justice Podcast



Do you want something to listen to when you are going for a walk, working out or cleaning the house? There are many quality podcasts that you can download onto your phone or mp3 player on the internet.

For example, author, activist, radio host David Swanson puts out an excellent podcast entitled **Talk Nation Radio** which you can download at his website WorldBeyondWar.org.

The shows are a half hour long and cover many interesting topics. For example, there is a recent interview with David Hartsough who has led and engaged in nonviolent peacemaking in the U.S., Kosovo, the former U.S.S.R, Latin America, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and the Middle East. In another show, Bill Moyer (not the TV personality), cofounder and executive director of the Backbone Campaign, discusses the *kayaktivists* who took to the water in Seattle to oppose Shell's planned arctic drilling. There's also an interview with Sarah Thompson, the executive director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, who supports non-violent activists standing up to oppression in conflict zones in countries such as Palestine, Columbia and Iraq.

Check the show out and let me know what you think. *Email pasi.contact@gmail.com.*



THE IRAN DEAL by Richard Greve

The majority of the American people support the agreement worked out between Iran and the US, and the other major world powers, regarding Iran's nuclear development program

This is a very positive development for world peace. The agreement, after much hard work and negotiations, satisfies Iran's right to develop peaceful uses of atomic energy, a right it has under the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that it signed years ago. The agreement also prevents Iran from having the capacity to make nuclear weapons, the key goal of the P5+1 nations working on this deal (U.S., U.K., Russia, China, France, plus Germany).

This agreement is an important victory for diplomacy, over war and aggression. Disturbingly, we have many in Congress who are not representing the will of the people by supporting this agreement, but, instead, want to make sure it doesn't pass. Lobbying groups, like AIPAC, which support the Israeli government's position against the agreement, are planning a massive campaign to derail the agreement. They are very well funded by multi-billionaires -- like the American business magnate Sheldon Adelson, who gives large amounts of money to groups like United Against Nuclear Iran.

The American people need to work hard by calling their Senators and Representatives over the next two months before a Congressional vote is taken on this issue. We need to show that the people's wishes can overcome the influence of the billionaires seeking to destroy the success of the negotiations and who prefer war over peace.

I urge to Call Congress! (855) 68 NO WAR (686-6927 toll free) right now. First, ask for Senator Gillibrand, then Senator Schumer, and then Representative Donovan and say:



I am calling to ask that my Senator/Representative publicly support the historic Iran agreement and vote to support the deal. My name is XXX and I live in Staten Island.

SIARAPB: LETTING OUR VOICES BE HEARD!



*After the December 3rd announcement that no charges would be brought against NYPD officer Daniel Pantaleo in the chokehold death of Eric Garner in Tompkinsville, a new group was formed at the College of Staten Island called **SIARAPB – Staten Islanders Against Racism and Police Brutality** – open to students and community members. They have been active ever since on and off campus in support of justice for Eric Garner, Ramsey Orta (who videotaped Eric's death), and other cases and issues around economic and social justice.*

On July 17, 2015, they held a rally/protest in front of Rep. Dan Donovan's office New Dorp letting their voices be heard on the first anniversary of Eric Garner's death. Some people honked their horns, others gave them the thumbs up and others gave them the finger. All agreed it was a successful event and they thanked everyone who came out. Learn more about SIARAPA on facebook or their website at <https://instagram.com/Slagainstopolicebrutality/>

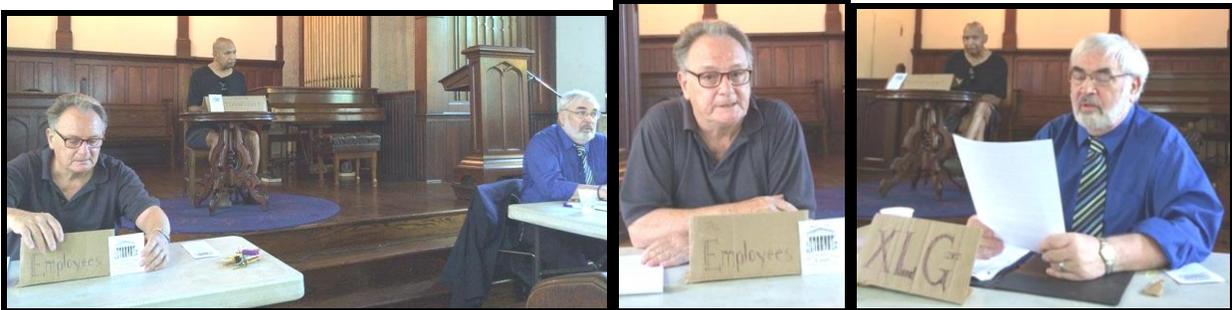
Democracy is FUNdamental

by Rich Florentino

There is absolutely no space for regular people to “peaceably assemble” and get into real discussions of the issues of the day... **Until now!**

The first session of “**The Citizens Court of Staten Island**” was held Sunday, July 19. It was convened at the Unitarian Church of SI but will be a ‘circuit court’ and move to locations all around our fair borough.

The case heard on July 19 was that of The ‘Employees’ v. ‘XLG Corp of SI’. The management of XLG announced the closing of their plant to move to the Philippines, putting 1,000 employees out of work. The Employees are attesting rights under the 14th Amendment to due process in response to the taking of their future earnings by the management of XLG.



The proceedings lasted over an hour. The advocate for each side presented their arguments in turn, under the oversight of the presiding judge. Afterwards, questions from the audience (i.e., the “jury”) were entertained. Then the judge advised the jury to deliberate and decide on the matter – as finally summarized: Are the employees entitled to seek “just compensation” for the unilateral decision of XLG management that would “take” expected their future earnings? The ‘jury’, however, stipulated a continuance where more arguments could be heard and details presented. A date, tbd, will be set in mid to late August.

The entire proceeding thoroughly engaged all participants and enabled thoughtful discussion, as was envisioned for this exercise in grassroots democracy.

Do you have an issue you’d like to see brought up to The Citizens Court? Go to my new [facebook page \(“The Citizens Court of Staten Island”\)](#) and submit your suggestion. There are guidelines on the page for doing so: outline the issue, set it up as a ‘case’ with two sides and explain its importance. Reach out people who would be willing to argue the ‘other’ side of the case. Another case up for consideration involves gentrification: The Community v. The Developers in St. George. Another might be: Small Business v. a Regulatory Agency (considering the impact of minimum wage or sick-day laws). Please note, in any case considered, a possible outcome allowed would be for the ‘jury’ to find a middle, unifying position.

Put on your imagination cap. There is now a venue for real citizen-to-citizen (i.e., neighbor-to-neighbor) discussions of issues that matter to us as individuals as part of our communities, city, state and nation. Be a part of it. Not only is it fun, it’s *fundamental* – to democracy.

See you in court.

(Photos above courtesy of Rich Florentino show Rich, advocate for XLG Employees, John Bostrom, advocate for XLG, and David Jones, “Judge.”)



PASI Member Linda Winkler's Letter Read at Grimm Trial

On July 17, 2015, former Representative Michael Grimm was sentenced to 8 months in prison for tax fraud. A federal investigation that initially focused on campaign fundraising irregularities eventually turned in a 20-count indictment related to a restaurant he ran in Manhattan called Healthalicious. He admitted paying undocumented workers under the table, underreporting wages and revenue to the government and filing false tax documents. This brings to a close another embarrassing tenure of a Staten Island Congressional Representative.

When Judge Pamela K. Chen sentenced Mr. Grimm, she quoted extensively from a constituent's letter, citing how it "perfectly expresses the particular harm brought by Mr. Grimm's conduct." The constituent, as it turns out, is our own Linda Winkler, a long-time member of Peace Action of Staten Island. (Photo at left of Linda from www.silive.com.)

Honorable Judge Chen:

As a constituent of the former congressman Michael Grimm I feel obliged to provide some insight into how his behavior has affected us. He capitalized on his service as a United States Marine, and an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and then demeaned both institutions with his lack of morals and unscrupulous actions. He left us unrepresented in Congress, ran for a second term in office when he knew he was guilty, required a costly special election to replace him, and took our voice away with his conviction.

It's difficult enough for the average person to keep from being cynical about government, and especially elected officials. This episode only serves to reinforce the unsavory, untrustworthy image so many of us have of our political leaders. Grimm abused our faith in the system, and failed to consider the consequences of his deceit and treachery on the people he represented in Staten Island and Brooklyn. His selfishness and lack of morals, while in a highly respected public office, tarnished the image of our boroughs, while also fueling the skepticism that our government is not working for the benefit of its constituents.

The damage Michael Grimm has done extends well beyond simple lying, cheating, stealing and breaking the law. He compounded the problems he created by denying his actions, and lying to the public. Grimm's despicable behavior should be treated as such, and given the harshest sentence possible under the circumstances. Michael Grimm knew better, and dishonored his position as a United States Congressman while abusing the trust given to him by the voters. His bullying, unrepentant, arrogant behavior affected many thousands of hardworking people here, and we deserve better from our elected representatives. A lesson needs to be taught, as a cautionary tale for any other unscrupulous politicians.

Sincerely,
Linda J. Winkler

Peace Action of Staten Island

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70th Anniversary
Hiroshima/Nagasaki

**THURSDAY, AUGUST
6, 7 PM,** Screening of
"Nuclear Savage"

Staten Island Museum,
75 Stuyvesant Place.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9,
11 AM,**
HONORING THE
HIBAKUSHA

Unitarian Fellowship Hall,
312 Fillmore St. (at
Clinton Ave.)

PASI's SUMMER 2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE HEATS UP!



*Every summer, we ask our members to RENEW their
membership in Peace Action of Staten Island AND invite
all of our friends to JOIN.*

Why join Peace Action? Peace Action of Staten Island is your peace and justice group on Staten Island that will help you raise your voice to call for peaceful resolution to conflict at the local, state, national, and international level.

Help create a culture of peace and justice on Staten Island for now and the future! Fill out the enclosed membership form & return it today.