



## Readings, Songs, & Sample Program to raise awareness of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki

(feel free to add your own resources to these lists)

### READINGS, suitable for reading aloud

<https://time.com/after-the-bomb/> **Powerful Photos of Survivors paired with their personal stories.**

A selection of the work of Photographer Haruka Sakaguchi. Suitable for posters, handouts, display and readings.

<https://www.instagram.com/napfofficial/> **Quotes About Peace** from Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

**Original Child Bomb** by Thomas Merton, existential essay that can be read aloud for reflection.

<https://www.countercurrents.org/stefano040812.htm> or in a separate .pdf file (see separate Resource File)

Also, see the list created by Disarm/End Wars Committee:

<http://prop1.org/wilpf/2020/75th.anniversary.resources.pdf>

This list includes children's books, some of which could be shared in part during a ceremony.

### SONGS

More songs can be found at <https://raginggrannies.net/find-a-song/> and in the Resource Guide #5 titled "Resource Guide #5 Songs Poems From Tucson Branch".

## **Those Were Some Dames,**

By Barbara Taft, Greater Phoenix WILPF

*Tune: "Those Were the Days"*

Once upon a time there were some women  
Who worked hard for peace in every way.  
They stood on corners such long hours,  
Shouting out that peace should come one day.

**Chorus:** Those were some dames, my friend,  
We thought that war should end.  
We'd sing and dance,  
And some would even pray.  
We'd fight for peace with words,  
We'd make our voices heard.  
We weren't young, but peace can win the day.

Just last week, we stood upon a corner,  
Giving flyers out to show the way.  
Here's another woman, let us warn her:  
She shouldn't heed what warriors have to say.

### **Chorus**

In the glass we see our own reflection.  
Our faces show the price we've had to pay.  
To reach peace would truly be perfection.  
We'll stay here 'til wars have gone away.

### **Chorus**

## **Down On Hiroshima (2019)**

Lyrics By: Connie Graves And Vicki Ryder      Gaggle: Tucson / North Carolina

*Tune: Puff, The Magic Dragon*

Down on Hiroshima, the atomic bomb fell,  
And children playing in the sun burned in a living hell!  
Shadows of their bodies marked where they had stood,  
Imprinted now into the ground of their own neighborhood.

One moment they were playing, the next one they were dead.  
As fireballs and hellish heat across them quickly spread.  
Toddlers and babies, school-age kids as well,  
Incinerated in the blast that few have lived to tell.

Japanese survivors still suffer the effects,  
Their children born who live with scorn from horrid birth defects.  
Radioactive fallout dropping from the sky...  
In Hiroshima, Nagasaki... thousands more would die.

It's to our shame and sorrow that we're the only ones  
Who've ever dropped an atom bomb, and just what have we won?  
They tell us God is on our side and that our way is right;  
When will we learn the simple truth that might does not make right?

It's time to put the bombs to rest, just make them disappear,  
So children living 'round the world no longer live in fear.  
The threat of nuclear weapons must be gone forevermore,  
So all the world can live in peace. Let's put an end to war!  
Yes, all the world must live in peace. Let's put an end to war!

## Not Another Hiroshima

Lyrics By: Connie Graves      Gaggle: Tucson

***Tune: I've Been Working On The Railroad***

Not another Hiroshima,  
too many already died.  
Nuclear war is too extreme a way,  
it causes genocide!

Don't you see it's a disaster  
using bombs just 'cause we can?  
Won't the end come so much faster?  
Stop the nuclear plan!

Brothers, don't you know,  
Sisters, don't you know?  
We have to stop the nuclear pla-a-an!  
Brothers, don't you know,  
Sisters, don't you know?  
We need a new test ban!

They're in cahoots 'bout nuclear weapons,  
Someone's pushing nukes, I know-o-o-o,  
They're in cahoots 'bout nuclear weapons,  
They want to lay our "enemies" low!.

We'll all die, fiddling around  
with atom bombs, you good old bo-oys,  
We'll all die, the world around,  
You and your damned war toys!  
You and your damned war toys! (***Slow- ½ time***)

## **SAMPLE PROGRAM**

This sample was provided as a reference for a program that was used during pre-pandemic times. Feel free to adapt it to your current situation and needs.

### **Hiroshima Day**

(provided by Barbara Taft, Greater Phoenix AZ WILPF)

- 6:00 p.m. Gather and chat
- 6:15 Program begins:
- Songs: "Blowin' in the Wind"  
"Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"  
"If I Had a Hammer"  
"Study War No More"
- Film Excerpts: "White Light, Black Rain"
- Messages and Regrets
- Raging Grannies Songs
- 6:40 Refreshment Break and sign petitions/letters
- 6:50 Slide Show on Hiroshima, until mostly finished, then begin:
- Songs: "Song of Peace (Finlandia)"  
"I Ain't Marchin' Anymore"  
"Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream"
- Reading of Toyomi Hashimoto from play "Most Dangerous Women"
- Film Clip: "I Come and Stand at Every Door," by Nazim Hikmet
- Reading of words to One Man's Hands by Pete Seeger.
- 7:15 Open mic – any comments?
- 7:20 Instructions for candle ceremony and candle distribution
- 7:25 Begin candle ceremony
- Finish by singing "We Shall Overcome" a capella

Reading of Toyomi Hashimoto from play "Most Dangerous Women" written by Jan Maher (WILPF member)

VOICE (Narrator)

August 6, 1945. Hiroshima. Perhaps the darkest day in a dark decade. Three days later the United States drops a second bomb on the city of Nagasaki. Toyomi Hashimoto remembers that day.

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Though at each anniversary the skies over our city are blue and peaceful, the memory of that day in 1945 still troubles my body and soul. In spite of the wartime conditions, my husband and our little son and I lived a happy life. On the morning of August 9, 1945, I walked to the gate to see my husband off to work. My three-year-old boy, Takashi, went out to play. I was alone in the house when, in the distance, I heard an approaching airplane. "Japanese?" I wondered. I stepped outside to see my son running to me, calling, "Airplane! Airplane!"

The moment we reentered the house, there was a blinding flash followed by a tremendous explosion. The roof of the house caved in, pinning us under a mountain of debris. Hours passed. I do not know how many.

Then I heard my son crying softly and calling for mother and father. He was alive. I tried to reach for him, but a huge beam immobilized me. I could not break free. Though I screamed for help, no one came.

Soon I heard voices calling names of neighbors. My son was bravely trying to crawl from under a heap of clay that had been one of the walls. When he turned and faced me, I saw that his right eye was obliterated with blood. Once again, I tried to move, but the beam would not budge. I screamed so loud and long that I must have lost my voice. I called to the people I could see scurrying about, but they did not hear me. No one answered until the lady next door finally pulled my son out of the wreckage.

I suddenly became aware of a sharp pain in my breast, left hand, and stomach. As I tried again to crawl out, I saw that a huge nail was stuck in my stomach. "Fire! Fire!" I could hear people shouting around me. It was either break free or burn to death. With a violent wrench, I pulled myself from under the beam. In doing so, I ripped the flesh of my stomach. Blood spurted from an agonizing gash in my body.

I was at last out of the ruined house. Still, my son was nowhere to be seen. Perhaps the kind lady next door had led him to safety. I had to search for him, but I could only limp slowly because of the pain in my stomach. As I crept slowly along, people more seriously injured than I clutched at my feet and pleaded for help and water. I heard loud voices shouting, "Leave the old people! Help the children first!" All I could do was promise to come back with water, if it was possible.

"Thank heaven you're alive!" I heard a familiar voice saying. Turning, with intense happiness, I saw my husband, who was holding our son in his arms. We climbed to the top of a hill together, walking among countless corpses.

On the hilltop, a kind man gave us bed sheets, candles, sugar, and other useful things. At once we began to try to do something for Takashi, who had lost consciousness. After a while, as we dripped sugar water into his mouth, he awakened. He had already lost the sight of his right eye. Myriad slivers of glass were embedded in his head, face, body, arms, and legs. An air-raid alarm, still in effect, prohibited lighting candles. In the pitch darkness, my husband and I picked out as many pieces of glass from his body as we could find. So full of life and energy until that moment! Now blind in one eye and covered with blood and dirt!

Still he bore everything bravely and only asked, "Am I being a good boy?"

*SHE stands quietly, head bowed.*

## Films and Videos to raise awareness of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki

All of these films (and more!), which are available online, are excellent to watch as a group, or individually during a pandemic. Your Branch can host an online discussion in whatever format you are most comfortable.

### **Hibakusha: Our Life to Live**

#### **Article 9 Comes to America**

<https://peaceandjustice.org/videos/> David Rothauser's Hibakusha: Our Life to Live and Article 9 Comes to America documentaries will be shown on the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center YouTube channel for the 75th Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration. You can access the videos at the above page during the entire month of August. There will also be a Q/A session with the filmmaker over Zoom on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **The Moment in Time: The Manhattan Project**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwpgmEvIRpM>

This Library of Congress and Los Alamos National Laboratory co-production uses interviews and oral histories with many of the key Manhattan Project scientists who helped build the bomb. The film charts the fear that the Nazis were working on an atomic bomb, and follows its development up to the explosion of the ‘Trinity’ bomb on July 16, 1945 with scarce consideration given to the population living in the vicinity.

### **ICAN Film: The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons**

<http://theendofnuclearweapons.com>

This documentary film about the efforts to bring about a nuclear weapon ban treaty into international law and the role of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is told through the voices of leading activists that are part of the coalition of ICAN. This 56 minute documentary is available by contacting the producer through the website listed. It includes a brief history of the bomb and anti-nuclear activism and moves to the historic steps taken since 2010 to turn the treaty from a dream into a reality.

### **Film Festival: Vermont International Film Festival – In the Shadow of Epidemics and Racism: War and Nuclear Weapons**

<https://vtiff.org/events/war-and-nuclear-weapons/>

To understand why dismantling nuclear weapons quickly makes so much sense, one has to understand the logic of war, and the history and nature of these weapons. **WILPF**, **PSR** and **VTIFF** have partnered to offer a series of films and discussions to help us do just that, and what can be done to eliminate this threat. Seven films with links on how to watch each one. Sign up for the live, virtual discussions.

### **Countdown to Zero**

<http://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=Countdown%20to%20Zero>

A stunning documentary about the escalating global nuclear arms crisis, Countdown to Zero is a fascinating and frightening exploration of the dangers of nuclear weapons, exposing a variety of present-day threats and featuring insights from a host of international statesmen and experts. Can be viewed from Documentarymania website.

### **The Day after Trinity**

<https://www.learnoutloud.com/Free-Audio-Video/History/Military-History/The-Day-After-Trinity/79415>

(a.k.a. *The Day After Trinity: J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb*) is a documentary made in 1980. The film tells the story of [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#) (1904–1967), the theoretical physicist who led the effort to build the first atomic bomb, tested in July 1945 at [Trinity](#) site in New Mexico. Featuring candid interviews with

several [Manhattan Project](#) scientists, as well as newly declassified archival footage, *The Day After Trinity* was nominated for an [Academy Award](#) for [Best Documentary Feature](#) of 1980, and received a [Peabody Award](#) in 1981.

### **Hiroshima: BBC History of World War II**

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0475296/>

The docudrama recounts the world's first nuclear attack and examines the repercussions. Covering a three-week period from the [Trinity test](#) to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the program chronicles America's political gamble and the planning for the momentous event. Archival film, dramatizations, and special effects depict what occurred aboard the [Enola Gay](#) and inside the [nuclear blast](#).

### **White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (2007)**

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0911010/>

Using extensive interviews with survivors and archival footage, an examination reveals the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

### **In Our Hands, documentary, by Robert Richter (1984)**

<http://www.richtervideos.com/InOurHands/>

Robert Richter's **IN OUR HANDS** is about a magical day, June 12, 1982, when one million people took to the streets of New York to peacefully protest for an end to the nuclear arms race. It remains the largest single peace demonstration in US history. Interweaving performers, individual marchers and down-to-earth scenes of the massive gathering when one million people with one voice called for an end to the nuclear arms race. Particularly relevant now, as peaceful protests are on the rise.

## **Books and Online Resources to raise awareness of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki**

### **Media**

**ReThinkMedia.org** is a media company that is a gathering place for organizations to share resources for the 75th Anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Check it out!

<https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/> public website

<https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/events> describes the live-streaming events

<https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/local-events> can find events all over USA, **submit your own event**

<https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/voices> every survivor has a story

<https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/partners> is where you will find the position statement that WILPF US has officially endorsed

Join the Hibakusha in calling for an end to nuclear weapons:

<https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/hibakusha-appeal>

### **Interactive Website**

<https://nuclearsecrecy.com/nukemap/>

Above is a link to an interactive website that lets people enter their town/location and select a specific size nuclear bomb, to see what the damages would look like if a nuclear weapon went off near them.

### **Article**

[The First Light of Trinity by Alex Wellerstein, Article in New Yorker, 2015](#)

<https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/the-first-light-of-the-trinity-atomic-test>



## Books

*The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy: New, Updated and Completely Revised*, Lawrence Freedman and Jeffrey Michaels

*The Button: The New Nuclear Arms Race and Presidential Power from Truman to Trump*, William J. Perry and Tom Z. Collina

Learn more about this from <https://atthebrink.org/> podcast and <https://www.wjperryproject.org/> Seminar recorded earlier this year: <https://youtu.be/wV3Jvqri5Ds>

Throughout America's atomic history, the president has solely held the power to end the world in minutes. This won't stop . . . unless we do something. Now. America is one "push of a button" away from nuclear war—a decision that rests solely in the hands of the president. Without waiting for approval from Congress or even the secretary of defense, the president can unleash America's nuclear arsenal, ending civilization as we know it. For decades, glitches and slipups have threatened to trigger nuclear winter: misinformation, false alarms, unstable presidents, and now cyber- attacks. And a new nuclear arms race has begun, threatening us all.

### **Brand new Book, offered to WILPF members at a discount:**

*The Atomic Bomb on My Back* by **Taniguchi Sumiteru**

Taniguchi Sumiteru was a survivor (hibakusha) of the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki, a prominent activist for a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, and chairman of the Nagasaki Council of A-Bomb Sufferers. He devoted his life to informing people of the consequences of the 1945 atomic bombing and campaigning against nuclear proliferation, making frequent public appearances to speak to student groups and participate in demonstrations around the world calling for nuclear disarmament. He died in 2017.

In 1946, United States forces filmed his treatment. That footage was shared across the world, and Mr. Taniguchi became known as "the boy with a red back." When giving speeches calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, he would often show the photo of his burns to illustrate the intense suffering that resulted from the bombings. He spent a total of more than three-and-a-half years in the hospital after the bombing.

Co-publishers Stephen McArthur and Rickey Gard Diamond at Rootstock Publishing are pleased to offer the book to WILPF members and WILPF itself at a 20% discount off the \$16.95 retail price. Simply use the WILPF20 at the publisher's website to receive this discount.

<https://www.rootstockpublishing.com/rootstock-books/the-atomic-bomb-on-my-back>

*Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War*, by Susan Southard

### **Reaching Critical Will**

<https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/>

Reaching Critical Will is the disarmament programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the oldest women's peace organization in the world. Reaching Critical Will works for disarmament and arms control of many different weapon systems, the reduction of global military spending and militarism, and the investigation of gendered aspects of the impact of weapons and of disarmament processes.

Included at the website is a speech by Ray Acheson, 2019 on 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of H&N

<https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/14012-74th-hiroshima-and-nagasaki-commemoration>

Many resources including Abolishing Nuclear Weapons section of Reaching Critical Will website, which monitors progress of Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, among other initiatives.

**ICAN website**

<https://www.icanw.org/>

Join the movement! The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty.

**NuclearBan.us****Warheads to Windmills: How to Pay for a Green New Deal, NuclearBan.us**

<http://www.nuclearban.us/warheads-to-windmills-webinar-july-15-7pm/>

Join Dr. Timmon Wallis and Vicki Elson of NuclearBan.us to identify the three major crises threatening the planet today-the climate emergency, expanding nuclear arsenals, extreme inequality-and propose a solution: redirect funds and technology for nuclear weapons to the development of green energy and green jobs. Register for zoom info at link.

**Arms Control Association**

Arms Control Now, a blog of the Arms Control Association, founded in 1971, is a national nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to promoting public understanding of and support for effective arms control policies. One recent post included reflections on the racial injustice of nuclear arms.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2020-07/features/reflections-injustice-racism-bomb>