

*MEDIA ADVISORY - for immediate release, August 1, 2024*

## Major Rally, Japanese Bon Dance, Risk Arrest Action at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory on Hiroshima Day, Aug. 6



### *“Back from the Brink: The Imperative of Nuclear Abolition”*

**Contacts:**

**Scott Yundt**, Tri-Valley CAREs, Livermore, CA; cell, 415-990-2070, [scott@trivalleycares.org](mailto:scott@trivalleycares.org)

**Grace Morizawa**, Asian Americans for Peace and Justice; cell, 510-289-1285, [gmorizawa@yahoo.com](mailto:gmorizawa@yahoo.com)

**Jackie Cabasso**, Western States Legal Foundation; cell 510-306-0119, [wslf@earthlink.net](mailto:wslf@earthlink.net)

**Dr. Bob Gould**, SF Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility; 415-408-8806, [rmgould1@yahoo.com](mailto:rmgould1@yahoo.com)

**WHAT:** *“Back From the Brink: The Imperative of Nuclear Abolition”* features a live, in-person rally and Japanese Bon Dance, with an opportunity for those who choose to risk arrest at the event’s conclusion. The event will be held at the gates of the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab. Rally highlights include up-to-the-minute nuclear weapons reports and key experts and advocates drawing important connections from the first atomic bomb used in war to the urgent nuclear challenges of our day (bios follow).

**WHEN:** **Hiroshima Day**, Tuesday, August 6, 2024 beginning at 8:30am Pacific Time.

**WHERE:** At the West Gate of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, located on Vasco Road and West Gate Drive in Livermore.

**WHY:** Current wars and conditions in the world place us in an ever more precarious situation, with nuclear dangers rising throughout the world, exemplified by threats from Putin in Russia, from members of the Netanyahu government in Israel, and from some U.S. members of Congress. These threats and other tensions between nuclear-armed countries are allowing even modest treaties and norms to lapse, pushing us ever closer to the very real prospect of a nuclear war. The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’* iconic Doomsday Clock now stands at 90 seconds to midnight. The U.S. Conference of Mayors recently adopted a resolution titled, “The

Imperative of Dialogue in a Time of Acute Nuclear Dangers,” expressly to promote meaningful global interchange in order to avoid nuclear war.

**The Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab** is central to the escalation of the nuclear dangers we face. We will gather at one of two locations in the country that has designed and continues to design and develop all U.S. nuclear warheads. Eighty-five percent of Livermore Lab’s funding from the Dept. of Energy is solely for its “nuclear weapons activities.” We organizers of the Livermore rally believe that the health, economic, environmental and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are unacceptable - and the August 6, 2024 event is an integral part of our ongoing advocacy for their global elimination.

**Who:** Rally speakers will help the public understand why action is urgently needed now to change the course of nuclear policy locally, nationally, and globally. Positive alternatives, including concrete actions for the abolition of nuclear weapons, will also be highlighted.

## Brief bios for event speakers and musicians

- **Norman Solomon** will speak about the new nuclear arms race and the U.S. Sentinel missile program’s role in increasing the likelihood of nuclear war. Solomon is a journalist, media critic, activist, and former U.S. congressional candidate. Solomon is a longtime associate of the media watch group Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting. In 1997 he founded the Institute for Public Accuracy, which works to provide alternative sources for journalists, and serves as its Executive Director.
- **Maylene Hughes** will address the rally’s “Back From the Brink” theme. She is a recent graduate from California’s Occidental College with a degree in Critical Theory & Social Justice and a minor in Politics. Hughes is on staff at Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles, where she serves as its Regional Grassroots Organizing and Policy Coordinator and liaison to the national Back From the Brink campaign.
- **Scott Yundt** will illuminate Livermore Lab’s budget and central role in developing new nuclear weapons, including the new warhead to arm the Sentinel missile. Yundt is the Executive Director at the Livermore-based Tri-Valley CAREs, where he previously served for more than a decade as the group’s Staff Attorney. Yundt has conducted briefings in Washington for members of Congress on the National Nuclear Security Administration’s plan to expand plutonium pit production for Livermore’s Sentinel warhead and other nuclear Lab-related topics.
- **Hideaki Ito** is a Japanese film and television director born in Ehime Prefecture. His recent documentary film, “Silent Fallout,” has drawn praise at 15 international film festivals. Prior documentaries by Ito covered the damage caused by nuclear tests conducted in the Pacific tuna fishing grounds. “Silent Fallout” depicts the damage caused downwind of nuclear testing in the United States. Ito will be speaking of his experiences directing that film, which he will show in the Bay Area on August 9<sup>th</sup> in English, 10<sup>th</sup> in Japanese, and 11<sup>th</sup> in English. Silent Fallout: <https://us.fallout22.com/tour/#aboutus>
- **Rev. Monica Cross** is a Pastor/Theologian at the First Christian Church of Oakland and serves as a Quad Chair of the California Poor People’s Campaign. Cross will connect the dots between nuclear weapons and social justice issues. She is author of two books, including “Authenticity and Imagination in the Face of Oppression,” an autobiographical look at gender, race, sexual identity, religion, and strategies toward liberation.
- **Patricia Ellsberg** will deliver the rally’s “Call to Action.” She is a social change activist, meditation teacher, life coach and public speaker. In 1971, she helped her husband, Daniel Ellsberg, release to the

press the Pentagon Papers, a top secret history of US involvement in Vietnam, which helped end the Vietnam War.

- **Chizu Hamada** will explain the meaning of the Japanese Bon Dance and its role in our event. Hamada is a retired business owner and serves as a spokesperson for the No Nukes Action Committee, a group of Japanese citizens, Japanese-Americans and others who came together after the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and meltdowns at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

- **Patricia St. Onge**, a Six Nations/Haudenosaune and Quebécois, offers the land blessing at the Livermore Lab West Gate. She is a Partner in Seven Generations Consulting, specializing in all aspects of community organizing for social change.

- **Wilson Riles, Jr.** emceeds the rally. Riles is a politician and community activist who served as a member on the Oakland City Council from 1979 to 1992. He was a leader in the anti-apartheid movement as well as in the Oakland nuclear free zone ordinance. Riles serves on the board of directors for the Oakland-based Western States Legal Foundation.

- **Andrea Prichett** is a singer/songwriter best known for rich vocal performances and her topical songwriting style. Prichett's latest album is "The Frame." She is part of the "Wildcat Canyon" acoustic music collective and, previously, she sang with the folk trio, Rebecca Riots. Prichett will provide the musical interlude at the rally.

**Note for journalists:**

A limited number of advance interviews are available. Email [scott@trivalleycares.org](mailto:scott@trivalleycares.org) or any of the contacts listed at the top of the advisory.

Event flyer, nonviolence guidelines, simulcast link, and more information can be found at <https://trivalleycares.org/2024-hiroshima-commemoration-events>

###