

# THE NEW YORK MOBILIZER

ZERO NUCLEAR WEAPONS / BAN NUCLEAR POWER / STOP THE ARMS RACE / MEET HUMAN NEEDS / JULY/AUGUST 1985



**RING AROUND THE NAVYPORT:** Over 1,500 people in Manhattan and 200 in Staten Island protested the plan to base nuclear weapons in New York Harbor. The June 8 demo on both sides of the Verrazano Bridge was sponsored by the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Harbor.

DAN ULLRICH PHOTO

*MfS asks one more time:  
sign up for peace today...*

## Petitioning: round one is a success!

We're off to an excellent start.

On July 2 the Campaign for a Nuclear Port Referendum presented 60,670 signatures to City Clerk David Dinkins—twice the legal requirement—to place the nuclear-free harbor referendum on the ballot.

The referendum proposed for the November ballot in New York City would restrict the powers of the Board of Estimate to lease land or fund facilities capable of carrying or storing nuclear weapons.

The presentation of the petitions, addressed to the City Council, successfully completes the first step in the process. The Campaign's goal of 50,000 signatures was exceeded, and now we need to carry on.

The next step has already begun. By August 25, we need to gather 30,000 more signatures, 15,000 over the required number, in case the City Council fails to act.

The press conference at City Hall during the presentation showed that the Campaign has begun to build the kind of coalition necessary to win in November.

In addition to Tom DeLuca, coordinator of the campaign, and Kathy Waters, petition drive coordinator, presentations were made by Assemblyman Al Vann, City Council member Ruth Messinger, Sam Meyers, President of United Auto Workers Local 259, Sister Mary Cephal, State Senator Franz Leichter, and City Council President Carol Bellamy. Dinkins, an opponent of the Staten Island

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## 30,000 more signatures needed by Aug. 25 REFERENDUM ALERT ★ ★ ★

**SIGNATURES:** 30,000 signatures of people who didn't sign the first petition are needed by August 25: We'll need these in case the City Council doesn't pass the referendum into law or agree to place it on the ballot. This is a *new* petition form. Call or stop at the office to get the new forms and instructions. Please send in petitions as soon as they are completed, so that they can be processed promptly.

**PLEDGE SIGNATURES FOR PEACE:** Call the office today and pledge the number of signatures you will take responsibility for to help us reach our goal of 30,000. Teams will be going out every day, including weekends. Call 673-1808 to make your pledge or to sign up for a team.

**REMEMBER:** These are *different* petitions. Don't use the old ones. And remember we need *new* signatures of people registered to vote in New York City before the 1984 election.

**CITY COUNCIL:** Call your City Council member today and urge passage of this City Charter amendment for a nuclear-free harbor. The City Council has the power to pass the amendment outright, or at least agree to place it on the ballot.

**VOLUNTEER:** To work on petitioning, or do outreach, clerical work, literature production or fundraising, call 212-673-1808. 30,000 signatures sounds easy after collecting 60,000, but now we're in the dog days of summer. We need the help of everyone in the City committed to keeping our harbor free of nuclear weapons.

## A-bomb commemoration features varied activities

August 1985 brings an important 40th anniversary—not one for celebration, but for commemoration.

Forty years ago, the United States dropped nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, instantly killing more than 100,000 people and moving the world into the atomic age.

In New York City, there will be dozens of cultural, religious and political activities from July 28 to August 8 to mark the anniversary.

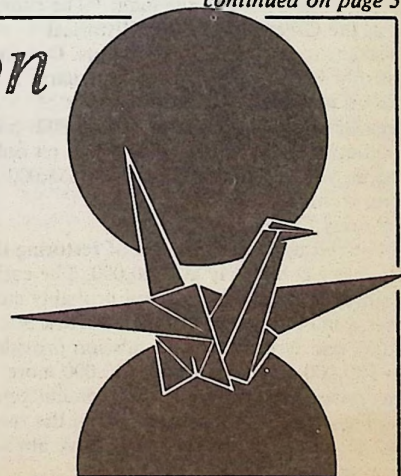
Eighteen Hibakusha (survivors of the bom-

ings) will be in the city for a number of activities as part of a 60-city nationwide tour co-sponsored by National Mobilization for Survival and Japanese peace groups.

Along with the Hibakusha tour, National MfS has called for protests at 40 weapons facilities around the nation.

Here in New York, the main political event will begin August 5, the date in Hiroshima when the bomb was dropped there. A day-long witness at City Hall, beginning at 11

*continued on page 3*



# 'Peace Church' facelift part of a happy 125th

In 1860, one of the finest examples of Early Romanesque Revival architecture in Manhattan was completed.

That fact alone may not impress you. But if you're a member of the eclectic community which calls the Washington Square United Methodist Church home, it's cause for a happy 125th anniversary celebration.

Demileo King, who designed the church at 135 W. 4th St., probably didn't know that he was also building a "headquarters" for the peace and social justice movement. A wide range of community groups use the building, including Mobilization for Survival/NY.

The MfS/NY office is just part of the active history of the church. Many remember the building as a center for draft counseling in the '60s, the anti-Vietnam war movement, the Civil Rights movement and the disarmament movement.

Now the "Peace Church" is looking to the '80s. Rev. Marty Morrison, pastor of Washington Square Church, explained: "I would see that tradition continuing as strongly in the future. We call it our 'space-use ministry.' We like that, having the church used by groups dealing with peace-building. It's really living out our theology. "We're particularly trying to be supportive of groups working on issues we support," she continued, "especially racism, sexism, and classism."

That's why, when the city was looking for a place for the Harvey Milk School for lesbian and gay high school students, Washington Square Church was a natural and comfortable choice.

Yet a 125-year-old structure has its problems. Faith and good intentions alone don't stop the attrition of age, so the church's Restoration Committee has embarked on an ambitious plan to return the building to its 1860 form.

Louise Fawcett, chair of the Restoration Committee, described the plan: "The church is in the Greenwich Village Historical District, so it has landmark status. Our first priority will be restoring the sanctuary. It has an open style good for the type of preaching and singing done in the 1800s (and political meetings now), with a ball pit ceiling we've already restored with a \$55,000 loan from the New York Historic Property Fund."

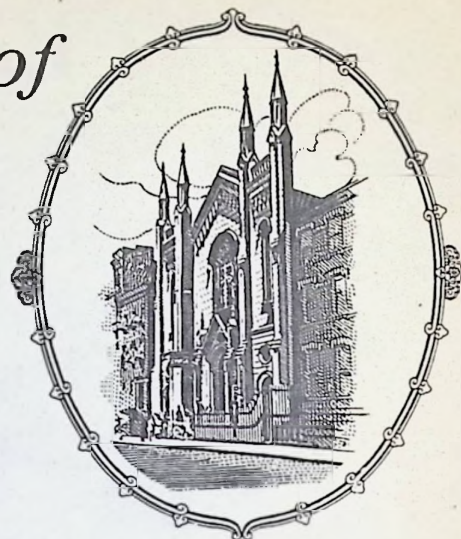
Fawcett estimated the cost of restoring the sanctuary completely at \$500,000. The entire restoration of the church will probably cost over a million dollars. The New York State Parks and Recreation Commission provided an \$80,000 matching grant (\$40,000 more was raised by the Restoration Committee) for the recently completed work on the front facade, and the sofa-style pews have already been redone.

"We could finish the work in three years," Fawcett said, "but that would be taxing. We are a small congregation with a limited base. We've had some help from the School of Sacred Arts (also housed in the church), but we're going to need more."

Fawcett asked that volunteers in carpentry, stained glass workers, electricians and others contact the church if they'd like to help with the restoration. She shared a thought held by the many activists who work in the building: "We could use more money. It takes a long time for those \$200 bake sales to add up to \$500,000."

--Dan Ullrich  
New York Mobilizer

*The Washington Square Church will be holding major festivities celebrating the 125th anniversary in November. Watch for details. For more information on the church and restoration, write to Washington Square Church, 135 W. 4th St., New York NY*



*10012. Donation checks should be made payable to the church, and marked for "restoration." Help MfS/NY and the many other groups which use the building maintain a good home...*

## Pledge campaign responds quickly to 'contra' aid vote

As Congress capitulated to the Reagan administration's "contra" policy last month, New Yorkers staged a counteroffensive and the legal establishment decided to get tough with active opponents of the U.S. war in Central America.

More than 1,000 people picketed Sen. Alfonse D'Amato's New York City office the week of June 11-19, while some 70 representatives of religious and peace affinity groups were arrested in daily sit-ins.

The actions were called by the Pledge of Resistance network, and were part of nationwide actions to protest congressional passage of aid to fund "contras" trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

Those committing civil disobedience were initially permitted to meet with a legislative aide, but by the third day D'Amato's patience had apparently worn thin. At his behest, all the non-violent demonstrators were "put through the system" upon their arrest for criminal trespass: they were handcuffed for seven hours, booked and fingerprinted, strip searched, denied food for 10 hours, and locked in holding cells without a sufficient number of beds for an average of 27 hours.

According to Susan Pines of the War Resisters League, no non-violent demonstrators in recent memory have been subjected to such treatment. "It was vindictive and overkill," commented one of those arrested.

D'Amato's aides "started out being defensive and when we challenged them they became aggressive and called in the police," she continued. Predictably, this harassment took its toll; a number of potential protesters

subsequently declined to participate in the civil disobedience.

Equally notable was the lack of local news coverage of the events. Although a New York Times reporter spent nearly an hour interviewing organizers on the first day of the mobilization, the Times ignored the actions in New York while only briefly mentioning the related protests across the country.

Pledge organizers view the action as a success. "I think it was great because it tested our response system" and provided an opportunity to educate a large number of people, commented Melinda Moore, co-coordinator of the Downstate NY Pledge of Resistance.

The Central America Solidarity Committee sponsored a related and dramatic rally and march down 42nd St. on June 11, which targeted the foreign aid appropriations for El Salvador and Guatemala in addition to the "contra" funding.

Hundreds of marchers carried blood-stained dummies in a symbolic funeral procession, with model C-47 gunships hovering overhead. To chants of "Stop the bombing, stop the war, U.S. out of El Salvador," the demonstrators took their message to commuters inside Grand Central Station.

The Pledge network is now conducting a drive to double its 4,000 signatures in New York. Mobilization for Survival/NY urges all its members to pledge to resist the war being waged. If you would like to become more involved in this program, come to the Anti-Intervention Task Force meetings the first and third Mondays of every month.

--Brenda Bishop  
MfS/NY Anti-Intervention Task Force

# Referendum

(from page one)

Navy base plan from the start, received the petitions personally.

While those favoring the base will undoubtedly be better financed, this campaign will have allies money can't buy: the powerful support of thousands of grassroots activists, who made the initial petition drive successful; and common sense. New York City, the country's largest metropolitan area, is the last place in the world to place nuclear missiles. Further, there is no reason to place any more anywhere.

On the evening of July 2, more than 120 people gathered at the Washington Square Church for a kick-off meeting for the second round of petitioning.

Participants were eager to analyze the results of our work so far and get on with the job ahead. We agreed that we should be ready to fight out this campaign in all of New York's neighborhoods, and that we would have to broaden our support, particularly in Black and Hispanic communities.

Fired by the success of the first round of petitioning, and the importance of preserving New York as a bastion of sanity against the drift toward war, campaign members from all boroughs again signed volunteer forms and took hundreds of petitions and leaflets.

The second challenge begins right now. In the coming summer days we must not only gain 30,000 more signatures but also set in motion the campaign machinery that will carry this referendum, borough by borough, neighborhood by neighborhood, precinct by precinct.

After a great start, we need your help at each step toward the distant finish line. Join us in the second step for New York's survival. We're asking one more time: Sign up for peace today.

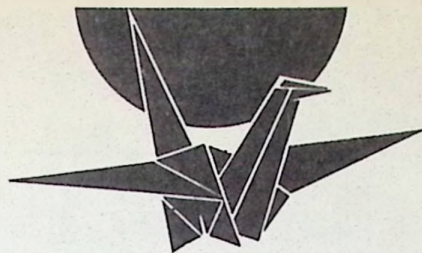
--Tom DeLuca

MfS/NY Program Coordinator

New petitions and instructions are available from MfS/NY. Please see the referendum alert on page one, and call 212-673-1808 to volunteer today!



PRIDE PARADE: the MfS Lesbian & Gay Network contingent was a colorful part of the June 30 Gay Pride Day march and festival in Greenwich Village.



## Anniversary

(from page one)

a.m., will focus on ending the arms race and in particular stopping the plan to station a nuclear-capable fleet at Stapleton Base, Staten Island.

The witness will open with a religious vigil and ceremony, and a delegation will then present a statement and letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima to Mayor Koch.

Church bells will ring across the city between 7:15 and 7:25 p.m., to coincide with the exact time the bomb was dropped. Make sure to call your neighborhood church and request that it take part.

The witness is co-sponsored by the MfS Religious Task Force, the religious outreach group of the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Harbor, and Mobilization for Survival/New York.

On August 6, the Hibakusha are scheduled to appear on the morning TV talk shows, so tune in early.

That morning, the Kairos Community will sponsor its annual blockade of the Riverside Research Institute, a nuclear weapons think tank. A vigil and blockade will also be held on August 9, the day Nagasaki was bombed. The actions both days begin at 8:15 a.m. at the institute, 330 W. 42nd St.

The evening of August 6, MfS/NY and the Modern Times Theater will co-sponsor a program including the play "Fallout," discussions with the Hibakusha and a Japanese peace activist, and music. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Square Church, 135 W. 4th St., Manhattan.

Other events surrounding the 40th anniversary include:

**JULY 28:** Concert at St. Peter's Church featuring Richie Havens and classical music. Proceeds to benefit atomic bomb survivors.

**AUGUST 4:** Hibakusha to participate in events in Brooklyn. Call Brooklyn MfS at 718-857-3390 for details.

**AUGUST 5:** Hibakusha events with a live satellite hook-up to services in Hiroshima.

There will also be a candlelight "Walk for Survival" to the Yonkers pier. Call WESPAC, 914-682-0488, for details.

**AUGUST 8:** Concert featuring Richard Kiley and Michael Moriarty and music by the Inoue Chamber Ensemble, at Riverside Church. See calendar this issue for details.

**AUGUST 10:** Peace walk encircling the Seneca Army Depot in upstate New York, near the city of Geneva, followed by a rally and picnic at Sampson State Park. The depot is the largest nuclear weapons storage facility on the east coast. For information on carpooling to the action call MfS/NY.

Finally, you are cordially invited to take part in the NY Shadow Project, a street action designed to replicate the human images which were seared onto streets and curbs near ground zero in Hiroshima when the A-bomb exploded. Participants must attend one of two meetings to learn the process and legal issues involved. The meetings are July 23 or 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the AIR Gallery, 63 Crosby St., Manhattan. For more information on the project, which will occur simultaneously in 250 cities around the world, call Alan Gussow at 914-268-3269.

For more details on any of the above actions, call MfS/NY at 212-673-1808.

--Debra Chaplan  
New York Mobilizer

## Shoreham gets license

The adventure of the Shoreham nuclear power plant on Long Island continues.

Suffolk County Executive Peter Cohalan suddenly last month withdrew the county's official opposition to the evacuation plan for Shoreham, raising a storm of controversy and leading to a lawsuit that has been upheld by the courts.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission then said "no," "no," "maybe no" and finally "yes" during the week of July 1-8 to granting LILCO a low-power test license.

On July 5, people opposed to the operation of Shoreham staged a civil disobedience action at the plant's gates, with more than 30 people arrested.

Finally, however, Shoreham went on line July 8 at 5% of full power and began testing. Opposition continues, and opponents believe a full-power operating license will never be granted.

To take part in activities against the plant, or for more information, contact the MfS/NY Ecology Task Force at 212-505-6590.

## Membership Campaign Checklist

- I'd like to volunteer to help Mobilization for Survival/NY. Please contact me.
- I'm not a member yet, but I'd like to join. Enclosed is \$15 annual dues.
- I'll become a supporting member by joining for \$25 annual dues.
- I'll become a sustaining member by pledging \$25 \$15 \$10 or \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month. Enclosed is my first monthly donation.
- I would like to purchase MfS/NY disarmament shirts. Please send me a catalogue.

NAME & STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this coupon to Mobilization for Survival of New York, 135 W. 4th St., NYC NY 10012  
Call 673-1808 for information on MfS membership.

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# THE WAR MOVIES YOU'LL SEE ABOARD THE INTREPID WEREN'T MADE IN HOLLYWOOD.



**YOU CAN LIVE THROUGH TORPEDOES, KAMIKAZES, TWO MAJOR WARS AND TWO SPACE CAPSULE RECOVERY MISSIONS AND STILL MAKE IT HOME IN TIME FOR DINNER.**

Every Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 to 5, you can live through five incredible decades of war and peace. Aboard the Intrepid Museum. Take it all in for \$4.75/Adults, \$2.50/Children. Where West 46th Street meets the Hudson River. For more information call 212-245-0072.

You may have noticed the ad blitz for the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space (read "War") museum in New York City recently. The ads pictured here are run in the subways (the smaller one has appeared in the newspapers), along with posters announcing "You can go through hell and high water without even getting your feet wet."

This gruesomely glib campaign is being produced (for free!) by the McCann-Erickson agency in NYC. Workers there are apparently able to glorify war, murder, mayhem and madness and still make it home with a clear conscience...

## ODDS & ENDS

### Keeping Cool

Thanks to Liz Connor and Bob Zimmerman, we now have two (count 'em) air conditioners for the office. It's a first for the office to be relatively cool in the summer—and it really makes a difference!

### Street Fair

The street fair on June 29-30 was a great success, bringing in over \$5,000, lots of people and lots of great things to buy. Special thanks to Shlomo Pescoe and friends for the rousing music and clogging, to the Four Parts of the Movement Chorus, and to Mitch Cohen, the amazing turtle racer!

### Clearwater Revival

The annual Clearwater Revival festival on the Hudson River in June was the usual great time. But this year it rained. A lot. Thanks to Gloria Mellish, Brian Hatfield and Dan Ullrich, who did some heavy duty schlepping in the mud and rain after a weekend of successful tabling.

### Summer Fun in the City

Yes, it's tabling time again. Despite the Clearwater rainout, it really is a good time to get the information out and raise some money! If you know of good places to table, such as street fairs, or want to help, call Kathy Waters at the office, 212-673-1808.

## New York MfS Events

Listen to the Disarmament Community Bulletin Board every Thursday at 4:45 p.m. on 99.5-FM, WBAI radio.

### JULY-AUGUST 25 NAVYPORT REFERENDUM DRIVE

Help us complete the second phase of petitioning to put the nuclear Navyport issue on the November ballot. Another 30,000 signatures are needed. Join a team of petitioners: come to the office from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. any weekday to help with clerical work and phone calling. Please see the stories on page one of this issue, and call 212-673-1808 to sign up.

### SUNDAY, JULY 28 CONCERT FOR WORLD SANITY

With Richie Havens, jazz and ethnic music. Co-sponsored by WAND, Greenwich Village Coalition, Asian American Caucus and MfS/NY. St. Peter's Church, 54th & Lexington Ave., 7 p.m. \$12. Call K.C. Schubert, 212-675-8300.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 5 DAY-LONG WITNESS FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE HARBOR

Vigil and presentation of letter from the mayor of Hiroshima to Mayor Koch. Sponsored by MfS Religious Task Force, MfS/NY, and the religious outreach group of the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Harbor. 11 a.m., City Hall.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 6 FALLOUT

Performance of Modern Times Theater play "Fallout," with discussion by Hibakusha, Japanese peace activist, and anti-nuke gospel. Sponsored by MfS/NY and Modern Times Theater. 7:30 p.m., Washington Square Church, 135 W. 4th St. \$5 donation.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 SOUNDS OF HORROR: WORDS OF HOPE

Concert by Inoue Chamber Ensemble, with special guests Michael Moriarty and Richard Kiley. Talk by Prof. Richard Falk, and more. Sponsored by over 30 NYC area groups. 7:30 p.m., Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive. \$5 donation.

### Regular MfS/NY Meetings

All meetings at 135 W. 4th St., 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

MONDAYS, AUGUST 5 & 19 ANTI-INTERVENTION

TUESDAY, JULY 30 ACTIVE MEMBERS MEETING

For those already working with MfS/NY

WEDNESDAYS, AUGUST 7 & 21 ECOLOGY

THURSDAYS, JULY 25, AUGUST 8 & 22

LESBIAN & GAY NETWORK at Lesbian & Gay

Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 ORIENTATION MEETING

For new members and those wishing to get involved

For DRAFT, MID-EAST, and URBAN CRISIS task forces, please call 212-673-1808.

## MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL OF NEW YORK

135 West 4th Street  
New York, NY 10012

Mobilization for Survival of New York is one of New York City's largest and most active peace and justice groups. In addition to its work on reversing the arms race, New York Mobe draws the connections between the Reagan administration's unprecedented peacetime military budget and U.S. intervention abroad and cuts in social spending.

Membership in Mobilization for Survival of New York is \$15 per year, and entitles you to receive our monthly Mobilizer newsletter and New York's most complete listing of disarmament activities, the Peace Network Calendar. For more information, call the Mobe office at 212-673-1808, or fill out and return the coupon on page 3 of this issue.

4/N.Y. Mobilizer/July-August 1985

Staten Island Council for  
Peace and Justice  
P.O. Box 509  
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