

PROPOSED WORKSHOP FOR GENEVA / DR. KATHLEEN SULLIVAN

The workshop involves all of the following subjects:

1. Radiation is a Verb : The Contamination Game

What we cannot see poses problems for how we come to ‘know’ and understand the material world. Based on the story of Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, this workshop aims at learning about radiation, using imagination to understand the invisible radioactivity and encouraging critical thoughts about radioactive contamination.

2. Mining Uranium, Minding Uranium : The Nuclear Fuel Game

The fear that Iran or others will use the fissile material for bombs instead of for nuclear power, as it claims to be doing, has been all over the news. This workshop is designed to learn and think critically about uranium mining and nuclear energy, including nuclear waste.

3. Widening Circles : Feelings for the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

With the world’s attention fixed on global climate change, some consider nuclear power the only way to meet a growing population’s need for energy. Like many controversial issues, there are people who support nuclear power and others who do not. Both views engender strong opinions and emotions. This workshop can help us understand differing points of view, a practice that leads to greater awareness and critical thinking.

4. Imagining a World Without Nuclear Weapons

This imagination exercise is just what Einstein meant when he said “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” In this workshop, we are going to travel 30 years into the future where we are gathered at an event to celebrate the abolition of nuclear weapons; from this place we are going to envision what it will take to get us there. Traveling through time and space help us remember that future moment, which we are able to live to see, that is, to make a reality in our lifetime.

5. Imagining Nuclear Weapons’ Firepower : the Bee Bee Demonstration

Nuclear weapons are not like conventional bombs. They cause destruction through the splitting of the atom, which creates tremendous power, called nuclear fission. Due to long-lived radioactive poisoning, nuclear weapons in effect have the ability to wage war on future generations by threatening the continuation of life. This workshop demonstrates one way of facilitating students’ understanding of the immense, destructive power of nuclear weapons and encourages the use of students’ imagination to build a more peaceful world.

Workshop Duration: 2 hours

SHIGEKO SASAMORI was 13 years old when an atomic bomb exploded over her home city of Hiroshima. Hearing the sound of a plane, she looked up to see a B-29 flying over head – seconds later she was knocked unconscious by the blast. When she came to, she was so badly burned that she was unrecognizable. Shigeiko repeated her name and address over and over until she was finally found by her father. Years later she would travel to the United States in 1955 as part of a group of young women known as the Hiroshima Maidens. While in New York, she underwent numerous plastic surgery operations and met her adoptive father, Dr. Norman Cousins. Her story is featured in Steven Okazaki’s award winning film *White Light Black Rain* (see http://www.farfilm.com/web/title_wlbr.htm).

KATHLEEN SULLIVAN, PhD., is a disarmament educator and activist who has been engaged in the nuclear issue for over 20 years. Currently, she is an education consultant to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York, and has recently produced a film about survivors from Nagasaki entitled, *The Last Atomic Bomb* (see <http://www.newday.com/films/LastAtomicBomb.html>).