

## **U.S. Leadership for a Nuclear Weapons-free World**

*The Amherst Unitarian Universalist Newsletter*

April 2008.

*Social Justice Spotlight is an opinion column written by individual Social Justice Committee members. This month's Spotlight comes to us from **Chad Johnson**.*

In May 2006, our Society adopted a resolution calling for stepped-up efforts to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. Since then precious little, if anything, has been done to move in this direction. Indeed, the Bush Administration has been pushing an expansion of the U.S. nuclear weapons capability.

The only sure way to prevent nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism and nuclear war – before the next blinding flash – is to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The United States, as the world's most militarily powerful nation, must take the initiative in convening and leading the nations of the world to urgently take the following steps:

De-alert. Remove all nuclear weapons from high-alert status, separating warheads from delivery vehicles;

No First Use. Make legally binding commitments to No First Use of nuclear weapons and establish nuclear policies consistent with this commitment;

No New Nuclear Weapons. Initiate a moratorium on the research and development of new nuclear weapons, such as the Reliable Replacement Warhead;

Ban Nuclear Testing Forever. Ratify and bring into force the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

Control Nuclear Material. Create a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty with provisions to bring all weapons-grade nuclear material and the technologies to create such material under strict and effective international control;

Nuclear Weapons Convention. Commence good faith negotiations, as required by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons;

Resources for Peace. Reallocate resources from the tens of billions currently spent on nuclear arms to alleviating poverty, preventing and curing disease, eliminating hunger and expanding educational opportunities throughout the world.

*Recommended Action:* Write (a postcard would be fine) or call the campaign headquarters of the 2008 Presidential candidates and your Congressmen (see contact information below) and ask: Would you give priority to a policy of making the world free of nuclear weapons? What concrete steps would you take to reduce the risks posed by nuclear weapons pending their elimination?

Clinton: 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 3030, New York, NY 10170; (212) 231-3717  
McCain: 1235 South Clark St., Suite M, Arlington, VA 22202; (703) 418-2008  
Obama: P.O. Box 8102, Chicago, IL 60680; (866) 675-2008

Kerry: One Financial Plaza, One Bowdoin Square, 10th floor, Boston, MA 02114  
Kennedy: 2400 JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203  
Olver: 57 Suffolk Street, Suite 310, Holyoke, MA 010140

The Congressmen can be reached at the toll-free tel. number 1-877-851-6437

Look for postcards offered by the Social Justice Committee after the service April 6 or 13.