

Press release: Merrimack Valley People for Peace (MVPP)

Subject: January 31, 2017 Event

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For Immediate Release:

"The Enemy is Us: The Perils of Nuclear Arms"

Nuclear Weapons, our "elephant in the living room," hardly mentioned during the Presidential election campaign will be front and center in North Andover on January 31st at 7:30 p.m. in St. Michael Parish Hall, (196 Main St. North Andover). Three people with varied experiences will speak about the perils of nuclear arms.

The Merrimack Valley People for Peace, Inc. (MVPP) whose goals include education for peace and justice and the abolition of nuclear weapons, has invited Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ to speak. Sr. Megan is an 85-year-old Roman Catholic nun who, after teaching abroad for 33 years, became an avid anti-nuke activist. Sr. Megan was arrested approximately 40 times, and imprisoned for several years in her quest to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

Washington Post Journalist Dan Zak, author of *Almighty: Courage, Resistance, and Existential Peril in the Nuclear Age*, will share his understanding of our situation. Zak skillfully uses the dramatic story of three Plowshares affiliates to examine the 100 yr. history of what has become our nuclear weapons nightmare. It is the story of Sr. Megan Rice along with her two anti-nuclear cohorts Greg Boertje-Obed, and Michael Walli, who in 2012 managed to breach the security perimeter at our nation's largest storage facility of uranium, the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn., exposing its insecurity.

Also invited is Harvard Professor Elaine Scarry, author of *Thermonuclear Monarchy: Choosing Between Democracy and Doom*. As Professor Scarry notes: "Most people know there is a risk of a nuclear weapons accident. Most people know there is a risk that a terrorist or a hacker will gain control of a nuclear weapon. But not enough people recognize the large source of risk: the

nuclear nations themselves.”

A Question and Answer period and book signing will follow. The event is free and open to the public.

Note: Directions to St. Michael Parish: <http://www.saint-michael.org/ContactUs/Directions.html>

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