

The Secret of Joy is Resistance

March 2020

Hi Friends,

I am sorry to hit you with this shocker, but your Nukewatch senior staff member, yours truly, has to take a leave of absence from regular official duties because of a carcinoma that has developed on my left tonsil. This is a treatable cancer that has already taken a hit with the application of a very strict diet, prescribed medications and surgery. The cancer is of a sort that is unlikely to spread to other places or organs. I can still blow the B-flat cornet like an eighth grader...

The industrial cancer system in the U.S. proposed treatment methods that do not appeal to my sense of well-being and are being mostly rejected by me. The Ear-Nose-&-Throat (ENT) experts I've seen in the U.S. say the recommended schedule is whole-body PET/CT radiation scans [using fluorine-18 "contrast" inside the body, the equivalent of 500 to 1,000 chest X-rays from outside], followed by surgery, followed by heavy radiation (one ENT told me "the PET scan is nothing compared to what you'll get afterwards"... namely "radiation 5 days a week, for 7 weeks"), and then "chemo." However, high-dose PET and CT scans, radiation treatments, and chemotherapy are not successful if one reads the statistics without wearing the proponents' rose-tinted glasses.

After considering and declining industrial medicine's suggestions made to me, I have returned to Germany, where the diagnosis was first made, for treatment by specialists in alternative methods (which are well-respected in Germany) that boost, support, strengthen, and enliven the immune system, while starving and killing cancer cells, and shrinking tumors. Although my insurance will not cover medical expenses in Germany, I now have the financial boost of a GoFundMe appeal here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-uncle-john-beat-his-cancer>.

In the next 6 months or so, I have to deeply focus on my health and on trying to learn enough German to do a blitzkrieg on this cancer.

Who says irony is dead? After 40 years of speaking out against poisoned weapons and reactors, cancer hits me right in the mouth. The profound Alice Walker was both demanding and affirmative to declare that "resistance is the secret of joy." We know she's right.

I am being lovingly looked after by my anti-nuclear family Marion K pker in Germany, Bonnie Urfer, & Nukewatch Co-director Kelly Lundeen at home; and by my sister Peg (DON'T call her Margaret Mary!) from my good old nuclear family in Duluth, Minnesota. I am embarrassed by all the concern, although some of it is beautifully comic: recently I got a card from Arianne Peterson (co-editor of our book *Nuclear Heartland—Revised*), with a hog pictured on the front that reads: "As we say down at the pig farm ... You cured yet?"

Well, "pretty soon" is what I say.

Thanks for your love and support.



Meanwhile, Back at the Office

While John is taking a temporary leave of absence to beat off cancer (see article above), there will be a few changes in the office. As you can see, this newsletter is half its usual length. We will return to our full eight pages for the Summer *Quarterly* Nukewatch newsletter.

In the office I will continue to serve as Co-Director with the essential help of our Board of Directors, Bonnie Urfer, Arianne Stewart Peterson, Gail Vaughn, Jeff Peterson and YOU!

Did you ever wonder how Nukewatch does it all? Here is your chance to find out!

Nukewatch is currently seeking volunteers to fulfill programming and administrative duties necessary for the organization to function temporarily while our beloved Co-Director and Editor John LaForge is away (We know he is returning, because he left a sink full of dirty dishes). Nukewatch has a mission to fulfill, and we need your help to do it. Be part of an anti-nuclear group with a 40-year history! For a minimal time commitment you can help shape our anti-nuclear advocacy and resistance. Volunteer positions have the potential to become paid employment depending on future needs.

We have an in-office "Alpha" Volunteer Team which will meet biweekly, with childcare provided. There is a remote "Gamma" Team who contributes from the comfort of their homes, wherever they may be, to the abolition of nuclear weapons. We also have a Newsletter Team to get the Nukewatch *Quarterly* newsletter sent off by the deadline. We hope you'll join us as we build our community and capacity, educate a larger audience, and become more inclusive for future sustainability. Please call or email nukewatch1@lakeland.ws to support the continuity of Nukewatch with your time and talents.

In addition, do you like mud? Cutting wood? Keeping fires going? The solar-powered Plowshares Land Trust, home to Nukewatch, also has space for new community members. In the peace and quiet of rural Luck, Wisconsin, where the blue sky frames the white birch trees, there is a home waiting for the right person



John LaForge blowing his B-flat cornet.

P.S. Update: surgery was completed on March 5 and we are overjoyed to report that there is no sign of additional cancer.

or people. Responsibilities are seasonally dependent — summertime gardening, winter fires, and springtime maple syruping. Call the Nukewatch office, (715) 472-4185, for more info.

For a nuclear-free future!
Kelly Lundeen
Nukewatch Co-Director



From left, Michael Walli, John LaForge, Marion K pker and Ardeth Platte protesting NATO outside of the White House, April 2019.