

## A Forum

### Risking Terminal Catastrophe: The Climate Nuclear Nexus

Des Moines Botanical Garden, Sept 24, 2016

Sponsored by [PSR/Iowa](#), [Catholic Peace Ministry](#), [Iowa UNA](#), [Veterans for Peace Chapter 161](#)

**Rationale:** In conjunction with International Peace Day, a forum for an interconnected and increasingly unstable world where climate change & wars abroad have direct and indirect consequences here at home. The volatile, complex global situation is tipping toward catastrophic climate change and/or nuclear weapons use. The more we ignore victims of the changing climate and environmental degradation, the more we bomb and invade as our response to global instability, the more we create the conditions that encourage terrorism and dangerous forms of blow back. We cannot bomb today's threats into oblivion! With World War III seemingly on our doorstep, this conversation and requisite responses are urgent and necessary.

**Goal:** Together climate and health professionals, researchers, concerned lowans, and students explore the narrowing gap between the risks of and instabilities induced by severe climate change and potential intersections with accidental or intentional use of nuclear weapons. Participants pay particular attention to the exacerbating role of environmental injustice inherent to the changing climate and a nuclear armed world.

9:30 AM **Registration**

10:00 M. McCue. Welcome. Logistics of the day. Introduce Mayor Cownie.

10:10 Mayor Frank Cownie, Leader in Mayors for Peace and Climate Mayors.

***Instabilities of the Changing Climate & Nuclear Arsenals: Intersecting Trajectories?***

10:40 **Audience Interaction**

10:55 Brief Stretch break

11:00 Kareem Butler, Introduce Speaker Kingston Reif, Arms Control Association

11:05 Kingston Reif, Director of Disarmament and Threat Reduction Policy, Arms Control Association, asks

***Why Worry, Why Now? Potential for Use of Nuclear Weapons: Effects, Humanitarian Impact & Climate Consequences***

11:40 **Audience Interaction**

12:00 pm Lunch served

12:20 Dr. David Drake, Well Known Doc about Town, Needs No Introduction!

***I've never laughed so hard yet felt scared shitless at the same time!***

12:50 Break, check out the gardens!

1:10 **Film: *Marshalling the Peace* (4 min)**

1:15 M. McCue Introduces Speaker: Tina Stege, Marshallese Educational Initiative

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**Marshall Islands: A Voice from the Frontline**

1:50 **Audience Interaction**

2:05 Break

2:20-3:15 **Panel: Destabilizing Factors Risking Violence: Rising Heat, Rising Tempers (10 min each)**

K. Reif, ACA-Moderator; J. Weiss, DMACC; Drs. Maria Filippone, & Maureen McCue & John Rachow of U of Iowa,

3:20-4:10 **Breakout Discussions: Moving Forward: Mobilizing to Reduce the Dangers.** (chose one)

Working for Global Sustainability (M McCue)

International Tensions (Reif, Rachow, Weiss)

Home grown peace building, climate stabilization (Frank Cownie, John Fraser)

Engaging Youth, Working for a Peaceful, Livable Future (Stege, Butler, K. Lisinski, M. Fillipone)

4:15-4:45 **Reconvene. Reports/Recommendations** for Getting from here to there: Reducing the Dangers

## Invited Speaker Biosketches in order of appearance

**Mayor Frank Cownie:** [Mayor, Des Moines, Iowa](#), serving his third term. He is a leader in U.S. mayor for Mayors for Peace and was the initiating sponsor of the 2016 Mayors for Peace United States Conference of Mayors resolution. Cownie has also represented America's cities and the United States at the International Climate Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark where he was invited to participate as a local government delegate. Cownie has been invited to the White House on several occasions to share the local government perspective on jobs, the economy and the environment. He works extensively with the US Conference of Mayors, ICLEI USA, and many others.

**Kingston Reif:** Director for [Disarmament and Threat Reduction Policy](#) at the Arms Control Association, where his work focuses on nuclear disarmament, preventing nuclear terrorism, missile defense, and the defense budget. Reif is an expert on the legislative process and closely monitors Congressional action on these issues. He lived in the U.K. as a British Marshall Scholar where he received a MSc. in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a M.Litt. in International Security Studies from the University of St. Andrews. Reif is a 2014 Truman National Security Project Fellow.

**Kristina Stege:** International Relations Liaison, [Marshallese Educational Initiative](#) (MEI). From Utrök Atoll, Ms. Stege has worked as a Pacific Islands Community Independent Consultant and filmmaker; for the R.M.I. Embassy, as the R.M.I. Project Manager for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and a Gender Specialist for the Asian Development Bank. Tina has also served as a consultant on immigration issues and on climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation.

**Jeff Weiss:** Political science educator and Education Director of [Catholic Peace Ministry](#) in Des Moines with expertise in speaking on the members and functions of the "Islamic State" terror network. A well-known Community activist and street theater performer who uses engaging humor to raise important issues at various political gatherings around central Iowa - especially for bringing the Pentagon Sacred Cow and other members of the bought-and-sold Congress who help make weapons contractors even wealthier, to numerous community events.

**Maria Filippone DO:** Family Practice, Des Moines. Physician, mother, community activist working with local youth. Dr. Filippone visited Palestine recently; since returning she has spoken widely on the human rights of the Palestinians especially regarding their access to food and water given impacts of climate change in the region.

**John Fraser:** President, [Iowa United Nations Association](#).

## PSR Speakers in order of appearance

**Maureen McCue MD PhD:** Coordinator of the Iowa Chapter of PSR. University of Iowa professor of Global Health & Human Rights.

**Kareem Butler:** Volunteered for the last year with Next Gen on climate work and with the Iowa Chapter of PSR.

**David Drake DO:** Family Psychiatrist, Des Moines. Doc about town, needs no introduction. Board member of national PSR

**John Rachow PhD MD:** Treasurer, Iowa Chapter of PSR. University of Iowa Internist, Geriatrician, and board member of national PSR

**Kassha Lisinski:** Recent University of Iowa graduate. Following a visit to Hiroshima developed has a strong commitment to nuclear weapons abolition.