



Save the Date

August 6 –Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day

Re-dedicating ourselves to peace and no nuclear wars, we gather on August 6 in Lewiston to remember Dr. Bernard Lown and the renaming in 2008 of a bridge over the Androscoggin River. That year the former South Bridge became the “Bernard Lown Peace Bridge.”

In an act of renewing commitment, we assemble at the Gendron Franco Center on Cedar Street at 10 AM. Speakers will be calling for nuclear disarmament, for no nuclear war—indeed, for no wars at all, just as Dr. Lown did. We will be walking the short distance from there to the Peace Bridge, where our observances will end in front of a monument honoring Dr. Lown.

Dr. Lown, who died in 2021, was a famous cardiologist. He and Soviet cardiologist Eugene Chazov in 1980 co-founded the group International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Under their leadership, tens of thousands of the organization’s members campaigned worldwide for a moratorium on nuclear weapons.

For Dr. Lown, it was “the greatest political issue of our time.” On June 12, 1982 one million people had gathered in New York on behalf of nuclear disarmament. In 1985, Drs Lown and Chazov were each awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Their concerns about nuclear war led Bernard Lown and other physicians in 1961 to form Physicians for Social Responsibility. He served as that group’s first president. Members will be participating in the August 6 observances.

Dr. Lown immigrated from Lithuania with his family, and studied at Lewiston High School and the University of Maine before entering medical school.

Crucial to renaming the bridge were the initiatives of Bates College alumnus Allen Harvie of Auburn and Lewiston Mayor Laurent Gilbert and also actions taken by the Lewiston and Auburn City Councils, the Maine State Legislature, and former Governor John Baldacci.

Former Mayor Gilbert, a member of Maine Veterans for Peace, is guiding arrangements for the upcoming day of recommitment. Allen Harvie will be presiding.

Maine Veterans for Peace and Peace Action Maine are organizing the August 6 event. For more information, call Laurent Gilbert Sr. at (207) 632-7373 or contact Maine Veterans for Peace at rawlings@maine.edu

