



December 2016
Volume 12 Issue 3

www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

America Needs Peace Activism More Than Ever! We're Counting On Your Support

The prospect of President Donald J. Trump has shocked and troubled us, even as he lost the popular vote by at least 1.4 million votes. But his victory can also be expected to motivate Americans to activism. Will you join with us now to help make this happen?

There's already talk of massive increases in military spending which will further choke off support for our most vulnerable communities and citizens. The hardwon Iran nuclear deal is in jeopardy. Trump's reckless statements about the use and proliferation of nuclear weapons increase the danger of nuclear war. His uncritical support for Israel will further embolden its oppression of Palestine. His denial of global climate change will hasten the displacement of hundreds of millions of coastal dwellers around the world, with concomitant political instability. Trump's disdain for civil rights, voting rights, and civil liberties, admiration for dictators, and his extremist right-wing appointments portend the diminution of our tolerant society and perhaps even of our democracy.

Cleveland Peace Action's fortunes have varied, depending on who's in the White House. Democratic Presidents have tended to lull us into complacency while Republicans have inspired us. Ronald Reagan helped create the Nuclear Weapons Freeze movement. George W. Bush's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq brought us into the streets. Donald Trump will spur activists to organize around racism, sexism, xenophobia, civil rights, militarized policing, income inequality, health care, environment, and much more.

We ask you to help us do our part for peace. Help Peace Action play a role in the larger opposition and build a more peaceful and just society from the ashes of this ruinous election. We've only begun to determine the path for Peace Action over

the next four years. Now, more than ever, we need your reasoned thoughts and ideas to help light our path. We are counting on your passion and commitment to peace.

We're happy to report that, even before the election, the peace movement was once again growing. National Peace Action merged this year with Peace Action West and now has about 200,000 supporters and 200 affiliated groups, with an expanded staff in the Washington D.C. area and on the West Coast.



Cleveland Peace Action has struggled though the Obama years to fund our operations and to find enough people to carry on our work. Now we're counting on your support, your membership, and if you are so moved, your contribution of time and energy.

We don't deluge you with fundraising appeals. We do rely heavily on this year-end appeal. Your membership, combined with the commitment and generosity of our Board of Directors, sustains our work — educating, organizing and advocating for peace.

Cleveland Peace Action needs your support. This year-end membership appeal is essential to carry us strongly into 2017 and face the substantial challenges ahead. Please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter to donate by mail. Or you can make a secure online donation at www.peaceactioncleveland.org. All online donations as well as all others to Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund (a 501.c.3 organization) are tax-deductible.

We thank you for your support.

Francis Chiappa and Nina McLellan,
Co-Presidents

Cleveland Peace Action and Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund

2016 Highlights and Plans for 2017

Our work around the **Republican National Convention** last summer earned us the electronic and personal scrutiny of the FBI. We hosted two meetings briefing activists about what to expect as protesters during the Republican National Convention. One featured Oakland activist and legal observer Kris Hermes, author of *Crashing the Party: Legacies and Lessons from the RNC 2000*. The other was led by Jocelyn Green of the National Lawyers Guild. During the RNC, we worked on the alternative Peoples' Peace and Justice Convention, marched with End Poverty NOW! March for Economic Justice, held forth at the Peoples' Platform on Public Square, and showed the film "The Brainwashing of My Dad," about the effect of right-wing media on family as well as national conversations.



Our popular **Peace at the Pub** series featured: *The Amazing Story of the First Peace Ship, the Golden Rule; The People Make The Peace - Lessons From The Vietnam Antiwar Movement*, with Detroit activist Frank Joyce; *Peace Issues and Progressive Revolution*, with the new Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus; and *\$1 Trillion for Nuclear Weapons?* about the bipartisan 30-year plan to squander our tax dollars and maintain higher risk of nuclear war. Let us know if you have an idea for a future presentation at our ongoing P@P series. We helped produce the August 9th **PAND concert**, *Marching Towards Peace: Remembering Nagasaki*, including an inspiring reunion of the 1986 Great Peace March. We look forward to continuing this decades-long partnership with Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament.



Our Move the Money / Fund Our Communities Coalition Action Group worked to reduce military spending and supported the Congressional Progressive Caucus "People's Budget". Through our Advocacy Committee we lobbied Congress. We reached out to the public on Tax Day, on college campuses, at summer festivals, at the 11th District Labor Day Parade and numerous public meetings. We shall continue to look for venues to allow the public to choose how they want the federal government to spend their tax dollars. We shall distribute flyers on military spending, the **2017 People's Budget** and nuclear weapons and improve our ability to use social media to get out information. We look forward to returning to all the college campuses next fall. Several Cleveland Peace Action experts are available to present talks on these issues (*see page 7*). We shall work within coalitions to cut wasteful military spending and to address Cleveland's unmet needs - especially disinvested neighborhoods. Our Action Group is open to all who are interested and have ideas!



Our **Middle East Peace Committee's** programming included hosting Iyad Burnat and his film on Palestinian nonviolent resistance; collaborating with the Islamic Center of Cleveland on *Understanding Leads To Peace*; co-sponsoring films *Ghost Town: The Hebron Story* (Cinematheque) and *The Occupation of the American Mind* (West Shore UU, coming up in January); and a discussion of the play *Wrestling Jerusalem* at Cleveland Public Theater. MEPC members testified in Columbus against HB 476, which could bar support of BDS for any person or corporation doing business with the State of Ohio.



We have initiated a Cleveland Peace Action petition urging President Obama to pressure Israel to end home demolitions and settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. We are planning a lobby visit with Senator Brown's office to discuss U.S. policy in Israel and Palestine, and plan to schedule lobby visits with other congressional members. We invite you to join us for our monthly meetings. Please contact co-chairs Don Bryant at 216.255.1576 or Jeff Kassouf at 440-899-0101 or email donbryant@gmail.com



Our **Advocacy Team**, in coordination with National Peace Action, maintains relationships with our senators and representatives, supporting diplomacy not war, Palestinians' rights, cuts in the nuclear weapons budget, and the ultimate abolition of these weapons. This year we established a relationship with Congressman Ryan's Youngstown staff. We met in Washington D.C. with his staff as well as those of Reps. Marcia Fudge and Marcy Kaptur. We maintain regular email and phone contacts on pending legislation with all northeast Ohio congressional and senatorial offices.

We have lobbied and shall continue to do so in 2017 in support of the SANE Act and opposing the \$1 Trillion nuclear weapons escalation plan. We thanked Senator Brown for signing a Senate letter urging cancelation of the LRSO cruise missile, declaring a no-first-use policy, taking ICBMs off launch-on-warning, and scaling back modernization plans. We lobbied in favor of legislation that opposed the Saudi-led attacks on Yemen, the new Saudi arms deal and the proposed dangerous "no fly zone" in Syria. We supported the Iran nuclear agreement and opposed efforts to undermine it. We opposed giving Israel a big increase in military aid.



Our efforts have had varying success with our Northeast Ohio delegation and senators. To increase our effectiveness, **we must be backed up by growing numbers of voices for peace: you!** We hope you respond to our alerts asking you to call or email our congress members. If you're not getting them, please send a note to clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com. Let us know if you'd be willing to write letters to the editor and/or to work with any of our action teams. **We need you!**

We've been **getting the word out** via newsletter, email, website, tabling, leafleting, media advisories and a newly beefed up twitter feed. Check us out!



One easy number: Congressional Switchboard at 202-224-3121 (9-5 EST)

Senator Sherrod Brown 202-224-2315; 713 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510
216-522-7272; 1301 E. Ninth St., Suite 1710, Cleveland 44114

Senator Rob Portman 202-224-3353; 338 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510
216-522-7272; 1240 E. Ninth St., Rm. 3061, Cleveland 44114

Rep. Marcia Fudge Dist. 11 202-225-7032; 2344 Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20515
216-522-4900; 4834 Richmond Rd., Suite 150, Warrensville, OH 44128

Rep. Jim Renacci Dist. 16 202-225-3876; 130 Cannon House Office Bldg. Washington D.C. 20515
330-334-0040; One Park Center Drive, Ste. 302, Wadsworth, OH 44281

Rep. Marcy Kaptur Dist. 9 202-225-4146; 2186 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20515
219-259-7500 One Maritime Plaza, sixth floor, Toledo, OH 43604

Rep. David Joyce Dist. 14 202-225-5731; 1535 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515
440-352-3539; 1 Victoria Place Ste. 320, Painesville, OH 44077
330-425-9291; 10075 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087

Updated August 2016

Cleveland Peace Action and Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund

Co-Presidents Francis Chiappa and Nina McLellan Vice-President Rosemary Palmer
Secretary Bill Fickinger Treasurer Dena Magoulias Operations Manager Elizabeth Schiros

Check our website for news and events: www.peaceactioncleveland.org

I want to be a Peace Action Member/Supporter!



Peace Action is a true national grassroots movement.

A donation in any amount qualifies you as a Member/Supporter of Cleveland Peace Action *and* National Peace Action for the calendar year.

Recommended donation levels: Patron \$100+ • Family \$50 • Individual \$40 • Student \$20 • Limited Income \$10

Name:

_____ [] new member [] renewing member

Address:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Make checks payable to
"Cleveland Peace Action"
or, to be tax-deductible, to
"Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund"

and mail to:
TREASURER, Cleveland Peace Action,
Suite 109
2592 West 14th Street, Cleveland, OH
44113

or

Donate via credit card using PayPal
at our secure website:
www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Report from our Post-election Meeting

On November 15th, CPA hosted a Potluck Supper at which about forty of our friends and members vigorously discussed the impacts of the election and which areas might be addressed in the coming year. Francis Chiappa opened the discussion, inviting folks to raise their hand and contribute to the discussion. The response was rich, spirited and informative. The following brief notes give a general overview of the conversation.

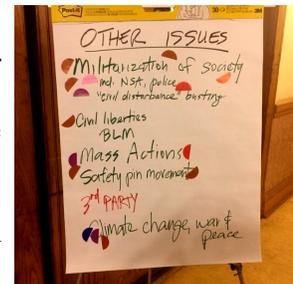
Issues: The challenges in this category were quickly enumerated as we talked. There's so much at stake and so many areas of concern with Trump in the White House. These included:

- ◆ Militarization of society, including the police and busting civil protest with military tactics and hardware
- ◆ Erosion of civil liberties and citizen surveillance by NSA and local authorities
- ◆ Climate change and its relation to global security and Trump's denial of the reality
- ◆ Increased racism, sexism and xenophobia, as these are encouraged by Trump's rhetoric and have already been on the rise, just a week after the election



Opportunities: listed because they were suggested, with this list prioritized by the interest shown to each in our breakout session:

- ◆ Mass actions needed, where Peace Action is a coalition partner with many other groups on the left. The Black Lives Matter movement is an obvious and potent response to racism, worthy of our support and as one potential focus for mass organizing. Civil liberties issues in general would naturally bring us together with other constituencies.
- ◆ We have a chance to get younger activists engaged in response to these challenges.
- ◆ Need to organize around specific issues by getting out and speaking to other groups, basically giving "elevator speeches" wherever and as often as we can.
- ◆ Social media as a form of mass action. Much room for improvement of our efforts
- ◆ The "safety pin" movement, wearing one to indicate solidarity with those who feel less safe in daily life because of increasing racism, sexism and xenophobia.
- ◆ Need for the Greens as a third political party



In addition to the above, the need for **Nuclear Abolition** was discussed at some length:

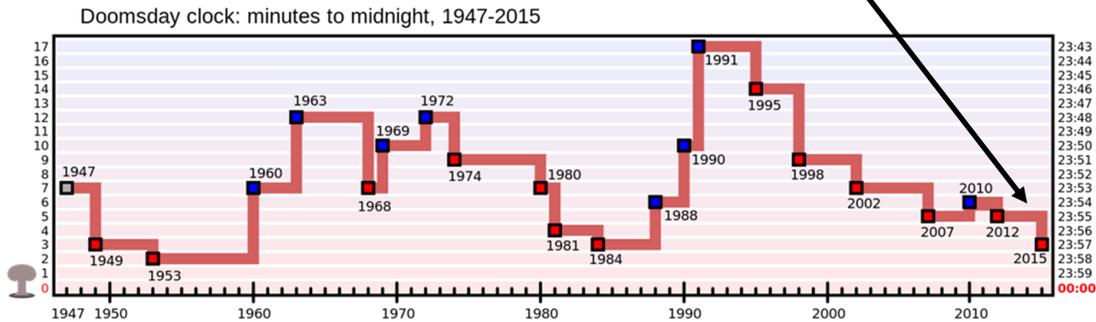
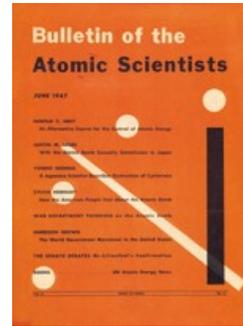
Trump's election is likely to fuel awareness of nuclear weapons issues, as people are already alarmed by some of his comments and proposed policies. Most immediately, his disparaging of the Iran nuclear agreement raises concerns that he will scuttle it, increasing risk of war. There are opportunities in this. While the public is relatively ignorant of nuclear weapons risks at this time, we think this is likely to change in response to Trump. There's much room for us to educate the public about the risks, as happened during the nuclear freeze movement. The Non-proliferation Treaty review conference in 2017 should provide opportunities to educate the public about the risks.



THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK-1945

After 70 years of frustrating effort, the fight to ban nuclear weapons continues. Within months after the destruction in 1945 of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a group of American scientists, many of them associated with the building of the first nuclear weapons, created a publication named **Bulletin of Atomic Scientists**. Its main purpose is to inform the public, and especially world leaders, on the certain dangers of the further development and proliferation of such devices.

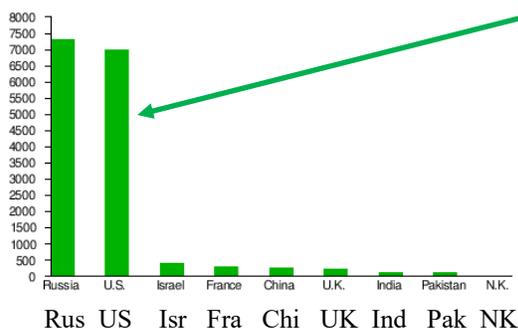
Ever since, the BAS has used as their logo the “**Doomsday Clock**” which symbolically tracks the level of nuclear threats as the years go by. The graph below shows how the relative probabilities of a nuclear war have changed over a 68 year span: the **lower the line, the closer we are to Doomsday**. The most dangerous times were in the periods of the Cold War in the 1950’s and the 1980’s; the more comfortable times occurred in the 1990’s with the end of the USSR and the subsequent negotiations with Russia. The horrifying feature is the subsequent continuous drop in stability from 1991 until today, meaning greater and greater danger of deliberate or, ever more so, accidental nuclear war.



SHUT IT DOWN-2017

In October 2016 the United Nations adopted a resolution to launch negotiations on a treaty **outlawing nuclear weapons**, hopefully ending two decades of paralysis in nuclear disarmament efforts. 123 nations voted in favor of setting up a Conference which will begin **next March**. This is a clear message to the nine nuclear-armed states that the rest of the world does not accept the continuation along this path to **global suicide**.

A better path is to continue civilized negotiations between the US and Russia to cut their total inventories from 7000 down to 1000. These talks have been terribly bogged down by the Syria and Ukraine challenges. The chart shows the absurd size of the two enormous stockpiles, relative to the other 7 nuclear powers. Thank you, military-indu\$trial-complex.



Bit by bit: de-enrich all uranium, lock up all plutonium (MOX system), shut down ground-launched delivery systems, quit playing around with “new and better” equipment, find more humane projects for scientists and engineers and investors to work on.

*Cleveland Peace Action Ed Fund
offers free talks and discussions on
Important Contemporary Issues*

Presentations are tailored to meet the needs and interests of your classes or community groups!



Topics

Military Spending (Francis Chiappa, PhD or Nina McLellan, MA. Co-Presidents of Cleveland Peace Action)

How tax money is spent; how our communities are adversely affected by government spending priorities; how we can impact current policy.

Nuclear Weapons (William Fickinger, PhD. Emeritus Professor of Physics, Case Western Reserve University or Nina McLellan)

History and current status of the nuclear program, nuclear risks, controversies about proposed plans.

Iran (Norman Robbins, MD, PhD. Emeritus Professor of Neurosciences in the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University; Lecturer on Iran, Siegal Lifelong Learning, CWRU)

History and politics of Iran and US policy, humanitarian issues, discussion of current controversies.

Israel/Palestine (Don Bryant. Chair, CPA Middle East Peace Committee; Founder, Cleveland Immigrant Support Network)

Development of the US-Israel relationship; power imbalance; humanitarian considerations; the “two-state solution.”

Climate Change and Peace (David Beach. Director, Green City Blue Lake Institute of Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Founder and Director, Eco-City Cleveland)

Review of the reciprocal relationship between climate change and military activity, constructive approaches to modification of the downward spiral.

**To discuss further details or schedule presentation(s),
please call: 216.264.3955.**



Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund
Suite 109
2592 West 14th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 2566

Return Service Requested



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call 216-231-4245 or email clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com and request to be removed from our mailing list. Thank you.

Here is your December Newsletter from Cleveland Peace Action

The election was certainly a disturbing surprise. Whew!
Our work is now more important than ever.
It's time to get back on track and get active, civil and serious.

Now where do we start?

Check inside for ideas: stop spending billions on unnecessary killer weapons; work for better relations in our cities; get the US and Russia to work together; help find a way to an Isr-Pal two-state solution; find fair paths for international trade; stop messing up the atmosphere.

Read what CPA is working on - **JOIN US** - bring us your ideas.
Check our website: www.peaceactioncleveland.org