



September 2016
Volume 12 Issue 2

www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

Election 2016: We'll have work to do, no matter who is President

Francis Chiappa CPA co-president

As we fasten our seatbelts for what's already been a bizarre Presidential election year, we'll have our hands full no matter who wins in November. Our hope is that the likely election of Hillary Clinton will galvanize the peace moment. Under her administration, the country will need us more than ever.

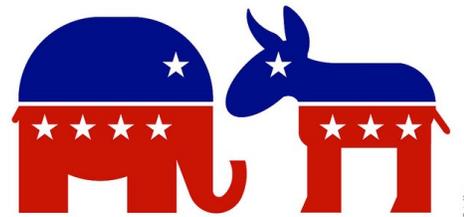
Historically, Republican Presidents, in particular Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush energized peace activists and grew our ranks. In contrast, Democratic Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama lulled the movement into complacency. What will happen this time?

First, an unpredictable and impulsive Donald Trump should not be trusted with the nuclear codes. He suggests the U.S. could use nuclear weapons in a first strike. He's a fan of proliferation, suggesting giving nuke weapons to Japan and South Korea. He refers to the degraded state of the U.S. military, even though we spend four times more than China and we possess the most powerful military ever on this planet. During WW II, Americans were told, "loose lips sink ships." No candidate's lips are looser than Donald's.

Many of our members will vote for Hillary Clinton, on the basis of domestic policy and the membership of the Supreme Court, in spite of her hawkish NeoCon tendencies. Based on his contradictory statements, a Trump foreign policy is hard to predict. On the other hand, Clinton's seems very predictable. For most of us, President Obama has not lived up to the Nobel Peace Prize he was prematurely awarded. But Clinton will be more inclined

than Obama to use military force, directly or by proxy. She'll be less likely to say "No" to the Pentagon. She'll be more supportive to Israel and deaf to the systematic injustices suffered in Palestine.

On the basis of peace issues plus the deeper social change legacy of Bernie Sanders, many of our members may vote for Green Party candidate Jill Stein. A few will choose Libertarian Gary Johnson, who also promises to downsize the Pentagon and end imperialistic and interventionist foreign policy.



For Peace Action, one thing is clear. We'll have our work cut out for us over the next four years. Our government will remain the linchpin of the military industrial complex. It will move forward to spend a Trillion dollars over 30 years to modernize the nuclear arsenal. Military spending will be top priority and will continue to expropriate funding necessary to rebuild our communities.

The challenges we would face with a Clinton Presidency are as great as those we faced during the Reagan and Bush years. We hope the next Administration will bring the peace movement together as other hawkish Presidents have done. And we trust that you'll continue to support our work.

CPA goals in "People's Platform"

Nina McLellan, CPA Advocacy Committee

End Military Interventions and Covert Actions; Use Nonviolent Methods

Weaken ISIS and prevent terrorism through smart nonviolent measures: arms embargo to all factions, humanitarian aid, legal, diplomatic, financial, economic, and law enforcement tools. War does not work.

Audit Pentagon; Reduce Waste, Fraud, and Abuse; Cut by at Least 25%

Rein in unchecked spending. Redirect wasted billions to urgent domestic programs.

Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Cancel the \$1 Trillion Nuclear Weapons Escalation

"Modernization" plan provokes a new nuclear arms race; increases risk of nuclear accident or war.

Protect the Iran Nuclear Agreement: No New Sanctions

A great diplomatic achievement, Iran is complying and should receive sanctions relief benefits.

Halt U.S. Drone Attacks; Ban Military Drone Exports

Drone killings violate international law, terrorize and radicalize targeted populations.

End Arms Sales to Human Rights Abusing Nations

In violation of U.S. law, we sell weapons to nations with known, documented human rights abuses.

End NATO Threats to Russia; Build Common Security Measures - Rethink Nato!

NATO's expansion to Russia's borders and militaristic response to Russia are increasing chances of war.

End U.S. Support for Egyptian and Israeli Siege of Gaza and West Bank

End military and economic aid to Egypt and Israel, if they are not in compliance with international law.

Demilitarize American Police**Cleveland Plain Dealer**

19 June 2016

The two nuclear bombs used in 1945 killed two hundred thousand people. The US and USSR soon had enough warheads and delivery systems to destroy each other. Each developed a nuclear weapons industry: jobs for thousands of brilliant scientists and engineers. Eventually, there were 60 thousand warheads on the planet, each hundreds of times more powerful than the original two. Stockpiles of bombs and enriched uranium were widespread, launchers on trigger alert. It became ever more possible that terrorists (or foolish leaders) would control some.

The 2010 US-Russia NEW START treaty lowered the world's deployed warhead count below 4000. But today, for-profit companies offer us "better" warheads and "more precise" delivery systems for a few hundred billion dollars. Russia is pondering similar decisions. How to turn this around? Various treaties have been in contention for decades, but their combined goals can be achieved by building upon START. Cancel modernization plans. Continue to cut the number of deployed warheads. Cool things in Europe where the US as part of NATO has hundreds of nuclear weapons sitting on the troubled edges of Russia. President Obama, can you get this on track in the next six months? Is there anything more important?

Bill Fickinger, Secretary Cleveland Peace Action



UNITED STATES SENATE

6/21/16

*Mr. Fickinger—
Good letter to the
editor. Thank you
for all you do for
our country and
for world peace.*

Sherrod Brown



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 Magoulas Coordinator 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

CPA and the RNC — *Telling the Truth*

Cleveland Peace Action prepared for participation in events related to the Republican National Convention by hosting two electrifying events for activists, young and seasoned, local and out-of-towners. The first was with Kris Hermes, author of *Crashing the Party: Legacies and Lessons from the RNC 2000*. The follow-up was with Jocelyn Rosnick of the National Lawyers Guild, who discussed what to expect at the RNC, understanding basic protestor rights, interaction with law enforcement, and other RNC specific concerns.



Ada Everyheart, Marva Patterson, Francis Chiappa, Nina McLellan, and Don Bryant

Next was the *People's Justice and Peace Convention*. More than 15 area organizations organized this event, dedicated to people past and present who have dreamed, toiled and struggled against oppression without resorting to violence in any form, creating a more just world. After a rousing opening at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, the event continued through the weekend preceding the RNC. Hundreds of participants attended workshops, heard keynote speeches, and produced a People's Platform containing specific policy planks in the areas of economic, international, racial & social, political and environmental justice. (see p.2)



David Patterson, Nina McLellan, William C. Marshall

Our workshop, *Challenging Militarism and the Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex*, was one of over 30 which engaged attendees in lively discussion of issues and potential platform

planks. The final platform was presented to the RNC and DNC and can be read at www.pjpc2016.org. CPA Board members gave their time and talents: Shirien Montaser, made her plea for peace and understanding at the opening plenary; Nina McLellan helped with keynote speakers and presented our workshop; Don Bryant and Chantal Dothey led the *Racial and Social Justice* issue area and were key organizers throughout, to help prepare activists: what are your rights? what can you expect?



Frances Caldwell

We then took part in *End Poverty Now: March for Economic Justice*. Convened by Larry Bresler, Executive Director of Organize Ohio, CPA was one of many organizational sponsors. Our members helped plan this big event for the first day of the RNC. Carrying our CPA banner, we marched along-side other protestors from East 45th street down to East 12th. The only permitted march outside of the City's designated parade route, Organize Ohio was one of the three parties to the ACLU's successful lawsuit challenging the City's restrictive and illegal RNC event zone regulations.

Throughout convention week, CPA press releases highlighted our reactions and positions. We were on the public "free speech" platform at Public Square with Master of Ceremonies William Clarence Marshall, providing music (Francis Chiappa on ukulele), sing-along *Drones Drones Go Away* (Toni Rozsahegyi), a skit with remarks on war and peace from former presidents (Don Bryant and others), a military spending "*Can-You-Top-This*" contest (Nina McLellan and David Patterson), and a moving Maya Angelou poem read by Frances Caldwell.



Francis Chiappa and Toni Rozsahegyi

CPA Letter to Senator Sherrod Brown

August 9, 2016

Hon. Sherrod Brown
1301 E. 9th St. Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Sherrod,

On behalf of Cleveland Peace Action, we write on this anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki to thank you for speaking out to reduce the risk posed by nuclear weapons.

We understand you are one of the ten senators who signed a July 20 letter to President Obama calling for canceling the proposed nuclear capable LRSO cruise missile, declaring a no-first-use policy, taking ICBMs off launch-on-warning and scaling back modernization plans for unneeded new warheads, bombs and delivery systems.

Thank you - these would be significant steps. There are others which should be taken. As former defense secretary William Perry and others have urged, we should completely dismantle all land-based ICBM missiles. There is extreme danger posed by U.S. nuclear weapons stored in European countries including B-61 nuclear bombs at our shared base in Turkey; they should be removed.

We are courting extreme danger with U.S. and NATO's provocations to nuclear-armed Russia including our missiles in Poland, Romania and Turkey. NATO should pull back from Russia's border and the ABM treaty should be reinstated. And we hope Congress will pressure all nuclear armed nations, whether declared or undeclared, to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and disengage military support to any not in compliance."

Potential nuclear weapons catastrophe stands, with climate change, as the most urgent threat to our planet. Yet, this critical issue is little understood by the American public since the end of the cold war-even though we are now engaged in a new nuclear arms race even more dangerous.

We hope you will continue to speak out and take action toward nuclear weapons abolition as proposed by 127 non-nuclear nations

Yours sincerely,

Nina McLellan and Francis Chiappa

Co-Presidents, Cleveland Peace Action

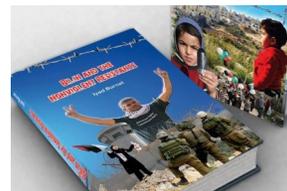
Have you checked out our website?

peaceactioncleveland.org

On the main page you will find links to current news and opinion pieces;
use the **ABOUT US** button to read past-issues of our newsletter;
check for volunteering opportunities on the main page;
under **CALENDAR** look for up-coming events:
talks, suppers, demonstrations, tabling, etc.

Two Recent Events

CPA was proud to co-host two Peace events in August. The first was a presentation by Palestinian activist and author, Iyad Burnet, on the determination of peaceful demonstrators in his slowly vanishing town of Bil'in and the dangers they face from Israeli authorities. At an event in the Heights Library, Burnet described the situation in which his hometown is shrinking, its farms and orchards erased, its people crushed. In addition to slides and videos showing actual footage of the mistreatment of the demonstrators, he offered his recent book on the topic: *Bil'in and Non-violent Resistance*.



The second event addressed the ongoing, and frustrating, 70-year campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons. This goal has recently become central to the discussions among governments, scientists, and military experts who are considering the possibility that some sort of a nuclear misuse or mistake could cause the end of human life.

As we have done for many years, CPA joined PAND (*Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament*-established in 1982) in hosting a delightful event featuring a variety of presentations by speakers and musicians. With the goal of raising awareness of the need for nuclear disarmament, we presented "*Marching Towards Peace: Remembering Nagasaki.*" Joining Cleveland Orchestra members and friends at the Barking Spider were local participants in the 1986 *Great Peace March against nuclear weapons*, when hundreds of Americans did indeed march from California to Washington, DC.



Diane Mather, cellist and a longtime leader of Cleveland PAND, along with three other expert artists, opened the event with works by Beethoven and Dvorak. Francis Chiappa then read excerpts from Nagasaki mayor's 2015 message to PAND. Diane and Francis then offered a riotous duet from Tom Lehrer. Tony Sias then read a bit of weird poetry: *The Spooky Cauldron*, followed by something a lot more serious: excerpts from Obama's 2016 Hiroshima speech.



Francis then encouraged us all to ask Obama to follow through on his promise to make serious progress toward the elimination of all nukes.

Following several more exciting musical interludes performed by Diane, Ioana Missits, Christine Hill, Emma Shook, and Yu Jin, we were treated to a first-person description of the Great Peace March - in stories and song by two of the Cleveland marchers: Doug McWilliams and Jani Wanner.

PAND and CPA will continue to inform the public on the importance of finding the way to complete nuclear disarmament.

It's not too late to call the White House - 202-456-1111.

Tell President Obama: "Live up to the promise of your eloquent speech in Hiroshima and stop the TRILLION dollar modernization of the nuclear arsenal."



Upcoming Events

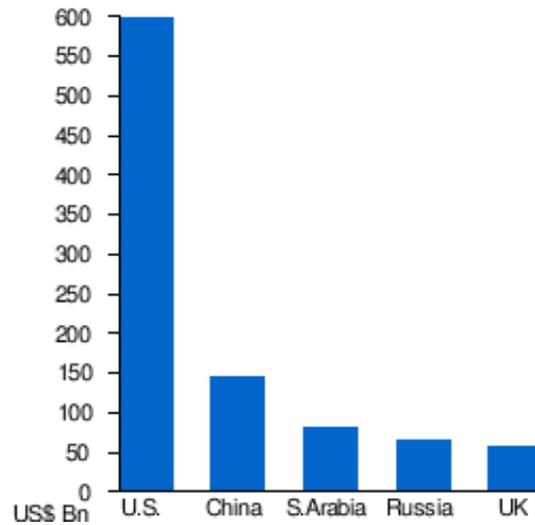
We are planning two **Peace at the Pub** events, each on Tuesday at 7 PM at the Market Garden Brewery on West 25 St. These events have been quite successful, featuring informed speakers and timely topics, along with the opportunity to enjoy a beverage or even a supper. You can park in the free lots behind the West Side Market or take the RTA. Great local beer, eats, and conversation about making a difference in this crazy world.

September 13th

Tristan Rader, Operation Director for the new Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus (CCPC), will address the question "Can foreign policy / peace issues become a major part of a progressive revolution?" CCPC grew out of the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign. How might Cleveland Peace Action and CCPC work together?

October 11th

Frank Joyce, Vietnam era activist and one of the leaders of the 1968 Chicago DNC protests, on the lessons of that era for today's activism. He is a lifelong Detroit based writer and activist. He is co-editor with Karin Aguilar-San Juan of *The People Make The Peace—Lessons From The Vietnam Antiwar Movement*.



Huh?

Top five countries by military expenditure in 2015 (billions of dollars)

Data from SIPRI
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Why? the Military Industrial Complex



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.

Two upcoming Peace at the Pub events

Tuesdays 7 to 9 PM at the
Market Garden Brewery on W 25th St.



September 13th Tristan Rader, Operation Director
for the new Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus (CCPC), will address
the question "Can foreign policy/peace issues become a major part of a
progressive revolution?"

October 11th
Frank Joyce, Vietnam era activist and one of the leaders of the 1968 Chi-
cago DNC protests, on the lessons of that era for today's activism.