



The Cleveland affiliate of National Peace Action, an organization working for more than 50 years to end all war. Peace Action currently has over 100 regional chapters.

April 2015
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www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

WORLDWIDE CALL TO ACTION APRIL 2015



The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will begin on 27 April at the United Nations in New York.

In conjunction with this UN Conference which takes place every five years, activists from around the world will gather in New York for an International Conference April 24-25, followed by a mass rally, march and festival on Sunday, the 26th. Members of hundreds of peace organizations, including Peace Action, will demonstrate in New York and in cities all around the planet for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the United States atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It also marks 45 years since the entry into force of the NPT, in which the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom agreed to undertake good faith negotiations for the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. It is long past time for the world's people to call to account all those who exercise power by threatening nuclear annihilation.

We call upon the parties to the NPT to use the 2015 Review Conference immediately to develop a time-bound framework for negotiating the total ban and elimination of all nuclear arsenals. We call on the four states outside the Treaty that have nuclear arms, India, Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan, to join in any such negotiations, immediately and without delay.

In addition to the activities described above, many others are planned:

- ◇ A 'Global Wave' of symbolic public actions in cities around the world to 'Wave Good-bye to Nuclear Weapons';
- ◇ Nonviolent demonstrations, protest actions and numerous side events to press our demands for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and for economic justice and environmental sustainability;
- ◇ The presentation to the NPT Review Conference of millions of signatures on petitions calling for nuclear weapons abolition;
- ◇ Youth and student organizing; and
- ◇ An Interfaith Service for Nuclear Weapons Abolition.

Check peaceandplanet.org for more information on NY events and peaceactioncleveland.org for info on Cleveland area events.

Climate Change—the Biggest Threat to Peace

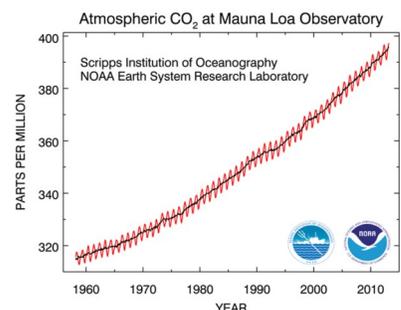
Discussion at CPA Annual Meeting

On February 25th we held our annual supper meeting which featured an informative presentation by David Beach, director of the *GreenCityBlueLake Institute of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History*.

David presented important facts about the science of climate change, climate risks and global security, how must we assign responsibility for the increase of CO₂, what we expect in heat waves and storms, effects on agriculture, ocean life, sea level change. He described biases in interpretation and organized disinformation. How can we change our life styles to cut back on carbon emissions; what changes must industry accept?

Climate change is a major concern of peace groups. One reason is that climate change will create great hardship and thus political instability around the world, making wars more likely. The Pentagon is worried about climate change over the coming decades.

Visit www.gcbl.org/explore/climate



Cleveland Peace Action Representatives, Rosemary Palmer and Lynne Rustad, journeyed to Washington DC in late January for the National Organizers' Meeting and to do some lobbying on Capitol Hill.

It was a lively, informative, and interesting gathering. Not the least of the benefits was the opportunity to meet and greet reps from affiliates around the country for the exchange of information and strategies.

The focus of the meeting this year was on national priorities and tools to implement them. We also had an opportunity to visit Senator Brown's office to deliver petitions in support of a diplomatic approach to resolving the conflict with Iran over nuclear weapons. (Not sure how much credit we can take but he did vote against sanctions shortly thereafter.)

The National Peace Action Key Issues for 2015 are: 1. Fostering Diplomacy with Iran, 2. Move the Money: Reducing the Pentagon Budget (to shift funding to support of local community needs), 3. Abolishing Nuclear Weapons, and 4. Syria, Iraq, and ISIS.

It was clear, though, that affiliates (including ours) weren't limiting themselves to these issues. Interests were considerably broader and included social, civil rights and environmental issues related to peace as well as ongoing problems in the Middle East. A partial list: Money in Politics - "Governing under the Influence;" Gun Control; Militarization of Police; National Security State; Freedom of the Press; Economic Justice -- Raising the

Minimum Wage; Alternatives to Military Recruitment; Guantanamo and Torture; Nuclear Power; Trans-Pacific Partnership; Climate Change; Fundraising for Global Education; Israel/Palestine (coalition with Interfaith Peace Builders); Drones; and Ukraine/Russia.

There was also considerable enthusiasm about a rally planned for April 26 at the UN in New York City called, "Peace and Planet: A Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just, and Sustainable World." The rally will be unique in pulling together groups invested in a wide variety of goals. (*See more on this on page 1.*)

The Cleveland Peace Action Board, at our Annual Planning Meeting on February 7th, began to digest the wealth of information obtained at the National Meetings and to refine our focus on the issues that will be addressed by CPA during the coming year.

Lynne and Rosemary also presented results of the Board Development Committee Survey and discussed implications of the survey for the improvement of Board effectiveness. We hope that some of you will feel moved to join us in study of the issues and local action as we pursue our goals during the coming year. (*see page 7*) Lynne C. Rustad

**I'm gonna skip this page—there is nothing new to read! It's always the same.
Well, maybe, but it's not a "READ"; it's a "DO"! probably the most important page of all!**

Phone calls and letters to Congress have had significant effects on recent issues. The congress-person's staff keeps records of the calls and reports on the numbers of calls and the issues addressed. Phone calls work better than emails. You don't have to prepare a speech for your calls: just be clear and succinct: e.g. "Please vote against unnecessary expensive new military equipment: spend the money on education". "Please support the President and his cabinet in keeping us out of war and in using honest diplomatic efforts to cool things down."

Take this page over to your desk and make a few calls.... Now.... They work!.....Invest 10 minutes in peace.

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
216-522-7095; 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

Cleveland Peace Action and Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund

Co-Presidents Francis Chiappa and Nina McLellan Vice-President Randy Schutt
Secretary Bill Fickinger Treasurer Dena Magoulias 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:

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or

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www.peaceactioncleveland.org

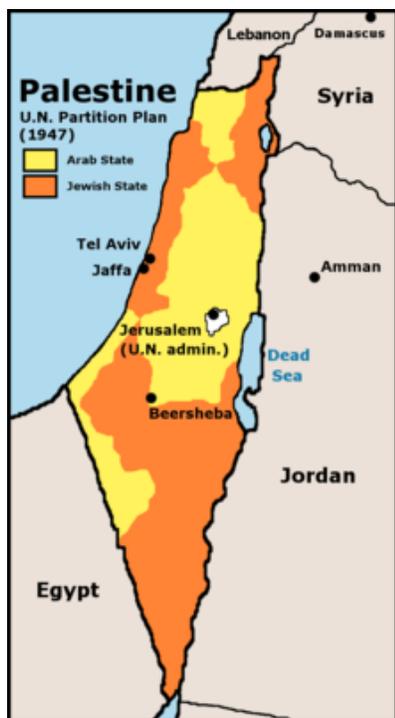
CPA Middle East Committee Hosts Speakers on the Nakba



Two Palestinian speakers drew an overflow crowd at Cleveland Hts./University Hts. Library on March 7th. Dr. Nahida Gordon of CWRU and Abbas Hamideh of Al-Awda (Palestinian Right of Return Coalition) presented their family histories from 1948. Palestinians call 1948 "the Nakba" (catastrophe in Arabic), when over 700,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes, living as refugees ever since.



Both speakers tied their struggle for equality and human rights to those of other victims of injustice. A descendant of Holocaust survivors in the audience said Gordon's photos of Palestinian refugees resembled photos in his own family history when Jews became refugees. Another audience member compared the Nakba to the Native American Trail of Tears. An African American related Palestinian history to Jim Crow and recent events in Ferguson. Hamideh added that Palestinians used social media to advise Ferguson on protecting against tear gas, which Palestinians know very well.



Dr. Gordon began her talk, though, with her happy childhood in Jaffe, before 1948 when Jews, Christians and Muslims lived peacefully together. Her photos of Jaffe showed a modern town for the time, belying myths that Palestine was primitive and devoid of people. But in 1948 Palestinians were forced onto boats by Jewish militias and many drowned at sea. At Hamideh's village of Dier Yasin, there was a massacre by the Stern Gang, led by future Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Most villagers were killed, as documented by Israeli historians like Benny Morris. A map of Israel/Palestine showed the loss of Palestinian land since 1948. Israeli Defense Forces and Jewish settlers control much of the West Bank, shrinking Palestinian areas from a 22% share of the original in 1948 to half that now.

The question came up, "Did God give this land to the Jews?" The answer: the real reason was politics and military force, not religion, as extremists throughout history distort religion to achieve their own ends. Both speakers demanded their "Right of Return" under U.N. Resolution 194, when the U.N. created the state of Israel. Ten to twelve million Palestinians are now permanent refugees in the Middle East and across the globe. What is the solution? No one could say. The speakers agreed the struggle for equal rights and justice on land issues will continue.

Kim Hill

Advocacy Report: Congressional Budget Is in Progress

America enjoys honoring its warriors at every chance, and reveres each returned dead warrior as a hero. But most pay scant attention to the several foreign wars that now rage in our name, or the horrendous cost to America's middle and lower class households.

At this writing, House Republicans have just released their outrageous budget resolution. Congress is gearing up to send yet more of our tax dollars to the Pentagon while domestic programs like food stamps and medicaid face draconian cuts and the super-wealthy may win still more tax breaks.

So more than ever, we Peace Activists must direct the following trenchant questions, every chance we have, by speaking or writing, to everyone we know who may help change directions:

Why can't the Pentagon meet its legitimate goals on its already half-trillion-dollar budget? Why can't the Pentagon undergo the same legitimate audits as other federal departments? Why doesn't it know how many private contractors it has hired? Or how much these have overcharged? Or why so many weapons programs are so far over budget, or in fact have failed?

And why should we continue funding the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter—already \$163 billion over budget, seven years behind schedule, and costing taxpayers about twice as much as sending a man to the moon—when all but the Pentagon and its suppliers agree it is not needed and not working.

There's the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), the Pentagon's private slush fund to which Republicans propose adding another \$40 billion. No funding limits control this pot of war-fighting money, which also outrageously hides base Pentagon military expenditures to avoid spending caps.

Also, the Administration and Congress want a projected \$1 trillion over 30 years to modernize nuclear weapons production and their delivery systems, including some new nuclear

subs, a new long range bomber, and more.

What CPA has been working on:

We actively advocated in support of the negotiations with Iran through alerts, letters to the editor, a PD op-ed by Norman Robbins, and direct contacts with congressional staff. We thank Rep. Fudge for not attending Netanyahu's speech and Sen. Brown for holding firm in support of Iran negotiations while Sen. Portman signed the egregious letter to Iran undermining these delicate negotiations.

What, fellow Peace Activists, can we do?

- **Talk** about the budget and military spending with friends and neighbors .
- **Call** attention to "The People's Budget" submitted by the Congressional Progressive Caucus.
(<http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov/better-off-budget/>).
- **Write** letters to editors. These are read!
- Keep **telling** your congressional reps:
 - "I support the Progressive caucus budget."
 - "I Oppose any increase in wasteful Pentagon spending - like the failed F-35 program."
 - "Don't increase funding for Overseas Contingency Operations. It's a slush fund for the Pentagon."
 - "No more Pentagon funding until an outside audit."
 - "Abolish nuclear weapons; don't modernize them."
 - "Fund America's domestic needs, infrastructure repair, construction employment, the basic health and welfare of the nation."
- Keep **sounding** our basic message of peace: Use America's wealth to create and improve the world. Not destroy it through needless wars.

If you are unsure about the budget process, go to www.nationalpriorities.org/budget-basics

Peace at the Pub

Join us for PEACE @ THE PUB
Tuesday, May 12th, 7pm
Market Garden Brewery
1947 W.25th Street
peaceactioncleveland.org 216.231.4245



Bill Fickinger, secretary of CPA and physics professor emeritus at Case will discuss aspects of nuclear weapons and power production related to the frustrating ongoing negotiations with Iran: how do nukes work, how are they made, how hard is it to make and deliver one.

SAVE THE DATE PAND CONCERT

AUGUST 6
70 YEARS WITHOUT NUCLEAR WAR
PILGRIM CHURCH 2592 WEST 14TH
\$20 IN ADVANCE \$25 AT THE DOOR
WATCH FOR DETAILS.

Thanks to all of you who supported us in 2014. Together we make the difference!

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Nathaniel D. Davis Foundation
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Douglas & Mary Ann Kerr
Susan Helper & Randy Schutt

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Nina McLellan & Walter Nicholes
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CPA's Focus on Issues in 2015 (and an invitation)

Below, you'll find a list of issues that CPA, after careful deliberation, has decided to focus on during the coming year. Some of these (marked with an asterisk) are common goals that we share with National Peace Action. Others are shared by many affiliates across the country, and some are primarily of local or regional concern.

We're eager to have you join us if you find one or more of these issues of particular personal interest. If you have limited time, it might be to attend a lecture, participate in a demonstration or attend "Peace at the Pub." If you can invest more time, we'd be delighted if you'd consider joining one of our working groups, perhaps even lead one. We love the energy and enthusiasm that new folks bring to our organization.

If you would like to join a group, or simply get more information, please contact one of the group leaders listed following each issue. We look forward to hearing from you!

- **Move the Money - Fund Our Communities** The Pentagon budget continues to grow, at the expense of desperately needed health and social programming and infrastructure repair at home. We advocate for defense cuts that would not affect troop safety or benefits but would free up funding for our communities. Nina McLellan <mclellan.nina@gmail.com>, Lynne Rustad <rustadlc@mac.com>
- **Diplomacy with Iran** We oppose imposition of additional sanctions or deadlines and any legislation that threatens the peaceful resolution of conflict with Iran. We call on our representatives to support diplomatic approaches which have proven fruitful in the past. Rosemary Palmer <edufacts@gmail.com>
- **Abolish Nuclear Weapons** The US has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world and they pose a risk even if not deployed. We advocate for reduction of the stockpile and against the Presidents request for "modernization" of the arsenal which, it is estimated, would cost one trillion dollars. Bill Fickinger <wjf@case.edu>, Francis Chiappa <Chiapski@aol.com>
- **Middle East Peace (End Israeli Occupation of Palestine)** We advocate for a sustainable peace with justice in Israel/Palestine by supporting peacemakers in both communities and by pressing for an end to US financial and military aid to the Israeli government until it complies with international law. Jeff Kassouf <jeffk@take1media.com> and Jennifer Blakeney <clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com>
- **Environmental Impact of War** The complex interplay between war and the environment has often been ignored. We advocate for policies that are mindful of this interaction and attend to environmental risk in consideration of defense funding and military intervention.. Dena Magoulias <cmagoulias@hotmail.com>
- **Police Demilitarization** Aggressive police intervention, often prominent in communities of color, has contributed to unnecessary injury and death. We advocate for respectful, humane treatment of citizens by the police and reversal of the trend toward use of equipment and tactics developed for war zones.. Lillian Sharpley <clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com>
- **CPA Youth Project** This project is devoted to the prevention of violence, particularly among our underserved inner city youth. It utilizes educational programs and interventions that promote personal responsibility, empowerment and self-sufficiency. Chantal Dothey <CDothey@gmail.com>

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; under Calendar, look for up-coming events: talks, suppers, demonstrations, tabling, etc.

Remembering Polly Silverman

July 26, 1920 – March 20, 2015

Pauline Silverman was beloved in many roles: wife, mother, loyal friend, librarian, scrabble player and activist. The consummate volunteer and board member, Polly was the backbone of our very busy office staff in the days of the Greater Cleveland Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign and SANE/FREEZE. Articulate, funny, capable and dedicated, she could be counted on to get any job done. In the late 1990's she was instrumental in the resurgence of Cleveland Peace Action, serving on the board until 2005. Polly was also a master of the art of letters to the editor. Frequently published over many decades, she always succeeded in making the point clearly and succinctly, furthering the cause of peace and understanding.

Francis Chiappa and Roni Berenson

Diane Mather

At our annual meeting, we were pleased to honor our long time partner in peace work, Diane Mather, as Volunteer of the Year.



Diane has been the leader of PAND, Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament, over three decades and was pivotal in the rebirth of PAND last year. Her dedication to nuclear disarmament continues as we organize this year's August 6th concert: 70 Years Without Nuclear War.

Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund
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*In this April Newsletter from Cleveland Peace Action
you will find information about
upcoming world-wide efforts
to finally abolish all nuclear weapons,
about our peace related
activities in Cleveland, about our advocacy efforts,
and how you can participate.*

Spring at Last!