



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.

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www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Show Your Support for 2014

More elections for sale. More disenfranchised voters. More gridlock in Washington. With our government paralyzed by partisan battling, it's more important than ever to make our voices heard. With your support, Peace Action speaks out on the inhumanity and futility of war. We speak out against hypocrisy in foreign policy, where our government preaches democracy but doesn't act on these same values. Peace Action speaks for foreign policy that supports self-determination and human rights.

2014 has been a challenging year. Just when it seemed the Pentagon might feel the pain of budget cuts, a new war was initiated. The barbarism of ISIS is abominable, but this war seems as ill-advised as other US adventures in the Muslim world — likely to create more chaos and more enemies instead of sustainable peace.

Here's a summary of our work this year:

- ⇒ **Middle East Peace** - reaching consensus on our own Middle East Policy (see page 5), educating high school students on the subject, screening films, and helping bring Alice Rothchild for the Cleveland premiere of her film "Voices Across the Divide."
- ⇒ **Nuclear Abolition** - organizational support for the revival of Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament and "Brahms Not Bombs," resuming PAND's annual concerts remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- ⇒ **Reducing Military Spending** - working through the Fund Our Communities Coalition, "Slim Down the Pentagon" presentations, Tax Day and Parade the Circle actions, and Ohio-wide "Move the Money" collaboration, focusing on defense facility transition assistance.
- ⇒ **Advocacy** - maintaining relationships with members of Congress, advocating on the above issues, along with support for Iran nuclear negotiation, an end to the Gaza conflagration, and against new war in Iraq and Syria, including DC and local lobby visits with congressional staff, and downtown demonstrations re Gaza and the new Middle East war.
- ⇒ **Peace at the Pub** - a new series of conversations about very serious subjects, in a relaxed setting (see page 6): to be continued in 2015.

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- ⇒ **Programs** on Iran-US-Israel policies, dilemmas in Ukraine and Russia, ISIS, Syria and Iraq, Activism in Difficult Times, plus a monthly book discussion group
- ⇒ **Distributing** “JOIN THE PEACE MOVEMENT” flyers at the Cleveland Air Show, Parade the Circle, and Martin Luther King Holiday events.
- ⇒ **Alternatives to Military Recruitment** - bringing a peace curriculum to local high school students.

We need your support. As always, we count on this year-end appeal, along with the generosity and 100% commitment of our Board of Directors, to sustain us well into the coming year. Please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter to mail in your membership for 2014. Or you can make a secure online donation via PayPal on our website — 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.

Our mission statement frames the task: “To reduce the threat of violence, war and terrorism, working through peaceful, just and democratic means.” *With your membership we are in a stronger position to carry on this work.*

Francis Chiappa and Nina McLellan
CPA co-presidents

WHAT TO CUT?

Here’s a summary of National Peace Action’s recent piece on *Move the Money*:

Many programs are championed by weapons contractors and the right wing who insist they are vital to our security. We insist they are a waste of money and won’t make us safe.

CUT The Lockheed Martin F-35, a single seat single engine fighter jet: the plan is to buy over 2000 planes at over \$200 million each, double original estimates.

CUT Nuclear weapons maintenance and modernization, at a time when nukes should be abolished.

CUT Missile “Defense” systems: none have been shown to work.

CUT the Littoral Combat Ship: (Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics) a controversial and expensive program with enormous cost overruns.

CUT the M1 Abrams tank: 2300 deployed and 3000 in storage.

CUT unnecessary military bases (the military wants to close many, but Congress says NO.)

What do you think?



PHONECALLS TO CONGRESS ARE MORE EFFECTIVE IN INFLUENCING CONGRESSIONAL VOTES THAN EMAILS

PLEASE ADD YOUR VOICE

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

Plain Dealer: The Editor, The Plain Dealer, 1801 Superior Rd., Cleveland OH 44114 letters@plaind.com



To send easy pre-written email messages on key issues and legislation, go to www.peace-action.org, or to Friends Committee on National Legislation, www.capwiz.com/fconl/home

Cleveland Peace Action and Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund

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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

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

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

CPA Advocacy Work: *Take Note*

Nina McLellan, Chair, CPA Advocacy Committee

What to do about ISIS? Another Middle East War?

We demonstrated. On Saturday, September 27th we were on the street at the *Ingenuity Festival*. In partnership with American Friends Service Committee NEO, our message was: “Can’t the US be more inventive and imaginative than again thinking we can bomb our way to peace?”

At the rally, long time member, Stewart Robinson, impersonated Albert Einstein quoting his definition of insanity as “doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result!” And Cleveland Peace Action board member, Rosemary Palmer, laid out alternatives to yet more violence which repeatedly has resulted in devastated countries, dead, injured, and more extreme terrorists: Stop the weapons flow; prioritize diplomacy; re-start UN negotiations; increase humanitarian aid.



We lobbied our Congressmembers to vote against arming and training the “moderate” Syrian rebels: Sen. Rob Portman and Reps David Joyce, and Marcy Kaptur voted for, while Sen. Sherrod Brown and Rep. Marcia Fudge voted against. Thank you Senator Brown and Representative Fudge!

We wrote letters to the Editor: three CPA members had letters published in the Cleveland Plain Dealer forum section.



We went to Washington. Our advocacy chair met with congressional staff in Washington D.C. in mid-October to urge Congressmembers to support a full debate (co-sponsor H.Con.Res. 114), to revoke the original 2001-2 *Authorization for Use of Military Force*, and to consider the important role Iran might play in working toward a political settlement.

Will the Iran nuclear negotiations achieve a landmark settlement?

As of this writing, the **deadline** for reaching an agreement is November 24. We hear real progress has been made, but the most difficult issues are still unresolved. If a deal is reached, will Congress support or sabotage? They will have to pass legislation to lift some sanctions. Our voices for diplomacy and peace will be needed more than ever. We can point to gains already achieved through diplomacy: more inspectors and some deactivated nuclear facilities.

CWRU Political Science Professor Peter Moore, who helped lead the discussion at our October Peace@The Pub event, said that **if** the Administration can come to an agreement with Iran, it will be as significant as Nixon going to China.



Meet the members of our newly expanded Advocacy Committee:

Janet Loehr (a member of the Middle East Peace Committee), Rosemary Palmer (special interest in Iraq-Syria), Norman Robbins (long champion of negotiations with Iran), Lynne Rustad (dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons), and new board member and long time peace worker Mark Weber.

Cleveland Peace Action Policy on Middle East Peace

Peace Action has long struggled with one of the most contentious issues of our time - the conflict in Israel and Palestine. In August, after literally years of internal discussion, the Boards of Cleveland Peace Action/Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund approved by consensus a *Policy on Middle East Peace*, which we are pleased to present to you now.

Cleveland Peace Action promotes sustainable peace with justice in Israel/Palestine by supporting:

- ◇ Peacemakers in both communities;
- ◇ An end to violence by all parties and ceasefire by both sides;
- ◇ An end to U.S. military aid to the Israeli government and other human rights abusing Middle East regimes, as long as they are not in compliance with international law.
- ◇ An end to the siege of Gaza and the occupation of West Bank and recognition by all parties of their right to exist;
- ◇ The boycott of products produced in Israeli settlements and divestment from companies that benefit from the occupation/siege of Palestinian territories;
- ◇ Israel and all Palestinian factions to directly negotiate a long-term peace agreement that would allow all sides to prosper.

Reader Reaction to CPA's earlier 'Statement On Gaza'

In our September newsletter we published a "Statement On Gaza", which we had delivered to Senators Brown and Portman. We had demonstrated at their offices in response to mounting civilian casualties and devastation of Gaza. Peace groups across the US were demonstrating. Our statement, which echoed national calls to action, concentrated on the impact of the long-time blockade and the invasion of Gaza.

We included the Statement in the newsletter to go with photos of our demonstrations in downtown Cleveland. The policy printed above had not yet been finalized. The Statement drew strong criticism from one former and one current Board member. They argued that it was one-sided in blaming Israel without reference to the behavior of Hamas, its political aims, aggressive actions, and partial responsibility for the conflict.

That is true. We were trying to focus our Senators' attention on the urgent need for a ceasefire, an end the blockade, and an end our government's unconditional support of Israel.

We hope our readers will accept our carefully considered consensus Policy on Middle East Peace as the best representation of where we stand on this contentious issue.

Alice Rothchild Gives Voice to the Palestinian Experience

Cleveland was privileged to host Dr. Alice Rothchild for three days in early November. She spoke at multiple venues each day, but the centerpiece was the Cleveland premiere of her film, *Voices Across the Divide*, at Cinematheque. This powerful film presents the personal stories of Palestinian families displaced in the 1948 “Nakba,” or Catastrophe. In Rothchild’s words: “The film follows my personal journey as I begin to understand the Palestinian narrative, while exploring the Palestinian experience of loss, occupation, statelessness, and immigration to the U.S.”



The film is narrated by Dr. Rothchild, an American Jew raised on the tragedies of the Holocaust and the dream of a Jewish homeland in Israel. She is co-founder and co-chair of American Jews for a Just Peace-Boston, is on the coordinating committee of Jewish Voice for Peace Boston, and has organized annual health and human rights delegations to Israel and Palestine since 2003, lecturing widely, and writing two books. She is now retired from clinical medical practice and is a full-time activist.

The Jewish cultural narrative, strongly shaped by the Holocaust, is well known to Americans. The defining Palestinian story of exodus is every bit as important to their experience as the Holocaust is for Jews. Yet it remains hidden to both Americans and Israelis. If we hope to have peace, both narratives must be heard deeply and taken to heart. *Voices Across the Divide* is a step in that direction. As such, this film deserves a much wider audience. (If you would like to organize a showing, contact us: we can lend you a DVD of the film and perhaps send a moderator.)



Rothchild’s visit was sponsored by Partnership For Peace in the Middle East, a collaboration of Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund, Interfaith Council for Peace in the Middle East, and Interfaith Peace Builders, Ohio.

Peace at the Pub— War, What Is It Good For?

The second of our series took place in October at the Market Garden Brewery. A large number of Peace Action supporters came to hear a talk by Prof. Pete Moore of CWRU Department of Political Science. Pete’s research interests focus on economic development and state-society relations in the Middle East and Africa: a particularly appropriate subject for this time of turmoil in Syria and Iraq.



The series will continue next spring. Watch our website for information.



Middle East Peace Committee to Sponsor an Event in January

“1948--A STORY OF LOSS”

Two Palestinian-American speakers will recall their personal family stories in 1948, related to the cities of Jaffe and Deir Yassin. Palestinians term the events of 1948 “The Nakba”, Arabic for "catastrophe".

Dr. Nahida Gordan, Ph.D., professor emerita of bioethics at the CWRU School of Medicine, is a member of the Interfaith Council for Peace in the Middle East. Her family was forced to depart from Jaffe in 1948. She and her husband, Donald, helped lead the campaign in the national Presbyterian Church for divestment from corporations which profit from the Occupation in the West Bank.

Abbas Hamideh is the local president of Al-Awda, a national organization which champions the Right of Return for Palestinians.

There will be ample time at the end for Q and A, including new strategies for CPA to work toward peace in the Middle East.

Sponsored by CPA's Middle East Peace Committee.

The **proposed** time and location
2 to 4 PM, January 17th,
at Cleveland Heights Library on Lee Road.

(To verify, check www.peaceactioncleveland.org
in January.)
Free and open to the public

Next April: Global Nuclear Weapons ACTION

70 years ago American scientists and engineers began the development of weapons which today are capable of annihilating life on Earth. While today we use the most advanced technology in efforts to detect life on other planets, we continue to develop technology which can remove Earth from that list. In 1945, the US used two bombs, a thousand times more powerful than TNT. World War II ended, and most of the physicists and engineers returned to their universities to work on other things.

As tensions built up between the West and the USSR, both sides began to develop more sophisticated nukes, a million times more powerful than TNT! The warheads were placed on missiles, planes and submarines. By 1985 seven countries had nuclear weapons, with a total of over 60,000 warheads in their stockpiles. All along, reasonable people asked how long the buildup could continue before nukes were used, either by accident or on purpose. There was no way that nukes could be un-invented.

As early as 1963, efforts had been made to get things under control, first with a partial test ban forbidding above ground or undersea tests (ratifiers included US and USSR). It took another 33 years to get to a comprehensive test ban in 1996. Even today, eighteen years later, that treaty has not been ratified by the US, China, and six other nuclear nations: as a result, it is NOT in effect.

In his speech in Prague in 2009, Obama announced that “[To] achieve a global ban on nuclear testing, my administration will immediately and aggressively pursue U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. After more than five decades of talks, it is time for the testing of nuclear weapons to finally be banned..”

Here we are, 5 years later and the CTBT has not been ratified. Given the paralysis in Washington, it is unlikely to be ratified anytime soon.

But there has been some real progress, even more important than a test ban: in 2010, Russia and the US agreed to major reductions in the size of their stockpiles. Surprisingly (perhaps miraculously), the New START Treaty was ratified, 76 to 21 in the Senate. As a result, the number of “deployed” warheads (on missiles, submarines, bombers) as of September 2014 is down to about

1640 on each side.

Most of the resistance to getting rid of all nukes comes from those who say that the “other side” might maintain a secret program. The good news is that in today’s world, with everyone spying on everyone else, it would be impossible to keep such a secret.

The planet still has a long and difficult way to go: making further cuts, taking nukes off high alert, continuing disassembly of out-of-date warheads, discontinuing the “modern-ization” of the stockpile.

**Is there any way
to speed up this process?**

Yes, and it must happen soon, in 2015 !

Next April, the *Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference*, which takes place every five years, will be convened at the United Nations in New York City. An international conference on peace, justice and the environment is being planned for the same time. For example, on April 26th, there will be a major march to the United Nations by peace activists. There will be non-violent protests in capitals around the world.

A network of international non-governmental organizations will take the lead in these events, by presenting a petition, with millions of signatures, calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In the coming months, we shall hear much more about the *International Planning Group for the 2015 NPT Review Mobilization: For Abolition, Climate and Justice*. National Peace Action is one of the organizers and leaders of the group, which also includes American Friends Service Committee, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Earth Action, Mayors for Peace, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, World Council of Churches, and many more. There will be events, world-wide, similar to recent climate change demonstrations – and Cleveland Peace Action will work as hard as it can to get the word out to the community:

Nuclear weapons must be abolished! Join us.

Bill Fickinger CPA Secretary

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**Here is your
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