

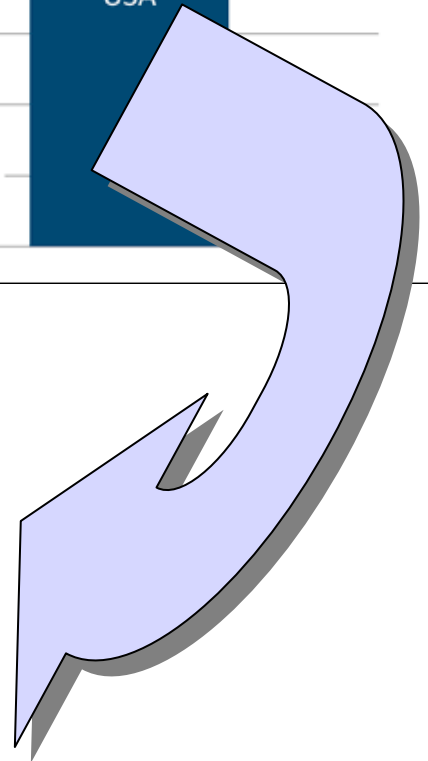
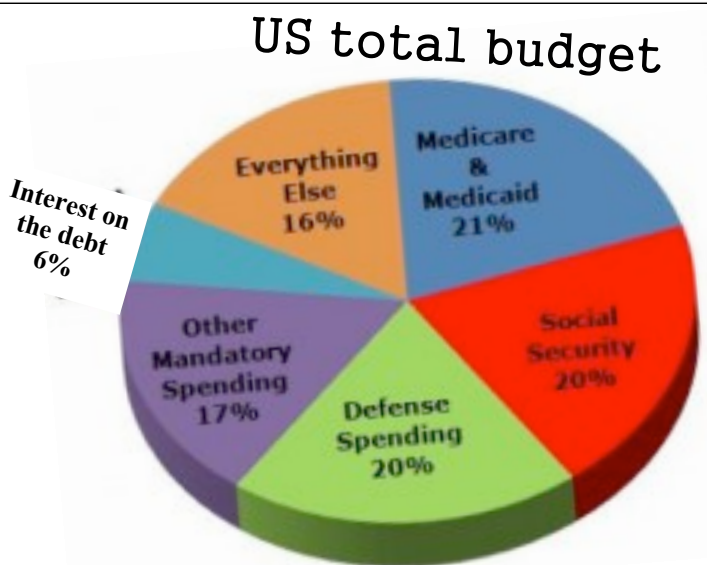
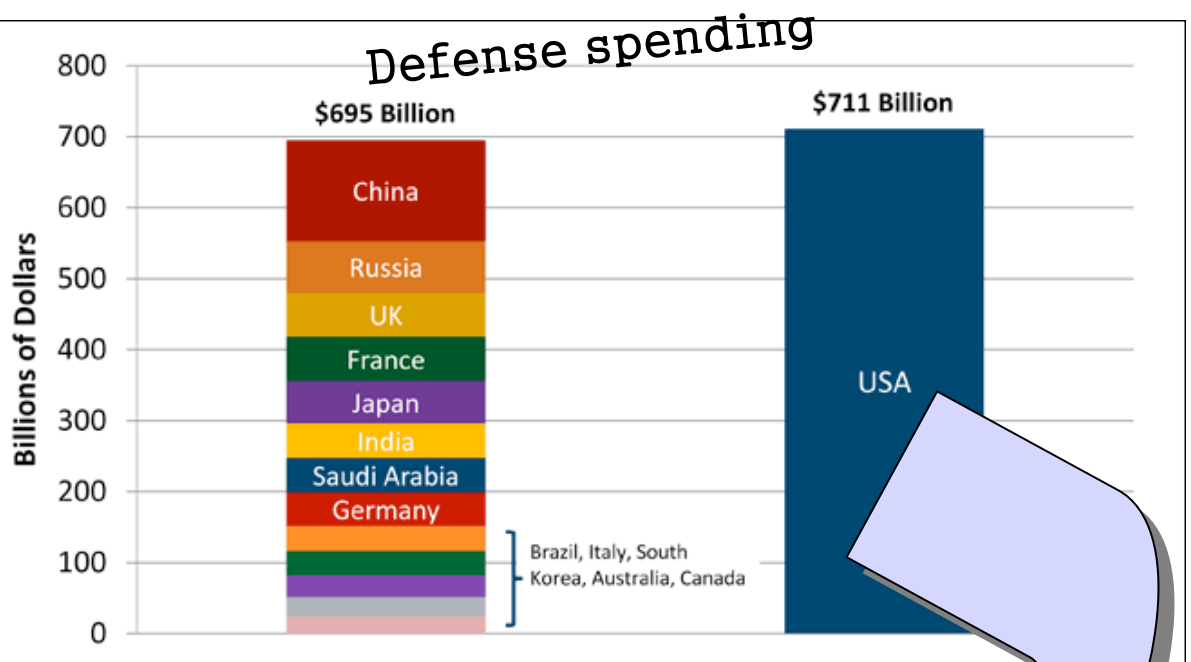


March 2013
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www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

Isn't it great to be so rich that we can spend more than all those foreign countries to protect ourselves from them!



CPA Advocacy Action

At a Feb.20th press conference on the federal budget, Nina McLellan joined Amy Hanauer, Director Policy Matters Ohio, and Harriet Applegate, Executive Secretary, North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor, to demand "No Cuts!" to existing social programs. Nina's remarks follow.

Good afternoon. I'm Nina McLellan, Co-president of Cleveland Peace Action, a member of the NO CUTS Coalition, and I want to tell you how and why we can safely slim down the Pentagon spending.

Congress should close additional tax loopholes, but their focus now is to cut spending. While they may let sequestration happen, eventually they must reach a budget compromise. Without raising more revenue significantly, they have only two choices: either cut programs vital to the 99% of us – or cut Pentagon runaway spending.

Over half of any cuts should come from the Pentagon budget. The Pentagon has the highest budget in real dollars since World War II, almost doubling in the last 10 years! Without including Afghanistan and Iraq war costs, the Pentagon budget since 2000 grew three times the rate of domestic programs.

We can't protect essential programs without shutting down the Pentagon's apparently insatiable budget appetite. But across the board cuts are not the way. Sensible, strategic reductions that, as much as possible, protect veterans, active duty personnel, and civilian jobs...these are the reductions supported by most Americans and recommended by experts across the political spectrum. Start with Pentagon waste and fraud. In one year, the Pentagon lost, wasted and misspent more than the total budgets of 5 other federal departments, an estimated \$102 billion! It is the only department which is not, and cannot be, audited.

Using our tax dollars, the richest defense contractors lobby Congress to protect their billion-dollar contracts, special tax loopholes and excessive compensation. The top 5 CEO defense contractor annual salaries averaged \$21.5 million in 2011 - higher than almost any Wall Street executive. And we must also cut back costly overseas bases, private mercenaries, and outdated weapons programs. There's plenty more. Did you know, for example, that the Pentagon spends over \$500 million a year on military music alone? Finally, contrary to statements by military contractors, the job loss and economic impact is far greater from domestic cuts, compared to cuts in military spending.



Long-time CPA member, Norm Robbins, comments on the dangers of Senate Resolution 65 which was recently co-sponsored by both Ohio Senators: Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, as well as a related bill before the House of Representatives.

When powerful senators from both parties officially announce that the US should back Israel in the event of an ill-conceived attack on Iran, it undermines ongoing diplomatic efforts and normalizes the idea of bombing Iran. It totally disregards American and Israeli intelligence that Iran is not working now on a nuclear weapon, and green-lights Prime Minister Netanyahu's apocalyptic dream of attacking Iran in "self-defense", even though he is opposed by most Israeli military and intelligence leaders. As Senator Graham said about this Resolution which he co-authored: "If Israel acts in its own defense — even preemptively — we will support Israel economically, diplomatically, and politically."

An attack on Iran would be shortsighted and tragic. Let your senators know you're not going to sit back quietly while they take us on a path toward war. Tell Senators Brown and Portman (202-224-3121) they have no right to let Israel decide whether America is economically ruined or whether its military should be put in harm's way.

There is a similarly inappropriate bill being considered by the House of Representatives. HR850 recklessly seeks to create an artificial "red line" for military action against Iran. It does so by seeking to force the Obama Administration to shift from a policy predicated on the declaration that Iran will not be permitted to obtain a nuclear weapon, to one predicated on a declaration that Iran will not be permitted to obtain nuclear weapons *capability*. This vague formulation, which has been previously promoted in Congress and was rejected by leading American security experts - clearly seeks to lower the bar for war. HR850 also increases sanctions which will disproportionately harm ordinary Iranians, and further complicate meaningful negotiations.

(In part, excerpted from Americans for Peace Now, and Peace Action West)

and finally, a **note to of thanks** to Elliott Berenson and East Shore Unitarian Universalist members Ron Prosek, Barbara Mallin, Jim Rittenhouse, Jerol Kennedy and Rus Stanton for participating in our introductory lobby visit with Representative David Joyce's District Manager Nick Ciofani, on February 15.



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and Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund**

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

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Senator Rob Portman 202-224-3353; 338 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510
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The long slow trip to ZERO 75 years of suicidal foolishness

It was just about 75 years ago that physicists discovered that a rare type of uranium will break up and release a lot of energy when its nucleus is hit by a neutron. This could be used to produce electricity. But there's more to the story: when the nucleus breaks up, it shoots out other neutrons, which can then break up other nuclei. Fantastic! This chain reaction might be used to make a bomb, a *thousand* times more powerful than TNT.

An army of physicists and engineers, many of whom had escaped from Hitler's horrors, teamed up to build a bomb. By the time one was ready, Germany had surrendered. It will be argued forever whether nukes should have been used against Japan, or if a demonstration detonation might have brought about an equally quick surrender. (How would the European war have ended if the bombs were ready a year sooner?)

Some of the researchers moved on to design reactors for electric power; most returned to their university labs and classrooms; others couldn't resist building bigger bombs, even a *million* times more powerful than TNT. The nuclear weapons industry was born, financed by the government in the belief that the US would be impregnable. Many of the "fathers of the bomb," expressed great concern over this expansion, organizing **groups which continue today to seek a ban on all such weapons.**

The USSR soon caught up with the US, and a decades-long race was on. By 1986, the US had 23 thousand warheads and the USSR about 41 thousand. That each side had enough to obliterate the other was known as **MAD** – mutual assured destruction. Some in Washington tried to sweeten the terrifying situation by announcing "**Atoms for Peace**", spreading reactor technology around, promising cheap electricity for the entire world. The teetering balance of MAD was soon undone with the arrival of anti-ballistic-missiles – **ABM**'s. The Cold War became more unpredictable, as neither side had any assurance of "winning".

A series of treaties starting in the 1960's began to reduce the threat: the **SALT** strategic arms limitation treaties stipulated maximum numbers of delivery vehicles; the **NPT** non-proliferation treaty got most non-nuclear countries to promise to stay that way; the **CTBT** (comprehensive test ban treaty) - *still awaiting US ratification*) has been debated for 16 years. In 2010, Obama and Medvedev signed the **New Start Treaty** which greatly cuts the allowed numbers of delivery vehicles and warheads (around 1500 warheads, drastically down from the 20-30 thousand of 20 years ago).

Nevertheless, the industry persists today. Given the size of the stockpile, the expensive ongoing US program does nothing to increase the safety of the country. An obvious objective is support for industries in certain congressional districts. Who should be in charge of the program: DOE, DOD, Congress? Might it be better to turn to technical, scientific and diplomatic experts? How much money should be spent to maintain this program? Other than keeping the stockpile safe, including *disassembly* of US and Russian weapons, and global monitoring of all nuclear programs, why spend more money on a program that makes the planet less safe?

How do we get out of this mess? If each nuclear or would-be nuclear state believes that it needs these weapons as insurance against attack, then the planet needs a general insurance policy covering all nations. Every nation must allow continuous inspections by an expanded **International Atomic Energy Agency**. The original five "nuclear states" must agree to provide protection for all the other countries.

Since the processing of uranium for power reactors is easily extended to that for bombs, all enrichment facilities must be monitored. New laser techniques for enrichment which can be easily concealed must be stopped.

The next step is the *discontinuation of all* uranium processing: shutting down *all* reactors and bomb programs. While this sounds improbable, it is worth thinking about. The value of the nuclear power industry is currently in question: most reactors are old and many insufficiently maintained; problems with the disposal of radioactive waste have not been resolved. Wind and solar energy technologies are developing rapidly. The planet can get along just fine without *any* uranium technology. Let us make sure that it will not take a nuclear war or dreadful accident to convince us to go there.



Is this our future?

Bill Fickinger - Cleveland Peace Action

Cleveland Peace Action, Alternatives to Military Recruitment Committee

Peace Studies at MLK

Elisa Bredendiek, under contract to the Alternatives to Military Recruitment (AMR) Committee of Cleveland Peace Action, has been working at Martin Luther King High School since September of 2012. She feels blessed to teach a 90-minute block class to juniors titled "Peace Studies." Martin Luther King High School is currently the only Cleveland public high school that offers peace studies as an elective.

Her class combines theory about domestic and international politics with hands-on community involvement. Students study concepts such as racism, poverty, the military industrial complex, non-violence, mediation, and peace advocacy. Their community activities include sending books to local prisoners, writing letters on behalf of a campaign against child soldiers, providing food and support to the homeless, hosting peace jams (they had 350 people in the auditorium this winter), and hearing guest speakers from SOA Watch, Veterans for Peace, and other community partners. By getting involved in community activities, the students learn that building peace requires personal commitment and action.

This spring will be equally busy as the students are currently in the process of applying for summer jobs and internships. They also plan to attend Earth Fest, the Cleveland Film Festival, and Parade the Circle. If you are interested in joining them for any of these upcoming activities, feel free to contact Elisa at: elisabredendiek@hotmail.com



Cleveland Peace Action, Middle East Peace Committee

Mission Statement

After thorough discussion, the following Mission Statement was finally approved by the CPA Middle East Peace Committee on December 20, 2012, and recommended to the Board of Cleveland Peace Action, which approved it on February 11, 2013.

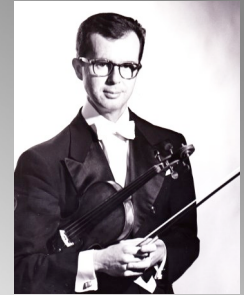
The mission of the Cleveland Peace Action Middle East Peace Committee is to educate the public on issues about the Palestinian/Israeli and other related regional conflicts, and to promote the urgent need for a just and peaceful resolution that assures human rights as defined by international law, economic opportunity, democracy, mutual security, and an end to military attacks and occupation. To that end, we present public programs, panel discussions, films, and speakers as well as engage in agreed upon advocacy and work with other groups that share our concerns. We value and respect diverse perspectives and opinions directed toward these goals.

A pillar of the peace movement

Gino Raffaelli

June 3, 1925 – January 10, 2013

From the early days of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze in 1982, Gino was there. He helped found Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament in 1984 and was its only President. PAND did many things but the centerpiece was a grand concert every August to remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Plain Dealer dubbed him "Cleveland's peace impresario."



As a musician, Gino worked tirelessly for peace by sharing his artistic and organizing talents to move us deeply, through the universal language of music. PAND also raised vital funds in support of Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund and many other worthy peace, anti-war and non-violence causes.



Peace was not Gino's only political passion. As a Cleveland Orchestra violinist for 44 years, he was also a union organizer, instrumental in founding the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians in 1962. For bringing fair labor practices to his brothers and sisters, Gino was moved permanently to Second Violin by conductor George Szell.

Gino's dedication and energy was an example for us all. He was fully engaged, even for last August's concert, as his health was failing.

Cleveland Peace Action gratefully salutes Gino Raffaelli and the hundreds of talented musicians he recruited, organized and inspired over so many years, and who, in turn, inspired us. He was a pillar of the peace movement who will be missed and long remembered.

Elizabeth's Wish List

We keep overhead low, so that we can spend our money on the issues. Can you help out by donating any of the following? Copy paper, Pens, Pencils, Steno pads or legal pads, Paper towels, 6'x3' folding table, milk crates, rubber bins with lids, manila envelopes, speakers for a PC, AA batteries.

Volunteering CPA has one part-time staffer and lots of work to be done. We need help to get the work done. Here are a few ways you can spend a small amount of time and make a big impact:

- Staff a festival table for two hours this summer. We will be at places like Earth Fest, the Tremont Arts Festival, etc. We'll have fair trade goods and information to share with festival attendees. Help out at the table and then enjoy the rest of the day at the festival.
- Fundraising/Grant seeking – If you have a fundraising idea you think may work for us, or if you are willing to spend some time on line identifying grants for which we could be eligible, let us know.
- Phone calls. Two or three times a year we make phone contact with members. We need people who can commit to calling a dozen people on the list 3 times a year.
- Identify venues for our Middle East and Move the Money programs. Places like church groups, libraries etc. If some place immediately comes to mind that would work for these programs or if you are able to spend some time looking into this, it would be invaluable to us.

If you would like to donate items or volunteer in any capacity, please call Elizabeth Schiros @ 216.231.4245 or email clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com.

Sincere thanks to our supporters.
We can't do it without you.



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Don't forget, TAX DAY will be Monday, April 15th.

For many years, Cleveland Peace Action has participated in demonstrations and other public actions related to the national budget, and how it must be brought under control.

Watch for an email from CPA or check www.peaceactioncleveland.org to learn what our plans are this year. We hope that you will join us. It is always fun.

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