



April 2016  
Volume 12 Issue 1

[www.peaceactioncleveland.org](http://www.peaceactioncleveland.org)

# Cleveland Peace Action

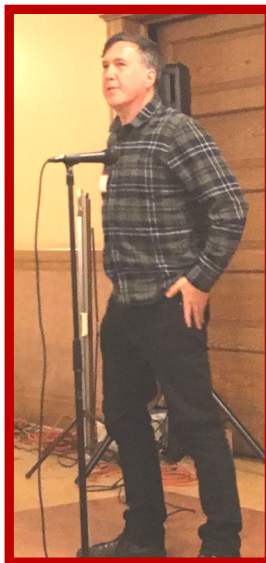
## Who was our guest speaker and why did he come to Cleveland?

The Republican National Convention will take place in Cleveland, starting on July 18th. The city will be flooded by delegates, world-wide media, curious tourists, and lots of Americans with opinions on the outcome of the event. As we learned from our guest, Kris Hermes, there are many issues which will be addressed by demonstrators on all sides, including local groups such as Cleveland Peace Action. It is for this reason that we joined with other organizations in inviting Mr. Hermes to Cleveland to share his extensive experience related to past demonstrations, how they were pursued by local citizens, and how they were addressed by local authorities.

Hermes, author of "Crashing the Party: Lessons & Legacies from the RNC 2000", is a Bay Area-based activist who has worked for nearly thirty years on social justice issues. He has been an active, award-winning legal worker, member of the National Lawyers Guild, and part of numerous law collectives and legal support efforts over the years. That explains his visit this election year to Cleveland. At our annual meeting, and at a meeting with representatives of a variety of political action groups held a few days later, Mr. Hermes discussed such issues as legal resistance, political and re-

pressive policing models, contemporary political repression and collective resistance.

It is not surprising that the local authorities, along with the FBI and CIA, are making plans for the Cleveland RNC: deciding where demonstrators will be allowed to gather, what levels of enthusiasm are beyond acceptable limits, what crowd-control equipment should be purchased, and even more disturbing, what individuals and groups should be monitored as plans are made for demonstrations. At past events, many demonstrators have been detained, arrested, and even locked up for significant times, without the ability to reach out for legal assistance.



Mr. Hermes explained issues such as getting permits in advance, how organizers must avoid being targeted. How a "Jail Support Team" should track arrests throughout jail-stays, so no individual is forgotten and left to indefinite detention or unpayable bails. He stressed the importance of how the media describe the efforts of the activists and the reactions of the law enforcers.

Cleveland Peace Action thanks Kris Hermes for his work, and requests that the federal, state, and city authorities overseeing the RNC should respect the rights of well-behaved demonstrators at this historic event. **The world's eyes are upon Cleveland. Let's show how democracy works!**

Bill Fickinger

## Souvenirs from our 2016 Annual Meeting

On March 16th, we gathered at Pilgrim Church for our annual meeting. About fifty members enjoyed a great pot-luck supper; voted to approve the election of the five members of the Executive Committee; elected the nine other members of the Board (listed on page 3); celebrated the selection of our long-time activist member, Janet Loehr, as this year's volunteer honorée; thanked Doug Kerr for his many years of work on the Middle East Committee; and were fascinated and deeply impressed by the presentation of our invited speaker, Kris Hermes. (see first page)



The welcome table



Sharon Bennett  
Membership



New board members:  
Shirien Muntaser,  
Carla Carter Lovejoy,  
and Don Bryant.



Doug Kerr, Francis Chiappa,  
2016 Honoree Janet Loehr, and  
Nina McLellan

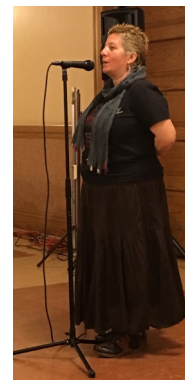
Janet Loehr was honored for her commitment to peace and particularly her invaluable contributions to the Middle East Peace Committee.



*Vote on how to spend  
your taxes*



Lynne Rustad, Board  
Development,  
MTM-FOC



Elizabeth Schiros, adminis-  
trator, coordinates almost all  
our operations: meetings,  
mailings, volunteers, etc.



**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 Rosemary Palmer  
Secretary Bill Fickinger Treasurer Dena Magoulas Coordinator Elizabeth Schiros

#### **Other Board Members**

Sharon Bennett, Don Bryant, Carla Carter Lovejoy, Chantal Dothey, Jeff Kassouf,  
Shirien Muntaser, Toni Rozsahegyi, Lynne Rustad, Randy Schutt

## **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](http://www.peaceactioncleveland.org)**





# Reports from our Committees, etc.

## *Move the Money - Fund Our Communities Action Group*

Nina McLellan and Lynne Rustad, co-chairs

Our 15 member team works to increase public pressure for reduced military spending by at least 25% and in support of the People's Budget. We are also exploring how to gain more attention to and funding for our neglected neighborhoods vs downtown projects and development. Twenty Organizations have joined the Fund Our Communities Coalition and lend their name and support in this work.

Here's what we do:

- Distribute an effective new MTM flyer.
- Promote and present our power point presentation -- most recently at an April 12 Peace@thePub.
- Organize public support for the Congressional Progressive Caucus' People's Budget: Prosperity Not Austerity, including asking selected city councils to pass our draft resolution.
- Take our "How do you want your tax dollars spent" poll to area college campuses.
- Organize tax day actions.

In coordination with CPA's advocacy team, we lobby our congress members to:

- Vote for the People's Budget
- Cut funding for nuclear weapons modernization - co-sponsor the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act a bill that would save taxpayers approximately \$100 billion over ten years by scaling down, delaying, or canceling a variety of obsolete nuclear weapons programs.
- Reduce/eliminate the Overseas Contingency Fund (OCO) war funding slush fund
- Cut funding for the F-35

*If you want to help, contact Nina:*

[mclellan.nina@gmail.com](mailto:mclellan.nina@gmail.com)



## *CPA Prepares for the RNC*

CPA board members Sharon Bennett, Don Bryant, Chantal Dothey, Nina McLellan and Toni Roszahegyi are active participants in activist planning for the Republican National Convention to take place in Cleveland July 18-23. There will be huge attention to what is taking place and a great opportunity to promote our peace and justice messages.

These are in the planning stage:

1. A March for Economic Justice - End Poverty Now to take place on Monday, the first day of the convention. Larry Bresler, Organize Ohio organizes the planning. A march permit has been submitted to the City. The ACLU and Ohio Lawyer's Guild are partnering with us.
2. The People's Peace and Justice Convention the weekend before the RNC starts.
3. Real Neighborhoods of Cleveland tours: Cleveland Non-violence Network and AFSC are the convention and tour conveners.

In addition to bringing in Kris Hermes, (see page 1) we've helped develop a sign-on letter of concerns and organized a March 21st press conference calling for transparency, citizen input and Cleveland City Council passage of our demilitarization resolution. Toni Roszahegyi has also submitted a request for information about what crowd control equipment is being purchased.



CPA joined several other groups for a televised press conference on the steps of Cleveland City Hall. The topic concerned preparations for security at the Republican National Convention, and the appropriate treatment of demonstrators. The photo shows Jacqueline Greene, esq. from National Lawyers Guild speaking to the reporters.

Toni Roszahegyi, Chair of CPA, Police De-militarization Action Group, was a speaker and, with Don Bryant and Nina McLellan. CPA was a key organizer of the press conference, which was supported by over 20 organizations. Speakers included representatives of the ACLU, Ohio Chapter National Lawyers Guild, NAACP, Black on Black Crime, and Cleveland Action. Toni has submitted, in our name, a de-militarization resolution which we urge Cleveland City Council to pass, and equipment records request to the Mayor's office.

**OUTREACH:**

*CPA has invited the Cleveland community to join us in visiting the Islamic Center of Cleveland. Through better knowledge and deeper understanding, we hope to counter growing Islamophobia. We were pleased to meet Shirien Muntaser, who has agreed to join our Board. Shirien will help us reach out to the local Muslim community which is under great pressure caused by the multifaceted crises in the Middle East.*

*Shirien has described the most basic goals of Cleveland Peace Action in the form of a poem, which begins thusly:*

**COMMENCING PEACE:THE NEW ERA:THE GOLDEN MEAN**

In A Day And Age Of Self-Righteousness,  
 Let Us Not Forget Man Can Not Stand Alone  
 My intent is only to deliver truth from the depth of my being  
 For the reverence of mankind  
 To the people of hatred who walk blindly in this world  
 Their eyes covered with delusions of genocide  
 Raising their fists of intolerance  
 Towards innocent men, women, and children  
 Let it be known: The Dawn Of A New Era Has Begun!

*Shirien continues, in subsequent verses, to express our principles, our goals, our passions.*

*The entire poem can be viewed on our website:*

*[www.peaceactioncleveland.org/shirien-muntaser](http://www.peaceactioncleveland.org/shirien-muntaser)*

**Some Comments on the FY17 Federal Budget**

President Obama released his last budget in February. Unfortunately, he continues to fund the insane "modernization" of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems that will cost us, the taxpayers, a staggering **ONE TRILLION** dollars over thirty years.

That's **\$100 million wasted every day** for thirty years on weapons we are supposed to be getting rid of. That's enough to send nine million young Americans to a university for four-years.

There's more money requested for the "emergency" war fund with money directed to increased military actions in Lybia, war equipment for eastern European NATO countries and for anti-ISIS action.

Over the next few months these issues will come up in the Presidential debates and in Congressional actions on the budget. Republicans will likely cut human needs programs while increasing Pentagon spending on nuclear weapons.

We must support the  
 Congressional Progressive Caucus' People's Budget  
*Prosperity Not Austerity; Invest in America!*

**News from National Peace Action**

As of April first, Peace Action and Peace Action West are a single non-profit entity following a vote of national membership. Affiliates like ours participate in bi-weekly conference calls to keep abreast of what is happening on our priority issue areas and to coordinate our work. National's annual organizer meeting will be held May 23 and 24 with a lobby day on the 25th. We've already had a chance to review draft national campaign plans for Nuclear Weapons abolition, Iran, Move-the-Money, and Syria/Iraq/ISIS. Peace Action has convened working groups on these issues with other national organizations.



## An Unforgettable Film

Last December, CPA sponsored the World Premier showing of a mind-blowing film: **Ghost Town: the Hebron Story** at the new Cleveland Cinematheque at the Cleveland Institute of Art. The event was hosted by John Cameron Ewing, director of the Cinematheque.

The film was introduced by its creator, Ellie Bernstein, and the audience of 145 was able to participate in a spirited Q&A discussion with her, and several special guests, including:

- \* Kathy Manley- Muslim Solidarity Committee-Project Salam
- \* Rev. Alan D. Kinney, Schenectady Chair of the Boycott Committee
- \* Jane Toby-Member of MECR-Mideast Crisis Response, Women in Black
- \* Dominick Casolaro, former Albany Common Council
- \* Mia Morosoff, member, Jewish Voice for Peace

After many trips to Israel and the West Bank, filmmaker Ellie Bernstein wanted to tell the story of Hebron, Palestine to show the result of the over 40-year Israeli military occupation on a historically important city for Muslims, Jews and Christians. The film reveals real relationships between the Settlers, Palestinians and Israeli Army.

Coming in May:

## The Amazing Story of the First Peace Ship—the Golden Rule

Peace@thePub Tuesday May 10th at 7 PM

Dr. AJ (Skip) Oliver tells the story of how Veterans for Peace found and rebuilt the Golden Rule, the feisty little sailing ketch that in 1958 ignited the movement to stop atmospheric nuclear testing.

Skip was the first mate on the 2015 voyage off the California Coast.  
Fun, prizes and a pub quiz along with good food and local beer.  
Market Garden Brewery 1947 W. 25th St

## Have you checked out our newly improved website?

[peaceactioncleveland.org](http://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.



Thanks to all of you who supported us in 2015.  
We can't do it without you.

One thousand dollars or more:

Francis Chiappa & Dorene Davis  
Nathaniel D. Davis Foundation  
William J. Fickinger  
Douglas & Mary Ann Kerr

Five hundred dollars or more:

Kathy Baker  
David Beach & Dena Magoulas  
Nina McLellan & Walter Nicholes  
Rosemary Palmer & Paul Schroeder  
Mark Weber

Two hundred dollars or more:

Susan Childs  
Chantal Dothey  
Patricia McCullough  
Tim Musser  
Joan O'Brien  
Toni Rozsahegyi  
Elizabeth Weinstock

One hundred dollars or more:

Ed Fire Advocacy Fund  
Sharon Bennett  
Judy & Robert B. Charlick  
Jane K. Donnell  
Carolyn Donoghue  
Michael Fiala &  
Mary Ellen Eickmann-Fiala  
Pam Bertaud & Ray Gonzalez  
Beth Kean & Craig Gordon  
Eleanor Gottesman  
David A. Hancock  
Ulrich Hopfer  
Nickie J. Antonio & Jean Kosmac  
Amy Jacobs & David Krauss  
Jim LaRue  
Peggy & Mick Latkovich  
Liz Lavelle  
Janet Loehr  
Suzanne Miller  
Patrick L. Montgomery  
Mark & Judith Pestak  
Pirouz Pirouz  
Drs. Theresa & Tom Pretlow  
Stephanie & Gary Pritts

Senait & Carl Robson  
Annette & Benjamin Segall  
Lillian Sharpley  
Manohar Singham  
Robert & Belinda St. Leger  
Mickey Stern

Up to ninety-nine dollars:

Carolyn J. Joe Ahern  
Judith L. Appleton  
Karen Sue & Robert T. Ault  
Pam Beck  
John & Cynthia Becker  
Majid Behrouzi  
Gloria A. Robert A. Bemer  
Elliott H. & Roni R. Berenson  
Marius Judisius &  
Jennifer Blakeney  
William & Diane Bray  
Melvin Phillips & Marilyn Brooks  
Gloria Brown  
Tim Brown  
Don M. Bryant  
Alice G. Butts  
Thomas J. Casey  
Greg Coleridge  
Joe Crichton  
Teri Dew  
Charles Dietrich  
Gerald T. Dolcini  
Arthur H. Dorland  
Alice Dugar  
Carolyn Durway  
Rose Marie A. &  
Noel H. Egensperger  
Bob Erzen  
Daniel R. Fickes  
Frank Fritz  
Joanne M. Gillis  
Vera W. Hall  
Thomas B. & Cheryl Hanger  
Jamie Hecker & Debra Hirshberg  
Peter J. Jones &  
Jan L. Hollinger Jones  
Marge Bray & Chuck Hoven  
Steven A. & Maria J. Hudgins  
Debbie L. Hunter  
Yoshiko Ikuta  
Nelli Johnson  
Peggy Kacerek

Gerald J. Blake & Susan C. Kaeser  
Nora Kancelbaum  
Carl A. Kleinholz  
Ronald M. Kohn  
Joanne Kufchak  
Laurie Albright & Brian Larson  
Marcia W. Levine  
Vernon & Jeanne Long  
David Macko  
Barb Mallin  
Sandra & Don McPherson  
Mary Ann Meaker  
Rita & Anthony Nassif  
Jeanette & Bob Nemcek  
Ann G. Newman  
Barbara A. Nicely  
Anne Osborne  
Gay Quereau  
Carla Rautenberg  
Vicki Knight &  
Samuel A. Richmond  
Bridget & Norman Robbins  
Stewart & Valerie Robinson  
Lois Romanoff  
Betty A. Root  
Carl & Joan Roth  
Ellen D. Rothchild  
Lou Sauer  
Gail Long & Peter Zachary Schiller  
Susan K. Sering-Hughley  
John & Mary Jane Seseck  
Joanne Siegl  
Bea Silverberg  
Akshai Singh  
Gaylene Sloane  
Brian J. Stefan-Szittai  
Carolyn Steiner  
Victor Sudik  
Carolyn A. Sugiuchi  
Joan & Ryan Sullivan  
Irene Tenenbaum  
Carol Vidoli  
Mylion Waite  
Mariel W. Wallace  
Dean M. Williams  
Wendy Willis  
Mariel W. Wallace  
Judith Watson  
Dean M. Williams  
Wendy Wills



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

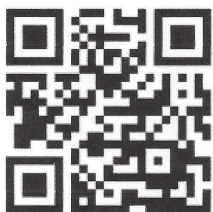
[www.peaceactioncleveland.org](http://www.peaceactioncleveland.org)

---

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

---

**Return Service Requested**



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,  
or if you prefer to receive it by email,  
please call 216-231-4245 or email  
clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com and let us know. Thank you.

Why are we spending billions to  
update weapons we should eliminate?  
Nina McLellan, Gay Sloane, and Bill Fickinger have put together  
an informative powerpoint on the 2016 nuke budget.

Mark your calendar!  
Tuesday April 12th at 7 PM  
Peace @ the Pub  
Market Garden Brewery—next to the West Side Market—  
1947 W 25th St.—parking behind the market—  
beverages, conversation, information.

