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

# Cleveland Peace Action

## CPA in this Unbelievably Challenging Time?

Organize, Work with Collaborators, Get Out the Facts,  
Attract New Members, Inspire Younger Americans

*Rosemary Palmer, president of Cleveland Peace Action*

Since January and the Inauguration of the 45th President of the United States, many of us have shut our eyes tight, banged our red slippers together, and wished to go home to a more predictable and peaceful political era. Unfortunately, when we open our eyes, Our Leader is still tweeting insults, asking for more money for Pentagon spending, and dragging the nuclear codes briefcase off with him to Mar-a-Lago in Florida each weekend.

We have our work cut out for us to fight for a more equitable budget and for peace on so many fronts; but at least in the short term, we aren't working by ourselves. We and others who are campaigning for what Superman used to term "truth, justice, and the American way," find enthusiastic fresh recruits and reinvigorated experienced activists looking for ways to plug in and contribute their efforts. We're collaborating more than ever with other national and local groups, hoping that our pooled efforts will make a difference in priorities among those leading the American Empire.

Daniel May, in *The Nation* on March 16, writes that we need to look beyond a peace movement to "speak to the anger that so many Americans feel toward the corporate powers that dominate our politics." He notes militarism and corporate powers intertwine and many Americans oppose war despite its permanence.

National Peace Action President Kevin Martin, in his conversations in March with Cleveland Peace Action, advised us to drop the term "military-industrial complex" because the term is too wonky, too 1950s, too out-of-touch. The phenomenon that term covered, however, is still robust. Being a Pentagon contractor is as lucrative and "safe" as ever. In 2015, the Raytheon CEO raked in \$20.4 million; Lockheed Martin CEO, \$33.7 million, and Boeing CEO, \$29 million (Daniel May, *The Nation*).

As you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, the new proposed budget seeks billions more for the Pentagon and these contractors while the domestic budget is slashed, diverting more and more money from children, jobs, and environmental protection. For peace groups, fighting this disheartening display of cruel priorities means we must be open to finding new ways of exposing the Emperor's New Clothes and organizing for a totally new paradigm. Maybe we need to be looking for young activists who, like the child in that old fable, have nothing to lose by pointing out the truth.

# Trump Budget Has No Heart!

CPA Move the Money Committee

## Trump's Proposed Budget Changes

Here are the major increases:

- ◆ Shifts \$54 billion from domestic programs and international aid to the Pentagon and military -- a 10% budget increase for the Pentagon;
- ◆ Increases Homeland Security funding by 7%;
- ◆ Increases nuclear weapons funding by 11%.

Here are the major cuts:

- ◆ State Department (29% cut);
- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency (31% cut);
- ◆ Department of Education (14% cut);
- ◆ Energy (besides nukes, 18% cut);
- ◆ Transportation (13% cut)
- ◆ Small Business Administration (5% cut)
- ◆ Housing & Urban Devel. (13% cut)
- ◆ Agriculture Department (21% cut);
- ◆ Health & Human Services (16% cut).

*(source National Priorities Project)*

When so many are in need and so many communities in tatters, do the Pentagon and nuclear weapons need more billions?

**Not** When the US is the most powerful nation the world has ever seen!

**Not** When we outspend the next 7 countries combined!

**Not** When we already have over 2000 fighter jets! Do we need another 100?

**Not** when the Pentagon isn't audited like all other federal departments and wastes an estimated \$25 billion every year!

## Who benefits?

Contractors like Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, General Dynamics, their CEO's and investors, and Congress members who take their payoffs.

It is not just Americans who suffer. Our militarized, racist foreign policy has wreaked havoc around the world, especially on black and brown peoples.

Now especially when war, drought and poverty have created a tsunami of refugees and brought terrible famine to Africa, Trump would slash diplomacy, foreign aid and the UN and its essential relief efforts.

A budget is a moral document.

This budget has no heart!

Nina McLellan,  
CPA Move the Money Committee

# Trump, Putin & their Nukes

Our longtime member Kim Hill has prepared the following summary on the status of US and Russian nukes.

*Briefly: Humans Have Created a Certain Danger to All Life on Earth.  
NO! to the proposed Trillion Dollar Nuclear Weapon Upgrade.  
YES! to the complete BAN of all nukes.*



Nuclear weapons can rain down immense destruction on the people of the world. Even limited nuclear war would kill tens of millions of civilians, and millions more due to fallout and nuclear winter. Yet the US keeps 1,900 nuclear warheads on hair-trigger alert and 4,700 more in stockpiles. Russia maintains a similar nuclear arsenal. How can we get out of this 70-year debacle?

## Obama's plan to Upgrade Nuclear Weapons

Rather than reduce our nuclear stock-piles, the U.S. is upgrading and modernizing our arsenal. The plan includes replacements to the "triad" of strategic B-52 bombers, nuclear missile subs and intercontinental ballistic missiles. This upgrade continues under President Trump, creating a huge nuclear danger, destabilizing past arms reduction agreements with Russia and other nations.

## Human & Taxpayer Costs of the Nuclear Upgrade

The cost of the U.S. nuclear weapons upgrade is \$1 trillion over three decades, financed with our tax dollars and sacrificing non-military programs such as education, healthcare and the environment. Corporations which reap high profits from nuclear weapons production, such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrup Grumman, etc., pay powerful lobbies which pressure Congress to escalate this new arms race with Russia.

## The US Geo-Political Strategy for Nuclear Weapons

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the US has sought global hegemony, as the single, dominant world economic and military superpower. Under Bill

Clinton, the US reintroduced nuclear weapons, through NATO, on the borders of Russia. This broke the promise, by George HW Bush to Gorbachev, not to do so. The US projects its power with 1000 military bases around the globe. In alliance with Japan and South Korea, the US holds massive, nuclear armed military exercises in the South China Sea, targeting North Korea but really to counter China's growing economic and military power.

In the Middle East we align with nuclear-armed Israel and with Saudi Arabia against Iran, but also against Russia in Syria. The US allies itself with nuclear-armed Pakistan and other south Asian nations in an attempt to participate in the rapid development along the Silk Road of old, which is becoming a vital East-West economic trade area connecting Europe and Asia.

## Nuclear Enhancements Will Make Us Less Safe

The introduction of nuclear weapons, with upgraded warheads and missiles, increases the risk of nuclear war, accidental or intentional. Such upgrades produce more accurate, and more lethal weapons. These upgrades are perceived as incredibly provocative by Russia and other nuclear powers, causing a new nuclear arms race, leaving all states less secure. Thus the nuclear weapons upgrade policy is destabilizing and dangerous to Americans and all the world's peoples. The wasted tax dollars will starve crucial social programs in our domestic economy.

There is much to do, and it will take millions of us to halt the US plans to dominate Europe and Asia with our nuclear weapons.



## Update on BAN negotiations at the UN in New York

The first session of the negotiations "on a new legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading toward their total elimination" ended on March 31st at the UN headquarters in New York on a successful note, and a draft treaty is due to be presented in the second half of May.

Over 130 countries participated in this first round of discussions with international organizations, experts and civil society representatives in a spirit of openness and sincere commitment to the goals of the discussions. This is the first time in UN negotiations on nuclear weapons, that the super-powers stood outside of the room. There was an impressive spirit of courage, empowerment and emergency to prohibit the worst weapons ever conceived.

Before the next round in July, all countries, including nuclear weapons states, will meet in May in Vienna for the 1st Preparatory committee of the Non-proliferation Treaty. The Treaty is facing major challenges especially from the proponents of nuclear weapons. The lack of implementation of the commitments and the planned modernization of all the arsenals stands in contradiction with nuclear weapons states obligations under Article VI "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament" and worrying declarations of the Trump administration that this commitment to nuclear disarmament could be dismissed in the next US Nuclear Posture Review.



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

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### **Cleveland Peace Action and Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund**

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**Check our website for news and events: [www.peaceactioncleveland.org](http://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

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## Donors to Cleveland Peace Action in 2016

Thanks for your financial support, you make it all possible!

**One thousand dollars or more:** Anonymous, Dorene Davis & Francis Chiappa, William Fickinger, Mary Ann & Douglas Kerr, David Beach & Dena Magoulas, Walter Nicholes & Nina McLellan, Rosemary Palmer & Paul Schroeder

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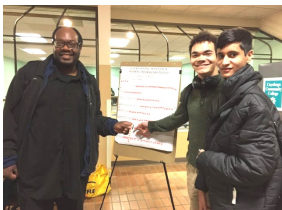
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THANK YOU

**Recent events:**

In January, CPA was pleased to welcome the President of National Peace Action, Kevin Martin, who came from DC to speak at our annual meeting and then to spend a day with us discussing our major challenges and tactics.



CPA partnered with several other local peace groups at tabling events at CSU and at TriC East, West, and Metro. These events allowed us to reach out to younger citizens, informing them of serious peace issues and encouraging them to build their own peace movements.

**“Now” events:**

At our April 11th Peace at the Pub we join the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club in presenting three short films which address the enormous environmental impact of war, military testing & manufacturing.

On April 15th we join six local groups (Organize Ohio, AFSC, CCPC, Cleveland Environmental Action, Immigrant Support Network and People’s Convention) in a Tax Day march through downtown Cleveland, from Willard Park to the Federal Building to CSU.

**Upcoming Events:**

**May 9th** Peace @ Pub 7:00 PM Tom Grace author of *Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties*. Grace was one of the students shot at Kent State on May 4, 1970. He examines how the country got to that point and the impact it had.

Market Garden Brewery 1947 West 25th St.

**May 13** Film 7:00 PM: *The Occupation of the America Mind*. Narrated by Roger Waters, this film looks at the pro-Israel propaganda war fought in the US by the Israeli government and right wing American politicians.

Westshore Unitarian Church 20401 Hilliard Blvd, Rocky River

**May 16** 7:00 PM Ellen Thomas, a long time peace activist, will speak at Pilgrim Church. Thomas will stop in Cleveland on a year-long national tour, sponsored by WILPF: Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. Her topic: *Nuclear Free Future*.

Pilgrim Church, 2592 West 14th St.

**May 20 @ 4:00 PM** (see details on next page) Francis Chiappa performs with his friends in *Triage* to benefit Cleveland Peace Action. Music, beer and tater tots—fun!

The Happy Dog at the Euclid Tavern 11625 Euclid Ave.

## Join in the Fun: Cleveland Peace Action fundraiser May 20th featuring the music of *Triage*

Peace Action's own Francis Chiappa will perform with his band Triage to benefit Cleveland Peace Action.

We welcome Triage fans and Peace Actionistas, to gather in these trying times, for fun, inspiration, hot dogs, tater tots and libations. Triage will offer some musical reflections on the state of our union, along with its usual eclectic mix of seriousness and silliness, folkiness and funkiness, blues, country, rock 'n roll, original tunes and covers. Triage – "so many songs, so little time."



David Krauss, Francis Chiappa,  
Big Jonny Abrahamson, and Dorene Davis.

Cleveland Peace Action is primarily a member supported organization. We need your support to maintain our half-time staffer, small office, website, email communications, programs, protests, and these newsletters, that members tell us they look forward a few times a year. We hope you'll be with us and Triage on May 20th and **help support YOUR organization.**

**See You There: Saturday May 20th 4 to 6 PM  
at the Happy Dog at Euclid Tavern,  
11625 Euclid Avenue, in University Circle.**

### Report from our Middle East Peace Committee

Don Bryant, co-chair



The Middle East Peace Committee hosted a book tour with CWRU professor Dr. Nahida Halaby Gordon in March, 2017. Dr. Gordon is a Palestinian-American who was nine years old when she and her parents were expelled from their home in Jaffa in 1948 to make way for the encroaching Israeli state. In her book, "Palestine Is Our Home: Voices of Loss, Courage, and Steadfastness," she brings to us the voices of Palestinians, their culture, their resistance to Israeli occupation, and their hope to return to their homeland.

Our committee also plans to co-sponsor Lubnah Shomali of BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian and Refugee Rights with Jewish Voice for Peace, Imagine Peace at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church and Kent State University Students for Justice in Palestine. The event will be at the West Shore U.U. Church in Rocky River. Watch the CPA website for information.

The CPA MEC meets on second Wednesdays at Pilgrim Church, 2592 W.14th Street in Tremont. Contact Co-chairs to confirm meeting times:

Don Bryant [donbryant@gmail.com](mailto:donbryant@gmail.com) or Jeff Kassouf [jeffk@take1media.com](mailto:jeffk@take1media.com)



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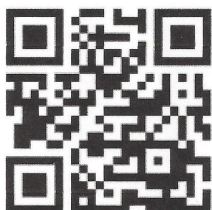
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