



December 2015
Volume 11 Issue 3

www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

Working for Peace

Here is what CPA has been doing in 2015
Please Continue Your Membership in 2016

The Iran nuclear deal somehow survived a skeptical Congress and a hostile Israeli government. At one time, it would have been unthinkable. But this year, broad-based grassroots activism enabled diplomacy and peace to prevail. The Iran deal sets a new tone for cooperation in the world's most volatile region, a place where U.S. military intervention has misfired badly. War hasn't worked in Iraq and Afghanistan, and it won't work any better in Syria.

The battle over the Iran deal illustrates just how entrenched war is, in our national consciousness as well as our economy. But it also shows that concerted grassroots action can make a difference.

To keep making a difference, Cleveland Peace Action needs your support. We are careful not to deluge our members with fundraising appeals, so we rely heavily on this year-end appeal.

Your membership, combined with the 100% commitment and generosity of our Board of Directors, sustains our work: educating, organizing and advocating for peace.

We also need a bit of your time. This year we've organized our efforts into six Action Groups:

- ◆ End Israeli Occupation of Palestine/ Middle East Peace
- ◆ Move the Money/Fund Our Communities
- ◆ Diplomacy with Iran
- ◆ Nuclear Weapons Abolition/PAND-Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament
- ◆ Ending Police Violence and Militarization
- ◆ Peace Action Youth Project

These Action Groups need your time and energy in order to flourish. To get more involved, contact our Administrator, Elizzabeth Schiros, at clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com or 216-264-3955. *continued on page 2*

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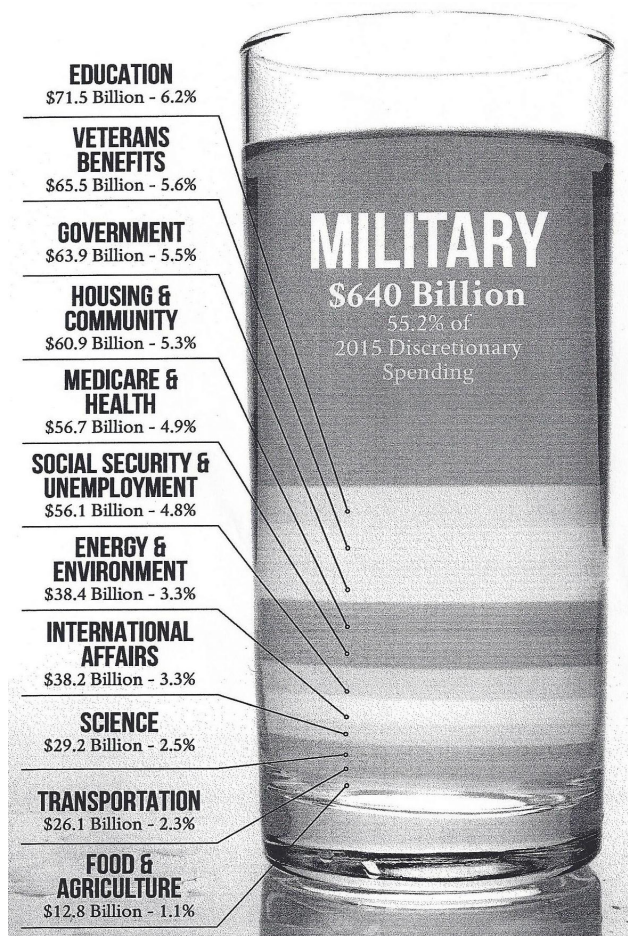
Here's what we've been up to this year:

- ◆ We advocated for the Iran deal, including lobby visits, demonstrations and vigils. We contacted you, to call and sign petitions to Congress, and we gave testimony at Rep. Fudge's town meeting.
- ◆ Our Move the Money action group worked on reducing military spending, through public actions and coalition building, including the Fund Our Communities Coalition.
- ◆ Our Middle East peace programming included The Naqba of 1948; two films, Private and The Wanted 18; Alison Weir's Cleveland visit; and a program with Hawken School.
- ◆ We've advocated and demonstrated for diplomacy not war, for Palestinians' rights and for cuts in the nuclear weapons budget and ultimate abolition of these weapons.
- ◆ Climate Change: the Biggest Threat to Peace was the subject of our Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Our Peace at the Pub series featured: Military Spending: where your tax dollars go;
- ◆ Abolishing Nuclear Weapons; Cuba in Transition; and Fear & Loathing About China.
- ◆ We assisted PAND in producing the August 6th concert, Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and a musical-comedic-informative evening at the Happy Dog's Euclid Tavern, Nukes at Night, with Ramon Rivas.
- ◆ We worked with Cleveland City Council on demilitarization of the Police Department.
- ◆ We relocated the Peace Action office to Pilgrim Church, in Tremont, to save money and connect us with younger activists.

Your financial support helps us survive, your time helps us grow. You can make a secure online donation at www.peaceactioncleveland.org. Or use the attached envelope. All online donations as well as all donations to Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund (a 501.c.3 organization) are tax-deductible. Donations to Cleveland Peace Action focus more on our advocacy work and are not tax-deductible. Either way, we'll make the best use of your contribution. Thanks so much for your support.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?

The federal government continues to throw our money at the Pentagon while domestic programs are cut across the board.



We hope that you like our new CLEVELAND logo, a design emphasizing peace work in our corner of Ohio. We are grateful to our friend, designer Anthony Fosaseca, of Spin Cycle Marketing in Chagrin Falls.



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 Magoulas Coordinator Elizzabeth 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: _____

☐ new member ☐ renewing member

Address: _____

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Make checks payable to
"Cleveland Peace Action"

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Suite 109**

2592 West 14th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

or

Donate via credit card using PayPal
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www.peaceactioncleveland.org



January 12th Peace@thePub



The speaker at our next P@theP event will be **Skip Oliver**. Skip is on the Board of the Veterans for Peace group called **The Golden Rule Peace Boat Project**.

Dating back to 1958, the Golden Rule group fixed up an old 30 foot sailboat and sailed across the Pacific to call attention to the dangers of above ground nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands. Over the past half century, the group has continued its imaginative, sometimes precarious, and always admirable role in support of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

This year, Golden Rule joined with several other peace groups to create a large demonstration in the San Francisco Bay area, at a time when President Obama was there, with emphasis on the abolition of **all** nuclear tests.



Skip Oliver will be participating in world-wide ranging voyages during the coming years, reaching out to folks in many countries with the message: Nukes have to go.

It will be an exciting and informative session. Please join us at
The Market Garden Brewery (1947 W. 25th St.)
at 7 PM on Tuesday January 12th.

U.S. policy invited Benghazi attack

Congress members who relentlessly grilled Hillary Clinton over Benghazi ignored the key issue: an overly-militarized U.S. foreign policy.

Congress and media should question whether we should have intervened militarily in Libya in the first place. What happened when we bombed both the Libyan army and police out of existence in 2011? What's been the CIA's role? Why was the decision made for another regime-change?

Qaddafi, corrupt as he was, had halted Libya's nuclear weapons program in response to international pressure. When he threatened the Arab Spring uprising, were alternatives to bombing considered?

Hillary restated the "exceptionalist"

mantra that America must lead to make a dangerous world better. On the contrary, America has a long and disastrous history of destabilizing / overthrowing other governments, using covert and direct military means. Our stated intentions too often don't pan out and the blow-back is terrible: increasing terrorism, civil war by radicalized armed factions, more brutal despots, destruction of civil society, millions killed, injured, driven from homes. And, at home, our tax dollars gone to war. It's now long overdue to question our militarized, misguided foreign policy: the real Benghazi culprit! When will we ever learn?

Nina McLellan, Co-president of CPA
Plain Dealer 4 Nov 2015

How did the Iran nuclear treaty finally get passed, and what's next?

Norman Robbins

Despite an enormous funding advantage, the forces opposing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran failed to carry the day, and for a change, peace advocates prevailed. Grassroots advocacy was one of several factors, the others including:

- ◆ A total commitment by Pres. Obama, as well as his veto threat.
- ◆ Votes entirely from the Democratic side of the House and Senate. Given the pressures, many of these decisions were the culmination of agonizing soul-searching and analysis. In the end, despite some misgivings about details of the treaty, many Democrats were forced to the conclusion that there was no good alternative. The non-U.S. negotiators emphatically told Congress they would not go back to the bargaining table if the U.S. reneged, i.e. "a better deal" was a fantasy. In addition, the risk of war or dangerous hair-trigger tensions with a united country well equipped with non-conventional defensive apparatus was unwelcome.
- ◆ Publicly stated support for the JCPOA by a huge number of U.S. and even Israeli diplomatic and military experts.
- ◆ Over-the-top fear-mongering statements by rabidly anti-Iranian Israeli Premier Netanyahu, worsened by his disrespect for the U.S. Administration (Obama and Biden).

The grassroots contribution was significant. Across the country, peace activists urged their membership to call and petition Congress to support the JCPOA. In addition, they wrote OpEds and letters to the editor, formed delegations to visit key Congress staff, and demonstrated and spoke up at Congressional local town hall meetings.

In the Cleveland area, Peace Action members called and wrote Senators Brown and Portman, and House Representatives Fudge, Kaptur and Ryan. They had 4 letters to the Editor and one OpEd published in *The Plain Dealer*. In addition, PA organized two demonstrations addressed to Rep. Fudge, through MoveOn: one, with about 30 persons at her Cleveland office, and another with about 25 people at her Akron town meeting, where PA members spoke and presented

hundreds of constituent petition signatures. PA also organized a vigil as part of the national support effort.

In two of the lobbying visits, the PA team consisted of a nuclear physicist (who could explain the technical aspects of the nuclear treaty), a former journalist and mother of a Marine killed in the Iraq war, who could talk from her tragic experience, and the PA Iran consultant, who could explain the critical importance of the treaty. The latter two participated in a third visit, which included a doctor whose brother was killed by terrorists in Lebanon, and Cleveland Peace Action's co-President. The choice of these individuals to represent Peace Action may have strengthened the case for supporting the JCPOA.

What's next? In December, the international inspection agency may well finally declare that past suspected nuclear weapons research by Iran are now resolved. Thereafter, Iran is obligated to drastically reduce its centrifuges, alter a power plant so it produces almost no plutonium, and open itself to intrusive inspections. When these obligations are met, probably sometime later in 2016, the nuclear-related sanctions, most importantly those on international banking, will be relaxed. Gradually thereafter, international trade with Iran will resume, but the U.S., because of its own legislation related to human rights and terrorism, will largely have excluded itself from major participation. There is already cooperation between Iran and the U.S. in fighting ISIS, and they are beginning to talk about Syria. Other cooperative efforts are likely to be slow in coming, both because of anti-Iranian political pressure in the U.S., and because of Iranian hardliner resentment at being pushed into the JCPOA. Many of these hardliners are taking revenge or asserting their power, by causing the hard-line-controlled Judiciary to arrest journalists and doing everything in their power to prevent Pres. Rouhani from gaining too many more parliamentary supporters in the late February elections.

PA members need to keep alert to our own home-grown hardliners, who are quietly sharpening their knives to gut sanctions relief by transferring the old nuclear sanctions to those for terrorism and human rights violations (a flat-out violation of the JCPOA).

Stay tuned!

Report on our annual Membership Luncheon Meeting



were established. In the photos we see Elizabeth and Dena in the kitchen, and Francis refereeing the spirited conversation.

On Saturday, Nov 14th, about 40 peace activists met together to enjoy our annual event at our new office location at Pilgrim Church on West 14th St. It was stimulating to hear the questions, answers, challenges, opinions, and mini-speeches of many of the participants. Enjoying the soup and chili and cheese melts and cookies, all prepared by our members, new information was shared and new peace-maker contacts



Here is a brief summary put together by Francis Chiappa: CPA's membership lunch and conversation about activism featured the usual array of strong opinions.

Here are of the issues people spoke on:

Move the Money – Fund Our Communities, Not War. The People's Budget, sponsored by the Congressional Progressive Caucus, is closer to the funding priorities of most Cleveland Peace Action members.

Middle East Peace, Community Conversation on Israel-Palestine and Alison Weir's speaking in Cleveland, November 22-23.

CNVN's State of Non-Violence conference December 4-5, featuring Paul Chappel and a day of education.

Move to Amend and the Cleveland ballot initiative, for which signature gathering is ongoing.

End Poverty rally in connection with next summer's Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

Immigration Reform.

There was lots of opinion on electoral politics, from Libertarian (America First Committee) to the Socialist Alternative, from Donald Trump to Bernie Sanders. Of course there was distinct leftward lean to the group.

Quote of the day: "More Peace Corps vets, fewer military vets."

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.

Nuclear Timeline – Playing with Fire

Bill Fickinger

Phase One Getting Nukes

1905 Einstein tells us mass can be converted to energy: $E = mc^2$ where c^2 is a BIG number.

1938 Germany: Discovery of **fission** where a nucleus can break in two and the pieces have less mass than the original nucleus; the difference is converted to energy – a million times more than in chemical reactions.

1940's Physicists study **Uranium** and how it can fission, shooting out some neutrons to cause other fissions (**chain reaction**). This works only with the rare form of uranium **U235** which is missing 3 of the neutrons which glue the nucleus together. The U235 must be separated from the more common U238 by **enrichment** technology. **HEU** Highly enriched uranium is produced today in rapidly spinning centrifuges.

1940 Another nucleus, **Plutonium (PU)**, is first produced at U. Cal. Berkeley. It is made by bombarding U238 at an accelerator (or in a reactor). PU can also host a chain reaction. (Discovery was kept secret until 1948!)

1940's When enough (a **Critical mass**) of HEU or PU is squeezed together by surrounding it with exploding TNT, the chain reaction gives you a bomb with thousands of times more energy than a TNT bomb.

Jul 1945 Both fission and fusion bombs are designed and secretly tested in New Mexico.

Aug 6 1945 Hiroshima (HEU) and 3 days later Nagasaki (PU) are destroyed, 129,000 killed.

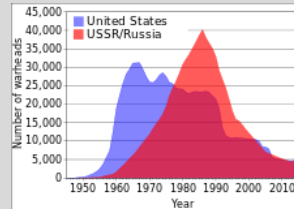
Aug 15, 1945 Japan surrenders. "Nukes work!"

Phase Two Living with Nukes

1949 USSR catches up with its first nuclear weapon test.

1952 (in the USA) and **1953** (in the USSR) A new, more powerful weapon, the **Hydrogen Bomb**, is invented: a **fusion** bomb, where small nuclei are fused together when squeezed by a surrounding fission bomb, another way to convert mass to energy.

1950's to 1980's **Delivery and protection systems** enhanced on both sides on the road to Mutual Assured Destruction



MAD: ICBM's, ABM's, SLBM's, SDI, MIRV's: all kinds of new technology for more powerful and accurate weapons.

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis: USSR sets up nuclear launch facilities in Cuba. JFK & Khrushchev agree: withdraw all nukes from Cuba and Turkey. Whew!

New Nuclear Players: England 1952, France 1960, China 1964, Israel 1960s, India 1974, Pakistan 1998, N Korea 2006.

Phase Three Getting Rid of Nukes

1945 A month after Japan bombings, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (a very active organization today) calls for international control of nukes, introducing the *Doomsday Clock* – showing the level of imminent danger.

50 Years of Treaty Efforts: 1963 Partial Test Ban (ban all but underground). 1968 **NPT** Non-

Proliferation Treaty: no new nuclear states. 1972 **SALT 1** Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty:

limits number of missiles. 1979 **SALT 2** ban new designs, MIRV (multiple warheads). 1996 **CTBT** Comprehensive Test

Ban. 2001 **START 1** Strategic Arms Reduction: 6000 warhead limit; US and Russia. 2011 **New Start:** Great progress:

Obama and Medvedev (Putin): agreed on limits: 1550 deployed warheads, 700 missiles & bombers.

Phase 4 What now?

In spite of 50 years of treaty efforts, all nuke countries continue to modernize their arsenals: new land based missiles, submarines, long range bombers. This month Putin announced that Russia will go all out to catch up with US on weapons technology. There is pressure from the bomb-industrial complex and their Congressional backers. There is danger of accidental launch, glitches in early warning systems, threat of cyberattacks, willingness of extremist groups to use any means, including getting a hold of some HEU and putting together a 1945 bomb....

There is only one sure solution: get rid of all the HEU and PU on the planet.....

All nations must work with the UN to enforce .





French artist Jean Jullien tweeted this image just moments after the terrorist attacks in Paris. It went viral, reflecting widespread and worldwide support for peace in response to violence. Our hearts are with the victims and their families, with the people of France and with the innocent people of so many other countries, who've been targeted by both terrorism and the "war on terror" over the years. It is only natural to respond to these hideous acts by returning the hatred and calling for retaliation. But we resonate deeply with this image. Stop the violence! Cleveland Peace Action believes that, once again,

War Is Not The Answer.

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