



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.

March 2014
Volume 10 Issue 1

www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

Our 2014 Annual Meeting

The 2014 Annual Meeting of Cleveland Peace Action was celebrated on February 26th by a well-attended gathering of members at Peace House. Following an all-too-tempting pot-luck supper, we held the election of those officers whose terms had just ended. By a voice vote, all of the nominated candidates were re-elected.

In addition, two new members of the board were elected: **Lynne Rustad** and **Mark Weber**. Lynne, a retired biologist and psychologist, has a long history of work with organizations supporting mental health care and biological ethics. Mark, a retired dean of libraries at Kent State, has a similarly impressive history involving labor, civil liberties, and other important public service. CPA looks forward to the participation of our two new board members.



Our program coordinator, **Elizabeth Schiros** announced this year's volunteer honoree: **Kim Hill**—

“for his willingness to pitch in at a moment's notice, do the jobs no one else wants to do, and never canceling or forgetting...also for his passionate dedication to the cause.”

The major event was a spirited discussion of current Middle East challenges by three expert speakers, moderated by board member **Rosemary Palmer**.

Mark Silverberg, on the Board of

Americans for Peace Now, reported on his recent visit to Israel-Palestine, sharing with us a disturbing video made in the occupied territories just the week before.



Norman, Peter, Rosemary and Mark

Norman Robbins, emeritus professor of medicine at CWRU, presented a fascinating review of Iranian history, especially concerning its stressful interactions with the West over the past several centuries, including the overthrow, by the US and UK, of the legitimate Iranian government in 1953. He described the enthusiasm of the Iranian people today for a democratic Islamic nation, and expressed the hope that current negotiations with Iran will succeed.

Peter Moore is associate professor of political science at CWRU, where he specializes in research on issues of political economy, state-society relations, and in particular, the conflict in the Gulf and Levant. Pete described the basic tenets of Iranian foreign policy and their efforts to influence, but not govern, Afghanistan and Iraq and their complex relations with the Syrian regime.

Photos by Diana Daniels

ADVOCACY REPORT: IRAN***CPA REACHES OUT TO CONGRESS***

It looked bad. By mid-February, 59 Senators had co-sponsored the Menendez-Kirk bill, S. 1881, which could have scuttled the hopeful but delicate Iran nuclear negotiations. Ohio Senator Robert **Portman** signed on but, despite intense pressure, Senator Sherrod **Brown** held off, waiting, his staff said, for further developments.

Thanks to all Peace Action members who called, emailed and tweeted Senator Brown to give negotiations a chance!

Meanwhile, 105 House Representatives signed a letter to President **Obama** to support his administration's efforts to work with the world community and seek a diplomatic solution with Iran over their nuclear program. We thank Ohio representatives Marcia **Fudge**, Marcy **Kaptur** and Tim **Ryan** for signing on! While the House delayed taking action, the war hawks may try to revive their attempt to impose more sanctions and commit to backing Israeli military action.

Keeping us out of another Middle East war will be a continuing effort. We must, all of us, continue to press for peaceful resolution of the issues around Iran's nuclear program and for including Iran in regional diplomacy.

Nina McLellan CPA co-president

Are you interested in learning more about Iran?

Norman Robbins, emeritus faculty at CWRU, and CPA consultant on Iran, will be conducting an 8-week course on the history of Iran and its current challenges. It will meet at 7:30, Tuesdays March 25 to May 13, at First Unitarian Church in Shaker Heights.

Please visit www.siegallifelonglearning.org/spring and scroll down to *Understanding Iran-US Relations*.

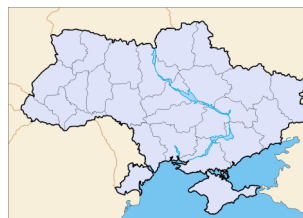
UKRAINE - COOL IT

here are some key things to consider

When the Berlin Wall fell in December of 1991 the Soviet Union disintegrated into fifteen separate countries. George H.W. Bush's Secretary of State James Baker promised Mikhail Gorbachev that NATO would not expand to the east. Once Clinton took over, that promise was broken. NATO now includes Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, and Croatia. Ukraine and Georgia are Russia's red lines.

US/Western media and governmental demonization of Russia and Putin does not help us in managing the current crisis.

Any EU/Western encouragement of the coup that ousted the elected president, Yanukovych, was extremely problematic, and has emboldened dangerous political elements in Ukraine.



There are serious regional divisions within Ukraine

which must be resolved by the people of the country without outside intervention or interference.

Russia's naval base in Crimea on the Black Sea is a key strategic consideration for Russia.

There is clear danger of US over-reaction and hypocrisy, which could, in addition to hardening Russia's position, complicate our relations with Russia on other key issues - Iran, nukes, Syria, stabilizing Afghanistan, etc.

In terms of domestic US politics, attacks from conservatives on President Obama for being weak are predictable, and counterproductive.

All sides in the current situation must commit to peaceful, non-military, diplomatic measures as the only acceptable tools to resolve the situation. Russia's sending troops into the Crimea has of course raised fears in many quarters. Military de-escalation is what's needed.

DRONE TEACH-IN

Saturday 5 April 10 AM to 5 PM

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church in Rocky River
Free and open to the public. Join us for any part of the day's program. Keynote speaker Medea Benjamin of CODEPINK.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD WHERE IT COUNTS

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 Building,
Washington, D.C. 20515 216-522-4900; 4834 Richmond Rd., Suite 150, Warrensville, OH 44128

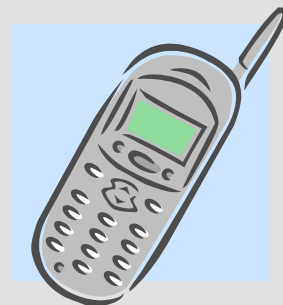
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330 334-0040 One Park Center Drive, Ste. 302, Wadsworth, OH 44281

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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@plaine.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



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Vice-President — Randy Schutt
Secretary and Newsletter — Bill Fickinger
Treasurer — Dena Magoulas
Coordinator — Elizabeth Schiros

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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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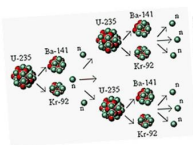
CLEVELAND PEACE ACTION

NUCLEAR ENERGY PRODUCTION AND WEAPONS: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

where does uranium come from?

uranium **ore** is mined on several continents and put up for sale worldwide.

what's so special about uranium?



uranium has a large nucleus which can **fission (split)** when hit by a neutron; it then shoots out other neutrons: a **chain reaction!**

what's the difference between U238 and U235?

U235 has 3 fewer neutrons. Since the neutrons glue the nucleus together, U235 fissions more readily.

what's the difference between nuclear reactors and nuclear bombs?

reactors need only 4% U235, bombs need 90% U235; the **challenge** is that uranium ore is less than 1% U235.

so how is the U235 fraction increased?

by **Enrichment**. The natural uranium is converted to a gaseous form, put into spinning cylinders. The U235 is drawn off near the spin axis and converted back to metallic form.

so 90% is a long way from 4%, right?



not really, it gets easier to find the U235 as its fraction increases.

but still, bombs need a lot more spinning than reactors do, right?

not as much as you might think: the enrichment needed to supply the Perry reactor for one year could make a **dozen bombs**.

how many countries have nuclear programs?

about **31** nations have major electric power programs - the biggies: Fra 75% of their electricity, UK 50%, SKor 30%, US Rus Jpn 20%.



how many of these 31 enrich their own uranium?

only 15 do their own enrichment.

how many of the 15 enrich to **bomb grade**?

9 of them: US Rus Chi UK Fra Ind Pak NKor Isr.
the other 6 limit enrichment to 4%: Arg Bra Ger Jap Neth Iran

so the other 16 countries have to buy their 4% from commercial suppliers in other countries?

yep

aren't there other ways to make fission bombs?

yes, you can recover **plutonium** formed in your reactors, which is fissionable, and **make a bomb without high level enrichment!**

so where does Iran fit in all this?



Iran does some enrichment, though up to now, it buys 4% stock from Russia for its only power reactor. If Iran were to devote ALL its enrichment facilities to 90% production, it might have enough for a bomb in a year.

CAPABILITY?

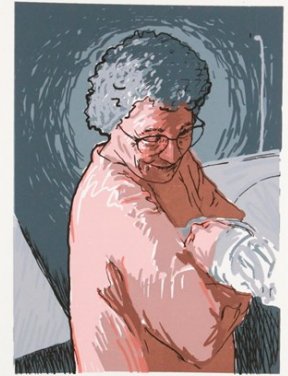
Iran recently **agreed** to dilute all higher enriched uranium back to 4%. The **International Atomic Energy Agency** oversees Iranian enrichment to prevent it from making any bomb grade.

Iran argues that it has the right to join Arg Bra Ger Jap and Neth in 4% enrichment.

Does it?

Roma Foldy—through the years

Cleveland Peace Action sadly reports the recent loss of one of our founders, Roma Foldy. Roma and her husband, Leslie, came to Cleveland in the late 1940's when he joined the physics department at CWRU. Both of them quickly become involved in the anti-war campaign. For much of her 92 years, Roma was active in the movement to ban the bomb, against the Vietnam War, for a nuclear weapons freeze, to end US intervention in Central America, and countless other causes. Hundreds of people know her from her activism with Peace Action, the Interreligious Task Force, Women Speak Out and other peace, justice and civil rights groups. The Foldy's son Seth and daughter Erica say it best: "Tireless friend of peace, justice and human rights; ardent foe of tyranny, cruelty and ignorance; animal lover. Favorite slogan: *If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention.*"



*Portrait of Roma
by her
granddaughter,
Eva Foldy.*

Effects on Regional Companies of Reduced Military Spending

Excerpts from a letter recently published in Crain's Cleveland Business Report, written by Greg Coleridge of the local American Friends Service Committee and Nina McLellan of Cleveland Peace Action.

The closing of the Akron Lockheed Martin plant, coming not long after controversy over the Pentagon's plan to phase-out the Lima-made Abrams tank, should encourage new thinking about Ohio's economic future. A good place to start would be the "Framework for Defense Transition Assistance", proposed by the Institute for Policy Studies. This document offers practical recommendations for economic conversion to assist workers, communities and military industries.

The report identifies existing federal assistance from the Pentagon's Office of Economic Adjustment for community planning, technical assistance, job retraining and finance to communities facing military plant closures. Funding could be expanded and better targeted for Commerce, Energy, Labor and Treasury Department programs designed to spur economic growth via development of clean energy and sustainable transportation technologies. Post-Cold War military downsizing programs focused on developing civilian uses for existing military technology could be restored, and some new programs initiated.

Some of these programs are already in existence. Others are more long-term opportunities to transfer from a highly military-dependent economy to one better geared to meeting vital economic and environmentally sustainable domestic needs. Rather than single-mindedly trying to protect contracts for military hardware we don't need, now is the time for our state and our regional business and planning bodies to anticipate and plan for transition to a more sustainable economy.

TAX DAY DEMO & FOOD DRIVE

On April 15th, Peace Action will join other members of the Fund Our Communities program in bringing attention to recent drastic cuts in the SNAP Food Stamp Program.

We shall stand outside two Cleveland post offices to accept donations of canned goods or cash contributions. We need your help in making this food drive a success, both as a way to help our neighbors and to make a clear statement to Congress.

Please join us and let other organizations know about the plan. You can help by joining the demonstrations, by collecting canned food, by spreading the word, by working on the distribution of the food.

For more details on timing and location, please call Elizabeth Schiros at 216-231-4245 or Rosemary Palmer at 216-351-6958.

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.*

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

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