



November 2017
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www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

Together. Stronger. More resilient.

CPA President Rosemary Palmer

These are words for us to reflect on as we look forward -- hopefully -- to 2018 with people and nations coming together to build a more peaceful, just, and democratic world.

Hope is easy. Building a peaceful world isn't. Cleveland Peace Action can't do it without you and without others who believe, as we do, that peace is possible.

In times such as these, when our President threatens another nation armed with nuclear bombs, when we spend more on our military than the next seven countries combined, when factors beyond our immediate control have left our nation splintered and divided, we need you.

To that point, Cleveland Peace Action has been joining forces with other local and national groups to move forward effectively. We believe that we are stronger together as individuals and an organization by linking our efforts with each other and with other groups that have similar goals. For example, pictures on page 7 from at our Veteran's Day demonstration at Public Square show members from some 24 local organizations that planned and worked together to make the event a success despite the bitterly cold weather.

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November 11th Event on Public Square

TALK DON'T NUKE

Cleveland Peace Action and other local peace and social justice groups joined in a Veterans Day Rally to emphasize the dangers related to the expanding nuclear weapons program in North Korea and our Chief Executive's inflammatory response to it.



Simultaneous events took place all over the country. While the temperature downtown at noon was around freezing, the sun shone upon the determined speakers, marchers, and demonstrators. Our own Nina McLellan, Rosemary Palmer and Don Bryant spoke on the urgency of getting North Korea to back off on its nuclear program, and the need for civil diplomacy.

There are more pictures on page 7.

from page 1

On many other occasions, Peace Action has taken its turn behind the scenes helping to plan and support events of other organizations. Our efforts -- and yours -- help build a caring network.

Through Cleveland Peace Action, you have the opportunity to make a difference locally and nationally. Through events, legislative action, and education, you are given the chance to work with an organization that gives voice and power to your politics.

We need your support and your membership. You can make a secure online donation at www.peaceactioncleveland.org. Or use the envelope inside your newsletter to donate by mail. All online donations as well as all others to Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund (a 501.c.3 organization) are tax-deductible.

Membership: Whoever donates locally is a member of both Cleveland Peace Action and National Peace Action. Suggested donation levels are: \$100 Patron, \$40 Individual, \$50 Family, \$20 Student/Youth, \$10 Limited Income.

We also need your time and energy. It is vital right now to let our legislators know we are watching, we care, and that they are still working for us, the people. From talking to and educating high school students about what the military recruiters don't tell them, to creating events, updating our Internet presence, producing our newsletter, working on legislative advocacy, making phone calls, office work, and much more, Peace Action has something for every type of volunteer.

If you'd like to get more involved, to prevent nuclear war, to advocate for a humane budget and peace and justice, email ClevelandPeaceAction.org or leave a message at 216-264-3955 to find out more.

Rosemary Palmer, president of Cleveland Peace Action

Join/Donate by mail to "Cleveland Peace Action"
or "Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund" (tax-deductible).

Send to:

TREASURER, Cleveland Peace Action, Suite 109
2592 West 14th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

Cleveland Peace Action Highlights of 2017



Organized **Talk Don't Nuke, No War With North Korea Rally**, Veterans Day on Public Square, along with nationally coordinated actions. Involved 23 local activist groups as co-sponsors.



Our Move the Money action group organized a **Tax Day March for People, Peace, and Planet**. We also marched in the annual Labor Day Parade.

Annual Meeting program featured National Peace Action's Executive Director Kevin Martin on **Mobilizing for Peace in the Trump Era**. Martin also led a board and volunteers workshop on building organizational capacity and effectiveness.



The annual PAND Concert, **What a Wonderful World, Don't Blow It**, featured Nashville-based singer-songwriter Anne E. DeChant and members of the Cleveland Orchestra. We played to a full house at Mahall's in Lakewood.



Middle East Peace programs included **Our Journey to Palestine: A Knight & A Nun In the Middle East**, with Sir Jeff Abood and Sister Paulette Schroeder and Nahida Gordon speaking about her book *Palestine Is Our Home: Voices of Loss, Courage, and Steadfastness*, and a support action for Roger Waters' Stand on BDS.

We co-sponsored the local stop of the Naqba Tour, The Exiled Palestinians: Stateless Palestinians from the Camps in Lebanon, and a film screening of **Disturbing the Peace**, about former Israeli and Palestinian combatants who joined together to form the group, Combatants for Peace.



On the anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Francis Chiappa presented on anti-nuclear activism as part of **Fallout: Collective Action Workshops**, at the Museum of Contemporary Art. We led the Hiroshima Day service and First Unitarian Church of Cleveland.



Other programs on nuclear weapons abolition included Bill Fickinger on **Dangers of Nuclear Weapons** and Ellen Thomas on **Nuclear-Free Future**.



Peace at the Pub featured: Thomas Grace on **Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties**, the story of events and historical context around the 1970 Kent State shootings; and **Nukes in Pictures**, on nuclear weapons resistance.



As a benefit for Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund, local band **Triage** entertained the crowd at The Happy Dog Euclid Tavern.



In concert with national Peace Action, we advocated for our issues with elected officials, in Washington and locally. We tabled at community events and festivals.

JOIN/DONATE to Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund via our secure Pay Pal link:



Reach Out to Congress:

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; 801 West Superior, Cleveland 44115 Suite 1400,

Senator Rob Portman 202-224-3353; 338 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510
216-522-7272; 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
President Rosemary Palmer Secretary Bill Fickinger Treasurer Dena Magoulas
Operations Manager Elizzabeth Schiros

Check our website for news and events: <http://peaceactioncleveland.org>

GET INVOLVED

Get on our email list to learn about upcoming events. Our monthly **Peace at the Pub** series has been very popular: have a sandwich and a drink, meet others interested in world peace, and hear a variety of talks on current issues.

If you know of other venues where our speakers might be welcome: clubs, colleges, churches, libraries, etc., let us know. We have in the past offered talks on the environment, on getting rid of nukes, on advocacy efforts, on getting out of inappropriate war activities, etc.

Send a note to clevelandpeaceaction.org. or call 216-264-3955.

The Iran Deal: Pros & Cons

Bill Fickinger, Cleveland P. A.

*A visit to 4 websites:
AIPAC—JVP — JStreet — NIAC*

The Iran nuclear deal was signed in 2015 by China, France, Russia, UK, US, Germany and the European Union.

Iran agreed to cut its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98%, and reduce by about two-thirds the number of its gas centrifuges. To verify Iran's compliance, the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would have regular access to all Iranian nuclear facilities.** In return for verifiably abiding by its commitments, Iran will receive relief from U.S., European Union, and United Nations Security Council nuclear-related economic sanctions.

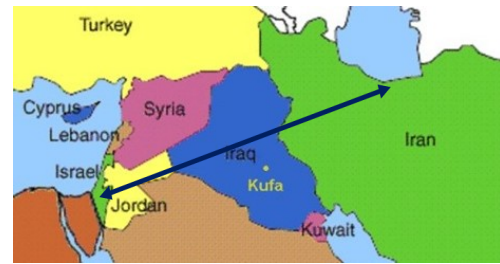
A month ago, Trump announced that the United States would not make the certification provided for under U.S. domestic law, but stopped short of terminating the Deal.

The debate continues today as some political groups are calling for the imposition of new robust sanctions on Iran, sanctions that would have punishing effects on the Iranian economy. The arguments for more sanctions are not based on violations of the Deal, but rather on Iranian actions unrelated to nuclear weapons, e.g. support for military activities in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, etc. Most of these activities are rooted in the centuries long Shia-Sunni (today Iran-Saudi) conflict which the rest of the world desperately wants to see resolved.

The government of Israel, the only nuclear weapons state in the Middle East, supports new sanctions. Netanyahu has received strong support from Trump and from the very dynamic and influential Washington-based lobbying group **AIPAC** (American Israeli Public Affairs Committee). Here is a quote from the AIPAC website:

“Iran—the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism—remains Israel’s and America’s greatest long-term threat in the Middle East. The United States must confront Iran’s aggression, take firm action to support regional allies, and fix the flaws of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal....”

On the other side there are many who support the deal. From the **Jewish Voice for Peace** website: “Trump’s decision to decertify the Iran nuclear deal, and his proposed new strategy, is dangerous and de-



structive. President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu are united in a shared agenda of escalation with Iran, with the goal of enabling increased U.S. and Israeli military aggression.”

From the **JStreet** website: “The facts are clear: The nuclear agreement is working as intended. It has blocked every Iranian pathway to a nuclear weapon. The IAEA and the US security establishment, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have confirmed that Iran has complied with its obligations. By arguing that the agreement is not in the security interests of the United States, Trump directly contradicts his own secretary of defense – who explicitly told the Senate this month that it was. Congress does not need to be an accomplice in Trump’s plan to unravel the Iran deal. They can stand up against a course of action that could lead to an unconstrained Iranian nuclear program or another war in the Middle East.”

From the website of **NIAC** (National Iranian American Council): “Just like Obamacare, Trump and Republicans claimed they wanted to kill the Iran deal but have no real plan to replace it. Trump accidentally called the bluff of Iran deal opponents. After years of Republicans claiming the JCPOA was a bad deal and promising on the campaign trail that they would “tear it up”, now that they have the opportunity they are balking because the Iran deal is working and killing it would be devastating to U.S. interests.”

What next?

Will the Palestinians ever have their own nation?

What is happening in Saudi Arabia as the Crown Prince sends hundreds of cousins, ministers and tycoons off to a lockdown at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel?

Will the Iranian government continue to move toward a more secular and liberal system?

Will we all pack up and go home when climate change clobbers the oil industry?

**SOME NUMBERS: 800 MILES FROM
JERUSALEM TO TEHERAN .**

**POPULATIONS IN MILLIONS:
ISRAEL 9, PALESTINE 5, SAUDI 34,
IRAQ 35, IRAN 81**

NO KOREA WAR BUILD PEACE INSTEAD

HOW?

Stop threats risking nuclear war
End massive military exercises
Assure North Korea's security
Diplomacy is a must - the only safe path forward



TAKE ACTION:

Tell President Trump: Engage with North Korea. Stop provocative threats.

Urge Congress to Pass the RESTRICTING FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ACT OF 2017 (S.200 / H.R. 669) which eliminates US President's unilateral authority to launch a "first strike" nuclear attack.

Preserve successful Iran Nuclear Agreement, the result of patient negotiation. Demonstrate that this nation stands by its international commitments.

NORTH KOREA IS NOT "INSANE" IT HAS NEGOTIATED or CURTAILED NUCLEAR BUILDUP IN THE PAST:

1. North Korea engaged in on-going negotiations and significantly curbed its nuclear program before President George W. Bush labeled it with "Axis of Evil" condemnation, then scrapped nuclear agreement negotiated by prior Clinton administration.
2. Negotiation issues include first step proposals to suspend joint US/South Korean provocative military exercises in exchange for paused North Korea nuclear/missile testing: a "freeze-for-a-freeze" for which there is precedent.
3. US must realize North Korea fears for its security because US destroyed most NK cities and villages during the Korean War: "There was nothing left to bomb!" Has refused to conclude Korea War peace treaty or to recognize North Korea sovereignty. Continues threats, intimidation and economic sanctions aimed at NK. Continues massive, provocative US/South Korea military exercises.
4. International experts agree North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a defensive deterrent, NOT A FIRST STRIKE THREAT.
5. Past and present sanctions are ineffective. In spite of these, North Korea has improved its economy. US must come to the table with no preconditions. Must offer significant security assurance. And a peace treaty must be concluded. Negotiations will require patience and wisdom but civilization will continue to exist, instead of a burned-out radioactive world wasteland.

Would you like to share this newsletter with a friend? Just tell them to go to peaceactioncleveland.org and click on "About Us".



TALK DON'T NUKE EVENT

Here are some more photos of the event on Public Square. It was a really spirited event and Peace Action thanks for the participation by so many other Cleveland Area groups.



To see these photos in color, go to peaceactioncleveland.org and click on "About Us".



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Suite 109
2592 West 14th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

www.peaceactioncleveland.org

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Here is your December Newsletter from Cleveland Peace Action

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- Check our website: www.peaceactioncleveland.org