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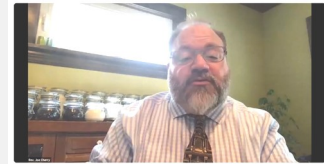
Cleveland Peace Action

Our Aug 9th ZOOM Event: 75 Years Since the First Use of Nuclear Weapons



Rev. Nozomi Ikuta, Denison Avenue United Church of Christ, spoke of the activism inspired by her realization of the devastation suffered in August 1945, and of all connected struggles for peace and justice, including Black Lives Matter.

Rev. Joe Cherry, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland, offered a plea for peace, personal and global.



Philip Metres, Professor of English at John Carroll University read his own poem, Hiroshima, A Panorama, and one by the late Daniel Thompson: Ground Zero: Downtown Cleveland.

Doug and Jani McWilliams, veterans of the 1986 Great Peace March, sang about the inspiration of the hibakusha, survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and an original song that sums up our task: *Our Move*.



Hiroshima - Nagasaki 75th Commemoration - "Peace Lanterns"

As people gathered, the lanterns were prepared by stringing them together and fixing candles to each one. They then folded origami paper cranes, waiting for the sun to set. CPA board member Don Bryant welcomed the guests attending the Hiroshima - Nagasaki 75th Commemoration Peace Lantern Ceremony. He welcomed representatives from the All African People's Revolutionary Party, Move To Amend, and the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL).



As the sun began to set, attendees carried the lanterns to the water. Don made a statement concerning the commemoration, describing the first atomic bomb tests at White Sands in 1945 and the horrendous bombings of human populations in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He described how the nuclear bombs which the U.S. is now producing are 3000 times more destructive than "Little Boy" and "Fat Man," (jargon for the bombs). Don offered a microphone to others and Zizwe Tchiguka of the AAPRP said that the wars consuming our planet are the responsibility of both major political parties. He continued, calling for unity among intersectional groups and individuals to overcome the destructive ambitions of our nation's leaders.



The group chanted, "No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, No More Hibakusha" (bomb survivors). They lit the candles, then placed the lanterns on the water, pushing them into the gentle current.

2020 CPA Annual Meeting.....

Declining US Empire and the Peace Movement's Role

By Francis Chiappa and Don Bryant

CPA's Annual Membership Meeting featured **Kevin Zeese**, of the Washington, DC-based Popular Resistance. Originally scheduled for March, because of the coronavirus we waited until July 24 to host him on Zoom. It was worth the wait.

Zeese made a convincing and thorough case that the US is the most dominant colonial power in history. Its massive military spending, its 800 military bases around the world, its "Special Forces" which are 90% of all such forces globally, far outpace all other nations. Its use of sanctions and economic warfare are unprecedented. Its long history of regime change is well known, with current destabilizing attacks on Iran, Nicaragua and Venezuela. In an act of resistance, Kevin was arrested this Spring but not successfully prosecuted as part of the occupation of the Venezuelan embassy in DC. He noted that 40,000 Venezuelans have died as a result of economic sanctions.

A curious aspect of US Empire is that it's an open secret. Colonialism is disguised with the language of freedom and democracy. The people might rebel if the media labeled our foreign policy as maintaining "our empire."

In this time of many dramatic changes, Zeese made a strong case that the peace movement must be part of a "movement of movements," since all issues are ultimately connected. For example, the US military has a huge carbon footprint. Racism and empire are linked. We don't target white-majority or European countries for regime change. Empire works to guarantee cheap labor for the multinational corporations it serves. It worsens income inequality at home and abroad.

War has evolved into what Zeese calls "hybrid wars" which include illegal sanctions and propaganda. Thirty-nine countries - one third of the world - suffer effects of US sanctions in violation of the United Nations charter. Since 2008, the U.S. has become increasingly reliant on unilateral economic sanctions or embargoes to sustain the Empire. Economic sanctions cause death and devastation



in targeted countries by denying access to U.S.-dominated markets, limiting abilities to generate wealth, stabilize currencies against price fluctuations and provide for their People. Economic sanctions have replaced wars, allowing for theft of assets through freezes and seizures.

To ensure its viability and relevancy the Empire must win the public relations war with the electorate. The justifications our leaders provide for sanctioning, occupying or waging war on their (not our) adversaries have usually proven false, after the fact. Since 2000, the US has spent over \$6 Trillion on wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and other nations with support from both sides of the aisle. Zeese warned that we must put a check on both Democrats and Republicans for their waging of illegal wars, occupations and sanctions.

There's been some group discussion following the meeting that Kevin overreached in his defense of China and Russia, in particular China's repressive actions with the ethnic Uighurs. But the fact that the US also does what it can to promote dissension in those countries is not in dispute.

Zeese suggested that US Empire is on the brink of decline. Its military spending is unsustainable and weakens us at home. The US is committed to nuclear weapons upgrade and an even costlier arms race in space. As the arms race is the 1980's bankrupted Russia, Kevin suggested the next arms race will hurt the US the most. He admitted that empires usually end badly, in chaos. But he remained hopeful that the peace movement's effort to educate people and connect with other struggles will bear fruit. The time is ripe for this.

For those of us who may be less optimistic he suggested this: "The only path to victory is defeat." It's always a long struggle. "You lose, and lose, and lose, until you win."

Elected 2020 Board

Two-year term beginning 7/24/20

Don Bryant
Chantal Dothey
Elizabeth Kravanya
Genevieve Mitchell
Faten Odeh
Thomas Soddors
Mark Weber

Officers:

One-year term beginning 7/24/20

Mark Weber, President
Dena Magoulas, Treasurer
Chantal Dothey, Secretary

Two-year term beginning 3/3/19

Francis Chiappa
Meghan Donovan
Bill Fickinger
Dena Magoulas
Rosemary Palmer

Our four new members:

Elizabeth Kravanya interned with CPA several years ago. She is active in justice work and is a junior in political science at Cleveland State University. She is trained in dispute and conflict resolution.

Genevieve Mitchell is a long-time peace and justice activist. She has led the Carl Stokes Brigade and the Black Women's Center of Cleveland. Genevieve has also served in the Cuyahoga County Recorder's office and a former officer of the Cleveland Municipal School Board.

Faten Odeh is co-chair of the CPA Committee on Middle East Peace. She is a teacher of history and journalism at Al Ihsan School of Excellence and she is a co-founder of the Misada Family Literacy Program. Faten is active in Palestine solidarity work and is the proud mother of a newborn son, Samir.

Tom Soddors is a retired Teamster and is the leading inspiration behind the founding of the Labor Education and Arts Project (LEAP). Tom was also a leader of the Ohio State Labor Party and the Labor Fightback Network.

.....July 24th.....by ZOOM

Salute to the Robinsons 50 years of Activism

Valerie Robinson was born in Texas, growing up in Quincy, Massachusetts. She and her sister were raised by their mom and their great aunt. Valerie is a feminist. She loves nature and, having heard many stories about Newfoundland, became intrigued by the Inuit. She graduated from South Kingstown High School in Rhode Island in 1955 and from the University of Rhode Island in 1960. She later obtained her Master's Degree in Biology from Cleveland State University. Valerie and Stewart were married July 7 1960, recently celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary!

Valerie worked at Cleveland Public Schools. She is co-founder of *Stop Targeting Ohio's Poor*. In 2001 she attended the first Saturday West Side Market Peace Vigil against the war in Afghanistan, and continues today to oppose all US militarism. She is a past board member of the *North-east Ohio Coalition for the Homeless* and is currently a board member of the *Labor and Education Arts Project (LEAP)*. In her public address in 2011 at a "US out of Libya Rally" Valerie said, "Do you want a war? How about a war on poverty, or a war on racism?"



Stewart Robinson was born in Schenectady, New York. He is a Professor of Mathematics (ret) from Cleveland State University. He studied at Union College in New York, graduating in 1955. He then obtained his PHD from Duke University.

When in high school, Stewart and a friend attended their first demonstration. A labor strike at General Electric was demanding equal pay for equal work for women and people of color. After school he and his friend went to watch the strike. Stewart's school principal found out and kicked him out of school which, as he says, solidified him for a life of activism.

In college, Stewart helped organize a protest of a graduation ceremony which was to be held in a segregated restaurant with no black workers in Schenectady. The administration yielded and moved the ceremony to a racially open establishment. In Rhode Island, where Stewart and Valerie met, he went to Woolworth's store to protest the segregated lunch counters, but asked Valerie to stay behind.

Together, they took many trips to Washington D.C. in the 1960s to protest the Vietnam war. On one trip they took their three children and were gassed by police. Stew was arrested at several of the protests. In the 1970s they edited their own newspaper, *"Bread, Peace, and Land"*. At CSU Stewart helped organize a faculty union. He completed his last ten years of teaching at CWRU. Today, the Robinsons have nine grandchildren and two great grandkids.

Don Bryant

*Eight months since our last newsletter!
What a stressful time it has been: no meetings, no demonstrations, no visits.... Today we must reach out by mail, email and ZOOM events.*

The impact of the pandemic and Trump's behavior on world peace makes our goals ever more important.

But we are determined to build Cleveland Peace Action, bringing in new members, young and old, who will carry on our work for peace.

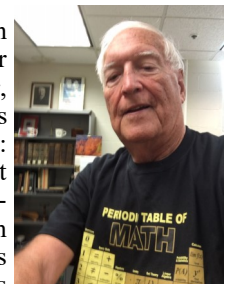
Your participation and donations will make this possible.

Thanks Bill:

It's my privilege to offer this tribute to Bill Fickinger, to honor his decades of labor in pursuit of peace and nuclear disarmament. Bill spent his career as a professor of physics at CWRU. I can't speak to his activism before the 1980's but, as a physicist, I suspect he recognized early on that nuclear weapons were a terrible idea. When the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign took off in the early 80's, Bill was there, escaping the confines of the ivory tower, to speak out as a physicist. Sharing his expertise, he helped educate me and so many others on how nukes work and why they are so terrible. After becoming an Emeritus Professor in 1999, and, with the Nuclear Freeze renamed Peace Action, he joined the Cleveland Peace Action board.

Since then, he's been faithful to the causes of nuclear abolition and the end of war, violence and injustice. He's dug into whatever was needed: newsletter editor for the last decade, board secretary, presenting on everything from nuclear physics to weapons treaties, trying to engage his more cautious younger colleagues at Case to get involved, turning out for demonstrations, phone banks...he's done it all. On top of this, I must add that Bill is a really sweet and gentle man, and a great pleasure to work with. Thank you Bill, for all that you are!

Francis Chiappa



NUKES IN 2020: GETTING WORSE

The following is the introduction to an article published by the American Physical Society. The full text calls on physicists to lead in the efforts to ban all nukes.

As a result of policies and actions of the nine nuclear weapon states, the **global threat from nuclear weapons is worsening**. In particular, U.S. withdrawal from important arms control treaties, the pursuit of new nuclear weapons capabilities and possible reduction of the threshold for nuclear warfighting by the U.S. and Russia, and programs in all nine states for sweeping modernization and development of nuclear arsenals, suggest we confront a resurgent nuclear arms race and a more perilous future. These new threats add to the dangers posed by the nine national nuclear arsenals that together contain roughly 10,000 operational nuclear warheads, with an explosive power in the range of 200,000 Hiroshima bombs. About 2000 warheads are on alert status, capable of launch within minutes of an order.

The nuclear threat is clear. Controlled by a handful of men in nine nations, the current world military stockpile of more than 9,000 warheads can release about 300,000 times more explosive energy than that of the Hiroshima bomb, which claimed more than 100,000 lives. A fraction of this current nuclear arsenal could eliminate civilized life many times over.

A new arms race: The escalatory response and counter-response dynamic of an arms race is underway, but this time involving three countries. The **United States** is beginning a 30-year, trillion-dollar replacement and upgrade of essentially all its nuclear weapons and delivery capabilities with next-generation systems. To evade future US military defenses **Russia** is developing hypersonic reentry vehicles that can maneuver in the upper atmosphere, underwater nuclear torpedoes, and ICBMs that can fly over the South Pole. **China** is building up its relatively small arsenal of strategic ballistic missiles and developing hypersonic reentry vehicles, also, at least in part, in response to the US build-up of missile defenses. The US is developing some of the same weapons and is redoubling its commitment to missile defense.

See the whole article at *aps.org*,
go to publications, APS News, backpage

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IS CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL DWINDLING?

For those who have been following our government's decades-long support of Israel's military occupation of Palestine, you may now see a crack in this unholy alliance. Israel would not have become one of the most technologically sophisticated militaries in the world without billions of dollars in US tax dollars since 1949. Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign aid since World War II. As of 2019, the United States has provided Israel \$142.3 billion in military assistance.

Of course, Palestinians in Jerusalem, Occupied Palestine and the diaspora suffer the brunt of our government's special relationship with Israel. Both Democrats and Republicans are responsible for the sidelining of Palestinian human rights. It wasn't until President Obama was leaving office that he took a more courageous step and abstained from the usual US veto to protect Israel from criticism in a United Nations Security Council resolution demanding an end to Israeli settlements on Palestinian territory, allowing it to pass. As the Trump administration got even more cozy with Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu naming Jerusalem as Israel's capital and condoning illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied West Bank, several Democratic presidential candidates said the United States should consider withholding military aid if Israel continued to annex land in the West Bank. Closer to home, Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown has been a strong supporter of Israel defending its right to "defend" against low-grade missiles shot into Israel by militants in besieged Gaza. Israel's "defense" came by way of massive military attacks on Gaza in 2008-9 and 2014 killing thousands of civilians and destroying critical infrastructure. Further, Senator Brown has been an avid supporter of sanctions on Iran, in alliance with Israel. However, Senator Brown has recently moved away from blanket support of Israel by joining twelve senators in an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to prohibit Israel from using U.S. security assistance funds to unilaterally annex Palestinian territory in the West Bank. The amendment failed, but resistance to Israel's brutality and lawlessness seems to be growing in Congress.

Cleveland Peace Action has joined the No Rights/No Aid Campaign (NR/NA) to correct this injustice by demanding no more aid to Israel until Palestinians have equal rights to Jewish Israelis. Every month, NR/NA posts an exceptional Israeli atrocity to our constituents and on Facebook asking people to contact their U.S. representatives and senators in a user-friendly letter writing program highlighting the atrocity and urging Congress to withhold military aid to Israel. Please consider joining this effort by sending your name, mailing address, and email address to clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com or calling our office at 216.205.1427.

Don Bryant, Middle East Committee Co-Chair



CPA CONDEMNS ISRAELI ANNEXATION PLAN

Cleveland Peace Action condemns, without reservation, the plan, announced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to annex up to one-third of the West Bank to become part of the Israeli state. This land that Israel would seize is the fertile Jordan River Valley which produces about 60% of Palestine's agricultural food supply. This is because crops grown in the Jordan Valley have ready access to water. Thus, many fruits and vegetables are grown in the Valley throughout the year.

The goal of this annexation plan is the displacement and ethnic cleansing of indigenous Palestinian farmers in favor of more and more colonies (illegal settlements) of Israeli settlers. The end result of this brutal policy of annexation will be the further impoverishment and oppression of the Palestinian Arab population of the West Bank. Without a genuine political voice, these people will be forced to live on an ever-shrinking scrap of land without either political rights or economic self-sufficiency.

STOP THE ANNEXATION. STOP IT NOW!

CPA Chair Mark Weber

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events.
We plan monthly ZOOM events:
Sept 8: "Voter Suppression-Get Out the
Vote"
Oct: to be determined
Nov 10 "Election Dissection"