

# NEWSLETTER

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

Peace Action is the country's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization, with more than 100,000 members. Cleveland Peace Action is one of over 70 autonomous affiliates and chapter organizations.



**JULY 2023** Volume 19 Issue 1

## Golden Rule Peace Boat Sails into North Coast Harbor!

The Golden Rule crew will join us in commemorating Hiroshima Day with words, music and inspiration for a nuclear-free world. Sunday, August 6, 2023, 7 PM at the Free Stamp, Willard Park Cleveland. Limited seating available, bring chairs if you can



The 39-foot sailboat Golden Rule is sailing to Cleveland to alert us to the need to eliminate nuclear weapons and prevent nuclear war. This historic vessel, restored by Veterans For Peace, will anchor at North Coast Harbor August 5th to 8th, on the 78th anniversary of the atomic bomb-

ing of Hiroshima. We will gather to welcome the Golden Rule Saturday at Noon, at North Coast Harbor Marina.

In 1958 four Quaker peace activists sailed the Golden Rule from Los Angeles toward the Marshall Islands in an attempt to halt U.S. nuclear weapons testing. The U.S. Coast Guard seized the boat in Honolulu and jailed the crew. The international outcry that followed built support for the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty that was signed in August 1963 by President John F. Kennedy and the leaders of the UK and the USSR.

"We are sailing for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future," says Helen Jaccard, Golden Rule Project Manager. "The billions of dollars that are being wasted on nuclear weapons and war could be used to address poverty, the pandemic, and

climate change, while providing quality education and healthcare for all."

The Golden Rule is currently sailing "The Great Loop" – the Mississippi, Gulf Coast, East Coast, and Great Lakes, with her message of peace, disarmament and sustainability. From August 5th to 7th – Saturday, Sunday, and Monday - the Golden Rule is open for tours and possibly a short sail, weather permitting. The crew and support team are also available for presentations to groups.



For information about the Golden Rule and Cleveland Peace Action, scan the QR code

We're available for presentations at your church/club/school.

Contact Helen Jaccard at [vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com](mailto:vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com), 206-992-6364.

Local contacts: Don Bryant/Francis Chiappa, [clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com), 440-703-0215

# Annual Membership Meeting 2023

## Ending the Ukraine War: Can There Be Solidarity Within the Peace Movement?

**MISSED IT? [Now showing on YouTube](#)**

**Recorded Wednesday, April 26th, 2023**

**A conversation with CPA Board Members Terry Lodge and Mark Weber, and the audience. Moderator: Francis Chiappa**

**Terry Lodge is a longtime environmental and civil rights lawyer in Toledo, Ohio who co-founded the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition in Toledo a few days after September 11, 2001. He and NWOPC have actively opposed every U.S. war and proxy war involvement since.**

**Mark Weber is the outgoing president of Cleveland Peace Action. He is a retired librarian and has done human rights work in Colombia and Palestine.**

Cleveland Peace Action's (CPA) annual meeting featured an unofficial debate about a contentious issue, the Russian war in Ukraine, also characterized as a proxy war between the U.S. and Russia. Past CPA board president Mark Weber and board member Terry Lodge accepted the challenge. The speakers' points of unity included: a negotiated ceasefire; resolve that the Russian army must leave Ukraine (Crimea may be a negotiated region); guaranteed civil rights for conscientious objectors in Russia and Ukraine; and that we've never been closer to the risk of nuclear war!

Disagreement arose around how the points of unity could be achieved, whether the U.S. should provide military support to Ukraine, which Mr. Weber supports, and how to enforce or negotiate "Russia, get out of Ukraine." This statement must be broken down. As Mr. Lodge offered, "Russia won't leave without some security measures for their interests", and he called for a cessation of U.S. political interference in Ukraine and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to end military operations in the region. Ethnic Russians comprise 17.3 percent of Ukraine's population, according to Britannica. What does "Russia, get out" mean for the rights of Russian-speaking Ukrainians?

Past CPA board co-president Nina McLellan said that Russian-speaking Ukrainians must be considered in this equation too. She asked, "are they guaranteed human rights and self-determination?" Another audience participant and CPA board member asked if supporting self-determination means supporting the people of Ukraine or the president of Ukraine.

Throwing a lifeline is not the same as sending weapons. One audience member, Josie, suggested reading *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict* by Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan. After evaluating large numbers of conflicts, the authors conclude that nonviolent civil resistance brought about greater success, longer-lasting success, and better democratic outcomes. Josie further commented, "Whether civil resistance could have worked, I don't know, but why do we assume weapons will work...?"

Erica Chenoweth (they-them) is a political scientist and professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. In a separate article they write "even before the Arab Spring, nonviolent campaigns in Serbia (2000), Madagascar (2002), Ukraine (2004), Lebanon (2005), and Nepal (2006) succeeded in ousting regimes from power."

I've heard the Ukrainian struggle for independence compared to the Palestinian struggle and the right to sovereignty. The difference, of course, is that the U.S. is arming the "Russia" in this case: Israel. Are the proponents of this analogy suggesting that the U.S. support the Palestinian Authority or Hamas with millions of dollars in weaponry? If so, that's up to the State Department to decide, not Cleveland Peace Action. Just as it is not CPA's role to help plan war strategy for the U.S. war department in Ukraine.

Yes, let's support sovereignty for the Ukrainians with resistance, not bombs. What does non-military assistance look like? This must be our quest and with no time to lose.

Watch the discussion "Ending the Ukraine War: Can There Be Solidarity Within the Peace Movement?" [www.peaceaction-cleveland.org](http://www.peaceaction-cleveland.org)



**Terry Lodge**



**Mark Weber**

# Am I Woke?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines “being woke” as “originally: well-informed, up-to-date, now chiefly: alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice.” It has roots in the 1920’s speeches by Marcus Garvey, and the singer, Leadbelly, in his song about the “Scottsboro Boys.” U.S. Citizens described as wide awake against slavery during the 1860 presidential campaign pushed Abraham Lincoln to victory. These days it’s a cautionary watchword for change agents and community activists – stay alert to police brutality and all forms of violence as a basic survival tactic. Watch for the hunters: people like Kyle Rittenhouse, who shot three people, handed police his rifle, and, during a widely-publicized trial, got off scott-free. People like the Police Officer who murdered Tamir Rice outside Cudell Rec Center. People like the man who fire-bombed the church because of Pride Day. People like the perpetrator of the most recent mass shooting (probably one more as this goes to print).

In my opinion, “being woke” takes us deeper into the vision for all of God’s children to live as one human family, and exposing what Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. calls the triple threats of “racism, materialism and militarism,” in one of the greatest speeches/ sermons in U.S. history: “Breaking the Silence: Beyond Vietnam,” preached on April 3, 1967, one year before his death.

On April 3, 2023, in the Cleveland City Hall Rotunda, peace activists from a variety of northeast Ohio Organizations read and reflected on “Breaking the Silence.” Following the reading, a subset of the group asked City Council to sponsor the “Resolution to Eliminate US Militarism.” I hope they follow through.

Dr. King's words are relevant today: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." His voice joins the Angel chorus from the eons,

# Do I Want To Be?

calling citizens to “reorder our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war.”

Here's the thing; the definition of "being woke" is evolving. Woke is about seeing and addressing racism, yes, and, is also about unpacking and repairing the many rips in our social fabric caused by "isms" over the years.

The mandate comes from the Holy Scriptures for Christians, Jews and Muslims which says: "If we love one another God dwelleth in us, and God's love is perfected in us."

Dr. King again: “. . . History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate . . . God’s love is going to have the last word.” A hate-filled bullet took his life; but his spirit and God’s mission continues.

It is naïve to think that everyone who cries “woke, woke” is committed to racial and social justice (reminiscent of Jesus’ phrase: “Not everyone who says Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 7:21. There will always be nefarious actors who use the crowd as cover to stoke the flames of hatred, violence and insurrection.

God, help us to turn away from the idols of white supremacy, unquestioned spending on the military industrial complex and the drumbeat of war. Help us turn hatred to love. Reinvest our time, talents and treasures in non-military -oriented jobs, community building resources and programs that elevate all children; teach us conflict resolution and peace-making skills and promote the philosophy of nonviolence on a personal, national, and global level. Let those with God-is-Love -consciousness increase in numbers and power to do our part to end unjust systems that create poverty and fuel terrorism in this country and in the world.



Rev. Doug Horner, a former U.S. Marine, is a pastor in the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, and holds memberships in the Veterans for Peace, Cleveland Non-Violence Network and Cleveland Peace Action.

Find more info/ events:  
<https://www.peaceaction-cleveland.org/>



# What Is Happening In El Salvador?

By Mary Ober

This past April, I spent a week in El Salvador meeting with the artisans around the country who are associated with the fair trade business my late husband established in 2009. The country's current "State of Exception" invariably came up in all business or social conversations with each group that we met. That "State" was initiated in March 2022 by

the country's 41-year old president, Nayib Bukele, who was elected in June 2019. He used his constitutional powers to create it. Prior to the "State of Exception," El Salvador had a severe gang problem. The country had one of the worst per capita murder rates in the world, and locals were afraid to go outside their homes because of gang fighting. The intent of the State of Exception was to disable the gangs by removing their members from the streets by arresting known (and frequently heavily tattooed) gang members. The identification of who was to be arrested was left to the judgment of local police authorities. A little over 1% of the country's population (67,000 in a country of 6.4 million) was incarcerated. The drop in murder and crime in general was precipitous. People once again returned to enjoying their neighborhoods. This success has made headlines around the world, including projections of the new president being easily re-elected next year.



But in our talks with locals, we heard of a darker side of the details associated with the State of Exception. Almost everyone had a sad story to tell. We learned that:

- Quotas were sometimes used to ensure that sufficient people were jailed to be sure that all the gang members were jailed.
- The quotas were largely responsible for estimates of at least 20,000 (approximately 30% of those imprisoned) people arrested randomly in spite of being completely innocent of any gang association. Others were arrested based on gang membership that was terminated as much as 20 years ago.
- The process of habeas corpus (the judicial process to evaluate the individual merits on the legality of an individual's detention) has been suspended for these detainees so innocent people have no legal process for getting out of jail and no dates have been set for ending the "State" or releasing individuals.
- Some prisoners have been released, but it takes either severe illness, political contacts, and/or a huge effort by local NGOs focused on one specific person to have any success.
- Living conditions within the jails are terrible. The gangs have reformed their structures within the prisoner populations of the large cells of detention centers. Food is insufficient and in some cases has been laced with iodine.
- One "care package" per month, taken to prisoners by their families but very few get through to them.
- Family members inquiring about their imprisoned member are given no information. In one specific instance, they were told not to come back to ask about that person until December of this year.

Yes, the intended results have been dramatic. But at what cost to human rights? There is not nearly enough publicity around the US about this “State of Exception,” now in place for nearly 15 months. This situation needs to be on the active radar of the Cleveland Peace Action. The government has been spreading its propaganda about the success of the declared emergency in making the country safer. The leader of an El Salvadoran non-profit I partner with for my business told me that she is concerned that the government will reach a point where they won’t be allowed to keep any of the prisoners incarcerated, and will let them all out: opening the floodgates, as it were.

**Here is a link to an El Faro article about El Salvador:**

[https://elfaro.net/en/202303/el\\_salvador/26793/One-Year-under-a-Police-State-in-El-Salvador.htm](https://elfaro.net/en/202303/el_salvador/26793/One-Year-under-a-Police-State-in-El-Salvador.htm)

On May 22, the United Nations Human Rights Council released a report highly critical of the El Salvadoran government’s mass detentions, mass hearings and trials.

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**One innocent family’s story is detailed in a more recent article:**

[https://elfaro.net/en/202303/el\\_salvador/26776/A-Family-with-Nothing-to-Hide-Flees-from-the-State-of-Exception.htm](https://elfaro.net/en/202303/el_salvador/26776/A-Family-with-Nothing-to-Hide-Flees-from-the-State-of-Exception.htm)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/05/el-salvador-extended-state-emergency-undermines-right-fair-trial-un-experts#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20state%20of%20emergency%20was,safety%2C%E2%80%9D%20the%20experts%20said.>

**Please, call your US Representatives and Senators!**



Presents Artist Eric Macalla's  
vision "What is Peace"  
AT



**A free two- day art exhibit and community  
celebration. Visit the CPA installation then check  
out our craft and information table.**

# The Artist Statement

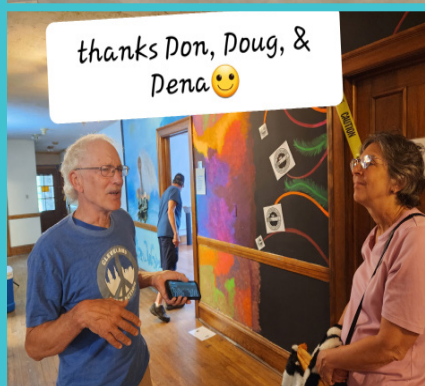
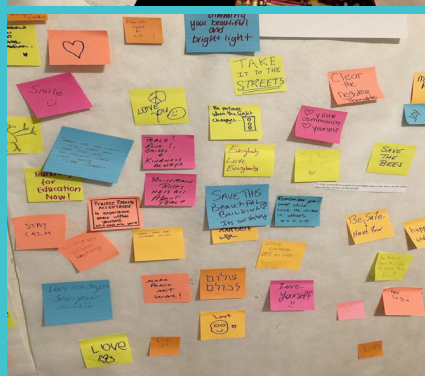
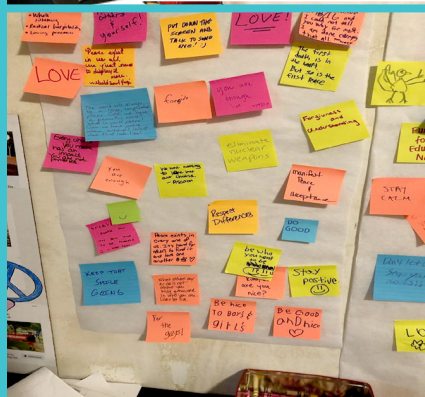
I was commissioned by Cleveland peace action to create a work for Rooms to Let. Trying to get my arms around “What does Peace look like”, I started to wonder how I could really know peace if I had never known war, and by war, I mean on our shores. I was born in Cleveland, apart from a couple of moves through the years northeast Ohio has been my home wars have been driven me from my dwelling, my heritage. I have never known food or housing insecurity because of armed conflict, feared for my life.

I started this piece speaking to those who have had that reality, been acutely affected by war. Refugees enrolled at Lincoln West High School, most from Africa who I went to for insight. All recounted to me that they were from Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda none had ever been in the country of their family’s origin, all born in UN refugee camps. Families broken by being displaced, food insecure due to the rations received monthly. I asked what Peace looked like to them. Good plentiful fresh food #1, secure housing even for those who were placed in shelters here could strive for permanent homes, opportunities to study, college to look forward too, and opportunities to play sports. Things that I have taken for granted.

Armed with that information I approached the digital photography class at Lincoln West High School and some friends, and asked for prints of just that, the simple things that we take for granted. My part in the process was to provide the scaffolding for their ideas. The house structures (which have been showing up a lot lately) are symbols of stability for me, which is what I look from the conversations. Peace looks like trust in the future, predictability, being rooted.

- Eric Tuck McCullough





## Participating Artists

- Mia Almadovar Munoz
- Nayelis Cruz Rosa
- Jeremiah Beasley
- Jadhvi Ramos Ayala
- Agnes Nyirasafari
- Peyton Apper
- Christian Rolon Irizarry
- Felix Fontinez Rodriguez
- Enrique Castro
- Prisca Ndamukanda
- LaChay Connor
- Centia Igraneza
- Tara Rai
- Angel Rios
- Renardo Lewis
- Ongwa Mlondani
- Liz Vazquez
- Gabriel Garcia Rivera
- Sylvia Medina
- Bryan Turpeau
- Bryan Mejia
- Natalie Figueroa
- Arielys Santiago
- Nekhi Philbrook
- Arianna DeBase
- Karen Gnahab-Mortensen
- Nghi Le
- David Sangree
- Johari Ramadhani



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**2592 West 14th Street**  
**Cleveland, OH 44113**

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**We would like to acknowledge  
that we gather on land  
originally stewarded by the  
Wyandot, Delaware, Shawnee  
Ottawa, Miami, Eel River, Wea  
Chippewa, Potawatomi, Erie,  
Kickapoo, Piankashaw,  
Kaskaskia, Mingo, Seneca  
and Ojibwa people.**

**We honor with gratitude the land  
itself and the people who lived  
here and cared for it.**

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

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