

NEWSLETTER

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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.

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Cleveland Peace Action Year in Review

Written By Don Bryant, President Cleveland Peace Action

Cleveland Peace Action's Annual meeting presentation last spring attempted to answer the question "Can the Peace Movement Agree on Ukraine?" This conversation with CPA Board Members Terry Lodge and Mark Weber raised different points of view with some agreement on the Russian war in Ukraine, a conflict that has divided the Left and the peace movement.

"Breaking the Silence" Annual Reading of Dr. King's speech that links racism, militarism, and Capitalism as three evils that continue to degrade our democracy and our nation. The 2023 reading moved from the steps of Cleveland City Hall in 2022 to City Hall's rotunda, as a courtesy from Mayor Bibb's office. As always, this event brings in new affiliations and strengthens old ones.

CPA staked out a spot in the old Broadway-Fleet neighborhood to host the "Rooms to Let Exhibit," an artistic representation of "What is Peace?" Eric Tuck

McCullough's exhibit was derived and inspired from those who had been acutely affected by war, including refugees enrolled at Lincoln West High School, mostly from Africa.

Hosting the Golden Rule (GR) peace boat in August 2023 was a proper addition to CPA's annual Hiroshima Nagasaki commemoration. The GR sailed throughout the country to alert us to the need to eliminate nuclear weapons and prevent nuclear war. Organizing for the GR's arrival brought in new members of the community, reaching new audiences with our message of and mission for a just peace and a sustainable economy. CPA and the Inter Religious Task Force on Central America co-hosted a program to expose



the inequities of the El Salvadoran's government current "State of Exception" at a new venue in the Larchmont Avenue neighborhood.

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Cleveland Peace Action condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which continues to indiscriminately kill civilians as well as destroy vital infrastructure. We call for an immediate ceasefire by all forces in Ukraine and negotiations to resolve disagreements between the two nations.



Serious and continuous diplomatic talks by all parties is the only means by which to end the stalemate in Ukraine. The war has taken a horrific toll on the lives of the Ukrainian people and the infrastructure of their country. Besides the military casualties, there have been tens of thousands of civilian deaths and over six million refugees have fled the country. We condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Russian imperialism throughout the region. Russia's invasion is a clear violation of the United Nations Charter as an act of aggression. We also condemn the brutality of the war waged by Russia and the crimes against humanity going back to 2014, now being investigated by the International Criminal Court. We condemn the continuing role of the United States in destabilizing the region. We condemn the expansion of NATO which has only worked to increase tensions between nations. We condemn the U. S. current position in continuing to supply endless amounts of military aid to Ukraine, including the recent \$61 billion package, helping to drag out the conflict with no clear accompanying diplomatic strategy. We urge President Biden and Congress to begin negotiations with

Ukraine and Russia to implement a ceasefire and initiate plans to end the war.

Lastly, Cleveland Peace Action stands in solidarity with all parties everywhere working to end the war in Ukraine.

"We stand with the Ukrainian people who want to see an end to their suffering and the destruction of their country"

We stand with our fellow Russian antiwar activists who are now subject to retribution and imprisonment for their peace advocacy and opposition to this war. We encourage all neutral countries to intervene in the conflict on behalf of peace and justice.

Cleveland Peace Action demands our government take the following steps toward reducing tensions and ending this war:

- Begin serious and continuous diplomacy to initiate a ceasefire and end the war
- Reject calls to enforce a No-Fly-Zone
- Pledge No First Use of nuclear weapons
- No US warplanes to Ukraine
- End efforts to include Ukraine in NATO
- Reject any additional funding for the Pentagon
- Dial down inflammatory statements about Putin and Russia
- Appropriate funds for humanitarian assistance and the rebuilding of Ukraine



PEACE NOT APARTHEID

Community Circle & Emergency Gaza Relief Benefit

Thanks to all participants. People agreed that along with the Nakba of 1948 and imposing The Occupation of the West Bank in 1967, this current ethnic cleansing/genocide in Palestine is a major turning point. Without seeing an end in sight.

We invited the community. Ninety participants, arranged in three circles. In the center were the first presenters. These included our familiar Palestinian and anti-Zionist points of view. Palestine Children's Relief Fund associate presented with powerpoint and its all too graphic images. Highlighting the children helped with medical interventions!

After a brief discussion, those in the second circle followed up. This was the added, new input, from friends who had a very good take on the issues. They tied in the commonalities with their own primary issues, whether African American, Central/Latin American, . Well-stated was the crucial importance, for all of us, to overcome the "divide and conquer" of those with the wealth and power to manipulate us.

Nine powerful 7-minute presentations were heard with participation from the wider circle. Some memorable depictions include Dr. Shereen Nasser's talk about grief with no space to grieve; and Faten Odeh's description of

a mother's empty arms where her child is no more. Rev. Doug Horner closed out, self-identifying as a privileged, white male and ex-Marine who identified the stages of growth in his awareness of oppressions others live in this society in which we are immersed. It could be a model for our growing mutual awareness, as well as for those around us who we must reach, blinded by the media's lies about us. Philip Yenyo reflected on the ethnic cleansing of the first inhabitants of the land, and how recognizing this "American" phenomenon is a good starting point for recognizing and honoring our mutuality.

We offer a special thank you to Palestine Children's Relief Fund for presenting and continuing their work in Gaza. You can help them at <https://www.pcrf.net/>. Thanks to Jeff V Kassouf for filming and contributing all proceeds to PCRF in the name of Margaret and Elias Kassouf (deceased).

We appreciate our emcees, Amina Hamdan and Jeffery Elias Kassouf who managed the room expertly and with Arabic hospitality. Thanks to all participants for having faith in this community circle experiment.

~Kim Hill & Don Bryant





Dear Senator, Ceasefire Now Rally and Lobby Visit

Our “Dear Senator, Ceasefire Now” initiatives were noticed by various offices of the government despite being ignored by our elected officials. We planned to deliver letters to our two senators calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and providing “notification that U.S. military aid to Israel may be prosecutable as genocide.” As of this writing, messages to the Senators Sherrod Brown and J.D.Vance continue to be ignored.

I find it intriguing that our group attracted the attention of the U.S. Federal Marshal, federal police, and city police. As we gathered across the street from the Carl B. Stokes Federal Courthouse a plainclothes agent from the Federal Marshal’s office came right up to us and asked what the plan was. I didn’t want to reveal everything like that we had a child-sized mock coffin folded up in a duffel bag to symbolize the 8,697 Palestinian killed by Israeli forces since October 7, 2023. He then told us the plan. “Only four of you can go up to Senator Brown’s office,” instead of the ten I had requested. We sent five.

We then crossed the street with a huge “Ceasefire Now!” banner, similar smaller signs and two, special for the occasion: “Sherrod Shares the Blood on Bibi’s Hands” and “Silent Sherrod, Stop the Genocide”. We felt justified in these allegations since Sen. Brown had not responded to concerns raised in a November 29th meeting with staffer Drew Martineau, hosted by the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition via Zoom.

Also, Sen. Brown has a history of supporting the Israeli military and their ravaging of Palestine with U.S. tax dollars and supplying political cover, for decades.

Many new faces joined the regulars at the rally along with Cleveland Peace Action board members. A couple dozen of us: women, and men, many youths, and some seasoned activists, with Palestinian and Jewish Americans, chanted and held our signs up to the passing traffic and the dozen police in cruisers and on foot.

The delegation went through the security checkpoint and up to Sen Brown’s office. A child-sized mock coffin was assembled in the elevator with “8,697 Palestinian Children” posted on top to represent the murdered children in Gaza. A Palestinian scarf draped the box. Our official reason for the visit was to deliver a letter with eight co-signers, calling for a ceasefire, a freeze on military aid to Israel and a legal caution of U.S. complicity to war crimes. Two delegates of Palestinian descent, Zaha, a young mother and Muna, a student, spoke passionately about their connection to their homeland and the oppression of the Palestinian people at the hands of Israel for 75 years. Some of us noticed that the Federal Marshal agent was



tearing up. Sen. Sherrod Brown’s aide, John Ryan, past North Shore AFL-CIO officer, took notes and reminded us that Sen. Brown appreciates protesters and had been on the protest line himself. (But where is he now?) I told Mr. Ryan that two more children would die in Gaza during our twenty-minute visit. The grim statistics reveal that the IDF murders a child in Gaza every ten minutes. As we exited, we chanted, “US Government you can’t hide, we charge you with genocide” and “Free, Free Palestine!” continuing through the courthouse.

The next day it was off to Senator Vance’s office in the Anthony Celebrezze Federal Building. We were lucky with two balmy December days, especially with the high winds that came off the lake. A federal police officer in a blue uniform, armed and smiling, approached us and said, “same as yesterday?” I replied, “Pretty much.”

~Don Bryant



Are We Morally Prepared for Nuclear War?

The recent film, “Oppenheimer,” is reawakening awareness of the dangers of nuclear confrontation and its consequences for humanity and our planet. We’re reminded that we must contend with the use of nuclear weapons both materially and ethically.

Are we morally prepared for a sudden breakout of thermonuclear war that could destroy much, or all, of human life on Earth? The provocations keep multiplying. The Russian Federation has publicly refused to negotiate an end to the war with Ukraine while it moves short-range, “limited” nuclear weapons into Belarus. Russia has pledged to respond with maximum force if nearby Belarus were attacked by a combination of militaries including Poland (NATO). The U.S. is only half-heartedly conducting shallow negotiations with Russia to extend the vital NewSTART weapons limitation treaty via press conferences but without any actual diplomatic contact. In November, a prominent Israeli politician suggested that weapons from its illegal arsenal should be used on Gaza.

The pall of nuclear war hangs over the European and Middle East conflicts in part because of a blasé U.S. attitude. Nuclear war is clearly quite thinkable at the Pentagon. Its 2019 official nuclear warfighting policy, “Nuclear Operations” assures that “US nuclear forces and command and control structures are designed to survive enemy attacks to

convince potential aggressors that, in any scenario, sufficient US capability will remain to deliver a retaliatory strike.”

In the defense industry’s and Pentagon’s view of the world, nuclear arms treaties, central to limiting arms buildups, are brushed aside as pointless since, supposedly, Russia will cheat and China won’t come to the bargaining table. Russia’s and China’s growing nuclear weapons arsenals are called losing moves even as they’re used to justify the rapid and expensive “modernization” of the US nuclear weapons complex. Historic nuclear arms agreements – the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and the Iran nuclear deal – have been allowed to wither away.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), founded in 1969, suggests ways to move the world away from these dangerous myths of nuclear conflict and toward reasonable and responsible policies.

One is to reinstitute and seri-

ously commit, long-term, to the treaties mentioned above. The Biden administration willingness to extend the NewSTART is only a first step. Also needed is commitment to a “no-first-use” policy by all nuclear countries to dispel the myth of strategic use of nuclear weapons. Increasing AI use may cause problems relying on computer sensors to detect nuclear threats. This “de-alerting” could avoid accidental launches. Lastly, echoing CPA’s recent statement on budget priorities, the UCS advises redirecting the massive U.S. military budget to more urgent problems, such as ending poverty and tackling the climate chaos crisis.

Cleveland Peace Action strongly rejects the morally abhorrent consideration of the use of nuclear weapons by any country. We need to encourage our political leaders to use every means possible to avoid a nuclear confrontation, including reducing current armaments and using our monetary, scientific and intellectual resources toward building a world of security and peace.



Year In Review

Continued from page 1

When the violence reached new levels in Israel and Palestine this past October, Cleveland Peace Action was one of the first voices to be heard on local public radio. The first week CPA joined a press conference hosted by the Council on American Islamic Relations with Jewish Voice for Peace Cleveland, Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Movement and others. CPA has led efforts calling for ceasefire in Palestine consistently. See "Dear Senator, Ceasefire Now! Rally"

With our all-volunteer board and staff, we can keep costs to a

minimum. As always, Cleveland Peace Action appreciates your support for our organization. Help us with a contribution to build the movement to reduce the threat of nuclear war, bring justice to developing nations instead of bombs, and promote diplomacy over warfare. You can use the envelope enclosed in your newsletter to donate. Or you can make a secure online donation via PayPal, at www.peaceactioncleveland.org. All online donations as well as all others to Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund (a 501.c.3 organization) are tax-deductible

Sincerely,
Don Bryant -President

Let's create a culture of peace, instead of a culture of war

Article reprinted with permission of the author. Originally published on Cleveland.com on January 5, 2024

One cannot overstate the importance of peace in light of the horrific death, destruction, anguish and sorrow occurring in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine.

The United States, it must be noted, is no stranger to war, having terrorized, killed and wounded countless men, women and children -- "collateral damage" -- after invading Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Our military is the world's biggest bully.

At the other end of the war and peace continuum is the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation established by Michael D. Knox, Ph.D., in 2005. He is distinguished professor emeritus of psychology at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Knox's foundation wants to see a U.S. Peace Memorial built on the national mall in Washington, D.C., inscribed with quotations from well-known Americans who castigate war. Knox hopes anti-war quotes would inspire Americans and make it "socially acceptable to speak out against war."

When asked if it would ever be acceptable to wage war in defense of an ally, Knox said that the United States should be selective and not do so without first obtaining approval by the United Nations.

Louis H. Pumphrey,
Shaker Heights



Ruth Lynn Tracy

Ruth Tracy Obituary

Published by Legacy Remembers on Jan. 9, 2024

Ruth Lynn Tracy died at home surrounded by family on January 7, 2024 at the age of 83. Ruth led an interesting and adventuresome life. Her concern for other people, her generosity and her courage were hallmarks.

Ruth grew up in Toledo, Ohio, graduated from Maumee Valley Country Day School and then attended Depauw University with a degree in social work. After working as a social worker in Toledo and then spending a year in Germany, she moved to New York and worked for Pan American Airlines in their central office.

Through her travels she met and married William Tracy. His work took them to live in Lebanon, which stirred a lifelong, heartfelt interest in the Palestinian refugee issue for Ruth. Historical events touched her personally. After returning to the states, Ruth took a degree in Early Childhood Education, which led her to a position as Director of Aunt Bessie's Head Start Program in Peekskill, New York and later a 5 year position as teacher at Dar al Fikr School in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Settling finally in Cleveland, Ohio, Ruth became an ESL teacher and taught for many years in various locations. Her interest in Middle Eastern affairs and in foreign students in general never waned. Her commitment to the Palestinian people manifested in a volunteer position selling fair trade Palestinian olive oil at trade fairs far and wide. Her two journeys to the West Bank in recent years were very important to her.

Ruth is predeceased by her father the Rev. Arthur W. Hargate and her mother Ruth Pinfold Hargate. She is survived by sisters Mimi Hargate (Laura Pokorny) Barbara Mitchell (Hugh) and brother Arthur Hargate (Joan) and beloved nephews and nieces. She leaves many loving friends. The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to Dr. Amy Armstrong and the Seidman Cancer Center.



Breaking the Silence April 4 2023.
Cleveland City Hall



Peace at the Pub- El Salvador *Guilty Until Proven Innocent*



Ceasefire Carolers sing truth to power @U.S. senator's residence (D-OH)

EVENTS, PROGRAMS & PROTESTS



The Golden Rule Hiroshima Day



On the 78th Anniversary of the Bombings of
Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The August 6th Hiroshima Commemoration with the Golden Rule crew began with some rousing rap and poetry by three artists brought by Al Porter, of Black on Black Crime: December Rose, Joe Motley, and Mr. Powers. We were then washed out by a drenching rain. Wet but undeterred, we re-created the remainder of the program on Zoom, on August 9th, the Nagasaki 78th Anniversary. Some of it is live, some taped.

View on our YouTube channel

- Speakers Terry Lodge, Doug Homer, Pat Marida, and the Golden Rule's Helen Jaccard
- Music by Doug McWilliams/Jani Wanner McWilliams and Collective Vision
- Poetry by Clarissa Jakobsons and the late Daniel Thompson (read by Hailey Moran)
- Virtual luminaries and singing



Eric created houses

Rooms to Let - July 8-9

“30 men remain in the US offshore torture facility. Sixteen have been cleared for release for up to two years ago but remain in Guantanamo Bay Prison. None have been charged with a crime.”



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

www.peaceactioncleveland.org



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The Doomsday Clock is a design that warns the public about how close we are to destroying our world with dangerous technologies of our own making. It is a metaphor, a reminder of the perils we must address if we are to survive on the planet.

Each year, the Clock is set by the Bulletin's Science and Security Board, a group of internationally recognized experts on nuclear risk, climate change, disruptive technologies, and biosecurity.

Right now, the Clock is the closest it has ever been at 90 seconds to midnight. What will they set the Clock at this year? Join us on January 23rd at 10 am ET to find out.



How much time do you have?

Each Spring at our Annual Membership Meeting (date TBD) we elect board members and officers. Nominations from our membership are welcome. To be eligible you must be a "member": anyone who has given their time or funds to Cleveland Peace Action/Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund in 2023 or 2024. If you or a member you know would like to serve on the board, please let us know at clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com or 440-703-0215.

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

**2592 West 14th Street, Suite 109
Cleveland, Ohio 44113**

clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com

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