

Progress Toward Retiring Nuclear Weapons?



“Nuclear Weapons Are 65 Years Old. It Is Time to Retire Them” was a major focus of our work this year, with some small and encouraging strides toward retiring nuclear weapons.

Talks on abolishing nuclear weapons at the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May did not fall apart as in 2005, but concluded with a renewed commitment to nuclear disarmament and establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

This year, for the first time, a U.S. representative traveled to Japan in August for the commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

On Sept. 16, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 14-4 to pass the Start III Treaty, which calls for the U.S. and Russia to each reduce their nuclear arsenals by 25 percent or 1,500 deployable warheads. Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey was one of those voting for it.

Contact Menendez and Sen. Frank Lautenberg and urge them to take leadership in pushing for a Senate vote to ratify this essential treaty. As part of the push, on Nov. 30, NJ Peace Action members will deliver to Menendez’s and Lautenberg’s Newark offices petitions for nuclear disarmament containing more than 1000 signatures. Afterward, we will hold a vigil at nearby Gateway Plaza.

NJPA Soup Lunch In New Location Will Honor Howard Zinn

Our 53rd Annual Soup Lunch on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 12 to 4, will be held in a new location, Bloomfield H.S., and, instead of one main speaker, will feature “Readings from Voices of a People’s History: A Tribute to Howard Zinn.” The readings will celebrate the writings of Zinn, best known for his *A People’s History of the United States*. Zinn died on Jan. 27, 2010.

Live performances will portray figures from American history like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Robinson and Rachel Corrie. Readers include actors Lottie Porch, Peter Parros, Michele LaRue and Brenda Thomas; WABC News reporter Anthony Johnson; WBAI’s Jose Santiago; People’s Organization for Progress Chair Larry Hamm; NOW-NJ head Maretta Short; artist Ruth Neustadter; and student Amira Berry. Others are NJ Peace Action’s counsel, Bennet Zurofsky, Executive Director Madelyn Hoffman, board member Lev Pinskiy and member Clint Hebard; music by Joel Roi.

As in prior years, there will be a variety of delicious homemade soups, breads, and desserts on the menu and an exciting selection of silent auction items.

There is still time to make your reservations! See calendar on p. 4 for more details. Please join us for great food, great company, and a great opportunity to hear the stories of the history of the *people*!

New Jersey Peace Action and the New Jersey Peace Action Education Fund—founded in 1957—are committed to working through grassroots citizen action to abolish nuclear weapons, end domestic and international weapons trafficking, demilitarize the federal budget and teach non-violent conflict resolution.



Officers and Staff

President NJPA—Anna Nelson

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FIRST NJ PEACE SITE RE-DEDICATES ITSELF TO PEACE

The Ethical Culture Society of Essex County in Maplewood, NJ Peace Action's first peace site, held a re-dedication ceremony on Sept. 26. Speakers and musical and artistic presentations honored the Society's work for peace since it first became a peace site 30 years ago, work that exemplifies the definition of a Peace Site—a place where groups congregate, socialize, study, and hold programs and forums on the topic of peace. The Society has held countless Sunday platforms on peace issues; hosted South Mountain Peace Action's Be About Peace Day programs, presentations from Hibakusha (survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki), and several NJ Peace Action annual meetings; created a peace garden honoring local soldiers killed in Iraq; and actively promoted legislation to create a U.S. Department of Peace.

The re-dedication program was introduced by E. Betty Levin, Chair of Peace Activities at the Society, who chaired the Re-dedication Committee. NJ Peace Action Executive Director Madelyn Hoffman give opening remarks Others who spoke were: Lynn Elling, Founder of World Citizen, Inc.; Paul Surovell, Chair, South Mountain Peace Action; and Martha Gallahue, Clergy Leader for Ethical Culture Society and Main Representative at the United Nations. Members of the Re-dedication Committee presented statements from Naomi Drew of Partners in Peacemaking; Phyllis Yanetta for the U.S./Soviet Roundtable; Tony Junger for the Envision Peace Museum; and Dot Maver for the Peace Academy. Music was provided by the Solidarity Singers and a musical presentation on viola played by Effie Latz. A Mime on Peace presentation was given by Louise Lubiak. The program also included the unveiling of a peace pole in the Society's Peace Garden and a peace banner to commemorate the re-dedication made by Diane Beeny.

Lou Kousin, a member of NJ Peace Action's predecessor NJ SANE, originated the peace site idea in 1980 as an antidote to war and military sites because he was concerned about the world in which his first grandchild would grow up. Before he passed away, Kousin asked Lynn Elling of World Citizen to carry on the work of initiating peace sites. (Elling traveled from Minnesota to be part of the re-dedication ceremony.) There are now hundreds of peace sites, across the country and the world. They can be religious and humanist institutions, community centers, schools, colleges, offices, businesses, homes, parks, and village greens, and at least one municipality, Cranford, is a peace site. NJ Peace Action's network has more than 25 active Peace Sites and a new coordinator will be inviting them to follow the Society's lead and re-dedicate themselves to peace.

For suggestions about re-dedicating a Peace Site or establishing a new one, contact the NJ Peace Action office at nj_peaceaction@yahoo.com or 973-259-1126, and we will send you a special invitation with resources and materials to help you get started.

IN MEMORIAM — JOANNE CERASO

On Oct. 30, the world lost Joanne Ceraso, a dedicated, loving and spirited peace activist who worked tirelessly to bring about an end to war and create a more peaceful and just world.



Joanne was a founding member of the Montclair Peace Vigil, begun Sept. 21, 2001 and continuing every Friday more than nine years later. Even after moving to Vermont, Joanne continued her participation in weekly peace vigils.

NJ Peace Action mourns the loss of Joanne, but we celebrate her tenacity and commitment to peace. She will be greatly missed!

Montclair Peace Vigil Recruiting New Members

The Montclair Vigil is currently seeking new members. The vigil group has gathered every Friday afternoon for nine years (since Sept. 21, 2001!) from 4:30 to 6 p.m. (3:30 to 5 p.m. in the winter). This dedicated group is looking for more people to join them at the intersection of Bloomfield Ave., Church St. and South Fullerton Ave. as they usher in a new decade by continuing to stand and advocate for peace—without fail—each week.



Legislative Action Alert



Toll-free number for Congressional switchboard: 800-517-5696 or 866-220-0044

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION—START III TREATY

When Congress returns from recess on Nov. 15, it will be in session for a week before Thanksgiving and then a week or two afterward. Please call Sens. Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez to urge them to assert their leadership during the lame duck session to obtain the 67 votes needed to ratify the START III Treaty with Russia.

AFGHANISTAN

We urge you to contact your Congressman and urge him to join the U.S. Out of Afghanistan Caucus. Also, we are still looking for co-sponsors on Rep. Barbara Lee's H.R.6045, the Responsible End to the War in Afghanistan Act, which funds operations in Afghanistan solely for the purpose of providing a safe and orderly withdrawal.

IRAQ

On Nov. 4, the Rutgers Constitutional Litigation Clinic asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear an appeal in our lawsuit charging that the Bush administration usurped Congress' constitutional authority to declare war by invading Iraq. We want the Court to prohibit presidents from doing the same thing. The case was brought by New Jersey Peace Action and Military Families Speak Out members Paula Rogovin and Anna Berlinrut.

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM PRIVATIZATION —ACR-150 and SCR -131

A groundbreaking new law introduced in the state legislature would set minimum standards on contracts that privatize government services to make sure they do not adversely impact taxpayers, the environment, service quality and workers. As anti-war activists, we are chiefly concerned with the privatization of military services (i.e. military contractors). Right now, the most important state legislators to contact for their support are:

Senate President Stephen Sweeney: 856-339-0808

Speaker Sheila Oliver: 973-395-1166

Assemblyman Joseph Cryan: 908-624-0880

Assemblyman John Wisniewski: 732-432-8460

Senator Barbara Buono: 732-205-1372

Yes! I want to retire nuclear weapons now!

I will help with a contribution of:

- \$1,000 Benefactor
- \$500 Patron
- \$250 Sponsor
- Count on me as a **Sustainer** to help advance the work of NJ Peace Action with a pledge of \$_____ for the year in monthly or quarterly installments of \$_____.
- I will contribute an extra \$5 to support national Peace Action's important work for peace.
- Check Enclosed
- \$100 Supporter
- \$52 Dollar a Week for Peace
- ___ Other
- Please bill my credit card

Name _____ Expiration Date _____

Card No. _____



Contribute \$100 or more and receive an earth peace flag and bulletins with legislative alerts and a local calendar of events.

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Quote for the Season . . .

“Today, we took an important step to once again renew U.S. leadership on global nuclear non-proliferation efforts, advance our national security, and strengthen our relationship with Russia. The new START Treaty renews the historic 1991 agreement that led the United States and Russia into a new era of bilateral cooperation to contain the threat of nuclear arms. . . . Its ratification will once again ascertain both nations’ commitment to nuclear nonproliferation efforts.”

—Senator Robert Menendez (on Sept. 16, 2010)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the calendar on our website, www.njpeaceaction.org for updated information on these events.

- Sat., Nov.20 **53rd Annual NJPA Soup Lunch.** At Bloomfield High School, 160 Broad St., Bloomfield.
11:45 am “Voices of a People’s History: A Tribute to Howard Zinn.” Featuring dramatic readings
to 4 pm by community activists, residents and actors. Tickets \$25 thru Nov. 10 and \$30 after.
Call our office at 973-259-1126 or visit website, www.njpeaceaction.org.
- Tues., Nov.30 **NJPA Vigil for Nuclear Disarmament** outside offices of Sens. Lautenberg, Menendez
4:30 pm after we deliver petitions calling for nuclear disarmament. At 1 Gateway Plaza, Newark.
to 6 pm Visit our website, www.njpeaceaction.org, to download copy of petition.
- Sat., Dec. 11 **Film Showing: “Nuclear Tipping Point” at 1st Presbyterian Church of Rockaway.**
7:30 pm Sponsored by Aug. 9 Saving Lives Task Force.
- Jan. ??? **Public gathering to view and respond to President Obama’s State of the Union speech.**
Exact time and location to be announced.
- May 1 **NJPA 54th Annual Dinner** at the Regency House in Pompton Plains.
Keynote speaker: Juan Cole, author of *Engaging the Muslim World* and frequent contributor to *The Nation* magazine.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Page one: NJ Peace Action contingent in Washington, D.C. at Oct. 2 One Nation Working Together Rally.

This page, above: NJPA Treasurer Kit Marlowe hangs one of two new signs at our office in Bloomfield.

Thank you to Diane Beeny for painting them!