

The New Jersey PEACE Maker

Publication of NJ Peace Action and NJ Peace Action Education Fund



Founded 1957—53 Years of Citizen Action

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PHIL DONAHUE SPEAKS AT ANNUAL DINNER



Phil Donahue, the legendary TV talk show host, was the keynote speaker and recipient of the Dorothy Eldridge Peacemaker Award at NJ Peace Action's 53rd annual dinner on April 25.

Donahue pioneered the audience participation format show and had a show named after him that ran for 30 years. But he is also known for his liberal politics and his talk focused on "Body of War," an Academy Award-nominated documentary he produced and co-directed.

Meant to show the pain of war, the 2007 film focused on Tomas Young, a U.S. soldier

paralyzed by a bullet to his spine during his first week in Iraq.

The movie cuts back and forth between the October 2002 debate in Congress over the resolution authorizing the Iraq War and Young, who paid the price for that decision. Donahue's film and talk emphasized that both parties voted overwhelmingly for war and that supporters parroted White House talking points about the supposed threat posed by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein that turned out to be lies. Clips of the movie played on several large screens throughout the room.

NJPA and New Technologies: NEW WAYS to ADVOCATE FOR PEACE

Check out our re-designed website and new peace blog at www.njpeaceaction.org! The site is now more user-friendly and timely, featuring more photos and frequently updated stories about upcoming and past events and NJPA issues and campaigns.

The site now includes a link to the NJ Peace Blog!, a forum for our members to discuss their views and ongoing activism and report from the grassroots on our key issues: nuclear disarmament; ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; reducing military spending and reallocating funds to human needs; protecting civil liberties; opposing torture; nonviolent resolution of global conflicts; and military counter-recruitment. If you are interested in being a "roving reporter" for the blog or submitting material to post on it, please contact nj_peaceaction@yahoo.com.

With our Facebook group (378 members and growing!) and our new Twitter group (88 followers, including elected officials and media), we have brought our actions and advocacy into cyberspace, where we can reach an entire new audience! If you are not already a member of the Facebook group, be sure to add "New Jersey Peace Action" to your list of groups. And if you have a Twitter account, add "NJPeaceAction" to the groups you follow.

These new technologies help us promote our message and work for peace by allowing us to compensate for the bias and lack of coverage from the mainstream media and be the media.

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.



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More News . . .



Nuclear Weapons Are 65 Years Old. It Is Time to Retire Them!

Retiring nuclear weapons is the theme of our nuclear disarmament campaign this year. President Obama energized us by April 2009 speech in Prague calling for abolition of nuclear weapons and encouraged us by his September 2009 meeting with the UN Security Council on nuclear disarmament. Join us in helping ensure his words are put into action!

Here's how you can join us in this important campaign:

1. Know the history. On July 16, 1945, the first nuclear test, code-named "Trinity," took place in the New Mexico desert, releasing the equivalent of 19 kilotons of TNT, far mightier than any weapon ever used before. July 16, 2010 marked this first nuclear test's 65th anniversary.

2. Pressure Congress to ratify key nuclear disarmament treaties, including the New START treaty between the U.S. and Russia, which reduces both countries' nuclear stockpiles, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as well as to exercise U.S. leadership toward goals set at the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference this past May. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee might vote on the new **START Treaty** before the August recess, and it could even be brought to the floor of the Senate before then. The **Legislative Action Alert Section on p. 3** has more information about nuclear disarmament bills.

3. Learn more about the nuclear disarmament issue. For background information on U.S. spending on nuclear weapons, check out the *Peace Action Military Spending Primer* at <http://peace-action.org/Peace%20Action%20Military%20Spending%20Primer.pdf>. The *Primer* shows how much the U.S. has spent on nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons-related costs in the past few years. The amounts are far larger than most people realize. For example, appropriations for fiscal year 2008 totaled at least \$52.4 billion. Most of the money goes toward "nuclear forces and operational support," which includes the maintenance, operation and upgrading of the nuclear weapons arsenal, delivery systems, and infrastructure. Only 10% is allocated for efforts to limit the spread of nuclear weapons.

4. Lobby your Representative and U.S. Senators. NJ Peace Action can help you set up a lobby visit to discuss these legislative initiatives. Members of Congress will be home on recess from the beginning of August until they return to Washington on Sept. 13.

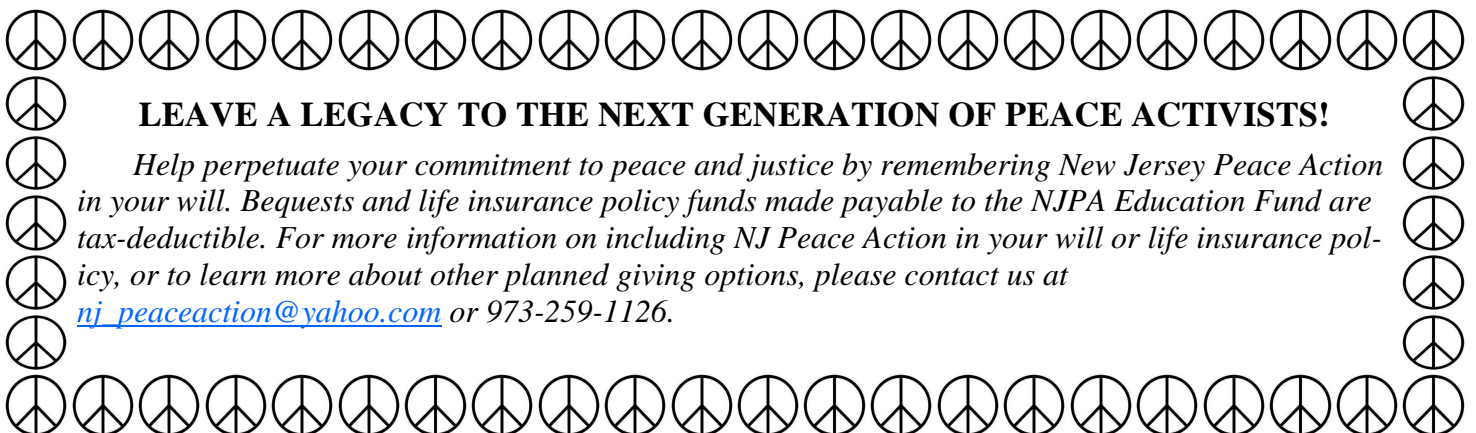
5. See the film *Countdown to Zero*. This new documentary traces the history of the atomic bomb from its origins to the present when nine nations possess nuclear weapons capabilities and others are racing to join them. The ongoing threat that these weapons might be used holds the world in a delicate balance that could be destroyed by an act of terrorism, failed diplomacy, or a simple accident. The film, with appearances by Jimmy Carter, Mikhail Gorbachev, Pervez Musharraf, and Tony Blair, makes a compelling case for worldwide nuclear disarmament.

6. See the Calendar of Events on p. 4 for information on events commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

DONAHUE, cont'd

DVDs of Donahue's talk can be obtained from NJ Peace Action for \$12.

Also honored were long-time volunteer Madeline Vricella, who was named as NJ Peace Action Person of the Year, and the August 9 Saving Lives Task Force, which received the Sylvia and Oscar Ackelsberg Peace Award.



LEAVE A LEGACY TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF PEACE ACTIVISTS!

Help perpetuate your commitment to peace and justice by remembering New Jersey Peace Action in your will. Bequests and life insurance policy funds made payable to the NJPA Education Fund are tax-deductible. For more information on including NJ Peace Action in your will or life insurance policy, or to learn more about other planned giving options, please contact us at nj_peaceaction@yahoo.com or 973-259-1126.



Legislative Action Alert



Please call your U.S. Senators and Congressmen to urge action on these bills.
Toll-free number for Congressional switchboard: 800-517-5696 or 866-220-0044

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT—

House Resolution 278, the “Global Security Priorities Resolution,” would cut spending on nuclear weapons by \$13 billion annually and use the money instead for threat reduction and alleviating conditions around the world that build support for international terrorism. Current sponsors include three New Jersey representatives: Rush Holt, Donald Payne and Christopher Smith.

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION—

The House Energy and Water Committee voted recently to fund a number of nonproliferation initiatives that we support but also to fund other initiatives that undercut nuclear disarmament. Call your Congressional representative and ask him to SUPPORT funding for nuclear disarmament but OPPOSE funding for nuclear weapons laboratories.

AFGHANISTAN—

House Resolution 5015 requires the president within 90 days or by Jan. 1, 2011, whichever is earlier, to provide a plan complete with timetable for the “safe, orderly, and expeditious redeployment” of U.S. forces including private contractors, from Afghanistan.

We also need to encourage members of the New Jersey delegation to join the House’s Out of Afghanistan Caucus, none of whose 23 current members are from this state.

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE—

House Resolution 808, introduced by Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio would establish a Department of Peace. Its 71 co-sponsors include three from New Jersey: Robert Andrews, Rush Holt and Donald Payne. Call your representative and ask him to cosponsor/support it.

Yes! I want to retire nuclear weapons now!

I will help with a contribution of:

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|-------|-------------------------|
| \$1,000 | Benefactor | \$100 | Supporter |
| \$500 | Patron | \$52 | Dollar a Week for Peace |
| \$250 | Sponsor | _____ | Other |

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 \$_____.

Check Enclosed

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 . . .

"This is a cause that has lain dormant for too long. Yet now we have vital momentum on our side. Let us be the ones who agree to banish the bomb. The historic Security Council meeting chaired by United States President Barack Obama in September 2009 shows that the will exists to change."

—U. N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- Fri., Aug. 6 Special Vigil for victims of atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.
6 pm In Montclair at corner of North Fullerton, Church Street and Bloomfield Avenue.
- Sat., Aug. 7 **Hibakusha** (survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) will speak
7:30 pm at Sparta United Methodist Church in Sparta.
- Sun., Aug. 8 **Cranford Peace Fair.** 1 pm to 7 pm. Hibakusha are scheduled to speak at 4 pm.
Details on the fair are still to be confirmed. Check our website for updated information.
- Mon., Aug. 9 **"Retirement Party for Nuclear Weapons"** to be held on the 65th anniversary of
7 pm the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.
Sponsored by New Jersey Peace Action in conjunction with the Aug. 9 Saving Lives Task Force.
Featuring Ms. Yasuko Ota, a survivor of the bombing, and her son, Mr. Kohichi Ota.
At the Islamic Center of Morris County, 1 Mannino Drive in Rockaway.
- Sat., Oct. 2 **Save the Date: Day of Actions for Peace**
- Washington, DC Rally for Peace** to highlight need for funding education, health care and
other human needs. Sponsors include Peace Action, NAACP and SEIU. Details to come.
- Walk for Peace** in Bloomfield to commemorate Gandhi's birthday. Details to come.
- Sat. or Sun. **NJPA Annual Soup Luncheon.** Exact date, location and speaker to be announced.
Nov. 6 or 7