



The New Jersey PEACE Maker

Publication of NJ Peace Action and NJ Peace Action Education Fund - Founded 1957

Great Minds & Voices

NJ Peace Action You'll Find Us Still Unstoppable at Sixty

NJ Peace Action turns 60 this year! This milestone offers an opportunity to review some of the great things our volunteer activism has accomplished in raising the consciousness of many over the past six decades. We worked tirelessly advocating for a ban on nuclear testing, demonstrated to end the Vietnam War, held the front lines in nuclear freeze campaigns, and strongly opposed both the first and the second Gulf Wars against Iraq. We made it part of our core mission to promote ideas for economic conversion and increased diplomacy and negotiations instead of more war. And we created our own "Move the Money" campaign to educate the public on how this can be accomplished. During 2016,



we and our colleagues around the country did put an end to the U.S. selling cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia when the only munitions factory in the U.S. making them eliminated this division due to nation-wide pressure! Locally we engaged the Bloomfield Town Council to pass our "Move the

Money" resolution. We love it when local communities realize it's not good for the U.S. to have a bloated military budget!! NJPA continues to actively chart the course of peace, from street corners to legislators' offices. We are sixty and still have unstoppable hearts for a SANE world .

NJPA at the Women's March Jan 21st in DC, NYC, & Trenton

For NJPA the message behind the Martin Luther King Day celebrations carried over into events the day after President Trump's inauguration, Jan. 21, 2017. We were part of the thousands upon thousands of people all over the world who marched carrying the message that "women's rights are human rights." Many New Jersey Peace Action (NJPA) folks ages 12 to 85, joined marches in Washington, D.C., New York City and Trenton. In Washington, D.C., NJPA

joined with Peace Action and its allies marching to raise the visibility of the threat of nuclear weapons.

Our call: "Women for the Human Race, Not a New Arms Race!"

"In light of the difficulties presented by the new administration, the women's marches across the country and the world are an important first step for all women, particularly women of color and immigrant women," said Anna Nelson, a member of NJPA who attended

the Women's March in New York City. "It is important for us all to encourage more women to take on leadership roles, particularly in Congress, in order to bring women's issues to the forefront, including calls for community and peace and less violent means of resolving international conflict." The U.S. wages "a war without end" since 9/11 and the U.S. Congress spends more than 50 percent of discretionary funds on the military and war.



Volume 12, Issue 4

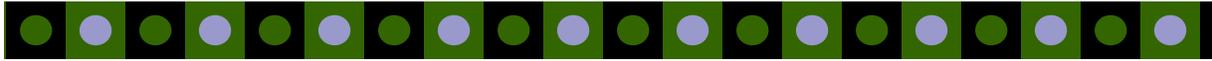
February, 2017
a New Look for
Peace Maker Readers

Our Mission

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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Chris Hedges will Speak on “Resisting American Fascism”

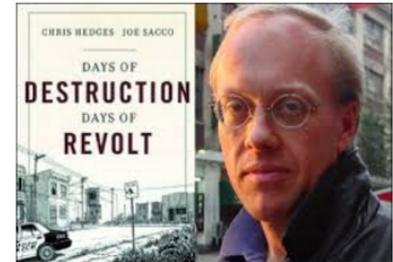
NJ Peace Action is very fortunate and excited to have Chris Hedges as guest speaker for our milestone (60th) Annual Dinner on April 2nd. Hedges is one of the few uncompromising journalists often found on the critical side of populist and political group thinking. Chris Hedges is an excellent speaker to guide us through what’s happening today, some of which bears vital similarities to European Fascism.

Chris Hedges is a genuine beacon of peace and social conscience. He is both an award-winning journalist and activist, writing columns for the progressive news and commentary website Truthdig. His writing career spans nearly two decades (including 15 years with The New

York Times). Hedges has worked as a foreign correspondent in Central America, the Middle East, Africa, and the Balkans. He is also the author of a number of best-selling books, including *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* (2002) - a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction; *Death of the Liberal Class* (2010); and *Wages of Rebellion: The Moral Imperative of Revolt* (2015). He has reported from more than fifty countries, and has worked for The Christian Science Monitor, NPR, and the Dallas Morning News. In 2002, Hedges was part of a group of eight reporters from the New York Times awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the paper’s coverage of global terrorism. He

also received the Amnesty International Global Award for Human Rights Journalism in 2002.

Please see details below to make your Dinner ticket to hear this dynamic speaker!



Sunday April 2, 2017 60th Anniversary Dinner Celebration!

NEW JERSEY PEACE ACTION'S

60th ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday April 2nd, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton, 650 Terrace Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey

[Make your reservations now!](#)

12:00 - 4:00 PM

(12:00 - 12:45 PM Socializing; 1:00 PM Lunch)

HONORED GUEST AND RECIPIENT OF THE DOROTHY ELDRIDGE PEACEMAKER AWARD:

Chris Hedges

"Resisting American Fascism"

[Make your reservations now!](#)

Past Thought Provoking Speakers of NJPA: Carl Sagan, Daniel Ellsberg, Seymour Melman, Daniel Berrigan, Representatives Dennis Kucinich, Cynthia McKinney, Donald Payne, Senator Mark Hatfield, Margaret Mead, Noam Chomsky, Phil Donahue, Colonel Anne Wright, Susan Sarandon, Jonathan Schell, the Reverend John Dear, Scott Ritter, Tariq Ali, Ray McGovern, Michael Parenti, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Juan Cole, Dahr Jamail, Phyllis Bennis, Judith LeBlanc, James Yee, Jonathan Granoff, Jeremy Scahill, and Richard Wolff. Sister Megan Rice, Shigeo Sasamori, a Hiroshima Maiden. To see and hear Ann Wright's inspiring presentation from November 2016, please visit our YouTube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3GgkPaC_3XC6mt1Wd8uK-2XUCUtu.M3

E. Betty Levin Honored - Decades of Planting the Seeds of Peace

E. Betty Levin will be honored with the NJPA's Peace Action Person of the Year Award at NJPA's Annual Dinner on April 2nd. Besides 40 years as a psychotherapist, she also added "peace educator" to her resume. Along with being a cherished member of NJPA she is an active contributor to the Family Education Committee of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County in Maplewood. She has followed the calling of peace educator believing that even in today's tumultuous world, there are ways to solve conflict peacefully. Attaining the platinum

age of 90 last year, Levin still finds special enjoyment in conducting peace workshops for the young. She explains, "Gandhi had a saying, 'If we are to create a lasting peace, we must begin with the children.' Building on this idea, I want to plant the seeds of peace in our young people. I might not be around to see it come to fruition, but maybe others can take it from there."



New Chapter of Peace Action at Bloomfield College

NJPA takes Betty's words very seriously. We know she is happy that we are working with students at Bloomfield College to start our first college-based chapter. Students have a lot to say during these times. NJPA is looking forward to sparking student activism for peace!





First Friends of NJ & NY Honored with Sylvia and Oscar Ackelsberg Peace Award



NJPA's 60th Annual Dinner will honor First Friends of NJ and NY with the Sylvia and Oscar Ackelsberg Peace Award . First Friends works on behalf of detained immigrants and asylum seekers. Volun-

teers visit and write to detainees, distribute writing materials so detainees can stay in contact with their families, raise awareness about immigrant detention, advocate for improved living conditions for all detainees as well as for immigration reform, and assist with resettlement for those either granted asylum or out on bond.

NJPA feels with the animosity embedded in President Trump's Executive Orders on immigrants, recognition of the work of First Friends has even greater importance.

Recently, First Friends has been expanding its focus to include sanctuary movement rallies. The current Sanctuary Movement is organizing a stronger de-

fense which argues that the only way to stop the threats to immigrants, raids, criminalization, and family separation is through civil resistance and the declaration of sanctuary places everywhere. Besides support for sanctuary cities, First Friends is advocating for safe havens for undocumented people in new areas.

College campuses are being called upon to join the movement. Students and faculty are starting to request that their colleges declare themselves as safe places for all students. On November 16th, students at 100 schools across the country participated in a national walkout demanding their schools become sanctuary campuses. NJPA members can view the latest First Friends events on their website <https://firstfriendsnjny.org/>

Making Vigils & Paper Cranes Can Offer Spirited Strength

America's political environment is currently very contentious - to say the least. We recognize that you, like many of us who volunteer for NJ Peace Action, may share the same anguish and anxiety for the future that we are feeling. For many of us, this means an increased desire and need to get more involved. Just three days after the elections New Jersey Peace Action worked with local activists to coordinate and bring people together at events and vigils in Morristown, Montclair, Ruthersford and Highland Park.

This is one of NJPA's strengths -

mounting immediate responses, such as vigils and other community events. Gathering with like-minded activists can bring a sense of meaning and solidarity.

Sometimes more symbolic gestures can be a proactive way of bonding together in tumultuous times like these.

NJPA's project to hand-deliver up to 10,000 origami peace cranes is doing just that. It is a symbolic visual way to show our legislators that we STILL believe in nuclear disarmament. And so, more than 2000 origami peace cranes have already



been made for us by families and individuals attending the Urban Arts Center in

Hoboken, the Alternative Marketplace at Christ Church in Summit, Studio See in Montclair, the First Presbyterian Church in Rockaway and more.

For more information on setting up an event where participants make peace cranes, please contact our office at nj_peaceaction@yahoo.com or (973)259-1126. WE CAN TEACH YOU HOW!

Let's Prevent a POTUS Nuclear "First Strike" Without Congress*

In January we urged NJPA activists to join in on a Daily Action by calling their Representative and asking them to co-sponsor and vocally support H.R.669/S200, Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Ted Lieu's legislation. This legislation would prevent any President from launching a nuclear "first strike" without Congress first passing a Declaration of War. Our current President's quick temper and

his previous statements revealing his willingness to use nuclear weapons are alarming dispositions that signal a disregard for the Geneva Conventions, and an outright hostility toward the basic norms that help to protect civilians in wartime. ***NB: WE DON'T SUPPORT THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS EVER!**

NJPA believes that the issues of the ongoing U.S. wars and the bloated military budget MUST be part of the national dia-

logue around health care, education, public transportation, veterans' benefits and other community programs. If we move up to 25% of the military budget to these programs (\$150 billion) we'll have the \$\$\$\$ we need. Please share photos at nj_peaceaction@yahoo.com of your participation in any resistance actions, especially if you carry this message!





The Northern New Jersey Affiliate - NJ Peace Action, always one of the nation's most active groups, is based in Bloomfield with chapters throughout the state local communities.

What we do... We lobby for policy changes in Congress, the United Nations, Trenton and in towns like yours. We print fact sheets to better inform the public, hold public meetings on important issues and speak out in the press. We promote conflict resolution programs in New Jersey Schools and encourage future generations to solve problems. We organize at the grassroots level and hold two annual educational events each year.



Yes! I will make a special contribution to New Jersey Peace Action in 2017!

You can make a donation here:

<https://donorbox.org/donate-to-njpa>

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ORDINARY PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER....• to eliminate nuclear weapons • reduce military spending • support global peacemaking • restore the well being of our planet.

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