

The Drive is On to Pass the New START Treaty!

The New START Treaty, negotiated by Presidents Obama and Medvedev, is the next step in nuclear disarmament. Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown can play a major role in determining whether or not the treaty is ratified -- or if the future of arms control and nuclear disarmament will be derailed. He has not yet announced his position.



It is critical for all peace-loving people to contact Sen. Brown's Boston office at (617) 565-3170. Ask him not only to vote for ratification, but to announce in advance that he will do so, in order to encourage other Republicans to do the same. Request an answer, call back periodically until you get one, and please let us know the results of your conversations.

Phone for Peace! Mass. Peace Action members will be calling people about New START on **September 15 and 23, 6-9pm** in Central Square, Cambridge. Call the office to sign up for a phone banking shift! It's fun, easy, and makes a big difference -- and we'll bring the refreshments!

Movie Night: Countdown to Zero

by Susanna Porte, MAPA Board

How many nuclear weapons does the U.S. have on hair-trigger alert? Can you name all the countries in the world that actually have nuclear weapons?

On August 2, many of us were shocked to learn the answers at Mass Peace Action's first major movie event: a screening of the new nuclear disarmament film **Countdown to Zero** at Kendall Square Cinema. Thanks to a grant from Ploughshares Fund and much hard work on the part of Guntram Mueller, Cole Harrison, Hilary Ross and Carol Coakley, we sold out the theatre and gathered hundreds of signatures on our petition that urges Senator Scott Brown to vote for the START Treaty.



Thanks too to local social and political humorist Jimmy Tingle for leading us in a lively Phil Donahue-style discussion after the film.

While some of us were troubled by aspects of the film's approach (for example, too much emphasis on "rogue states" and the possibility of terrorists acquiring nuclear bombs, and no time at all devoted to international disarmament efforts such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), we all seemed to agree that the film promotes positive dialogue and concrete actions that we can take to promote disarmament. **Call Senator Brown now for START! (617) 565-3170**

Reflections from a Baby Boomer

by Steven Brion-Meisels, MAPA Board

"Hope arouses a passion for the possible, a determination that our children not be asked to shoulder burdens we let fall." Reverend William Sloane Coffin



The film **Countdown to Zero** reminded me of our generation's responsibility to help create a future worthy of **all** children -- a future where basic human needs are no longer sacrificed to military costs and threats, symbolized by what President Kennedy called the "nuclear sword" that hangs over all of us.

Born in 1949, I grew up under a President who warned against the military-industrial complex (Eisenhower); a President who sought arms reductions, expanded the nuclear arsenal, and avoided nuclear war over Cuba (Kennedy); a President who used nuclear weapons as a threat in Southeast Asia and elsewhere (Nixon); and (among others) a President who narrowly missed the opportunity to reverse the direction of nuclear madness (Reagan). Our generation came of age in the shadow of Hiroshima, school A-Bomb drills, bomb shelters, Dr. Strangelove in real life, and runaway military budgets.

If we remind him of his responsibility, and the urgency of the moment, President Obama can help move the world back toward sanity. I left *Countdown to Zero* committed to continuing the work of Peace Action, Ploughshares and the others who sponsored this important film. See it, share it, and keep hope alive.

Young Activists "Think Outside the Bomb"

Over 75 young people from around the country converged in Chimayo, New Mexico July 30 -- August 9th to participate in a 10 day sustainable action camp that culminated in a powerful and beautiful march and nonviolent civil disobedience at Los Alamos National Laboratory protesting the proposed plutonium pit production facility -- one of three sites the U.S. is building that will quadruple our ability to make nuclear bombs! Lisa Putkey and Jonathan Williams of the Student Peace Action Network were key organizers of the **Think Outside the Bomb** encampment, and Angela Kelly of Mass Peace Action was among those who participated. See thinkoutsidethebomb.org for more info!



**Remembering
Archie Todd Morrison
1925-2010**



Archie Morrison at the weekly Falmouth Peace Vigil.

In 1980 Archie was the first president of the Massachusetts Nuclear Freeze Committee, a predecessor of Mass Peace Action. He was a founder and president of the Boston and New England chapters of the World Federalists, now known as Citizens for Global Solutions, a national organization that works for global cooperation to end war and to find peaceful solutions to international problems.

Archie was a warm, gentle man, marked by a persistence to affect society positively. He understood that making the world a more peaceful place required life long devotion. Archie leaves us a family of peacemakers to continue his work.

-- Shelagh Foreman

Staff Transitions



Mass Peace Action welcomes our new Membership and Outreach Coordinator,

Cole Harrison. Cole is UJP's webmaster and coordinator of its Afghanistan Task Force. We bid a fond farewell to outgoing staffer Julia Herzig and to interns Hilary Ross and Jessica Folgore. They will be missed!

Hiroshima-Potsdam Memorial

by Shelagh Foreman, Program Director

It was almost midnight in Berlin when the phone rang. It was a sculptor calling to urge my brother-in-law to go to see a huge stone arrive from Norway the next morning -- a twenty-foot slab of blue crystal labradorite carved as a memorial for the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The stone is now on Hiroshima-Platz in Potsdam, in front of the Truman Villa, where President Truman stayed in July 1945 during the Potsdam Conference. While Allied leaders met there to discuss the conditions for Japan's surrender and the future of defeated Germany, Truman signed the order to drop atomic bombs on Japan.

Inscriptions on the stone in Japanese, German and English memorialize Truman's order, which resulted in death and suffering for hundreds of thousands, and express hope for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima sent a message for the installation of the memorial, 65 years after the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I had heard his message of hope and determination at the wonderful Riverside Church Conference in New York and at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review at the United Nations. Mayor Akiba's inspiring words were following me around the world, exhorting me to work in every way I can for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Disarmament in the Age of Obama



Subrata Ghoshroy of MIT, Angela Kelly of Peace Action, and Joseph Gerson of AFSC discussed President Obama's nuclear policies and the prospects for disarmament at a July 8 forum in Cambridge.

Summer Music for Peace in Watertown in June

A Successful Benefit for the Mass. Peace Action Education Fund

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to pianist Benjamin Warsaw, gracious hosts Ernesta and Thomas Kraczkiewicz, cellist Susanna Porte, and all of our staff, volunteers and donors who made this such a lovely evening.

A full house of concert attendees enjoyed piano works by Bach, Brahms, Warsaw, the Beatles, and others.



Eva Moseley met Mr. Warsaw at the Ethical Society of Boston last spring, having arranged for Peace Action Senior Fellow Raed Jarrar to speak there. Mr. Warsaw was so impressed by what he learned about our mission that he spontaneously offered to perform a benefit concert for us.

With the help of our generous members (that's you!), we raised more than \$3500. See the notice on the back page for details of our next Music for Peace concert in October.



**Contact Congress
Capitol Switchboard
1-800-614-2803**

Massachusetts Peace Action is a nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots organization working for the sustained political power to attain a nonviolent foreign policy, an end to arms trading, the abolition of nuclear weapons and an economy that meets human & environmental needs rather than military objectives. We are an affiliate of Peace Action, the nation's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization, with over 100,000 members and 30 chapters across the U.S. Our work is funded entirely by donations from our members. Thank you for your support.

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MetroWest Peace Action News



About 50 members from Weston, Wayland, Walpole, Framingham, and Natick attended the 2nd annual meeting of MetroWest Peace Action, chaired by Carol Coakley. Rep. Barney Frank addressed the gathering, calling for cuts to the military budget and speaking about Israel/Palestine. Below, MetroWest Peace Action members at their regular Natick vigil.



Iraq: Withdrawal or Continued Occupation?

by Eva Moseley, MAPA Board

Raed Jarrar, Iraqi architect and political consultant, warned Boston area audiences April 15-18 that all US forces and contractors must be completely withdrawn from Iraq on schedule in a speaking tour arranged by Mass. Peace Action.



Jarrar explained the changes in US policy from Bush to Obama, the main one being the basic plan for withdrawal. Bush's plan was condition-based: "When the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down," as Bush repeatedly put it. Raed pointed out that the danger of this approach is that if a couple of car bombs go off, that can serve as an excuse to postpone a planned withdrawal and as there are various groups who want to prolong the occupation, this could happen indefinitely. Among these groups are some political leaders, US weapons manufacturers, and such groups as Al Qaeda, for whom the US occupation is the best recruiting tool.

Obama duly withdrew all but 50,000 troops and a like number of contractors in August. He plans to withdraw the remaining troops by the end of 2011, but there is a huge risk that the Iraqi and U.S. governments will reach an agreement to lift the deadline and continue the U.S. military occupation indefinitely.

"Although both the U.S. and Iraqi governments have been very clear about their intention to abide by the Security Agreement, there is a lot of work that must be done to ensure this becomes reality," Jarrar said in late August. "Please join Peace Action in our ongoing campaign www.peace-action.org/iraqcampaign to increase grassroots oversight and pressure on the Obama administration to make sure this occupation ends next year as agreed upon."

Hiroshima 65th Anniversary

This August marked the 65th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Peace Action joined Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety, AFSC and Newton Dialogues on Peace and War to sponsor a commemoration August 7 in Watertown Square. Arlington resident Kazue Campbell told her story:

In the morning of August 6, 65 years ago yesterday, I was standing in the school ground of a girls' middle school in an old castle town, about 30 miles away from Hiroshima, together with my seventh and eighth grade classmates. All of sudden we felt the sharp, white flash and then the deep booming sound. We all scattered. As we were ordered back to the schoolyard, we saw an incredible mushroom cloud towering straight in front of us.

Without my parents' very strong last minute objections, I would have been attending the First Prefectural Girls School in Hiroshima on that day, commuting from my grand parents' home. All 223 7th grade girls who attended school that day died within two days. And I would not have been standing here today.

By the time I walked home in the afternoon in the old castle town, the bodies of the dead and wounded had been carried into it by truck after truck. Our school had been turned into a temporary shelter. Many were almost naked or so badly burned they walked with their arms extended before them, often with their skins hanging. I went alone to a nearby provincial center, hoping to find something I could do to help. In the darkness, the hall was totally filled with the stench and moans of dying people, with a few people purposelessly moving around. After ten or fifteen minutes, I turned around and ran away. I was a coward. At night the distant sky toward Hiroshima was burning red...

The 7th graders were told to help the wounded. In order to convince myself I was a nurse, I took out the only white shirt I owned. I put it over my naked fear and walked to school, hoping that I would know what to do as a nurse's helper. Actually, no doctors and no real nurses knew what to do with patients in front of them. Some were already losing their hair and had purple spots all over their bodies. All I could do was to bring water or fan away flies. I desperately kept fanning away flies, and tried to listen to the stories of dying people in front of me on the floor...

After the war was over, and people with the results of severe burns on their faces resulting from the Bomb's rays began to come out of their hiding places, it daily strengthened my conviction that such bombs as those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki could never be justified and should never be repeated.

From the beginning, Hiroshima survivors did not just wallow in pain. In their struggle to restore their city, restore their human dignity, they have been trying to find a new role for their city as the symbol of peace in a difficult age that was just beginning.



Ruth Rappaport sings out for peace

Move the Money: Fund Jobs, Not War!

It was a rainy April day at Roxbury Crossing when 75 Boston residents rallied to demand deep cuts in military spending and funding for jobs in Boston-- youth summer jobs in particular. The rally was sponsored by the Boston Coalition to Fund our Communities – Cut Military Spending, consisting of 20 organizations in Boston's minority and working class communities.



Peace Action and the Boston coalition participate in the Massachusetts 25% Campaign, which works in cities and towns throughout the state to initiate resolutions and referendums on cutting the military budget. In Congress, Reps. Barney Frank and Ron Paul are calling for significant cuts in military spending and Peace Action is lobbying in support.

15,000 March in New York City for a Nuclear-Free World

What an amazing sight it was in Times Square May 2: tens of thousands of peace activists from the US, Japan, France, and around the world singing, chanting, and demonstrating for a world free of nuclear weapons. Creating an especially powerful presence were many hibakusha - those who lost everything they knew in the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki - with the simple message: **never again.**



Before the march, an inspiring international conference for NGOs brought 1,000 activists to historic Riverside Church to share political and educational strategies for a world free of nuclear weapons. The conference was addressed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Mayor Tadatashi Akiba of Hiroshima, and Boston's Joseph Gerson and Maryam Shansab, among many others. Peace Action played a major role in the international coalition that sponsored the march and conference.



At left, Pat Humphries of musical duo Emma's Revolution with Mass Peace Action's Julia Herzig (staff), Jessica Folgore (intern), and Shelagh Foreman (Program Director) at the march.

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Mark Your Calendars

Framingham: Teachers or Guns?

Tentative Date: Saturday, October 23, 2-4pm
Place: First Parish • 24 Vernon St • Framingham
MetroWest Peace Action and a group of Framingham citizens concerned about their schools will be hosting a forum in October on the military budget and how it affects our local needs. Just 1% of the money Framingham has contributed towards the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan would pay for the teachers that have been laid off.

The Forum will include speakers from National Priorities Project and the "Fund Our Communities, Reduce Military Spending 25%" campaign. The event will ask whether the defense budget can be reduced without negatively affecting our troops or our security.

Discussion to follow, and MWPA will offer suggested actions.

Date and time are tentative. Please stay tuned for confirmation. Contact: coakley50@earthlink.net



JOBS, PEACE, JUSTICE MARCH and RALLY Washington, DC October 2, 2010

It takes a unified progressive movement to make change happen. Peace Action and United for Peace and Justice will join SEIU 1199, NAACP, AFL-CIO, and other major organizations in Washington

Reserve your bus ticket at majorityagenda.org!

Music for Peace!

Victor Rosenbaum and Friends present a *Schubertabend* (Schubert Evening)

Sunday, October 24, 4pm
18 Traill St., Cambridge



Pianist Victor Rosenbaum has served as chair of the piano department at New England Conservatory and as president of the Longy School of Music. He is an

accomplished composer and conductor. His highly praised recording of Schubert is on Bridge Records.