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**2014 PRIORITIES**

- Permanent nuclear deal with Iran
- Nuclear disarmament
- Budget for All
- Peace economy
- Foreign policy for All

**MASSACHUSETTS PEACE ACTION**

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**Tax Day Rally Boosts Budget for All**

Congress continued its tired, usual path of approving gigantic military budgets this spring, as it supported cutbacks in student loan subsidies and nuclear dismantlement programs. The progressive Better Off Budget earned 89 votes in Congress, up from 84 last year. Please thank Reps. Mike Capuano, Katherine Clark, and Jim McGovern for their Yes votes. Ask Reps. Bill Keating, Joe Kennedy III, Stephen Lynch, Richard Neal, John Tierney, and Nikki Tsongas, who favored corporate billionaires and the military-industrial complex, why they voted no.

In response, 200 people attended the "Budget for All!" coalition's Tax Day rally in Boston on April 12. Both elected officials and leaders of significant grassroots organizations were there to speak on the impact of the budget crisis.

Reps. Katherine Clark and Jim McGovern, State Rep. Jay Livingstone, gubernatorial candidate Don Berwick, and state auditor candidate M.K. Merelice spoke, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former Rep. Barney Frank expressed their support via video messages.

Among the many advocates and leaders who spoke were labor leaders Harris Gruman of SEIU, Warren Pepicelli of UNITE-HERE, and Carolyn Federoff of AFGE; environmentalists Ed Woll of the Sierra Club and Amy Tighe of 350 MA; Tillyruth Teixeira of Mass Senior Action; Michael Kane of the National Alliance of HUD Tenants, Andrew Fish of MassPIRG; Nathan Proctor of Mass Fair Share; medical researcher Richard Fine; peace organizers Mike Prokosch of Dorchester People for Peace, Phyllis Evans of the Boston 25% Coalition, and Joe Kebartas of Veterans for Peace; and Robert

Folan-Johnson of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP). To view highlights of their talks, check out our new video collection at [masspeaceaction.org/videos](http://masspeaceaction.org/videos).

The "Budget for All!" state resolutions, S.1750 and H.3211, are pending in the Senate and House Ways and Means Committees. Please contact your state legislators to ask that they be released to the floor so they can be voted on before the 2013-2014 legislative session ends at the end of July.



Michael Kane leads protesters from Bank of America to Budget for All rally

## Members to discuss Foreign Policy and Action Plan

By Cole Harrison, Rosindale

Peace is hard work but as we saw in the push back on the Syrian chemical weapons crisis peace is its own reward. It will take the support and ideas of every member of Massachusetts Peace Action to push our work forward to the next level. We plan two efforts in the second half of 2014 and early 2015 to engage our members and supporters in development of policy and plans for the organization's work. What are the 2 efforts? The position paper and the conference?

"Foreign Policy for All" will be a conference, a position paper, and a discussion process to engage our members and supporters with others in a broader dialogue about the fundamentals of U.S. foreign policy. Its objective will be to articulate and discuss a positive, policy-oriented foreign policy vision for the peace movement, providing a broad framework to which current

policy issues can refer.

U.S. military engagement in overseas wars has been somewhat reduced, and the Administration has adopted a somewhat more restrained but still interventionist foreign policy. Concerns over budget deficits and fiscal austerity are provoking wide-ranging debates on appropriate levels of military spending and the U.S. role in the international system. There is a 'window of opportunity' for deeper reflection among U.S. policy-makers, academics, and the broader public over the key priorities of U.S. foreign policy going forward. MAPA's goal is to engage this discussion at the policy level, and to provide the intellectual leadership necessary to define and promote a positive and actionable vision of U.S. foreign policy consistent with principles of peace and justice.

The conference is tentatively planned for November 2014. Mass. Peace Action then plans to hold local

meetings to review the paper, bring it up for approval as an organizational framework at our 2015 annual meeting, and then take it national at the April 2015 national peace movement conference in New York at the US Social Forums planned for 2015. Read more about these plans at [bit.ly/fp4a](http://bit.ly/fp4a).

What about our day-to-day work? Our program director, Shelagh Foreman, presented our 2014 program plans at our annual meeting in February; read the details at [bit.ly/mapa2014pgm](http://bit.ly/mapa2014pgm). In preparation for 2015, we are asking each of our issue-oriented working groups to develop specific plans for their work in the second half of 2014. These will then be integrated into an overall 2015 program plan, discussed at local meetings, and approved by the members at the 2015 annual meeting. Contact the office to participate in a working group or in the development of our 2015 plans.

## Interns' Corner

By Richard Reichmann, Boston



I am working with Massachusetts Peace Action to make a difference. In other words, I am determined to help Peace Action mobilize to fight the lobbyists who have been infiltrating the institutions of our government. That means uniting ordinary people by bringing as many people as possible onto our bandwagon.

The more people we have, and the stronger our arguments become, the harder it is for Congress to justify listening to the lobbyists. With that being said I have been doing a lot of lobbying on behalf of Massachusetts Peace Action. So far I have visited numerous Massachusetts legislative offices. We are trying to have the Massachusetts legislature overwhelmingly pass a Budget for All resolution calling for Congress to redirect federal spending away from defense towards domestic programs, such as the environment and education. If we can not only have the Massachusetts legislature but all state legislatures pass this resolution it makes it much harder for Congress to justify listening to Pentagon lobbyists.

Additionally, I have been looking at ways to increase our outreach: by finding ways to connect with more people. That is crucial in pressuring Congress and the state legislature! We are updating our website to have more people, including students, become more involved. There is more to come in my work and I look forward to it!

By Gary Lowell, Weymouth



During my internship with Mass Peace Action, my role was doing research and writing a report on tax breaks generally and how they specifically relate to military contractors in Massachusetts.

The results of the research were that billions of dollars annually are not collected in revenue as a result of tax breaks; as an example, only one type of tax break designed to grow the economy, special business tax breaks, account for around \$770 million annually. With all the money forgone in revenue from tax breaks, no research has been done on if they stimulate the economy as intended.

I started the internship already thinking that military spending should be reduced. The internship has only increased this belief as I see how much money the state government forgoes in taxes through tax breaks. Since my internship is now over, I am continuing on as a volunteer and looking more closely into General Dynamics, one of the companies that receives tax breaks.

## Massachusetts and Israel: Strange Bedfellows?



By David Zackon, Wakefield

Governor Patrick's ambitious trade mission to Israel (*Boston Globe*, May 28) was promoted as a means to cultivate "a very, very fruitful relationship" that has brought thousands of jobs and billions of dollars to Massachusetts. But it also threatens to involve our state closely with a military-industrial-academic complex in Israel that much of the rest of the world finds very troubling.

A highlight among the recently concluded deals is a Needham software firm's partnership with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Technion's researchers helped to develop the armored, remote-controlled Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer, used by Israel to demolish

hundreds of Palestinian houses. Technion helped develop the surveillance and attack drones that have killed scores of civilians in the Occupied Territories. Technion has also worked closely with contractor Rafael Advanced Systems, an Israeli manufacturer that promises "to supply its customers with lethal, highly effective state-of-the-art solutions." Some of these were used during the 2008-09 war on Gaza, in which the ratio of Palestinian to Israeli deaths was 100 to 1.

In Tel Aviv, the Governor hailed the Global Water Innovation Network (Global WIN) as "a new initiative founded by Massachusetts and Israel." For all its hyped "innovations," Israel's water industry leaves 1.6 million Palestinians without regular access to clean water and diverts almost 90% of the water from West Bank aquifers to Israel. Does Massachusetts want to emulate or profit from such exploitation?

At the same time that the trade

delegation was signing an agreement for academics from Tel Aviv University and MIT to work together, Israel was refusing to let 59 academics from Gaza travel to Ramallah for a scientific conference. Israel's restrictive entry and residency requirements for foreign scholars seeking to teach in the Occupied Territories are well documented.

There have been times – Darfur in 2007, Burma in 1996, Northern Ireland in 1983 – when Massachusetts proudly set moral standards for foreign trade and investments. Perhaps the noblest moment came in 1982, when the Legislature – overriding Governor King's veto – made Massachusetts the first state in the nation to divest from South Africa. We hope that such analogies, even if imperfect, might temper Governor Patrick's enthusiastic rush to link the fortunes of Massachusetts to a foreign economy with so many questionable, even destructive, practices.

## End Ukraine strife and NATO expansion, say professors

*Ria Novosti* -- Against a backdrop of mounting tensions in Ukraine, two history professors spoke at a United for Justice with Peace forum in Cambridge May 28 laying responsibility for the Ukrainian crisis on the West's broken promises and aggressive eastward military expansion. Gary Leupp of Tufts University and Mark Solomon of Simmons College called for an end to bloodshed in Ukraine.

"The crisis is the result of the relentless eastward expansion of NATO, in violation of [former US president] George H. W. Bush's promise to [former Soviet leader] Mikhail Gorbachev that this would never happen, and Russian fear of the prospect that the Crimean Peninsula would someday soon fall into NATO

hands and the Black Sea transformed into a NATO lake," Leupp told the forum.

"The peace movement should focus on opposing NATO expansion and demand the alliance's dissolution," Leupp said.

Solomon warned that Kiev's assault on rebels at Donetsk airport, which claimed as many as 100 lives, and other aggressive acts were pushing the eastern European country ever deeper towards all-out conflict and a rekindling of the Cold War. "The stakes in Ukraine are truly global," Solomon said. "The tragic conflict can easily ignite a far wider conflict. However, it is not too late to pull back from the abyss and embark on a road to peace and progress.

## Iran Peace Lobby Visits D.C.



Six Massachusetts Peace Action leaders visited 9 Congressional offices in Washington June 23-24 to advocate for a nuclear deal with Iran, and for no U.S. military action in Iraq. Above left to right: John Ratliff, Alina Michelowicz, Shelagh Foreman, Rep. Bill Keating, Mike Pattberg, Cole Harrison, and Jeff Klein.

Delegations also visited Rep. Clark's and Rep. Tierney's district offices.

## Remembering Steven Brion-Meisels

By Cole Harrison

Steven Brion-Meisels, board chair of Massachusetts Peace Action and a state and national leader of Peace Action for over 30 years, died of cancer on March 9, 2014 at the age of 64.

He was compassionate, uplifting, tireless, and inclusive. We at Massachusetts Peace Action are grateful to have known him as an influential colleague, wise mentor, insightful teacher, motivating role model, and caring friend.

Transformed by the civil rights and antiwar movements of the 1960s, he became a teacher, writer, organizer, and leader. Joining the Massachusetts Freeze Campaign in the 1980's, he played an important



role as the national SANE and Freeze organizations merged to form SANE/Freeze in 1987 and later became Peace Action. Steven

served as Massachusetts Peace Action's representative to the national Peace Action board for 30 years. As chair of the state board since 2011, he taught us to develop the organization, recruit members, strengthen the board, raise money and above all, to recruit youth. Steven was the initiator and first convener of our Palestine/Israel Task Force.

Hundreds attended a memorial service at the First Parish Church in Harvard Square on April 26, where Steven's former student Angela Kelly spoke for Peace Action and evoked Steven's memory along with other

speakers and musicians. The *Boston Globe* obituary is at [bit.ly/SBMobit](http://bit.ly/SBMobit).

To honor Steven and continue his work, we have established the Steven Brion-Meisels Youth Peace Fellowship, a program to develop the next generation of Massachusetts peace leaders. The Fellowship is supporting a campus organizer, Alina Michelwicz, to assist students in forming campus peace groups and to support existing groups. Other donations will construct a bench inscribed with Steven's name on the Charles River Bicycle Path. Generous donors have already contributed \$11,000 to the Fellowship, \$6,000 to the bench and \$2,000 to national Peace Action in honor of Steven, and Angela Kelly ran a fundraising half-marathon for the Fellowship in May. To learn how you can make a tax-deductible donation, go [bit.ly/stevenbrionmeisels](http://bit.ly/stevenbrionmeisels).

## Rebooting the Empire: Obama's Asia Tour

By Duncan McFarland, Newton

President Obama travelled to four Asian countries late in April 2014. He accomplished the minimum goal of refocusing attention on the Asia-Pacific region, one of his administration's most important foreign policy goals. He also advanced the US military buildup in the region, but was not able to move quickly on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Governments in the region have become increasingly skeptical of the implementation of the Pivot to Asia-Pacific, given the failure to win Fast Track in Congress, and US concerns about the Ukraine situation along with increasingly scarce resources. Japan's rightwing Prime Minister Abe hosted a top-level reception for Obama including a meeting with the Emperor. Obama assured Abe that



the US would back Japan against China in a possible conflict over the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea. China immediately issued a critical statement. In a defeat for the peace movement, Obama approved of Abe's effort to revise the Japanese peace constitution to enable a more assertive military. Full Japanese participation is critical to the US military buildup; however, Abe did not return the favor, refusing final agreement to the TPP. Obama gave South Korean President Park

assurances that the US will stand "shoulder to shoulder" against North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The joint operational plan in case of another Korean War now includes the assumption that North Korea will have the capacity to deliver a small number of nuclear weapons, and thus a pre-emptive US strike could be launched. Obama's visit contained no call for greater dialogue with the North.

The US military push continued in the Philippines, with a 10-year agreement signed for joint military support and cooperation. US naval forces will again have access to Philippine bases on the islands.

*[MAPA cosponsored a "Pivoting for Peace in Asia-Pacific" conference on April 19. More info: [masspeaceaction.org/5121](http://masspeaceaction.org/5121) - Ed.]*

## Working to Abolish All Nuclear Weapons

By Guntram Mueller, Newton

Almost half-way through year 6 of President Obama's term, his inspiring anti-nuclear weapons rhetoric of 2009 is largely unrealized and increasingly ignored. He did achieve an increase in securing nuclear weapons and materials worldwide, and he did tighten up some rules for US use of nuclear weapons. But he retains hundreds of nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert, and he did not approve a full no-first-use policy. He obtained a small reduction in US and Russian deployed nuclear arsenals, to 1,550 each, but at the price of committing to an extensive program of modernizing existing nuclear weapons, and designing and building new classes of delivery vehicles: subs, bombers, and missiles.

The non-nuclear countries are getting increasingly impatient waiting for the nuclear parties to the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to fulfill

their treaty obligation to negotiate the elimination of all of their nuclear weapons. Countries in the Middle East that have forsworn nuclear weapons are demanding meetings to negotiate a WMD free zone in the Middle East.

The Marshall Islands has filed lawsuits, one in the International Court of Justice, the other in US Federal Court, to force the nuclear countries to live up to their legal obligations. In addition, a series of conferences has begun on the humanitarian effects of nuclear war, and there is talk of a UN ban on nuclear weapons.

### What is MAPA doing?

Mass. Peace Action has several programs to raise public awareness, and to bring about the reduction and ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons.

*"Boston Remembers Hiroshima and Nagasaki"* will be a procession and

ceremony in Boston on August 6. See the Peace Calendar, page 6, for details.



We are doing outreach at summer festivals to raise awareness and to get petitions signed.

We are lobbying our Senators and Representatives to support Senate bill S.2070 and House bill HR.4107, which call for significant reductions in nuclear weapons spending.

Please contact MAPA to get involved. To overcome this nuclear madness, it will take massive public opposition! And please join us on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Minimum Wage Victory

By John Ratliff, Cambridge

A new law will raise the Massachusetts minimum wage to \$11 over three years, the highest in the country. Massachusetts Peace Action joined close to 100 other community organizations to win this victory!

RaiseUp Massachusetts collected over 350,000 signatures and mounted a massive lobbying effort. Over 100 MAPA members joined directly in our organized efforts to help, and others participated through other groups.

The coalition also celebrated its victory in collecting enough signatures to place the right to Earned Sick Time on the ballot for the November 2014 Election. Now begins the campaign to win that vote and make Massachusetts the first state to give workers the right to earn paid sick days in state law.

## Beyond Boston

By Carol Coakley, Millis



Milton for Peace had a monthly standout on a Wednesday, giving an annual award to the winner of a high school essay contest and participated in the St. Patrick's Day alternative parade.

Merrimack Valley People for Peace held a weekly vigil and will table at the Lowell Folk Festival and the Bread & Roses festival. They sent out a newsletter and hold monthly meetings. They were also very active in supporting Iraqi refugees together with the Iraqi community.

MetroWest Peace Action hosted Mass. Peace Action's nuclear globe at Earth Day in Natick. We met with Matthew Perry, legislative aide to Rep. David Linsky encouraging his support for Budget for All, and visited Rep. Katherine Clark's office in Medford to discuss lifting sanctions on Iran and nuclear issues. In solidarity with a Harvard Square peace rally on June 18 we held a vigil on the Natick Common calling for no new military intervention in Iraq or Syria.

Walpole Peace and Justice Group hosted Gareth Porter to discuss his book *Manufactured Crisis: The Untold Story of the Iran Nuclear Scare* and invited Eileen Kurkoski and Susan McClucas to help in the discussion of the movie *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars*. They also held a Tax Day vigil to highlight the money spent on war.

## Peace and Justice Calendar

Summer 2014

[masspeaceaction.org/events](http://masspeaceaction.org/events)

Sat, Jul 26 12-5 pm	Outreach Table: Lowell Folk Festival French Street at John St, Lowell
Tue, Jul 29 7:00 pm	Mainstreaming Torture: Ethical Approaches in Post-9/11 United States Rebecca Gordon - Porter Square Books, Cambridge
Sun, Aug 3	Rebecca Gordon, Walpole United Church, 7pm
Wed, Aug 9 3:00 pm	Boston Remembers Hiroshima and Nagasaki Moving from Violence to Unity  Tina Chery, "Soran Bushi" Dancers, Taiko Drumming Memorial Procession, Music, Dance, Speakers, Action First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough St., procession to City Hall Plaza
Sat, Aug 16 11 am- 5pm	Outreach Table: Boston Green Fest Boston City Hall Plaza
Mon, Sep 1 12-5 pm	Outreach Table: Bread and Roses Festival Lawrence Common
Fri Sep 19 7:00 pm	NYC Climate Convergence New York City
Sun, Sep 21 1:00 pm	People's Climate March: Largest Climate March in History New York City – Join Peace Action contingent
Thu, Oct 2 7:00 pm	Waging Peace: Global Adventures of a Life-Long Activist. David Hartsough Cambridge Friends meeting, 5 Longfellow Pk (off Brattle)
Sat. Oct 18 7:30 pm	Music for Peace: Solo Piano Recital by Victor Rosenbaum Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, 1555 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
Nov. TBD	Foreign Policy for All conference

**Mass. Peace Action board:** Rosalie Anders, James Babson, Kinga Boratyn, Carol Coakley (vice chair), Shelagh Foreman, Bonnie Gorman, Burton Glass, So Yeon Jeong, Jeff Klein, John Maher, Eva Moseley, Guntram Mueller (chair), Prasannan Parthasarathi, John Ratliff, Pat Salomon, Dan Solomon. **Ed Fund board:** Christie Dennis, Eva Moseley, Gary Goldstein, Rosalie Anders (chair), Shelagh Foreman. **Staff:** Cole Harrison, executive director; Carol Coakley, office coordinator; Alina Michelewicz, campus organizer. **Interns:** Richard Reichmann, Isabel Yu, Igor Bolshakov

## Join us!

Massachusetts Peace Action is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to develop the sustained political power to foster a more just and peaceful U.S. foreign policy.

We are an affiliate of Peace Action, the nation's largest grassroots peace and disarmament membership organization, with more than 18,000 members and 30 chapters across the country.

Our work is funded entirely by donations from our members. Thank you for your support.  
Member Levels:

- \$65.00 Family membership
- \$40.00 Individual membership
- \$10.00 Limited income membership

Make tax-deductible donations in any amount to the Massachusetts Peace Action Education Fund.

## What We Do

- Mobilize our members to become active advocates for peace and justice issues with their elected officials and within their communities.
- Organize events to educate the public on issues of peace and disarmament.
- Make peace a priority in all elections at all levels by educating voters and candidates on just and peaceful foreign policy options.



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