



Senator Kerry Faces Deficit Choices

Massachusetts needs jobs and real solutions, but as deficit cutting mania



sweeps Washington, the prospect of cutting the wars and military budget to boost our economy is still anathema to

some of our political leaders.

Senator John Kerry is a member of Congress' "Super Committee", which is tasked with proposing by November 23 how to cut the 10-year Federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion. President Obama has asked them to also focus on creating jobs and growth.

The money is available. Wall Street wrecked the economy, but millionaires, billionaires, and financial speculators are not paying their fair share of taxes. Taxes on high incomes, capital gains and dividends, and financial transactions would make money available to create jobs, build infrastructure, and provide education and health care.

\$1.26 trillion has been spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Pentagon's budget has jumped 80% since 2001, and we're planning to spend \$185 billion over the next 10 years on new nuclear weapons production facilities and delivery systems -- yet this misguided "security" spending has not made us safer. Ending the wars, bringing the troops home, and cutting the \$545 billion a year base Pentagon budget 25%, would save far more than Sen. Kerry needs to meet the "Super Committee's" target.

Peace Action is joining with the new Fund Our Communities Not War state-wide network to organize feedback to Senator Kerry. Fill out an online postcard with **your** message to Sen. Kerry at <http://bit.ly/pYbiyQ>. Then, ask your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Festival Promotes a Nuclear-Free Future

Hundreds of people of all ages gathered at Copley Square on Saturday, July 16 for the *Festival for a Nuclear-Free Future* initiated by Massachusetts Peace Action and cosponsored by peace, environmental, religious, and political action groups.

We reflected and cheered as Harvey Wasserman, Randy Kehler, Anna Baker, and Brian Corr delivered their powerful and informative messages.

We listened, danced and applauded as Public Interest, John Loretz and Martin Hunter, Rutsubo Taiko drummers, and the Japanese theater students' group performed their moving and inspiring music and dance.

We saw off the Nipponzan Myohoji monks, nuns and others whose *Walk for a Nuclear-Free Future* traveled from the Festival to the Plymouth, Seabrook and Vermont Yankee nuclear power plans, and points in between.

We were moved by the nuclear-free banners created by artists, the large globe showing the location of nuclear-free zones and nuclear facilities in the world, and the animal puppets that reminded festival-goers that animals, too, need a nuclear-free world.



We signed a banner that was later displayed in Hiroshima August 6 by Joseph Gerson of the American Friends Service Committee. We played the Budget Game at the Peace Action literature table and learned about the solar collector displayed by Solar IS Civil Defense.

We folded origami peace cranes in honor of Sadako's hope; WILPF volunteers painted our faces with peace symbols; and we visited the informative tables set up by Greenpeace, WAND, Sierra Club, United for Justice with Peace, Community Church of Boston, Safe and Green

Campaign, Green Decade, First Church in Cambridge – Congregational, Green-Rainbow Party, and Democratic Socialists of America.

We wore Festival T-shirts and read the Festival educational pamphlet. We connected with each other, sharing what we know and what we do.



We enjoyed each other's company and celebrated our unity on a bright summer day, and as we did so, we knew that we are diverse, joyful and serious. We knew that we cannot rest until we have abolished nuclear power, built a renewable, sustainable future, and abolished nuclear weapons.

We look forward to making the Festival an annual event.

**No more Hiroshimas! No more Fukushima's!
For a Non-Nuclear Future!**

Intern's Corner

by Nang T. Khai

For me, Boston will always be about peace activism. The skills I learned and the experiences

that I had were immense.

Initially, it was a tough climb trying to get used to the environ-

ment and adjust to the high living cost of big city life. Nevertheless, the confidence in my political stances, in my ability to contribute in any matter that I may be called upon, in my oral communication, were invaluable benefits of my summer's work.

Having the chance to work with wonderful peace-loving people was amazing. The desire to work hard and give your best is inevitable in such a welcoming and warm environment.

Boston will always be in my heart and will always be one of the greatest chapters of my life. Go Bruins!

Nang Khai is a native of Mandalay, Burma and a senior at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

Bon Voyage Susanna!

Susanna Porte, our long time board chair, volunteer, and musical director, is moving to the San Francisco Bay Area. Massachusetts Peace Action thanks her for the passion, the hard work, and the good times.



We fêted Susanna at a dinner in August and wished her all the best.

Linking Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power

Guntram Mueller, Chair, UJP Nuclear Abolition Task Force

In the wake of the Fukushima disaster, the Festival for a Nuclear-Free Festival in July marked the start of Massachusetts Peace Action's campaign to link the dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

The danger of accidental or mistaken use, or intended use, of nuclear weapons is still very real. The danger of a terrorist use of nuclear weapons and of proliferation is increasing according to a national intelligence estimate.

But there is good news in the fact that the mayors of the world (Mayors for Peace) are taking an increasing role against nuclear weapons, and that the U.S. Conference of Mayors has voted unanimously to urge the President to start international negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons, and to urge Congress to eliminate the \$185 billion planned for new nuclear weapons manufacturing and delivery systems. That program would make us not more safe but rather less safe.



Our Festival's second message was about nuclear power: The licenses of Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim Nuclear (Mass.) should not be extended, because these reactors are old, and of the same design as in Fukushima. We may not face tsunamis, but the recent Virginia earthquake should remind us that we do have power outages for a variety of reasons, and we would have the same results if the cooling systems were disabled: meltdowns in the reactors, hydrogen explosions that spew highly radioactive pieces for up to 2 miles, and a nuclear toxic overlay of the local environment.

The tragic irony is that nuclear energy is not needed, not even as a hedge against global warming, as judged by a number of studies, and as seen in the decisions of Germany and Switzerland to phase it out in favor of renewable energy. Moreover, and this is critical, nuclear power reactors produce plutonium, the key ingredient needed if a state wants to start a relatively cheap nuclear weapons program, or if a terror group wants to deliver a nuclear device by a truck in town or a boat in a harbor. The more nuclear power, the greater danger of proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

MASSACHUSETTS Peace Action

is a nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots organization building the sustained political power to foster a more just and peaceful U.S. foreign policy.

Our priority issues in 2011 are abolishing nuclear weapons, ending the war in Afghanistan, and creating a peace economy that meets human & environmental needs rather than military objectives.

We are an affiliate of Peace Action, the nation's largest grassroots peace and justice organization. Our work is funded entirely by membership dues and donations from our members. Thank you for your support.

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Summer 2011

Nang T. Khai, Loras College
Manu Moritz, Macalester College

Fall 2011

Priyanka Sen, Buckingham Browne & Nichols school

Is it Safe to Live Near Pilgrim Nuclear Station?

By Anna Baker

I'm 34, have two young children and live about 25 miles south of Boston in Marshfield, Massachusetts. When I moved to Marshfield six years ago, I knew very little about Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. I did not feel threatened by it, nor was I aware that it had any safety problems. After the Fukushima power plant disaster, I decided to attend a question and answer session at a local library. What I found out was appalling: there are real problems at "my local power station". I live 20 miles north of the Pilgrim plant and was suddenly facing the very frightening thought that our lives and wellbeing could be in jeopardy should there be a problem at the plant. Fortunately, there are some solutions to these problems.

The spent fuel pool at Pilgrim was designed to hold approximately 880 fuel assemblies. It now contains about 3,000. According to a report prepared by the Massachusetts Attorney General, any significant loss of water in a crowded pool will likely cause an uncontrolled fire and a nuclear catastrophe. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should require that there be no more assemblies in a spent fuel pool than the original design allowed, and that all other spent fuel assemblies be placed in hardened, dispersed dry casks onsite until an offsite nuclear waste storage solution becomes available.



Another significant problem is that loss of external power to Pilgrim could cause a nuclear disaster. It would not take a tsunami or an earthquake for us to lose power here in New England. There are several ways Pilgrim could lose power. There are 7 days of fuel for backup generators, and 4-8 hours of backup battery power. What happens on the eighth day? This is a question I've been asking and I haven't heard many satisfying answers. If we want to improve the safety of the plant, Pilgrim must be required to have supplemental, portable generators stored nearby to bring to the site by truck or barge if needed.

Current Emergency Planning zones are only 10 miles in radius, and do not include Cape Cod, the Islands or Cape Ann. The NRC recommended evacuating 50 miles around Fukushima. Emergency Planning zones should be increased to a 25 mile minimum radius, and the outdated plans and procedures must be upgraded. Massachusetts has the authority

to implement plans that are more conservative than those of the federal government, and the state should use this power.

The solutions to these problems, amongst others I don't have the space to address here, are simply a matter of money. Whether Entergy should be responsible for these dollars or the costs should be passed on to the consumer is a matter for discussion. What is not debatable, however, is that a nuclear problem is one we can't afford to ignore.

We need more people, and younger generations, to get involved with this issue. The turnout at some of these local events is pitiful. I have learned all I know about nuclear power from reading and asking questions, and I am certainly not someone who has a lot of free time on my hands. This issue is critical enough to warrant action. Our lives and livelihoods are at risk.

Anna Baker, founder of Pilgrim Make Us Safe Today (MUST), presented remarks at the Festival for a Nuclear Free Future.



Peace Action Local News



Metrowest Peace Action demonstrated in front of Rep. Markey's Framingham office in July (*left*) to thank him for supporting full troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and to express our regret at Obama's small request. MWPA also tabled at Framingham Concerts on the Green.

Walpole Peace and Justice showed the movie *Beyond Belief*, on Sept. 11. The film follows two local 9/11 widows who turned their grief into positive action to help Afghan widows.

Brookline Peace Action members presented Matthew Hoh speaking on Afghanistan, showed the film *Why We Fight* and cosponsored *Hibakusha: Our Life to Live*. Belmont members presented the Afghanistan film *View from a Grain of Sand* and tabled in Belmont Centre.

Prof. Daniel Bar-Tal spoke on Israeli/Palestinian reconciliation in Cambridge at a Peace Action Lunchtime Seminar in July. Intern Nang Khai spoke on Burma in June, as did Ian Garland on defense conversion.

Fifteen Boston University freshmen spent the Friday before Labor Day weekend at our office learning about peace issues as part of their freshman orientation program.

Join MASSACHUSETTS **Peace Action**

Contribute, network and learn

With joblessness and the economic crisis, public awareness that "war is not working" has led to a growing national desire to re-orient national priorities toward peace, human rights and an equitable society "back home." Massachusetts Peace Action is working to translate that shift into changes in U.S. foreign and domestic (budget) policy.

The best way to accomplish our goals is to grow our membership statewide. Membership provides consistent support for our educational and advocacy work – through dues and members' action. Membership is also a great deal: for \$40 a year (\$10 for students and unemployed), you get national and state newsletters, information about Peace Action events, and opportunities to learn. As a member, you can help committees, and participate as part of a national Peace Action network with close to 100,000 members like you.

"Organizational members" are allied groups from peace, religious, labor, social justice and environmental areas that receive Peace Action support and resources for a \$75 annual membership fee.

Join us! We need your help and participation.



Are you long on time but short on cash? No problem; Mass Peace Action's volunteer brigade welcomes you with open arms. No experience necessary; just enthusiasm and a willingness to help with the nuts and bolts of operating your local grassroots peace organization.

We are always looking for extra hands to assist us in collecting petition signatures, setting up and managing ticket and book sales at talks, films and concerts, preparing and sending out membership mailings, doing data entry in the office, and much more.

Just call or email us and tell us your skills and available dates and times. The more the merrier!

Legacy of Peace

Peace Action Education Fund's Legacy of Peace program assists members and supporters by providing information on planned giving options.

The Program offers a number of useful pamphlets free of charge:

- *Reflecting on Tomorrow*
- *37 Things People "Know" About Wills That Aren't Really So*
- *How to Make a Will that Works*
- *Better Estate Planning*

Write to Peace Action, 11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138 to receive your copy of one or all of these pamphlets.

MASSACHUSETTS **Peace Action** *Lunchtime Seminars*

First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden Street • Hastings Room
Wednesdays at 1:00 pm • \$5 donation to cover buffet lunch



October 12: **Subrata Ghoshroy**, MIT Science, Technology and Global Security Working Group – *Pentagon Research Funding and Weapons Development*

October 26: **Terry Rockefeller**, 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows – *Civil Society and "Arab Spring" in Iraq*



November 9: **John Loretz**, Program Director, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War – *The Humanitarian Case for Global Nuclear Abolition*

Afghanistan: Why Obama Must Change Course

Monday, October 17, 7 pm • 35 Church St., Watertown
Tuesday, October 18, 7 pm • 6 Eliot St, Jamaica Plain

Jonathan Steele has covered Afghanistan for the *Guardian* (London) for more than thirty years, and was part of the *Guardian* team which published the Wikileaks Afghanistan cables. His latest book, *Ghosts of Afghanistan: The Haunted Battleground*, will be published by Counterpoint in October.



Scarred Lands, Wounded Lives

Thursday, October 13, 6:30 pm
Coolidge Corner Library, 31 Pleasant St., Brookline



A shocking film on the environmental devastation of war. It also reminds us that war distracts us from the 21st century's environmental threats.