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## 2015 PRIORITIES

- Stop the ISIS war
- Nuclear disarmament
- Peace Economy
- Permanent nuclear deal with Iran
- Foreign policy for All

## 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

February 7, 2015, Noon to 5pm  
First Church in Boston,  
66 Marlborough St  
Register: [bit.ly/MAPAannmtg2015](http://bit.ly/MAPAannmtg2015)

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dennis Kucinich  
Rev. Osagyefo Sekou

## MASSACHUSETTS PEACE ACTION

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## Conference on Foreign Policy Draws Hundreds

Some 300 peace activists, students and others came together at MIT November 8 for *Foreign Policy for All: Re-Thinking U.S. Foreign Policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, a one-day conference organized by Massachusetts Peace Action and allies. Attendees debated the fundamental issues of U.S. foreign policy and considered a policy framework developed by a working group (see page 2).



MIT Institute Prof. Noam Chomsky pointed out that throughout U.S. history, elites have cultivated fear of "them" – outsiders who are allegedly threatening us – when the reality was often that U.S. power was decimating their societies.

Author and activist Bill Fletcher, Jr. called for a paradigm shift in the peace movement's and left's view of international solidarity. Not all social movements are progressive, as we have recently seen in Venezuela and Thailand. We must uphold human rights and non-intervention, and we must be willing to push for reforms in the U.S. state's foreign policy.

Middle East analyst Phyllis Bennis argued that the U.S. is functioning as an empire in an age when empires are no longer sustainable. Though much of the opposition to U.S. manipulation in the Middle East is led by Islamists, we cannot choose the leadership of the forces that are opposing U.S. hegemony.

Journalist and author Stephen Kinzer agreed that the U.S. cannot dictate the solutions to conflicts currently raging in the Middle East. "The U.S. needs to learn to compromise," he commented.

Videos of the talks by Harrison, Chomsky, Fletcher, Bennis and Kinzer are posted at [bit.ly/FP4A-video](http://bit.ly/FP4A-video).

Participants joined 15 workshops covering topics ranging from nuclear disarmament, international law, and 21<sup>st</sup> century warfare, to climate change, the struggle against inequality, budgets, and the media. Others looked at food, campus and high school peace organizing, peacebuilding, the Middle East, Asia/Pacific, and Eastern Europe. A third of conference attendees were students, including large groups from Northeastern University, UMass Lowell, and Bowdoin.



Massachusetts Peace Action is asking its members and allies to discuss the Foreign Policy for All at workshops this winter in several locations (see page 6 for dates). The feedback we receive at the conference, at the local meetings, and via the online response form ([bit.ly/FP4A-Survey](http://bit.ly/FP4A-Survey)) will be collated by the working group and used to write an improved draft. On February 7, members will discuss the Foreign Policy for All at our annual meeting.

## What is the Foreign Policy for All?

*Cole Harrison, Roslindale*

It's time for a change.

U.S. foreign policy is mired in an unsustainable paradigm of worldwide military dominance, with force as an option of first resort. Washington seeks to act as the world's policeman – but as the world did not choose the U.S. as its policeman, this strategy causes insecurity and resentment towards the United States. A more restrained foreign policy would be more effective, more democratic and would cost less.

To turn around US foreign policy we need a far broader movement. The traditional peace movement cannot do it alone. In fact, foreign policy is everyone's problem, and the issues go far beyond simple questions of war and peace.

The Foreign Policy for All is based on five basic values.

- **Democracy:** We don't want a foreign policy made by elites
- **Peace & International Cooperation:** we need to respect other nations and build collective security
- **Justice:** overturn unjust power structures and respect international law
- **Human Rights:** uphold the full range of human rights and apply them to our own society as well as worldwide
- **Sustainability:** live in harmony with the earth, promote climate justice, build a sustainable economy

The policies of the Foreign Policy for All include:

**Nuclear Disarmament:** Immediately start multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention

**Climate Justice:** Urgent national effort to stop climate change; support green economic development worldwide

**Strengthen international law and international organizations:** Reform UN, sign on to international courts, ratify treaties

**Five principles:** Sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence

**Non-intervention:** Renounce pre-emption; humanitarian interventions must be led by a reformed UN

**Peacebuilding Abroad and at Home:** Support international grassroots efforts

**Protect the global commons:** Protect and demilitarize oceans, atmosphere, outer space, polar zones

**Demilitarization:** Reduce military spending by 50% or more; close overseas bases; refocus mission of military on defense of national territory and participation in UN missions

**Arms Trade:** Ratify Arms Trade Treaty and shut down the international arms trade

**Development:** Contribute generously to world green economic

and social development

**Just Transition:** Companies, not workers now employed in the military and fossil fuel sectors, must pay for transition

**Trade Justice:** Base trade policy on cooperation, solidarity, sustainable development, democratic scrutiny

**Priority Regional Issues:** New approaches to China, Korea, Middle East and Persian Gulf, Israel/Palestine, Africa, Cuba, Venezuela, Marshall Islands, NATO and more.

To implement the Foreign Policy for All we will have to confront corporate control.

The other big obstacle is the national security state. The Pentagon, State Department, CIA, NSA, and Congressional leadership, etc., make policy in secret and are barely accountable to the democratic institutions that supposedly control our government.

The Foreign Policy for All is only one part of a people's agenda that is bringing together labor, people of color, immigrants, women, LGBT people, ex-prisoners, environmentalists, community activists, civil libertarians, and more in a broad progressive coalition. All these movements are ultimately struggling against the same corporate interests that control our economy and politics for the benefit of the 1%.



*Paula Sharaga, Weirmin Tchen, Lani Gerson, Paul Shannon, Joseph Gerson, Shelagh Foreman, Jackie Cabasso, Cole Harrison, Claire Gosselin at People's Climate March*

## Sick Leave Victory!

*John Ratliff, Cambridge*

Massachusetts Peace Action and members of the Budget for All coalition from around the state joined with more than 80 other labor, community, and church groups to win big victories for working families in this year's legislative session and election. The road to victory was a long one.

In fall 2013, peace activists devoted hours to signature gathering on the petitions to put a higher minimum wage and earned paid sick time on the Massachusetts ballot. Together with others in the Raise Up Massachusetts Coalition we collected over 300,000 signatures, a record number. We then engaged in a people's lobbying campaigns, and together with RaiseUp defeated efforts by business interests to undermine unemployment insurance as a quid pro quo for passing a higher minimum wage, and also beat back efforts to establish a lower youth minimum wage. The legislature passed an \$11 minimum wage, the highest statewide wage in the country.

The coalition mounted a strong educational effort and get out the vote effort to ensure that the earned sick time provision passed. Peace activists knocked on doors and spent hours on the phone, trying to identify and turn out voters who would support the measure. Over a million Massachusetts workers benefited directly when the voters passed the ballot question by a 60% vote on November 4. The hard work of RaiseUp overcame an environment hostile to ballot questions (the other three on the ballot all failed) and efforts by some in industry to confuse the question.

Prior to the vote, the Raise Up coalition had determined to reconvene and stay united to continue working on behalf of working people in the Commonwealth. Stay tuned!

*Carol Coakley, Millis*

Outside Boston, regional peace and justice groups are keeping up their work. Here is a sampling of their activities.

Merrimack Valley People for Peace celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June and continue to hold regular vigils on Sundays at 12:00 in Andover at the intersection of Rts. 133 and 138. They set up tables at the Lowell Folk Festival in July and the Bread and Roses Festival and Andover Day in September. They commemorated Hiroshima Day and hosted Brayton Shanley of the Agape Community at their annual Stone Soup event on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Salem Peace Committee meets monthly and offers a free peace and justice film on the first Tuesday of the month. In July they tabled for two days at the Salem Culture Fest highlighting peace and justice issues and rallied at Rep. Tierney's office to say no to war in Syria.

Milton for Peace continues its monthly standouts on the first Wed-

## Beyond Boston

nesday of the month from 7 to 8 am at the intersection of Eliot St., Blue Hills Parkway and Blue Hill Avenue under the big beech tree. Each year it sponsors a \$200 award for an essay contest on peace for high school students. In October members set up a table at Milton Day and shared common interests with bottle bill supporters.



Walpole Peace and Justice hosted Rebecca Gordon on "Mainstreaming Torture", Reese Erlich speaking about his book "Inside Syria", and held vigils to stop the deportations of child refugees.

Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment continues to offer speakers, films, and organizing efforts through its subgroups Friends of Bees and Rethink Plastic. It is opposing US military action in Syria and Iraq, drone attacks in Pakistan, and the militarization of police departments. They also hosted a talk by Reese Ehrlich, who recently returned from Iraq.

Metrowest Peace Action held a No War on Syria demonstration in Framingham at a busy intersection and saw many thumbs up from drivers.

Newton Dialogues continues to hold their Thursday vigils at 5 PM at Beacon and Centre St., and in September they organized a powerful event with Helen Caldicott and Diane Turco on *Facing our Nuclear Responsibilities*.

### AT HOME A Soldier's Mother Speaks

By Hazel Wyeth Williams 1925

The records say that you came home  
Full seven years ago  
With a scar or two and a D.S.C.  
And a captaincy, I know.

Someone has been here through  
these years  
Who's gone through your routine  
Held down your job and worn your  
clothes,  
Alloof, unmoved, serene.

But yesterday at some child's prank  
You smiled, and the war was past.  
My heart soared high, the whole world  
sang.  
You had come home at last.

## Palestine & Israel 2014: Beyond Recognition

David Zackon, Wakefield



Every chapter in the agonizingly long “Middle East Peace Process” ends badly, and the 2014 installment proved no exception.

We ask again: amidst the wreckage, is there the glimmer of freedom and a just peace? Much of the world – now including parliaments in Europe – perceives more than a glimmer.

While the brutality and carnage are familiar, at least two dynamics, not altogether new but rapidly intensifying, promise a dissolution of the status quo.

First, Palestine is assuming the shape of nationhood, even in the eyes of the West, even without Security Council validation. As EU policy on Palestinian “recognition” gains coherence, opposition to Palestine’s joining the International Criminal Court will surely erode – and ICC rulings are the best chance for “bringing

to justice” violators of international law.

Second, Israel’s drift to the hard right has become a fact. Overtly racist attacks by settlers in the occupied territories and by Israeli extremists inside the 1967 border have become commonplace. Flagrantly anti-democratic measures that formerly would have been denied a first reading in the Knesset are now the norm. The “Jewish Nation-State Law,” which subordinates Israel’s democracy to its Judaic values, has distressed even such stalwart Israel-backers as the Anti-Defamation League.

Polling for the upcoming Israeli election indicates a further swing to the right (by as much as 16 Knesset seats, or 25%). The Israel that once claimed to serve as a beacon of tolerance and democratic pluralism is changing beyond recognition.

What does this mean for liberals in the US Congress who face a re-energized right here at home? We hope it will be a salutary shock, leading at

least to moderation of routine Congressional support for Israel and criticism of Palestine. MAPA’s Palestine/Israel Working Group continues its efforts to change the perceptions and votes of the Massachusetts delegation and to counter the influence of the Israel lobby. But there is far to go before we can stem the flow of US arms to a foreign military that violates international law.

Last month a State Department spokesperson, mentioning our “important security relationship with Israel,” was asked if “no amount of announcements of new housing units or new settlements in the West Bank is going to have any impact on that security relationship, right?”

“Correct,” was her one-word reply.

Like Benjamin Netanyahu’s assertion this summer that Israel will never “relinquish security control of the territory west of the River Jordan,” this is a bottom line that the rest of the world will certainly reject.

## Budget for All Campaign Prepares for 2015

Paul Shannon, Somerville



The Budget for All campaign began as the US was trying to climb out of a recession and end two long wars. It provided a framework that allowed peace, community, labor and low income groups to work together on the same project with shared goals: maintain vital public programs, invest in useful jobs, end unjust tax breaks and cut Pentagon spending.

After the sweeping 2012 victory in all 90 cities and towns where the question was on the ballot, the campaign sought to bring the voice of the voters into the public battle over

federal budget policies. In 2014 Budget for All held a successful Tax Day forum featuring Reps. Jim McGovern and Katherine Clark, Mel King, Grace Ross, labor leader Harris Gruman, and more.

It then turned its attention to trying to pass supportive legislation in the State House. Many of you called and wrote your legislators asking them to bring the bills out of committee and on to the floor for a vote. Paul Shannon and Laurie Taymor-Berry worked the marble halls of the State House and met with dozens of legislators and other elected officials. The effort spread the word about Budget for All throughout the political class but they declined to bring the bills out of committee for a vote. Our State House sponsors, Sen.

Dan Wolf and Rep. Jay Livingstone, will file the legislation again for the 2015-16 session of the state legislature.

With the new Republican Congress, budget confrontations are sure to escalate again, bringing proposals to eviscerate vital programs, increase the military budget, and slash environmental protection. Budget for All plans to hold parties to watch the State of the Union address; call on our members of Congress to support the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget; and hold a Tax Day event again in April, to hold high the banner of a common sense and moral alternative to the austere and militaristic budgets that are likely coming. No struggle is more urgent.

Elaine Scarry, Cambridge



Most people know there is a risk of a nuclear weapons accident. Most people know there is a risk

that a terrorist or a hacker will gain control of a nuclear weapon. But not enough people recognize the largest source of risk: the nuclear nations themselves.

These states have girdled the earth with a gigantic nuclear architecture. All humanity is held hostage inside this lethal scaffolding. An accident or a terrorist may one day eliminate an entire city. But with their much vast-er resources, the nuclear nations may destroy not just a single city, but almost all living creatures on earth. It is the nuclear nations that have created and dispersed nuclear weapons -- thereby making them available for accidental detonation or appropriation by non-state actors.

This coming April and May the nations of the world will meet in New York for the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference. Non-nuclear states will be interested in examining the progress that has been made on one article in particular. Article 6 of the NPT -- which the United States ratified in 1969 -- requires that the nuclear states disarm: "Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations... on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

43 years later, the nuclear states show no sign of disarming; they are instead modernizing their arsenals.

The United States, which has the most lethal nuclear arsenal, is designing a next-generation Ohio-class submarine, a next-generation ICBM, and a next-generation nuclear bomber. The projected cost is \$1 trillion, or \$10,000 for every household in

## Will We Remain Silent?

America. We already have the power to massacre all the inhabitants of earth; the collective wealth of the country will now be spent on perpetuating that shameful power. Meanwhile our bridges collapse, roads deteriorate, schools decay.

The other nuclear states are also upgrading their weapons. With the exception of Russia, the other nuclear states have small arsenals. Yet even these are vast in their death-dealing power. Recent research on nuclear winter, published in journals such as *Physics Today*, *Atmospheric*

continued to flourish because we -- the citizenry -- have been silent.

What is our alternative to speaking out?

Shall we wait until a foreign city or one of our own cities has been destroyed? Will we only then cry out?

Will we rush in to help bury bodies and distribute water to the tens of thousands burned? Will the water be radiated? Will those who assist be contaminated?

Nuclear weapons have eliminated the right of self-defense; they have also nearly erased the possibility of mutual aid.

Have you checked the procedures for dealing with nuclear disaster in your own city? No need. There are no procedures in place.

Only injuries that have not yet happened can be stopped. Our chance to stop them is now.

Shall we wait until the weapons are made? The weapons are already made.

Shall we wait until they are mated to their delivery systems? They are already mated to their delivery systems.

Shall we wait until targets have been selected? Thousands of targets have already been selected and specific weapons assigned to each.

Shall we wait until the missiles are on alert? They are already on alert.

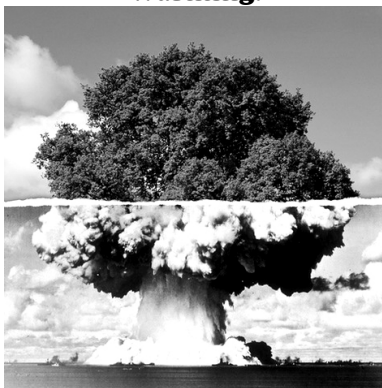
Only one step remains.

Our decision to speak or remain silent will determine what comes next. Our own instruction to world leaders: "Disarm. Now." -- Or instead their instruction: "Fire."

*Elaine Scarry is the author of Thermo-nuclear Monarchy: Choosing between Democracy and Doom and a member of MAPA's nuclear abolition working group.*

### Peace & Planet

**No Nukes! No Wars! No Warming!**



**April 24-26, 2015**

**New York City**

People's Conference & March  
on the Eve of the  
NPT Review Conference  
[peaceandplanet.org](http://peaceandplanet.org)

*Chemistry and Physics*, and *Geophysical Research*, shows that even if a mere 0.015% of the explosive power of the world's arsenal is used, 44 million people will die on the first day and one billion in the first month.

Once the United States begins to disarm, other nuclear states will follow. But the United States will begin to disarm only when our population insists that this disarming take place. The nuclear era has taught us to believe we have no say in the matter. That is untrue. We do have a say. This unspeakable moral harm has

## Peace and Justice Calendar

Winter-Spring 2015

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

Sat Jan 10 1:00 pm Foreign Policy for All Workshop – Metrowest Peace Action  
Common St. Church, 13 Common St, Natick

Sat Jan 31 12:00 pm Foreign Policy for All Workshop – Clark University, Worcester  
*Room tba*

Sat Jan 31 7:30 pm Music for Peace:  
All-Mendelssohn Program  
Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church  
1555 Mass. Ave., Cambridge



Sun Feb 1 5-7 pm Foreign Policy for All Workshop – West Suburban – Watertown Citizens  
Grace Vision Church, 80 Mt Auburn St

Sat Feb 7 Noon-5pm Massachusetts Peace Action Annual Meeting  
First Church in Boston, 66 Marlboro St



Keynote Speakers:  
Dennis Kucinich  
Rev. Osagyefo Sekou

Sat Feb 28 1pm Budget for All Briefing and Organizing Meeting  
*Location tba*

Sat Apr 11 7:30 pm Music for Peace: Vocal Music in Times of War & Peace  
Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, 1555 Mass. Ave., Cambridge

**Mass. Peace Action board of directors:** Rosalie Anders, James Babson, 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.

**Education 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; Devon Dunn, membership coordinator. **Intern:** Samuel Rogers

## Join us!

Massachusetts Peace Action or MAPA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership 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 state affiliates across the country.

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

Member Levels:

- \$65 Family membership
- \$40 Individual membership
- \$10 Limited income or student

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

## What We Do

- Mobilize and educate 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.
- Address specific issue areas in our working groups
- 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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