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Broome County Peace Action

Update



Friday, May 16, 7:00 PM the film, "5 Broken Cameras" to be shown after 6:00 PM Broome County Peace Action Annual Meeting

This year's Broome County Peace Action Annual Meeting on Friday, May 16 will start with the Veterans for Peace Fish Fry, followed by the election of officers and Board members of *Broome County Peace Action* and the *Broome County Nuclear Weapons Reduction Campaign* and concluding with refreshments and a screening of the movie, "5 Broken Cameras" sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Peace Action.

The fish fry will be provided by Gance's Restaurant and will be held from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at 252 Main Street Binghamton in the parking lot of Advanced Auto Parts. The fish fry is a fund raiser for the **Stuart Naismith Scholarship Fund**. The Scholarship is awarded annually to a student from Chenango Valley and from Chenango Forks High schools in honor of **Stuart Naismith** from the **Binghamton Community Friends Meeting/Quakers** and the **Stuart Naismith chapter of Veterans for Peace**. You can get your fish fry "to-go" and bring it to the UU church and eat it there any time after 5:50 pm.

The annual meeting will be from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm at the UU Church at 183 Riverside Drive, Binghamton. This will be followed with refreshments at 6:30 and the film at 7:00.

A brief panel discussion will follow the screening. The public is

invited. A good will offering will be appreciated, but not required.

The film was nominated for an Oscar®, and is a personal first-hand account of life and nonviolent resistance in Bil'in, a West Bank village where Israel was building a security fence. Palestinian Emad Burnat shot the film and Israeli filmmaker Guy Davidi co-directed. The film is a Palestinian-Israeli-French co-production.

A synopsis, along with additional information regarding the film is available at www.kinolorber.com/5-Broken-Cameras.

A Busy year for Broome County Peace Action

Ann Clune, President

Between annual meetings of the entire membership, we hold monthly meetings of the board which are always open to anyone wanting to participate. At these meetings we take care of organizational business such as financial reports, planning of activities, and voting on allocations of monies collected in dues and contributions, but also spend a lot of time on careful consideration of current domestic and international topics. As in most years we have focused heavily on educating both ourselves and the public with the hope of building a grassroots movement toward eliminating war and violence and their social, economic, and environmental costs.

To this end we invited speakers to address our meetings, co-sponsored speakers invited to the area by other groups, showed or co-sponsored or endorsed relevant films, organized or participated in public gatherings, participated individually in wider peace groups and conference calls and reported back to our fellow members, and tried to increase our public visibility through increasing our participation in social media (particularly Facebook) and our newsletter, and continued our participation in the weekly Peace Vigil in front of the Federal Building in Binghamton, now in its fifteenth year.

Realizing that Broome County Peace Action shares a common problem of aging members spreading our time and energy over an increasingly wide field of important issues, we began a concerted effort to collaborate with other active peace and justice groups. We called this our "synergy project." We continued our support of the student **Peace Action group on the SUNY Binghamton campus** which we helped start last year. We held meetings with individuals representing other local groups and planned and held several mutual activities. And for many months now we have been informally merging our board meeting with the meeting of the local chapter of **Veterans for Peace**, sharing meeting space, and supporting each other's concerns and activities.

Our most recent outreach has been the establishment of a **Peace Leader Scholarship** of \$350 to be presented to a Binghamton High School senior in memory of Broome County peacemakers, (listed with brief biographies on our web page). We hope to make this an annual award. This was inspired by the scholarship now in its third year, honoring **Stuart Naismith**, given by

the **Binghamton Community Friends Meeting/Quakers**, and the **Stuart Naismith Chapter of Veterans for Peace**. Below is some information on the scholarship. By offering this scholarship we are hoping to encourage young people to think of peacemaking as a life-long commitment. We are also envisioning it as a small counter-weight to the very visible presence and emphasis on military careers and honors at these honors ceremonies each year.

Scholarship

The scholarship, this year, is open to students graduating from Binghamton High School.

Along with the application, each student is asked to submit an essay covering the following points explaining why he or she should receive this scholarship.

- School activities/awards/honors.
- Non-school related peacemaking activities or community service.
- Why do you feel you should receive this award?
- Where do you see yourself in six years?
- Any additional comments which may bear upon your selection for the award.
- What colleges/universities have you applied to?
- What do you plan to be your major?
- Give details about how a specific character trait that you exhibit has influenced your life.
- Tell us what you are passionate about.

Book Review

Fred Trzcinski

Bacevich, Andrew J., *Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country*

Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2013.

Breach of Trust by Andrew J. Bacevich is a must read for every current and past member of the United States military. The major points which I have gleaned from this well-written text are:

- There must be a return to the draft. Absent an obligation for everyone to have "some skin in the game" our nation's leaders will be less hesitant to take us to war.
- While there were arguably never any "good wars", at the very least, America's earlier wars, e.g., WWII, were paid for by increased taxes. More recent wars, e.g., Iraq, were mostly paid for by increasing our nation's debt.
- Bacevich devotes a significant portion of his text to the many changes our military has experienced over the years such as: the end of the draft, a larger role for women in the military, LGBT issues, and new military technologies.
- Lastly, and most interesting to me was Bacevich's coverage of a drastically changed U.S. foreign policy largely influenced by Israel and assorted neo-cons. During the past several decades, the U.S. foreign policy is accurately characterized by "preventive or pre-emptive" war; wars characterized by the disproportionate use of force (Shock & Awe!). Bacevich writes of this type of foreign policy as follows:
"Hit the other guy first, if possible. Failing that, whack him several times harder than he hit you; not the biblical injunction of an eye for an

eye, but both eyes, an ear, and several teeth, with a kick in the groin thrown in for good measure." (Page 174)

"Yet where does this all lead? 'We don't have enough drones,' writes the columnist David Ignatius, 'to kill all the enemies we will make if we turn the world into a free-fire zone.' And if Delta Force, the Green Berets, Army Rangers, Navy SEALs and the like constitute, in the words of one SEAL, 'the dark matter . . . the force that orders the universe but can't be seen,' we probably don't have enough of them either." (Page 178)

**Peace Action
Binghamton University**

Jack Gilroy

Peace Action Binghamton University, known as **PABU**, has had a very good year. Only a year and a half old, and the first ever Student Peace Action group at Binghamton University, PABU received the award of the Best Student Organization on campus for 2013. Much of the credit must go to **JooWon Kim**, the amazing organizer who catapulted PABU to campus

leadership.

JooWon graduated last December and is preparing for graduate school immersion in Peace Studies. She left behind a remarkable group of women and men with a focus on peace and justice. Since September of 2013, BUPA members have collected over 300 signatures in support of a **Minor in Peace Studies** by 2016 and a Major by 2020. PABU students have visited academic departments at BU, have spoken to many professors and administrators and feel encouraged. Professors have given support and some suggest there are enough courses on campus to bring unification of purpose, to establish the opportunity for students to obtain a minor once the technical administrative approval is given. Cost would be nominal since the professors and courses are already in place. The move to a major would require a more involved plan, but students say peace is priceless and cost, factored in over the next six years, would put Binghamton University in a national leadership position by 2020.

Killer Drone Research at Binghamton University?

Jack Gilroy

Binghamton University may not have a Peace Studies curriculum but it does have research for war machinery. One only has to google "drone research at Binghamton University" and a BU web site is made available to read about at:

<http://research.binghamton.edu/Innovation/RB142.php>

The web site states that technology can be integrated into systems and programs fields of the military and homeland security...."for example, unmanned aerial vehicles/drones and smart acquisition and tracking of targets." I called the person listed as the Director of the Research program, Scott Hancock, and asked him what he could tell me about drone research at BU. After a long pause, Mr. Hancock said: "I think you'll have to talk to the Media and Public Relations Director Ryan Yarosh." I have asked Mr. Yarosh for a tour of the facility. We'll pass on the invitation to tour the drone research facility when it arrives.

Broome County Peace Action

Here are my dues. They entitle me to local, state, and national membership in **Peace Action**. Make check payable to: **BC Peace Action**. **If you are not already a member, you can select a free, one-year-only trial membership.**

_____ \$35 household _____ \$25 individual _____ \$10 student/low-income _____ Free, trial membership

I would like to make an additional contribution (not tax deductible) to the **Southern Tier Peace Makers Memorial Fund (STPMMF)**

\$ _____

I would like to make an additional **tax deductible** contribution to Broome County Nuclear Weapons Reduction Campaign, the educational arm of B.C. Peace Action. Make check payable to: **BCNWRC**.

\$ _____ BCNWRC Contribution (separate check)

\$ _____ Total (enclose)

Name(s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: **BC Peace Action, P.O. Box 1611, Binghamton, NY 13902**

Membership Committee

At the end of 2013, we had 52 paid-up members of which one has renewed so far this year. If you have not renewed yet, or want to join, just complete the form on page 3 and mail it with your check to the address stated.

Broome County Peace Action Board Meetings

The Board meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Riverside Drive in Binghamton. Most meetings are followed by a speaker on a topic of interest to the peace community. Occasionally plans change (weather, illness, scheduling conflicts) so you may want to contact, Anne Clune: annclune48@gmail.com. The talks start about 8:00 pm. Talks are listed on our Web site: bcpeaceaction.org

What Does Code Mean On Your Mailing Label?

Take a look at the letter code on your mailing label. It tells if you have a paid-up membership in Peace Action or if you need to contribute to stay on the mailing list. The different codes are:

- 14: You have already paid your membership in 2014. THANK YOU!**
- 13, 12, 11: Your last paid membership was in 2013, 2012, 2011, etc. Please renew using the form on page 3.**

Letter code and year added to mailing list:

G: 2005, H: 2006, I: 2007, J: 2008, K: 2009, L:2010, M:2011

If you would prefer to not receive **UPDATE**, just call (786-5866) and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

UPDATE

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