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The **Veterans for Peace** are sponsoring a gun exchange on **May 12, Mother's Day Weekend**, at the **American Civic Association** on Front Street. **The Broome County Sheriff's** Department will supervise the exchange with no questions asked. They strongly support fewer guns in our violent culture. The guns will be exchanged for groceries. **Funds are needed!** Please send a check to PO Box 1611, Binghamton, NY 13902. Write the check to "Veterans for Peace." Put "VFP Guns" in the memo line.

Broome County Peace Action

Update



A Bold Peace

If you missed the screening of **A Bold Peace** last November at the Bundy Museum, you now have another chance. The movie will be shown as part of the **Broome County Peace Action Annual Meeting** on May 9, 7:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation 183 Riverside Drive in Binghamton.

Over 60 years ago, Costa Rica became one of the only nations in the world to abolish their military and to redirect national resources towards education, health, and the environment. Since then, Costa Rica has earned the number one spot in the Happy Planet Index, a ranking of countries based on measures of environmental protection and the happiness and health of its citizens. And the World Database of Happiness, with data on 149 nations compiled by a Dutch sociologist, lists Costa Rica as number one in self-reported happiness and number one in happy life years.

A Bold Peace juxtaposes the national policy of demilitarization (since 1948-49) with their investment in education, health, and the environment. Pointed parallels and contrasts are made with recent U.S. debates over the national debt, healthcare, the environment and the escalating cost of U.S. militarism. The film features former presidents, Costa Rican government officials, as well as scholars, journalists and citizens of Costa Rica.

Unfortunately, the Costa Rican example has received very little

international attention. This documentary film will bring attention to Costa Rica's inspirational national project, answering why happiness, health, and human rights occupy a relatively prominent place in this Central American country.

The film will be shown after a short business meeting to review the past year's activities and to elect members of the Board of Directors of **Broome County Peace Action** and **Broome County Nuclear Weapons Reduction Campaign**.

Please come and mix with your fellow peace-loving friends.

The meeting is open to the public and there is no admission charge. Only Peace Action members can vote during the business meeting.

When I say it's you I like,
I'm talking about that part
of you that knows that life is
far more than anything you
can ever see or hear or
touch. That deep part of you
that allows you to stand for
those things without which
humankind cannot survive.
Love that conquers hate,
peace that rises triumphant
over war, and justice that
proves more powerful than
greed.

Mister Rogers

Nuclear Weapons Update

More than 25 years after the Cold War and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the world's nuclear stockpiles remain at dangerously high levels. Of the 15,375 estimated nuclear weapons in the world, the United States and Russia have 93% of the world's nuclear arsenal. An estimated 1,800 of these nuclear weapons are on hair-trigger alert. Current U.S. plans to modernize our nuclear weapons system are unaffordable at a cost of \$1 trillion over 30 years, and destabilizing, as they would lead to a new nuclear arms race.

The current chance of any nation intentionally launching its nuclear arsenal is low, so "the real nuclear threat to America is an accident," says the deputy commander of U.S. nuclear forces. The U.S. has experienced dozens of nuclear near-misses, including dropping two live bombs on North Carolina when a plane malfunctioned. In 1995, Russia almost launched its nuclear missiles at the U.S. when it thought it was under attack. To date, the U.S. has lost 11 nuclear weapons (whereabouts still unknown).

Source: Peace Action New York State

We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. . . Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.

—Omar Bradley, Armistice Day Address in Boston on November 10, 1948. From *The Collected Writings of General Omar N. Bradley*, vol. 1 (U.S. Government Printing: 1967), 588-589.

Peace Action National Statement on Taxes

Washington, D.C. — April 17, 2018 — On Tax Day, Paul Kawika Martin, Senior Director for Policy and Political Affairs at Peace Action, released the following statement:

"As people across the nation pay taxes and tighten their belts accordingly, it bears remembering that an astronomical amount of our tax dollars, roughly \$1 trillion, are spent on war, while a small fraction of that pays for diplomacy and other alternatives to war. Congress appropriates more for U.S. military spending than the next eight countries combined, but year after year refuses to adequately invest in access to quality education and healthcare for millions of Americans, infrastructure spending, and alternative energy. As a result, arms industry executives make out like bandits while programs that provide essential services for most Americans remain drastically underfunded, as do development and diplomacy programs that help end wars and prevent them in the first place."

On the Web: Join BCPA or Donate

It is very easy for you to join Broome County Peace Action or donate to our educational arm, Broome County Nuclear Weapons Reduction Campaign. Just go to our web site: bcpeaceaction.org. Once there, on the right, you will see a "**Buy Now**" button for paying dues. You can select from: "Household," "Individual," or "Student/low-income" memberships. Below that is a "**Donate**" button for tax-deductible contributions to the BCNWRC. **You do not need a PayPal membership! Use your credit card.**

Or, if you would rather, fill out the membership form below and mail in with a check. Membership is on a yearly basis.

National Peace Action Web site:
www.peaceaction.org/

As peacemakers, we are nonviolent to ourselves, nonviolent to all others, all creatures, and all creation, and we work publicly for a new world of nonviolence... [We are called to] speak out against every aspect of violence—poverty, war, racism, police brutality, gun violence, nuclear weapons, and environmental destruction—and at the same time call for a new culture of peace.

John Dear, *The Beatitudes of Peace: Meditations on the Beatitudes, Peacemaking and the Spiritual Life* (Twenty-Third Publications: 2016), 89-90, 91, 98.

A Plan of Rapid Response to War Planning by the U.S.

Jack Gilroy

At our April 11 Peace Action meeting we combined forces with other local peace groups. Why? Because our concern for the possible actions of the Trump presidency and what so many historians and political observers are characterizing as a War Cabinet.

With the Bulletin of Atomic scientists moving the nuclear doomsday clock to two minutes before midnight, it was time for us to create a plan of action.

Peace Action of Broome County, NY, Veterans for Peace of Broome County, NY, the Green Party of Broome-Tioga Counties, and the Southern Tier Catholic Peace Community had representatives to discuss a plan of action to respond to war making by the United States government.

The combined Southern Tier of New York Peace and Justice organizations agreed to encourage all major peace groups in the United States to prepare a rapid response plan of action in the event of a pre-emptive attack on North Korea or Iran or a concerted plan of attack preparation similar to

the long build up for war against Iraq in 1991 and again in 2002 up to the Shock and Awe killing attack of March of 2003.

We decided to gather at the Federal Building locally if a strike against Syria takes place. It did take place two days later and we gathered in solidarity at the Federal Building at noon on Saturday, April 14th some hours after the missile attack on Syria.

At our coalition meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, we discussed the urgent need for national peace groups to take the lead for rapid response to dangerous plans by the war cabinet and an apparent unstable Commander in Chief. The focus needs to transcend just peace groups and include all workers and their groups, associations, unions to develop stop work actions.



Jack Gilroy provided this photo of the *March Against Gun Violence* in Washington, DC, March 24

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 (STPMF)**
\$ _____

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**

An Invitation

The next meeting of the **Broome County Peace Action Board** will be on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation. As is mentioned on Page 1, this will be the Annual Meeting for BCPA and the Broome County Nuclear Weapons Reduction Campaign. As part of the meeting, the film ***A Bold Peace*** will be screened.

While it is called a board meeting, anyone interested in Peace Action is always more than welcome to attend.

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:

- 18: You have already paid your membership in 2017. THANK YOU!**
- 17, 16, 15: Your last paid membership was in 2017, 2016, 2015, 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: 2016

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

UPDATE

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Return Service Requested

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