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Broome County Peace Action Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 PM

Unitarian-Universalist
Congregation, Riverside
Drive, Binghamton

Program:

- Short business meeting.
- Panel discussion on Palestine and Israel.

Broome County Peace Action

Update



January 21, 2017 Rally at Broome County Courthouse

[There were over 3000 people at the rally. Following is taken from remarks made by Jim Clune.]

Broome County Peace Action has been active for over thirty years, doing education and public events. **Broome County Veterans for Peace** is also active and many of our members are in DC today for the Woman's March.

Things are not getting worse. They are getting exposed. Yes, that is an over simplification, but it is true. Part of our job is to keep things exposed and talk about and build alternatives. Alternatives old and new. We must stop the gutting of Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, Obamacare and improve them. We need to stop the attacks on a free press, dissenters, whistleblowers, people of color, women's health and freedom, lesbians and gays, the public-school system and all education, the environment by global warming and pollution, scientific research, immigrants, Muslims, civil rights, civil dialogue and even common decency. We need to protect the vulnerable from those who would operate in this manic culture to gas-light us into thinking that we cannot add 2 and 2 and come up with 4.

Defending ourselves is necessary but it is not enough. There is an elephant in the room that must be addressed: the military-industrial complex and our addiction to war. Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about racism and materialism as social evils, but he also talked about militarism. In 1967 he said: "My government is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." The war-making capacity of the US is beyond justification and may

eventually kill us all. In bipartisan efforts, Democrats and Republicans have over decades spent at least 14 trillion dollars that could easily have been better used almost anywhere else. The government wants to spend a trillion over the next 30 years on the nuclear arsenal—our weapons of mass destruction. And drone warfare, as Leon Panetta said, is "the only game in town."

War is terrorism with a bigger budget. When the professional soldiers, the corporate lawyers, and the stratospheric money managers get together, breaking into the vault as they did yesterday [the inauguration], watch out! We are all under the gun now. The arrogance of the idea that America is the exceptional, indispensable nation entitled to own and rule the world is appalling and brutal.

As an older, white middle-class peacenik, I can only imagine what so many have suffered. But I will not be a mushroom: I will not dwell in the dark and be fed crap. I refuse to live in isolation and fear. A gun for every man and every man with a gun is not a human way to live—it is a nightmare.

It is good to be here today, building community, trying to create a Movement. A Movement for Peace and Justice and Human Rights for all; nonviolent and hoping to give us a chance to give this planet and all life on it a chance to survive and prosper.

A Reading of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's April 4, 1967 Riverside Speech

On Monday, April 3, **Jack Gilroy** organized a reading of portions of Martin Luther King's 1967 speech, "Why I am Opposed to the War in Vietnam," was held at the Federal Building in Binghamton. Those reading were:

Jim Clune, President, Broome County Peace Action; **Rev. Gary Doupe** who marched with MLK at Selma; **Ann Clune**, human rights activist; **Dario Schiappa**, Vietnam veteran, Broome County Veterans for Peace; **Tim Wolcott**, Treasurer, Broome County Peace Action; **John Patterson**, Past President Broome County Veterans for Peace; **Alan Jones**, Newsletter editor, Broome County Peace Action; **Ehtisham Siddiqui**, President Southern Tier Islamic Society; **Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell**, Temple Concord; **Micah Barreiro**, Binghamton NAACP.

You can hear MLK deliver the talk on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/OC1Ru2p8OfU>

Or go to YouTube.com and search for "Martin Luther King Why I am opposed to the war in Vietnam."

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated one year to the day after he gave the speech.

Wilton Vought

PEACE & JUSTICE
VIDEOGRAPHER

Jack Gilroy

For many years, Peace Action of Broome has had the benefit of a first rate visual-audio historian. Wilton Vought's videos are a digital record of diverse activities. Wilton, former owner of a health food store on Main Street in Binghamton, now lives in the back woods of Pennsylvania but drives to where the action is. Just consider his past two weeks: first arrive at the Federal Building for Peace Action's MLK event on April 3rd. Then drive back home, edit and by late that same night has it on YouTube and his own site at www.otherchoicesother-voices.com. Next day, off to Washington, DC to video and mainstream David Swanson, Medea Benjamin and other talents at a progressive site restaurant near DuPont Circle.

Next day he's at American University in the classroom of nationally known journalist, Colman McCarthy and the following day at Catholic University trying to keep his expensive video gear dry in downpours around the campus. Then, District of Columbia through a traffic snarl and a dark pounding rain for a five-hour drive home.

More intense editing. Then, off to Syracuse with Ann and Jim Clune and Jack Gilroy to video document a Good Friday direct-action event at a killer drone base. Nine people were arrested including three 'crucified' representing people we kill with Hellfire missiles triggered at Hancock's 174th Attack Wing. All this is now recorded as documents to be found Wilton's site or Google "Wilton Vought, other choices other voices."

From all of us at Peace Action of Broome and Veterans for Peace, we say, "Thank you, Wilton. You are an unsung historian of peace and justice."

Good Friday Litany for the Hancock 174th Attack Wing

Written by Jack Gilroy. Excerpts follow:

People of Iraq:

Forgive us our Killer Drones

People of Afghanistan

Forgive us our Killer Drones

People of Pakistan

Forgive us our Killer Drones

People of Syria

Forgive us our Killer Drones

People of Yemen

Forgive us our Killer Drones

Our tax dollars for death

Forgive us

Slaughtered Native Americans

Forgive us

Teaching hate

Forgive us

Our sins against our black brothers

Forgive us

Tortured people of the Philippines

Forgive us

United States invasions of Mexico

Forgive us

United States invasions of Haiti

Forgive us

United States Invasions of Nicaragua

Forgive us

60 million dead in World War II

Forgive us

Calling 60 million dead a good war

Forgive us

Believing war can be just

Forgive us

Dresden fire bombed

Forgive us

Hiroshima incinerated

Forgive us

National Peace Action Web site:

www.peace-action.org/

A Pipeline War?

Jim Clune

On February 25, 2016, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. published an article on EcoWatch.com called "Syria: Another Pipeline War." It's a long piece, thoroughly reviewing the history of the U.S., specifically the CIA, meddling in Middle East governments. The top graphic is a map of two proposed pipelines. One, the Qatar-Turkey natural gas pipeline which was supposed to run from Qatar through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey. This pipeline would have given the Sunni kingdoms an economic advantage. The other pipeline, labeled the Muslim pipeline, would have run from Iran through Iraq and Syria to Lebanon and given the advantage to Shia Iran. According to this article, it was Basher Assad's refusal in 2009 to sign onto the Qatar-Saudi pipeline and to endorse the Iran pipeline that triggered a US, Saudi, Israeli consensus that Assad had to go.

Yes, underneath all the layers of regional rivalries and ethnic and religious tensions, the US involvement is all about natural gas. It's a pipeline war. It's a resource war. The US interest is basically about economic and political dominance. This interest is only recently, and conveniently, about humanitarian intervention. So

now we have a Sarin gas outbreak that the US claims is Assad's doing and the Syrians and Russians saying it was an accident when a rebel base was hit. The murkiness of assigning responsibility was quickly brushed aside, ignoring calls for real investigations. The new US president, now had a chance to look tough and compassionate. "Trump" and "compassionate" in the same sentence? Huh? Mr. "travel ban" and "build a wall" and "America First" actually caring about children suffocating and dying? By sending in the cruise missiles? I don't buy it.

The real tragedy is that the mass media and top Democratic politicians are buying it. A mob mentality is rearing its ugly head in DC again.

Peace will not come when we are not honest about our real motivations for fighting. Making money by taking resources from others, and from selling armaments to all sides in the ensuing chaos will not work. As long as the US keeps making money in these ways, we will all keep sending children to early graves.

On the Web: Join BCPA or Donate

We have made it 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. If you paid in 2016 or before, your membership can now be renewed for 2017.

North Korea

Contact your Congress person and senators. Urge negotiations to encourage China to use their influence with North Korea. To contact: Google Kirsten Gillibrand, Charles Schumer, Claudia Tenney.

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**

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. The meeting follows the Broome County Veterans for Peace meeting at 6:30. Some 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, Jim Clune: jimclune@yahoo.com.

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:

- 17: You have already paid your membership in 2017. THANK YOU!**
- 16, 15, 14: Your last paid membership was in 2016, 2015, 2014, 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@stny.rr.com and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

UPDATE

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PRESIDENT: Jim Clune

VICE PRESIDENT: Lorenz Firsching

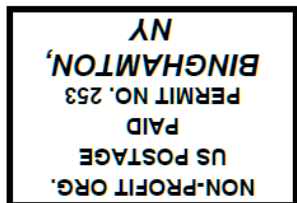
SECRETARY: Cecily O'Neil

TREASURER: Tim Wolcott

UPDATE EDITOR: Alan Jones

Board Members:

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Len Bjorkman..... | 2018 |
| Ann Clune..... | 2019 |
| Jim Clune..... | 2019 |
| Dario Schiappa..... | 2019 |
| Lorenz Frisching..... | 2018 |
| Jack Gilroy..... | 2017 |
| Judy Homanich..... | 2017 |
| Alan Jones..... | 2019 |
| Cecily O'Neil..... | 2017 |
| Peggy Naismith..... | 2018 |
| John Patterson..... | 2017 |
| Larry Roberts..... | 2017 |
| Jack Sexton..... | 2017 |
| Tim Wolcott..... | 2019 |



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