



Update

Inside this Issue

- 1 Annual meeting
- 2 Three Courageous Congress Women
- 2 Weekly Peace Vigil marks 20 years
- 3 Our Main Mission: No Nuclear Weapons
- 3 Membership form
- 4 An Invitation
- 4 What code on your mailing label means

Teach Peace & Justice Action Research Grant

By Tim Wolcott

Do you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew who seems more concerned about right rather than might? Do they live and learn in Broome County? If so, a recent collaboration between **Broome County Peace Action** and **TeachPeaceNow.com** might be of interest to you. If one of their teachers and their principal support your child's concerns for peace and justice, please consider supporting them as well.

Why should people of all ages participate in social action and service projects?

1. They develop a history of being involved in making a difference.
2. They learn that working together gives people power.
3. They learn that taking effective action is a process that involves specific skills.
4. We build on the natural desire of people of good-heart to be fair and right wrongs.
5. It relieves the stress caused by the feeling that we are helpless and must be shielded by government and movers and shakers in society.

The **Teach Peace & Justice grant** program's mission is to encourage students to initiate discussions on injustice and areas of conflict resolution. The program seeks to link academic skills with activities designed to promote peace, justice and social activism. Under the guidance of teachers, students will research and solve problems in their school and community. Effective Peace & Justice Action projects address numerous areas in the curriculum. Students will use **mathematics** in collecting and analyzing statistics, **writing** in developing their ideas, the **arts** in designing marketing and instructional materials, and the **social sciences** in coming to understand the workings of law and government. Collaborative participation will provide opportunities for students to use their creativity and imaginations as well as develop 21st century skills including **critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork**.

For the 2019–2020 school year a total of \$ 1,000 is available. From this amount, three grants will be made: one for elementary, one for middle school, and one for high school. The funds provided by a Teach Peace & Justice Grant can be used toward research, materials, and activities needed to successfully carry out the project.

For the **2019 – 2020** school year, grant applications will be accepted **starting** September 10, 2019. The **DEADLINE** to apply is **October 31, 2019**. Successful applicants will be notified by November 20, 2019.

Applications are only accepted online at teachpeacenow.com/bcpeaceaction-grant-program

For information concerning grant requirements, project ideas, possible solutions and the grant assessment rubric, please visit

TeachPeaceNow.com or **bcpeaceaction.org**

The **Annual Meeting of Broome County Peace Action** will be held

Saturday, May 11 at 11:00 AM at the First

Congregational Church at the corner of Main and Front Streets in downtown Binghamton. There will be a short business meeting to review the year's activities and to elect new members of the BCPA Board.

The annual meeting will be followed by a discussion about nuclear disarmament and the **Plowshares** movement. We will be hearing from **Clare Grady** of the **King's Bay 7 Plowshares** action in person, if possible, or on a video tape if legal proceedings interfere.

Three Courageous Congresswomen

Fred Trzcinski

The jackals have been unleashed! The venom and the smears have been spreading daily, notably targeting three of our newest congressional representatives, viz., Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC), Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. Besides being "freshman" Members of our Congress, they happen to be women of color, outspoken, well-educated, young and smart as the dickens! Oh, and by the way, two of them are (Gasp!) Muslims.

In my opinion, the attacks on the aforementioned individuals have reached their zenith with the publication of the New York Post's cover page this past April 11th. With a backdrop of the horrific burning World Trade Center, Representative Omar was grossly misquoted regarding 9/11. With no pun intended, the cover was inflammatory, insensitive, racist, hateful and outrageously misleading. Seemingly, by impulse and no surprise to anyone, our president jumped into the fray to add fuel to the firestorm by tweeting his own hateful and misleading video. Fox News and various right-wing pundits piled on with their own diatribes.

Sadly, the April 11th piece is just the tip of the iceberg as to what the far right media have been spewing since the election of these three Members of Congress. Representative Tlaib quickly attracted right wing wrath when she used an expletive (Oh horrors!) while suggesting that President Trump should be impeached. Given our president's expletive use (think of the Billy Bush interview on the bus), she was probably thinking that such language is the new Washington norm. Nevertheless, Tlaib was incessantly attacked.

Even more notable, Omar early on touched the "third rail", criticizing the

relationship between our nation's leadership and the Israeli lobbies and "allegiance to Israel". A firestorm erupted and as published in the April 1st edition of the *The Nation*, "irate lobby officials demanded that the Democratic House leadership punish Omar for what they falsely claimed was her use of an anti-Semitic slur regarding Jews and dual loyalty--- words and meaning that she never spoke or implied." And of course we all know that Israeli lobbyists have little, if any, influence upon our elections or legislation. It is just the right thing to do to funnel billions of dollars each year to Israel rather than support the people of Flint, Michigan or Puerto Rico (Wink! Wink!).

Turning attention to Representative AOC, she has genuinely been fresh meat for the right-wing media. In particular she has been, and continues to be attacked for her support of "The Green New Deal" which addresses climate change and income inequality. Frankly, a day does not seem to go by when the New York Post or Fox News does not attack or mischaracterize what either of our three new representatives have to say or do. The same seems to be true for our president and his attacks on anyone who dares to speak truth to power.

Lastly, and perhaps most disturbing has been the silence and absence of support for these three courageous representatives from their more senior colleagues of their very own party. Not much from Senators Schumer or Gillibrand. Not much from Speaker Pelosi. And so it goes.

Weekly Peace Vigil marks 20 years of standing up for peace

Ann Clune

On Monday, April 22 we marked the twenty-year anniversary of our weekly vigil for peace. Members of Broome County Peace Action, Broome County Veterans for Peace, and friends gathered in front of the Federal building on Henry Street in Binghamton with a variety of posters and banners addressing current issues and the need to work for justice and peace.

We believe true peace is not merely the absence of war, so our signs reflect many issues encompassing militarism, racism, environmental destruction, and oppression.

It all began in April of 1999, when, in solidarity with an international day of protests against the US/United Nations bombing of Yugoslavia, a coalition of peace and justice organizations held a demonstration at the Federal Building in downtown Binghamton. That gathering led to holding weekly vigils in solidarity with international "Bridges of Light" when people in Kosovo stood with candles and lanterns on bridges to prevent the bombing of their vital infrastructure

When that campaign ended, we decided to continue to hold weekly peace vigils, moving the vigil back to the Federal Building on Henry Street for the symbolism of addressing national policies, and changed to Monday afternoons around rush hour for the sake of visibility and public attention.

This weekly peace vigil has continued for 20 years, meeting for about an hour beginning at 4:30 PM (4:00 from late fall till the return of daylight-saving time) every Monday, with a few temporary changes of site, and in

recent years some limited breaks due to winter weather.

Besides promoting public awareness of important human issues, we find that standing together gives an enjoyable opportunity to chat with agreeable friends, and gives us a sense of support and a sense of hope, as so many passers-by honk, wave, and thank us. There are comparatively few negative reactions. Please join us any week you can for any part of the hour.

Our Main Mission: No Nuclear Weapons

Jim Clune

The original impetus to forming **Broome County Peace Action** was the **Freeze Campaign** of the 1980's. However, the nuclear weapons never went away. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock is now set at 2 minutes to midnight. The current resident of the Oval Office tears up treaties with impunity and calls for a new arms race, even into space, while Pentagon planners continue to pursue "total spectrum dominance" of all of humanity.

It is hard to get public attention onto American Weapons of Mass Destruction because they have

institutional momentum with unlimited funding, timid political will to oppose them, and most people are just trying to financially and medically survive. The survival of life on this planet hangs in the balance while other ways of plundering our environment economically and socially continue apace. Holding WMD's at humanity's collective throats sets the pattern. It is not just that a nuclear accident could occur, but that the destruction is already happening to almost everybody and everything under an ongoing 73-year reign of terror.

The existence of WMD's calls into question our morality as a species, the fate of the poor of the world which is on track to eventually include almost everybody, and the entire balance of factors that allow ANY life on this planet to continue, even if the bombs never go off.

The *King's Bay Plowshares 7* (*Kingsbayplowshares7.org* or Kings Bay Plowshare on Facebook) are nonviolent activists who entered the Trident sub base in King's Bay, Georgia last year on the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination. They are awaiting trial. Their message was loud and clear: "The Ultimate

Logic of Trident is Omnicide." Getting rid of all WMD's is quite doable, and is a necessary first step to addressing ALL other questions.

It is time to face our fears and self-imposed limitations. We deserve a better fate than this, and we are all quite capable of choosing a different course, believe it or not.

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.

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**

An Invitation

The next meeting of the **Broome County Peace Action Board**, and also its annual meeting, will be Saturday, May 11, 11:00 AM at the **First Congregation Church** at the corner of Front and Main Streets in Binghamton, The Broome Chapter of Veterans for Peace meets at 10:00 AM. Note change of venue from Unitarian-Universalist Congregation.

While they are called board meetings, anyone interested in peace is always more than welcome to attend either or both meetings.

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:

- 19: You have already paid your membership in 2019. THANK YOU!**
- 18, 17, 16: Your last paid membership was in 2018, 2017, 2016, 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@grests.com and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

UPDATE

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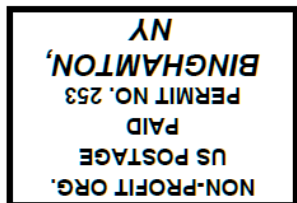
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