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www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

We need your support more than ever

Dear members and friends,

Yes, Donald Trump's days in the White House are numbered and getting fewer and fewer as we anticipate the holidays. The Biden-Harris victory presents new opportunities that we haven't had during the last four years. We must promote our vision that:

****War is not an acceptable response to conflict.**

****Every person has a right to live in a world free from the threat of nuclear war.**

****The United States has both the resources and the responsibility to protect and to provide for ALL the people who live here.**

In order to put this vision into practice, Cleveland Peace Action needs your support. With your help, we can continue and even broaden our efforts to promote disarmament, to reduce military spending, to "move the money" to critical needs like public education and healthcare, and to end war and military occupation in the Middle East. Please do let us hear from you.

Here at Cleveland Peace Action, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Please be in good health.

Mark Weber
President

We need your support and your membership. You can make a secure online donation at www.peaceactioncleveland.org or use the enclosed envelope to donate by mail. All online donations as well as all others to Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund [a 501(c)(3) organization] are tax-deductible. As always, thank you in advance for your generous support during these difficult times.

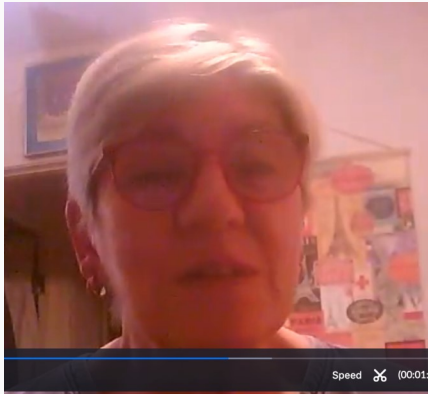
Peace Action is the country's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization, with more than 100,000 members. Cleveland Peace Action is one of over 70 autonomous affiliates and chapter organizations.

Peace@ThePub HOME—Election Dissection 2020 November 10, 2020

By Francis Chiappa and Don Bryant

We began by virtually raising our glasses to “A happy ending to four dark and ugly years under the worst President we’ve ever known.”

Harriet Applegate, Executive Secretary, North Shore Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, opened the panel discussion with the more sobering aspects of the election. Nationally, despite a huge infusion of cash and energy, Democrats were unable to win control of the Senate. (It remains possible, should two Senate run-off races in Georgia go for Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock.) Results in Ohio were particularly troubling, as the architects of the HB6-First Energy boondoggle won re-election. And locally, Harriet was appalled by the invisibility of most Democratic Party leaders, despite massive get-out-the-vote efforts by grassroots activists. Voter turnout in Cuyahoga County was an unimpressive 53%.



Applegate lamented the obvious appeal of Trumpism to more than 70 million Americans. “We have a very conservative country,” where so many people are “closed-minded and afraid.” This sentiment unseated a number of progressive members of Congress. She suggested progressives need to develop new leadership, leading with charisma, not just ideas. We need to “allay people’s fears” and inspire them as we do so. No matter how sound our ideas may be on peace, environmental concerns, racial justice and other important issues, ideas tend to

take a back seat to personalities, come Election Day.

Cassandra McDonald, founding President of Euclid NAACP, spoke of her experiences with the Democratic Party. Noting its paucity of new ideas and new faces, she proposed that a new political party may be needed, one that can capture fresh ideas and energies.

Francis Chiappa spoke to Cleveland Peace Action’s priorities during the next four years. First, we would support President-elect Biden’s intention to re-enter the Iran nuclear deal. However, we may oppose some proposed cabinet members who are too hawkish. We will support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which will enter into force in January, now that 50 countries have ratified. The Pentagon budget remains bloated. We advocate suspending funding for nuclear arsenal modernization, with its \$1 trillion price tag over 30 years. And without the distractions of an unstable President, we anticipate more meetings with Congress, including Republicans who are concerned about military spending, including fraud and waste.



Don Bryant welcomed President-elect Biden's pledge to reopen the Palestinian Liberation Office in Washington and restore funding to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Both were shut down by the Trump administration. Refunding UNRWA would cost \$350 million annually, a tiny fraction of the Pentagon budget. The Biden-Harris administration will maintain a strong alliance with Israel. But Cleveland Peace Action advocates cutting \$3.8 billion in US military aid to Israel until all physical, humanitarian and political restrictions on Palestine are lifted. This will be an uphill battle as the incoming administration is desensitized to the Palestinian struggle for basic human rights. We plan to focus on the arrest and detention of Palestinian children. Every year, between 150 and 500 children as young as age 12 face Israel's military tribunals, indefinite detention, and torture. Our work continues.

Peace@ThePub HOME—Black History, Injustice and Reparations and Police Militarization October 13, 2020

By Dena Magoulias

As part of our October Peace@ThePub, we had a discussion about militarization of the police led by ACLU Ohio's chief lobbyist, Gary Daniels. The ACLU published a report in 2014, titled "War Comes Home: Excessive Militarization of American Policing" (available at www.aclu.org).



Across the country, heavily armed special weapons and tactics (SWAT) teams are forcing their way into people's homes in the middle of the night, often de-

ploying explosive devices such as flash grenades simply to serve a search warrant on the suspicion that someone may be in the possession of drugs. This is what happened in the murder of Breonna Taylor as she was in her own apartment. These raids have happened disproportionately in communities of color.

A major cause of police militarization has been the U.S. Department of Defense's 1033 program, which has armed state and local law enforcement agencies with surplus army weapons and equipment like M16 rifles, flak jackets, armored vehicles, night vision goggles, and grenades.

The use of this equipment causes police to develop a warrior mentality and think of the people they are supposed to serve as enemies. SWAT teams were originally meant to be used in hostage or active shooter situations. Instead, 79% of SWAT actions involve searching a person's home (mostly in cases of suspicion of drug possession), and 54% target Black and Latinx families. Some homes targeted have had pregnant women and children in them.

So far, Cleveland police have not accepted any military equipment, but the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office has accepted assault rifles. The Toledo police have accepted 142 rifles and two personnel carriers, and the Columbus police have accepted 350 assault rifles.

As peace advocates, we need to denounce our local police departments' acquisition of weapons of war.

By Don Bryant

When Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton asked Reverend Garrison Frazier, a former "slave" what the US government could do for black people, Mr. Frazier replied, "We want to be placed on land until we are able to buy it and make it our own." This was the beginning of "40 acres and a mule," reparations for freed slaves from the government.

"This interaction was precipitated," explained local author Dave Patterson, Cleveland Peace Action's October Peace@thePub guest panelist, "by the massacre at Ebenezer Creek on December 9, 1864 when 5000 freed slaves hoped to escape



the Confederates escorted by union army brigadier general Jefferson Davis, not to be confused with the Confederate leader, but equally as racist." Just twenty miles outside of Savannah, Georgia, the bridge over Ebenezer, 145 feet across and ten feet deep, had been destroyed. A pontoon bridge was quickly built with the help of the freed people. After the army crossed, the bridge was destroyed, again. The blacks were left to fend for themselves against the approaching confederate army. Most perished in the creek or were shot. When General William T. Sherman heard of this atrocity a meeting was arranged with mostly black ministers and war secretary Stanton when Reverend Frazier spoke up.

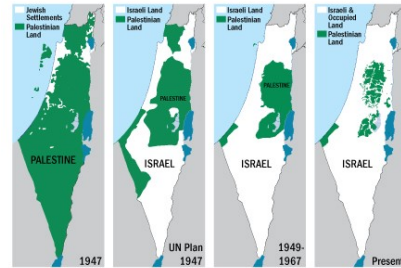
"If land reparations would have been maintained and not rescinded by a racist president, Andrew Johnson, this would be a different country," Patterson said, recalling that the blacks' 400,000 acres were given back to the same treasonous slaveholders who started the Civil War.

Continued on page 4

Israel-Palestine Report

By Don Bryant, Co-chair
CPA Middle East Peace Committee

"Israel's annexation of Palestine has been going on for more than fifty years," says Sam Bahour, a Youngstown native who now lives near Al Bireh, a city in occupied Palestine. Bahour, a businessman and human rights activist, goes on to say: "If the international community accepts Israeli annexation, then 'might makes right' and it damages any hope for a negotiated solution to this decades-long injustice." The annexation plan would seize almost one-third of what remains of Palestine, including the rich agricultural lands along the Jordan River valley.



The Israeli government has now decided to delay implementation of this illegal annexation plan. This "delay" is part of a Trump Administration-brokered normalization agreement between Israel and the Gulf Coast Arab nation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It also includes two other Arab states, Bahrain and Sudan. Trump Administration diplomats have promised to remove Sudan from its list of state sponsors of terrorism. These deals are seen by many observers as directed at Iran. Such moves only complicate efforts by President-elect Biden to restore the Iran nuclear agreement that was scuttled by Trump.

Trading normalization for annexation runs counter to both international law as well as several recognized treaties and agreements. In the words of Michael Lynk, United Nations special envoy for human rights in Palestine: "An occupying power cannot, under any circumstances, acquire the right to conquer, annex, or gain sovereign title of any part of the territory under its occupation."

Cleveland Peace Action urges the incoming Biden-Harris Administration to immediately address both Israel's sixty-year military occupation of Palestine as well as its inhuman blockade of Gaza, making this tiny strip of land the largest open-air prison in the world. Finding a humanitarian solution to both of these issues should be a pre-condition to any future "normalization" agreements with Israel are negotiated.

David Patterson—continued from page 3

Patterson's book, The First 400; the color of profit, persecution, and perseverance, focuses on more obscure names, "like church deacon Jimmie Lee Jackson, 26, shot and killed by a state trooper as Jackson tried to save his mother and grandfather in a peaceful demonstration. This was the impetus behind the Edmund Pettus bridge massacre known as Bloody Sunday." Patterson continued, "without Jackson there would be no Voting Rights Act."

Patterson concluded, "[T]he litany of horrors that have been visited on the black race... criminal and legislative injustice, racist policing, educational and employment inequities, business and housing discrimination, environmental racism...[Klan] hangings and burnings of black people with governmental and law enforcement complicity," exposes the imperative for reparations for African Americans.

The Advocacy Working Group will meet the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Our first meeting will be January 27, 2021 for a virtual letter-writing party. The first part of the meeting will be a tutorial on how to create petitions on [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov) and other petition sites.

Please watch your email and www.peaceaction.org for more details.

Walter Nicholes, 1924-2020

Excerpts from his obituary (*in italics*) with reflections by Kim Hill

Walter S. Nicholes (5-25-1924 to 8-19-2020) died peacefully at age 96 in his Shaker Heights apartment attended by his beloved wife Nina McLellan and dearly loved niece Victoria Jean Nichols.

For those in Cleveland Peace Action who did not know Walter well, here are a few words. Walter should be remembered, like Congressman John Lewis, for making "good trouble" in the peace and justice movement, as well as simply for the person he was.

Walter graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and served during WW II. His ship transported needed supplies across the Atlantic Ocean, dodging German submarines, to ports in North Africa *and a harrowing winter convoy to Archangel, Russia.* He fudged his age to enter the fray. A story he told was how he secured a torpedo in storage that dangerously broke loose below deck in a rough sea. *He recorded these adventures in his memoir The Seagoing Years: Memories of a Boy at War.*



Achieving his Master's License, he graduated from Syracuse University, with degrees in News Journalism and English Literature. He had to work his way through college since Merchant Marine vets were promised, but then denied, GI benefits, despite the Merchant Marine having the highest casualty rate of any of the WWII military services.

Working in the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign and Sierra Club, Walter lent his professional advertising skills to a *Nuclear Ohio* flyer we produced. Bob Greenbaum, Nina and I collaborated with Walter to draw the connections between nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons facilities, when Ronald Reagan was escalating his threats of nuclear war. We distributed thousands of copies statewide through Sierra Club.

Walter, Nina and I travelled to Washington to confront the board of national Sierra Club which refused to certify nuclear war and nuclear winter as a club priority. Finally, we "insurgents," as we were labeled, collected enough signatures to put the issue on the Sierra Club ballot, at which time the board reluctantly did the right thing and 500,000 Sierra Club members added their political weight to The Freeze. Our local Sierra Club screened Walter and Nina's slide show to a full auditorium at the Natural History Museum when they returned from a big protest against underground nuclear experiments at the Nevada Test Site. After our Western Shoshone Nation hosts offered a prayer, Walter and Nina crossed a line in the sand and were arrested for trespassing by the gendarmes.



My fondest memories are gatherings at Walter and Nina's home in Cleveland Heights, with good food, beverages and conversation. Often on their backyard patio, their good friends Alan and Ginger Kuper joined in as nearby neighbors who also worked hard on The Freeze. We also did lots of organizational planning, developing local programs and bringing in prominent speakers. Walter and Nina took time to canoe with the Kupers on the upper Cuyahoga, which they described as a welcome respite in nature, from the earnest work of protecting the planet and the future for the children. I will miss Walter. Kim

On his retirement in 1990 and looking for new interests, Walter returned to a favorite childhood activity, "pond hockey.". Connecting with Cleveland Heights Men's hockey league, he played until his team retired his number at age 79.

He was also an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, and peace and justice organizations including Heights Citizens for Human Rights, Veterans for Peace Chapter 39, and Cleveland Peace Action.

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This issue edited by Meghan Donovan

**Please join us on
January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
for Peace@ThePub HOME
"Prospects for Peace Under a
Biden Administration"**

**Details about this and other coming
events available soon at
www.peaceactioncleveland.org**

