

Greetings North Carolina Peace Action family,

In September we gathered for The Peacemaker Awards and were cheered and strengthened just by spending time together. We look forward to more of those occasions in 2024.



Current news from around the world is grimmer than it was at that Peacemaker event when our focus was on Ukraine. Who imagined then the suffering from the Hamas attack and the catastrophic and ongoing Israeli war in Gaza... and then the continuing immigrant crisis, wars in Congo and Sudan, heavy funding for militarism [with our tax dollars] and more.

In these most troubling and dangerous days, we ask you to continue your work and help us carry on ours –for peace, justice and compassion. ***We need your year-end holiday gift to meet the challenges and opportunities before us. Please mail the enclosed envelope and card to donate by check, or [donate securely on our website](#).*** All donations are tax deductible and will help us keep our staff director, George Friday, and provide stipends for interns.

Throughout the year, our events moved the peace movement forward.

- In western Carolina, the struggle goes on to block the handing over of land and tax dollars to Raytheon
- Many saw our January zoom connecting global warning and militarism and featuring Neta Crawford, author of *Pentagon, Climate Change and War*.
- In April, we co-hosted a zoom with Seth Shelden of ICAN active in getting New York City to sign the Resolution supporting the TPNW
- Tax Day found groups leafletting and tabling about where our tax dollars go...largely to the Pentagon that has never passed an audit.
- Stephanie Hassan our spring semester intern organized a debate on nuclear weapons with teenagers from three churches.
- The film *Oppenheimer* opened up possibilities to reach new people with letters to the editor and leafletting.

... and we wound up the year with these events you supported and we can build on in 2024.

Peacemaker Event Building the Peace Community September 28th



Matthew Hoh winner of the 2023 Peacemaker Award had warm words of support for those who helped him along the way, while our speaker Ray McGovern provided us with his sharp insights.

Photo: Jerry Markatos

From Western NC Congratulations to Dr Terry and Brita Clark of NC Physicians for Social Responsibility named Western NC 2023 Peacemakers. On Thursday, September 21, a Declaration of Peace and Nonviolence 2023 was launched for sign-on support by local groups. It states: “Realizing that endless wars are not the path to a lasting peace or to a sustainable future, we call on all people to participate with us in two days of action: Nearly 25 nonprofits and organizations signed on.



ICAN CAMPAIGN for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons [ICAN – icanw.org] goes on worldwide, and we have been an organizing force here. Green Level, Carrboro, Durham, Chapel Hill, and Chatham County have joined Asheville and signed on, and efforts continue in Raleigh, Greensboro and elsewhere.

Our NCPA intern at Davidson College, Emma Collier Bigley has joined with 200 other students to bring the ICAN Resolution to a vote there.



Every effort raises awareness and adds strength to the movement stigmatizing nuclear weapons and exposing the myth that nuclear weapons provide security. About half of the countries worldwide have signed the TPNW.



Connecting with Hibakusha and the Japanese Peace Movement NC Peace Action helped host a “Hope and Healing Tour” to NC of 11 survivors of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Their presentation in Raleigh drew a crowd of 175, and delegate teams visited five schools so many students heard their stories. Audiences were appreciative and some called it life changing. One of the survivors, Dr. Masao

Tomonaga’s career has been treating other survivors.

Ongoing Lobbying of Congress coordinated by Peace Action focused on:

- **Bringing peace and justice to Palestinians and Israelis.**

All year we send out action alerts coordinated by Peace Action. So now let us ask you to contact Congress and the White House today and daily to stop the war on Gaza and the U.S. flow of arms to Israel. You can use this link:

www.peaceaction.org/get-involved/action-alertceasefire-now-in-gaza.

- **Curtailing Pentagon spending**
- **Finding a Diplomatic Solution to the War in Ukraine**
- **Ending the Saudi-led Assault on Yemen** Now to share a victory that gives us hope. Your role in our ongoing pressure campaign has helped make major progress to bring this nearly 9-year war to an end, along with US support for it. A de facto truce/ceasefire has been in place since April of last year. Peace Action is currently working to block a new multimillion-dollar arms deal with Saudi Arabia. We must ensure that we legislatively ban support for the Saudis who resume bombing or threaten to leverage negotiations.

Building relationships with Congressional staff

- Members of NC Peace Action have met with staff for Senator Tillis, Senator Budd, Representatives Foushee and Deborah Ross, and we will keep on with this work.

Supporting young peacemakers as interns

Please support more interns for 2024. We have had great ones. Seven Davidson students, led by NCPA intern Emma Begley planned a walk out and speak out on campus in Early October for the global [Shutdown For Palestine](#) at Davidson College.



Coalition Work with the PPC - Poor Peoples Campaign - Mark your calendar for March 2nd and we will see you in Raleigh for a mass gathering.

NCPA 2024 OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Help us take up the opportunities for NC Peace Action in 2024

- Fund interns to continue campus outreach.
- Continue to educate and build the ICAN movement in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- Strengthen our impact on Congress and with Peace Actions well times lobbying initiatives
- Support and build coalitions with other peace and justice groups
- Strengthen participation in the March 2nd Poor Peoples Campaign event in Raleigh and in June in DC.
- Keep on working for a ceasefire, a just settlement and reparations in the Ukraine and Gaza.
- Grow and diversify NC Peace Action
- Keep our valuable Staff Director, George Friday



Your year-end holiday gift will help us meet the challenges and opportunities before us. Please return the enclosed envelope and card with a check, or [donate securely on our website](#). All donations are tax deductible.

And thank you for all the support you have given us this year contacting Congress, attending events, donating, and building the movement for a saner world.



Joe Burton, Chair, NCPA



Rachael Bliss, Board Member, Western Carolina
Photo: Pamela Mumby