



NC PEACE ACTION NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2024

North Carolina Peace Action

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DEAR FRIEND OF NORTH CAROLINA PEACE ACTION,

PEACE DEMANDS ACTION!

As NC Peace Action reflects on a busy 2024 and plans ahead for the New Year, the famous words of Thomas Paine from 1776 resonate again today:

“These are the times that try men’s souls. . .” Ongoing wars and conflicts escalate owing to the Pentagon’s ever-increasing grip on U.S. foreign policy, with the influence of international law eroding as diplomatic solutions are all but ignored. The incoming Trump administration looms ominously, all but promising an even more bellicose foreign policy resulting in increased revenue for weapons manufacturers, including the proliferation of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. With so many lives at stake, NC Peace Action redoubled efforts in our home state to support peaceful alternatives to the fomenting of militarization this past year, notifying you — our members and friends — to join us in myriad opportunities for advocacy and action. As we hope to galvanize more citizens to act for Peace in 2025, the NC Peace Action Board thanks you, our supporters, who make our work possible. We ask for you to continue your support of our endeavors with a donation today.

NATIONAL PEACE ACTION: STOP THE GENOCIDE

This past year saw NC Peace Action participating in the national “Stop Arming Genocide” Coalition. Since “actions speak louder than words,” we lobbied city councils along with our congressional representatives to support a ceasefire and allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. Senator Bernie Sanders led efforts to reverse congressional support for sending \$20 Billion in weapons to Israel. NC Peace Action’s recently-elected Board Chair Joe Cicero headed up a statewide coalition that penned a letter to NC Senators to stop the genocide. While Senators Budd and Tillis represent a unique challenge and continue to support Israeli militarism and voted against the Joint Resolutions of Disapproval (JRDs), nationally, thanks in part to Peace Action’s effort, 19 Senators cast their votes to block weapons to Israel for a historic first time.

TAKING ACTION — THE CORE OF OUR WORK

“Action Alerts” – email messages NCPA sends to mobilize our network to take action to influence public policy – are at the core of Peace Action’s work. Action alerts are a cost-effective and efficient grassroots organizing tool and a powerful way to invite people to participate in the processes of democracy. Since sending NC Peace Action’s June 2024 newsletter we’ve notified our email network to more than ten action alerts, pointing out potentially troublesome or beneficial proposed legislation and encouraging members to contact their representatives. From urging NC Senators to vote no to increases in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act in June to asking NC House Representatives to vote against the “Nonprofit Killer” bill (which threatens our own and other organizations’ 501(c)3 status) in November, NCPA keeps its supporters informed and ready to act for Peace.





Photo by Jerry Markatos

2024 NC PEACEMAKER AWARDS

On Friday, September 20th, around 100 people gathered at Highland United Methodist Church in Raleigh to honor NCPA’s 2024 Peacemakers of the Year. Bookended by moving musical messages featuring The Raging Grannies, NCPA honored UNC Students for Justice in Palestine, with Hashem Amireh accepting the Peacemaker Award and speaking on the group’s behalf. Dr. Mark Perlmutter – a courageous surgeon based in Rocky Mount who operated on war victims in Gaza – was also honored. Peacemaker acceptance speeches were followed by a discussion moderated by activist and podcaster Lauren Steiner. Please view NC Peace Action’s Peacemaker 2024 video, available for viewing at <https://ncpeaceaction.org> - click on “Peacemaker 2024” at the top of the page to access the video link. NCPA extends our genuine gratitude to everyone honored and those of you who supported or attended this special evening.



Peace Booth Steering Committee
Members David and Debbie Biesack;
Jon Arnold and Ingrid Moffie

PEACE BOOTH 2024

The Peace Booth’s mission is to provide a visible Peace presence at the NC State Fair by letting fairgoers know that viable alternatives to pervasive militarism and violence exist. This year, with the theme of “Picture Peace” marking the 74th year that The Peace Booth has been present at the State Fair, as in many past years NC Peace Action provided volunteers to help staff the Booth. NCPA Board members and others from peace-oriented organizations gathered signatures on a petition entitled “Do Not Reinstate the Military Draft.” Following the conclusion of the Fair, the signed petition was given to NC Senators Tillis and Budd.



GREENSBORO PEACE COALITION

At long last there is a peace and justice group in Greensboro focused on U.S. deadly foreign policy. **Triad Veterans for Peace Coalition** is made up of three groups: Movement for Humanity, NC Peace Action, and Veterans for Peace. Meeting weekly with weekly actions such as speakers, high-visibility street corner rallies, and more, films shown include “Israelism” and “Occupation of the American Mind,” both of which are available to view online. If you would like to subscribe to Triad Veterans for Peace Coalition’s email list or join in on meetings, please contact NCPA Board Secretary **Anne Cassebaum** cassebaum@elon.edu.



NC PEACE ACTION INTERNSHIPS

For the 2024-25 academic year NC Peace Action is sponsoring three Interns, tasked with establishing NC Peace Action’s first college chapter at Guilford College, a well-reputed Quaker school in Greensboro. **Zulfiya Tursunova**, Chair of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies serves as their faculty advisor. As they’ve worked to get the Peace Club chartered, they’ve actively recruited members, initiating them into peace advocacy through calls to members of congress for or against relevant legislation, beginning with the push to end the genocide in Gaza.

CANAVAN RETURNS TO NCPA BOARD



Ellen Canavan credits Peace Action with being the first organization she joined for peace almost 30 years ago. A member of the Triangle Raging Grannies, she is active in many causes, and the one closest to her heart is Animal Rights. With NC SAVE she and others vigiled monthly for 2 years at the Smithfield Tar Heel Slaughterhouse, bearing witness to the pigs being trucked in. She’s spoken for the animals in public hearings at the NCGA, and visited lawmakers’ offices to inform them of conditions in CAFOs. She believes that all oppression is linked — human, animal, all forms of life, indeed the planet. As Rev. Barber says, “When we ALL get together, what a day of justice that will be.” Canavan says she’s glad to contribute to the work of Peace Action, and NCPA is certainly glad to have her contributions to our work.

BOARD MEMBER BLISS HONORED AS WNC PEACEMAKER



Photo by Pamela Mumby

Rachael Roberts Bliss was honored as “2024 Peacemaker” at Western North Carolina’s celebration of the 15th Annual International Day of Peace gathering, held at Asheville’s Land of the Sky UCC on September 21st. Endorsed by nearly twenty organizations, the event featured Asheville City Council member Kim Roney reading the city’s Peace Day Proclamation. Participants gave donations to local organizations working in solidarity with Palestinians. Along with recognizing Rachael’s invaluable contributions to the peace movement in Western NC, North Carolina Peace Action thanks Rachael for her service and involvement on the NCPA Board.

WE CAN’T DO IT WIHTOUT YOU

We are only weeks away from an administration headed by an individual that promised to “only be a dictator for a day” and “crush the pro-Palestinian protests,” so the need for peaceful voices is greater than ever. Your support of North Carolina Peace Action makes our work possible. **Your tax deductible year-end contribution** will enable us to educate, empower, and encourage potential advocates and activists with grassroots organizing knowledge and tools to bolster peaceful voices that speak truth to power. We hope to continue to grow our affiliate and ask you to help us if you’re able. Will you please support NC Peace Action with a generous end of the year donation? With a sincere “Thank You” for supporting Peace and NC Peace Action, we look forward to working together with you towards peaceful tomorrows in the New Year.



Scan QR Code to Donate to NCPA via Credit Card, PayPal, or Venmo

Yours in Peace,
NC Peace Action Board of Directors

Rachael Bliss
Joe Burton, Treasurer
Ellen Canavan
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