



Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance

It's been a decade since Broome County Peace Action took full responsibility for the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki event from Broome County Council of Churches. This year, 2010, some say was the most memorable of all events. We had four Japanese people come to Binghamton just to be part of our annual remembering of the horror of both cities—August 6th, Hiroshima, and August 9th, Nagasaki.

One of our Peace Action members, **Helena Garan** had walked 800 miles in Japan two years ago on a pilgrimage to Shinto Shrines. She made contact with one Japanese pilgrim and invited him to come to our annual event. In fact, four wonderful visitors came. **Tomoko Yokoyama, Takashi Usui, Naunubu Ii, and Asoko Yokoyama** loved being with us and we loved being with them. Thanks to Asoko, now a resident of Chicago, we were able to easily communicate with the three non-English speakers. Yet, each of the three practiced a brief statement in English that was understood by all.

Takashi Usui was especially excited because he knew about our **Binghamton University Pulitzer Prize winning Professor Herb Bix**, author of *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*. Takashi, a High School Social Studies teacher had used Bix's book and was delighted to meet him in person.

Mayor Matt Ryan presented the four with keys to the city and a citation of approval of their work to create peace. The Japanese delegation gave Mayor Ryan a gift of 1000 cranes in memory of the young Hiroshima girl who struggled to make 1000 cranes before she died of radiation absorbed in the August 6, 1945 attack.

Professor Herb Bix, in his presentation, gave a synopsis of the legacy of the

Manhattan Project in American life. He promised to continue with the discussion at a Peace Action meeting that will dig deeper into the dark side of the undercover government that he believes has been part of our life since 1945.

The ringing of the huge bell outside of First Congregational Church was an exciting moment for our Japanese guests. They were told that the sound of the bell would be heard around the city.

Following the bell ringing, folks drove or walked to Peace Park at the confluence to hear the sad lamenting of Naunubu Ii, a remembrance of Hiroshima. Some wonderful Green Party candidates for the US Senate spoke with passion for peace.

All four Japanese visitors stayed with Jack & Helene Gilroy and were able to absorb much of our local culture with the help of Helena Garan

New Yorkers Becoming Aware of the Cost of War

The Afghanistan war becomes the longest war in the history of the U.S., and taxpayers spend over **\$1 Trillion on war** since 2001 – these are some of the facts that were displayed on the **Cost of War** sign supported by the **Cost of War Awareness Project** in Binghamton, NY. The sign hung on Binghamton's City Hall for two months this summer in conjunction with a **Cost of War Art Exhibit**. During that time, different messages were posted almost every day. A complete list of 'Cost of War Facts' is available on www.bcpeaceaction.org. The Cost of War Awareness Project also created a support petition signed by over 850 people; sponsored a contest, and held two receptions on First Fridays in June and July,

which over 400 people attended.

"We hope we have made people think about the wars being waged in our name, and the price we are paying for it," said Susan McAnanama, the outreach coordinator of the group. "In just the 2 months we had the sign up, the United States has spent \$12,000,000,000 plus on wars. That is enough money to close the budget gap for New York, Pennsylvania, and NJ"

The **Broome County Cost of War Awareness Project** was given an achievement award at the recent convention of **Veterans for Peace** in Portland Maine "in recognition of your creative use of resources in the service of peace".

Some of the messages

Human Cost of War – WE REMEMBER WWI -116,516; WWII-405,399; Korea - 53,686; Vietnam - 58,209; Afghanistan - 1,087; Iraq - 4,404

CURRENT COST OF IRAQ WAR TO US TAXPAYERS – \$729,850,891,099

CURRENT COST OF WARS SINCE 2001 TO BINGHAMTON TAXPAYERS - \$138.6 MILLION. That could have paid all city property tax bills for the next four years.

THE U.S. MILITARY BUDGET FOR 2010 - \$639 BILLION. FOR EVERY AMERICAN - \$2,067.96

EACH YEAR IT COSTS \$250 BILLION TO MAINTAIN 865 OVERSEAS BASES.

THE U.S. MILITARY IS THE BIGGEST PURCHASER OF OIL IN THE WORLD... USING 117 MILLION GALLONS EVERY DAY

BCPA Establishes Electoral Politics Committee

The Board has decided that it is time for our organization to break with tradition and become more involved with electoral politics. It has appointed a committee to examine all options. The current Congress and Administration are just too corrupted by corporate campaign contributions and beholden to the military to be expected to change without being challenged by peace candidates. When peace candidates do run for office, we need to support their effort, even when prospects of their winning are slim. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines while the Tea Party harvests voter anger against incumbents. We need to build a "peace voting bloc," which politicians will respect and fear as much as they do the NRA.

If you are interested in joining this committee, contact any of its current members, which are Jack Gilroy, George Haeseler, Stu Naismith, and Larry Roberts.

BCPA Endorses Green Party Slate

At its August meeting, the Board endorsed the five statewide Green Party candidates because of their peace platform which includes, "no nukes, troops home now, and peace dividend for schools, jobs, mass transit." The candidates are: **Howie Hawkins** and **Gloria Mattera** for governor and Lt. governor, **Julia Willebrand** for comptroller, **Cecile Lawrence** and **Colia Clark** for US Senators. The Board had previously endorsed Hawkins and Lawrence because they supported the peace candidate guidelines of the BCPA Electoral Politics committee, which are:

- Oppose US occupation of any foreign land.
- Follow chapter 2 of the U.N. charter: settle international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered; also, refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.
- Rather than war, make use of the international police and justice systems

to fight "terror."

- Close all foreign military bases, including embassies large enough to serve as one.
- Set a date and timetable to abolish all our nuclear weapons, provided all other nuclear states do the same.
- Make deep cuts in the military budget.
- Support the establishment of a Department of Peace.

After having recruited 12,000 more petition signatures than the 15,000 required to be on the November ballot, the NYS Green Party now hopes to get the 50,000 votes for Howie Hawkins, its gubernatorial candidate, that are necessary to gain future automatic ballot status. That would establish the Green Party in this state as a viable third party and eliminate the time and energy consuming task of petitioning.

Labor Day

George Damasevitz

As Labor Day 2010 approaches, American workers have little reason to celebrate and much to mourn. What workers haven't given away in terms of progress, has been taken away by their employers. The American labor movement has been declining for many years and shows no sign of revival. This will eventually doom our nation's workers to third world status.

Those fortunate enough to have a job may still be living in poverty. Our government has conspired with corporations to make workers nothing more than disposable tools of capitalism, to be purchased at a minimum cost and discarded at the whim of management. Our government views some unemployment healthy to our economy and the wages of labor are kept deliberately low to serve the interests of business. The results of these combine to create a class of working poor that will never climb out of debt and steadily increase in number.

Part of the problem lies within labor itself. Many workers are intimidated by management and will not demand their rights for fear of losing their job. Others are blissfully unaware that they are being oppressed and feel lucky to have a job at all. What many workers don't seem to

understand is that as members of the working class, they are paying not only for entitlements for the poor, but the taxes owed by the rich as well. It's odd that many workers object vehemently to welfare payments to the poor, but have no problem with paying a rich person's fair share of taxes from their own hard-earned wages. If not corrected, the results will be dissolution of the middle class and unbearable social unrest. Labor needs to understand that the rules of the game are stacked against them. The government elected by the worker-citizens of this country needs to begin regulating corporations, not sleeping with them.

And American labor needs to start standing up for its rights. Organized laborers in this country frequently enjoy higher wages and benefits than non-organized workers. Consider the American Association of University Professors, American Dental Association, American Medical Association, United Auto Workers, American Federation of Teachers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Communication Workers of America, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers - while some of these are considered labor unions and others are not, they all enjoy the benefits of being organized and having substantial numbers represent their common interests.

The decline of American labor has gone on far too long. Unless the trend is reversed, the future for labor, our economy and our democracy will become bleak. American workers deserve much better treatment from employers and their government. By organizing and demanding their rights, workers can restore the dignity of their efforts and make Labor Day a holiday truly worth celebrating.

November 20/21 at Fort Benning, Georgia

The movement to close the **US Army School of the Americas** (now called **WHINSEC**) is still the largest justice and peace oriented rally for American college students and others.

This year, thousands will travel once again to Columbus, Georgia for the annual rally to close the school of torture. Each year, the event gives students and others the opportunity to bond on a variety of justice issues that bleed America's sense of fairness to fellow humans.

Anyone interested in being part of this energizing event should call Jack at (607) 748-8105 or (607)321-8537. We need volunteers to help with legislative tabling, to participate in a play of a true story of personal courage in the struggle against militarism (at the Columbus Convention Center), to be part of street theater in Columbus and Ft Benning, and to enjoy selecting from the wide variety of peace and justice workshops with major leaders in the peace movement.

It's a long ride and a commitment of a few days. But well worth the effort spent.

Palestine-Israel Committee

The Palestine-Israel Committee of Broome County Peace Action continues its work of addressing the issues involved in the region, including American involvement. We call upon the Obama Administration to approach the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations within the framework of human rights, international law, and UN resolutions. (cf. **US Campaign to End the Occupation** at EndtheOccupation.org.) This framework is sadly lacking and we urge all to tell this to the President. Amnesty International also has a suggested letter on their website (AmnestyUSA.org/Gaza) which we urge all to send calling on Israel to completely end the blockade and siege of Gaza. We proposed, and the BCPA board agreed, to send \$200 to Jews for Justice for Palestine, a European group with German Jews prominently included, who will be sending a ship with humanitarian supplies to attempt to pass the Israeli blockade. And finally, in conjunction with the Peace with Justice Committee of the Broome County Council of Churches, we issued a joint statement calling for strong support of Cordoba House—the Muslim community center proposed near the World Trade Center site in Manhattan. We will continue this work and more.

Jim Clune, chair

JFK, Obama, & the Unspeakable

Peace Action of Broome County in co-operation with **St James Peace & Justice** of Johnson City will host nationally recognized author, **James Douglass** on Tuesday Evening, 7PM, October 19th at St Francis of Assisi Church, 1001 Chenango St., Binghamton.

Simon & Schuster will be releasing his book in paper back, **JFK & The Unspeakable** nationwide on October 18th. Here is what Jim Douglass sent us about his presentation:

JFK, Obama, and the Unspeakable: *What does it mean to be transformed as president of the United States, at the edge of total nuclear war, into a peacemaker? John F. Kennedy's turn toward peace, resulting in his assassination, provides a parable of the unspeakable for President Barack Obama and ourselves in the midst of our escalating war on terror. Can we discover hope for our enlightenment and resurrection as one human family through the dark truths of Dallas?*

This event should have a powerful question and answer session. Please mark your calendar.

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 **tax deductible** contribution to Broome County Nuclear Weapons Reduction Campaign, the educational arm of B.C. Peace Action. Make check payable to: **BC NWRC**.

\$ _____ Contribution \$ _____ Total (enclose)

Name(s) _____ Telephone _____

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Mail to: **BC Peace Action, P.O. Box 1611, Binghamton, NY 13902**

Broome County Peace Action Board meetings

The Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Riverside Drive in Binghamton. Most 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 call President, Jim Clune, at 773-0246 or e-mail him at jimclune@yahoo.com The talks start about 8:00. pm. Talks are listed on our Web site: bcpeaceaction.org

October 12: James Petras, *The Power of Israel in the United States*

Calendar

Sunday, October 17, 4:00 - 8:00 pm:
Peace Action of Central New York Peace Award Dinner. 2013 East Genesee Street, Syracuse. Keynote speaker: **Jonathan Schell.** Contact Susan McAnanama: suebu@aol.com, 607-759-8495

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:

- 10: You have already paid your membership in 2010. THANK YOU!**
- 09, 08, 07: Your last paid membership was in 2009, 2008, 2007, etc. Please renew using the form on page 3.**

Letter code and year added to mailing list:

E: 2003, F: 2004, G: 2005, H: 2006, I: 2007, J: 2008, K: 2009, L:2010

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UPDATE

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