

Peace Action of MI Proudly Presents Spring/Summer Concert 'Good Day, Sunshine!' Featuring 'One By One'

Simply put, "One By One" is a group of Detroit and SE Michigan friends who love making music together. Over a span of 36 years, they have performed in several different iterations (hence their name with individual members joining at different times). Over decades they have established deep connections with many peace and social justice organizations.

Led by Julie Beutel and Bob O'Brien on guitars and vocals, the other members – Charles Green (percussion), Susan Newell and Barbara Sale (vocals and percussion), along with Dwight Cendrowski (keyboards and accordion)—beautifully blend numerous musical

genres from Folk to Gospel, Bluegrass to Samba, Spanish, Old Standards, and new songs from young artists.

The issues they address are dead serious, but the band manages to offset them with spontaneous, humorous,

and playful banter between songs. "Our biggest challenge," says Julie Beutel, "is finding time to rehearse."

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Photo by Jim West

Tickets: \$28.52
Contact PAMI
Tickets must be purchased by
credit card at PAMI's website
www.peaceactionmich.org

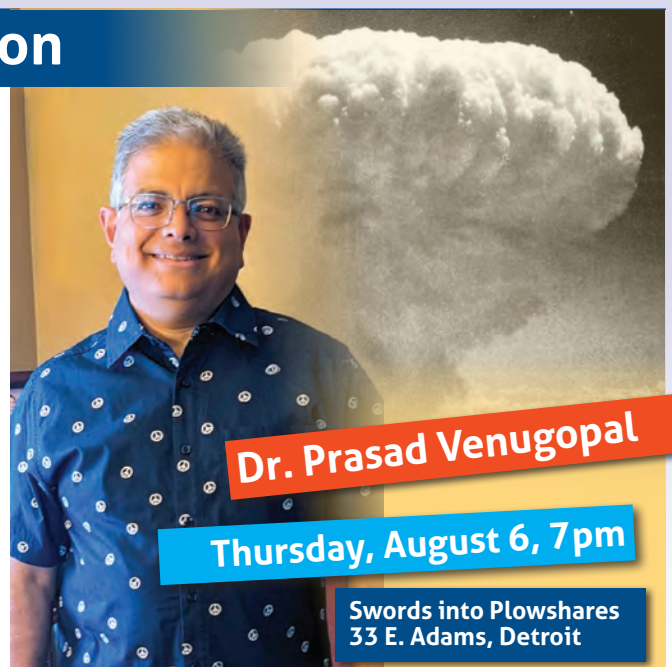
Hiroshima Commemoration

Dr. Prasad Venugopal presents: How Will A.I. Affect the Struggle for Nuclear Abolition? Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Prasad Venugopal is an Associate Professor of Physics and Affiliate Faculty in African American Studies at the University of Detroit Mercy. His research in physics education explores ways to integrate issues of race, gender, and ethnicity with physics curricula in order to encourage students to engage with physics in a broader social context.

Prasad was a National Steering Committee member of

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Dr. Prasad Venugopal

Thursday, August 6, 7pm

**Swords into Plowshares
33 E. Adams, Detroit**

FLASH!

The Newsletter of
Peace Action of Michigan

peaceactionmich.org



The views and opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the position of Peace Action of Michigan

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OUR MISSION

Peace Action of Michigan is a democratic, grassroots movement organizing locally to achieve a new foreign policy leading to a just World Without Violence

We seek:

- A demilitarized, sustainable economy
- The abolition of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction
- Diplomatic resolutions to global conflict

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INSIGHTS & BRIEFS

By Dan Butts

Dan Butts is a semi-retired psychologist, health educator, and massage therapist. He is a Peace Action of Michigan Board Member.

Congress rejects Iran War Powers Resolutions to curb President Trump's ability to continue his war.

Will Congress curb Trump's ability to pay for the war?

No, Newt Gingrich, we shouldn't nuke the Strait of Hormuz to create a new waterway for the shipping of oil.

Director of Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard names Pakistan as a threat to the U.S. mainland, but experts disagree.

The Golden Dome missile defense is, 'a joke, a scam.'

Strategically, it doesn't make sense. Technically, it doesn't make sense. Economically, it doesn't make sense.

The authority to launch any or all of the U.S.'s nearly 4,000 nuclear weapons currently rests with only one person: the president.

No president—regardless of party—should have the ability to start a nuclear war.



Professors' Union for several years.

Prasad immigrated from India, and lives in Ferndale, Michigan, with his wife and two children.

Hiroshima Commemoration

Continued from front cover

Unite for Peace and Justice after the 2003 Iraq War. He is a Board member of the Michigan chapter of Peace Action, the largest grassroots peace organization in the U.S.

He also is active in other local peace, labor, and anti-racism organizations, including the Ferndale Inclusion Network, the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, and Conversations on Race. He served as President of the University of Detroit Mercy

Don't Miss PAMI's One by One Concert

Continued from front cover

"Having produced several 'One By One' performances over many years," says PAMI Board member Keith Gunter, "their concerts remain fresh and uplifting – something we all need these days."

Proceeds of this fundraising event will

go to PAMI's Get Out the Vote efforts next fall in vulnerable communities.

What if you cannot afford the ticket price? No problem: we want you to come!

To make arrangements, contact PAMI at: peaceactionfinance@gmail.com

Membership for 2026

Make a financial contribution of any amount and you will be a member of Peace Action of Michigan (PAMI). You'll receive the FLASH! newsletter and emails inviting you to events and asking you to advocate for peace. Gifts to PAMI are not tax-deductible. Gifts to PAMI Education Fund are tax-deductible. Here are ways to contribute:

1. Go to our website: www.peaceactionmich.org
2. Find your Response Envelope in this FLASH!, make a check payable to PAMI or PAMI Education Fund, and mail to P.O. Box 555, Washington Twp., MI 48094.

\$1.5 Trillion for War!?

Advocate for Reduced Pentagon Spending

Send a message every week to your elected officials: Reduce the \$1.5 trillion budget!

To paraphrase President Eisenhower: It takes an alert and knowledge citizenry to compel the proper meshing of Pentagon spending and supporting the common good of Americans.

Craft your message from among the following paragraphs.

- As a voting constituent and member of Peace Action of Michigan, I urge you to reduce the proposed budget of \$1.5 trillion for FY 2027 for the Departments of Defense and nuclear weapons in the Department of Energy.
- I fear that the President Trump/Republican proposal to raise Pentagon spending by 50% or \$500 billion to about \$1.5 trillion will cost each American \$4,370 for FY 2027. It will cost roughly \$37,000 per household over ten years. But many Michiganians struggle to pay for necessities.
- Today in Michigan, about 60% live paycheck-to-paycheck. About 50% of us say it's hard to pay for healthcare, and 25% have skipped necessary healthcare due to the high cost. Too many working families have to pay 40 or 50% of their income on housing. Too many older adults have to survive on \$25,000 per year or less.
- And we do not want to pay \$68 per month or more for gas due to President Trump's unnecessary, illegal war on Iran. We do not want the delivery of necessary fertilizer going to subsistence farmers to be curtailed.
- If we can ever get the Department of Defense audited after eight failures, we will know where to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse. We already know that Pentagon contractors like RTX, formerly Raytheon, and Lockheed Martin have been fined for overcharging the Department of Defense.
- The United States needs a smart defense and better statecraft, but we do not need Pentagon overspending that gives huge profits to a handful of war profiteers. Didn't 2024 candidate Donald Trump pledge to drive the war profiteers and war-mongers out of Washington? Let's hold him to his promise!
- Most Americans agree that war profiteering is a problem. Most Americans support reducing the Defense Budget if the reductions wouldn't harm military personnel and their families.
- Members of Congress of both political parties annually allocate over half of the discretionary budget to the Departments of Defense and Energy. You spend more on our military than the next nine countries combined, and most of them are allies.

**Contact Senators
Gary Peters & Elissa Slotkin
and your Representative!**

*Urge them to reduce the proposed
\$1.5 trillion budget for FY 2027
for the Department of Defense and
nuclear weapons in Dept. of Energy.*

www.peters.senate.gov

www.slotkin.senate.gov

Congress: 202-224-3121

Contact your Representative
via lastname.house.gov

TRUMP'S ASKING FOR A \$1.5 TRILLION MILITARY BUDGET

WHILE CUTTING...

\$11 billion from housing programs

\$5.6 billion from NASA

\$5 billion from the National Institute of Health

\$4 billion (fully eliminate) from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

\$1.9 billion from renewable energy programs

\$2.5 billion from clean and drinking water

\$1.6 billion (fully eliminate) from the Job Corps program to provide vocational training to young people

\$1.6 billion from weather predication and forecasting services

\$555 million from vital medical research

\$1.3 billion from FEMA disaster preparedness

\$354 million from minority serving institutions such as HBCUs

\$329 million from home energy efficiency programs

\$315 million from preschool grants

\$200 million from Women, Infants, and Children Program



You spend three times more than China and five times more than Russia.

- Such astronomical overspending is behind President Trump saying, "It's not possible for us to take care of daycare." But the average family paid 20% of their income on childcare in 2025 according to Senator Elizabeth Warren.
- Ten years after rolling out Food Stamps, the Job Corps, Head Start, Medicare, Medicaid, and expanded Social Security benefits as part of LBJ's Great Society and War on Poverty, the share of Americans living in poverty was one-half of what it was in 1960. Reduce Pentagon spending now, and we can lower poverty again and uphold the Middle Class.

—Rev. Rich Peacock

What's Driving Trump's War on Iran?

President Trump is driven by a disgust of President Obama's 2015 multinational treaty with Iran to cap its nuclear program. He abandoned the treaty in 2018 and ended up with Iran enriching uranium although there was no decision to pursue nuclear weapons.

President Trump is driven by the sin of hubris, an outrageous arrogance that inflicts pain and death on the people he hates. His lack of empathy was on full display in his glee over the death of Robert Mueller. He acts as a sociopath. He drives aggression and violence with the belief that he was, "saved by God to make America great again."

Another driver of the U.S.-Israeli premature war on Iran was the information given to Trump by his incompetent negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. They lacked knowledge of nuclear power and mischaracterized Iran's positions. They did not have sufficient technical expertise or diplomatic experience to be effective diplomats. Their mistakes likely led Trump to think that the talks were not progressing.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drove the war because he thought Iran was weak and vulnerable to a regime change. Trump and Netanyahu had a vague plan that the Iranian people would rise up and bring about different leadership. But hardliners have taken charge, missiles are made and fired, and Iran's stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz is bringing in revenue



"God does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war." Pope Leo XIV



The U.S. is fighting in Iran "in the name of Jesus." Pete Hegseth

Pope Leo photo: Wikimedia • Hegseth photo: Gage Skidmore, Wikimedia

while harming the global economy and increasing food insecurity.

Congress has failed to put up roadblocks by not passing War Powers Resolutions to declare its opposition to the war and deny funding it. It also has failed to block transfers of U.S. bombs and Caterpillar bulldozers to Israel. However, it was a pleasant surprise when Senators Peters and Slotkin voted to block the bulldozers, and Senator Slotkin also voted to block the bombs.

There is government propaganda driving the acceptance of war. Internet messages sell war as a violent video game with scenes of bombings interspersed with clips of movies such as *Top Gun* and *Gladiator*.

There are Americans who are driven by White Christian Nationalism. "But did you know that God also hates?" said evangelist Franklin Graham. "Do you know God is also a God of war?" he said flanked by Christmas trees and a menorah. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth thinks the providence of his almighty God protects his troops.

Pope Leo has countered in a Palm Sunday sermon: "God does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war." His Easter message was a directive: "Let those who have weapons lay them down. Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace."

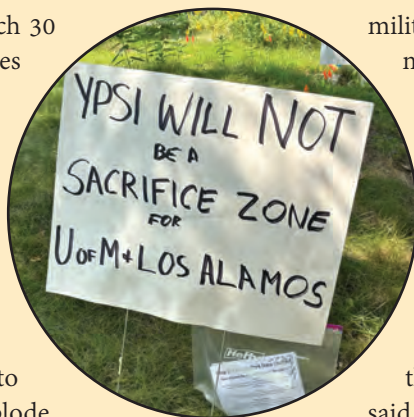
—Rich Peacock

A Victory for Now

In an abrupt change of course, on March 30 the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees unanimously declared its "strong and unequivocal opposition" to a nuclear weapons research data center proposed by the University of Michigan, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and DTE Energy.

The complex would support nuclear weapons research through advanced computer simulations. It would apply data from live testing of current weapons designs to determine how the new weapons would explode.

Embracing arguments made for nearly a year by activists resisting the development, the trustees said the



military uses of the data center for weapons of mass destruction would present a target in war.

The expanding war in the Middle East, the aggressive stance of the university, a determined opposition by volunteer organizations in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and around the state, including Peace Action of Michigan, catalyzed a sudden shift.

"Congratulations to all who had a hand in this victory, including PAMI's Gregg Krupa," said Rev. Rich Peacock, Co-Chair of PAMI.

"People power can work. Of course, this does not settle the matter. Nuclear weapons must be phased out."

Obliteration Ecocide: Aggressive Collective Punishment

Israel has committed obliteration ecocide in Gaza and Lebanon by the systemic destruction of the life-supporting environment including the resources of water, soil, agriculture, energy, and infrastructure.

Israel has aggressively used collective punishment and scorched earth strategies on the battlefields.

In Gaza, the Israeli military has obliterated some 40% of tree cover and agriculture, severely contaminated the soil and groundwater, destroyed greenhouses and irrigation systems, and magnified air pollution from sustained bombardment and debris burning.

In Lebanon, the Israeli military has destroyed forests, orchards, and irrigation systems. Soil has been contaminated, air pollution has increased, and living places with gardens have been bombed — all in another country.



IDF (Israel Defense Forces) Caterpillar D9R armored bulldozers operate in the Gaza Strip obliterating trees.

A Lebanese report notes: “The scale and intentionality of the damage to forests, agricultural lands, marine ecosystems, water resources, and atmospheric quality constitute what must be recognized as an act of ecocide, with consequences that extend far beyond immediate destruction.

—Based on “Obliteration Ecocide from Gaza to Lebanon and Beyond,” Dan Steinbeck, 4-3-26

Nuclear Dangers Growing

If Iran had nuclear weapons, it would not have been attacked. That’s a powerful object lesson for other countries in why they might want to get nuclear weapons themselves.

President Trump’s threat to demolish Iranian civilization and the Israeli bombing near Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant are nuclear saber-rattling. Russia’s war on Ukraine has also raised the nuclear war danger.

Academics are advocating for what they call, “selective proliferation,” where more U.S. allies go nuclear. Public sentiment is growing in both South Korea and Japan for nuclear weaponry. There are no longer any treaty restraints on the number of nuclear warheads that the U.S. and Russia can deploy.

France and Germany have already taken steps toward coordinating their nuclear deterrence. But the greater complexity of “selective proliferation” makes miscalculation, system

failures, crisis escalation, and using nuclear weapons more likely.

Nine men in nine countries have the power to start a nuclear war. Progress toward nuclear disarmament has stalled. PAMI says that we must keep the dream of nuclear abolition alive until it can blossom.

Keep the dream alive by asking Senators Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin to sign the pledge at pledge.icanw.org to advocate for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It became effective January 22, 2021 and has been ratified by 74 nations.

Our Senators should also co-sponsor S.R. 61 and S.R. 323 to urge the U.S. to lead global efforts to halt and reverse the arms race. Go to peters.senate.gov and slotkin.senate.gov.

—See “How the Israeli-US War on Iran has spurred Nuclear Proliferation” by Jonathan Granoff and Steven E. Hendrix

Peace Action of MICHIGAN

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Militarism and Peace Ecology

Peace ecology means that the peace and environmental movements need to advocate for curbing militarism's harm inflicted on planet earth. Both peace and ecological activists can demand an end to environmental destruction caused by the militaries of the world and their wars.

Even in its normal day-to-day operations and military exercises, the military is the largest institutional emitter of greenhouse gases. If the world's armed forces were a country, they would have the fourth largest national carbon footprint in the world—larger than Russia's.

Five and a half percent of worldwide CO2 emissions are attributable to the militaries of all nations. The percentage would be higher if wartime emissions were included.

A 2023 study found that during one year of war in Ukraine, both sides of the conflict emitted approximately as much CO2 as Belgium did in total during that same year. About one-third of Ukrainian soil has been contaminated by toxic substances such as lead, arsenic, and mercury. This poisoning renders the soil unusable for agriculture.

Peace ecology makes it clear that the more peaceful societies are internally and externally, the more they can work to restore the destroyed ecological order. This is the common interest of the peace and environmental movements.

—Based on "When Peace Collapses, So Does Climate:
A Call for Peace Ecology" by Klaus Moelling,
Common Dreams, Jan. 24, 2026



Photo by Barbara Barefield