

Reckoning with Hiroshima, Nukes & Climate



Julie Beutel will open and close Peace Action's annual Hiroshima Remembrance on Friday, August 6, 7 pm EST on Zoom.

To be sure you get a Zoom invitation to this powerful event, please send your email address to peaceactionfinance@gmail.com.

Julie is a singer, guitarist, teaching-artist, and English as a Second Language educator who is popular on the metro-Detroit music scene.

On this 2021 Hiroshima Remembrance, the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists is set at only 100 seconds to midnight. This is the closest the Clock has ever been to a nuclear war that ends civilization. The ineptitude of governments and corporate powers in managing the COVID-19 Pandemic is a sign that elite leaders are not preparing to avert nuclear nightmares nor climate emergencies.

The Climate Clock in New York City shows we have only about seven years to rectify the Climate Emergency caused by global heating. The Lifeline on the clock demonstrates that renewable energy is not rising nearly fast enough to curb the increase of worldwide heating disasters coming from the



harmful sources like coal.

Rev. Rich Peacock, a Co-Chair of Peace Action of Michigan, will present a power point explaining how we can reckon with MAD – Mutually Assured Destruction – from nuclear bombs and the climate emergency. His presentation is, “Reckoning with Hiroshima,

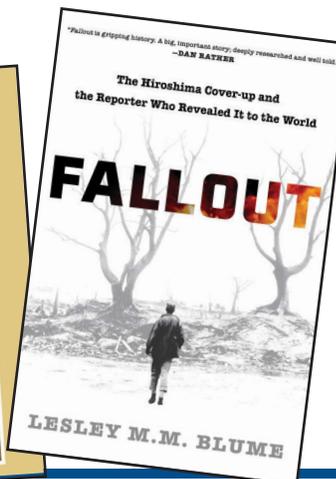
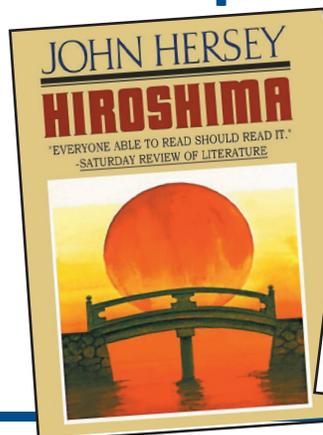
Nuclear Nightmare, and Climate Emergency.”

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Hiroshima Cover-Up

U.S. government officials from President Truman on down and U.S. newspaper and magazine editors restricted the publishing about the suffering of the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs 76 years ago and for years afterwards.

John Hersey, a prominent and very patriotic war correspondent, was disturbed particularly by the



bombing of Nagasaki, which he viewed as a “totally criminal” attack. Hersey feared for the future of the world. He managed to get into Hiroshima ten months after the bombings, but had only two weeks to interview survivors among the 130,000 dead. He wrote about six of them and the horror of the atomic bombing — flesh roasted

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FLASH!

The Newsletter of
Peace Action of Michigan
(formerly Michigan SANE/Freeze)



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

Your Email Needed

Join our email list to receive Action Alerts and Peace Action FLASH digitally. Email peaceactionfinance@gmail.com



INSIGHTS & BRIEFS

Council Highlights

By Dan Butts

Dan is a semi-retired psychologist, health educator, massage therapist, eight-year Peace Action of Michigan Board Member and co-editor of FLASH!

Council for a Livable World Denounces Biden Defense Budget

President Joe Biden requested an increase in the defense budget to an exorbitant \$735 billion including \$43.2 billion for nuclear weapons. Taxes are being wasted on outdated weapons systems when they could be spent for dealing with cybersecurity, climate change, global health security and infrastructure in the wake of the global pandemic.

Nuclear Subsidies may be Slowing Transition to Clean Energy

Many activists, scientists and lawmakers agree that nuclear energy — which provides one fifth of the power in the U.S. — is by definition not “clean” or renewable, given that spent fuel remains radioactive and dangerous for thousands of years. Billions in state and federal subsidies that prop up the nuclear industry — payments that the Biden administration has signaled

it may continue to support — may be wasting taxes that should be spent for the transition to a truly clean energy economy.

Biden Should Sink this Proposed Nuclear Weapon

Trump's new nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile is a redundant and dangerous multi-billion-dollar mistake.

Finally, Advocates for Cutting Military Budget Get Their Day in Congress

Sen. Bernie Sanders, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, held a hearing on May 12 entitled “Waste, Fraud, Cost Overruns, and Auditing at the Pentagon” that featured three witnesses testifying for cuts in the Pentagon budget.

— Adapted from “The Council Front & Center: An update on arms control, national security and politics from the Council for a Livable World.”

Hiroshima Cover-up

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off bodies, eyeballs melted, radiation sickness, and human carnage everywhere.

Hersey realized that the mass media had missed the inhumane misery caused by the atomic bombings. He feared that Americans were becoming used to the idea of usable atomic bombs for making war in the future.

On August 29, 1946, over a year after the bombings, copies of Hersey's “Hiroshima” edition of the *New Yorker* magazine appeared. Many readers expressed sorrow for the victims. And many more expressed serious fear about the survival of humanity in the age of atomic war. The magazine article became a best-selling book. I remember reading it in high school. What about you?

In her new book about John Hersey, Lesley Blume concludes, “Graphically showing what nuclear warfare does to

humans, ‘Hiroshima’ has played a major role in preventing nuclear war since the end of World War II.” Nevertheless, we are still threatened with nuclear annihilation. Human existence needs the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Blume also believes that journalists must hold powerful people accountable, for a free press is essential for the survival of democracy.

I recommend *Fallout: The Hiroshima Cover-up and the Reporter Who Revealed It to the World* by Lesley Blume.

—Rev. Rich Peacock

Action Alerts

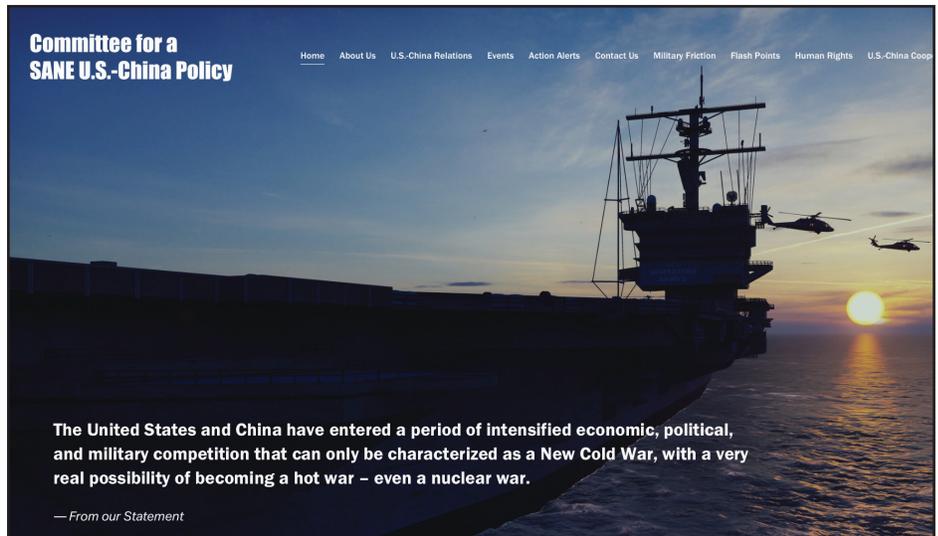
Peace Action (national) mails Action Alerts so you can contact the President and Congress to advocate for legislation that stops warring or promotes peace.

Go to www.peace-action.org and use the drop down menu, “To Get Involved.” Peace Demands Action!

Cold War with China is Dangerous

Sixty-six organizations, including Peace Action, issued a statement with the following key points:

- We are deeply concerned about the growing Cold War mentality driving the U.S. approach to China.
- Worryingly, both parties are increasingly latching onto a dangerously short-sighted worldview that presents China as the pivotal existential threat to U.S. prosperity and security and counsels zero-sum competition as the primary response.
- The true global security challenges of today — like economic inequality and lack of opportunity, climate change, nuclear proliferation, pandemics, financial crises and supply chain disruption and ethnonationalism — will require joint, non-military solutions with China and other countries.
- Instead, the level of demonization and outdated Cold War thinking driving Washington threatens to fuel destabilizing arms-racing and risks escalation towards a predictably devastating conflict.
- President Biden and Congress should focus on innovation, cooperation and multilateral approaches, not hostility and



Website homepage image of the Committee for a SANE U.S-China Policy.

confrontation, to address shared challenges and areas of concern.

- If the U.S. government doesn't change course quickly, this dangerous bipartisan push for a new Cold War with China risks empowering hardliners in both countries, fueling more violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and failing to confront the truly existential shared threats we face this century."

For more info visit: saneuschinapolicy.org

President Biden's Battle: Guns or Butter?

President Joe Biden's big spending on the American Jobs Plan offers hope for decent jobs improving roads, bridges, and broadband. His American Families Plan offers hope for investments in childcare and community college and lowering taxes with the Child Tax Credit. Child poverty could be cut by 50%.

But big spending on "butter" can be stymied by overspending on "guns." In the 1960's battle between guns (Vietnam) and butter (The Great Society), well-intended programs of social uplift were squeezed by a lack of financial outlays.

President Lyndon B. Johnson got the legislation for "The Great Society" adopted. However, LBJ undermined it by spending American blood and taxes fighting the U.S. war in Vietnam. Will

Given his domestic priorities for building back better, why is Biden proposing an increase in the Defense Budget over President Trump's last Defense Budget?

Joe Biden avoid a similar failure? He wants to "Build Back Better," but will he get the resources without reducing Pentagon overspending?

President Biden is withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan and ending the longest war in U.S. history. Will the \$50 billion savings be converted to improving infrastructure?

Although Biden has extended the New START cap on nuclear weapons with Russia, he is going ahead with the rising costs associated

with upgrading all the U.S. nuclear armaments. Is that affordable or safe? Can the U.S. afford the financial drain and blowback from over 800 military bases in dozens of countries around the world?

Biden continues to transfer more military assets to the South China Sea and near to Taiwan. Will some variant of a Tonkin Gulf Incident sink his domestic programs?

Given his domestic priorities for building back better, why is Biden proposing an increase in the Defense Budget over President Trump's last Defense Budget? Does he really think Americans can afford both "guns and butter?"

President Dwight Eisenhower offered a cautionary vision: "There is no way in which a country can satisfy the craving for absolute security, but it can bankrupt itself morally and economically in attempting to reach that illusory goal through arms alone."

One Minute Activist

Tell your elected officials to vote against funding the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent. It is a "Money Pit Missile." It makes targets of the states where they will be deployed and increases the threat of mass murder.

- Call the Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121
- Email your Senators: www.senate.gov
- Email your Representative: www.house.gov

Peace Action

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Quotes that Matter

“The United States should remove as many weapons as possible from high-alert, hair-trigger status — another unnecessary vestige of Cold War confrontation.”

—George W. Bush

“Keeping nuclear weapons ready to launch on a moment's notice is a dangerous relic of the Cold War. Such policies increase the risk of catastrophic accidents or miscalculation.”

—Barack Obama

“What will be the ultimate value of having established social justice in a context where all people, Negro and White, are merely free to face destruction by strontium 90 or atomic war?”

—Martin Luther King, Jr., 1959

“All our hopes for equality, justice, economic security, a healthy environment, depend on nuclear disarmament.”

—Coretta Scott King, 1982



Membership for 2021

Make a financial contribution of any amount and you will be a member of Peace Action of Michigan (PAMI) for 2021. You will 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 PAMI, P.O. Box 555, Washington Twp., MI 48094.

Save the Date! PeaceBuilder Banquet 2021!

The PeaceBuilder Banquet is scheduled for October 30. We hope to meet in person at the Birmingham Unitarian Universalist Church.

