

**Peace Demands Action. What are you doing to end the war?**

**Inside  
this edition of  
Peace Acts**

Peacemaker Awards.....1  
by Kathy Jacobson

Remembering Doris Shaffer.....1

Updates on the NPT.....2  
by Susanne Erni

UN/NGO Conf. in Mexico City...2  
by Judy Lerner

Commemorations.....2  
by Skylar Sasson

Thus We Progress.....3  
by Shirley Hyman

Ann Wright in Albany.....3  
by David Easter

Confronting the Bomb: Now .....4  
Available

Upcoming Student Activist.....4  
Activities

**William Sloane Coffin, Jr.  
Peacemaker Awards  
by Kathy Jacobson**

Jennifer Hyman and Cliff Cawthon recieved 2009 William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Peacemaker Awards at a reception and celebration on May 18, at the 1199 SEIU Penthouse in New York City.

The presentation was made by Cora Weiss, 2007 recipient of the Award given in honor of a man whose life inspired hundreds of thousands of ordinary people to speak out for peace and human rights.



Ms. Hyman has worked with Peace Action New York State since high school; now a graduate of Hunter College, she will commence a Ph.D. program in Social, Political, Ethical and Legal Philosophy at SUNY Binghamton in September.

Mr. Cawthon, a former very active president of Buffalo State Students for Peace, is a dual political science and philosophy major. He will continue his studies and peace work abroad next year in Manchester, England.

In addition to the above awards, citations went to Honored Colleagues, some of the peace organizations with whom PANYS has worked closely in recent years: Brooklyn for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives, Military Families Speak Out, No War Westchester and United for Peace and Justice.

All the way around, it was a fun night of jazz music, good food, and enjoyable conversation. A night to remember!

**Remembering Doris Shaffer with a Memorial Lecture Series**

Doris Shaffer, wife of Donald Shaffer (Treasurer of the Peace Action Fund of NY State) died from cancer peacefully at home on June 2nd. She was a long-time activist, member, friend and supporter of Peace Action. Her life was characterized by a devotion to family and a commitment to social justice.



Doris was a board member and advocate for the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Fund for Modern Courts, The Nation, the Center for Constitutional Rights, SANE/Peace Action, Peace Now, and the New Israel Fund.

Doris will be remembered throughout New York with a memorial lecture series. The speakers will, just as Doris did, broaden our viewpoint, challenge our complacency, and encourage us to grow our organization to achieve political change. The first lecture will be in Manhattan in late July on bringing peace to Israel/Palestine.

# Taking the Lead in a Changing Nuclear Landscape

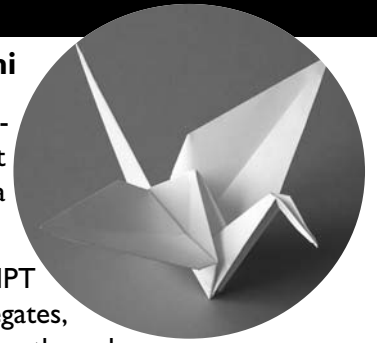
## Updates on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by Susanne Erni

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is up for review in May 2010, an opportunity for public education, media attention and political posturing that comes only once every five years. That makes this the time to organize for strengthened enforcement of the treaty and moving toward a nuclear free world.

During May of 2009, the Non-Proliferation Treaty body held its final Prep Comm before the NPT review. More than fifty Peace Action members participated in the conference, speaking with delegates, giving interviews and meeting international allies. Our members played an essential role in keeping the public and other peace groups informed and involved.

Now let's draw on our successes and continue to reach out to new groups of concerned citizens to prepare for the 2010 NPT Review. Together with our allies, we have created a petition to remind President Obama of his Prague commitment to lead the movement for nuclear abolition. It can be downloaded from [www.panys.org](http://www.panys.org). Also, start preparing for a major mobilization or a series of mobilizations around the Review Conference in New York City in May of 2010. We need you there!

For these efforts to have the largest impact, let's encourage all local peace groups to organize and recruit around this crucial issue. We can be a public voice for peace. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by!



### Peace Action International Committee Chairs UN/NGO Annual Conference in Mexico City by Judy Lerner

On September 9th - 11th, the DPI/NGO United Nations conference will be held in Mexico City. (The DPI/NGO Conference is the annual meeting of the 1,700 non-profit organizations registered at the Department of Public Information at the UN. They are the only NGOs allowed to participate in the UN process.) For those of us working for peace at the United Nations, this is an important annual event, attended by about 150 international participants.

This year the Peace Action International Committee is in the forefront of the event, which will be called "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!!!" Our own Dr. Charles Hitchcock will co-chair the entire conference and many of our members are participating in the planning. This is a great opportunity, just before the 2010 NPT Review Conference, for those of us who have struggled for years in the trenches for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons to finally put it on the world stage!

We urge everyone who can to attend these meetings in Mexico City. If you want to be on the list to get more information, please email [judyct12@aol.com](mailto:judyct12@aol.com). We will try to send you all the relevant material so that you can be a part of this important peace event, including information about trips, lodging, etc. Most importantly, please support this event by building our membership in local communities.

### Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemorations by Skylar Sasson

On August 6th and 9th, 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, killing more than 200,000 people. Twelve years later Peace Action (then SANE) was founded to lead the fight for international nuclear abolition. To this day, hundreds of annual events take place around the world to commemorate lives lost and to ensure that it never happens again.

In Japan, at the annual Hiroshima Lantern Floating Memorial, people float thousands of paper lanterns with personal messages for peace.

This year Peace Action chapters around the state will be hosting a number of commemorative events.

--Peace Action of Central New York will hold their annual solemn march in downtown Syracuse and collaborate with the religious community to hold a lantern vigil.

--Upper Hudson Peace Action has just formed a new nuclear disarmament committee, which is planning a vigil and peace walk to collect petition signatures in the Albany area. Members of Schenectady Neighbors for Peace will also participate in the reading of John Hersey's "Hiroshima."

--In Manhattan, instead of hosting a speaker, Peace Action New York State is organizing a "Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day Festival." The Festival will kick off with a paper crane making and launching ceremony and continue with musicians and poetry readings to attract peace activists of all ages.

Peace demands action and Hiroshima/Nagasaki events are a great time to petition and raise awareness about the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the work of Peace Action.

## Thus We Progress

by Shirley L. Hyman

It seems no longer important to question the origin of the human animal, but rather to appraise into what kind of creature he has developed. We seem to be forging ahead in every field we enter. But, suddenly we find ourselves in a financial crisis which appears to put an end to this life of progress. How could this have happened? Perhaps we can trace this crucial situation to the behavior of humankind. Have we really been kind humans to one another and to all living creatures on Earth?

Today in our country, ten percent of the people own eighty percent of the wealth, while many of the rest lack adequate food, housing, health care and education. Sharing the wealth is a myth when the worker is paid 1/500th of what the CEO of a corporation receives.

To maintain peace and bring democracy to nations of the world, the human mind has devised many means. Billions of dollars and thousands of lives have been spent in attempting to bring security to the inhabitants of Iraq. In the meantime, the people are in worse shape after 6 years of destruction and death. No doubt, nuclear weapons will soon be used in space; so neither land, nor sea, nor outer space will be without modern weapons of destruction.

When the human mind eventually realizes the dangerous path we are now taking and the human voice calls out to make the truth known, then, and only then, can we envision the true progress of mankind.

## Ann Wright Speaks at Albany Dinner

by David Easter



Upper Hudson Peace Action, which works in the Albany, New York area, was fortunate to have Ann Wright as the speaker for our May 4th Annual Dinner. Ann Wright is a retired U.S. Army and Army Reserve Colonel and former U.S. diplomat who resigned in protest against the Iraq war.

Today, Wright is a prominent figure in the American peace movement, speaking out against wars of occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. She currently works with Code Pink to bring international delegations to Gaza.

Wright spoke very movingly about the suffering and deprivation she witnessed in Gaza. She also spoke about the moral ambiguity of the occupation of Afghanistan, with no apparent good options for the Afghan people. She feels that the Afghan people would stand a better chance if the U.S. would remove its forces from Afghanistan.

Our dinner is a potluck supper in which attendees are asked to make a \$25 contribution. Joe Lombardo and Mo Hanna led us in group singing. We heard two minute reports from some of our branches and committees on highlights of the last year: Palestinian Rights Committee, Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace, Saratoga Peace Alliance, Southern Rensselaer Neighbors for Peace, and Schenectady Neighbors for Peace.

### Now Available!

#### ***Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement***



The abbreviated version of Peace Action member Lawrence Wittner's trilogy on the subject, *Confronting the Bomb* depicts the story of citizen activism in the quest to thwart the nuclear arms race.

This is a powerful book about the impact of grassroots movements in the challenge to national nuclear ambitions. It provides a rare insight into the full story of the struggle and important lessons for all modern activists.

## SUPPORT THE WORK OF PEACE ACTION OF NEW YORK

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double our membership because  
the more members we have, the  
more political clout we wield.

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made out to Peace Action New York State. Mail to PO Box 600, JAF Station, NY, NY, 10116

## Upcoming Student Activist Activities by Samantha Reitz

### July 17-19: National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth - National Counter-Recruitment and Demilitarization Conference, Chicago

This conference will bring participants together for practical training on counter recruitment, legislative challenges and public pressure to promote non-military alternatives. Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of travel and housing. Priority will be given to youth residents of areas with few counter-recruitment resources and those who would otherwise not be able to attend. For more information go to 312-427-2533.



### July 30 - August 11, 2009: Study Abroad in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan

Participants will live and study with Japanese and other Asian students, professors, peace activists, and policy experts. They will have the opportunity to meet atomic bomb victims, visit museums, and attend other commemorative events. Three history credits (graduate or undergraduate) are available, although non-degree seeking students may also participate. For more information, go to [www.american.edu/nsi](http://www.american.edu/nsi) or contact Professor Peter Kuznick by email at [kuznick@american.edu](mailto:kuznick@american.edu) or by phone at 202-885-2408.

### August 13-16, 2009: Think Outside the Bomb - National Grassroots Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, Albuquerque, NM

This four day event will include speakers and group activities centered around educating, inspiring and encouraging participants to create and join groups to work towards a nuclear free future. The application recommends a registration fee of \$20-\$40, but this can be substituted with three hours of volunteer help in organizing the conference. For the \$40 registration fee, group housing will be provided, along with all meals. Some funding is available to cover travel expenses. To apply, go to [www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org), and fill out the 2009 conference application.

**Want to do more, but don't have much time? Go to [www.panys.org/e-alerts.html](http://www.panys.org/e-alerts.html) to sign up for the NY Peace Network. One email, one action, five minutes a week for peace!**