As if the Climate Crisis wasn’t bad enough, the world faces a second growing existential threat. After decades of gradual nuclear disarmament and international treaties to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, there is now a dangerous pivot towards a new nuclear arms race.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has announced it will forego required environmental reviews to massively expand the production of US nuclear weapons and bomb cores. Many of the cores would be for newly designed warheads and missiles under development. The plan would also quadruple plutonium core production to replace all 2500 bomb cores in the active stockpile, which is unnecessary. Thousands of plutonium bomb cores await dismantlement at the Pantex Nuclear Weapons Plant; the bomb cores have an average age of 40 years and are projected to be viable for 100 years.

The bomb cores for the weapons that are being redesigned have never been tested, which may cause the reopening of the testing range in Nevada. Peace groups are raising concerns about “improvements” now being made at the sub-critical testing site that is part of the Nevada Test Site, activity that could indicate preparation for a resumption of nuclear weapons testing. Newly produced plutonium bomb cores can’t legally be fully tested due to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. If the US resumes nuclear tests, there will be serious proliferation consequences.

The NNSA is proceeding without public input; a nationwide “programmatic” public review is required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Since 2003 the NNSA has attempted to expand plutonium bomb core production, but it failed each time because of citizen opposition and a clear lack of mission need. Citizen access to criticism of environmental policy has been severely curtailed in recent years, especially under the Trump administration.

With the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists being reset to 100 minutes to midnight, the need for a rebirth of a vigorous grassroots movement for nuclear disarmament has never been needed more.

For more information see resources on our web site <www.peaceactionwi.org>
If Only We Had RCV!
Ranked Choice Voting
From a Jan 21, 2020 article on Salon.

The “all or nothing - winner take all” nature of our current voting system does not fairly represent the electorate in this county. That is gradually changing.

“Just imagine how different Sanders and Warren might campaign if we elected our leaders with ranked choice voting, and voters had the power to select their backup second and third choices to count if their first choice couldn’t win.... They’d be campaigning as a team, urging followers to support the other as a second choice.

“The good news is that five Democratic presidential primary states will be using RCV this spring, one for early voting and four for the entire primary. New York City just amended its charter to use RCV for most city elections. Maine expanded its use of RCV to presidential elections. Cities and townships nationwide, from Massachusetts to Utah and New Mexico, have recognized that RCV gives voters more choice and incentivizes politicians to campaign — and govern — with everyone in mind, not just an influential base.”

Attack on Academic Freedom and Criticizing Israeli Policy
by Christy Breihan

Donald Trump’s Executive Order on Combating Anti-Semitism, issued December 11, 2019, may initially appear to be an effort to combat the incidents of anti-Semitic violence and threats on the rise in this country, but its real purpose is to squelch the criticism of Israel and support for Palestinian rights that has been growing on college campuses.

The order claims that the State of Israel represents the national unity of the Jewish people, thereby rendering any criticism of it an act of anti-Semitism. It is enforceable under the US Civil Rights Act and can be used to withhold funds from colleges that permit opposition to Zionism or advocacy for the rights of Palestinians. It is widely recognized to have been prompted by rising support for the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement. But even many academics who do not support the BDS movement are opposing the measure as an attack on academic freedom and its mission to promote critical thinking and open discussion of contemporary political issues.

The order comes on the heels of a series of truly anti-Semitic remarks made by this president. Instead of condemning the violent attacks against Jews and the hate groups that encourage them, Trump is issuing an order that exacerbates our divisions and suppresses our freedom of thought, expression, and advocacy.
In Wisconsin, only Representative Mark Pocan voted against it. Representative Gwen Moore voted for it “by mistake”.

Now, as reckless acts by President Trump increase the possibility of war, Congress is left with a War Powers Resolution process that could constrain the President from acts of military aggression IF a veto of the War Powers Resolution by the President is over ridden by a 2/3 vote in the Senate. But how likely is that?

Shame on Congress!

Navy Ships for Saudi Arabia to be Built in Wisconsin

US Navy Littoral Combat Ship

From Maritime Executive Jan 9, 2020

Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wisconsin, has been contracted by the US Navy to build four combat ships for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A Lockheed Martin-led team, which includes Fincantieri Marinette Marine, was awarded a multi-billion-dollar order for the construction of four Multi-Mission Surface Combatants ships, as part of the country’s Foreign Military Sales program targeted for the Saudis.

Fincantieri will build the ships at the Marinette yard in Wisconsin, and the contract is worth approximately $1.3 billion dollars for Fincantieri Marinette Marine.

The Multi-Mission Surface Combatant is a lethal and highly-maneuverable, multi-mission surface combatant, capable of littoral (near shore) and open ocean operation, built by the same team for the US Navy. Now it will be part of the US supplied military arsenal of the corrupt Saudi Kingdom.

Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin has been responsible for the Marinette shipyard getting US Navy contracts. She brings jobs to Wisconsin stained with the blood of warfare.
The Assassination of General Soleimani
by Julie Byrnes Enslow

There has been a lot of speculation and outrage about the blatantly illegal US assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, (who was reviled by many but respected and well-liked by the Iranian people).

When Trump withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018 and tightened its squeeze on Iran’s economy with punishing economic sanctions, the relations with Iran deteriorated, as would be expected. But Trump’s claims of Soleimani’s plans to implement imminent attacks on four U.S. embassies in the region have no verification whatsoever. Trump and figures in his administration such as Defense Secretary Mark Esper have repeatedly failed to provide any evidence of the imminence of any such threat.

One piece of information is quite interesting. Soleimani was, according to the Iraqi Prime Minister, traveling to Iraq on a back-channel mission to negotiate a reduction of conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia when he was targeted and killed by a US guided missile. He was leaving a commercial plane at an Iraqi civilian airport with his diplomatic passport. The attack also killed an Iraqi general and several others.

Even though the Trump administration had wanted to assassinate Soleimani for many months, his mission of reducing conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia would certainly not be in the interests of US policies in the region. Our government wants to continue to arm Saudi Arabia to the teeth (at a great profit to our weapons industry) and retain Iran as a major enemy as a rationale for a continued military, political, economic and corporate presence in the middle east. Peace in the region would not benefit our military-industrial complex or economic interests.

Fire Drill Fridays

Jane Fonda joins the climate struggle.

During the past few months, actress and activist Jane Fonda risked arrest participating in climate change protests in Washington, D.C. for 14 consecutive Fridays in a row.

Fonda dubbed these Friday protests “Fire Drill Fridays,” and said that her demonstrations were inspired by youth climate activist Greta Thunberg. She urged adults to join in the fight for climate action saying “We cannot leave it to young people to fight this fight for their future by themselves.”

Other celebrities and activists joined her “Fire Drill Fridays” protests. Ted Danson, Sam Waterston, Robert Kennedy, Jr. Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield of Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream, Martin Sheen, Bill McKibbens and many others were arrested with her.

“Making the links between militarism and climate change, Fonda called for cutting the military budget to fund the Green New Deal, a proposal introduced by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

“The climate movement is a peace movement, because to stop wars is to stop the fossil fuel industry. And to stop the fossil fuel industry is to stop war,” Fonda said.

A Letter to the People of Iran
From Code Pink

Dear people of Iran,

We, the American people, are horrified by the actions of our government to provoke a war with you. From President Trump’s dangerous decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear agreement, to the crippling sanctions his administration has imposed, to the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani—President Trump and his administration have pushed our two nations to the brink of war.

Unlike our president, we do not want to provoke a war with your country—we want to live in peace and harmony with the people of Iran. We pledge to do everything in our power to stop the U.S. from carrying out further attacks on Iran and to end the brutal sanctions which have already caused immense suffering to millions of ordinary Iranian citizens.

Please accept our hand in friendship. May the peacemakers prevail over those who sow hatred and discord.
In August 2019, Congress voted for a national budget of $738 billion for the military in the coming fiscal year. The budget passed for the next two years gave 1.48 trillion to the military and 1.3 trillion dollars for the rest of the budget for the next two years.

Panel on -
Economic Sanctions as Acts of War

Friday, March 13, 7pm
Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe

- Skype presentation by national speaker Kevin Zeese, of Popular Resistance and Venezuelan embassy protector, on impact of sanctions on Venezuela and Iran.
- Tom Seery, member of Peace Action of WI anti-sanctions delegation to Iraq in 1998.
- Art Heitzer, Chair of the Cuba Sub-Committee of the National Lawyer’s Guild.

Part of-
International Days of Action Against Sanctions and Economic Warfare.

Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin.

Before John Lennon there was Garry Davis!

“The World Is My Country”

A documentary film on
Garry Davis’s Fight for Global Citizenship

Directed by Arthur Kanegis

Thursday, March 19, 7pm
Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe

A riveting, inspiring story of one man’s lifelong mission for global citizenship and a world without borders. Following WWII, Garry Davis’s belief that nationhood is inextricably linked to violence, suspicion, hatred and war, led him to give up his US citizenship and his acting career on Broadway to pursue a greater call. He became committed to the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights and built a global movement for world citizenship.

Garry Davis was also a very funny man and this documentary captures his persona and spirit as well as his commitment to a world without borders and without war.

Don’t miss this wonderful, entertaining film.

Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin
PEACE CALENDAR
February/March 2020

Feb. 4, Tues.  PUSH OUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School, Movie Screening. 5:30-8pm, WI Black Historical Society, 2620 W Center St, Milwaukee. Hosted by Black Lives Matter at School-Milwaukee.

Feb. 7, Fri.  Protest the Funding of Fossil Fuels - Every Friday at Noon in front of Chase Bank & Wells Fargo Bank on Water & Wisconsin. They are the 2 largest funders of fossil fuels on Earth. Sponsored by 350.org Milwaukee.

Feb. 8, Sat.  To End the Scourge of War, Who Should We Elect President? Review and discussion of the foreign policy positions of all of the leading candidates for president. 10:00am. United Nations Association of Milwaukee, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 19th & Wisconsin. Co-sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin.

Feb. 8, Sat.  Weekly Stand for Peace. Noon to 1pm. Sponsored by Peace Action of WI. See ad for weekly locations.

Feb. 17, Mon.  Honoring Local African American Environmental Pioneers. Speaker Brenda Coley of the Milwaukee Water Commons, Ko-Thi African Dance Company, music. Awards will be given and include Peace Action’s George Martin, who has made the crucial link between militarism and climate change. 5:30 - 8:30pm, Wisconsin Black Historical Society, 2620 W Center St, Milwaukee. Hosted by Nearby Nature Milwaukee. Register with the Great Waters Group of Sierra Club, 414-344-1044 or david@thomerwald.net

Feb. 19, Wed.  End the Wars Coalition meeting, 7pm, Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe.


March 8, Sun.  International Women’s Day Celebration, Guest speaker, Lakota elder Madonna Thunderhawk, lifelong activist for Native American rights. 2pm, UWM, room to be announced. Co-sponsored by Women’s Organizing Center, WILPF, UNA, Electa Quinney Institute for Indian Education and Peace Action of Wisconsin.

March 13, Fri.  Economic Sanctions as Acts of War. International Days of Action Against Sanctions and Economic Warfare. Special program with a skype presentation by national speaker, Kevin Zeese of Popular Resistance; Tom Seery, part of Peace Action of WI anti-sanctions delegation to Iraq in 2000; and Art Heitzer, Chair of the Cuba Sub-Committee of the National Lawyer’s Guild, 7pm at the Peace Center, 1001 E Keefe Ave, Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin.

March 17, Tues.  UNSIL World Fair. Whitefish Bay Model UN Club will join Milwaukee Public Schools students from UN Schools of International Learning (UNSL) at a special event from 10am to 1pm at the Panther Arena, 400 W. Kilbourn Avenue. The public is invited. Students, grades four through eighth grades proudly present their research and exhibitions of their UN countries of study.

March 18, Wed.  End the Wars Coalition meeting, 7pm, Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe.


March 24-30  International Week of Action to Support the Great March of Return and Breaking the Siege of Gaza. The second Anniversary of the Great Return March to demand the right of return to Palestinian refugees and an end to Israel’s siege of Gaza. Israel’s military has killed 214 unarmed Palestinians and wounded 18,764 more to repress the weekly march. Watch for details of local actions in our email alerts and website.

See our web site and look for email updates for more calendar items. www.peaceactionwi.org

Get On Our E-Mail Alert List!
Make sure we have your email address, so you can receive our action alerts and calendar updates. Our newsletter is published every two months and a lot can happen in that time. Keep up to date with calls to our elected officials, visiting speakers, special demonstrations and other events.

Don’t be out of the loop!
Send us your email at:

info@peaceactionwi.org
Thank You Volunteers
- For staffing our sales table at the Quaker’s AFSC Holiday Gift Fair: Mary Laan, Babette Grunow, Julie Enslow, Rosemary Huddleston, Christy Breihan, Pam Richard, Sue Cottrell
- Mary Alice Martines for handwritten thank you notes.
- Dan O’Keefe for many volunteer hours in bringing Peace Action’s technology up to date.
- All of our mailing volunteers: Mary Alice Martines, Julie Enslow, David Lindberg, Jan Watson, Babette Grunow, Mary Lou Stebbins, Tom Neibler, Mary Laan, Laura Kukor-Shea, Sue Cottrell, Trish Beausang, Christy Breihan, Joyce Elwanger, John Payton, Roger Hansen.
- Special thanks to Mailing Crew members who have helped through the years: Joan Bleidorn, Margo Fuchs, Millie Shade, Dottie Kukor, Arnold Kaufman.

JOIN US / RENEW
_____New Member _____Renewal
Name______________________________________
Address_____________________________________
City_______________________State_____Zip_____ 
Phone______________________________________
Email ______________________________________

____$30 individual____$10 limited income
____$50 household____$100 supporter
____$1000 lifetime membership
Additional donation of support  $______________

Make checks out to Peace Action of Wisconsin
1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212
Call office for information on monthly sustainers.

“Milwaukee’s Great Divide”
Friday, Feb. 21, 7pm
Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe

Film by local film-makers Dan Folkman and Chris Christie, on racial separation and inequality with interviews of people directly affected by segregation in Milwaukee.

Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin

Stand for Peace!
It Feels Good!

If you often feel that you are standing alone in the world with your opposition to seemingly endless wars, we have a remedy for your woes. Check out Peace Action’s weekly Stand for Peace and stand (literally) with other folks like you who want the world to know that Dr. King was right. “War is not the answer!”

You’d be surprised how many cars “honk for peace” as they pass us on busy intersections. And many pedestrians thank us for being there. Of course, there are a few folks that tell us to “get a job” but by and large we have very positive responses. It gives you energy to keep on keeping on. And the people that see us out there (in all kinds of weather) with our signs have something to think about for the day.

So, bundle up and join us on the corner and for coffee and conversation afterwards. We guarantee you’ll feel better!

Stand for Peace
Saturdays Noon-1 PM
Feb. 8 16th & Wisconsin
Feb. 15 Capitol & Teutonia
Feb. 22 92nd & North
Feb. 29 Kinnickinnic & Lincoln
March 7 Capitol & Oakland
March 14 16th & Wisconsin
March 21 Sherman & North
March 28 National & Greenfield

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Join us / Renew
_____New Member _____Renewal
Name______________________________________
Address_____________________________________
City_______________________State_____Zip_____ 
Phone______________________________________
Email ______________________________________

____$30 individual____$10 limited income
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Doomsday Clock Moves to 100 Seconds to Midnight

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists on Jan. 23 moved its 2020 Doomsday Clock to 100 seconds to midnight, from last year’s two minutes to midnight. It is now closer to midnight than at any time since its creation in 1947 by atomic scientists who had worked on the Manhattan Project during WWII.

The statement from the Bulletin explained, “Humanity continues to face two simultaneous existential dangers—nuclear war and climate change—that are compounded by a threat multiplier, cyber-enabled information warfare, that undercuts society’s ability to respond. The international security situation is dire, not just because these threats exist, but because world leaders have allowed the international political infrastructure for managing them to erode.”

Peace Action of Wisconsin was founded in 1977 as an Anti-Nuke group working to eliminate nuclear weapons and nuclear power. (We were then called Mobilization for Survival.) Our work is needed now more than ever.