



Not Your Normal Election!

by Julie Byrnes Enslow

If your vote ever mattered, it sure does this November 3rd.

The Trump/Biden presidential election is a daily drama. There is little hope that there will be a peaceful transfer of power. Trump has insisted several times that if he loses it will be because the election was rigged. He will refuse to recognize the results and refuse to leave office. *Our country has never faced this prospect before.*

Some fear this could result in a drawn-out court case or in violence by the white nationalist, right-wing Trump supporters who are armed to the teeth. Six months ago Trump said he would call for civil war if he wasn't elected.

With recent reports from the New York Times of Trump's tax evasions and illegal business escapades, if Trump loses the election he will face serious legal indictments and likely prosecution. No wonder he wants to stay protected in the White House.

If things continue to go downhill before the election, Trump may want to pull an "October Surprise," a not uncommon tactic before our presidential elections. A military attack on Iran or Venezuela would not be out of the question in an attempt to pull the nation behind him in a time of crisis. Currently there is a buildup of Columbian and Brazilian troops on their borders with Venezuela with aid from the US.

The militarization of the Arabian peninsula with sophisticated US weapons and F-35 fighter jet sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic is a threat to Iran as well as the ongoing war on Yemen. US troops and naval vessels have been building up in the region. In fact, the newly created US Space Force is building a

base in Saudi Arabia.

There are also growing tensions and new confrontations between China and the Trump administration. Dangerous US naval maneuvers have been happening in the South China Sea and the Pacific. US military bases nearly surround the country. China's recent efforts to impose a National Security Law on Hong Kong and the response of sanctions by the US is a recipe for increased conflict.

This election will determine the future of democracy in the United States. Let's make sure that everyone we know votes to preserve our democratic process and a livable planet.

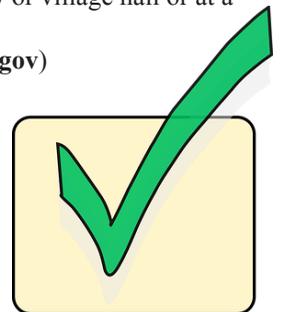
Be a Peace Voter!

Make sure you are still registered to vote.
(Check with myvote.wi.gov)

If possible, vote early.

Make sure your family, friends and neighbors are registered to vote.
(Register in person at your city or village hall or at a public library.
Register on line at myvote.wi.gov)

**VOTE! Save Our
Democracy! Save a
Livable Planet! VOTE!**



The Militarization of Our Police

by Christy Breihan

Before 1968, US police departments had no S.W.A.T. teams. When tensions between the community and the police exploded in Los Angeles in 1965, LAPD then-Inspector Darryl Gates had an idea for suppressing the unrest. Why not organize the many police officers who already had military backgrounds and specialized weapons training into military-style units--call them Special Weapons and Attack or Assault Teams, he thought—and prepare them to confront future unrest? This call for “attack” teams to be used against US civilians drew some resistance. But when the name was changed to Special Weapons and Tactics teams, the idea took hold in LA and soon spread across the country.

Ronald Reagan’s “War on Drugs” accelerated the militarization of the police. Waging “war” justified using the weapons of war--thus armored vehicles, wheeled tanks with turrets, anti-tank ammunition, bayonets, “flash bangs” and ramming devices have come to our cities, put to use serving warrants where drug dealing is merely *suspected*. In addition, the new laws providing for “civil asset forfeiture” of any property police claim has been used by drug dealers, even if it had been owned by people other than those accused, has further incentivized surprise raids that can yield great windfalls to the police. Sales of these confiscated properties bring in millions of dollars of revenue every year, much of it going directly to police budgets. Cars, jewelry, cash and homes they think are connected to crime become the spoils of this war.

Since much of this arsenal is donated by the military (begging the question of why the military budget is so large as to allow such over-purchasing), it seems an attractive arrangement for the police departments. But the cost to the cities where they operate is two-fold, and terribly expensive.

Police departments pay the military to have their members trained, and the maintenance and operating costs on the equipment are astronomical. The damage it does to the urban infrastructure, often tearing up streets and damaging buildings (armies win by their power to destroy) adds to its economic burden.

But the other side of the cost may be more devastating. The military presence takes on the character of an occupying force, affecting both the

mindset of the conquering police and the people of the occupied community. Far from “keeping the peace,” these militarized teams often create violence (in surprise raids) and then subdue it with a show of force that affects far more people than those targeted for alleged criminal activity. It is hard to estimate the enduring costs of the trauma they inflict on people already struggling to survive in America’s impoverished neighborhoods.

This is no way to build community. While many police murders do not involve the use of military hardware, its very presence in the arsenal serves to de-humanize the people who live where it is used. The struggle to end racism and poverty is challenging enough without adding the stresses of the battlefield to the already tense conditions in our cities.

For information about the militarization of our police, see *Rise Of The Warrior Cop*, by Radley Balko, published by Public Affairs, 2013.



The Mobilizer

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End Military Intervention, Transfer Military Spending to Human Needs, Abolish Nuclear Weapons & Power.
Oppose Racism & Sexism, Protect the Environment.

War Games Canceled

by Pandemic

by Julie Byrnes Enslow

Maybe the COVID-19 pandemic isn't all bad. It was responsible for the cancellation of several provocative military exercises around the world this spring.

Exercise Cold Response 2020 in "the high north" was canceled in early March due to the coronavirus. This war game has been held every year since 2016 in the northern stretch of Norway where it wraps around Sweden and Finland to join the Russian border. Over 7,500 US soldiers planned to join thousands of other NATO troops in a massive mock battle against imagined invading forces from Russia. This two week long high intensity combat scenario in a demanding cold-weather environment in the Finnmark region of Norway was naturally seen as threatening to neighboring Russia. Norway calls it defensive training but Russia sees these yearly exercises as having offensive intentions.

This region is near Russia's Kola Peninsula which abuts the Barents Sea, a part of the Arctic Ocean within the Arctic Circle. Since global warming has caused massive melting of the Arctic, both Norway and Russia are developing oil drilling in the ocean and are looking forward to ice-free shipping lanes during much of the year. The only way for Russia to move its oil tankers and other ships out of the Arctic is through the Barents Sea, and past the northern stretch of Norway toward the North Atlantic. That area of Norway has become a highly militarized zone as part of NATO and the



Annual war games and nuclear missile bases make northern Norway and Russia a hotspot for WWII.



situation is ripe for potential conflict with Russia.

To top it off, both NATO and Russia have a significant nuclear missile force in the region. Disarmament scholar and author Michael Klare considers it the hotspot for World War III's newest battlefield. The US, Canada, Norway, Russia and Greenland (owned by Denmark) are all engaged in militarization of the Arctic coastline. It is a dangerous picture.

Defender Europe '20 military exercises were scheduled for May and June in Poland. These were planned to be the largest US-Europe war games in 25 years before they were greatly modified due to the pandemic. The US had originally planned to send 20,000 soldiers to Europe for the exercises. Again, Poland is on the border of Russia - another provocative situation.

US-led multinational military exercises in Africa were also scaled back due to coronavirus concerns. In addition, joint exercises were canceled in South Korea and Israel.

Perhaps the generals should be as concerned about war harming our young soldiers as they are about the pandemic. The world could be a safer, healthier place.

Hiroshima Vigil in the Time of Pandemic

Peace Action's annual Lanterns for Peace event commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki took on a new format this year. A candlelight vigil lined both sides of Lincoln Memorial Drive along Milwaukee's lakefront on the evening of August 6 and received a warm response from hundreds of cars driving by. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, nearly one hundred participants safely stayed 6-10 feet apart and wore masks. This was the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

All photos by Sue Ruggles.



Peace Billboard Gathering

Local peace activists joined Biden and Sanders Wisconsin delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee in front of the recent “Peace Billboard” erected by World Beyond War. The gathering hoped to influence the convention to support cutting the military budget and transfer funds to basic human needs.

In spite of the restrictions of the pandemic, dozens of people turned out with masks and social distancing. Organizer (and Peace Action member) Jim Carpenter is to be commended for his work in putting this event together.

All photos by Sue Ruggles.



PEACE CALENDAR

October/November 2020



Every Saturday - 12 noon - 1pm. Peace Action Stand for Peace. See schedule.

Thur. Oct. 8, Korea Peace Now! Special Zoom presentation. Speakers from the Korea Peace Network - Kevin Martin of National Peace Action and UWM Professor Nan Kim of Women Cross DMZ. Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin. 7pm.

Sun. Oct. 18, Spotlight on the UN at 75 - Online Go To Meeting with the UN Association of Greater Milwaukee. Keynote speaker Sheldon Lubar, brief history of UN, future of UN, panel discussion by Whitefish Bay High School Students Model UN. 2pm

Wed. Oct. 21, End the Wars Coalition meeting on Zoom. 7pm.

Tues. Oct. 27, Vets for Peace online meeting. Supporters welcome. 7pm. For link contact vfpcchapter2@gmail.com.

Tues. Nov. 3, ELECTION DAY. VOTE!!

Sat. Nov. 7, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in-person meeting, Alliance for Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe. 2pm.

Wed. Nov. 11, Armistice Day - Veteran's for Peace online Program. Featured speaker - David Swanson, executive director of World Beyond War. 7pm. More details to follow.

Wed. Nov. 18, End the Wars Coalition meeting on Zoom. 7pm.

Watch for our Peace Action email alerts with more upcoming on-line webinars and events.

Contact Us

Phone: 414-269-9525

E-mail: info@peaceactionwi.org

Website: peaceactionwi.org

[facebook.com/peaceactionwi](https://www.facebook.com/peaceactionwi)

Stand for Peace

Saturdays Noon-1 PM

October 3: Hawley/Bluemound

October 10: Michigan/Lincoln Memorial

October 17: 92nd/North

October 24: King/North

October 31: 76th/Layton

November 7: Capitol/Oakland

November 14: Howell/Howard

November 21: Sherman/North

November 28: Port Washington/Silver Spring

We are standing 6 feet apart and choose corners that do not have heavy pedestrian traffic.
Please wear a face mask.

2021 Peace Calendar is Here!

The latest Peace Calendar published annually by the Syracuse Cultural Workers has arrived at our office. You can purchase this ever-popular item by **picking it up in person** at our office (call ahead) or **order by phone** with your credit card. (414-269-9525) The phone orders will be mailed to you. Cost is \$15. Mailing cost is \$3. They make excellent presents!

Peace Activist Kevin Zeese Dies

A well-loved national figure in the peace movement, Kevin Zeese died suddenly on Sept. 6th. Peace Action Wisconsin was pleased to have Kevin as a special guest speaker this past year.

A lawyer, writer, strategist and organizer, Kevin was a pioneer in the movement to legalize marijuana, a staunch opponent of US imperialism, an ardent supporter of human rights and was arrested as one of the Venezuelan Embassy Defenders in Washington DC in 2019. Along with his partner Dr. Margaret Flowers, he was co-director of Popular Resistance website. At the time of his passing, Zeese was involved in the campaign against the attempt to extradite Julian Assange.

New Peace Activist!

Congratulations to our Peace Action Wisconsin Steering Committee member Sean O'Reilly and his wife Patricia on the recent birth of their daughter Lillian. May she be a wonderful peacemaker!

Thank you Volunteers

Dan O'Keefe

Dan has served as treasurer on our Steering Committee for the past few years and has given countless hours of his time and expertise to computer work in our office. He is now resigning to care for his wife. We are very grateful for his contributions to our organization.

Mobilizer Mailing Crew

Mary Alice Martines, Mary Laan, Babette Grunow, David Lindberg, Marsha Vila, Tom Niebler

Lanterns for Peace

Chris Breihan, Liz and Paul Host, Julie Enslow, Bruce Ware, Laura Kukor Shea, Mary Laan, Babette Grunow, Jim Carpenter, Tom Seery, Pam Richard

Stand for Peace

Laura Kukor Shea and Steve Shea for taking leadership and responsibility; thanks to all the faithful folks who come out weekly to take a stand for peace.

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.

If you are not receiving our *Peace Action Email Alerts* please email us your email address so you can keep in touch with current activities.

KOREA PEACE NOW!

Special Zoom Presentation

**Speakers from the Korea Peace Network
National Peace Action's Kevin Martin
& UWM Professor Nan Kim of Women Cross DMZ**

Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin

Peace Campaign to End the Korean War

The Korea Peace Network, coordinated by Peace Action President Kevin Martin, is a network comprised of peace, social justice, human rights, faith, veterans and Korean-American groups and individuals advocating peace on the Korean peninsula.

War with North Korea should be avoided at all costs. Even a limited military strike would likely lead to war with North Korea, which would imperil millions of lives in both North and South Korea.

Thursday, October 8, 2020

7 pm



Women Cross DMZ

On May 24, 2015 thirty women peacemakers from fifteen countries, including Nan Kim, crossed the De-Militarized Zone from North to South Korea on International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament. They held peace symposia with hundreds of Korean women in Pyongyang and Seoul and walked with 10,000 women to call world attention to the un-ended Korean war, unite families, and ensure women's leadership in the peace building process.

Peace Action Wisconsin
1001 E. Keefe Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

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DATED MATERIAL

Peace Action of Wisconsin
Annual Membership Meeting ON ZOOM!
Thursday, November 19

7 pm - Speaker and entertainment
Election of 2021 Steering Committee
Review of 2020 peace activities
Proposed plans for 2021



Watch for more details in a future Peace Action email alert.

Zoom meetings are easy and a vital replacement for in-person gatherings in this age of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you haven't been on a zoom meeting before, you can easily learn to do this. To help introduce you to Zoom with a brief training via your telephone and computer, contact George Martin at 414-745-5740. He's happy to get you started.