Remembering Motoko Huthwaite

Our dear friend and activist, Motoko Huthwaite, died peacefully on May 4, 2020, at the age of 92.

Motoko told her story of being identified as “the enemy” twice during World War II. First, she faced discrimination living in the U.S. and had to go to live in Japan. Then, given the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, she had to flee into a bomb shelter fearing for her life in Tokyo. And the Japanese saw her as an enemy due to her U.S. citizenship.

Motoko worked for the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Commission to preserve the works of art and cultural works during and after the war. She was one of the Monuments Women. She was the last living Monument Woman. She was active in children’s literature. She taught students from elementary school to the university level.

Motoko received a Peace Action of Michigan Lifetime Peacemaker award in 2017. A Monuments Men and Women tribute has captured the essence of our spirited member: “An active and joyous woman, Motoko stood as an example of the resiliency of the human spirit. Because she lived through some of the greatest horrors of the war between the United States and Japan, she remained a dauntless activist for peace.”

With a wide smile she would often remark, “War is Hell, but Peace is Wonderful!”

There will be a memorial service at Fort Street Presbyterian Church in the future. For information on memorial donations, please contact Doris Lippo at 734-284-3154, dlippo@gmail.com.

Stop the Nuclear Bomb Campaign, demonstrating twelve times against nuclear weapons production at the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She was a songwriter and singer in the Raging Grannies.

Motoko received a Congressional Gold Medal honoring the Monuments Men and Women tribute has captured the essence of our spirited member: “An active and joyous woman, Motoko stood as an example of the resiliency of the human spirit. Because she lived through some of the greatest horrors of the war between the United States and Japan, she remained a dauntless activist for peace.”

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Hiroshima 2020: 75 More Years of Terror?

Peace Action of Michigan is proud to present Professor Juan Cole on Zoom on Thursday, August 6, at 7 pm. The atomic bombing of Hiroshima ushered in 75 years of terror with MAD — Mutually Assured Destruction. What about the next 75 years? What can we do?

To join us, please send your email address to rjpeacock@wowway.com and we will send you an invitation.

Juan Cole is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of Informed Comment, a daily blog about foreign and national affairs that sheds light on how war, climate change and globalization are shaping our world. (“I make sure I read juancole.com every day,” says Rev. Rich Peacock.)

Cole is the Richard P. Mitchell Professor of History at the University of Michigan and an adjunct professor, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar. He is the author of many books, including Muhammad: Prophet of Peace.

Prof. Cole’s topic is, “Can Peace be restored with Iran? From the Nuclear Issue to Mideast Hegemony?” We must reverse Trump’s Nuclear Operations doctrine that shifts the U.S. military policy towards fighting and winning a nuclear war.

In 1985 Reagan and Gorbachev issued a joint statement: “A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.”

GOTV and You

Peace Action of Michigan’s Board of Directors believes in participatory democracy and that includes enabling every citizen to vote on November 3, 2020. Here are three ways to Get Out the Vote (GOTV):

1. Go to votefwd.org and download addresses and letters to irregular Michigan voters. Be sure they are from Michigan. Each letter has a space for a short paragraph about why you vote. Write the paragraph, stuff and address the envelopes, and mail them on October 7. That is the way research indicates we can increase voter participation.

2. Go to turnoutvpac.org, a Progressive Turn-Out Project, and follow the instructions.

3. Dan Butts shared this story with Peace Action’s Board of Directors, and the Board wanted you to read it. “Fortunately, my wife and I are doing okay financially during this pandemic. A lot of people are not in a similar situation. What my wife and I can do is share any financial support we get from the government. So, we are making significant donations to GOTV projects. We hope you will choose to do whatever you can.”

Send your Peace Action check to PAMI, P.O. Box 55, Washington, MI 48094-9998.

Questions for Candidates for Federal Offices

Call, write or talk to candidates for the Presidency, U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to ask two or three questions at a time.

1. Do you support reducing Pentagon spending by at least $200 billion annually, to a level still above our nation’s post-WWII average, so we can fund real investments in the Green New Deal?

2. Do you support a “No First Use” nuclear weapons policy (S. 200) where the U.S. would commit to never initiating a nuclear exchange (Stabenow co-sponsors S. 200)?

3. Do you support the U.S. entering the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which is supported by a majority of the world’s nations?

4. For the Presidency and Senate: Both the U.S. and Russia are in compliance with the New START nuclear treaty limiting each side to 1,550 deployed strategic nuclear weapons. Do you support extending the New START treaty, which expires in February, 2021, to ensure that the U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals are capped and inspected?

5. What would you do to prevent war with Iran? Do you support re-entering the Iran Nuclear Agreement and pursuing other diplomatic initiatives to address tensions with Iran?

6. Do you support an immediate and responsible withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan?

7. Do you support pursuing a peace agreement to formally end the Korean War as an essential step towards addressing concerns over North Korea’s nuclear weapons program?

8. Do you oppose the Israeli violations of Palestinian rights in the Palestinian Territories, and would you support measures to hold Israel accountable for those violations?

To Build a Powerful Peace Movement, We Need You Involved

• Visit our website; participate in our events advertised at peaceactionmich.org

• Send us your email address so we can send you invitations to events such as our upcoming Hiroshima 2020 and Action Alerts: rjpeacock@wowway.com

• Support us financially online; become a PAMI member: peaceactionmich.org

• A contribution of any amount makes you a member. You can also mail your gift to PAMI, P.O. Box 55, Washington, MI 48094-9998

Our Early Endorsements: Peters, Levin, Tlaib

Peace Action (National) has endorsed Senator Gary Peters and Representatives Andy Levin in the 9th District and Rashida Tlaib in the 13th District for re-election.

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Senator Peters voted for the Iran deal and advocated for the agreement’s remittance. He advocates the extension of the New START nuclear agreement with Russia to cap deployable nuclear warheads at 1,550. This treaty has been working with on-site inspections. Peters wanted to preserve President Reagan’s Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), and opposed the: new types of more usable, tactical nuclear weapons being introduced by the Trump administration.

Congressman Levin authored a bipartisan Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) Clarification Act to make it clear that there is no legislation that authorizes the use of force against Iran. He has written a bipartisan resolution to require that any national agreement that provides nuclear power technology to Saudi Arabia must also block the Saudis’ path to a nuclear weapon. In Levin’s first year he voted aligned with Peace Action’s positions 93% of the time.

Congresswoman Tlaib has worked in the U.S. House to end endless war and to use our taxes to meet human needs instead of excessive Pentagon spending. She has advanced the conversation on Palestinian rights and the U.S.-Israel relationship. Her progressive voice has garnered national attention.

Watch for additional endorsements by Peace Action of Michigan in early September.

Congress is Crucial, Call D.C.!

When our Senators and Representatives think about and vote on our endless wars, enormous Pentagon spending, and upgrading our nuclear arsenal, it is critical that they hear from Michigan’s voters. Call D.C. and don’t let the congressional staffers just sit by their phones.

Senator Gary Peters, 202-224-6221
Sen. Debbie Stabenow, 202-224-4822
Call Representatives for Congressional Districts:
1. Jack Bergman, 202-225-4735
2. Bill Huizenga, 202-225-4401
3. Justin Amash, 202-225-3831
4. John Moolenaar, 202-225-3561
5. Daniel Kildee, 202-225-3611
6. Frederick Upton, 202-225-4872
7. Elissa Slotkin, 202-225-4901
8. Andy Levin, 202-225-4901
9. Halcy Stevens, 202-225-8171
10. Debbie Dingell, 202-225-4071
11. Rashida Tlaib, 202-225-5128
12. Brenda Lawrence, 202-225-5802

PAMI endorses, left to right: Gary Peters, Andy Levin, Rashida Tlaib.