



May 2017

PASI NEWS

Newsletter of Peace Action of Staten Island, www.peacesi.org 718-989-2881

Inside:

- Nominee Statements 3
- Global Kid 4
- Donovan Meets PASI 5
- PASI Join & Volunteer 6

Calendar:

- **SAT. APRIL 29. People's Climate March** in DC and Staten Island! Story page 1.
- **THURS. MAY 4. 7-9 PM. Nuclear Famine.** Professor Alan Robock. **Goddard Riverside Community Center (Columbus & 88th St)**
- **SAT. MAY 6. 7 pm. BAIL REFORM FORUM** with Attorney Terrence Bogan, sponsored by BLM of Unitarian Church of SI, 312 Fillmore St.
- **SAT. MAY 13. 5 to 8 pm. PASI MEETING.** Unitarian Church of SI, 312 Fillmore St. Story page 1.
- **SAT. JUNE 17. Noon. Women March to Ban the Bomb.** Bryant Park in NYC. www.womenbanthebomb.org
- **SUN. JUNE 18. 1-5 PM. No Nukes! No War! No Walls! No Warming! Forum.** Brooklyn Friends Meeting House, 110 Schermerhorn St.



Join the People's Climate March

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Can't go to DC? You can march here at home!

Meet at NOON on the Boardwalk

Father Capodanno Blvd. and Lincoln Ave., Staten Island

On April 29th, Sustainable Staten Island, Move Forward Staten Island, and a broad coalition of labor unions, immigration rights groups, environmental justice and other community organizations, including Peace Action of Staten Island, from throughout New York City, will stand together in solidarity to demand climate action now on the federal, state and local levels. The Staten Island March will symbolically be held in an area heavily impacted by Super Storm Sandy in remembrance of the 53 New Yorkers who lost their lives during the storm.

If you can't make it to the national People's Climate March in DC, taking place the same day, please join the Staten Island People's Climate March on us on April 29th at 12pm at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Boardwalk on Staten Island.

Contact: Steve Lawton at Slawton74@gmail.com, 9176827049 or Julienne, at info@moveforward.nyc. For more info go to: <https://newyork.peoplesclimate.org/>.



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Next Steps at PASI's Meeting

Forum with Citizen's Climate Lobby

Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 5 to 8 PM

Unitarian Church of Staten Island

312 Fillmore St. (at Clinton Ave.)

After you have marched, take the next step, by joining Peace Action of Staten Island at its Saturday, May 13, 2017 general meeting to learn about the climate reality we face as citizens of the world.

Philip Kahn of Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) will be our speaker. He has worked in renewable energy and, in 2013, became active in CCL, citizensclimatelobby.org, a volunteer group dedicated to putting a national price on carbon pollution. Philip and other members of CCL in New York State are reaching out to state legislators in the pursuit of statewide action on climate mitigation and carbon pricing.

PASI will hold its annual election at this meeting also, in order to elect 2017-2018 officers and board members. Members in good standing are eligible to vote. Renew your membership or join PASI today at www.peacesi.org.

At the meeting, refreshments will be served, donated by members and participants. Everyone is welcome! For more information, email pasi.contact@gmail.com.

PASI Board Nominee Statements for May 13 Election

The PASI Board Election will take place at the annual meeting on Saturday, May 13th, 2017, 5 PM, at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island, 312 Fillmore Street. The PASI Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates to the membership at the meeting on April 1st, 2017. Tom Shcherbenko, an experienced activist, will be stepping up as PASI Chair, and will be supported by 2 Co-Chairs: Tatiana Arguello and Ashley Santangelo. Long-term board members David and Sally Jones and Dennis Dell'Angelo will be stepping down from the board but all three are committed to remain as active members. Four new board members will be joining with this election: Victoria Apostol-Marius, Emilie Clark, Godfrey Mack, and Danielle Yhap. Please contact pasi.contact@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to be sent a copy of the PASI Bylaws. To vote in the PASI Board election, you must be a member in good standing by paying your dues. Below are statements from the board candidates.

Tom Shcherbenko, Chair

Tom was an elected Bernie Sanders delegate. He served as President of the Staten Island Democratic Association, and is the Democratic Party District Leader for the 'northeast' section of Staten Island. Since 2014, he has been the borough's Political / Community Organizer for the New York State Nurses Association. Tom taught 6th grade in Brooklyn for twelve years, and prior to that was a computer programmer for twenty years. He has lived in Stapleton -- where he is on the board of the local civic group -- since 1997 with his wife, Liz Price, and a variety of children and cats. They have been members of PASI for over ten years.

Tatiana Arguello, Co-chair

Tatiana Arguello has been on the Peace Action of Staten Island board of directors for one year. In her second year, she hopes to continue to progress Peace Action of Staten Island's agenda. Tatiana is the director of SYEP (Summer Youth Employment Program) where she helps find more than 5,000 kids paid summer

internships and more than 500 kids jobs during the school year. She has recently brought a group of kids up to Albany to learn the importance of meeting with your representatives. Aside from working with our youth of the future, she is an advocate for her community and strongly believes Local is Global. Tatiana regularly attends community meetings and events in aims of making sure the discussion is what is best for the community. Peace demands Action so we must continue to strive on in our mission that "all human beings are assured the wherewithal to live in health and dignity, and no one is denied the opportunity to participate in making decisions that affect the common good".

Ashley Santangelo, Co-chair

Ashley is a new member to our board. She has been serving on PASI's Board of Directors since December of 2016 and has been a member of PASI since 2014. Ashley is a Licensed Social Worker and has been a supporter of the peace movement since 2002. Since moving to Staten Island in 2012, Ashley has been involved in various movements for social, economic and environmental justice and hopes to serve a co-chair of PASI

in the upcoming year.

John Lawrence, Secretary

John has been a board member since 2003. He has served as chairperson and secretary. He teaches psychology at the College of Staten Island. He has helped organize many talks and protests with Peace Action.

Delfina Vannucci, Treasurer

Now more than ever, voices for peace and non-violence, and against reckless militarism, are needed and essential to the work toward a more just world. Peace Action of Staten Island is a voice and an advocate for compassion and social justice in New York City's most right-leaning borough. I've been personally touched by the commitment to compassion and humanity of the people who make up PASI, expressed through their activism and kindness. I'm grateful to be able to take part in its activities.

PASI Board Nominee Statements for May 13 Election (continued)

At large:

Victoria Apostol-Marius

Victoria has a vast experience in organizing public events such as talks, protests and debates. She holds two Master's degrees, one in Gender Studies and second one in Human Rights with a specialization in International Justice. Victoria is originally from Moldova, and she moved to Staten Island in 2016. She works as a Coordinator within Women's Resource Center at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Victoria is interested to become a PASI board member because she identifies with PASI mission and she wants to get involved at local level through addressing social justice issues.

Eileen Bardel

Eileen Bardel was PASI Chair from 2011 to mid-2016, and, as a board member, has served in many capacities. She currently serves as the liaison with PASI's Global Kid interns.

Emilie Clark

Emilie lives and works on Staten Island where she brings the Global Kids education program to Curtis High School, creating a space where young people are encouraged to become active agents of social change. Before putting roots in the New York concrete, Emilie was working and studying around the world to understand how local solutions can change our global systems of social inequality. Emilie is a passionate social justice advocate who believes that global

peace building starts local and is fueled by the power of youth. She is a hopeful candidate to the Peace Action Staten Island Board of Directors.

Ilya Geller

Ilya has served on the PASI board since 2015. He is currently a graduate student at Hunter College and very active in Staten Island progressive causes.

David Poleshuck

I have been active in organizations fighting against wars of aggression and against racism for 56 years. PASI is an excellent local organization that leads that fight here on Staten Island. As U.S. imperialist wars continue, we must increase our opposition to them, not only against Trump and the Republicans but against the Democrats too. We must remember that on the weekend of the Peoples Climate March in 2014, Obama announced a TRILLION dollar update to U.S. nuclear weapons. Let us fight the continuous wars that the U.S. wages and funds. "WHEN THE LEADERS SPEAK OF PEACE: The common folk know, That war is coming. When the leaders curse war, The mobilization order is already written out." (by Berthold Brecht). Let us not trust any politicians: "We are the ones we are waiting for." I've retired from full-time work but never from activism.

Ghanim Khalil

Ghanim Khalil is a British born

Muslim of Pakistani descent, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and New York Army National Guard, a peace activist, a lover of the natural world, and a student of world history and religion. He spoke out publicly against the war on Iraq as a soldier in the massive antiwar rally in New York City on February 15th, 2003. Ghanim has been speaking out against Islamophobia and war since 9/11 in various colleges and universities, churches, and other spaces provided by peace and interfaith groups. He is a co-founder of the Islamic Civic Association of Staten Island, and a member of Peace Action Staten Island and Iraq Veterans Against the War. He is currently a resident of Staten Island, New York. Ghanim Khalil has been a Peace Action of Staten Island board member for a year.

Godfrey Mak

Godfrey is a lifelong Staten Islander. He has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Stony Brook University. He has attended PASI meetings, events, and demonstrations since November 2016.

Mike Santangelo

Michael has served on the PASI board for several years including one year as co-chair. He has served as MC at a number of PASI events. He has served as a PASI representative of Sustainable Staten Island. Michael cares about issues peripheral to peace such as

Board statements (cont'd)

climate change and sees the importance of different movements coming together.

Danielle Yhap

Danielle is a founding member of SIARAPB (Staten Island against racism and police brutality) originally a club formed at The College of Staten Island promoting social activism. SIARAPB has since branched into a community group opposing social injustices as well. Danielle has served as both secretary and vice president of SIARAPB, and has been instrumental in organization and event planning. Danielle graduated Cum Laude from CSI in 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. She now works in the foster care division of The Children's Aid Society, Staten Island. Since 2014, Danielle Yhap has been extremely active and vocal in her fight against social injustices, organizing and attending countless demonstrations and events in and around NYC. She values diversity and racial equality, and is passionate about speaking out against injustices such as police brutality and accountability, mass incarceration and poverty.



Meet Winneta Belle

PASI Intern with Global Kids

My name is Winneta Belle I'm currently a junior at Curtis High School. I'm a part of Global Kids, a nonprofit organization for global learning and youth development. I started with Global Kids my freshman year of high school and ever since it's been a wonderful experience.

Being with Global Kids helped me with a lot of my weaknesses and also gave me many great opportunities. I've learned that, no matter my age, I can make a difference and I have a voice to speak out about anything, especially about what's happening in the world today.

I am now an intern with Peace Action Staten Island (PASI). I chose to be apart of PASI because I believe it's the place I'm supposed to be, knowing that I'm eager to help with strategies that are affecting our everyday lives. Being with PASI makes me understand and work hard to better the situation even if it's by sharing information to those who don't know or working on a campaign, or taking part in walks or activities to help our community.



The Women's March to Ban the Bomb is a women-led initiative building on bringing together people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, races, abilities, nationalities, cultures, faiths, political affiliations and backgrounds to march and rally in New York City and around the world in support of negotiations taking place at the United Nations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.



Learn more:
www.womenbanthebomb.org



Call Today

Call the Capitol Switchboard and follow the prompts to be connected to your Representative: 202-224-3121. (Congressman Donovan's direct number is 202-225-3371.) Here's the script you can use to call your House Representative on the issues Peace Action will be taking to Congress on May 2nd in DC.

"Hi, my name is {your name} and I'm a constituent and a member of Peace Action. I'm calling because I'm concerned about the direction of U.S. foreign policy. As a concerned constituent, I'm asking my Representative to:

1. **Oppose the Administration's budget and reject it as a starting point for budget negotiations.** Defense spending is already 54% of our discretionary spending, and we're increasing that funding while cutting programs that don't offset those costs at all. The costs of just one F-35 jet would fund PBS for 159 years. We have to reject this budget.
2. **Oppose nuclear modernization and co-sponsor HR 669 The Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act.** Nuclear modernization costs \$1 trillion over 30 years. We already have over 6,000 nuclear weapons. We cannot use these weapons, they are too dangerous, and the threat of their use only escalates tensions with North Korea and Russia. We're the only country to use nuclear weapons in conflict, which is why we must now commit to never being the first to use nuclear weapons in conflict again.
3. **Oppose military escalation in Syria and Afghanistan.** War has never made anything easier on civilians. Only a diplomatic process can end suffering. We must urge all parties to resume peace talks.

Thank you for your time.

Donovan Noncommittal in PASI Meeting

On April 12, 2017, five members of PASI (Chair Mike Santangelo, and four board members: Tom Shcherbenko, Eileen Bardel, David Jones, and Dennis Dell Angelo) met with Congressman Dan Donovan and Communications Director Patrick Ryan at his offices in New Dorp.

The congressman was polite and willing to engage. He insisted that we call him "Danny" but he was mostly noncommittal to PASI's asks.

Tom Shcherbenko discussed the situation with North Korea, highlighting the gravity of a military stand-off and how every scenario involving military intervention is a losing scenario. President Trump, Tom argued, should make a deal with North Korea. Donovan acknowledged the dangers.

Dennis Dell Angelo lobbied for bringing the troops home from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and against military intervention in Syria. The Congressman did not seem committed to any of those things.

David Jones raised concerns about protecting immigrants and refugees and the fear that has taken hold of Staten Island's immigrant communities since Trump's inauguration, including in the West African community on Staten Island. The Congressman did not seem to grasp that David has native American ancestry as he stated that we are all immigrants including David. Donovan did say there was a need for immigration reform and that he would not support the deportation of undocumented people if their only crime was violating immigration laws.

Eileen Bardel talked about the excessive U.S. military budget that sucked government money out of programs for human needs, such as health care. She asked the Congressman to support HR 676, a bill for universal health care. The congressman did vote against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act however, but did not commit to supporting HR 676.

Mike Santangelo explained why Peace Action is committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons. He talked about the threat nuclear weapons pose to civilization, how expensive they are, and how they can never be used. He asked the congressman to oppose the proposed \$1 Trillion plan over the next 30 years to modernize our nuclear arsenal, which is really a new nuclear arms race. He also asked the congressman to support HR 1679 which limits first use of nuclear weapons. Mike reiterated PASI's position against military intervention in Syria. The congressman acknowledged the threat posed by nuclear weapons, but did not commit to opposing the weapons buildup.

PASI left Dan Donovan's office some materials on the issues. PASI members will get another chance to lobby their Representative in Washington DC on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, during Peace Action's

Peace Action of Staten Island

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PASI BOARD 2016-17

Acting Chair – Michael Santangelo

Secretary – John Lawrence
Treasurer – Delfina Vannucci

At-Large: Tatiana Arguello, Eileen Bardel, Dennis Dell'Angelo, Ilya Geller, Ghanim, Khalil, David Jones, Sally Jones, David Poleshuck, Tom Shcherbenko, Ashley Santangelo

Membership Coordinator:
Sylvia Zaage

Thank You for Joining or Renewing Your PASI Membership.

If you aren't a member yet or still need to renew, it's easy.

Membership form

We have a sliding scale membership. No member turned away.
Donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____
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Email _____

Contribution

___ \$26 (regular) ___ \$40 (family)
___ \$10 (senior, student, fixed)
___ Other _____

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___ Membership
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___ Fundraising
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Make check out to PASI and mail to address at left.

Pssst... You can save a stamp by joining online at www.peacesi.org

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PASI MEETING
SATURDAY, May 13,
5 - 8 PM

After the People's
Climate March...
NEXT STEPS

A PASI Forum with Philip Kahn of Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL)

Unitarian Church of Staten Island
312 Fillmore St. (at Clinton Ave.)

PASI Volunteer Opportunities

- **Flyering for PASI in Ferry Terminal.** Join the team that flyers at the ferry terminal. Email pasi.contact@gmail.com.
- **Table at Summer Events.** Join the team that tables at events this summer. Email pasi.contact@gmail.com.
- **Help with 2017 Make Food Not War Dinner.** Help plan our 2017 awards dinner. Email pasi.contact@gmail.com.
- **Help with membership growth and the newsletters.** Email pasi.contact@gmail.com.
- **Join PASI and get in the Loop of PASITALK** to stay current & share! Go to www.peacesi.org and select JOIN.