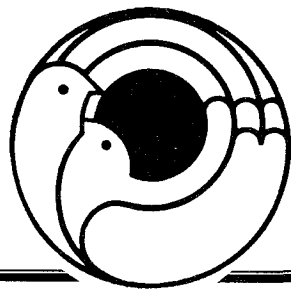


February-  
March  
2005



Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

vol.40 no.2

**Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern**

## ***Breaking the Cycle of Violence***

Double check your calendar to make sure you have Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, set aside for the Annual Dinner.

Our speakers this year experienced the horror and loss of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the subsequent "War on Terror" on a profound personal level. They will speak under the theme, "Speaking Out For Peace: Breaking the Cycle of Violence."

Bob McIlvaine's son, Bobby, was on the 106<sup>th</sup> floor of a building across the street from the twin towers when the planes struck. He was 26 years old, a Vice-President of Media Relations for Merrill Lynch. He was giving a presentation for them when he died.

Celeste Zappala's son, Sherwood Baker, died last year in Iraq. He was the first Pennsylvania National Guard person to be killed in war since 1945.

In struggling to come to terms with their grief, Bob and Celeste followed similar paths. Bob, who taught kids in an acute care psychiatric unit, linked up with 9-11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, made up of people who lost loved ones in the 9-11 attacks. They started in February 2002 with 12 people, and today have about 150 members. Peaceful Tomorrows is working to further an understanding of why the 9-11 tragedy happened, and to overcome the simplistic and dangerous good guys/bad guys thinking promoted by the Bush administration. Bob is on the steering committee of Peaceful Tomorrows and has done over 100 presentations. He says that it was his son, Bobby, who really got him thinking in political terms. When Bobby was a student at Princeton, he started a progressive student newspaper. He introduced his father to *Z Magazine*, and helped open Bob's eyes to a realistic, honest way of looking at world affairs.

Celeste Zappala is the mother of three sons, was a foster parent for over 30 years, and worked in a variety of charitable and civic causes. She is the head of the Mayor's Commission on Aging in Philadelphia.

Celeste was already a member of Gold Star Families for Peace when her son Sherwood was killed in Iraq. Her long history of peace activism includes demonstrating against the Vietnam war and participating in the Sanctuary movement and the Nuclear Freeze movement. She and Sherwood demonstrated together against the first Gulf War.

When Sherwood was killed in Iraq last year, she redoubled her activism and has since spoken out against this war in front of many groups and gatherings. She's looking forward to speaking at the Annual Dinner. "It's important to me," she said. "All my life I've been working for peace and social justice."

As always, the food at the Annual Dinner will be vegetarian -- always interesting, often remarkable.

The LEPOCO Peace Singers will perform, the Art Raffle (see enclosed tickets) will delight, and the results of the Steering Committee election (see ballot on page 4) will be announced.

We'll also be screening a brief film about local protest against the Iraq invasion and occupation made by Jim Schneider. This is a prelude to a longer documentary Jim was working on to commemorate LEPOCO's 40th anniversary. Sadly, Jim died February 4<sup>th</sup> -- an inestimable loss. (See article on page 3.)

Tickets for the dinner are \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door, and a \$40 support category for those who wish to make an additional contribution. Child and limited income tickets are \$6. (Childcare will be available for our younger peacemakers.) For those who wish to hear the speakers only, the cost is \$5. (See reservation coupon enclosed with this newsletter.)

- Mike Lawton

## **Help Say No to War & Occupation! Saturday, March 19, 2005**

**Join Local Vigils & a Rally on the  
Second Anniversary of the Start of the  
War in Iraq.**

Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition.

*Sign up to anchor a vigil in your town or neighborhood from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. (We hope to have a dozen or more local vigils.) Following the vigil join a Peace Rally, 2-4 pm, at Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem.*

# LEPOCO Art Raffle 2005

Thanks to Ray and Monica Sommerville for organizing the wonderful array of prizes for this year's LEPOCO Art Raffle. If you can use tickets beyond those enclosed with this newsletter, to sell or buy, just visit the Peace Center or call 610-691-8730. The drawing will be held at the Annual Dinner on March 5.

Hand-Turned Wooden Bowl by Lee Buck. Long-time LEPOCO member and area artist Lee Buck has donated a cherry hand-turned bowl made from wood from a neighbor's tree.

Raku Pottery by Tomas Wolff. This is a hand-coiled raku vessel with copper glaze. This pottery piece was influenced by the Native American pottery of the American Southwest where Tomas grew up. Tomas lives in Easton and has been an active supporter of the Art Raffle and LEPOCO for several years.

Quilted Checkerboard by Kathy Delhagen. Emmaus-based quilter Kathy Delhagen has donated a hand-quilted checkerboard. Kathy's work can be seen at "Out Of Our Hands" in Emmaus, where she is a co-owner. She often offers her art work for community benefit.

Shadow Box Sculpture by Frank Sabatino, Jr. This piece is a Neo-Primitive Abstract Exotic Wood Box, 5x7 inches. This is Frank's fourth contribution to the Art Raffle. He is a caseworker at the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley.

Wheel-Thrown Functional Pottery by Monica Sommerville. This is a stoneware coffee/tea carafe with matching cups glazed in matted blue and brown. Monica's work is available at "Out Of Our Hands" in Emmaus. A long-time LEPOCO member, Monica directs Congregations United for Neighborhood Action, an important community organization in Allentown.

\$25 Gift Certificate to Godfrey Daniels. The winner of this prize will enjoy an upcoming performance at Godfrey Daniels, our local café and listening club. Located at 7 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Bethlehem, Godfreys is one of the oldest folk music venues in the country.

## Weekly Peace Vigils

*Bethlehem*

4-5 pm, Thursdays

3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem

Contact: Maria Weick 610-346-8793

*Allentown*

Noon-1 pm, Fridays

Federal Courthouse, 5<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Sts.,

Contact: Rev. John Clint Fowler, 610-746-5013

*Easton*

10-11 am, Saturdays

Centre Square

Contact: Reggie Regrut, 908-859-5632

*Please attend as often as you are able!*



Photo by Jess Cuttic.

Students from Liberty High School hold the flag after they washed it last November 6. This creative and courageous action took place on the lawn at the school before the Liberty vs. Freedom football game in the nearby stadium. The Liberty students were following a tradition from the "Lava la Bandera" movement in Peru and more recently from students in Rhode Island (see "The Struggle Shared" in September 2004, LEPOCO Newsletter). For more information talk to Jess Cuttic or any of the other students in the Liberty High School Activist Club.

## Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

Bethlehem, PA 18015

phone: 610-691-8730

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The LEPOCO Newsletter is published 10 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a non-violent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

Annual dues are:

Regular Member . . . . . \$25

Limited Income Member . . . . . \$ 5

Household Membership . . . . . \$30

Supporting Member . . . . . \$50

Articles/news should be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month for use in the following month's newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: Ellen Buck, Peter Crownfield, Fran Dreisbach, Mike Lawton, Tom Lloyd, Bob Riggs, Brad Schultz, Tom Stinnett, Joan Stone, Nancy Tate, Marion Thorne, Jeff Vitelli, Hans Wuerth, and Ursula Wuerth.

Thanks to all the people who staple, fold and label the newsletter each month.

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Ellen Buck, Peter Crownfield, Annie Hasz, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Janet Ney, Sue Ravitz, Reggie Regrut, Nancy Tate (ex-officio), and Marion Thorne (co-treas.).

## Oral History Project on LEPOCO's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary —

Do you have memories of LEPOCO's years of activity in this community? We have a group of members who have organized to collect the oral history of LEPOCO. Suzanne Marshall, a historian and adjunct professor at Moravian College, will teach oral history techniques and direct the interview gathering process. Some LEPOCO student members led by Annie Hasz have volunteered their time to do interviews over the next year.

We invite anyone who would like to be trained to do interviews to join us. Our first Oral History Workshop will be February 20<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 pm. Please call for place and directions. Other workshops will be held as needed.

Most important, we ask that all the folks who have been involved with LEPOCO from the founding to the present think about past events and be prepared to take part in an interview session with one of our team of interviewers. Learning from the past will help to prepare us for the future. For more information contact Suzanne Marshall at 610-882-0769 or 610-625-7897 or at <marshall@moravian.edu>.

## Inauguration Day 2005

My trip to the 55<sup>th</sup> U. S. presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C., began at 3:47 am. My family, friends and I drove into Reading where a Beiber bus awaited us, organized by two wonderful women, Dorothy Reilley and Susan Scholl. On the bus full of activists of all ages, we pinned white ribbons to our coats and hats to represent peace and sported black armbands to show our protest.

Once in D.C., we walked to the line for the security checkpoint outside the inauguration parade route. This was a VERY long (and thick) line in which we waited for about three hours. But this time was not wasted. We broke out our protest signs, along with thousands of others and chanted loudly with cheers like, "Hey hey! Ho ho! George Bush has got to go!" There were many TV crews filming the action going on in the check-point line, and I was interviewed several times. When we reached the check-point after three hours, security police asked us to open our coats, take off our hats and frisked us down.

Making it into the parade route area, we ended up standing right along Pennsylvania Avenue in the area where A.N.S.W.E.R. had set up bleachers. Multiple snipers were situated on top of all the buildings surrounding us. There were two rows of policemen spaced every two feet all along the parade route on both sides of the street.

The actual inaugural parade started about an hour late. When Bush's limo went past, the roar around me was deafening. The crowd surged up against the barri-

ades, screaming with rage. I found tears in my eyes. I was so disappointed that the man for whom I had come to protest was surrounded by so much security, tinted windows, and rich supporters, that I could not even see him. This man will never hear my voice and the voices of others like mine. This is not democracy.

It was a refreshing experience, an enraging experience, a beautiful experience. Tears come to my eyes when I think of all the people surrounding me that day who made the same effort I did, to travel hours or days from their homes to express all the anger built up over the past four years. Everyone there was an individual affected by the Bush administration, an activist. My faith in America was energized. As long as there are thousands of people out there willing to stand out in the cold for hours warmed by nothing but their own boiling blood, I can never give up.

- Emily McGlynn

## A Memorial



Dr. Jim Schneider died on February 4<sup>th</sup>. He was LEPOCO's unofficial documentarian for many years, videotaping vigils, marches and sit-ins. He was a loyal supporter and dear friend of many LEPOCO members.

Jim taught media studies at Muhlenberg College. He organized many film festivals and other events at Muhlenberg and Cedar Crest Colleges. He was the leader of the media group in the Alliance for Sustainable Communities. He was an uncanny combination of learned professor, tireless peace activist, free speech advocate, and ardent supporter of the arts. He had an impish sense of humor that bubbled through his busy, teeming life.

Over 200 people attended a beautiful memorial service for Jim at Muhlenberg College on February 6<sup>th</sup>. It was organized, astonishingly, in less than two days by Jim's wife, Kathryn Hoffman, and friend, Greta Browne. The LEPOCO Peace Singers and a video produced by Jim about local peace activism against the Iraq war were part of the program. So many people were moved deeply as they heard others attest to Jim's special meaning in their lives.

A friend who'd come in from Wisconsin, whose friendship with Jim went back over 40 years, commented that she was a little taken aback -- she thought Jim was her special friend. The gathering laughed -- many of us were just thinking the same thought, realizing we were unaware of the full breadth and depth of Jim's life and work, and how deeply he had touched so many lives.

The philosopher George Santayana wrote, "There is no cure for birth and death, save to enjoy the interval." Jim knew the cure and enjoyed a full, committed life, right up to his passing.

- Mike Lawton

# Steering Committee Nominees, 2005

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, LEPOO members will launch the celebration of 40 years of work for peace and justice, and inaugurate our renewed resistance to the next four years of the Bush Administration's assaults on everything we stand for. We will also elect four members to the Steering Committee that will guide LEPOCO through these troubled times.

Of the four current Steering Committee members whose terms end this year, two have agreed to serve again. Reggie Regrut and Marion Thorne who have both served multiple terms, are passing the torch. They both leave indelible footprints on LEPOCO's path to peace, and we know they will keep on with us, bearing slightly lighter loads.

Annie Hasz, Peter Crownfield, Janet Ney and Susan Ravitz continue to serve in mid-term and with office staff as ex-officio members round out the Steering Committee.

Use the ballots included in this newsletter either by mailing it in advance of the dinner, or dropping it in the box when you arrive at the dinner. Feel free to write in the name of any other LEPOCO member who has agreed to serve. The following bio's are to inform your vote.

**ROBERT DANIELS:** His first encounter with LEPOCO was at the Riverfusion Festival in 2002. He has had a long-standing interest in Gandhian Pacifism, and was excited to find a group that puts these principals into action. He signed the "Pledge of Resistance to the War in Iraq" and reports that a highlight in his work with LEPOCO was the few hours he spent in jail with others arrested in Rep. Toomey's office at the beginning of "shock and awe." His Gandhian journey has taken him to Memphis, Tennessee, for the first U.S. Gandhi-an Nonviolent Conference in October 2004, and more recently to India to further walk the ground. Look for an upcoming Potluck & Politics on his trip.

**DAN ACKER:** Dan's initial involvement with LEPOCO was in the Americas Solidarity Group in the early 1990's. The high point of his LEPOCO career he

says, was meeting Fr. Roy Bourgeois of the School of the Americas Watch, at the airport, delivering him and introducing him as the Annual Dinner speaker in March 1999. As a member of the Fundraising Committee Dan has been a prominent presence at yard sales and bike/walk-a-thons. He and his wife Kris have contributed the flowers that grace our Annual Dinner tables for many years. Dan has agreed to take on the all-important task of co-treasurer.

**ELLEN BUCK:** Ellen is returning for a second term with the Steering Committee, having become active with LEPOCO at the beginning of the Iraq War, and jumping right in. She says that she enjoys knowing everything that's going on in LEPOCO, and is especially impressed by the range of people's ages. Ellen is always ready to staff a table, spruce up the office, share snacks at meetings, provide logistical support for those arrested at Toomey's office and...remember the cous-cous dish at last year's Annual Dinner? Wonder what she's cooking up this year. Ellen is the creator of many mini-fundraising projects for LEPOCO including the small felt purses with doves and peace dogs that raise dollars for the Buck Outreach Fund.

**JULIUS IWANTSCH:** Julius forgets how long he has served as one of LEPOCO's co-treasurers. (This will be his third term.) He spends many an off-hour dealing with taxes and bills at the Peace Center. He joined LEPOCO in the 1970s in the anti-nuclear fray. As co-treasurer he likes staying on top of LEPOCO's issues, and ponders the correlation between our numbers (membership and funds) and the state of the world. Julius appreciates that the treasury is a shared position, and also credits the support of office staff and the accounting system set up and maintained by Tom Stinnett for making a difficult job a lot easier.

- Jeff Vitelli

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## Election Ballot



### Co-Treasurers (vote for two)

Julius Iwantsch \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 years)

Dan Acker \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 years)

### At-Large Steering Committee Members (vote for two)

Robert Daniels \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 years)

Ellen Buck \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 years)

This ballot can be cast at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 5, 2005, by 6:00 pm, or by mail to arrive at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, by Friday, March 4, 2005.

# Bits & Pieces

☺ The Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition is still seeking people to commit to calling congressional representatives at least once a week until the end of the war and occupation in Iraq. The message would be simple (in your own words): "End the war. End the occupation. Bring our troops home." If you need copies of the Two Minutes for Peace Pledge for signing please call LEPOCO.

☺ Kirkridge is hosting a workshop on Empowered for Change: Nonviolence Training for Peacemaking led by Janet Chisholm of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Feb. 18-21. The cost is \$310. Call 610-588-1793 for more info.

## Popcorn & Politics Friday, March 11, 7pm Eating

A highly-recommended video about how meat and dairy products negatively impact our health, animals, and the environment. Len Frenkel of Lehigh Valley Vegetarians will be present to answer questions.  
LEPOCO Peace Center  
Bring a snack or beverage to share.

☺ A very energetic group of activist high school young people has been meeting for several months and they have just published their first newsletter. SECO (Social and Environmental Change Organization) members are eager to see the newsletter reach as many other local young people as possible. If you can help with this effort please call Annie Hasz 610-346-6891. LEPOCO has some copies available.

☺ Tim Chadwick and Robert Daniels will represent local peace groups at the second national conference of United for Peace Justice in St. Louis, Feb. 19-21.

☺ Oskar Castro, coordinator of AFSC's National Youth and Militarism Program will speak about issues of military recruiting in public schools at Richland Friends Meeting, Quakertown, Tues., March 8, at 7 pm. This program is open to the public, but parents, teachers, and students are especially encouraged to attend. A \$5 donation is suggested. Call Debra Taylor at 215-529-0668 for more info.

☺ Pinebrook Services for Children and Youth has a special need for foster parents. Please call Marianne Weber for further details at 610-432-3919.

☺ Marx in Soho, the play about Karl Marx, written by Howard Zinn, and performed locally by Bob Weick, will be presented at Noon, Tues., March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts in Bethlehem. The performance is a special one for the students, but members of the public are welcome if they call Diane Wagner, a teacher at the school, to make advance arrangements to attend. Call 610-868-2971.

LEPOCO held a theater party for a performance of this play last fall. Bob Weick gives an inspiring and challenging performance of this wonderful play. He is still seeking other venues for performances. Call him at 610-346-8793 for more info.

☺ Debra Torok, pianist and composer, will present Incite Hope, a narrated musical tribute to human rights on Sun., March 20, at 3 pm, at Foy Concert Hall, Moravian College, Main & Church Sts., Bethlehem. Dr. William Schulz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA will also speak. Tickets are \$30 regular and \$15 for students, senior citizens and Amnesty members. Call 610-861-1650 for tickets.

☺ SOA Watch will hold their legislative trainings and lobby day in Washington, DC, Feb. 21-22. For more info. on this important part of the effort to close the School of the Americas (WHINSEC) call 202-234-3440 or see [www.soa.org](http://www.soa.org).

☺ Bruce Davidson's Time of Change: Civil Rights Photographs, 1961-1965 are on exhibit in the Williams Center Art Gallery at Lafayette College through March 22. Bruce Davidson will speak at the Center, Rm. 108, on Thurs., Feb. 24, at 4 pm. Call 610-330-5361 for more info.

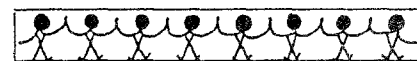
Save the Date!  
*Local Peace Conference*  
Saturday, April 9, 9:30-6 pm  
Unitarian Universalist Church-Lehigh Valley  
Bethlehem  
*Featured Speakers:*  
Paul Loeb, author  
Fr. John Dear, author & peace activist

☺ Moravian College is sponsoring a series of programs on human rights during March. The first two of the five program are described here.

On Tues., March 15, at 7:30 pm, Naomi Tutu, daughter of Desmond Tutu of South Africa, will speak on "Striving for Justice: Searching for Common Ground."

On Thurs., March 17, at 7:30 pm, a panel of local experts will speak about domestic human rights issues: women's rights, gay/lesbian rights, children's rights, and minority youth and the justice system.

☺ In March IFCO/Pastors for Peace is organizing a humanitarian aid caravan to Chiapas, Mexico, in support of communities and non-governmental organizations that are working for peace with justice and dignity. They will provide emergency relief aid for over 20,000 indigenous people who are enduring a protracted military presence in their communities. The caravan will increase the international presence in Chiapas, which will help to dissuade Mexican soldiers and privately funded paramilitary groups from committing human rights abuses against the indigenous people of Chiapas. For more info. call 212-926-5757 or see [www.pastorsforpeace.org](http://www.pastorsforpeace.org).





# LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015  
(610) 691-8730

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 pm 13 LEPOCO Peace Singers Meet at Tom Carlin's home. Call 610-974-8199.	7 pm 14 LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting. Everyone welcome! 6 pm Planning Meeting for Haiti Solidarity Week	7 pm 15 LEPOCO 40th Anniversary Committee Meeting	6 pm 16 Nuclear Abolition Sisters Meeting at Olive Branch Restaurant	17    Weekly PEACE VIGIL, Bethlehem (see p.2)	Feb. 18-21 18 Nonviolence Training at Kirkridge (see p.5)	5:30 pm 19 Trial Dinner for March 5 Feb 19-21 United For Peace & Justice Conf. St. Louis
3 pm 20 Oral History Workshop led by Suzanne Marshall (see p.3 for location info.)	Feb. 21-22 21 SOA Lobby Days, Washington, DC (see p.5)	7 pm 22 Youth & Militarism Group Meeting	23	24   Weekly PEACE VIGIL, Allentown (see p.2)	25    Weekly PEACE VIGIL, Easton (see p.2)	26
7 pm 27 LEPOCO Peace Singers meet. Location TBA.	28	1 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Begins	2	3 Every Thursday, 4 to 5 pm: Weekly PEACE VIGIL, Bethlehem (see p.2)	4   Weekly PEACE VIGIL, Easton (see p.2)	5 5:15 pm LEPOCO ANNUAL DINNER (see p.1 & insert)
6	7 pm 7 LEPOCO Steering Committee Meeting	7 pm 8 Oskar Castro on Military Recruiting, Quakertown (see p.5)	8:30 am 9 Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing Meeting	10 Every Thursday, 4 to 5 pm: Weekly PEACE VIGIL, Bethlehem (see p.2)	7 pm 11 Popcorn & Politics: with the video "Eating" (see p.5)	12 Every Saturday, 10-11 am: Weekly PEACE VIGIL, Easton (see p.2)

All meetings and events listed above will be held at the LEPOCO Peace Center (313 West 4<sup>th</sup> St., southside Bethlehem), unless noted otherwise.