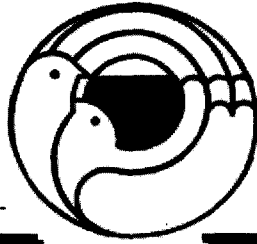


January
2012

Vol. 47 No. 1



Newsletter of **LEPOCO**
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

Wars Do Not End

*Some stood and stood and stood.
They were taken for fools,
they were taken for being taken in.*

From "Some," a poem by Daniel Berrigan

As U.S. troops have been withdrawn from Iraq, is it time to recall how we stood? Maybe we did not stand as firmly as the Plowshares 8 to whom Berrigan dedicated his "Some" poem, but we did stand and stand and stand. We stood in dozens of vigils before the war and weekly vigils in our three cities for many years of the war. Before the war we stood by the hundreds Speaking Out for Peace in Bethlehem on February 8th (Barbara Lloyd quoted Howard Zinn, "There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people").

On February 15, 2003, we stood with thousands in New York City (five Lehigh Valley busloads) among the upwards of 20 million gathered worldwide -- the largest action for peace in history. We stood and marched in the rain after the war started and stood by sitting-in at then-Rep. Toomey's office the next day. Nine of us stood again, sitting-in at Rep. Dent's office in 2006. We stood and marched by the thousands in DC and NYC, at least seven times between 2003 and 2007.

In the hundreds, we stood with candles in a Bethlehem park in October 2005, sad that 2000 soldiers had already died. (Why did reporters not find it worth a story?) We stood each anniversary of the war in towns and cities throughout the valley. We stood with the empty army boots representing soldiers who would not come home. We stood and read the names of those who had died (U.S. and Iraqi).

We stood knowing that we had stood before as a war of bombs was launched against Iraq in 1990 and as a war of sanctions against Iraqi civilians continued through the 1990s.

We stood knowing we could never stand enough until war ends. We will stand again to end the war in Afghanistan; the wars fought with drones; the wars robbing poor and working people everywhere.

*War will not end when the guns are silent.
Violence can never lead to peace.*

- From "A War Never Really Ends,"
FOR Religious Peace Fellowship Statement 2003

How do we know the war in Iraq has not truly ended? What is the evidence that the silence of our guns has not produced a season of peace?

++ Mary Trotochaud, at an AFSC program on 12/28/11, spoke about Iraq in 2003 - a country in ruins;

(continued on page 8)

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 11, 2012, 1 pm

March to Bring Troops and War Dollars

Home From Around the World!

Honoring Dr. King's Call to End War

Starting at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King Statue, at the intersection of Union St., S. 4th St., and Martin Luther King Blvd., Allentown

Followed by screening of *MLK: A Call to Conscience*, A Tavis Smiley Special Report, about King's Riverside Church speech, "A Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam"

CIA Analyst Turned Peace Activist to Speak at Annual Dinner

On Saturday, March 3rd, 2012, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, LEPOCO will hold its Annual Dinner featuring former CIA analyst and current anti-war activist Ray McGovern as our featured speaker.

Ray came from his native New York City to Washington, D.C., in the early sixties as an Army infantry/intelligence officer and then served as a CIA analyst in the Kennedy administration. He continued in that position through the George H. W. Bush administration when his duties included chairing National Intelligence Estimates and preparing the President's Daily Brief.

In January 2003, Ray helped create Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) to expose the way intelligence was being falsified to "justify" war on Iraq. In response to Secretary of State Colin Powell's misleading briefing to the UN Security Council, VIPS sent an urgent memorandum to President George W. Bush, warning against "those advisers clearly bent on a war for which we see no compelling reason and from which we believe the unintended consequences are likely to be catastrophic."

As an act of conscience, on March 2, 2006, Ray returned the Intelligence Commendation Medallion given him at retirement for "especially meritorious service," explaining, "I do not want to be associated, however remotely, with an agency engaged in torture."

On May 4, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia, Ray made national news by confronting then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on live TV with pointed questions

(continued on page 5)

My Day at the SOA_____

Finally. After learning about the SOA Watch from Fr. Roy Bourgeois in the late 1990s at the LEPOCO Annual Dinner, I managed the trip to Georgia this year. The School of the Americas, now named the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, is located at Ft. Benning, on the border of Alabama. In essence, my trip was a pilgrimage – a promise I made as a teenager, when I first learned of the School in Panama – to help restore the America I believe in, based on equality, justice and inalienable Rights.

The I-185 entrance to Ft. Benning, a very impressive bridge, with 50-foot pillars at the four corners of the bridge, topped with bronze and steel bald eagles with 12-foot wingspans, sparkled in the early morning sun as we exited to “Occupy” Ft. Benning. The ten 20-foot fountains shimmered in the rear-view mirror as the car drove away from the stop light.

I wasn't sure how far to drive before I came to the Stone Gate, but the presence of massive numbers of police was a hint. The sign before I entered the road leading to the gate implored me not to bring many things – including a handkerchief – but after reading the sign for about five minutes (it was *very* detailed) I concluded that I had none of the illegal items in my bag and proceeded through the gauntlet of police/sheriff/marshal presence. Surprisingly, no one checked my bag. Pretty much, I was ignored as I walked past the saw-horses blocking the roadway to cars.

Many of the people who were to be at the rally on Saturday afternoon were still at the Columbus Convention Center attending workshops that morning. Still, there were about 500 people at the gate with me, staffing tables and making sure the sound system was working well. I wondered how much our presence was inconveniencing the residents living on the street we were occupying until I smelled pork roasting. Coffee, water, veggie burgers, potato salad, roast beef, pulled pork and more – all were being offered to us from the front yards near the gate (for a price).

At 11:30, musicians on the stage welcomed those attending with a song in the LEPOCO's Peace Singers repertoire: *Open the Window, let the Dove fly in*. Important words, upbeat rhythm -- can't let the pall of death drain our energy. We've got work to do. Music was interspersed throughout the day. Rally. Get Fired Up!

Fr. Bourgeois welcomed the group to the 22nd SOA Watch Vigil. As he began speaking, an announcement was broadcast from loudspeakers from inside Ft. Benning. I only heard portions of the announcement. The police, stood on each side of the road (one about every 20 feet, totaling around 200), sandwiching the “Occupiers” in the middle. The printed program listed all the speakers and musicians for the afternoon; there was no plan to enter the base on this day. A helicopter flew overhead. What is happening? I look at those around me – seasoned veterans of this annual attempt to shut down the

School of Assassins. They look unconcerned. Yet, I sought out a Green Hat (legal observer) to see what my rights were. (The irony of this did not escape me -- outside the gates I had rights and legal aid while inside the gates Latin Americans were being trained to deny the human rights of their own people.)

Standing at the gate, behind the stage, you would be able to hear the Ft. Benning announcement, my Green Hat told me. It was saying that if I attempted to enter the base, I would be under violation of Title 18 USC 1382 -- a warning from the Army not to enter the base. As far as the Columbus police presence -- there was no guarantee that the police wouldn't attempt to use their massive presence to harass us.

So, let me get this straight -- the Columbus, Georgia, police department is in charge of protecting the U.S. Army. WHAT?!

As the afternoon progressed, more people came to the rally -- people rolled by in their wheelchairs or determinedly inched by with their walkers. Veterans, college students, professors, union workers, nuns, babies, the undocumented – the road leading to the Stone Gate was a sea of America. I wanted to plead with the police, “Don't you know -- you and I -- we're part of the 99%? Come on this side of the barrier and join us.” Perhaps there were 2000 people at the rally with me in Georgia.

Every 17 minutes “The Announcement” came from the base. Every 20 minutes a helicopter flew overhead.

(Continued on page 6)

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

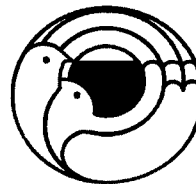
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The LEPOCO Newsletter is published 8 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a nonviolent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

Annual dues are:

Regular Member	\$35
Limited Income Member	\$ 5
Household Membership	\$45
Supporting Member	\$75

Articles/news should be submitted to the address above for consideration for the next issue of the newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: robert Daniels II, Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Jeff Vitelli.

Thanks to all the people who collate and prepare the newsletter for mailing each month.

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Addison Bross, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Becky Irwin, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Ruth Karpinski, Mimi Lang, Janet Ney, Kelly Quain, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), Ruth Walden.

Popcorn / Potluck & Politics

Sunday, January 22nd, 2012, 6 pm

Pastor Samantha Lioi: "Justice & Peacemaking in Colombia"

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Samantha Lioi joined a Christian Peacemaker Team delegation to Colombia in July. The delegation visited with human rights workers in northeast Antioquia - lawyer collectives, campesino organizations, farmers and small scale miners. They were focusing on land rights and those resisting displacement due to transnational corporations trying to set up large-scale gold mining in the area. Christian Peacemakers have been working in Colombia since 2002 and see their work, including this delegation as partnering with the people of Colombia in their work for justice and peace.

Samantha Lioi is the associate pastor at Whitehall Mennonite Church.

Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6 pm.

The presentation and discussion should begin around 6:45 pm.

Friday, February 3rd, 2012, 7pm:

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin

A Popcorn & Politics Film projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Documentary chronicles the life of the openly gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who, among many contributions to the cause, is best known for organizing the 1963 March on Washington.

Directed by Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer. 83 minutes. 2003.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, February 17th, 2012, 6:30 pm

Jennifer Melis: "A Student Observes the Egyptian Spring"

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Jennifer Melis, a senior at Muhlenberg College, will report on her early 2011 experience as an exchange student in Egypt. She arrived just five days prior to the start of the Egyptian uprising and stayed for her program at the American University in Cairo, rather than flee to another country, as many exchange students did. She will present pictures and stories that document what she witnessed from the demonstrations that led to the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak to the transitions that Egypt faced during the five months that followed.

Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6:30 pm.

The presentation and discussion should begin around 7:15 pm.

Please Note: *There will be no Popcorn & Politics First Friday Film in March since the Annual Dinner will be held the weekend that the film would normally be shown.*

LEPOCO Book Group

What has been the First Wednesday Book Group did not meet in January because several members of the group were traveling. The group is morphing into the First Tuesday Book Group with meetings and books scheduled for the next three months. Their discussions will still be held at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. To learn more please call Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

On Tuesday, February 7th, the group will discuss *Honest Patriots: Loving a Country Enough to Remember Its Misdeeds*, by Donald Shriver (2008). Shriver, a theologian and ethicist, argues that failure to acknow-

ledge the morally negative events in our nation's past, damages the health of our society.

In March they will discuss *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain*, by Lynne Olson (2010), on Tuesday, the 6th. This is the story of the WW II alliance between the U.S. and Britain from the perspective of Edward R. Murrow, Averell Harriman and John Gilbert Winant.

On Tuesday, April 3rd, they will discuss *Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence* by Christian Parenti (2011). Parenti, an investigative journalist, travels to the front lines of climate change and finds failed states, climatic disasters, and the unsettling presence of Western military forces.



Veterans For Peace Report

On November 11, the Lehigh Valley Chapter 152 of Veterans For Peace held a Veterans' Day observance at Rose Garden Park in Bethlehem. On hand were approximately twenty members of Veterans For Peace and friends from LEPOCO. Once again the focus of the event was the display of simulated tombstones bearing the names of service people from Pennsylvania who have been killed while on duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. Shortly before noon those present gathered to read aloud those names. Television 69 News was present to record that part of the observance. An infusion of support and energy was provided by the afternoon arrival of about a dozen individuals who were participating in the Occupy Bethlehem action. Overall response from passersby was generally positive, including peace signs flashed by students who were departing the school located across the street. Hope persists that in the near future there will no longer be a need to add more tombstones with more names to the display.

Note is taken of the recent organization of the Berks Chapter 165, Veterans For Peace. Chapter meetings are being held at noon on the second Saturday of the month at the Hope Lutheran Church, 601 North Front Street, Reading. Further information may be obtained by contacting Louise Legun at 484-248-6113 or 484-553-9476 and Jim Keller at 484-769-8491. The Lehigh Valley Chapter meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm, at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

- Paul Fichter

Delaware River Update

To the delight of environmentalists, river-lovers and water-drinkers, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) meeting, scheduled for November 21, was canceled and has not been rescheduled. It was a meeting that would have decided the future of the Delaware River, "the most threatened river in the US."

There is some conjecture about exactly why the meeting was canceled. Large numbers of supporters of maintaining a moratorium on gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin were planning a demonstration at the meeting. The DRBC thought that a majority of the five votes to make the decision were in favor of lifting the moratorium. However, a few days before the event, Governors Markell of Delaware and Cumo of New York said they would vote to keep the moratorium. That left the deciding vote to President Obama who is advised by the Army Corps of Engineers. Perhaps it was not politically expedient for the president to make the decision at this time.

Delaware River lovers were mildly elated with the outcome. The more time drilling is delayed, the better the health of the river. But anti-fracking activists continue their work since the State of Pennsylvania is marked to become the gas-drilling capital of the world!

Daily reports of problems with gas well drilling abound. Wells and other water sources are contaminated. Air is polluted. Roads are ruined. Gas companies tell lies. The rural flavor of the countryside is destroyed. The Pennsylvania House and Senate, under the influence of the gas lobby, are trying to pass laws denying local government rights to regulate drilling in exchange for an impact fee.

At a recent conference for the Engineering Department at Lehigh University, a panel of experts offered three hours of suggestions and advice about how the University might participate in research related to the gas industry. The most outspoken person on the panel was Terry Englander, a professor at Penn State who is a strong advocate of drilling. Dr. Englander treats the option of a moratorium until further research is completed as ridiculous. He says that research can only be done while drilling is happening.

Information from the conference from a non-engineering perspective included:

- Pennsylvania is a guinea pig for other states and countries that have moratoriums.
- All drilling causes mini-earthquakes.
- All fracturing is unpredictable.
- Pennsylvania has huge amounts of gas but not enough pipelines to get it to where it is needed.
- Sufficient pipelines cannot be built in a timely fashion to support the interests of investors.
- Almost all research about fracturing is sponsored by the gas companies. The EPA is doing a little of it.
- Pennsylvania will not wait for the current EPA study to be complete
- The CEO of UGI, a panel member, begged Lehigh to find ways to use gas for all energy needs so more of Pennsylvania's gas can stay in this state.

Lehigh University will hold another conference in March that will be open to comments from the community.

- Mimi Lang

Support LEPOCO!

Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$_____.
(\$35 individual; \$45 hh; \$75 supporter; \$5 lim. income)

I am also enclosing an extra donation of \$_____.

I would like to support LEPOCO's work with a
__monthly/__quarterly pledge of \$_____.

I'm interested in the following issues: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Return to: LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.

My Day at the SOA _____

(continued from page 2)

Over and over again I heard the same message from the singers, presenters, and T-shirts that people wore -- We Are All One. And, we are making a difference. "In Costa Rica, there is no army. We have money for schools and to take care of the people." They have shown us how to live without militarization -- let us learn from them. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers has gotten nine companies to agree to pay their tomato pickers an extra penny a pound. Let us help them get supermarket chains to agree to this, too. In Chile, the students took over the Senate to get legislation passed - what about U.S. students? Edward Dubois of the Georgia NAACP attended as a promise to Troy Davis, "Speak out against any system that takes innocent life!" From Honduras: "We are always being photographed; you have the same system here, the same fear. We have chosen life; the life of the planet, the life of the people. We must work together." The Zuccotti Park song, *You Don't Know What Our Demands Are* mocked the 1% who are blind to the poverty around them. UAW T-shirts were seen everywhere: "Stop Killing our Brothers and Sisters. Close the SOA." *Together We Are Union*, we sang. We are many voices; we are one.

Reminding us of why we were there, speakers informed us that the specter of the SOA still dominates Latin American life. The newly elected president of Guatemala is a graduate of the SOA -- how afraid should Guatemalans be? Haitian children are forced, by graduates of the SOA, to rape their mothers. A brother was murdered, by graduates of the SOA, in the drug war in Mexico. There has been an increase in femicide since the SOA-led coup of the Honduran government. The primary targets of SOA trained military -- union organizers -- are clearly identified in SOA training manuals. A nation dedicated to liberty and justice should not be exporting death and fear. This school must close.

Fr. Roy ended the rally with these thoughts:

-- Over 300 people have gone to prison over the years by crossing the line to get into Ft. Benning (including Joe DeRaymond and Art Landis, both now deceased, from our local peace community).

-- This has made a great impression on the leaders in countries which send their military to the SOA. Four countries have agreed not to send their people to the SOA anymore because U.S. citizens are willing to go to jail to close this school.

-- SOA Watch has gone to 17 countries to ask them to stop sending their military to the SOA.

-- Latin Americans know we are here to express our solidarity with them. We Are One America.

The "puppetistas" surrounded us as we left the rally: Earth, Fire, Air, Water -- we are Occupiers of the Universe. We are in unity.

As I drove to the Convention Center in Columbus after the rally, I saw a city that is devastatingly poor.

The paved roads are in such a state of disrepair that it takes intense concentration to drive them. Empty businesses abound. Contrasting the ostentatious I-185 Gate to the crumbling infrastructure of Columbus, the message I received loud and clear was that the pursuit of happiness is no longer considered a self-evident Truth. Some in the U.S. are more equal than others. The dark place inside Ft. Benning called the SOA has fractured the integrity of what the soldiers there feel they are protecting.

In a tiny way, I've helped restore that America of my dreams. I signed a post card to ask Congressman Dent to co-sponsor HR-3368 to suspend operations and investigate the SOA/WHINSEC. I promised to stop drinking Coke. But more importantly, I heard stories from people directly affected by the SOA and used my body, *My Presence*, to support an action to make all our lives better. Those stories are now part of me.

- Sheila Clever

Witnessing on the Christmas Peace Pilgrimage _____

Approximately 150 enthusiastic peace marchers turned out to begin the fifty-second ten-mile Christmas Peace pilgrimage from Nazareth to Bethlehem, on Saturday, the tenth of December. The weather was perfect for walking. As usual there were all ages represented. There were babies in strollers, and Paul Wikerd, aged 91 (who walked the 10 miles as he has for many years), and every age in between.

When questioned about their reasons for coming, many spoke of it becoming a tradition that has become for them an important part of celebrating Christmas. This includes three grandchildren of Bob Uhler, who were keeping the family tradition. Uhler is credited with being the founder of the event. One teenager joking as to why he came, said his parents dragged him there, but quickly admitted the real reason was because he wants to carry the big star, which he has done now for three years.

Upon reaching the city, the marchers, carrying candles and lanterns gathered on the steps of the Central Moravian Church for the traditional litany, including singing Christmas hymns, before walking to their final destination at Christ UCC Church on Market Street. There, hot soup and sandwiches awaited the tired and hungry marchers.

During the evening program, marchers were favored with several rousing numbers by the LEPOCO Peace Singers. The speaker for the evening, Kelly Denton-Borhaug sounded a strong call for people in the U.S. to become aware of how the military has penetrated every facet of our lives. She particularly pointed out the way military thinking has become tied to religion. The statement, "Jesus died for your sins, Our fighting men died for your freedom," is an example. Her book, "US War Culture, Sacrifice and Salvation," is coming out soon.

- Urbane Byler

CIA Analyst Turned Peace Activist to Speak at Annual Dinner

(continued from page 1)

like: "Why did you lie to get us into a war that was not necessary and that has caused these kinds of casualties?" Shortly thereafter, on a very hot July evening, Mr. McGovern gave a speech to a capacity crowd at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley.

During a speech by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last February 16th, at George Washington University, Ray stood silently with his back turned during her remarks, leading to his arrest. Several months later, Ray McGovern was aboard the U.S. boat, "Audacity of Hope," part of the second Freedom Flotilla to Gaza, an international humanitarian effort to aid Palestinians. The boat was prevented from sailing by the Greek coast guard. Ray joined protests outside the U.S. Embassy in Athens and participated in a hunger strike.

Mr. McGovern has been very supportive of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, and has participated in the campaign to free Bradley Manning, the U.S. Army intelligence analyst suspected of disclosing more than 260,000 U.S. diplomatic cables, plus over 90,000 intelligence reports on the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

Fluent in Russian, German, and Spanish, Ray McGovern holds an M.A. in Russian from Fordham University and a Certificate in Theological Studies from Georgetown. He is also a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

Ray's opinion pieces have appeared in many leading newspapers here and abroad. His writings regularly appear at www.ConsortiumNews.com. McGovern currently works with Tell the Word, a publishing arm of the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in inner-city Washington, D.C.

- robert Daniels II

Annual Dinner Tickets:

\$30 - Regular Adult; \$75 - Special Supporter;

\$10 - Limited Income Adult / Child;

\$10 - Program-only, regular; \$5 - Program-only, limited income

Dinner tickets by advance reservation only.

Program-only tickets available at the door.

Return Coupon

LEPOCO Annual Dinner: Saturday, March 3, 2012

Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity

321 Wyandotte St., south Bethlehem

(Pre-dinner music at 5 pm; Dinner at 5:30 pm)

Enclosed is \$ _____. Please reserve _____ tickets for:

Name _____ Phone _____

_____ Mail tickets to:

Address _____ Zip _____

_____ Hold tickets at door.

Return to: LEPOCO, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015,
before 5 pm, Tuesday, February 28, 2012.

Election Observers Going to El Salvador

Sarah Snider of Freemansburg and Mike DePaolo of Bethlehem, will join the CIS (Centro Intercambio y Solidaridad) International Election Observer Mission to El Salvador, March 5-13, 2012. They will be accompanying the mayoral and legislative assembly election in that country to strengthen transparency in the election process and to promote people-to-people solidarity. Their important effort is being supported by the Americas Solidarity Group (ASG) of LEPOCO. You are invited to a Sunday afternoon ASG reception on February 12, at 4 pm, at the home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem. Donations will be accepted to help cover the expenses of their trip. Please call 610-691-8730 for more information.

Steering Committee Election March 2012 —

The Annual Meeting of LEPOCO will take place at the Annual Dinner on March 3, 2012. At that time, we will elect new members of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee conducts the affairs of LEPOCO between Action Meetings and plans the programs and campaigns of the organization. The work is essential to the vision of LEPOCO.

Two years ago, we increased the size of the Steering Committee. At this year's meeting, we will elect a co-treasurer and seven members of the Committee.

Please volunteer to serve or advise us of your recommendations of people who might serve.

- Janet Ney, Steering Committee member

Martin Luther King Jr. Observances —

As you receive this many King Holiday events will have passed. It is significant to note that in Newark, NJ, their event on January 14, a Rally for Jobs, Peace, Equality and Justice, was part of 381 days of protest for economic justice remembering Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The effort was organized by the Peoples Organization for Progress.

As in past years observances of the holiday extend into late January as colleges return from their winter breaks and even into Black History Month.

On Friday, January 20, Moravian Academy will host a talk by Dr. Leon Bass, a Buchenwald Nazi Concentration Camp liberator and Civil Rights activist, at 6 pm, at 4313 Green Pond Rd., Bethlehem. For complimentary tickets call 610-691-1600 x367.

Muhlenberg College will hold a Martin Luther King Jr. Week, January 22-26, under the theme, "A Legacy Unfinished." The week will open with a keynote speech by Roberta Meek, Muhlenberg lecturer, jazz vocalist, and Peace Camp leader, on Sunday, the 22nd, at 2 pm, in the Miller Forum, Moyer Hall, at the college, Allentown. Events are free and open to the public.

Please also see the information on page 1 of this newsletter about the LEPOCO event on Saturday, February 11th, in Allentown.

The Struggle Shared

...in the name of justice for the men at Guantanamo I have been pushed to do things I would have thought laughable, and terrifying. To walk far, and sleep on the ground, to go without food for days at a time, to court a big fine and possible jail time by flying to Cuba, to speak before thousands of people, to get arrested at the Federal Court, the Supreme Court, the Capitol, the White House, to stay up late and get up early, and walk around in a decidedly unflattering orange jumpsuit in the January snow and July humidity. Because I have found an amazing community of people to work and struggle and weep and laugh with. Because no one is free when others are oppressed and shutting ears and eyes and hearts is not an option.

- Frida Berrigan, www.wagingnonviolence.org, December 2, 2011

RETURN TO GUANTANAMO -

January 11th marked 10 years of unlawful detention and torture for prisoners at Guantanamo. Right after the New Year, Witness Against Torture, along with groups including Pax Christi, Amnesty International, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, arrived in Washington, DC, to again express outrage, and take action to shut down Guantanamo. A "Hunger for Justice," fast began on January 2nd, and participants filled the courtroom at Moultrie Superior Court the next day when 14 people were on trial for interrupting the U.S. House of Representatives in July. On the anniversary, January 11th, organizers stretched a human chain from the U.S. Capitol to the White House, with over 2000 people, representing each of the prisoners detained at Guantanamo and Bagram.

It has been six years since the first group of activists attempted to walk onto the base at Guantanamo hoping to visit with prisoners, spend time with their guards, and carry letters from the men to their families. They were stopped at the Cuban Military Zone, fasted and prayed for five days, held press conferences, and attempted to get permission to enter the base from officials of the U.S. Southern Command.

Six years ago there were more than 700 men detained at Guantanamo. Today the Campaign, and the outrage are more urgent than ever. Despite Obama's campaign promise to close Guantanamo, and abandon the torturous policies of the Bush Era, 171 men remain at Guantanamo, many of whom have been cleared for release and await only a moment of presiden-

tial courage. Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate recently authorized in provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for the military to detain terrorist suspects, including U.S. citizens, on U.S. soil, and hold them indefinitely without trial.

This travesty violates every principal of justice in a democratic society. We are inspired by Frida Berrigan (see quote above) and Tim Chadwick, a Lehigh Valley peace activist who has participated in this year's (and previous year's) Witness Against Torture events.

Source: www.CommonDreams.org, 12/3/11.

OCCUPY BOLIVIA - In late September a protest by indigenous Bolivian activists became a broader uprising that shook the leftist government of Evo Morales. The peasants sought to prevent the construction of a highway through a nature preserve that has been the undisturbed home to 50,000 native peoples in the Amazon basin. They had begun hiking through the rainforest toward the capital in August. When they reached the outskirts of La Paz, they were met by police in riot gear, who fired teargas, rounded up marchers and forced them onto buses which took them to an airstrip in order to fly them home. At the airport, however, angry residents erected barricades, and set them on fire, preventing planes from taking off. They succeeded in freeing all the detainees. U.N. officials and human rights groups condemned the police action, and Cecilia Chacon, Bolivia's Defense Minister, sent a letter to President Evo Morales, saying, "I do not agree with the intervention in the march and I cannot justify the measure when other alternatives existed."

Morales, in an effort to defuse tensions, announced that a referendum on the highway project would be held.

Source: www.CommonDreams.org, 9/26/11.

DRONES ON TRIAL - For many years, peace activists in Syracuse, New York, have been aware of the drones in their midst. Stationed at the New York Air National Guard base at Hancock Field, the peace activists came to realize that young men were commuting back and forth from families in their community each day, to an electronic battlefield -- computer keyboards directing robotic hunter-killer drones that perpetrate illegal assassinations, extrajudicial executions, resulting in civilian casualties thousands of miles away, in Afghanistan and other countries. Hancock is one of several such bases in the United States and part of a global network of drone bases.

The Syracuse Peace Council began holding demonstrations outside the gates of Hancock twice a month over the past few years. On April 22, 2011, 38 people were arrested when they held a die-in there. They were on trial in November in Syracuse.

Among the pro-se defendants were Ed Kinane, a long time peace activist in Syracuse who has been to Afghanistan, and Retired U.S. Army Colonel Ann Wright. On November 4, 2011, they were interviewed extensively by Amy Goodman on "Democracy Now" about their trial. Among the expert witnesses was former Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Ed described a "brilliant conversation" between the judge and the former Attorney General, much of it centered on the application of the Nuremberg protocols. Because many of the defendants were representing themselves, Judge Gideon also allowed them to question their witness, over the prosecutors numerous objections. Ann Wright said, "That is the theory on which we are acting that we see our government is committing crimes by the use of these drones, and that we as citizens have the responsibility to act."

Ed. Note: The entire interview can be viewed on-line at www.democracynow.org in their archives for 11/4/11.

- Jeff Vitelli

Wars Do Not End _____

(continued from page 1)

cluster munitions in farm fields, ministries bombed and looted; hospitals filled with injured, but missing supplies; streets full of tanks and empty of people; frequent shootings of civilians at checkpoints; truckloads of dollars corrupting Iraq and U.S. contractors.

++ Raed Jarrar (also at the 12/28/11 program) said when he visited Baghdad last September for the first time since he fled in 2004 he found not a single relative, neighbor, or co-worker that he knew. They have either fled or been killed. He did not recognize any landmarks in Baghdad due to the destruction and the concrete barriers lining all the streets.

++ Jarrar says the Iraqis will view the U.S. as intervening in their country until our embassy there has the same staff as Iraq's embassy in Washington, D.C. - 16. Instead, 16,000 personnel will be working at the U.S. embassy (the largest in the world) and other U.S. facilities.

++ The Center for Public Integrity found that Bush, Cheney and six other officials lied at least 935 times in their campaign to build support for the Iraq war. A retired general has called for a truth commission on the war. Cindy Sheehan says we should prosecute those who lied us into a war that killed her son. Celeste Zapala, whose son also died in the war, names our shame for not even seeking to know how many Iraqis were killed. Kathy Kelly urges us to tell the truth about this war to spread the syndrome against war.

++ Andrew Bacevich says a legacy of this war has been "abandonment of any semblance of self-restraint regarding the use of violence as an instrument of statecraft... War has become a normal condition."

++ 4484 U.S. soldiers were killed in the war; 4000 children survive them; 36,000 soldiers were injured; 18 veterans commit suicide daily; 24 men and women with ties to the Lehigh Valley area died in the war.

++ Raed Jarrar says that during the war a million Iraqis were killed and five million displaced from among a population of 30 million; a majority of Iraqis don't have full services -- electricity, hospitals, schools; there are 4-5 million orphans, 600,000 living in the streets. Others point to an environment polluted by depleted uranium and chemicals from U.S. weapons causing cancers and the deformation of newborns; poverty and discrimination against women having become the norm; the Iraqi government, left in place by the U.S., being the fourth most corrupt in the world.

++ We are responsible to the Iraqis for what we have done to their country. What is our plan to provide compensation? How can we speed Iraqi refugees' admission to the U.S.? How can we help make their country safe for the return of educators, doctors, engineers whose skills are so desperately needed? Can we do more to support civil society in Iraq?

++ We have not apologized for any of our lies, our sanctions that killed over 500,000 children, our destruct-

tion of Fallujah, the killing of civilians at roadblocks...

++ Since 9/11 the U.S. defense budget has doubled, and current proposed cuts are only to the rate of growth of that budget, leaving us spending \$21 million every minute of every day, on the military (per AFSC).

++ 1.6 million children in the U.S. were homeless last year and 48 % of us either live below the poverty line or are "low-income." We know this is in some part due to our spending on war.

++ The Iraq war brought us more torture and Abu Ghraib. We still have the prisons at Guantanamo and Bagram. We have now expanded abusive detention practices to the U.S. and drones and other military equipment are being used by local police departments.

Phyllis Bennis says the peace movement has a huge responsibility to use "the second super power" (those marching by the millions against the Iraq war) to counter current (the above and more) and future mistakes.

- Nancy C. Tate

Editor's Note: Due to space constraints sources for this article could not be printed. Please call LEPOCO if you would like to see them. The 12/28/11 AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) program, "Legacy of War in Iraq," held in Philadelphia, can be listened to on-line at www.afsc.org/audio/legacy-war-iraq.

FOR Accompanier to Speak for ASG Group

Isaac Beachy has spent the last two years accompanying the threatened peace community of San José de Apartadó in Colombia. As a Fellowship of Reconciliation volunteer he lived with the community in the mountains of northern Colombia. He will discuss news from the community at an informal luncheon meeting with the Americas Solidarity Group of LEPOCO on Wednesday, January 18, at noon, at the Deja Brew Coffeehouse, on 4th St. in south Bethlehem. Please call LEPOCO if you are able to join us for this discussion.

CeaseFire PA Network Against Violence _____

LEPOCO's Steering Committee has decided to lend support to the CeaseFire PA network that is working to improve communities by protecting them from violence. CeaseFire PA is taking a stand against gun violence working on simple efforts like requiring the reporting of lost or stolen handguns. You can learn more about their work and sign up for their e-mail list at www.CeaseFirePA.org.

Check out the LEPOCO website

at www.lepoco.org for a

Calendar of Events, Newsletter Archive,
Videos, & More.

Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail updates

by calling 610-691-8730 or by writing to lepoco@fast.net.

Bits & Pieces

Ⓐ As part of the American Masters series on public television, the documentary, "**Phil Ochs: There But for Fortune**," will be shown on Channel 39, WLVT, on Mon., Jan. 23, at 10 pm. This is the documentary that LEPOCO folks viewed at the SteelStacks theatre in November. It is an excellent film.

Ⓐ The Bethlehem Branch of the **NAACP** will hold their 67th Annual **Freedom Fund Dinner** on Sun., Feb. 19, starting at 2:30 pm at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on Airport Rd., Allentown. Donation is \$40/\$30 for seniors and students. Call 610-866-2078 for a reservation by Feb. 10.

Ⓐ LEPOCO's Steering Committee has decided to move the organization's checking account to a **credit union** in solidarity with the Move Your Money campaign.

Ⓐ A Committee strategizing to bring **Low Power FM community radio** to the Lehigh Valley continues meeting. Their next meeting will be Mon., Jan. 23, at 7 pm, at the LEPOCO Peace Center. New Participants are welcome. They are being advised by the Prometheus Radio Project in Philadelphia. For more info., contact Burr Beard at 610-419-0482.

Ⓐ SOA Watch is organizing several **delegations to Latin America** in coming months. They will lead a delegation to the Mexico-U.S. border, Feb. 12-19, to experience the challenging realities on both sides of the border and learn from the groups working to bring peace and dignity to their communities. March 15-23 there will be a delegation to Chile to "Stand with the Chilean Student Movement for the Right to Education and with the Mapuche People in their Struggle to Recover Ancestral Lands." For info. about these delegations and others see www.soaw.org.

Ⓐ The **Swarthmore College Peace Collection** would like copies of old issues of the LEPOCO Newsletter. A

volunteer (or two) is needed to make copies for them and for LEPOCO's archive at Lehigh University. If you can help, please call the office at 610-691-8730.

Ⓐ "The Devil Today & Reading to Dogs," a photography exhibit featuring the works of **Judith Joy Ross**, our favorite internationally recognized photographer who is also a local activist for peace and the environment, will continue at the Pace/MacGill Gallery, 32 E. 57th St., NYC, through Jan. 28. Gallery hours are 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, Tues.-Fri., and 10 am to 6 pm, on Sat.

Ⓐ **Jim Shackelford and Maritza Alvarez** moved to Indiana a few years back, after being active members of the Lehigh Valley peace community for many years. A November 2011 edition of "The Herald-Times" of Bloomington, featured a two-page story about the work they have done on their home to make it more energy efficient. View a copy of the article at LEPOCO.

Ⓐ The National Park Service will hold public hearings in late January about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the **Susquehanna-Roseland Transmission Line** that is proposed to cross Delaware Water Gap National Park. Many environmental groups oppose this assault on the park. For more information contact the N.J. Highlands Coalition at 973-588-7190.

Ⓐ **LEPOCO members will start calling** our members this month. We will be soliciting participation and donations. The contact will be friendly and gentle. We look forward to talking with some of you. If you would like to help with the calling please contact the LEPOCO office.

Ⓐ A demonstration is planned for the Federal Building at 504 Hamilton St., Allentown, on Fri., Jan. 20, 11 am to 2 pm, on the "**Occupy the Courts**" **National Day of Protest**. This is the second anniversary of the Citizens United decision. See www.movetoamend.org for info. or contact local planner Robert Trotner at ruvaint@yahoo.com.

Ⓐ The Eastern District Conference Franconia Mennonite Conference will hold their **Winter Peace Retreat**, Feb. 10-12, on "Peace Church within the Empire," at Spruce Lake Retreat. Alan and Eleanor Kreider will speak. Registration needed by Jan. 20. For more info.: www.peaceretreat.pjpr.org.

Ⓐ *Why do so many people go to so much trouble, learning the hard things they need to know, organizing, arguing with politicians, making speeches, marching, risking arrest, getting arrested, keeping on, making the same try again and again?*

I think they do it, above all else, to keep alive the possibility of decency, and to refuse to accept as normal the indecency of public officials.

- Wendell Berry, *The Progressive*

MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... ETC.

Wednesday, January 18, 10:30 am: **Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wednesday, January 25, 3:30 pm: **Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sunday, January 29, 7 pm: **Peace Singers** rehearse at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, Bethlehem. Also Sunday, February 19 at 7 pm, at home of Ursula Wuerth & Sunday, February 26, at the Riggs'.

Thursdays, February 9 & March 8, 7 pm: **Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Mondays, February 13 & March 12, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at the Peace Center. All members and friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able.

If you want more information about any of these meetings; or if you want to know the next meeting of the Newsletter Planning Committee, the Nuclear Abolition Sisters, the Peace Camp Planning Committee, or the Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings please see www.lepoco.org.



LEPOCO

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Meetings...

Save the Date: LEPOCO Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 3, 2012

Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Speaker: Ray McGovern

(See pages 1 & 5 for more information.)

Saturday, February 11, 2012

1:00 pm

March to Bring Troops
& War Dollars Home
From Around the World
Allentown

(See page 1 for more info.)

Monthly Peace Vigil

Our wars continue.

Please help witness for peace.

4:30-5:30 pm

Second Thursdays

(February 9 & March 8)

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Contact:

Vince Stravino 610-216-8103 /

Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136