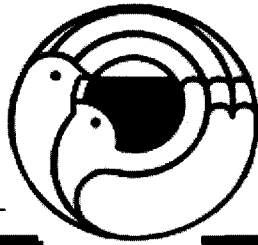


January-February
2013

Vol. 48 No. 1



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

Medea Benjamin to Headline Annual Dinner

On Saturday, March 16th, 2013, at a new location, First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, LEPOCO will hold its Annual Dinner featuring co-founder of both CODEPINK and the international human rights organization, Global Exchange, Medea Benjamin as our featured speaker. Her topic will be, "Building Peace in the Age of Drone Warfare."

Medea has been an advocate for social justice for more than 30 years. Described as "one of America's most committed – and most effective – fighters for human rights" by *New York Newsday*, and called "one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement" by the *Los Angeles Times*, Medea has distinguished herself as an eloquent and energetic figure in the progressive movement. In 2005 she was one of 1,000 exemplary women from 140 countries nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the millions of women who do the essential work of peace worldwide. In 2010 she received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize from the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Since September 11th, 2001, Medea Benjamin has been working to promote a U.S. foreign policy that respects human rights and gains us allies instead of contributing to violence and undermining our international reputation. In 2000, she was a Green Party candidate from California for the U.S. Senate.

In 1988 with Kevin Danaher, and Kirsten Moller, Ms. Benjamin co-founded the San Francisco-based Global Exchange, which advocates fair trade alternatives to corporate globalization. Medea is widely credited as the woman who brought Nike to its knees and helped place the issue of sweatshops on the national agenda. She was a key player in the campaign that won a \$20 million settlement from 27 U.S. clothing retailers for the use of sweatshop labor in Saipan. She also helped push Starbucks and other companies to start carrying fair trade coffee.

CODEPINK was founded on November 17, 2002, when it began a four month vigil in front of the White House in advance of the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. CODEPINK describes itself as "a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end U.S.-funded wars and occupations, to challenge militarism globally, and to redirect our resources into health care, education, green jobs and other life-affirming activities."

Medea Benjamin's work for justice in Israel/Palestine has included taking numerous delegations to Gaza after the 2008 Israeli invasion, organizing the Gaza Freedom March in 2010, participating in the Freedom Flotillas, and opposing the policies of the Israel lobby group AIPAC. In 2011 she was in Tahrir Square during the Egyptian uprising and in February 2012, she was part of a human rights delegation to Bahrain in support of democracy activists; she was tear-gassed, arrested and deported by the Bahraini government. In October of 2012, Medea co-led a CODEPINK Peace Delegation to Pakistan to protest drone warfare.

A former economist and nutritionist with the United Nations and World Health Organization, Benjamin is the author/editor of eight books -- her latest being *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. She writes regularly for online outlets such as OpEd News, The Huffington Post, CommonDreams, and Alternet.

- 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 16, 2013**

**First Presbyterian Church
2344 Center St., Bethlehem**
*(park in South Parking Lot & enter by south "Office" door)
(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, Wednesday, March 13, 2013.

Heschel-King Festival: Inspiring!

In the iconic picture of Martin Luther King marching from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, King is locked in arms with, among other notables, his close friend and fellow activist for civil rights, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Rabbi Heschel, who barely escaped the Holocaust in Poland, realized the parallels between the mistreatment of Jews in Eastern Europe and the treatment of Blacks in the U.S. During the 48-mile walk, Rabbi Heschel said that he felt as if he were praying with his legs.

On January 4th and 5th, a joyous, highly inspirational festival was held at Mishkan Shalom -- a strongly social-justice-committed Jewish Reconstructionist congregation in Philadelphia. It brought the Jewish and African American communities together to honor Heschel and King's joint efforts and mutual admiration, as well as to learn from their prophetic partnership on how to move forward on current and future activist projects. In keeping with the multi-religious theme, the excellent meals were catered by a local mosque.

The main speakers at the event were Dr. Vincent Harding and Dr. Dorothy Cotton, who were both close associates of Dr. King, and Rabbi Michael Lerner, the editor of *Tikkun* magazine, who studied under and was mentored by Rabbi Heschel. The Judaic term 'Tikkun' refers to each person's responsibility to help to heal, repair or transform the world.

Dr. Cotton told some amazing stories about how she went from a childhood living in poverty, surrounded by racism in North Carolina, to become the education director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She had accompanied Dr. King to Oslo when he received the Nobel Peace Prize and was in the adjoining motel room when Dr. King was assassinated.

Dr Harding, frequently asked us to inquire, as to our own next steps and as to the challenges the US poses around the world, "What would King do?"

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, founder of the Shalom (Peace) Center, and one of the main organizers of the event, is one of the most powerful voices in the U.S. Jewish community for progressive justice and environmental issues. His frequent emails keep us inspired, awakened and awed with visionary perspectives about U.S. policies, injustices and what he calls 'global scorching,' rather than the innocuous sounding term 'climate change.'

Rabbi Brian Walt, the founder of Mishkan Shalom, also brought the plight of the Palestinians into the discussion. He talked about his recent two-week trip to the occupied West Bank, accompanied by civil rights and human rights leaders. They all witnessed the blatant discrimination of Palestinians by the Jewish military forces, which are funded by U.S. aid.

The Heschel-King Festival was a very exciting and inspirational experience for us.

- Todd and Annette Carpien

Cut Military Spending!

We all need to communicate this message in as many ways as possible. In case you have not noticed, some very powerful interests want to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other vital services. Some of the people pushing these cuts are none other than the leaders of the companies one could call war profiteers! We need to say cut the military, protect the programs that serve the basic needs of people, find ways to get more revenue from those individuals and corporations, who can afford to pay much more.

Below are important phone numbers. But postcards to these folks and letters to the editor are also important. Sign all the on-line petitions you can, but the phone calls and written communication will be more effective.

The White House: 202-456-1111

Senator Bob Casey: 202-224-6324 or 610-782-9470

Senator Pat Toomey: 202-224-4254 or 610-434-1444

Rep. Charlie Dent: 202-225-6411 or 610-770-3490

Rep. Matt Cartwright: 202-225-5546

Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick 202-225-4276 or 215-579-8102.

Here are some back-up points:

The Pentagon budget has doubled over the past ten years while domestic programs have taken trillion dollars in cuts. Two wars and tax cuts for the rich have driven up the deficit.

Here are some good web sites for further information: www.fcni.org/issues/checkbook/; www.newprioritiesnetwork.org; www.chn.org/save4all/; www.budget4allmass.org.

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

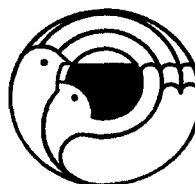
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The *LEPOCO Newsletter* is published eight times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a nonviolent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

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: Sarah Andrew, Terry Briscoe, Addison Bross, Sheila Clever, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Janet Goloub, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Janet Ney, Kelly Quain, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

Popcorn/Potluck & Politics

Friday, February 1st, 2013, 7 pm

"Freedom Riders"

A Popcorn & Politics Film projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center. This documentary tells the story behind a courageous band of civil rights activists called Freedom Riders who in 1961 challenged segregation in the southern United States. Originally shown as part of the "American Experience" series on PBS. Directed by Stanley Nelson. 120 minutes. 2011.
Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Tuesday, February 12th, 2013, 6:30 pm

Rosalie Riegle:

Telling the Stories of "Doing Time for Peace"

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Rosalie Riegle, from Evanston, Illinois, will visit Bethlehem as part of her tour speaking about her new book, "Doing Time for Peace: Resistance, Family, and Community" (October 2012, Vanderbilt University Press). The book is a compelling collection of oral histories in which dozens of peacemakers describe how they say no to war-making by engaging in civil disobedience and paying the consequences in jail or prison. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6:30 pm.
The presentation and discussion should begin shortly after 7 pm.

Friday, March 1st, 2013, 7 pm

"Into the Abyss"

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

Conversations with death row inmate Michael Perry and those affected by his crime serve as an enlightening examination of why people -- and the state -- kill. Directed by Werner Herzog whose previous films include "Cave of Forgotten Dreams," "Grizzly Man," and "Aguirre: The Wrath of God." This film is being presented on International Death Penalty Abolition Day which marks the occasion in 1847 when the U.S. state of Michigan became the first English-speaking territory in the world to abolish capital punishment.
106 minutes. 2011.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



The New Book Club

The First Tuesday Book Club will meet on February 5th, at a new location: Wegman's (off Route 512, north of Rt. 22, in the Bethlehem area). The meeting will start at 5 pm, so grab a bite to eat or a drink and join us in the upstairs dining room. (After February the group will meet at 6 pm.)

The book for February is, *The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use "Plain English" To Rob You Blind*, by David Cay Johnston. This book shows "a gamut of ways in which big corporations...cheat ordinary people (as well as each other)."

The following two months the group will discuss the following:

March 5th Book: *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death & Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo. In this book a bewildering age of global change and in-equality is made human.

April 2nd Book: *The Race for What's Left: The Global Scramble for the World's Last Resources* by Michael Klare describes how corporate empires have decided to rip apart the planet in one last burst of profiteering.

All are welcome, LEPOCO members and not! One doesn't need to attend every month. Join again if you haven't attended in awhile or join in for the first time.

To learn more about the Book Club call Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

LETTERS

From New Hampshire

Long-time LEPOCO member and former Kintnersville resident Maria Weick writes: "I miss you! LEPOCO is a very special group of people not easily matched! Thanks so much for continuing to send us the newsletter.

"We're loving our life up here. These first six months have been about establishing gardens and getting in wood for the winter and working on the house. We've built an outhouse and a woodshed and worked on making the house more energy efficient... Bob has continued to go back to Pennsylvania every six weeks to shoe horses... During the month of October he took part in productions of Howard Zinn's "Voices" in Camden (NJ), and Norristown (PA). The final show was on November 10th in Philadelphia at Play and Players.

"New Hampshire's 'Live Free or Die' motto certainly makes for an interesting social contract! In our rural area it is largely manifested by some mix of rugged individualism, uncompassionate Christianity, winner-take-all philosophy, and a stalwart worship of trickle-down economics. We're doing our best to be a voice for compassion and social justice.

"The article I'm enclosing ('Our Words Are Our Weapons Against the Destruction of the World by Greed,' by Rebecca Solnit, published at www.tomdispatch.com on 10-29-12) is also about 'voice.' It reminded me of LEPOCO's members speaking truth, 'accurately reframing the status quo as an outrage.' I especially love the quote from Confucius: '...if justice goes astray. The people will stand about in helpless confusion. Hence there must be no arbitrariness in what is said. This matters above everything.'

"Thank you to each and every LEPOCO member for his/her voice. I wish everyone peace, love, and the strength to hope!"

From Philadelphia

Marge Van Cleef, friend of LEPOCO and some of our activist members, wrote in her holiday letter:

"'When will we ever learn,' said an artist and prophet years ago.

"That if we see violence,
feel violent, play violent games,
violently destroy our planet earth/home,
create violent weapons – guns, drones, missiles, bombs,
destroy another's earth/home and her children, we will
not be spared the
violence that may finally come to all of us.

"Why choose violence when we can choose to live with love, trust, hard caring, active hope, compassion, community, vision, a commitment to protect everyone and all things.

We can live peacefully with only that which we need,
sustain ourselves without

the violence that destroys to gain -- wealth, territory, resources, and power."

She closes with a quote from Albert Camus: *To live as if our choices make any real difference in the long run may be the act of a fool, but to live as if they do not, that is the act of a coward.*

Response to December 14th Tragedy

There were people holding candles at a vigil outside the White House immediately following the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14th. Over 100 people joined a candlelight vigil in downtown Bethlehem that weekend (only about a week following a vigil in south Bethlehem held in concern over gun violence that had killed a young woman at a local club). The national and local discussion after the Newtown shootings indicates we may have reached a new critical mass of concern about gun violence.

Debra Orben, a primary teacher for 36 years, wrote in one of the most moving of the numerous letters to the editor about Sandy Hook: "We need to remove the glory of guns and violence from our society and teach our children that there are braver ways to stand for freedom and human rights than by wielding weapons." (Her complete letter appeared in *The Morning Call*, 1/3/13.)

Bill Moyers Essay of January 4th helped expose the absurdity of the NRA call for more guns in schools by comparing it to Archie Bunker (of "All In the Family") speaking out for arming all airplane passengers to prevent skyjackings. Moyers pointed to the rise in weapons sales after each mass slaying and the donations that flow to the NRA from the gun industry after all those sales. He said 400 people have died from gun violence since the Newtown "slaughter of the innocent" (a figure that rose to over 900 by the time of President Obama's press conference on gun violence on January 16), and said "the merchants of death are experiencing a happy new year." He closed: "Every American a gun-toter is a frightening vision of our future. It doesn't have to be..." (This essay can be viewed at www.billmoyers.com.)

The Nation (January 7/14, 2013, issue), quoted one of the signs at a White House vigil, "If a pre-school child hits another child with a rock, the solution is not for every child to have a rock."

Others reported on Australia's success with a fast gun-control measure that was adopted following a massacre by a gunman at a seaside resort in Port Arthur, Tasmania, in 1996. (See the article, "After a 1996 Mass Shooting..." by Will Oremus, at www.slate.com on 12/16/12.)

Still others are urging support for an international treaty to regulate the global arms trade (the U.S. buys and sells almost as much weaponry as the rest of the world combined). Speaking on "Democracy Now" on 12/26/12 (see www.democracynow.org to watch the full interview), Andrew Feinstein, author of *The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade*, said, "...at the moment...the global trade in weapons is regulated less than the global trade in bananas." The global arms trade is a \$1.74

(continued on page 6)

The Struggle Shared

There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold on to the shore. They will feel they are torn apart and will suffer greatly.

Know the river has its destination. The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open, and our heads above water. And I say, see who is in there with you and celebrate. At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally, least of all ourselves. For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey comes to a halt.

- Attributed to a Hopi Elder, Hopi Nation, Oraibi, AZ

DRONE WHISTLEBLOWERS

SENTENCED - Exactly one year ago, this column featured a story about Drones on Trial, a Civil Resistance Campaign at Hancock Air Base in upstate New York. On December 13th, 2012, 15 activists who had blocked the gates at Hancock in June, were convicted of trespass in a New York State court.

The Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars has been protesting at Hancock over the past three years to raise awareness of the U.S. military's Reaper drone program. The base houses the 174th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard, which pilots the MQ9 Reaper drone used in extrajudicial killings over Afghanistan.

During their trial, the "Hancock 15" presented grievances to the U.S. Government, delivering a War Crimes Indictment, co-authored by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, that charges Hancock base personnel, up the chain of command to President Obama, with war crimes citing the Nuremberg Protocols of International Law, as well as the U.S. Constitution.

The group received legal assistance from an advisory attorney, but represented themselves, and spoke eloquently to the court. Throughout the trial they referred to their action as Civil Resistance, rather than Civil Disobedience – resistance to uphold the law, rather than challenge it in protest. In his closing argument, Daniel Burgevin, one of the defendants said, "I am innocent of trespass. The unlawfulness of trespass is when a hellfire missile enters through the roof of a family's home, exploding and sending fire and shards of metal through the bodies of the family living inside... That is the unlawfulness and the criminality of trespass."

Judge Jokl did not allow the war crimes indictment into evidence, thus limiting the scope of the trial. After a four hour trial, and ten minutes of deliberation, he found eleven of the fifteen guilty, sentenced five of them to 15 days in jail, and the remaining six to fines and community service.

For more information see www.blog.upstatedroneaction.org.

KNITTING A WARM COMMUNITY

- In times when the daily news is of mass shootings, and fiscal cliffs, arctic drilling, and predictions of the end of the world, it is important to look for the good news: the stories of people building community to set things right. I do an exercise with clients in therapy: When you pick up a newspaper, for every piece that you read that you find depressing, find one that is uplifting, inspiring you to do something to help heal some wounded soul.

So here is one such story:

The Morning Call carried a report in its November 4th edition, about a project that has become an annual tradition in Easton since 2010. In the "Chase the Chill Yarn Bombing," volunteer knitters leave hand-made scarves in public places for people to find and keep warm. As cold weather set in in the Lehigh Valley in early November, a loose-knit coalition of about 15 people dropped off about 500 scarves at community centers, statues in parks, clotheslines at the end of a street, each with a tag describing the project, and offering the warming wools to whoever finds them.

The Morning Call has a Photo Gallery of the project that will warm your heart. Search for "yarn bombing" at www.mcall.com.

WHAT HELPS COMMUNITIES

SURVIVE - A recent story on National Public Radio reported on a study of two adjacent neighborhoods in Chicago during a deadly heat-wave. Although the neighborhoods were demographically very similar: high poverty, many elderly residents in frail health, racial and ethnic diversity, the mortality rate in one community was significantly higher than it was just a few blocks away in the other community. Researchers concluded that the most significant difference between the two communities was that in the one where people survived the heat-wave there was a network of corner stores, coffee shops, places where residents could go to stay cool, find company, and stay connected to others, meeting their needs as a community.

Tom Stinnett and Nancy Tate reported that during the week following Hurricane Sandy, when the borough of Riegelsville was without power, the local fire company had a generator. They decided to invite the town and neighboring communities, 600 people or so, for lunch and dinner. People brought food that was thawing out in their freezers for the collective pot. Others donated food, and made cash contributions, so that for the duration of the power outage, residents had hot meals, a place to stay warm, and an opportunity to be a community.

So in this world of climate changing expectations of future Sandy's, what can you do to ensure that you and your neighbors survive and thrive? Imagine going door-to-door with a survey: What special needs would people have in an emergency? What health issues would make residents high risk? Would older, and frailer residents welcome having neighbors check in on them? And who can help others in the community? Anyone have a generator? a snow-blower? a chain-saw?

You get the idea. Besides our important work to reverse climate change you can also (as the Peace Singers say in "Yes We Can"): "Start in your own neighborhood to bring about the common good."

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

Ⓞ **Noam Chomsky** will speak on "Prospects for Peace in the Middle East," on Tues., Feb. 5, at 7 pm, in Packard Lab Aud. (Room 101), Lehigh University. The talk is free and open to the public.

Ⓞ **Save the Date:** LEPOCO's Annual **Bike-Walkathon** will be Sat., June 1, in Bethlehem. Walkers, riders and staffing volunteers are all needed. The planning committee for the event will meet next on Tues., Feb. 12, at 3:30 pm, at the Peace Center.

Ⓞ **The Peace Camp Planning Committee** has started the work preparing for this summer's Camp. They would welcome more participants in this process. The next meeting of the group will be at 7 pm, on Wed., Jan. 30, at LEPOCO.

Ⓞ **The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday** was observed with many of the same local gatherings on Jan. 21, including the NAACP and YWCA program in Bethlehem where our Peace Singers were among the participants.

LEPOCO showed the Tavis Smiley documentary about King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech on the holiday eve for a P&P program. Discussion included Monica McAgon reporting about Smiley's most recent project, a Jan. 17th symposium on poverty in Washington, DC. Information about the symposium and a petition urging President Obama to address poverty issues are both available at www.TavisTalks.com.

The Morning Call featured an op-ed by Kevin Easterling of Allentown, on Jan. 21, about the over 15-year struggle to have the King Holiday declared and observed. Indeed the struggle for wider observance continues.

Ⓞ **Julian Agyeman**, Chair of the Dept. of Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning at Tufts University, will give the Dr. Martin Luther King Lecture at Moravian College (Prosser Aud., Hauptert Union Bldg.), on Tues., Jan. 29,

at 7 pm. His topic: "The Dream Lives On: Towards a 'Just' Sustainability."

Ⓞ The Bethlehem Branch NAACP will hold their 68th Annual **Freedom Fund Dinner**, Sun., Feb. 17, at 2:30 pm, at the Comfort Suites, south Bethlehem. The Rev. James I. Jackson, Jr. will speak about "Minding & Mining the Gap." Reservations by 2/8/13, can be made at 610-866-2078. Donation: \$35.

Ⓞ Lots of volunteers are needed to make LEPOCO'S **Annual Dinner** a success on March 16. There will be much work, but it is done with joy and by many hands. If you can help in some capacity that day (food preparation or set-up) or at the program (tabling, tickets, serving, clean-up, etc.) please call the LEPOCO Office at 610-691-8730.

Ⓞ **The Occupy Hurricane Sandy Relief Concert** had to be postponed from the original date (1/12/13) to Sat., Feb. 23, at 7:30 pm, at The Washington Theatre, Washington, NJ. Tickets will be \$10 at the door. Cash donations, as well as donations of canned goods and other nonperishable goods will be collected at the door. Prior to the concert, drop-off locations for those donations will include the LEPOCO Office, during office hours, Mon.-Fri., Feb. 18-22.

Response to December 14th

(continued from page 4)

trillion-a-year business -- \$250 for every person on our planet. Feinstein and others (including Amnesty International) urge U.S. support for the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty being negotiated by world leaders.

John Grant, writing at www.thiscantbehappening.net, in late Decem-

ber, points to our nation's lack of concern for and attention to the 176 children (at least) that have been killed in drone attacks by the U.S. in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia...

Ken Butigan writing for www.wagingnonviolence.org, on 12/21/12, addressed the hopelessness that such a tragedy can leave: "...Newtown demonstrates that violence is not the end of the story. If this were the case, there would be no outpouring of concern. This torrent of fellow feeling is proof that violence remains problematic and is not simply accepted as the way things are... In the aftermath of Newtown, we are nudged to smoke out our beliefs in violence and live by something else..."

LEPOCO is working to schedule a Potluck & Politics talk by a speaker from Ceasefire PA, a statewide group we endorsed a few months ago. (They held a day of action in Harrisburg on January 23rd calling for an end to gun violence in Pennsylvania.)

Rep. Matt Cartwright, the new representative from the 17th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, that now includes Easton and others communities in Northampton County, has announced that he will be serving on a congressional gun violence prevention task force.

- Nancy C. Tate

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.

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, **or**
Donate through PayPal by going to the "membership" page at www.lepoco.org.

Bits & Pieces

☪ **Dr. Gershon Baskin**, founder of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research & Information in Jerusalem, and a prominent advisor on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process for many years, will speak at Muhlenberg College on Thurs., Feb. 14, at 7 pm, in the Moyer Miller Forum, Moyer Academic Bldg. His talk is being organized by a new club at Muhlenberg, a chapter of J Street U. J Street U is the student organizing arm of J Street, the political home for U.S. citizens who are pro-Israel and pro-peace.

☪ Weekly informal gatherings practicing **Tai Chi and Qigong** are held at Trinity Episcopal Church (44 E. Market St.) Bethlehem, (2nd floor chapel), Saturdays, at 10 am. This peaceful hour spent in contemplative movement can help reduce stress and anxiety and increase flexibility and balance. Sessions are free and open to the public. Donations go to the church's soup kitchen. For more info. contact: Tom Ardizzone at lvtaichi@gmail.com.

☪ **Sister Simone Campbell** from NETWORK, a national social justice lobby, will speak at Northampton Community College, on Thurs., Feb. 7, at 7:30 pm, in the Lipkin Theatre, at the Green Pond Rd. campus. She will speak about income inequality and her quest for a fair federal budget that includes the needs of the 100% in the U.S. today. Sr. Campbell is a religious leader, an attorney and a poet.

☪ We note the death of the ever-faithful **Joan Stolz** on Jan. 5, 2013. Joan took her musical talent and interests to a variety of churches and nursing homes in recent years, but she also shared her love of discussion -- political issues, art, and family -- with LEPOCO newsletter collaters many times over the past decade. And, she would bring her folding chair so she could join peace vigils and support the Bethlehem Occupy. Her four children held a lovely service honoring her life on Jan. 13th, where she was described as "always alert to injustice."

☪ At noon on Sun., Feb. 17, thousands will gather in Washington, DC, for the **Forward on Climate Rally**, calling on the Obama Administration to take strong climate action including the rejection of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. Organizers include 350.org, the Sierra Club, and the Hip-Hop Caucus.

☪ *The Express-Times* published a guest column by **Anna Maria Caldara** on 1/18/13, "New Transmission Line Will Ravage Lenape Trees." She explains how the 195-foot towers threaten the Delaware River, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and the Lenape heritage in this region.

☪ **Vince Stravino's** article on "The Israeli Government and the Environment," which originally appeared in the Oct.-Nov. issue of the LEPOCO Newsletter, was published in "Other Voices," a supplement to the "Washington Report on Middle East Affairs," Jan./Feb. issue.

☪ When the film, *Zero Dark Thirty*, had its red-carpet premier at the Newseum in Washington, DC, in early January, the movie goers were greeted by

orange jumpsuit clad demonstrators who projected "Torture Is Wrong" on the front of the building. Some of these demonstrators were in DC for what has become an annual January Fast for Justice calling for the closing of Guantánamo and an end to indefinite detention, solitary confinement, torture and abuse. For more info. see www.witnesstorture.org.

☪ There are many questions to be raised about Pres. Obama's national security team nominees. Possibly the most troubling is the nomination of **John O. Brennan** to head the Central Intelligence Agency. Brennan has been primarily responsible for accelerating and institutionalizing the U.S. drone program, including setting weekly drone kill lists. An international law expert at the University of Notre Dame, Mary Ellen O'Connell, has urged the Senate to vote against Brennan on the grounds that the drone program is among "the most highly unlawful and immoral practices the United States has ever undertaken." Source: "How Can You Resist the Age of Drones?" 1/10/13, by Ken Butigan, www.wagingnonviolence.org.

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

- Wednesday, January 30, 7 pm:** Peace Camp 2013 Planning Committee meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Tuesday, February 5, 3:30 pm:** Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Thursdays, February 7, 6 pm, & March 14, 6:30 pm:** Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center. The group will have dinner together at 5 pm (Feb. 7) and 5:30 pm (March 14), at Perkins Restaurant, 3rd & Brodhead, Bethlehem.
- Saturday, February 9, 5 pm:** Annual Dinner Planning Committee trial dinner at home of Mimi Lang, Bethlehem.
- Sunday, February 10, 7 pm:** Peace Singers rehearse at home of Amanda Zaniesienko, Bethlehem. Also: Sundays, Feb. 24, at Nancy Johnston's; March 3, at Bob Riggs'; and March 10, at Marcie Lightwood & Rick Weaver's.
- Mondays, February 11 & March 11, 7 pm:** LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.
- Tuesday, February 12, 3:30 pm:** Bike-Walkathon Planning Committee meeting at Peace Center.
- Wednesday, February 13, 1 pm:** Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at Olive Branch Restaurant, south Bethlehem.
- Tuesday, February 19, Noon:** Americas Solidarity Group meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information about any of these meetings please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings please see www.lepoco.org.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Rita Corbin

LEPOCO Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 16

Speaker: Medea Benjamin

(See page 1 for more info. & reservation form.)

Potluck & Politics
at LEPOCO

Rosalie Riegle
Tuesday, February 12
6:30 pm

Telling the Stories of
"Doing Time for Peace"

(See page 3 for more info.)

Popcorn & Politics
at LEPOCO

"Freedom
Riders"

1st Friday Film
February 1, 7 pm

(See page 3 for more info.)

Cut the War Profiteers
& Oil Oligarchs!

Protect Programs for the People
(Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid,
Education, Unemployment, Clean Energy,
Health Care)!

Tax the Richest, the Plutocrats,
the Wall St. Gamblers,
the Monopoly Corporations!

(See page 2 for more info.)

1st Tuesday Book Club: 5 pm, Feb. 5

**Discussing: *The Fine Print*
by David Cay Johnston.**

(See page 3 for more info.)

Monthly Peace Vigil

Our wars continue. Please help witness for peace.

4:30-5:30 pm

Second Thursdays: February 14 & March 14

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Noam Chomsky

Prospects for Peace in the Middle East

Tuesday, February 5, 7 pm

Packard Lab Aud., Lehigh University