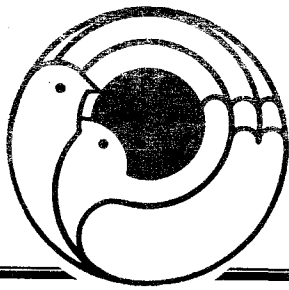


July-August
2005

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Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembered After 60 Years

LEPOCO is commemorating the 60th year since the dropping of two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States with a series of events.

On July 15th at the Bethlehem Bookloft & Caffeine Café, there was a showing of *Hiroshima-Nagasaki: August 1945* (presenting film footage shot right after the bombings and kept secret from the U.S. public for 25 years) and the reading of related poetry.

On Thursday, August 4th, at 7 pm, at the Tondabayashi Japanese Serenity Garden, next to the Bethlehem Public Library (west side) we will hold the second program under the theme "60 Years Later: The Terror of Nuclear War Is Still With Us, Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembered." There will be singing by the LEPOCO Peace Singers, readings, and the remembering of anti-nuclear activists in a *presente* ritual. (In case of rain, the program will be held in the Tondabayashi Room, on the 2nd floor of the Library.)

On Friday, August 5th, the Nuclear Abolition Sisters and friends will visit four local mayors, and thank them with the presentation of a sunflower and a poem, for their signing of the Mayors for Peace Statement. This statement supports negotiations on the elimination of nuclear weapons and includes the promise to remain engaged "in this matter until our cities are no longer under the threat of nuclear devastation." Thank you, mayors of Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and Bangor!

The Bush Administration has renewed its efforts to develop new nuclear weapons. The nuclear "bunker buster" is designed to be used against deeply buried targets and underground bunkers. It would have a destructive force 70 times greater than the Hiroshima bomb. The fallout would cause tens of thousands of deaths. This undermines the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in which the U.S. agreed "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament." (Article VI)

At a time when the administration is criticizing other countries for pursuing nuclear weapon technology, the U.S. is upgrading its own weapons arsenal. So there is work to be done. Urge members of Congress to eliminate funding for nuclear weapons. Write a letter to the editor explaining the danger of new nuclear weapons. Educate your friends and family.

- Ursula Wuerth

Coalition Mobilizes Against the USA PATRIOT Act

Working urgently against the USA PATRIOT Act is the Red White & Blue Alliance to Defend Civil Liberties, which held an organizing conference in Harrisburg on 18 June. The conference led off with calls to action by panelists ranging from conservative Bob Barr through the center (e.g. City Council members from York) to the ACLU on the left. At the conference, Barbara and Steve Diamond and I of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee of the Lehigh Valley, heard that this is a crucial time for action. Bush is pressing for a Patriot Act renewal to sign on 9/11 (!!!) this year. At stake are Patriot Act provisions that remove the courts' constitutional power to prevent police from abusing your privacy, property, freedom of assembly, and freedom of speech.

A small gap opened in Congress' deference to the President when the House passed (238-187), on June 15, the Freedom to Read proposal denying funding for the FBI to gather, under section 215 of the Act, library and bookstore records. Congressman Dent voted against Freedom to Read. He then joined the majority when the House passed their version of the Patriot Act in July, unfortunately retreating from even the limited protections of Freedom to Read.

(continued on page 6)

End the War On Iraq! September 24-26

Three Days of Action in Washington, DC

Sat., Sept. 24, March on Washington

(Contact LEPOCO re: bus transportation from the Lehigh Valley for the day.)

**Sun., Sept. 25, Interfaith Service
& Activist Trainings**

**Mon., Sept. 26, Lobby Day &
Nonviolent Direct Action & Civil Disobedience**

(Contact LEPOCO if you would like to be part of a local affinity group for the civil disobedience.)

*Organized nationally by United for Peace & Justice
because we need to hold this Administration and
Congress accountable for the deaths, the lies and the
spiraling human and financial costs of this war.*

ASG Has Active Spring & Summer

The Americas Solidarity Group (ASG) has had a busy Spring and Summer. We have made numerous entreaties to Representative Dent regarding Plan Colombia, asking for support for human rights, specifically for the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. Unfortunately, in late June he voted to maintain U.S. military aid levels to Colombia and believes that the billions spent on Plan Colombia are worthwhile in the fight against drugs. The State Department is still holding \$90 million in military aid to Colombia because of human rights concerns, especially following the massacre of members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. Rep. Dent has only recently forwarded our support for this sequestration of funds to the State Dept., and he signed onto a letter to the President of Colombia expressing concern about the numerous human rights violations there.

The Peace Community is very much under siege after the February massacre. They have been displaced from their town of San José, and face daily threats from police and the military. There has also been conflict between the FARC guerilla army and the Colombian military since the displacement in April.

The CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement) was ratified 54-45 in the Senate, and by 217-215 in the House. Many local people worked hard to get the House to oppose this regressive treaty. Senator Specter voted against the treaty, but Senator Santorum, and Representatives Dent and Fitzpatrick supported it.

The ASG continues to monitor the situation in Haiti, a tragically broken country, wracked with poverty and violence after the coup which deposed President Aristide. The Latin America Solidarity Coalition, with which the ASG affiliated this month, is planning a Tribunal on Haiti on September 23, at American University, in Washington, DC.

Father Jean-Juste was arrested in Haiti on July 21, and remains in prison. His arrest is part of the wave of repression and violence leaving dozens dead in Haiti's slums. Fr. Jean-Juste is an internationally recognized peacemaker. Contacts to the U.S. State Dept. (and others) on his behalf, are urgently needed. For more specifics see www.haitiaction.net or www.soaw.org.

July 8-12, I participated in the Cuba Caravan, sponsored by Pastors for Peace, on its way to the Mexican border. It is a vibrant and committed group in 14 caravan routes that visited each of 48 states before delivering over 100 tons of aid to Cuba in defiance of the US Blockade. The ASG recently began plans to give more solidarity support to the caravan in 2006.

The School of Americas Watch is encouraging people to sign up now to cross the line this November at Ft. Benning, with the idea that a mass civil disobedience action will overwhelm the system. The rally at

Fort Benning will be November 18-20. We hope to have a good delegation from the Lehigh Valley. If you plan to go to Ft. Benning or want more information, please contact LEPOCO or attend the next meeting of the ASG on Wednesday, August 24, at noon. The ASG has started a petition drive seeking Rep. Dent's support for HR-1217, a bill to investigate and determine the fate of the SOA.

- Joe DeRaymond

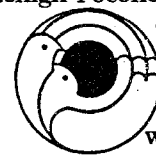
...The social fabric in Mexico is rapidly unraveling due to poverty and migration. People abandon their lands, their families, and their lives to migrate in search of jobs to support their loved ones and survive. Many never return or die trying to cross the border. When migrants return they incorporate new styles, languages, customs, and habits that fracture not only families but also cultures. They no longer eat corn from their fields but rather hamburgers from McDonald's. They no longer plant crops but instead buy food from chains like Sam's Club or Wal-Mart. The youth no longer participate in the work in the fields. Towns here are left vacant, fields and crops left to rot. Our traditional lifestyles are disappearing. More and more children grow up in a broken family, without fathers. Where are the family values here?

...Before NAFTA, Mexicans produced 92% of the corn that we consumed. Today it is less than 50%...

- Gustavo Castro Soto of CIEPAC (The Center for Economic and Political Research for Community Action), based in Chiapas, Mexico. This quote is from an article, "Down...But Not Out" that appeared in the *Witness for Peace Newsletter*, Spring 2005.

Newsletter of LEPOCO

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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.

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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: Dan Acker (co-treas.), Ellen Buck, Peter Crownfield, Annie Hasz, Robert Daniels, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Janet Ney, Sue Ravitz, and Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

Help Expand Counter-Recruitment Effort

It's time for an all-out push to get counter-recruitment information into our schools.

A recent graduate of Northampton Area High School was pursued by Pennsylvania's Army National Guard, which even issued a warrant for her arrest. She claims the recruiter lied to her (no surprise), promising that she would be sent to nursing school and not to Iraq and that the recruiter did not explain the enlistment document to the parents or personally witness their signatures as required by regulations. The National Guard denies all her charges. [Note: the PA National Guard recently announced that the young woman will receive an Entry Level Separation.]

This case is just one example out of hundreds of cases of recruiter misconduct each year — most of which are never reported; the Army alone has over 400 cases of 'substantiated' recruiter misconduct this year, including everything from lies and deception (normal) to falsifying records and helping potential recruits cheat (becoming more common) to sexual assault and rape of high-school students (10-20 cases a year).

As the pressure to provide more recruits increases, it is becoming more important than ever to provide comprehensive counter-recruitment information in high schools throughout the Valley. Unfortunately for the young woman whose troubles are described above, Northampton is one of the high schools that refused to allow LEPOCO to provide counter-recruitment services there this year. While there is no guarantee that this would have prevented this case, at least she and other students would have access to information about recruiters' deceptions and alternatives to military service.

In an effort to increase our access to schools, Jill Robbins and I met on July 5 with the education practice group of a local law firm that represents many Lehigh Valley school districts. We were joined by staff attorney Mary Catherine Roper and legal intern Tammy Muccio from the ACLU of PA. The meeting resulted in a tentative understanding that could lead to access to several more school districts.

As we gain access to more schools, we need more help so we can provide the information young men and women need to make informed decisions about joining the military. If you can help — even one day a month (weekdays, typically from 10:30 am to 1 pm) — please contact the LEPOCO office. (See notice on this page.)

LEPOCO will offer a special counter-recruitment training workshop on September 10, including nonviolence training and short workshops on recruiting practices, facts about military service and promised benefits, alternatives to military service, and related c-r topics. Please contact the Peace Center if you want to participate, as space is limited.

The current issues of *PeaceWork* <www.afsc.org/

peacework and *The Objector* <www.objector.org/ccco/objector.html> have a number of interesting articles about counter-recruitment topics.

- Peter Crownfield



Can you spare a few hours a month to protect our youth?

Teach young adults about nonviolent

alternatives to the military.

Join LEPOCO's

Counter-Recruitment team

set up information tables at area High Schools

Ask us how 610-691-8730

Help Students "Opt Out"

Support a L.V. Peace Coalition Ad in the *Morning Call*

In the first weeks of the school year, high schools are required to forward information on all secondary school students to United States military recruiters upon request. However, each student may "opt out" of this process. In order to get out the word that students and parents do have a choice about participating in the high pressure and deceitful recruitment process, the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition is going to run an advertisement in the early days of the school year in a local newspaper. We hope to have a big enough ad to publish a form that students and parents can fill out and return to their schools, to avoid being contacted by military recruiters.

Counter recruitment is a crucial part of our anti-war efforts. The military needs a constant flow of youth to indoctrinate and deploy in places like Iraq and Afghanistan in order to continue the war. Many people are not aware of the truth about the military, the empty promises it makes, and the reality of military life. Informing the public about the opt out process is one way to both make a statement about the war, and help prevent young people from making bad choices about their future at a vulnerable time of life. This ad will only appear once this year, and will help get out the word to students and parents at the 25 high schools in our area. Please send your donation to LEPOCO, with a note that it is for the counter-recruitment ad.

- Joe DeRaymond

Gandhian Legacy Tour:

Part Two

India. New Year's Day: The tsunami, ever in the forefront of our thoughts on this journey, has forced our group to take an unscheduled flight from Mumbai (Bombay) to Pune. The grandson of the "Mahatma," Arun Gandhi, is seated behind me decked out in a colorful, but tasteful Hawaiian shirt. His attire isn't exactly what I'd have expected from this soft-spoken torchbearer for nonviolence, but already on this trip I've learned how easily expectations can be obliterated (see Part One).

My 6'8" frame is crammed into an economy seat on the tiny plane. Fingering the lever I contemplate a swift recline and wonder what our tour leader's non-violent response would be to a sudden seat invasion of his knees. I decided this would not be a good way to start my 2005, not a good moment for my pilgrimage-to-peace highlight reel. I decide to suffer in silence, keeping in mind what Martin Luther King, Jr. said about "unearned suffering" (it's "redemptive").

After the flight I unfolded and boarded a bus to Sangli. Fortunately legroom was substantial, for the ride was nearly ten hours long. I was blessed throughout the trip to have the notorious Jesuit priest John Dear as my roommate. This bus ride was our first opportunity to have a real conversation and I reveled in his tales of bold, public, nonviolent witness, civil disobedience (one particular act being a "plowshares" action with Philip Berrigan), and advice on how to go deeper into the philosophy and lifestyle myself. Our conversations turned out to be among the true highlights of the trip for me. I am forever grateful for the time I had in John's company.

The sun had long disappeared from the sky by the time we finally arrived at our first stop, a humble "slum school" in Kolhapur where we were swarmed by hundreds of villagers and children who'd been waiting hours for our arrival. Their enthusiasm had not waned during the wait. I immediately felt at home and was overwhelmed by the hospitality and love, yes love, which emanated from a people without artifice. In English, well-rehearsed "Happy New Year" and handshakes came my way by the dozens.

A local newspaper reporter pulls me aside and asks for my impressions and I have only one word for him: "Beautiful." I knew not what I was seeing. It was later explained that the school as well as the organic farm, weaver's cooperative, "eye hospital," and home building unit we visited over the course of the next couple of days were all part of an organization called the Verala Development Society. This group brought together in 1969 has been carrying on the Gandhian legacy, putting the idea of the "constructive program" into action. Our tour throughout India had us visit many such groups including W.I.T. (Women's India Trust), Marketplace of India, Navdanya Farm (where

we met Vandana Shiva, the "seed activist" seen in the documentary, "The Corporation"), and the Environmental Sanitation Institute (which included a brief audience with the President of India, Abdul Kalam, who kind of looked like the fifth Beatle, but never mind ...).

We visited a village sponsored by S.E.W.A. (Self-Employed Women's Association) and were greeted with great songs and fine food. We were told how last year's tour group witnessed the troubles the village had with a dried-up well. That group was moved, and proceeded to raise funds so that the well could be dug deeper. After a few tugs at the pump handle I was awe-inspired to see water flowing fast and forceful, the direct effect of concern put into action. Here I was beginning to feel less like the tourist of days before and more like a member of a vast large community of care, responsibility, and trust.

When asked, Arun said that he wanted the tours to be for more than just sightseeing. His hope is that relationships will develop across oceans and beyond borders. We all have a role in carrying on the legacy of his grandfather; we all have a part to play. When we recognize that we truly are all brothers and sisters, it logically follows that one cannot allow others to wallow in poverty. If we are to live in King's fabled "World House" those with privilege must help those without. It is essential. If one is not able to directly alleviate the suffering of the poor, one can support the grassroots organizations that do.

It was with that in mind that our tour group decided to take on the responsibility of raising funds to support the programs we'd experienced. We pledged in the military town of Dehradun to be the bearers of this hard knowledge and speak for the voiceless; indeed, to "be the change we wish to see in the world".

A few of us could and would go a step further. A vibrant, young participant named Ellie had an extended visa and would return to Ahmedabad to volunteer at the Sabarmati Ashram's "Manav Sadha" program which schools and feeds over 4000 children in the surrounding slums. The Sabarmati Ashram, also known as "Satyagraha Ashram" was where Mohandas K. Gandhi launched the 240 mile "salt march" in 1930. I felt honored to be able to walk a part of that earth and see sights similar to those that inspired him.

Arun's son, Tushar Gandhi, met with us and spoke on the current politics of India. As an organizer of the 75th anniversary reenactment of the "salt march" he encouraged us to return and participate. Some from our group would.

Continuing our pilgrimage to the historic sites related to Gandhi's life, we visited "Mani Bhavan," Gandhi's Mumbai residence from 1917-1934. It was noted that when Martin Luther King, Jr. visited the location in 1959 he requested time alone in the room where Gandhi wrote and worked the spinning wheel. The famous civil rights leader would end up spending

(continued on page 6)

The Struggle Shared

For a country to have a great writer is like having a second government. That is why no regime has ever loved great writers, only minor ones...

- Alexander Solzheinitzyn

THE STRUGGLE PASSES - From Bob Smith, of the Brandywine Peace Community, we learn of the passing of Elmer Maas, on May 8, at the age of 70.

Elmer was one of the Plowshares Eight. On September 9, 1980, he and seven others entered the General Electric Nuclear Weapons Plant - now owned by Lockheed Martin - and enacting the vision of the prophet Isaiah, "beating swords into plowshares." At the time, Elmer said it was "the happiest day of my life."

It was perhaps the day for which he was best known. Born on August 29th, 1935, his commitment to live a life of nonviolent love reached back to the civil rights marches of the 1960s. He gave up a college teaching career to do full-time peace work. The People's Voice Café, War Resisters League, Kairos, and the Atlantic Life Community are just a few of the hotbeds of resistance that were energized by Elmer's commitment. The Plowshares 8 action which he co-inaugurated in 1980, was the first of many. Over the last 25 years Elmer was involved in most of the Plowshare actions that followed, either as a participant, or as a facilitator. Elmer had an abiding passion for beating swords into plowshares.

He apparently also never lost his passion for teaching. According to Anne Montgomery, one of his original Plowshare co-conspirators, he was working on a project to develop a curriculum for peacemakers. He had an apartment full of "integrated charts" showing the historical relationships between religion, philosophy, art, music and peace-making. He envisioned leaving a legacy of classes that would have taken seven years to teach. Sorry we won't get the "curriculum," but, as Anne Montgomery says, Elmer,

your legacy is your life, "your great and loving and humble heart."

Source: e-mail from Bob Smith, 5/11/05.

SCHOOLS REJECT IRRADIATED MEAT - When the Food and Nutrition Service of the USDA conducted a nationwide survey this past spring, they were surprised to find that not a single school district in the U.S. had placed orders for irradiated food for the coming school year. Last year at this time there were schools in Texas, Nebraska, and Minnesota that wanted the stuff. So what changed in the meantime?

According to Public Citizen, the cost of the nuked meat - 29 to 80 cents per pound higher than non-nuke ground beef - may have been a prime factor. CFC Logistics, an irradiation facility near Quakertown, recently closed down their irradiation capabilities, citing lack of profitability. By their own admission, without the nation's school lunch program, they had no market for their product. Another nail in the coffin was that the Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act passed by Congress last year placed the first ever restrictions on serving irradiated food in schools. Federal subsidies for school lunch programs, for example, cannot cover the added expense of food irradiation.

Public Citizen's Report also gives credit to the public outcry from groups like NoCobalt-4-Food for getting Congress to take action, and forcing CFC Logistics to stop its irradiation operation. Kudos to all locally who responded to NoCobalt-4-Food's rallying cry.

Source: e-mail from NoCobalt-4-Food, 6/6/05.

FAITH IN ACTION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY - Since 1998 the program to Abolish the Death Penalty of Amnesty International has coordinated annual Octo-

ber National Weekends of Faith in Action (NWFA) as a launching pad for people of all faith traditions to cogitate, educate and activate in their communities about the death penalty.

In 2004, over 550 faith communities, groups and individuals participated in the NWFA. Events have included study groups to examine a faith tradition's position on the death penalty, dissemination of information in bulletins and newsletters, prayer vigils for victims and perpetrators of violence, urging spiritual leaders to deliver sermons on the subject, and collaborating with other groups in an interfaith event for the larger community.

This year the weekend of nationally coordinated local events is planned for October 21st through 23rd. We are urged to go to our churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and sanghas to plan an event for that weekend, or at a more convenient time if conflicts with the dates are a problem.

Register with NWFA and you will receive an organizing packet of practical materials, a copy of the DVD, "The Empty Chair," which presents the stories of families who were victimized by violence, information on local death penalty activism, and membership in Amnesty International's USA Abolition Network. The LEPOCO Office has registration materials or register online at www.amnestyusa.org/faithinaction/signup.htm. The LEPOCO Office has additional materials about the death penalty, and a very active Committee Against State Killing that meets almost monthly. They can assist with speakers, networking with other activists, and valuable resources. Don't hesitate to call the Office even after you have registered for the NWFA.

Source: Amnesty International brochure.

- Jeff Vitelli

Gandhian Legacy Tour

(continued from page 4)

the night there. My cheerful request for similar accommodations was politely declined.

Instead the tour group would do a minimal amount of time at the Aga Khan Palace where M.K. Gandhi was imprisoned from August 1942-May 1944. Arun informed us that his grandmother Kasturba went to prison here with Mohandas, along with his personal secretary Desai. Both Kasturba and Desai would die there. As we overlooked the site of their cremation we were asked to contemplate the difficulty, pain, and commitment to the cause that dying in jail requires and to remember these two too-often-forgotten martyrs of the struggle for Indian independence.

At "Birla House" in Delhi, Gandhi would spend the final 144 days of his life. Nary a week had gone by since a bombing gone awry left the "Mahatma" weakened but unbowed. It was on his walk toward evening prayers when Gandhi met his fate. An assassin had slipped through the crowd. Three shots were fired. With a prayer for his killer and the name of God on his lips Mohandas K. Gandhi was felled. A simple sparse monument marks the spot of his martyrdom. As our bus pulled away from this sacred place i noted with grim irony the armory and military barracks located directly across the street. A choice modern India has apparently made: the rejection of Gandhi's nonviolence and the poison embrace of militarism.

On the 31st of January 1948, less than 24 hours after his death, one million mourners joined the funeral procession through the streets of New Delhi to the Raj Ghat, site of Gandhi's cremation. Our brief visit was solemn and memorable. Each member of the tour took a quiet moment to bow, pray, and pay their respects before the large black marble marker and the eternal flame situated behind it.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi: The Mahatma, or "Great Soul," "Father of the nation," is revered and honored around the world. Often thought otherworldly, and thus unattainable, Gandhi has been worshipped like a god, much like Jesus. And like Jesus, put on a pedestal and not followed. My understanding, though it may be flawed, is that this is a grave mistake. If i have learned anything on this pilgrimage, this journey towards nonviolence, it's that he was a human being of real flesh and blood with all the faults and foibles of you or i or anyone; that what he accomplished was not due to some special talents or gifts, but a passion well applied, true unwavering dedication, an indomitable will, and pure spirit of love. The example of Gandhi's life has taught me thus. Visiting the historic sites related to his life has solidified this for me. More so, witnessing the programs that carry on Gandhi's work, that put his philosophy into practice has relieved me of any feelings of helplessness, or hopelessness i may have had. I realize that from here on, i have no choice but to be an instrument

6 LEPOCO Newsletter / July-August 2005

for truth and nonviolence in the pursuit of justice and peace. Namaste' my friends.

- robert Daniels II

For a list of resources or information on contributing to the grass roots social programs in India please contact robert Daniels through LEPOCO or directly at rhubarbdoom@hotmail.com or at 138 High Street, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229.

Coalition Mobilizes

(continued from page 1)

Senator Arlen Specter remains at the center of action on the Patriot Act. He now sits on the House-Senate Conference Committee that will merge the two versions of the bill in September. Please urge Sen. Specter to hold firm on the Senate version, that is markedly better than the House version, by contacting his local office, as early as possible in August. (Sen. Arlen Specter, Federal Building, Suite 3814, 504 Hamilton St., Allentown 18101; 610-434-1444.

- Clint Walker

Anger's Prison

On his great 2004 album, *The Revolution Starts Now*, Steve Earle has a song entitled "F the CC." In it he excoriates, in raw language, the FCC, the FBI, the CIA, and the USA. I like the wild, angry spirit of this song. Sometimes I'll crank it up and howl along. Now, I've learned, this could be therapeutic.

On June 22, psychologist Rita Corriel held a workshop at LEPOCO called *Psycho-Spiritual Activism*. She talked about the need to work through our anger. Depression, Corriel said, is anger turned inwards. Anger turned inwards breeds depression, demoralization, despair, and feelings of uselessness and futility. This suffocates organized, collective effort to change things.

Rita said we need to break through the confines of our anger to see things in a larger perspective. By working through the anger/fear/pain, we arrive at fresh, creative new ways to overcome the militaristic, metallic, "Humvee" mentality consuming our spiritual and physical landscape. She said that we are living in the most existentially alienating time in human history, driven by fear, mistrust, and a pathological need to shut down the heart.

Corriel said that it's essential that you work out your anger by yourself. Beat up a pillow, a punching bag, close yourself in a closet or the bathroom and scream out your rage. Exhaust yourself. If you do it in public at, say, an anti-war vigil, you're merely "acting out," which only compounds the problem. Anger directed at others is emotional violence, which, like physical violence, begets more of the same.

Rita said if you just do a little of this every day, it works pretty fast. As you go through anguish and grief over our inhumanity to each other and the natural world, you'll break out of anger's prison and tap into your infinite, creative self.

- Mike Lawton

Kits & Pieces

☉ Peace Camp was another great success in its 16th year. We are recruiting more people to help with planning for next year. If you are interested please call LEPOCO for more info. There will a report with photographs in the next newsletter.

☉ Thank you to Silvia Brandon-Perez who led a spirited and interesting Español for Activists workshop on June 12th to benefit LEPOCO. Also, many thanks to Anna Hasz who organized the logistics for the workshop.

☉ Thank you again to Annie Hasz for organizing a LEPOCO table at the Bethlehem Farmer's Market on two Thursdays this summer. She sold fruit drinks to raise money for LEPOCO. We wish Annie all the best as she goes to college this fall. She will be very much missed in the LEPOCO community and the larger community.

☉ Thank you to the fourteen volunteers who staffed LEPOCO's table at Pride in the Park in Allentown on

Meetings...Meetings...Meetings...

(The meetings listed below are held at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., south Bethlehem, unless noted otherwise.)

Mon., Aug. 8, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting. All members and friends welcome!

Tues., Aug. 9, 4:45 pm: Planning Meeting for September Newsletter.

Wed., Aug. 10, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition Meeting.

Thurs., Aug. 11, Noon: LEPOCO Fundraising Committee Meeting, at NAWAB Restaurant.

Tues., Aug. 16, 8:30 am: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing Meeting.

Tues., Aug. 16, 7 pm: Counter-Recruitment Planning Meeting.

Wed., Aug. 24, Noon: Americas Solidarity Group Meeting.

Thursday, Aug. 25 or Sept. 8, 6 pm: LEPOCO Computer/Technology Upgrade Planning Discussion.

Mon., Sept. 26, 7:15 pm: Peace Camp Evaluation/Follow-Up Meeting.

June 19. It was a lovely day and we were able to talk peace issues with lots of people, as well as sell buttons, bumper stickers and cards with a peace and justice message.

☉ Kathryn Hoffman organized a peace demonstration calling for an end to the war in Iraq outside the Liberty Bell Church on Sun., July 4th where Rep. Charles Dent joined other community leaders in the honoring the Declaration of Independence. Thanks to Kathryn and the more than two dozen people who joined her on short notice.

☉ LEPOCO was proud to have a contingent in the Puerto Rican Parade in Allentown on Sun., July 24. Thanks to those who marched in the hot sun with peace banners.

☉ When LEPOCO was denied the opportunity to have our traditional info. table at the Heritage Day in Easton on July 10, we decided to distribute a simple leaflet calling for an end to the war in Iraq. Unfortunately, some of the Heritage Days planners did not like our presence. If you would like to see the story from the *Express Times* contact LEPOCO. A letter to the Heritage Day planners requests a more generous consideration in 2006.



☉ LEPOCO will have an info. table at Lehigh University's Community Expo., on Mon., Aug. 29, 4-6 pm. If you would like to help Peter Crownfield with staffing, please contact him at 610-691-8730.

☉ The Annual LEPOCO Yard Sale will Sat., 17, if you want to start saving those donations.

To mark the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, The Gallery at the Rest Stop in Jim Thorpe (37 Race St.) is sponsoring an exhibit of Art For Awareness. Local artists and artists from Philadelphia and New York city will participate. The official opening is Sat., Aug. 13. It will be available for viewing Saturdays, 11 am -5 pm, and Sundays, 1-5 pm, starting Aug 6th, and running through September. Call Stephanie Verme (484-554-9809) or Jill Robbins (610-509-2544) for more info. or for weekday hours.

Weekly Peace Vigils

Bethlehem

4:30-5:30 pm, Thursdays
3rd & Wyandotte Sts.,
south Bethlehem

Contact: Maria Weick 610-346-8793

Allentown

Noon-1 pm, Fridays
Federal Courthouse,
5th & Hamilton Sts.,

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!

SUPPORT LEPOCO!

- ___ Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$ ____.
(\$25 individual; \$30 household; \$5 limited 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 most interested in working on the following
issues: _____

NAME _____ PHONE # _____ e-mail _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

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



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

(610) 691-8730

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See Inside:

Page 1

Hiroshima-Nagasaki
USA PATRIOT Act
End the War in DC

Page 2

Americas Solidarity
Report

Page 3

Expand Counter-
Recruitment
Students Can "Opt-
Out"

Page 4

Gandhian Legacy
Tour: Part II

Page 5

Struggle Shared

Page 6

Anger's Prison

Page 7

Bits & Pieces

Next Month:

Peace Camp

Report

60 Years Later: The Terror of Nuclear War Is Still With Us
Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembered

Part 2

A Gathering of Music, Readings, & Ritual

Thursday, August 4, 7 pm

Tondabayashi Japanese Serenity Garden

Church Street, Bethlehem

(west side of Bethlehem Public Library)

(Rain site: Tondabayashi Room, 2nd Floor, Bethlehem Public Library)

Part 3

On Friday, August 5, The Nuclear Abolition Sisters and friends will visit local mayors who signed the Mayors for Peace Statement with flowers in appreciation for their support. For more information see page 1 or contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.