

July-August  
2010

Vol. 45 No. 5



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

## Sweet Disarmament Summer

- Footprints For Peace visited the Lehigh Valley in April as part of the 80-day walking journey from the Y12 nuclear weapons facility in Oakridge, Tennessee, to the United Nations in New York.

- William Hartung, Director of the Arms & Security Initiative at the New America Foundation, and LEPOCO Dinner speaker in 2001, wrote of the May review conference for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) ("the most important global treaty on nuclear disarmament"), that the review conference ended with "a consensus document that reaffirmed the treaty's core commitments and mandated steps - albeit modest - to carry them out. Given that many analysts assumed in advance that there would be no consensus document, this represents a real victory."

- Due to the efforts of Mayors for Peace, the U.S. conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a groundbreaking resolution, "Supporting U.S. Participation in Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Redirection of Nuclear Weapons Spending to Meet the Needs of Cities," at their Oklahoma City meeting on June 14.

- The U.S. Senate has the opportunity soon to ratify the New START Treaty, a critical, if small, step towards the goal of nuclear disarmament. (Urge your senators to seize the opportunity.)

- Our own Kelly Quain will be participating in "Think Outside the Bomb" youth-led activities at Los Alamos this summer. (See The Struggle Shared on page seven for more on Kelly's efforts.)

There is a sense of movement, even if slower than we would all wish, on nuclear disarmament.

Please join us for events listed below in this the season of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (We include here all that the Nuclear Abolition Sisters have planned knowing that some of these efforts may have occurred by the time you read this.) This August is the 65th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States. Thankfully there have been no comparable bombings, but the nuclear age has brought much destruction -- nuclear weapons testing, the widespread production of nuclear power with the concurrent widespread pollution from the nuclear fuel cycle, the proliferation of nuclear weapons to many countries, the production and use of depleted uranium weapons -- to name some more obvious examples.

7 pm, Friday, July 16, the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trinity, the first experimental A-bomb test at Alamogordo, New Mexico:

Sweet Disarmament Summer Gathering (Dessert Potluck & Politics at LEPOCO Peace Center).

Watch "Climate of Hope: Climate Change, Nuclear Power & the Energy Revolution." Produced by the Anti-Nuclear Alliance of Western Australia.

Hear Kelly Quain of Easton speak about her planned participation in the Think Outside the Bomb, young people's encampment and action at Los Alamos, NM, July 30-August 9, Please bring a dessert or beverage to share.

7 pm, Friday, August 6, Hiroshima Day, First Friday Popcorn & Politics at LEPOCO Peace Center

Watch "Seabrook 1977," a film about a significant grassroots action against nuclear power in the 1970s. See page 3 for more details.

Monday, August 9, Nagasaki Day, 6-8:30 pm  
& Wednesday, August 11, 7-8:30 pm

Banners, Leaflets and Candles in the "Free Speech Zone" at Musikfest. Remember Hiroshima-Nagasaki! Raise Sunflowers! Reject Nuclear Weapons!

Call LEPOCO, 610-691-8730, for more info. on any of these events.

- Nancy C. Tate



## Ann Wright to Speak on July 21

Ann Wright, a retired Army Colonel and former State Department diplomat will speak locally about her experience on the humanitarian aid flotilla that attempted to carry aid to Gaza in May. Her talk will be at 7 pm, Wednesday, July 21, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem.

In December 2001 Ann Wright was on the State Department team that helped reopen the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan. In March 2003 she resigned from the State Department in protest over the imminent U.S. invasion of Iraq. Since then she has been speaking out for peace. Among other efforts, she has participated in three delegations to Gaza. In May she was a passenger on one of the smaller ships in the Freedom Flotilla. She will describe what she witnessed during the raid of the flotilla by the Israeli military and her experiences during the subsequent detention of flotilla members by the government of Israel.

Ann Wright's talk is part of her national speaking tour to raise awareness of the situation in Palestine and to raise money for a United States ship to be part of the next flotilla. There will be an opportunity for donations.

Her talk is sponsored by the local Veterans for Peace chapter, LEPOCO, and Peace & Justice Across Borders. For more information contact LEPOCO.

# Remembering Art Landis: May 17, 1933 - June 8, 2010

After several months of declining health and repeat trips to and from the hospital our friend and fellow activist Arthur Landis has died. An informal memorial service was held on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, in Quakertown. Friends and family gathered and shared memories, stories and poems. A lovely picnic meal was shared afterwards in a nearby church picnic grove.

I first came to know Art while sitting several hours in a holding cell under the watchful eye of Allentown's finest. He, i, and nine others had participated in a sit-in at Representative Pat Toomey's office the day after the start of the current war in Iraq. Of course there'd been meetings where i'd seen Art prior to this act of nonviolent civil disobedience, but, as i'd learn was typical Art, he didn't say much at the planning gatherings. Meetings weren't his thing.

So it was in a jail cell where i got to know this extraordinary individual -- he who carried a tattered book of poetry and his "Bring Our Soldiers Home" sign wherever he went. Art was fond of protest poems and the lyrical stylings of such greats as William Blake and e.e. cummings. You never knew when Art would spontaneously bellow a few lines from "i sing of Olaf glad and big," which, considering some of the profanities (and profundities) contained within could cause quite a comical scandal when out amongst the sleep-walking public.

Art was out there. Bold in actions and quiet in speech. I often didn't quite know what to make of him. Was he mad like the monk Rasputin, who, with his bushy beard, he oft resembled? Or, was he simply pure? My vote's for the latter -- pure in his passion for the poor and hurting, pure in his righteous anger towards injustice, and pure in his rebellious indignation towards so-called authority. So pure that societal conventions, all that is "prim and proper," could not contain him. Ready or not Public, the truth needed to be spoken and Art was the fellow to do it. His was a purity that might even the better angels of our nature themselves might blanch at, but really should take inspiration from.

Art regularly demonstrated against the wars, standing with a sign on Main Street in Sellersville. Sometimes he'd be the only one there, but still he'd come. Art knew well that taking a stand was often a lonely place to be. He was arrested at least a half dozen times. With the aforementioned Toomey incursion, repeat trespasses at Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia, another sit-in at Representative Charlie Dent's office, haunting the Senate chamber in Congress, and crossing the line at the School of the Americas (for which he served a 30-day sentence in prison), Art built up quite a record of resistance in the brief years i knew him.

He was not "like a father" to me, but was and is a father to me and my work for peace and justice. His steadfast witness will remain an inspiration and challenge for me, and for us all. Okay, i've written enough.

2 LEPOCO Newsletter / July-August 2010

"Too much," Art would no doubt say. Better to get out there in the streets and do something, rather than just talk about it.

Art Landis. Presenté!

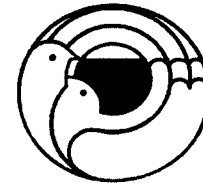
- robert Daniels II

## We also Remember

As this newsletter is being prepared we have learned of the death of another giant of compassion who dedicated his life to the struggles for justice and peace in our world.

Bob Thompson died on July 4<sup>th</sup>. He was an outstanding community leader in Bethlehem, and one of those thoughtful souls who gathered at Kirkridge in 1965 to found the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern. We hope to share more in a future newsletter after the family announces plans for a gathering to celebrate his life.

Suffice it here to repeat his quote that was included in the newspaper obituary, "I soon learned that we had serious...issues right here in Bethlehem. And I learned that it was possible to be arrested and jailed in a good cause right here in the Christmas City. I learned that the history of Bethlehem, and indeed of our nation, was a history of struggle... I can think of no other life I would rather have lived."



### Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern  
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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 staple, fold and label the newsletter each month.

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

# Popcorn & Politics

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Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm: Seabrook 1977

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

In April 1977, the small coastal town of Seabrook, New Hampshire, became an international symbol in the battle over atomic energy. Concerned about the dangers of potential radioactive accidents, over 2,000 members of the Clamshell Alliance, a coalition of environmental groups, attempted to block construction of a nuclear power plant in Seabrook. 1,414 people were arrested in that civil disobedience protest and jailed en masse in National Guard armories for two weeks. This documentary tells the story of this seminal event of 1970s environmental activism and shows people making history from the grassroots.

Directed by Robbie Leppzer. 80 minutes. 1978.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm:

## The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers

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

Documentary tells the story of Daniel Ellsberg, a high-level Pentagon official and Vietnam War strategist, who in 1971 concluded that the war was based on decades of lies, and leaked 7,000 pages of top secret documents to *The New York Times*, making headlines around the world. A riveting story of how one person's profound change of heart created a landmark struggle involving newspapers, the U.S. President and the Supreme Court.

Directed by Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith. 94 minutes. 2009.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*



## Afghanistan: Our War Continues

### Discussion Set

The Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition has been maintained in recent months by a small group of people dedicated to making local opposition to U.S. wars more visible. People from LEPOCO, Veterans For Peace, Catholics for Peace, Flaming Fundamentalists for Peace and the Green Party, participate regularly with support from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, and some Quakers and Unitarians.

On Thursday, August 19, at 7 pm, the Peace Coalition will discuss the way forward in opposing the U.S. war in Afghanistan using a short book by Phyllis Bennis and David Wildman, "Ending the U.S. War In Afghanistan: A Primer," as a starting point. The discussion will be held at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All who want to help end this war are invited to attend. As the book says (page 187), "Building a powerful movement against the U.S. war in Afghanistan means providing people with the tools they need to argue the case to those who don't already agree." This discussion will hopefully help us in building those tools.

The book is available at LEPOCO (\$10). If you would like to report on a section of the book please call Nancy Tate at LEPOCO, 610-691-8730.

### Votes on War Still To Come

The U.S. Congress will vote again soon, in both the Senate and the House, on funding the war in Af-

ghanistan. The votes will probably occur between July 21 and August 7, the Senate vote coming in the earlier part of that time span. So please call your senators and representatives again saying, "Please vote NO on funding for the war in Afghanistan." If you need phone numbers besides those that follow, please contact LEPOCO (Sen. Casey - 202-224-6324; Sen. Specter - 610-434-1444; Rep. Dent - 610-861-9734; Rep. Murphy - 202-225-4276).

### National Conference to Bring Troops Home Set

Peace activists will gather in Albany, New York, July 23-25, to discuss a program of action against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Speakers will include: Noam Chomsky, Medea Benjamin, Kathy Kelly, Michael Ferner, Kevin Martin, Cindy Sheehan, and Ann Wright. For more information and to register see [www.nationalpeaceconference.org](http://www.nationalpeaceconference.org).

### Peace Shoes on the Ground

Kathy Kelly and Joshua Broilier, of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, visited Afghanistan and Pakistan in May and June. They took their eyes of compassion for the suffering and turmoil resulting from the violence in those countries. They report on developments that you are not likely to hear about in the "boots on the ground" news in the mainstream media. You can find several of their reports at [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org) or at their web site [www.vcnv.org](http://www.vcnv.org).

# Visiting El Salvador and Honoring Joe DeRaymond

In late March, Sarah Snider, Robert Daniels II and Mimi Lang traveled to El Salvador as part of a delegation organized by the Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad (CIS) to honor Archbishop Oscar Romero on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his assassination in 1980. Many will recognize the CIS name since it is the organization in which Joe DeRaymond participated on his many visits to El Salvador. In truth, the three of us were more dedicated to what we felt was the Joe delegation since the real purpose of our trip was to visit the mountain village of La Loma and attend the dedication of the village school named for him.

On our fourth day in El Salvador, ten of the 38 delegation members (a combination of CIS and SOA Watch Romero delegations) piled into trucks for the trip to La Loma. The first hour was on a paved road, the second on a dusty, rocky mountain road from the town of Comasagua to the top of a very hot, dry mountain covered with brown high grass and a few trees. One could almost hear the mountain calling to the rainy season, which would begin in about 30 days and make travel to La Loma very difficult for months.

We left the trucks for a two-kilometer trek on a steep path from the road. It was possible to see the Pacific Ocean by taking a slight detour from the path. We walked past one village house and a dirt soccer field to a level area where an ancient tree heavily laden with mangoes grew. The tree was a village gathering place. Near it was the brand new school filled with 38 eager, but shy, students, some of their parents and the new teacher, Leopoldo. It was the second day of school.

The village leader, Adriana, introduced us and gave a lengthy speech in honor of his good friend, Joe DeRaymond and in honor of Joe's work on behalf of the village. He showed the official government document giving the school its charter and its name. It was difficult for us to imagine what was involved in the effort to obtain the document. Adriana had to make the long, long walk up and down the mountain more than 40 times to usher it into existence. Leslie Schuld, the CIS Director, made numerous trips to Comasagua to untangle the convoluted process required for the school to have a charter and a teacher.

The children wore their best clothes and brightest faces to greet us. Many were hardly able to speak their names to this group of strangers. Leopoldo assured us that the children would shout out their names if we visited them in a year. Sarah Snider presented the school with a copy of the painting of Joe done by his brother Bill and gave each child a shiny green knapsack filled with school supplies generously donated by LEPOCO members.

After a lunch under the mango tree prepared by the women of the village, we left La Loma feeling a kinship with Joe and with the people of La Loma who are dedicated to the education of their children. Along

with the school supplies, we took soccer balls and softballs and bats. To our great but delighted surprise, the latter were for the hard working women of the village.

We spent the other days of the delegation participating, in processions, speeches and musical events honoring Oscar Romero and visiting projects supported by CIS in villages throughout El Salvador. The work of Archbishop Romero continues to inspire the spiritual and political lives of the poor people of that country and their new President Funes. Unfortunately, the right-wing members of the Arena Party, the Catholic Church, representatives of the US and some wealthy families oppose his beliefs and take opportunities to denigrate his reputation.

The stories that touched me the most were the personal ones: the brave, young people of Radio Victoria who speak out against mining and the death of their friend Marcello; the village women of the Romero Community in Tonacatepeque who persisted in their effort to establish a community despite local government interventions; the women of Cinquera who surrounded their Church to prevent its destruction and the men of the same village, former guerillas, who have converted the wild area where they hid from the military into a ecological/historical park; the women's organization in San Pablo Tacachico that runs a 1500-chicken co-op that pays for their education; the Rector of the University of Central America, Fr. Jose Maria Tojeira, SJ, who told the story of his discovery of the brutal murders of his Jesuit brothers, their housekeeper and her daughter in 1989.

All who spoke to us mentioned that the biggest problem in El Salvador is IMPUNITY. People are too afraid to accuse criminals because of retaliation. El Salvador becomes more violent and the people more fearful. In spite of this overwhelming problem, CIS carries on its mission to promote solidarity and exchange between the Salvadoran people and the people of the world. Our support is needed and appreciated. Each of the stories told above has received support in some way from CIS. It is an organization that has a great impact on the daily lives of hundreds of Salvadorans. It is easy to understand Joe DeRaymond's dedication to the cause of CIS.

- Mimi Lang

Editor's Notes: Mimi, Sarah, and Robert gave a report on their trip for a LEPOCO Potluck & Politics program on June 13. \$260 in donations collected that evening was sent to CIS to be used in their Joe DeRaymond Memorial work. If you would like to support this work checks can be made out to Los Olivos CIS and sent to them at PO Box 76, Westmont, IL 60559-0076. Please be sure to note on the check that it is for the Joe DeRaymond Memorial Fund.

CIS has prepared a lovely report about the school in La Loma. A copy can be sent to you by e-mail or regular mail. Just let us know you want a copy.

## Statement from LEPOCO Steering Committee, June 1, 2010, Emergency Meeting about the Attack by the Government of Israel on the Freedom Flotilla to Gaza

We were deeply saddened to learn of the attack by the Israeli Government on the humanitarian aid boats taking desperately needed supplies to Gaza.

We speak out now because our government leaders have failed to condemn the attack on the Freedom Flotilla.

We speak out because U.S. military aid to Israel of over \$3 billion a year makes us all, as U.S. citizens, complicit and responsible in this commando raid.

We speak out to support the nonviolent, creative dedication of over 600 people from 40 countries, in their attempt to carry aid and hope to the beleaguered Gazans. They acted with courage to heal abandonment when governments have failed.

We speak out because we are offended at the vile accusations against flotilla members who acted from human empathy for the 1.5 million poor people of Gaza who are restricted to an area less than half the size of Northampton County, deprived even of safe drinking water, and unable to rebuild from the bombing destruction of over a year ago.

We speak out because we are deeply troubled that the violent seizure of civilian boats has been portrayed as self-defense when those who were forced to act in self-defense, from their commitment to nonviolence, were not allowed to speak and their cameras and cell phones were stolen.

We speak out because the three-year blockade of Gaza is an affront to the world community and as collective punishment is a violation of the Geneva Convention. The blockade must be ended.

The two ships still heading to Gaza should be allowed to proceed posthaste with their humanitarian aid cargo intact.

We call for an independent, international investigation of the attack on the Freedom Flotilla; the release of all members of the flotilla, their possessions and boats; and, the delivery of all their aid cargo to Gaza. Why have the names of the dead, injured and imprisoned been withheld so long? Compensation should be paid by the Israeli Government for all deaths, injuries, and material losses suffered by members of the flotilla as a result of the attack.

Our government, and we -- as a people -- must throw off our complacency, acknowledge the outrage against human rights that Israel's blockade of Gaza represents, and through wise diplomacy confront its perpetrators (not only Israel, but Egypt, which has played a role in Gaza's isolation). The threats engendered by the present U.S. policy of failing to question any Israeli actions have been spelled out by many including General David Patraeus, the Jewish group J Street, and former U.S. Ambassador Edward Peck, a member of the Freedom Flotilla. U.S. policy does not promote security for the Palestinian people, Israel, the region or our own country.

A first step would be suspension of U.S. military aid to the region, until there are serious efforts toward a peace agreement.

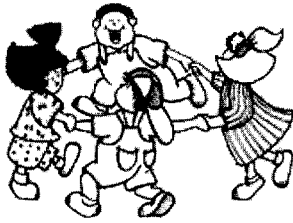
We support those Palestinians, Israelis and internationals who have acted, at great personal risk, to bring the possibility of peace to Israel and Palestine through nonviolent struggle -- the Israeli Refusnik soldiers, Rachel Corrie and all those members of the International Solidarity Movement killed and injured, Christian Peacemakers, and all the ships that have attempted to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. Richard Falk, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Palestine and the Occupied Territories, has said that the best hope for the Palestinians is a nonviolent campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel since only the people of the world can stand against the crime that has no borders.

This statement will be sent to the U.S. Administration, Israeli officials, members of the U.S. Congress, local press/media outlets, and local and national organizations.

LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 . 610-691-8730 . [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org) . [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)

Editor's Note: This statement has been sent to the designated officials, media outlets and some organizations. Please share it with others.

## Peace Camp Is Full!!!



The Peace Camp Planning Committee gives a big thank you to everyone who has registered for Peace Camp and to all those who will be helping out. We have over 70 campers registered. We cannot accept more registrations given our space limitations and adult and teen leadership. If you can help with the transport of supplies to and from the camp (July 25 and/or July 30) or with the Friday luncheon (July 30) please contact LEPOCO. Look for a report on this always uplifting program in the next newsletter.

## LEPOCO Book Group \_\_\_\_\_

The First Wednesday LEPOCO Book Group will meet next on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. *Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World* by Alan Weisman will be discussed. It is a true environmental story about a successful experimental community in Colombia.

On Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the book group will discuss two books: *Caravans* by James Michner and *Ending the U.S. War in Afghanistan: A Primer* by David Wildman and Phyllis Bennis. *Caravans* is a novel about Afghanistan written in 1963.

New readers and discussion participants are welcome each month. Call Bob & Carmen Riggs at 610-867-1244 or Becky Irwin at 610-351-6936 for more information.

## Memorial Day at Cedar Beach

On May 31<sup>st</sup> Lehigh Valley Veterans for Peace Chapter 152, with some support from LEPOCO, held a Memorial Day Observance from dawn to dusk at Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. (Mayfair was underway across the creek in the park.) This activity consisted of a display of tombstones listing the names of Pennsylvanians killed during military service in Afghanistan or Iraq from 2003 to the present. While attendance was lighter than might have been hoped, people did stop steadily during the day to view the memorial. Booklets were passed out listing the date and location of each person's death as well as his or her age and hometown. Concluding the day was the playing of "Taps" at dusk.

- Paul Fichter

Editor's Note: The display, put together after significant resistance from City of Allentown officialdom, was done with great care and was quite moving, thanks to the hard work of many in the local VFP chapter -- especially Patrick Roxberry, Louise Legun, Judy Woodruff, Dan Poresky, Ellen Buck, Sharon Mills, John Zachmann, Phil Reiss, and Paul Fichter.  
6 LEPOCO Newsletter / July-August 2010

## *I've known rivers*

by Langston Hughes

*I've known rivers:*

*I've known rivers ancient as the world and  
older than the flow of human blood in human veins.*

*My soul has grown deep like the rivers.*

*I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.*

*I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.*

*I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.*

*I heard the singing of the Mississippi when*

*Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans and*

*I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.*

*I've known rivers:*

*Ancient dusky rivers.*

*My soul has grown deep like the rivers.*

## Listening to the water \_\_\_\_\_

When we think of the Earth as one integrated organism we understand that all H<sub>2</sub>O everywhere, even the water that comprises our blood, is connected in a continuous flow. Perhaps this helps explain the deep sadness and outrage many of us experienced as we learned of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and as we continue to hear of the ongoing and terrible consequences.

Another aspect of our desolation comes from the knowledge of the part that greed, negligence and malfeasance play in such environmental disasters. It's easy to connect the dots between the oil spill and the recent explosions of natural gas wells in Pennsylvania, and even the mountain top removal for coal in West Virginia that results in pollution and destruction of creeks and rivers in the valleys. It's just another step to contemplate the horrible contamination of our waterways and ground water by the practices of CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) and other agricultural operations.

Outrage is the appropriate reaction, sadness an understandable emotion. But we must take care of our inner selves, helping our spirits move forward into hope and engagement. It is time to go to the edge of the water and listen, allowing our creative selves to capture and express our oneness with the natural world. This practice, sometimes known as a Water Sounding, was shared by a few of us along the Monocacy Creek one Sunday evening recently, while another LEPOCO member held his own Sounding near his home so as not to use oil to drive to Bethlehem.

- Greta Browne

Check out the LEPOCO website  
at [www.lepoco.org](http://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](mailto:lepoco@fast.net).

# The Struggle Shared

*Somehow this cycle of vengeance keeps turnin'  
Until each other's sorrows and songs we start learnin'  
Peace is the prize for those who are daring  
Sing me the music of healing  
Time is your friend it cures all your sorrows  
But how can I wait 'til another tomorrow  
One step today and a thousand will follow  
Sing me the music of healing*

Tommy Sands & Pete Seeger, *The Music of Healing*, 1995

## THINK OUTSIDE THE BOMB -

Despite receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Obama is investing \$7 billion to build three new bomb factories in Oak Ridge, TN, Kansas City, MO, and Los Alamos, NM. Los Alamos, has long been a cornerstone of U.S. bomb-making capability, is in the heart of Native People's sacred tribal lands, and has been a focal point of nuclear resistance for decades.

From July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's entry into the Nuclear Age with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, Los Alamos will be the site of a Convergence Action Encampment. Think Outside the Bomb, a cross-cultural alliance of young people working to build a grassroots movement for nonviolent direct action, is organizing the Convergence with its partners including the Tribal Environmental Watch Alliance, Tewa Women United, and the Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum. They are committed to collective liberation, a sustainable future, and an end to the cycle of nuclear violence.

LEPOCO activist Kelly Quain is preparing to travel to Los Alamos to be part of the Convergence. She is particularly excited to be able to join an affinity group, receive non-violence training, and participate in the direct action planned at the Los Alamos nuclear test lab on August 6<sup>th</sup>. She will also do some work with a community center.

Kelly is a shining example of the new generation of committed local peace activists. She is a 20-year-old student at Northampton Communi-

ty College, whose first contact with LEPOCO was at a Youth and Militarism counter-recruitment table set up at Easton High School in 2006. She attended a Youth Peacemakers Training workshop shortly thereafter, and her peacemaking career took flight. She represented LEPOCO last summer at the National Demilitarization and Counter-Recruitment Conference in Chicago, and in February 2010, was in Austin, Texas, for the Student Peace Alliance Conference. We wish Kelly a safe and exciting journey.

Please see page 1 of this newsletter for information about a July 16<sup>th</sup> Sweet Disarmament Summer Gathering at LEPOCO. The gathering will feature Kelly speaking about her upcoming journey along with a film about the hazards of the nuclear fuel cycle.



MUSIC OF HEALING - Longtime activist and LEPOCO member Annie Prince is cofounder, and director of development for "Music of Healing." Since 1996, Annie has collaborated with Irish singer-songwriter, Tommy Sands, as they initiated "Pirates for Peace," which brought Catholic and Protestant students together in Northern Ireland for programs in songwriting, music production and visual arts. They use music to help create an atmosphere of humanity and neighborliness, thereby making it easier for bitter political opponents to come together and discuss a problem that was being regarded as an "impossible" one to resolve.

During the week of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 the impossible was becoming possible and a group of musicians singing outside Stormont Castle were joined in song by the politicians themselves to nudge that process along. The event was later described by a government minister as "a decisive moment in the Peace Process."

That program evolved into "Music of Healing," an annual symposium for many years in Ireland. In 2001, the Shimon Peres Center for Peace in Tel Aviv awarded Tommy Sands a peace-making award for his work. After years of collaboration with the Center and other peace and reconciliation groups, and after four trips to the Middle East, Tommy Sands, his daughter, Moya, and son, Fionan, were in Jerusalem and Gaza in June to replicate the Music of Healing Program at a most difficult time and to express their solidarity with all those involved in human rights and peace work.

A performance that was scheduled at the "Festival Bloomsday Concert" in Israel, on June 20, was cancelled when Tommy refused to be censored. He was asked by the event organizers not to sing "Peace on the Shores of Gaza," the anthem he had written for the MV Rachel Corrie when it set sail from Ireland for Gaza. He did perform, after receiving an invitation at another venue, for a weekly demonstration in East Jerusalem.

Annie says that while this "Music of Healing" tour is over, and Tommy Sands is back in Ireland, she is certain their unique approach to peacemaking, combining music with political discussions, will go on -- in Ireland, in the Middle East, and wherever parties are in conflict. To support this work, contact Annie Prince, "Music of Healing," P.O. Box 211, Bethlehem, PA 18016, or [annikapri@earthlink.net](mailto:annikapri@earthlink.net). You can make a tax-deductible contribution to "Focus International," noting "Music of Healing" on the check.

- Jeff Vitelli



# Bits & Pieces

Ⓢ The LEPOCO Bike-Walkathon in June had pleasant weather and a hearty group of participants. We want to give special acknowledgement to the businesses and organizations that supported the walk with in-kind donations including CAT activist, Frank Pavlick doing bike tune-ups; Sandra Kessle of the Yoga Loft, Bethlehem, leading body warm-ups; gift certificates from the Aardvark Sports Shop, Bethlehem, the Valley Preferred Cycling Center, Trexlertown, and The Old Library Shop, Bethlehem; food from the Quadrant Bookmart & Café, Easton, Nature's Way, Easton, and the Wildflower Café & Gallery, Bethlehem; water bottles from Genesis Bicycles, Easton.

Thank you to the planning Committee and all those who rode and walked, or acted as support volunteers.

Ⓢ ...over the last three decades through tax breaks, corporate welfare, massive military spending and crony capitalism the U.S. has gone into debt while funneling wealth to the top 5%, especially the top .5%. There are hundreds of billions of potential savings in cuts to corporate welfare to industries that are seeing record profits like the oil and gas industry as well as to the bloated military budget... Further, a very small tax on stocks, bonds and derivatives could raise easily \$150 billion annually. Raising the tax rates on the wealthiest Americans - the multi-millionaires and billionaires who profited from tax breaks that created much of the debt - would raise tens of billions annually.

- Kevin Zeese writing about his June 30<sup>th</sup> testimony for the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. His testimony can be read at [www.prosperityagenda.us](http://www.prosperityagenda.us)

Ⓢ Thank you to everyone who has responded to the LEPOCO fund appeal letter written by Addison Bross and mailed out in June. Of course, donations from anyone who still wants to respond would be very much welcomed.

Ⓢ In 2007, the richest 400 American families had an average income of \$345

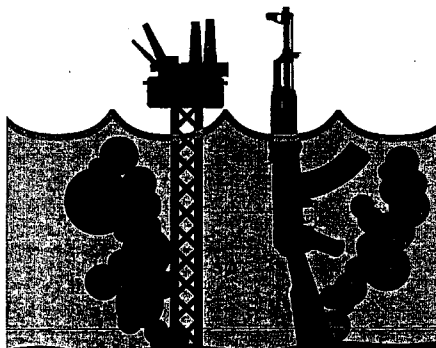
million each, more than double their take in 2001; in this time span, their income-tax rate was slashed from an average of 29.4% to 16.6%, allowing them to pay only half the rate paid by their chauffeurs and gardeners.

- from *The Hightower Lowdown*, 5/10

Ⓢ Working Families Win is dedicated to issues of economic justice. Their brochure features Franklin Roosevelt's Economic Bill of Rights from 1944. Locally, Lorraine Pasquali, of Working Families Win, has organized three citizen engagement workshops. One was held on July 10. The other two will be held July 31 ("Getting the Message Out"), and August 21 ("Grassroots Activism"). For more info. you can contact her at 610-704-5601.

Ⓢ LEPOCO's Steering Committee has started a process evaluating our current program, staffing, and funding. Soon LEPOCO activists, besides those members of the Steering Committee, will be invited to join the discussion. Please contact the office if you would like to be updated on this process.

## NO MORE OFFSHORE DRILLING & OFFSHORE KILLING



FROM THE GULF COAST TO GAZA:  
THE LAND & SEA  
BELONG TO US ALL

- from [www.patrickstjohn.org](http://www.patrickstjohn.org)

Ⓢ The Progressive magazine of July 2010, calls the BP disaster in the Gulf, "America's Chernobyl." Naomi Klein calls it "A Hole in the World," in an article that appeared in *The Nation's*, July 12<sup>th</sup> issue.

She writes, "If Katrina pulled back the curtain on racism, the BP disaster pulls

back the curtain on something far more hidden: how little control even the most ingenious among us have over the awesome, intricately interconnected natural forces with which we so casually meddle. BP cannot plug the hole in the Earth that it made. Obama cannot order brown pelicans not to go extinct (no matter whose ass he kicks). No amount of money - not BP's recently pledge \$20 billion, not \$100 billion - can replace a culture that has lost its roots...

Ⓢ Rev. Bill Callahan, an international leader in movements for social justice, peace, and reform of the Roman Catholic Church, died on July 5<sup>th</sup>. He was 78. Bill Callahan spoke at LEPOCO's Annual Dinner in 1995 and we had many contacts with him in his work at the Quixote Center in Maryland. In the 1980s we raised goods and financial donations for Quixote's Quest for Peace that delivered aid to besieged Nicaragua. That effort matched the \$227 million in war funding from the U.S. government with an equal amount of humanitarian aid from peace activists across the U.S. The Memorial Service for Rev. Callahan was held on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Bill Callahan Memorial Fund has been established at the Quixote Center, Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

### 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 most interested in working on the following issues:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Return to: LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.



# Bits & Pieces

☪ 'Tis the season of **Festivals and Fairs** and LEPOCO will be present at several. Already this year we have participated in the Earth Day Festival in Jim Thorpe and the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Festival in Allentown.

On Sunday, August 15, we will have an information booth at **Pride Fest**, in Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. September 17-19, we will be at the Pennsylvania **Sustainable Energy Festival** in Kempton. On Saturday, September 25, we will have a booth at the **Peace Fair** in Buckingham, Bucks County.

At all of these festivals we need volunteers to cover the staffing. If you can help for a couple of hours please call the LEPOCO Office 610-691-8730.

☪ Witness for Peace is sponsoring a "Solidarity with the Continuing Resistance" **Delegation to Honduras**, August 10-18. The cost is \$575 plus airfare. This is an urgent delegation to stand with those in Honduras who defy brutal, daily repression from a dictatorship put in power after the School of the Americas graduate-led military coup that ousted Honduras' democratically elected president in 2009. For more info. see [www.witnessforpeace.org/HondurasDelegation](http://www.witnessforpeace.org/HondurasDelegation).

☪ The Latin America Solidarity Coalition will host a one-day **Anti-Militarization Organizers Conference** in Columbus, Georgia, on Thurs., Nov. 18, in the lead-up to the November Vigil to Close the SOA. It will be an opportunity for organizers to strategize about grassroots responses to the accelerating U.S. militarization in the Americas. For more info. see [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org).

☪ After an 18-month protest campaign the **Army Experience Center** (AEC) at the Franklin Mills Mall, Philadelphia, is closing. The first-(and hopefully last)-of-its-kind multimillion dollar military recruitment tool, which used flight simulators and video games to lure teens through its doors, will have its doors closed permanently

on July 31<sup>st</sup>. A coalition of over 30 peace groups which included Veterans For Peace chapters, Brandywine Peace Community, BuxMont Coalition for Peace Action, and LEPOCO, participated in demonstrations, vigils, and non-violent civil disobedience, in an effort to shut down the AEC. When the center first opened in 2008 the Army announced it was designed as a pilot program that would be taken to other shopping malls across the U.S. The early closure of this AEC signals the end of that idea and yet the Army claimed victory. "It's been a great success," Army spokesperson Brian Lepley said. "Basically it's mission accomplished." ... Yeah, where've we heard that be-fore? It's a success and victory alright, but not for the military. This win goes to the peace movement.

- robert Daniels II

☪ In other hopeful news, Maryland has become the first state to bar public high schools from releasing test scores to military recruiters, thus hindering the backdoor access the armed forces have to young people. In most states students are offered (in some cases, sold as a graduation requirement) the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam (**ASVAB**), a test of math, reading, electronics, and mechanical skills, whose results are automatically turned over to military recruiters. Recruiters use information gleaned from test results to fashion sales

itches catered to unsuspecting candidates. Now, in Maryland, students and their parents must give consent to releasing contact information and ASVAB results to the military. Kudos to all the Maryland peace and civil rights groups for their successful efforts. For more information on the ASVAB test and resources about protecting children's information contact the LEPOCO Peace Center or visit [www.asvabtest.org](http://www.asvabtest.org).

- robert Daniels, II

## Save the Date

Friday, October 22

(in the evening)

A special gathering will be held to remember the life of Joe DeRaymond (near the one year anniversary of his death), and to support the Peace Community that he loved in Colombia.

The Americas Solidarity Group is planning this event in cooperation with the Fellowship of Reconciliation Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean, and friends of Joe.

Watch the next LEPOCO Newsletter for more details. Contact the Peace Center if you would like to help with this effort.

## MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... ETC.

**Mon., July 19, 7 pm:** Americas Solidarity Group meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Thurs., Aug. 5 & Mon., Sept. 13, 7 pm:** LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All members and friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

**Thursdays, Aug. 12 & Sept. 9, 7 pm:** Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Thurs., Aug. 19, 7 pm:** Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center with discussion of "Ending the War in Afghanistan: A Primer." See page 3 for more information.

**Tues., Aug. 24, 11 am:** Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at the 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;*

*or if you want to know the next meeting the Newsletter Planning Committee, the Nuclear Abolition Sisters, the LEPOCO Peace Singers, the Fundraising Committee, the Youth & Militarism/Truth in Recruiting Committee, the Economic Crisis Committee: please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and a schedule of meetings please see [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).*



# LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

610-691-8730

[lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)

Fax: 610-691-8904

[www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org)

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## See Inside:

### Page 1

Hiroshima-  
Nagasaki  
Ann Wright Here

### Page 2

El Salvador Trip

### Page 3

Popcorn & Politics  
Afghanistan

### Page 4

Remembering Art

### Pages 5

Gaza Flotilla  
Statement

### Page 6

Peace Camp  
Book Group  
Veterans for Peace  
Water Sounding

### Page 7

Struggle Shared

### Page 8 & 9

Bits & Pieces

## In the Season of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

7 pm, Friday, July 16

Sweet Disarmament Summer Gathering  
(Dessert Potluck & Politics at LEPOCO Peace Center)

Watch "Climate of Hope:

Climate Change, Nuclear Power & the Energy Revolution."

Hear Kelly Quain

of Easton speak about her participation in Think Outside the  
Bomb, Los Alamos, NM, July 30-August 9,

Please bring a dessert or beverage to share.

7 pm, Friday, August 6

Hiroshima Day

First Friday Popcorn & Politics at LEPOCO Peace Center

Watch "Seabrook 1977"

Monday, August 9, 6-8:30 pm

Nagasaki Day,

&

Wednesday, August 11, 7-8:30 pm

Banners, Leaflets and Candles

in the "Free Speech Zone" at Musikfest

Remember Hiroshima-Nagasaki!

Raise Sunflowers!

Reject Nuclear Weapons!

See page 1 or call LEPOCO, 610-691-8730, for more info.

## Regular Peace Vigils

*Our wars continue. Please help witness for peace.*

Bethlehem: 4:30-5:30 pm,

Second & Fourth Thursdays

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

Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103

/ Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136

Allentown: Noon-1 pm, Fridays

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

Contact: Rev. John C. Fowler 610-746-5013

## Ann Wright

What really happened on the

Gaza Freedom Flotilla?

Wed., July 21, 7 pm

Wesley United Methodist Church

2540 Center St., Bethlehem

(See page 1 for more info.)

Can you help with LEPOCO booths  
& tables at fairs and festivals?

See page 9 for more info.