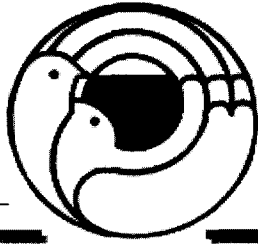


June-July
2011
Vol. 46 No. 5



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

Volunteering at Peace Camp

As I go through life and I observe the world and the people around me, I've noticed one thing about the human race that stands out above all else. Everywhere I look, I see people working toward one universal goal: happiness. Happiness can be whatever you make it out to be, and no one wants to live in misery. Without even really thinking about it, we go through every day of our lives trying to reach our goal of happiness. We try things that we believe will make us happy; surrounding ourselves with people we care about, doing something we enjoy, or being positive. These are all fine ways to achieve this ultimate goal, but underneath the pressure to be happy, I believe there is a secret that could make this whole world just a little bit more joyful. One way I have found happiness is through the joy of others: teaching a little boy to draw, walking for a cause, raising awareness for the less fortunate, or, in my case as well as many others, Peace Camp. Because whenever I see the light in little children's eyes or the bright smiles on their faces as I usher them into a world of peace and love, I know that I have found the secret of happiness: the happiness of others.

- Linnea Harris

"Peacemakers Young and Old!" is the theme for this year's Peace Camp which will be held July 25-29, in Allentown. Peace Camp is filling up fast with campers and volunteers. If you would like to be a volunteer please contact LEPOCO with a phone call (610-691-8730) and with your volunteer interest form a.s.a.p. The training for volunteers will be June 22 (a Wednesday evening) and the participation of all helpers and leaders is important.

Camper registrations have been flowing in. There is still space for more campers, but we expect to be full by early July. If you need an application form please call LEPOCO or see www.lepoco.org.

No Hate in Our State

On May 18th, Hope UCC, Allentown, hosted a panel discussion on immigration-related legislation in Pennsylvania. This was one of several forums being held around the state this spring organized by the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC).

ACLU staff attorney Valerie Burch described several of Pennsylvania's anti-immigrant bills that mirror the 2010 Arizona law (SB-1070) that authorizes its police of-

icers and other state officials to enforce immigration laws, on the theory that the federal government isn't doing a good enough job.

When the ACLU litigated similar legislation adopted by Hazelton, Pennsylvania, the Third Circuit Appeals Court agreed that only the federal government has the right to regulate immigration. Individual states don't negotiate international immigration treaties and should not be regulating immigration. One of the key U.S. laws is the *Immigration and Nationality Act* - hundreds of pages of small print which define the conditions for legal presence in the United States. Because of the law's complexity, only immigration judges are authorized by this law to decide someone's immigration status.

A state police officer who pulls someone over at a traffic stop is not qualified to make a decision on the spot about someone's immigration status. Even the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) in Vermont, which maintains records on immigrants and their status here in the United States, has an incomplete database that is not sufficient to reliably verify someone's immigration status.

More than 20 anti-immigrant bills have now been introduced into the 2011-12 session of the Pennsylvania's legislature, orchestrated by Rep. Daryl Metcalfe and other proponents of white nationalism.

(continued on page 4)

66th Anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

**No Nukes ++ NoWhere ++ No Way
Hiroshima to Fukushima**

Sunday, August 7, 6:30 pm

**An evening of reflection on the terror of
nuclear weapons and nuclear power.**

A call for life affirming alternatives.

The Nuclear Abolition Sisters invite you to join us for music, readings, and sharing about the sadness and hope of living in the nuclear age so dramatically shaped by the human suffering at the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and now by the disaster of the recent accident at Fukushima.

If permits are granted we will gather in Bethlehem's Tondabayashi Garden on Church Street in Bethlehem.

Call 610-691-8730 for more information.

A Geography of Hope _____

On the evening of May 10 the Lehigh Valley Veterans For Peace and LEPOCO sponsored a presentation by Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Bethlehem. Rabbi Gottlieb attended William Allen High School and graduated from Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and then became one of the first ten women admitted to the Rabbinate. She is a member of Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council and a co-founder of the Shomer Shalom Institute for Jewish Nonviolence. She has also been instrumental in organizing interfaith walks in support of peace in the Middle East. When she is not traveling Rabbi Gottlieb resides at the Community of Living Traditions at Stony Point, New York; a multigenerational establishment of Muslims, Jews and Christians dedicated to the study and practice of nonviolence.

Prior to the talk, the approximately seventy-five people in attendance participated in a forty-five minute reception featuring an impressive array of refreshments.

The theme of Rabbi Gottlieb's talk was "The Geography of Hope: The Role of Nonviolence in Israeli and Palestinian Conflict Resolution." She addressed the significance in Jewish history from its earliest years of a commitment to nonviolence and the ensuing need to employ that commitment currently. She believes anyone who desires peace in the Middle East must advocate for the resolution of conflict based on nonviolence, human rights, mutual negotiations and adherence to international law. She said the use of military force by either party as a viable option to insure security or resist occupation is a self-defeating policy which causes more violent suffering and eventually does not effect peace or well-being for those involved.

Rabbi Gottlieb further focused on a "power analysis" of the region recognizing the imbalance of offensive and defensive capabilities between the two sides, Israeli superiority being due in some measure to U.S. assistance. This advantage enables Israel to engage in a policy of displacing Palestinians from long-held homes and land, possibly leading to the commission of the crime of apartheid. She stated the need for an international resolution to the Mideast conflict including boycott, divestment and sanctions toward Israel as one of the only viable nonviolent policies. She added that only a remedy that involves the right to exist and universal human rights for all Israelis and Palestinians will suffice.

An animated and extended question and answer session followed her talk.

- Paul Fichter

Memorial Day at Cedar Beach _____

For the second year Veterans For Peace Chapter 152, with appreciated assistance from LEPOCO, held a Memorial Day Observance on May 30 at Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. The activity consisted of the display of me-

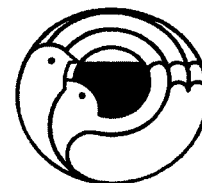
morial wreaths and simulated tombstones each of the latter bearing the name and pertinent information of all Pennsylvanians in the Armed Forces who have been killed while in service in Afghanistan and Iraq. Sadly this year's observance included eleven tombstones which were not part of last year's display.

While visitation was not heavy, a steady flow of people stopped during the course of the day, among them several Gold Star family members. Also present at various times were veterans who had lost comrades to these conflicts and at least two veterans of the U.S. involvement in Kosovo. At the conclusion of the day a bugler played "Taps" allowing for reflection on the ultimate human cost commemorated by this particular day.

- Paul Fichter

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.



Newsletter of LEPOCO

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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, Kelly Quain, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), Ruth Walden.

Popcorn/Potluck & Politics

Friday, July 1st, 7pm: "Budrus"

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

This documentary delves into the fraught world of Palestinian-Israeli relations giving an amazing account of one family's leadership of a movement to prevent Israel's Separation Barrier from slicing the Palestinian village of Budrus in half. Ayed Morrar inspires nonviolent protests of the giant barrier, and his 15-year-old daughter leads a women's group.

Directed by Julia Bacha. 78 minutes. 2009.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, July 17th, 6 pm:

Vince Stravino & Caitlyn Stilin-Rooney

"Observations on Visiting the Peace Movement in Palestine & Israel"

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Vince Stravino, retired physician and dedicated peace activist, recently joined a 30-person Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation to the Middle East. He will report on the dozens of meetings they held with a range of leaders in Palestine and Israel, May 23-June 3.

Caitlyn Stilin-Rooney is a recent graduate of Muhlenberg College. In January of this year she joined a friend in five weeks of travel through Israel and Palestine trying to better understand the conflict and possible solutions.

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

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

Friday, August 5th, 7 pm: Bringing Down a Dictator

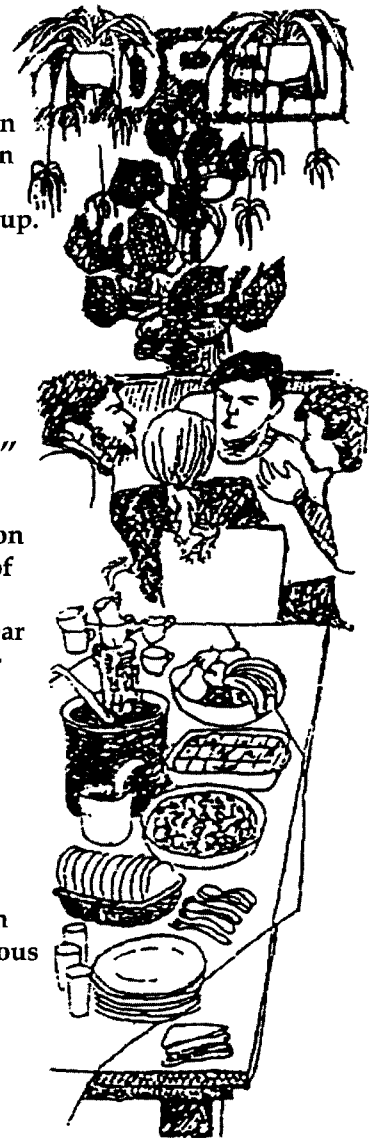
A Popcorn & Politics Film projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

This documentary chronicles the spectacular defeat of Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic in October 2000, not by force of arms, as many had predicted, but by an ingenious nonviolent strategy of honest elections and massive civil disobedience.

Narrated by Martin Sheen. Directed by Steve York. 56 minutes. 2002.

The main feature will be preceded by the 18-minute short film, "Celebrating Nuclear Resistance." 2010.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



LEPOCO Book Group

The First Wednesday Book Group will meet on July 6th, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. At that time the group will discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. This is a true story that reads like a novel of racism and greed, and the idealism and faith in science that helped to save thousands of lives, but nearly destroyed a family. Doctors took Henrietta Lacks cells without asking her.

The book for August 3rd, is *The Man in the Shark-skin Suit* by Lucette Lagnado. It is the story of a Jewish family's exodus from old Cairo to the "new world." It is described by *The New York Times* as "a stunning memoir" both "crushing and brilliant."

To learn more call Carmen & Bob Riggs (610-867-1244) or Susie Ravitz (610-253-2522).

LEPOCO Theatre Party

Thursday, July 21, 7:15 pm
"Phil Ochs: There But For Fortune"

Dessert Reception at LEPOCO Peace Center

Film at Frank Banko Alohouse Cinema at SteelStacks

\$15 donation for reception & movie

(Call LEPOCO 610-691-8730 to make a reservation.)

From civil rights to the anti-war movement to the struggles of workers, folk singer Phil Ochs wrote topical songs that engaged his audiences in the issues of the 1960s and 70s. You may have heard his "I Ain't Marching Anymore" (Bright Morning Star) or "Power and Glory" (LEPOCO Peace Singers). Through performance footage and interviews with Ochs' admirers (including Joan Baez, Pete Seeger and Sean Penn) this documentary paints a portrait of an artist whose vision remains relevant today.

Directed by Kenneth Bowser. 2011. 96 minutes.

Manuel Zelaya Returns Home

On Saturday, May 28, Manuel Zelaya returned to his home in Honduras, almost two years after he was ousted as president of that country in a military coup (June 28, 2009). He and others believe the evidence is strong that there was U.S. assistance in planning the coup, and certainly the U.S., after early statements by President Obama that were critical of the coup, has been a strong, but lonely, advocate for normalization of the position of Honduras internationally under the coup-led government and the coup-delivered government of President Lobo. All the while human rights abuses have been severe against the resistance to that government.

Apparently, much to the dismay of the U.S. State Department, the agreement that led to Zelaya's return was brokered by the leaders of Colombia and Venezuela. As Lisa Sullivan of SOA Watch writes, the historic agreement "unexpectedly unleashed a lightening bolt of hope that was felt the length and breadth of Latin America" - two countries, perceived to be enemies, had put aside their differences to act for the good of Latin America without the heavy hand of U.S. direction.

Lisa Sullivan and Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of SOA Watch, were the only U.S. citizens invited to join the delegation accompanying former President Zelaya on his flight from Nicaragua to Honduras, but there were diplomats, ministers, social leaders and former presidents from all over Latin America. One of them described the trip as "a journey of Latin American unity."

The agreement signed at Cartagena, Colombia, by Lobo, Zelaya and the leaders of Colombia and Venezuela, honors the conditions set by Honduras' National Front for People's Resistance and among other things, allows for the return of over 200 exiled leaders of the resistance, along with Zelaya.

The returning former president and his accompaniers were greeted by thousands of cheering Hondurans at Toncantin airport.

Adrienne Pine, an expert on Honduras who teaches at American University, speaking on "Democracy Now!" acknowledged the significance of Zelaya's return, but said it does not represent reconciliation, for that "there needs to be justice." She says the impunity for those who carried out the coup, for so many human rights violations and crimes against humanity, and for the ongoing violence must end for reconciliation to begin.

One only has to remember the sadness we felt when hearing the stories of violent repression told by Honduran lawyer, Nectali Rodezno when he spoke at LEPOCO last October to know that this is only one step in putting that country on a better path. Lisa Sullivan writes in her report on Zelaya's return, that we must pay attention to the ongoing struggles of teachers, journalists, farmers, human rights activists and Resistance

leaders in Honduras as they continue the "grueling and treacherous task of building a truly democratic nation." So even as Zelaya's return is a moment of triumph for Honduras and Latin America, the need for our accompaniment and attention continues.

In that vein it was encouraging that in early June eighty-five members of the U.S. House of Representatives (regrettably none of our local reps were among the 85) sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton calling for an end to U.S. military aid to Honduras until there is an accounting for the vast human rights violations there.

For more information on Zelaya's return see www.democracynow.org and view the programs of May 31 and June 1, that feature extensive reporting on Honduras. Also see www.soaw.org for Lisa Sullivan's report on Zelaya's return and another report from a U.S. delegation to Honduras earlier in 2011. Finally, go to www.witnessforpeace.org for information about future solidarity delegations to Honduras.

- Nancy Tate

No Hate in Our State _____

(continued from page 1)

George Santana, of Adelante! PA, described two bills that have already passed the Pennsylvania Senate (with the support of all Lehigh Valley Senators) and await House action.

SB-637 requires the use of the E-Verify to confirm legal residence for all job applicants. However, E-Verify is based on a Social Security database that is not suitable - in fact, unreliable - for verifying immigration status.

SB-9 adds new identification requirements for public benefits, such as welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing, unemployment or food assistance. About 11% of Pennsylvania's low income citizens and legal residents currently do not have the required ID.

Erika Sutherland, who leads a Lehigh Valley immigrant support group, noted that Pennsylvania has always been an immigrant state, with many languages other than English still spoken here - for example, the iconic Amish. Hispanic migration to the Lehigh Valley since World War II began with Puerto Ricans, then Mexicans, and now many Latin American countries are well-represented here.

But Hispanic residents, including Puerto Ricans who are U.S. citizens by law, face hostility and legal barriers that most of the rest of us do not see. Those citizens and others will only see their lives become more difficult if any of these proposed anti-immigrant bills become law.

Current information and resources relating to Pennsylvania's anti-immigration legislation are posted at: <http://immigration.pppj.org/legislation.htm>.

- Bob Walden

The Struggle Shared

*A genuine fast cleanses the body, mind and soul.
It crucifies the flesh and to that extent sets the soul free.
What the eyes are for the outer world, fasts are for the inner.*

- Mohandas Gandhi, as edited by Thomas Merton

SOLIDARITY FAST - In March of 2008, Bruce Gagnon spoke to activists gathered for LEPOCO's Annual Dinner about his work with the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. On May 23rd, this year, he began an open-ended fast in solidarity with Yang Yoon-Mo and eight other imprisoned leaders of Gangjeong Village, on Jeju Island, off the coast of South Korea. Bruce has been leaf-letting workers as they leave the gates at Bath Iron Works (BIW), near his home in Maine. BIW makes Aegis destroyers for the U.S. Navy, many of which, bristling with missiles, will be deployed at Jeju Island, unless the South Korean Government's plan to construct a naval base is stopped.

On visits to Gangjeong Village, Bruce was touched by the sad thought of concrete being poured over the coral reefs and beautiful rocks of this peaceful farming and fishing community to support piers for massive docks. The destruction to the delicate marine ecology from the dredging that has occurred was already evident. He was also impressed with the spirit of resistance among the people of Jeju Island, and said, on beginning his fast, "I have to do something more. This is something I can do, I must do."

The people of Jeju resisted the division of Korea, and occupation by the U.S. military, as far back as 1948, when up to 30,000 people, a tenth of the population, were killed following an April rebellion. As a belated gesture of apology, former South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun named Jeju, "The Peace Island," in 2005. Plans to build a naval base on Jeju were announced in 2002. After resistance was encountered in two other villages, Gangjeong was selected as the site for the project. In 2007, 94% of the Vil-

lage People's Council voted "no" to the base plans.

Construction plans for the joint South Korean-US Navy base were set in May of 2009. Despite several lawsuits filed by villagers, dredging of the coastline, destruction of tangerine groves, and the steamrolling of residents rights has proceeded at an astounding speed.

Last December 500 people came out to block cement trucks attempting to pour concrete over the coral reefs along the shoreline. Yang Yoon-Mo and eight others were arrested, for laying their bodies down under the trucks. Yang Yoon-Mo began a hunger strike on April 5th, vowing to continue until the base is defeated. Several other prisoners have also begun fasting.

On June 1st, Professor Yang was freed from prison, probably in response to the international outcry for his release. He appeared weak from fasting, but his first words were, "Is Gangjeong peaceful? My struggle will be continued to the end." He was sentenced to 1½ years in jail with a suspended sentence and 2 years probation.

The other protestors remain in prison. One of them, Sung-Hee Choi, was scheduled to go on trial on June 10th.

On June 1st, the Korean National Committee against Jeju Naval Base Construction held a press conference, and Global Network coordinated the release of a supporting statement signed by many peace and justice organizations including LEPOCO. The Global Network Board sent a representative to attend the trial of Sung-Hee Choi, who is a board member of Global Network. We are urged to keep the pressure on, by calling the South Korean Embassy in Washington, DC (202-939-5600), to express solidarity with Gangjeong villagers,

and and call for an end to naval base construction.

LGBT RIGHTS IN THE VALLEY - In April this column featured an article about the advancement of equal rights for same-sex couples in Allentown, which concluded with references to related legislation coming up for votes in Easton and Bethlehem.

The good news is that Easton Mayor Sal Panto signed a mirror image of the Allentown bill into law on June 6th. It was passed unanimously in a bi-partisan city council vote, without opposing voice from the community. In the public ceremony in Center Square, Panto said, "It is my honor to sign this law in the same spot as the Declaration of Independence was read, hopefully the State legislature will pass this to give equal civil rights to everyone in Pennsylvania."

The not-so-good news is that in Bethlehem, on June 7th, City Council decided to table a vote on an ordinance that would establish a Human Relations Commission and ban discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in housing, public accommodation, employment and education throughout the city.

The bill was introduced by Mayor Callahan, and the council had appeared on board for a vote of approval at the early June meeting. Unfortunately, using back-door politics, the American Family Association and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown managed to have introduced several amendments which would weaken the legislation by exempting churches, and limiting the authority of the human relations commission.

Adrian Shanker of the Pennsylvania Diversity Network is asking Bethlehem residents to urge council to vote for the original human relations ordinance and address the religious exemption loophole by using the constitutionally sound language of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. That vote will take place on June 21.

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

Ⓢ Speaking at the summit of **Blair Mountain**, West Virginia, on June 11, Robert Kennedy, Jr. said of mountaintop removal coal mining, "Everything this industry does is illegal -- it's a criminal enterprise. If you came to the Hudson River and you tried to fill 25 feet of a Hudson River tributary, we would put you in jail, I guarantee it. If you tried to blow up a mountain in the Berkshires... you would go to jail."

He was speaking at the rally at the end of a week-long, 50-mile march that commemorated a 1921 march for labor rights along the same route. This march involved over 300 people - West Virginians and others from around the U.S. and the world. They had four demands: preserve Blair Mountain, abolish mountaintop removal, strengthen labor rights and invest in sustainable job creation for Appalachian communities. Please read the inspiring "A Powerful March on Blair Mountain," by Ted Glick of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (available at www.tedglick.com under "Future Hope Column").

Ⓢ Over \$500 was raised on May 14 at the LEPOCO **Garage/Yard Sale** held in Mimi Lang's garage in Bethlehem. Even with a slight drizzle there was a steady flow of people for the event. Thanks to those who donated items to sell and to those who volunteered to staff the sale: Joan Stone, Diane Dilen-dik, Laurie Spalholz, Mike Lawton, Janet Goloub, Marion Thorne, Sarah Andrew and Marc Rittle, Ellen Buck, Bill Rosebrock, Karen Hicks, Bob and Carmen Riggs, Ruth Karpinski, robert Daniels II, Art Ravitz, Nancy Tate, Tom Stinnett, and especially to Susie Ravitz and Mimi Lang who did the advance organizing.

Ⓢ On May 12, a Thursday, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett visited DeSales University in Center Valley to speak at a luncheon meeting of the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. LEPOCO, the UAW Local 677 of Allentown, and Clean Water Action organ-

ized a vigil/picket line that greeted those arriving for the event with signs like "**Tax the Frackers: Save Our Schools.**" Over two dozen of us came out on short-notice and stood in what was a hot May sun. Participants included some folks new to such efforts. One DeSales student was sympathetic and empathetic -- offering us bottled water and conversing with many of us about the issues of the state budget.

Ⓢ "**Flip It to Fix It: An Immediate, Fair Solution to State Budget Short-falls**" is a new study published by United for a Fair Economy and 13 state organizations around the country. The study found that inverting state tax structure -- whereby the highest income earners would be taxed at the current percentage of income for the lowest income earners, and vice versa - - would collectively raise \$490 billion in new revenue, immediately eliminating state budget deficits and avoiding the serious consequences of budget cuts. In Pennsylvania this would mean that those earning in the lowest 20% (less than \$19,000 a year) would pay 5.7% in state and local taxes where they now pay 11.2%; and, those earning in the highest 20% (more than \$89,000 a year) would pay 11.2% in state and local taxes where they now pay 5.7%. The report attributes a large part of states' current deficits to the regressive tax structures. For more information see www.faireconomy.org.

Ⓢ **Tom Ulrich** has several ongoing peace initiatives including his twice monthly Lehigh Valley Progressive

Events Calendar. Now he is also publishing a monthly e-mail that includes a flyer for posting listing three local peace events for the upcoming month. If you would like to receive and post this flyer each month please contact Tom at tomulrich41@gmail.com. Be sure to thank him for all his hard work and creative thinking for peace.

Ⓢ During the summer months LEPOCO takes our "**peace boutique**" to several fairs and festivals. The peace boutique presents literature on important issues and upcoming events; along with bumper stickers, buttons, cards, and such for sale. On each occasion we need volunteers to help with staffing. If you can help out please contact LEPOCO (610-691-8730).

Most immediately we will be at the Eleventh Street Festival in Allentown on Sat., June 25, 10 am - 4 pm. At least eight helpers will be needed for two-hour shifts at this community festival.

Sun., Aug. 21, we will be at Pride-Fest at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown. Sept. 16-18, we will be at the Kempton Sustainability Festival. Sat., Sept. 24, we will travel to the Quaker Peace Fair in Bucks County. Check your calendar and let us know when you can help.

Ⓢ Congratulations to the NAS for their persistence in reaching the mayors of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton - and to the mayors for agreeing to endorse a resolution "**Calling on Congress to Redirect Military Spending to Domestic Priorities,**" presented at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, June 17-21.

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

You can also donate with your credit card through PayPal by going to the "membership" page at www.lepoco.org.

Bits & Pieces

☪ Remember LEPOCO Lemonade?

Susie Ravitz is working to revive this refreshing treat at the Easton Farmer's Market this summer. Plans now are to sell the fresh-squeezed beverage three Saturdays, 9 am to 2 pm each day, (July 9, July 23 and August 6) at Easton's Center Square where the Farmer's Market bustles with activity on Saturdays, April to November.

As you might guess lots of help will be needed to make this a success (as many as 10-12 people will be needed each Saturday). Can you help? Call LEPOCO (610-691-8730) or Susie Ravitz (610-253-2522) to volunteer.

☪ Fifty people will be aboard "The Audacity of Hope" when it joins the second "freedom flotilla" sailing to Gaza from Athens in late June. Among the passengers will be Medea Benjamin, Kathy Kelly, Ray McGovern, Alice Walker and Ann Wright. Ann Wright spoke here last summer after the attack on the first flotilla last May. She had been with that flotilla and was raising money to purchase "The Audacity of Hope."

LEPOCO's Steering Committee issued a statement expressing our sadness over last year's attack and supporting those who have acted nonviolently to bring the possibility of peace to Israel and Palestine. (You can read that statement at www.lepoco.org.)

"The Audacity of Hope" will carry thousands of letters of friendship and solidarity with the people of Gaza written by people from across the U.S. All participants in this project are committed to nonviolence. You can learn more about the second freedom flotilla at www.ustogaza.org.

☪ *America does not face a deficit crisis - we face a multi-billion dollar annual tax dodge by the most elite of moneyed elites. The money our society needs is right there - in the coffers of flagrantly rich Fortune 500 corporations and Wall Street banks, in the personal accounts of absurdly wealthy CEOs and fast-buck speculators.*

- *The Hightower Lowdown*, June 2011.

☪ *The fixation on balancing the budget "provides a cover for people whose real agenda is to cut government spending, to cut Social Security, to cut Medicare, to cut every kind of program that benefits low-income people, that benefits cities, that benefits the public-sector unions. The deficit is an umbrella argument to draw attention away from what is being done.*

- James Galbraith, as quoted in *The Progressive*, June 2011.

☪ The Americas Solidarity Group of LEPOCO is circulating two post-cards for signatures. One postcard is addressed to members of the House of Representatives calling for a new U.S. policy toward Colombia that promotes human rights and depends less military aid. The other card is addressed to our two members of the U.S. Senate and calls for a shift of funding from military programs (especially in Latin America) to those that address human needs here at home.

We have dozens more cards to get signed. Please stop by LEPOCO to sign a set of cards or call us to suggest gatherings where we can collect signatures.

☪ LEPOCO's Annual Bike/Walkathon had over 30 walkers and riders

participate on the first Saturday of June. The riders completed a challenging route following the Lehigh River without a hitch and the walkers covered a section of the towpath along the Lehigh in Bethlehem never included in our route before. Over \$2000 will have been raised once all the pledges are in. One-half will benefit LEPOCO and the other half will be divided between two organizations working to end the hazards of natural gas fracking in Pennsylvania: Clean Water Action and the Delaware Riverkeeper.

☪ *So I fall back on the balance we owe... to the Italian political scientist, Gramsci, who said that he practices the pessimism of the mind and the optimism of the will. By that, he meant he sees the world as it is, without rose-colored glasses, as I try to do as a journalist. I see what's there. That will make you pessimistic. But then you have to exercise your will optimistically, believing that each of us singly, and all of us collectively, can be an agent of change. And I have to get up every morning and imagine a more confident future, and then try to do something that day to help bring it about.*

- Bill Moyers ending an interview with Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on *Democracy Now!* on June 8, 2011.

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

Fri., June 24, 1 pm: Newsletter Planning Meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Mon., June 27, 7 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wed., June 29, 3 pm: Peace Camp Planning Committee Working Meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thurs., June 30, 3:30 pm: Bike-Walkathon Follow-Up Meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thurs., July 7, 7 pm: Nuclear Abolition Sisters Meeting at the home of Mimi Lang, Bethlehem.

Mondays, July 11 & August 8, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the Peace Center. All members and friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

Thursdays, July 14 & August 11, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thurs., September 22, 3:30 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing 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; or if you want to know the next meeting of the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition, LEPOCO Peace Singers, the Fundraising Committee, the Youth & Militarism/Truth in Recruiting Committee, or the Economic Crisis Committee: 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

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015
610-691-8730 lepoco@fast.net
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Meetings...

Young People Making Peace Summer Day Camp July 25-29, 2011

For children ages 5-12 who have completed kindergarten
to 6th grade.

Five mornings of stories, songs, games, crafts
and learning activities related to the broad topic
of peace and justice.

Registration forms available at www.lepoco.org
or by calling 610-691-8730.

(See page 1 for more information.)

LEPOCO Summer Fairs & Festivals & Lemonade.

(See pages 6 & 7 for more info.)

Monthly Peace Vigils

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

4:30-5:30 pm

Second Thursdays
(July 14 & August 11)

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Contact:

Vince Stravino 610-216-8103 /
Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136

LEPOCO Theatre Party

Thursday, July 21, 7:15 pm

Phil Ochs:

There But For Fortune

(See page 3 for more information.)