

May-June  
2010

Vol. 45 No. 4



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

## Memorial Day Observance & Other Veterans For Peace Activities

In conjunction with LEPOCO, Veterans For Peace Lehigh Valley Chapter 152 will hold a Memorial Day observance on May 31<sup>st</sup>, at Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. This commemoration will take the form of a display of simulated tombstones bearing the names and pertinent information of all Pennsylvanians who have been killed in military action during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The display will be located behind Cedar Pool, just west of Lake Muhlenberg, on Parkway Blvd., and will be held from dawn to dusk. All are invited to visit this remembrance of the ultimate cost of war. If you can help with preparations or staffing please contact Louise Legun at 484-248-6113.

While the winter season has been a quiescent period for the chapter, individual members have been participating in activities of kindred organizations. This past Veteran's Day Phil Reiss, John Zachmann, and Patrick Roxberry journeyed to Binghamton, NY, to join the Broome County Veterans For Peace in marching in the Binghamton Veterans Day parade. On December 12<sup>th</sup> eight members of the group participated in the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Peace Pilgrimage. Several of the chapter attended the LEPOCO peace vigil in Allentown on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to protest the announcement of the troop surge in Afghanistan. On March 19<sup>th</sup> members took part in a gathering in front of the Federal Court House in Allentown to observe the seventh anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. The following day Louise Legun, Judy Woodruff, Patrick Roxberry, and Bernie Berg traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in the ANSWER action voicing opposition to the continuance of the wars.

On March 21<sup>st</sup> the chapter marched in the Allentown St. Patrick's Day parade. The intrepid band walked past thousands of onlookers and passed out information leaflets regarding the organization. The crowd response was positive, at times resoundingly so, with no perceived negative reaction.

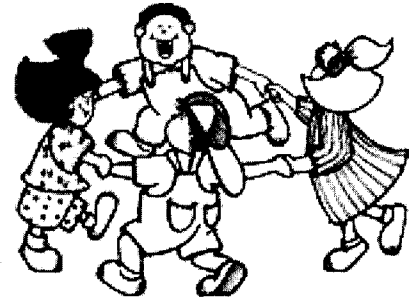
As part of LEPOCO's Popcorn and Politics series the group sponsored a showing of the movie, "The Good Soldier," at the LEPOCO Peace Center on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The film focused on the combat experiences of five veterans of different wars and how those experiences caused them to question what nature of conduct truly represented being a good soldier.

Tentative plans are afoot for occupation of a Veterans For Peace booth at the upcoming Pennsylvania Agricultural Show in Harrisburg. For this endeavor the

group is considering undertaking it in cooperation with other VFP chapters in the state which might be so disposed to participate.

- Paul Fichter

*The One  
Thing I  
Can Do For Peace Is...*



Peace Camp is songs, games, stories, puppets, activities, friendships, and learning to be peacemakers - a week that is fun and fulfilling not only for the campers, but for the teen helpers and adult volunteers as well. Are you able to help out this year? We still need a coordinator for snacks, to plan the snacks and purchase the supplies. We also need people who are enthusiastic about music to lead singing with each of the age groups, K-6. Or, if you can volunteer as a helper in one of the small groups it would be appreciated. (Volunteer forms can be found at [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).) Peace Camp will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown, July 26-30. Use the enclosed flyer to let friends and neighbors know!

- Peace Camp 2010 Planning Committee:  
Amanda Zaniesienko, Ruth Walden, Margot Hillman

### Biking & Walking for Peace & Justice

LEPOCO's Annual Bike/Walkathon

Saturday, June 5, 2010

8:15 am

Light Breakfast & Body & Bike Warm-up

9:00 am Ride & Walk Begin

Benefitting:

LEPOCO's work in the Lehigh Valley:

Partners in Health-Haiti; Healthcare for All Pennsylvania

# A Weekend of Peacebuilding

I narrowly escaped the blizzard in February to spend a weekend at Southwestern University for the Student Peace Alliance (SPA) National Conference. Students from all over North America converged on Georgetown, Texas, to learn about peacebuilding. Friday's focus was international peacebuilding. The opening panel included Chic Dambach from Alliance for Peacebuilding, Harriet Fulbright of The Fulbright Center, and Randolph Carter from the Center For Peacebuilding International. For my first breakout session I chose a lecture by Prof. Eric Selbin (Southwestern) entitled "Conflict and Peacebuilding in Latin America."

The final presentation of the evening was, for me, the most memorable of the weekend. Zac Ebrahim told, for the first time, his story of growing up in a fundamentalist Islamic family and overcoming his violent childhood to live a life dedicated to peace. His father was involved in the first World Trade Center bombing and assassinated Meir Kahane. Zac was then joined on stage by Kobi Skolnick who was a member of the Kahana youth movement and an Israeli soldier. They were raised to hate each other, but now live similar lives promoting peace.

Domestic peacebuilding was Saturday's focus beginning with a great panel discussion on youth violence with Carmen Perez of Gathering for Justice, Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca, Tracy Velazquez from the Justice Policy Institute, and Ameena Matthews from Ceasefire. I attended Ameena's breakout session about the amazing work she does in Chicago as a violence interrupter with Ceasefire.

Our final day began with an awesome (as usual) performance by Emma's Revolution. Next was an information session on the Youth PROMISE Act, a piece of legislation that would implement prevention/intervention programs to reduce youth violence. My final breakout session was with Zo Tobi of Awakening the Dreamer and focused on the use of storytelling as an effective organizing strategy. This was my first experience with SPA and it was definitely a positive one.

- Kelly Quain

**Editor's Note:** Kelly Quain's activism continues as she plans to participate in Think Outside the Bomb Disarmament Summer in Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 30<sup>th</sup>-August 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information see [www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org) or contact Kelly at 610-704-6879.

## Tax Day 2010

On Tax Day, April 15, local peace activists distributed 1500 copies of "Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes" at seven local post offices. Seventeen people in nine teams helped out. Jeff Vitelli even serenaded weary last-minute taxpayers at the Lehigh Valley Post Office with guitar and vocals after he finished leafleting in the early evening.

The flyer, produced each year by the War Resisters League (WRL) features a pie chart showing 48% of federal outlays go for current and past wars/military spending. The WRL pie chart does not include the Trust Funds like Social Security and is careful to identify past military spending (veterans benefits and interest on the national debt for past military spending) as part of overall military expenditures, not hiding it in a civilian spending category.

The flyer also includes other great information and quotes like the one from Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, that said in part, "Worried about jobs? The increase in military spending since 2000 could cost the economy close to 2 million jobs in the long run." Contact LEPOCO for a copy of the flyer.

- Nancy C. Tate

## 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

## Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

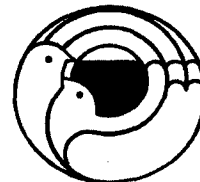
Bethlehem, PA 18015

phone: 610-691-8730

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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/Potluck & Politics

Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm: Lord of War

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

Nicolas Cage stars as an arms dealer who confronts the morality of his work as he is being chased by an Interpol agent. Officially endorsed by Amnesty International for highlighting the trafficking of weapons by the international arms industry.

Directed by Andrew Niccol. 122 minutes. 2005.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm:

Sarah Snider, Mimi Lang & robert Daniels II

"Pilgrimage to El Salvador:

Honoring the Work of Joe DeRaymond"

LEPOCO Potluck & Politics at Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse  
(on Rt. 512, ½ mile north of Rt. 22, just north of the stop light at Wegman's).

In late March of 2010 area activists Mimi Lang, Sarah Snider, and robert Daniels II traveled to El Salvador with a delegation organized by *Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad* (CIS), an international solidarity group based in El Salvador, with whom Joe DeRaymond worked with many times in the past.

The travelers were there to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, learn about the important activities of CIS, the struggles of the Salvadoran people, and to honor their friend Joe.

In the remote village of La Loma a newly built school was named after Joe DeRaymond and the group attended the dedication ceremonies. Their presentation will include photographs and video of the trip, followed by a time for questions and discussion.

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

The presentation and discussion should begin around 6:30 pm.

Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm: Capitalism: A Love Story

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

Michael Moore's most ambitious film to date takes a look at the effect of corporate dominance on life in the United States. With equal parts humor and outrage, the film seeks the answer to the question:

What is the price the United States pays for its love of capitalism?  
127 minutes. 2009.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



## Honduras: The Continuing Resistance

June 28th marks the one-year anniversary of the military coup against the democratically elected government of Honduras. As reported in our last Newsletter the Quixote Center, in Maryland, is organizing a delegation to Honduras for anniversary events. For more information on that delegation call 301-699-0042.

LEPOCO's Americas Solidarity Group (ASG) will meet on Tuesday, June 8, at 7 pm, at the Peace Center. Among other topics we will discuss what we should do to observe this sad anniversary, given our government's whitewashing of the deaths, human rights violations, and repression of democracy that continue in Honduras.

The ASG is working to get an expert speaker about Honduras in early July. Stay tuned for the specifics.

August 10-18, Witness For Peace is sponsoring a delegation to Honduras, "Solidarity with the Continu-

ing Resistance." For more information see [www.witnessforpeace.org/HondruasDelegation](http://www.witnessforpeace.org/HondruasDelegation).

## LEPOCO Book Group

The First Wednesday LEPOCO Book Group will meet next on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. At that meeting they will discuss *Surviving the Flood* by Stephen Minot, chosen as a little lighter reading after a series of pretty serious books.

The July selection is *Hoodwinked: An Economic Hit Man Reveals Why the World Financial Markets Imploded - and What We Need to Do to Remake Them*. The meeting will be Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. New readers and discussion participants are welcome each month. Call Bob & Carmen Riggs at 610-867-1244 or Becky Irwin at 610-351-6936 if you have questions.

# Protesting Nuclear Weapons: 65 Years and Counting

## The Peace Walkers

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> a dedicated group from Footprints for Peace came through the Lehigh Valley on their way to protest nuclear arms and nuclear power at the May UN review meeting of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in New York City. Their journey started in February in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, site of one of our largest nuclear facilities. They have trudged through some terrible weather and stayed with whoever would give them shelter, which has mainly been churches. (Some will remember a similar group, including some of the same people, visited the Lehigh Valley in 2005 on their way to that year's NPT review conference.)

The NPT was put in force in 1970 with the goal of stopping the spread and development of nuclear weapons and eventually eliminating them. The NPT has a review conference every five years. The participants discuss the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (Will we finally sign this year?), control of fissile materials, complete disarmament, reporting and verification.

The walkers were part of the International Peace Walk. They were a wonderful group of people including their spokesman Marcus Atkinson from Freeman-tle, Australia. Others included two from the Navajo Nation, several monks (including Gilberto from Cuba), three people from France, several more from Australia and some from the U.S. (including Hattie from Vermont who is working to shut down the nuclear power plant there). There were three other groups all starting from a different location and meeting in New York as part of the major demonstration on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

This group is also strongly against nuclear power for energy which they believe is creating terrible problems which will only get worse. They showed a video, "Climate of Hope," which made a powerful statement about the problems with nuclear power. (LEPOCO has a copy if you would like to borrow it.)

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley generously gave the walkers a place to stay and provided a potluck supper on Friday. LEPOCO sponsored a potluck supper for them on Thursday, at the Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity. We had a chance to get to know them better at these event as well as have some great food.

On Friday, ten of the group went to Bethlehem Catholic High School (BECA) where they had a chance to talk to about 300 students. Each of the ten had a chance to say something and most of the students were very receptive with quite a bit of interaction after the talk. BECA was very hospitable with lunch and even showers. Tim Corry arranged this event at the school.

Having people from all over willing to do this is inspiring. If you would like to learn more about the organization, you can check the Footprints for Peace website.

- Terry Briscoe

## A People's Conference

On the weekend of May 1<sup>st</sup> I had the humbling experience of participating in the activities surrounding the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review in New York City. Approximately 1000 people from around the world attended the International Conference for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World at Riverside Church on Saturday. The program was filled with the issues related to prohibiting the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of nuclear weapons.

Leaders in the anti-nuclear movement were in attendance, participating in workshops and plenary sessions. It felt like the building was filled with a special kind of invasive enthusiasm, almost like a peaceful form of radiation. It was echoed in messages of Disarm Now, Organize, Resist, Call for a Nuclear Free World, and Peace Demands Action. It followed us into the old rooms with high ceilings and through the turreted staircases. It made me think of a super store where you can find the nuclear information of your choice.

In a workshop called Nuke Power is the Way to Nuclear Weapons: Facing a Double-Edged Threat to Peace, I learned that weapons-grade plutonium is re-processed from nuclear power plants. Thus, a source of plutonium is always available to bomb makers and to terrorists. It was suggested that a main reason for the U.S. development of the first nuclear power plants was to provide this source of plutonium.

The old acronym of MAD, mutually assured destruction, has not disappeared. It is kept alive by the constant exposure of populations to nuclear power plant "minor" tritium leaks and by pilings at uranium mines and risks immeasurable, presented by human error in the transport, development and use of nuclear power and weapons and waste materials.

Stories abounded. We heard heartbreaking stories from the *Hibakusha* (survivors of nuclear weapons) in Japan and native peoples threatened by uranium mining and processing, persistent stories from long-time activists in the nuclear disarmament efforts, success stories of the non-renewal of nuclear power plant contracts through political action. The knowledge and dedication of the presenters gave hope and a sense of real possibility to a future without a nuclear threat, if we follow them with our own dedication and action.

- Mimi Lang

## A Very International March

On Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> LEPOCO members Mimi Lang, Anna Maria Caldara, Kelly Quain, and Robert Daniels II (who carpooled with a group from the Kirkridge Retreat Center) joined a vibrant rally and march demanding the end of nuclear weapons. Led by a colorful

(continued on page 6)

# The Struggle Shared

*"If we can harness our empathic sensibility to establish a new global ethic that recognizes and acts to harmonize the many relationships that make up the life-sustaining forces of the planet, we will have moved beyond the detached, self-interested and utilitarian philosophical assumptions that accompanied national markets and nation state governance and into a new era of biosphere consciousness. We leave the old world of geopolitics behind and enter into a new world of biosphere politics, with new forms of governance emerging to accompany our new biosphere awareness."*

- Jeremy Rifkin, *The Empathic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness In a World in Crisis*

## UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH - The World People's

Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, between April 19 and April 22, was "a revolt against the experience of helplessness" that emerged from the Copenhagen Climate Conference last December, as described by Naomi Klein, who wrote from Cochabamba. In Copenhagen, when delegates from nations most endangered by the climate crisis argued passionately for deep emission cuts, the powerbrokers told them that they were not needed to be part of the climate solution. The heaviest emitters would negotiate a deal behind closed doors, and the rest of the world would be informed of the results.

Bolivia's major cities face an immediate consequence of climate change as rapidly melting glaciers pose a threat to their water supplies. So, Bolivia's President, Evo Morales, summoned social movement activists, defenders of the earth, scientists, academics, lawyers and governments to come to Cochabamba to celebrate Earth Day with a new kind of climate summit, an attempt to build a base of power behind the right to survive.

30,000 people, from 150 countries were in Cochabamba. They created a colorful and festive atmosphere, met in dozens of working groups, and echoed Evo Morales' main point in his opening address to the plenary: "To fight climate change we need to recover

the values of indigenous people." The working group on the structural causes of climate change wrote in its conclusive report, "Humanity is faced with a huge dilemma: continue down the road of capitalism, patriarchy, progress and death, or embark on the path of harmony with nature and respect for life."

The Bolivian Government submitted the outcomes of the People's Summit to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on April 26. This included the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, and a proposal for a World Tribunal to hold violators failing to address climate change accountable. Evo Morales, along with 12 delegates from the Cochabamba Summit representing people from around the world, was to meet with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, on May 7, to press for inclusion of The People's Agreements in the UN's ongoing work on Climate Action.



Rita Corbin

## ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE, ANOTHER U.S. IS NECESSARY -

In the wake of the World People's Summit in Bolivia, activists across the United States are preparing for the Second U.S. Social Forum to be held in Detroit, Michigan, between June 22 and June 26.

Organizers expect 25,000 people to converge from all over the country in a convention designed to provide a space to build relationships, learn from each other's experiences, share analysis of the problems our communities face, and develop the leadership, vision and strategy needed to realize another world.

There have been People's Movement Assemblies in Portland, OR; San Francisco; Washington, DC; and many other cities throughout the month of May. BikeIt has invited bicyclists to ride from every corner of the nation, and anticipates as many as 5000 cyclists with bio-fueled support vehicles to converge on the motor city in June. And, in the South, the Poor People's Economic Rights Campaign, building a movement to end poverty, organized a March to Fulfill the Dream, which set out from New Orleans on April 4<sup>th</sup>, and will touch down in 24 cities before arriving in Detroit for the Social Forum.

Khalilah Collins, an organizer from Women in Transition said, "We don't expect the changes that we need to come from Washington, or Wall Street, so we are building a mass movement to fight for the health care, housing, and jobs we need. We are developing leaders from the ranks of the poor to create solutions ourselves and build a sustainable system."

The first U.S. Social Forum was held in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2007, and included 12,000 activists. That Forum was inspired by the World Social Forums of the past that evolved in response to the World Economic Forum of the rich and powerful (sort of like the Copenhagen Summit) that happened 10 years ago. The Social Forums were conceived as events to delegitimize neoliberalism, positing another model for humanity, and strengthening international networks.

To learn more about the Detroit gathering, and to get involved contact the U.S. Social Forum at 313-964-0618 or see [www.ussf2010.org](http://www.ussf2010.org).

- Jeff Vitelli

# Bits & Pieces

⊕ Matt Ryan, the mayor of Binghamton, New York, is sick and tired of watching people in local communities "squabble over crumbs," as he puts it, while so much local money pours into the Pentagon's coffers and into U.S. wars. He's decided to do something about it. He's planning to be the first mayor in the U.S. to decorate the facade of City Hall with a large, digital "cost of war" counter (funded by private contributions).

The counter will offer a constantly changing estimate of the total price Binghamton's taxpayers have been paying for our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since October 2001. By September 30, 2010, the city's "war tax" will reach \$138.6 million.

Source: Jo Comerford, executive director, National Priorities Project. See [www.nationalprioritiesproject.org](http://www.nationalprioritiesproject.org).

⊕ Volunteers are needed to help staff LEPOCO's table at the **Annual Street Festival**, on 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Allentown, Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Call LEPOCO 610-691-8730 if you can help.

⊕ Jennifer Harbury spoke movingly about her work against torture and for human rights at LEPOCO'S Annual Dinner in March 2009. She continues her work in Guatemala and recently she has written short reports on those efforts. "For the first time that I can remember, war crimes trials are a real possibility." Contact LEPOCO if you would like a copy of her reports.

## Events at Kirkridge

### Retreat & Study Center, near Bangor:

July 23-25, 2010 - "Humor and Truth Telling: Merton, Bonhoeffer, Jordan & Coffin" with Al Staggs.

*This retreat with spiritual ancestors will come to life in the performances of Al Staggs. Using simple props he will reveal their prophetic voices, their dilemmas and their humor as they confront issues of justice, peace, empire and greed. Join in small group discussions and reflection combined with good food and beautiful views.*

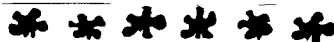
For more information see [www.kirkridge.org](http://www.kirkridge.org) or call 610-588-1793.

⊕ A recent Tribune Newspapers' story pointed out that the biggest companies in the U.S. have emerged from the economic downturn **loaded with cash** "thanks to deep cost-cutting that helped drive unemployment sharply higher... Non-financial companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index ended last year with \$832 billion in cash and short-term securities on their books, up 27 percent from a year earlier and the highest figure on record... The U.S. economic recovery could be stunted unless a large share of that corporate wealth flows to everyday workers, either in the form of new jobs or higher wages, some analysts say."

Source: *The Morning Call*, 3/30/10.

⊕ Congress has been asked to approve a **\$33 billion supplemental** for the 30,000 additional troops President Obama has ordered to Afghanistan. Those troops are about to undertake a major offensive on the city of Kandahar (pop. 1 million). The bloodshed is likely to be quite severe for civilians and troops. We are asked to contact our Senators and House members (Sen. Bob Casey - 202-224-6324/610-782-9470; Sen. Arlen Specter - 202-224-4254/610-434-1444; Rep. Charles Dent - 202-225-6411/610-861-9734; Rep. Patrick Murphy - 202-225-4276/215-348-1194). The message: Don't escalate the Afghanistan war; Oppose the Afghanistan supplemental appropriation; Support the McGovern-Feingold bill (HR-5015, S-3197) requiring Pres. Obama to provide a plan and timetable for "the safe, orderly, and expeditious redeployment of U.S. troops from Afghanistan."

Source: United for Peace and Justice. See [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org).



## A Very International March

(continued from page 4)

contingent of 2000 peace activists from Japan, and joined by thousands of New Yorkers and folks from other states and countries, a large and spirited peace parade made its way through the streets of New York from Times Square to the United Nations.

Adding to the drama and urgency of the call for nuclear disarmament was the presence of *Hibakusha*, survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bomb attacks by the U.S. on those cities at the end of World War II. After reaching Dag Hammarskjold Plaza at the UN marchers attended a peace and music festival.

The next day as the nuclear non-proliferation talks began at the United Nations, activists representing the War Resisters League and other organizations, including Peace Action, South Asia Solidarity Initiative, Think Outside the Bomb, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, gathered in Grand Central Station to distribute 2,000 flyers to passersby. The activists also did a banner drop and die-in with the message, "Talk Less, Disarm More." The action resulted in 22 arrests and an increase in public awareness.

- robert Daniels II

## 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

Ⓢ *The proposed U.S. defense budget will cost the U.S. public two billion dollars per day... The U.S. people are disadvantaged inasmuch as the media and the Pentagon attempt to pacify us, winning our hearts and minds to bankroll ongoing warfare and troop escalation in Afghanistan. Yet it isn't very difficult to pacify U.S. people. We're easily distracted from the war, and when we do note that an atrocity has happened, we seem more likely to respond with a shrug of dismay than with a sustained protest.*

*It's worthwhile to wonder, how did we become this pacified?*

*But far more important is our collective effort to approach the mirror, to stay in front of it, unflinching, and see the consequences of our mistaken acquiescence to the tragic horrors of war, and then work, work hard, to nonviolently resist collaboration with war crimes.*

- Kathy Kelly, writing in the April 2010 newsletter of Voices for Creative Non-violence. The longer article describes how different a response the people of Germany had when they were misled regarding an atrocity in Afghanistan involving some of their military forces. The complete article also appeared at [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org) on 3/30/10. More recently two pieces by Kathy Kelly and Joshua Broliier have appeared on Common Dreams (5/15/10 and 5/18/10) reporting on their current travels in Pakistan.

Ⓢ **"The Green House:** New Directions in Sustainable Architecture & Design," an exhibit at the Allentown Art Museum, closes on May 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a major exhibition exploring the dynamic field of green residential design.

Ⓢ **"Gasland,"** a film about the impact of natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania, will be shown at the County Theatre in Doylestown, on Wed., June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 8 pm. Contact Clean Water Action at 610-691-7395 for more information.

Ⓢ **The Center for Humanistic Change** has long been involved in Peace Camp - providing skilled leadership in several capacities. Like many

nonprofit, community service organizations their financial footing has become shakier with the economic downturn since 2008. In an effort to boost their finances they are participating in Highmarks' Walk for a Healthy Community on Sat., June 12th. If you can walk to raise some money for them see [www.cfhc.dojiggy.com](http://www.cfhc.dojiggy.com) for more information.

Ⓢ June 11-14, **The Network of Spiritual Progressives** is calling for secular humanists and progressives to join with spiritual and religious progressives at a national strategy conference for the coming Obama years. The gathering has been endorsed by *The Nation*, Peace Action and others. It will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

The conference is called "The Caring Society." Rabbi Michael Lerner, chair of The Network of Spiritual Progressives, has called for Congress and the Obama administration to adopt "The Caring Society" as a unifying theme, and to overcome their antipathy to a shared worldview. According to Rabbi Lerner, "Spiritual and political wisdom in the 21st century starts with Americans (*sic*)

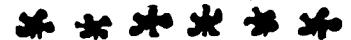
acknowledging to ourselves and the world that our well-being as citizens of the United States, Canada, UK, Australia, France Germany, Spain, Israel, Jordan (and elsewhere)...depends on the well-being of everyone else on the planet, and the well-being of the planet itself."

Speakers at the conference will include Medea Benjamin, James Forbes, Bill McGibben, Lester Brown, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, and many more. For more information see [www.tikkun.org](http://www.tikkun.org).

What we cannot do alone  
LEPOCO does together,  
Standing up before the world  
we still are a bellwether.  
Rev. Billy says our product now is wars  
we can't figure what to do  
consumerism soars.

What we need are commons  
Where our radical designs  
contact spirit,  
send out hope,  
'til peace is all that shines.

- Susannah Wolfe, March 2010



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

**Thurs., May 27, 10 am:** Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Thurs., June 3, 11 am:** Newsletter Planning Committee meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Thurs., June 3, 7 pm:** Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Tues., June 8, 7 pm:** Americas Solidarity Group meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Wed., June 9, 6 pm:** Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at the Olive Branch Restaurant, 355 Broadway, south Bethlehem.

**Thursdays, June 10 & July 8, 7 pm:** Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Mondays, June 14 & July 12, 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.

**Wed., July 14, 10 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 Peace Camp 2010 Planning Committee, the LEPOCO Peace Singers, the Fundraising Committee, the Youth & Militarism/Truth in Recruiting 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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Memorial Day Observance  
Peace Camp  
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Peacebuilding Weekend  
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Peace Vigils

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Popcorn/Potluck & Politics  
Book Group  
Honduras

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Protesting Nuclear Weapons

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Struggle Shared

#### Page 6 & 7

Bits & Pieces

#### Insert

Peace Camp

## Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

### LEPOCO's Annual Bike/Walk-a-thon

Support LEPOCO, Partners in Health-Haiti,  
& Healthcare For All Pennsylvania

(See page 1.)

*Memorial Day Observance  
Remembering Pennsylvanians Killed  
in Iraq and Afghanistan  
Monday, May 31*

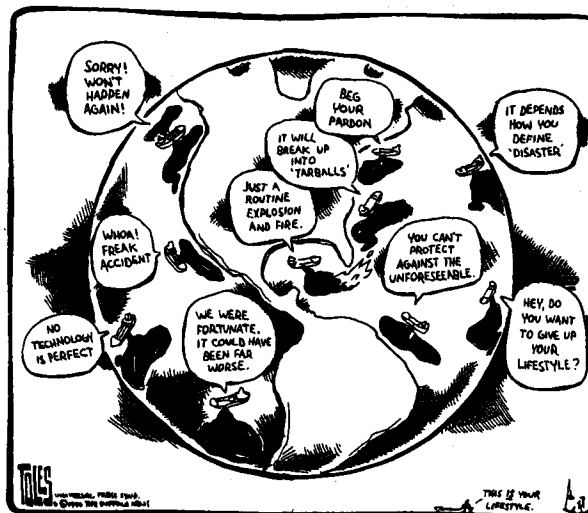
*Cedar Beach Park, Allentown  
(See page 1 for more info.)*

*Pilgrimage to El Salvador:  
Honoring the Work of Joe DeRaymond  
Sunday, June 13*

*Sarah Snider, Mimi Lang, & Robert Daniels II  
(See page 3 for more info.)*

*July 26-30  
Young People Making Peace  
Summer Day Camp  
Allentown*

*(See page Insert & page 1.)*



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