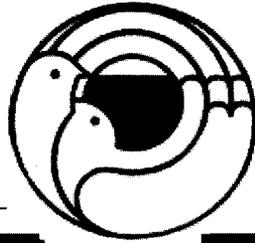


May-June  
2012  
Vol. 47 No. 4



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

## Bike & Walk for Justice & Peace: June 2<sup>nd</sup>

In the article from last year's LEPOCO Newsletter promoting the 2011 Bike/Walkathon, planning committee member David Rose opened with the line, "Some change comes about by little steps and other change with some revolutions." A clever pun, and considering that the Occupy Movement is a co-beneficiary of this year's fun fundraiser, Dave's words couldn't be more appropriate.

Indeed, on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, bikers and walkers will gather for a lively jaunt along the Lehigh River that will benefit both the LEPOCO Peace Center and the work of Occupy, locally and nationally. Having spent May Day in New York City with several local Occupy activists and 30,000+ members of the 99%, I can say that the movement is alive, well and awake from winter hibernation, to continue shining a light on Wall Street corruption and economic disparity in the United States.

We will be gathering in the park at the corner of Main and Lehigh Streets in Bethlehem (diagonally across from The Wooden Match, formerly The Main Street Depot restaurant) at 8:15 am, for registration and a complimentary light breakfast. There will be a short time for a guided body warm-up and a basic bike safety check before we begin walking and riding between 9 and 9:15 am.

Please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 for a Bike/Walkathon pamphlet (in case you have misplaced the copy included with your last newsletter) to help collect and keep track of pledges from family, friends, and co-workers. You can also call in if you cannot ride or walk, but want to help by staffing a checkpoint, providing a snack, or making a pledge to someone who is walking or biking. I look forward to seeing you along the Lehigh on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- robert Daniels II

## L.V. Veterans For Peace Report

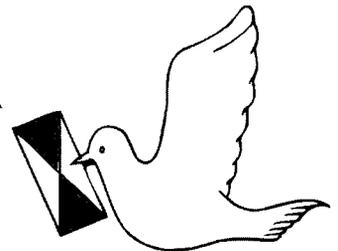
Lehigh Valley Veterans For Peace is again planning to hold a Memorial Day observance at Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. The event will take place Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 6 pm (approximately), at the site off Parkway Boulevard (beside May Fair and west of the lake). As in the past, focus of the gathering will be the display of simulated tombstones bearing the names and pertinent information of all citizens of Pennsylvania who have perished in the Iraq and Afghan conflicts. An invitation is extended to anyone who might be disposed to visit.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> Lehigh Valley VFP marched in the City of Allentown's St. Patrick's Day parade. Passing thousands of onlookers, the group encountered no negative response during the course of the parade. To the contrary, reaction was often quite positive; at times bordering on the raucous. The organization's size and energy were bolstered by the presence of several members from the newly formed Berks County chapter of Veterans For Peace who joined in the afternoon's activities.

Veterans For Peace had a booth at the Sierra Club Occupy Easton Earth Day gathering April 22 at Scott Park in Easton. Included among the displays and

(continued on page 3)

**NO WAR  
IN IRAN**



**You Are Invited to Sign the Iran  
Pledge of Resistance!**

Please read the pledge carefully and fill out the form at [www.iranpledge.org](http://www.iranpledge.org). Also, contact the LEPOCO Peace Center to let us know you've signed the pledge so we can help coordinate local efforts. This is not a petition, but a pledge to take action.

*If the United States applies increased sanctions, invades, bombs, sends combat troops or drones, or otherwise significantly escalates its intervention in Iran or the region directly or through support of its allies, I pledge to join with others to engage in acts of legal protest and/or nonviolent civil disobedience to prevent or halt the death and destruction which U.S. military actions would cause to the people of Iran, the Middle East, our communities at home, and the planet itself.*

## Question Taxes

To what do we want our collective money to go? What is the meaning of that? And taxes?

How should we proceed to demand equal rights in taxation with elected officials, or in the streets with our signs and our talk? Are we native indigenous giving money to a central government for the purpose of helping all? Is our tax money going to help the poor? or is it going to the war machine and the industrial military complex that Pennsylvania's Eisenhower warned about in 1959 when departing the White House?

Twenty-two LEPOCO volunteers went to eight different post offices in the Lehigh Valley leafletting with the War Resisters League's (WRL) famous "pie chart" flyer analyzing the Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. Jeff Vitelli pulled evening duty alone at the main Lehigh Valley post office from 7- 9 PM, and Nancy Tate was briefly interviewed by Ch. 69 TV News; the rest worked for an hour or two during the day.

Each year, WRL analyzes federal monetary outlays as presented in the Budget of the United States Government. The government's pie chart shows 24% going to national defense, veterans, and foreign affairs, whereas WRL's chart shows 47% (\$1.355 billion) for the military, an increase due to the fact that WRL does not include trust funds -- such as Social Security -- that are raised separately from income taxes for specific purposes.

According to WRL, the government's budget deception began during the Vietnam War, apparently to make the human needs portion of the budget appear larger than military spending. But the flip side of the flyer reveals a powerful connection between Wall Street and War Street. Listed are top war profiteers such as Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR - an offshoot of Halliburton), and the billions of dollars they made from taxpayer funded contracts for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some argue that our tax money goes to military personnel and their families, but our tax money really goes to about 200,000 private contractors! "Miscellaneous foreign contractors" got \$39 billion.

Top military contractors include Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and Boeing. BP, FedEx, Dell, Kraft, and Pepsi -- also have their fingers in the Pentagon pie. The Commission on Wartime Contracting reports that at least \$31 billion, and possibly as much as \$60 billion, has been lost to waste and fraud -- isn't there criminality in that? Shouldn't they be held accountable in a court of law? I ask these questions. It's time to reign in the Pentagon's budget, hold these profiteers accountable, and steer our tax payer money towards jobs, education, and health care.

- Monica McAgnon

Check out LEPOCO's website at [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org) for: 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).

## LEPOCO Book Group

The First Tuesday Book Group will meet on June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. They will discuss *Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830-1970*, by Lynne Olson. This book is the first comprehensive history of the vital role women -- both black and white -- played in the civil rights movement. The book puts a human face on the civil rights struggle and shows that face was often female.

The group will not meet in July.

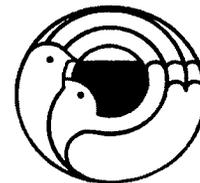
On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the group will discuss *Scoop*, by Evelyn Waugh. One member of the group says this selection will leave them "amused instead of heart-broken." In the 1938 book, *Scoop*, surreptitiously dubbed "a newspaper adventure," Waugh flays Fleet Street and the social pastimes of its war correspondents as he tells how William Boot became the star of British super-journalism and how, leaving part of his shirt in the claws of the lovely Katchen, he returned from Ishmaelia to London as the "Daily's Beast's" most acco-laded overseas reporter.

To learn more about the book group, please call Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.



### 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 collate and prepare the newsletter for mailing each month.

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

# Popcorn/Potluck & Politics

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Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, 7 pm:

## "The One Percent"

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

A documentary focusing on the growing wealth gap in the United States, as seen through the eyes of filmmaker Jamie Johnson, a 27-year-old heir to the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical fortune. Johnson sets his sights on exploring the political, moral and emotional rationale that enables a tiny percentage of the U.S. population -- the one percent -- to control nearly half the wealth of the entire country.

80 minutes. 2006.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 6 pm

## "Report from '24 Hours in Tioga County' Delegation"

LEPOCO Potluck & Politics at Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse  
(on Rt. 512, 1/2 mile north of Rt. 22, just north of the stop light at Wegman's).

Eleven Lehigh Valley peace and justice activists were hosted by the Wellsboro Friends Meeting for an intense tour of sites related to hydraulic fracturing in Tioga County and for informal sharing about the impact of this industry on their lives. The delegation members will report on their experience.

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

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

Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, 6 pm

## Addison Bross: "A Review of 'Daniel Berrigan: Essential Writings'"

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Addison Bross will share with us his review of the book, "Daniel Berrigan: Essential Writing," (edited by John Dear, SJ), presented originally for the Theology, Literature & Coffee series at Moravian Seminary this spring. The book is a compendium of Berrigan's writing, poetry and prose, including his reflections on Vietnam, the Catonsville draft files burning, U.S. repression in Central America, and meditations on the Hebrew prophets. The eloquence and commitment to nonviolence of Daniel Berrigan, John Dear, and Addison Bross will make this a special P&P.

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

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

Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 7 pm:

## "This Is Where We Take Our Stand"

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

In March of 2008, 250 veterans and active duty soldiers marked the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by gathering in Washington, DC, to testify from their own experience about the nature of the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. Inspired by the 1971 Winter Soldier Investigation held by Vietnam veterans, they too sought to express their opposition to the wars they knew with first-hand accounts -- bearing witness with voices not often heard.

Directed by Bestor Cram, Mike Majoros and David Zeiger.

60 minutes. 2011.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*



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## L.V. Veterans For Peace Report

(continued from page 1)

handouts was information emphasizing the negative impact on the environment of military conflict, i.e. agent orange, depleted uranium. Due to inclement

weather the group's presence at the event was somewhat abbreviated and when a gust of wind blew the tent over, it was taken as a sign to terminate the day's activities at the event.

- Paul Fichter

# Remembering 2011: A LEPOCO Year in Review

## January

- 11-22: **Witness for Torture's Fast for Justice** events in Washington, DC, marking the beginning of the 10 years of Guantanamo Bay, is attended by Tim Chadwick.
- 16: **Nuclear Abolition Sisters commemorate M.L. King's birthday** at the DAR House, Bethlehem, reading his "Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam," with guest speaker Sharon Brown of Moravian College.
- Fundraising!! Craigslist sale, "Loose Change" jar, and Delaware Beach home vacation all successful.**
- 18: **Governor Corbett inaugurated.** (A contingent of "fracktivists" including some LEPOCO folks planned on attending an opposition rally, but wintery weather made the trip unsafe.)
- 26: **P&P "Hope & Despair: Haiti after the Earthquake"- Johanna Berrigan**, co-founder of the House of Grace Catholic Worker House in Philadelphia talked about her work in support of a health clinic in Haiti.

## February

- 4: **P&P In the King of Prussia** shown, a film about the "Plowshares Eight" peace action in the 1980s.
- Sarah Snider and Mike DiPaolo travel to El Salvador** to help build a 2<sup>nd</sup> classroom at the school named for Joe DeRaymond in the village of La Loma.
- 15: **Zac Ebrahim, "A Powerful Voice for Peace & Understanding,"** whose father is in prison for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, spoke at the Unitarian Universalist Church, with a number of members in attendance.
- 24: **The first Delaware River Basin Commission hearing on fracking** regulations in Trenton, NJ, drew an overflow crowd including many LEPOCO members.

## March

- 3-4: **Northampton Community College held its 1<sup>st</sup> annual peace conference: "Peace, Justice, & Conflict Resolution,"** that included a panel discussion with LEPOCO represented by Susie Ravitz.
- 5: **ANNUAL DINNER!** A vegetarian meal inspired by Afghanistan's cuisine was followed by David Wildman's talk, "Ending the War in Afghanistan; Ending the War on State & Local Budgets; How We Bring Our War Dollars Home."
- 13: **P&P "SOA Watch & the Movement Against Militarization in Latin America"** with Nico Udu-gama and Gabriela Uassouf speaking.
- 17: **Peace vigil** held at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte to mark the eighth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.
- 19: **A dozen LEPOCO and L.V. Veterans for Peace members** traveled to D.C. for actions marking 8 years of occupation in Iraq. Three (Robert Daniels II, Louise Legun, Tim Chadwick) were arrested along with 100 others for an act of civil disobedience outside the White House.

## April

- 1: **P&P The Tillman Story** shown. This film that tells the true story of the events surrounding Pat Tillman's death.
- 12: **Stop Funding War! Fund Our Communities! Global Day of Action on Military Spending** marked by the Nuclear Abolition Sisters with a walk through Allentown with stops bringing attention to the harmful effects the proposed state and federal budget cuts would have on local organizations, education, and the environment.
- 17: **P&P "Why I Fast For Justice: Guantanamo, the Obama Administration, Broken Promises"- Tim Chadwick** gave a presentation on Witness Against Torture and the current situation at Guantanamo.
- 18: **TAX DAY! Annual post office leafleting** with the War Resisters League flyer pointing out that almost half of our taxes go to the military.

## May

- 6: **P&P Justice on Trial: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal** shown.
- 10: **Rabbi Lynn Gotlieb spoke on "The Geography of Hope: Role of Nonviolence in Palestinian & Israeli Conflict Transformation"** at the Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem.
- 12: **LEPOCO joined forces with UAW Local 677 and Clean Water Action** to picket outside DeSales University where Gov. Tom Corbett was speaking for the L.V. Chamber of Commerce
- 14: **YARD SALE! Over \$500 raised.** Thanks to Mimi Lang for lending us her yard ☺.
- 30: **Veterans for Peace Memorial Day observance at Cedar Beach Park, Allentown.** Event made visible the local impact of war with mock headstones for each Pennsylvania member of the military killed in Iraq & Afghanistan.

## June

- 3: **P&P Inside Job** shown, documentary about the cause of the financial meltdown of 2008.

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# The Struggle Shared

*"... the mortar that constrains human hearts  
becomes malleable as sweet honey.*

*The mental brick and stone and steel  
that are the foundation of Empire,  
begin to crack and crumble,  
and, just like in Jericho  
the walls come a'tumblin down  
and humanity is set free..."*

- from *Meditation on Shock and Awe*, by Jeff Vitelli, 3/19/2003

## CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKERS LEAVE A LITTLE PEACE IN

PALESTINE - In 2004, children in the South Hebron Hills village of at-Tuwani were regularly being attacked by Israeli settlers as they walked to school. Homes in the small community were under threat of demolition. The villagers, and their Israeli partners in Ta'ayush, asked Christian Peacemakers Teams (CPT) and an Italian peace group, Operation Dove, to provide accompaniment to the nonviolent community activists. After seven years, CPT's presence in the at-Tuwani is drawing to a close.

The growth of the nonviolent resistance organizing among the shepherds of at-Twani, part of a much larger network in Palestine belonging to the Popular Struggle Coordinating Committee, has made the accompaniment presence much less critical. The village has grown significantly, with the construction of ten new homes, a health and community center, electrical infrastructure and a paved road, and a new mosque. The children have computers in their schools, and a program to teach IT skills.

According CPT team member, Laura Ciaghi, the accompaniment created a safe space for people, and eased the pressure of living under occupation so people had the time and energy to organize themselves. The CPT wrote, "The olive tree we planted in our courtyard on Christmas Day 2005 has yielded for the first time this fall, a full bucket of big olives. Maybe that tells the story better than anything else."

## BORDERLANDS HEEDING

GOD'S CALL - Readers of this col-

umn will recall the story of faith community activists in Philadelphia who led a successful campaign to shut down Colosimo's Gun Shop for its practice of selling firearms to straw purchasers. In partnership with the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence, and others, Heeding God's Call has begun a campaign to curb the flow of weapons across the US border into Mexico.

Since 2006, Mexico has suffered more than 50,000 deaths in the drug war, most carried out with illegal firearms. 87% of the weapons seized by Mexican authorities over the past five years originated in the United States. According to the Mexico House of Deputies Justice Commission, approximately 2000 guns enter Mexico every day. There is no equivalent to the US Second Amendment in the Mexican Constitution, so without a very restricted license, it is illegal for anyone in Mexico to own a firearm.

At Southwestern US gun shows, on the other hand, anyone can purchase 20 AK-47's, and walk out, no questions asked. A US federal operation called "Fast and Furious" sought to catch gun smuggling leaders by "letting guns walk" from Arizona gun dealers in 2009 and 2010. The program allowed dealers to irresponsibly sell guns, many of them going to Mexican drug cartels.

Employing the Philadelphia strategy, Borderlands Heeding God's Call is encouraging gun dealers, especially in Tucson and Phoenix, to take responsibility for reducing gun violence. Dealers are asked to agree to a ten-point code of con-

duct that discourages straw purchases. Walmart, as the largest retail seller of guns in the US, has agreed to the code of conduct which includes videotaping at the point of sale, participation in a nationally computerized log of crime gun traces, and other measures.

## JROTC PROGRAM DUMPED AT CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL

- In 2007, the principal of Mission Bay High School in San Diego, California, invited the Marines Corps to set up a Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) unit at the school. Immediately there was a surge of student activism that kept the enrollment from ever reaching the minimum required by federal law and the military regulations. The largely Latino student body was successful in eliminating the "coolness" factor of the program by peer education. They believed that students were being tracked as minorities into the military as JROTC displaced other classes required for college admission.

After three years of dropping enrollment, student protests escalated over the failure to disband the unit. The principal ignored protests at the beginning of the 2011 school year, in hopes that more aggressive recruiting would fill the quota. When enrollment fell even further to around 40 of the required 100 students (10% of the student population), the principal was forced to announce in March that the JROTC unit would be disbanded at the end of the 2012 school year.

In addition to closing down the JROTC unit, the local youth organizers were also successful in closing the school district's 11 shooting ranges, and the superintendent of schools sent an e-mail to staff to stop placing students in JROTC programs involuntarily. Organizers are now directing their energy to the presence of other under-enrolled JROTC programs throughout the district, as well as educating the school board on the high cost of maintaining JROTC programs as compared to other classes.

- Jeff Vitelli

## Remembering 2011 (continued from page 4)

- 4: **ANNUAL BIKE/WALKATHON! Over \$2000 raised**, half of which was split between Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Clean Water Action to help with their fight against fracking.
- 12: **P&P "U.S. War Culture, Sacrifice & Salvation"- Kelly Denton-Borhaug & Naomi Gonzalez** spoke about Denton-Borhaug's book of the same title.

### July

- 1: **P&P *Budrus*** shown, a documentary that gives an inside look at Palestinian-Israeli relations.
- 17: **P&P "Observations on Visiting the Peace Movement in Palestine & Israel"- Vince Stravino** spoke about his recent peacemaker trip to Palestine & Israel.
- 25-29: **YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING PEACE SUMMER DAY CAMP!** Another successful year ☺.

### August

- 5: **P&P *Bringing Down a Dictator*** shown, a documentary on the Yugoslavian President Slobodan's defeat.
- 7: **"From Hiroshima to Fukushima: NO MORE NUKES!"** the Nuclear Abolition Sisters commemorate the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima with an evening of music, performance, and reflection at the Tondabayashi Garden, Bethlehem.
- 20: **Tom Lloyd's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday bash raised over \$1000** as over 30 activists celebrated his continued dedication to LEPOCO and to work for peace.
- 20: **Civil disobedience actions in opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline** begin in Washington, D.C., and continued through Sep. 3. Local participants included Gene Hunter and Evan Hoffman.

### September

- 2: **P&P *Arna's Children*** shown, documentary about Palestinian activist Arna Mer Khamis.
- 7-8: **Shale Gas Outrage events held in Philadelphia.** LEPOCO members were in attendance at both the rally/march and "Freedom from Fracking" conference.
- 17: **OCCUPY WALL STREET begins!**
- 29: **"Laramie Project"** performed at Lafayette College. LEPOCO members gathered at the home of David and Kim Rose for a reception prior to the play.

### October

- 1: **robert Daniels II and Tim Chadwick arrested** along with 700 others on the Brooklyn Bridge in Occupy Wall Street action.
- 7: **P&P *Hidden Battles*** shown, film follows six individuals as they deal with their involvement in different violent conflicts.
- 9: **"Finding Hope After 10 Years of War,"** Nuclear Abolition Sisters organize gathering at the Rose Garden, Bethlehem, to reflect on 10 years of war in Afghanistan.
- 16: **P&P "A Report on Freedom from Fracking"- Mimi Lang & Kelly Quain** report on Freedom from Fracking conference.

### November

- 4: **P&P *Berkley in the Sixties*** shown, a documentary about, well, Berkley in the 60's!
- 6: **Local activists join with thousands in encircling the White House** in protest of the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- 11: **LEPOCO members joined Lehigh Valley Veterans for Peace** for Veteran's Day observance at Rose Garden Park.
- 18-20: **Local activists traveled to Fort Benning, GA,** for the Shut Down the SOA actions.
- 21: **"Don't Drill the Delaware" rally in Trenton.** The Delaware River Basin Commission vote on fracking regulations canceled the vote at the last minute. Rally held as celebration of a small victory attended by a few LEPOCO people.

### December

- 2: **P&P *Wild in the Streets*** shown, a political satire set in the 60's.
- 10: **CHRISTMAS PEACE PILGRIMAGE!** 150 people of all ages took part in this year's walk.

### Ongoing

*Peace vigils continued on second Thursdays* at 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem, all year.  
*The LEPOCO Book Group met on first Wednesdays* to discuss a variety of books including: *The End of War* by Paul Chappell; *The Spirit Level* by Wilkinson and Pickett; and *Heading South, Looking North* by Ariel Dorfman.  
*We participated in fairs and festivals including* Jim Thorpe's and Lehigh University's Earth Day (April); Allentown's 11<sup>th</sup> Street Festival (June); PrideFest (August); Lehigh University's Community Expo (August); the Sustainable Energy Festival in Kempton (September); the Peace Fair in Buckingham (September), and we held our Holiday Open House in December.

- Kelly Quain

# Bits & Pieces

☮ Thank you to the 22 people who helped **banner and leaflet at Lafayette College** on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, before the Joe Biden lecture. The leaflet said in part, "At this election season please ask those seeking office to: Create jobs; Save services; Tax the richest; End our wars, and Cut Pentagon spending." (A copy of the flyer is available from LEPOCO.) We gave out around 800 flyers and held a borrowed banner with a chart pointing out the 60% of federal discretionary spending that goes to the Pentagon. (The long banner was on loan, via parcel post, from the Kansas City American Friends Service Committee office.) A very displayable version of the chart (also produced by AFSC) is available at LEPOCO. Please help find other occasions for spreading the message to cut military spending during this election year.

☮ "We can make the world a better place," if we "lay down the burden of violence, the burden of hate... Our lives should be lived for peace."

- **Rep. John Lewis** speaking at Moravian College, March 29, 2012

☮ Both the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) and Global Exchange lead **citizen diplomacy tours to Iran**. Through such tours we can build people-to-people ties and foster peace between our countries. As this is written there is a FOR delegation in Iran until May 22. The next FOR delegation will be October 16-27, 2012. See [www.forusa.org/upcoming-delegations-iran](http://www.forusa.org/upcoming-delegations-iran) or call 518-421-4918 for more info. Global Exchange is planning what they call Reality Tours to Iran, September 22-October 6, 2012, and June 8-22, 2013. For more info. see [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org) or call 415-255-7296.

☮ **SOA Watch** is planning delegations to **Ecuador** (June 20-28, 2012) and **Nicaragua** (August 27-September 5, 2012). The trips will explore the current realities in each country, listening to people and visiting urban and rural communities. They will also bring the issue of the SOA (School of the Ameri-

cas) to government officials and to the public through the media.

☮ A dear member and friend of LEPOCO, **Judy Lazarus**, died April 8. She sang with the Peace Singers for many years and was always interested in any LEPOCO programs that focused on U.S. relations with Latin America. She made special contributions to the lives of young people through her work with Dream Come True. She will be missed by those who knew of her many kindnesses to the community.

☮ *If J.P. Morgan Chase wants to act like a crazed cowboy hedge fund and make wild exacta bets on the derivatives market, they should be welcome to do so. But they shouldn't get to do it with cheap cash from the Fed's discount window, and they shouldn't get to do it with money from the federally-insured bank accounts of teachers, firemen and other such real people. It's a simple concept: you either get to be a bank, or you get to be a casino. But you can't be both. If we don't have rules to enforce that concept, we ought to get some.*  
- Matt Taibbi, *Rolling Stone*, 5/14/12

☮ Delaware Riverkeeper Network and other organizations are calling for a rally in Washington, DC, on Sat., July 28, to **Stop the Frack Attack** and to fight for a sustainable energy future. Watch for more info. in coming weeks.

In related news, on May 4, the Vermont House of Representatives voted 103-36 to give final passage to legislation that will make Vermont the first

state in the nation to ban the practice of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. Even though Vermont is not seen as the site of bountiful natural gas deposits, the gas industry's strong opposition to the effort, validates the belief that all such efforts are important.

☮ *America's postal service is just that – a true public service, a grassroots people's asset that has even more potential than we're presently tapping to serve the democratic ideal of the common good. Why the hell would we let an elite of small-minded profiteers, ranting ideologues, and their political hirelings drop-kick this jewel through the goalposts of corporate greed? This is not a fight merely to save 32,000 post offices and the middle-class jobs they provide – but to advance the BIG IDEA of America itself, the bold, historic notion that "Yes, we can" create a society in which we're all in it together.*

- "The Hightower Lowdown," March 2012

☮ Dan Poresky wrote an excellent op-ed in *The Morning Call*, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, about the **Allentown incinerator** planned for Kline's Island. He says it is not a "done deal." Be sure to read this important piece, especially if you live in Allentown.



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

**Monday, May 21, 7 pm: Peace Camp 2012 Planning Committee** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Wednesday, May 23, 3:30 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Thursday, June 6, 11 am: Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Mondays, June 11 & July 9, 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, June 14 & July 12, 6 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace** 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 Nuclear Abolition Sisters, the Newsletter Planning Committee, the Annual Dinner Planning Committee, or the LEPOCO Peace Singers please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.*

*For a regularly updated calendar of events and 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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Meetings...

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Peace Camp

Young People Making Peace Summer Day Camp  
July 23-27, 2012

(See inserts to volunteer / register)

Monthly Peace Vigil

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

4:30-5:30 pm

Second Thursdays (June 14 & July 12)

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

Contact:

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

L.V. Veterans for Peace  
Memorial Day Observance

Cedar Beach Park, Allentown  
Monday, May 28, 9 am – 6 pm

(see page 1 for more info.)

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

Saturday, June 2, 2012 (see page 1)