



Calling Forth the Life & Work

On October 22, at St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Allentown, LEPOCO held an event honoring the memory of Joe DeRaymond, who died a year ago in October. The event also supported one of Joe's chief interests with LEPOCO, the Fellowship of Reconciliation's accompaniment program in the peace community of San José de Apartadó in northern Colombia.

Around 70 people came to the program, many helping with it as well as attending and contributing financially. There were information tables for browsing. Chris Spohn and I installed FOR's photographic exhibition about three of the Colombian peace communities for the evening. People could see just how the communities look, including San José and its hamlet, La Unión, where Joe lived, as do all accompaniers. Many people brought delicious food to eat while chatting with old and new friends, which included several of Joe's family, all in the midst of Latin American music provided by Bob Riggs.

The formal program included one of Mimi Lang's poems, and she read a special note from Mary DeRaymond describing her eldest child. John Lindsay-Poland, one of the FOR staff of the Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean (and who first suggested the possibility of our event to Sarah Snider, Nancy Tate, Tom Stinnett and me in June), showed slides of testimonials to Joe from his involvement with the Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad in El Salvador. During a candle lighting ritual in some soil from Joe's home, Tim Chadwick & I read from some of Joe's writings collected by Mike Lawton. The writings showed the wide breadth of Joe's concerns about our society.

Our special guests then spoke, starting with Susana Pimiento, another of FOR's TFLAC staff, who talked about the current state of affairs in the peace community, stressing how important the accompaniment program is. Security has improved in the past two years, no one being killed since 2007. Public attacks to undermine the community's credibility are more usual now. However, the community continues to move forward, and she was encouraging in her observations of regular improvements there.

John Lindsay-Poland spoke of the Leahy amendment/law which prohibits assistance to a foreign country if the State Department has evidence that it has committed gross human rights violations. The State Department says it has applied that law most to Colombia, which John pointed out shows how little a country needs to do to qualify for assistance. He described how it's not known that the Colombian military kidnaps

young men, has them murdered, dresses them in FARC clothing, then counts them as dead FARC (guerrillas) to impress the governments in both Colombia and the U.S. A study he has worked on for months correlates the increase in U.S. funding and increase in murders by the military. In a short question and answer session, John suggested that our contacting the State Department may be the most effective way toward improvement at this time.

He then drew the winner of a raffle for Joe's brother, William's, oil painting of the Sonoran Desert, Judith Keating.

Nancy Tate, who coordinated the whole event, reports that \$4,000 were raised for FOR's accompaniment program, still needed as long as the government permits the war among FARC, paramilitaries and the regular military, all of whom prey on the campesinos. It is small compensation for the support the U.S. gives to that same Colombian government.

As we honored Joe, it was an honor for all of us to be a part of this event. We thank the church, its Pastor, John Lamb, and Office Manager, Leslie Talago, for both hospitality and help in our preparations, and we thank Joe's family, both kin of birth and life, for supporting public appreciation of one they hold especially dear.

To learn more about the accompaniment program, see www.forusa.org (click on "Colombia" then "accompaniment"). Further contributions can be made in Joe's memory, noting the purpose, to FOR, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960.

- Janet Goloub

Holiday Open House
Sunday, December 5, 1 - 4 pm

LEPOCO Peace Center
 313 West Fourth Street, south Bethlehem

Fair trade crafts and food
 from around the world through SERRV;

Buttons, Stickers, Cards;
 Holiday Cards & 2011 Calendar

(Items available during normal office hours until the holidays.)

Earth and Energy: _____

The fight against natural gas has ramped up, and is often ugly. However, three news stories should encourage those who rightly speak for clean air, clean water, and healthy communities:

1. In Nockamixon Township, the gas company Arbor Resources has, after a long battle with township supervisors and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, decided to cancel its permit to drill. Arbor was one of several companies who were granted permission to drill before the June moratorium on drilling in the River Basin. If they change their mind, they will have to start the process anew, and will not be able to take advantage of grandfather status.

2. On October 26th, Governor Ed Rendell signed into law an act which would prohibit new drilling on ecologically sensitive lands. While much of state forest land has already been affected by this industry, this is a move in the right direction if we are to stand up for the diverse ecosystems that are a treasure to Pennsylvania.

3. On November 3rd, in the wake of a brutal election cycle which brought Pennsylvanians a new anti-environment governor and senator, hundreds of citizen activists rallied outside the David L. Lawrence Developing Unconventional Gas East conference to protest the practice of hydraulic fracturing.

However, here in the Lehigh Valley, some are talking about an energy plan so foul that it is hard to believe. The City of Allentown is seriously considering a plan to convert trash and sewage sludge into a substance which can then be burned for electricity. Similar projects exist around the United States, but Allentown would be the first place where sewage would be included in the mix.

More and more people are catching on, but we still need to shout our message out loudly and clearly. No more of these dirty, polluting fuel sources masquerading as clean and sustainable. We need to reduce energy consumption and to support jobs in *true* green energy wind, solar, and hydro.

- Cathy Frankenberg

News from Veterans For Peace

Thursday, November 11, Veterans For Peace Chapter 152 held a Veterans Day Memorial observance at the Rose Garden, Eighth Avenue, Bethlehem. The event lasted from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and featured simulated tombstones affixed in the ground, each representing a member of the Armed Forces from Pennsylvania killed in Afghanistan or Iraq.

The flyer distributed to those who visited the display said in part: "November 11 is a cause for mixed emotions among those former members of the military who wish to permanently halt the horror of war. A holiday in our name is indeed an honor...but 'Armistice' somehow still sounds more suitable. That word refers

to the end of a conflict, the end of the killing, the maiming, the destruction, the inhumanity, the erosion of civilized personal behaviors that have taken centuries to mold... Veterans For Peace gratefully acknowledges the heartfelt recognition which our nation offers today. But we fervently urge that tomorrow our great nation devote its equally heartfelt and solemn attention and talents to the cessation of existing wars and to the prevention of similar calamities in the decades to come..."

The evening of November 11 Chapter coordinator Louise Legun spoke at the annual dinner of The Clubhouse, a group of individuals involved in the mental health profession. Her talk was concerned with Veterans' Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. The program was held at Asbury United Methodist Church in Allentown.

The Chapter plans to take the tombstone display to other locations in the future. It is a very striking reminder of all the loss from our current wars.

Veterans For Peace is currently holding its meetings the second Friday of the month at 10:30 am in the Crocodile Rock on Hamilton Street in Allentown. Following the meeting members of the group participate in the Friday Noon Peace Vigil in front of the Federal Court Building, Allentown. Starting in January the group will return to holding their meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center, on the second Thursday of the month, at 7 pm. They will join the 4 pm, second Thursday vigil at 4th & Wyandotte Streets prior to their meeting.

- Paul Fichter

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

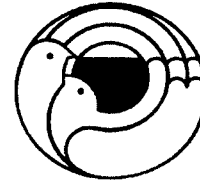
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The *LEPOCO Newsletter* is published 8 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a nonviolent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

Annual dues are:

Regular Member \$35

Limited Income Member \$ 5

Household Membership \$45

Supporting Member \$75

Articles/news should be submitted to the address above for consideration for the next issue of the newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: robert Daniels II, Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Jeff Vitelli.

Thanks to all the people who staple, fold and label the newsletter each month.

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

Popcorn & Politics

Friday, December 3rd, 7pm: Plunder: The Crime of Our Time

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

This is a hard-hitting investigative documentary that explores how the financial crisis was built on a foundation of criminal activity, and uncovers the connection between the collapse of the housing market and the economic catastrophe that followed.

Directed by Danny Schechter. 100 minutes. 2009.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, January 7th, 7 pm: Restrepo

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

Experiential documentary that chronicles the deployment of a platoon of U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley. The movie focuses on a remote and dangerous 15-man outpost, "Restrepo," named after a platoon medic who was killed in action.

Directed by Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington. 93 minutes. 2010.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



LEPOCO Book Group

The First Wednesday LEPOCO Book Group will meet next on Wednesday, December 1st, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. At that meeting the group will discuss *Long for This World: The Strange Science of Immortality*, by Jonathan Weiner. It has been described as a fascinating primer on longevity research.

January 5th, the discussion will be about *Call It Sleep*, by Henry Roth, published in 1934. *The New Yorker* said this book is "arguably the most distinguished work of fiction about immigrant life." It is a coming of age book that takes place in New York's Lower East Side in the early 20th Century.

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver (1998) will be discussed at the February 2nd meeting of the group. This Kingsolver book is "a compelling family saga and a sobering picture of the horrors of fanatic fundamentalism and an insightful view of an exploited country (the Congo) during three turbulent decades beginning in the late 1950s."

New readers and discussion participants are welcome. Call Bob & Carmen Riggs at 610-867-1244 or Becky Irwin at 610-351-6936 if you have questions.

- Susie Ravitz

Walk the Road of Peace

The 51st Annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage is set for Saturday, December 11. Participants meet in the parking lot at 520 E. Broad St., Bethlehem, before 10:45 am. Buses transport pilgrims to the Nazareth Moravian Church on Center Square. The walk follows Route 191 south to Bethlehem.

One of the best things about the annual peace walk is the chance to reunite with friends along the route. Ten miles is plenty of distance to catch up with fellow

peacemakers and make new friends. Walkers arrive at Christ UCC, Market & Center Sts., Bethlehem, around 5:30 pm, for a gathering with a light meal. Like the postal service the event takes place wind, rain, snow or shine, so the hot soup supper waiting at the end of the journey always tastes doubly delicious. This year's speaker is LEPOCO's very own Nancy Tate, who will give a talk titled, "We Have Only Begun: Reflections on Our Work for Peace!"

All persons of any age are welcome to join the Pilgrimage, symbolic of the journey of Mary and Joseph. In the trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem and in the rally, the organizers seek to reflect the nonviolent life of Jesus Christ. While the walk does have a clear Christian foundation, participants always include people from other traditions and belief (or non-belief) backgrounds. A brochure for the Pilgrimage was included with the October LEPOCO Newsletter. Additional copies are available at the LEPOCO Peace Center. Call Fran Dreisbach at 610-258-7313 or visit www.peacewalk.org for more information.

- robert Daniels II

Looking Forward

LEPOCO's Steering Committee has held three discussions about where we are as an organization and where we would like to be. Our financial needs have prompted this somewhat, but like many groups we face the dilemmas of how to energize our supporters and how to broaden the diversity of participation. After the Steering Committee discussions a meeting was held on November 8 involving some of our more active members. While we don't have a clear path forward, some good discussion has been started. If you have thoughts on this please talk with Janet Ney or other members of the Steering Committee.

25% Solution is the Solution —

Michael Prokosch, an organizer of Greater Boston United for Justice with Peace, came to the Lehigh Valley on October 19 to share his outreach efforts in the huge task of getting local people and thus, the Congress, to support a 25% cut in the military budget. Michael spoke simply and movingly in his Berrigan-esque style about the efforts of his group.

Michael's background in community organization has led him to inspire groups who ordinarily may not be moved to take action on the usual peace and justice issues. He is able to relate their urgent needs of unemployment, housing, health care, education, state and local government financial crises to the \$700 billion plus federal military budget. According to Michael, ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, cutting unneeded weapons programs and eliminating wasteful spending would easily meet the 25% goal without compromising even military versions of security.

The "fund our communities by cutting military spending" plan is part of a growing nationwide movement to cut military spending and fund domestic programs. Another catchy slogan used by the movement is, Move the Money, Starve the Empire. It is hoped that city councils, school boards, congregations, unions and other grassroots organization will take this effort to Congress next spring. Michael emphasized that these groups will only be moved to action by our own local efforts to help them relate their individual money problems to gross defense spending.

Barney Frank (D) and Ron Paul (R) circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter in the fall to initiate the 25% funding cut effort. As of October 13, the final sign-on tally was 52 Representatives and five Senators. Support for the issue after the November election is unsure but national and local groups will continue their efforts. To read the letter go to: www.fcnl.org.

We are grateful to the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition and especially to the efforts of Tom Ulrich for bringing Michael Prokosch to the Lehigh Valley. The Peace Coalition will continue to work on the 25% Solution. Your assistance to expand their work into grassroots groups is vital. Their next meeting is Thursday, December 2, at the LEPOCO Peace Center, at 7 pm.

- Mimi Lang

Speaker on Honduras —

On Sunday, November 14, the LEPOCO Peace Center was filled with people listening to one of the courageous leaders of the resistance to the June 2009 coup in Honduras. Nectali Rodezno is touring this country telling the story of military repression in Honduras that was instigated and is supported by the U.S. He was accompanied by Vera Leone, Witness For Peace mid-Atlantic region organizer, and Galen Baynes, Witness For Peace organizer based in Nicaragua. The trio will end their tour at the Close the SOA events in

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Columbus, Georgia, November 19-21. John Zachmann will write a report on Nectali's talk for the next newsletter, but everyone present left with a sense of the importance of telling the U.S. State Department: End the funding for the Honduran military and police, funding that is supporting assassinations and repression.

Fundraising for LEPOCO —

LEPOCO friends, it is time again to assess our priorities and what LEPOCO is worth to us. It is easy to take for granted an organization that has been with us for the last 45 years! But then, you and I know of many people outside the Lehigh Valley who wished they had such a center of information, inspiration, organizing, planning, etc. My sister-in-law in Anchorage, Alaska, Myrna Hammond, is one of them. She envies us for having LEPOCO because she often feels isolated and unsupported in her convictions and activism. Without an organization such as LEPOCO it is difficult to know of all the peace-and-justice things going on locally as well as nationally or even internationally. It takes a big effort to organize events without an office and a staff to help with it. Without an active peace organization and a center for like-minded people it is much harder to keep one's spirits up and continue in the work of peace.

Indeed, we are very fortunate to have all that: an office staffed by two incredibly committed, experienced, capable, smart, and always forthcoming and kind people, Nancy Tate and Robert Daniels! They keep us on our toes with a monthly newsletter, with e-mail reminders and more news, a website, and movies (that you can't see anywhere else), with planning and organizing. And then there are the many LEPOCO members who are actively involved in committees and volunteering, keeping peace and justice issues on the minds of many in the Lehigh Valley and beyond.

So, let us open our hearts and wallets to keep this treasure in our community, and let us meet at the Peace Pilgrimage, at the Annual Dinner, at choir rehearsals, committee meetings, Potluck (or Popcorn) and Politics, peace vigils, Peace Camp, the Book Group, etc. Take your pick, and don't ever give up on peace and justice! It gives your life a purpose worth living for!

- Ursula Wuerth

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.

The Struggle Shared

*The memory evokes and summons, moves and shakes
the memory is resistance to forgetting, affirming the right to know
the right to truthfulness, the right to exhume the dreams."*

- Pablo Cala

IMPRISONING UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE IN MT. BETHEL? -

According to a series of articles in *The Morning Call* (the Oct. 20, 21 and 22 editions), Northampton County Commissioners are considering a proposal by a large private prison company to build a federal prison compound on 125 acres in Upper Mount Bethel Township. It would house more than 2000 undocumented immigrants. Currently many are being detained in county prisons (not in Northampton County however).

At a County Council meeting on October 20, a representative from GEO, a company based in Boca Raton, Florida, presented a proposal for the \$150 million project, contracted with the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). "We've done our research and we see that you're pushing 10% unemployment. We'd like to help with that." GEO's vice president for business development, Clويد Shuler promised 350 construction jobs and 500 permanent local jobs, as well as nice padding for the municipal tax base. Council voted to authorize county executive John Stoffa to begin discussions with the ICE and GEO about the county's willingness to assume responsibility for the detention of people who are in the country without documentation.

Having the county run this prison is wrong on so many levels. Letters to the editor reflect public opposition to the idea of a prison for immigrants on grounds ranging from environmental impact (the proposed acreage is a sanctuary for bald eagles) to social responsibility (the proposal came on the same night that council was debating sale of Gracedale, the county's facility for low-income elderly citizens who require nursing care) to the dehumanizing nature of the prison jobs that the facility would create.

While our national immigration policy is deeply flawed, and part of the reason that immigrants are arrested, most on summary offenses, imprisoning them is no solution. For all but the most violent pathological offenders, our prison system is a failure. Private prisons are worse, and among those, ones run by GEO, are the worst. David Fathi, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project knows GEO well. The company was the target of lawsuits in 2008 and 2009 for violent incidents where immigrant prisoners rioted at their Texas facility after the deaths of two inmates. GEO's practices are also under investigation at facilities in Arizona and Tacoma, Washington.

Locally, Emma Cleveland, of the Pennsylvania ACLU's Immigrant Right's Project, is busy gathering information and organizing human rights activists to oppose the proposed prison. An organizing meeting was held on November 5 at the Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations in south Bethlehem. We can stop this obscene proposal before it takes root in our valley. Call Emma Cleveland at 484-350-3767 for more information, or if you want to add your voice to this effort.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO SOA -

From November 18 to 21, up to 10,000 people will once again converge at the Gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, for the annual School of the Americas Watch protest.

For five hundred years colonial powers have used brutal military repression to exploit the wealth of Latin America. That atrocious history continues unabated to this day as the region's natural resources are extracted by multi-national corporations over a growing mound of bodies of native peoples. A major but-

ness of that edifice of exploitation is the School of the Americas, re-named the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, at Ft. Benning. The repression of the resistance to the SOA graduated Honduran military coup of June 2009, is one grim reminder. In August, the bodies of 72 migrants were discovered on a farm in Temaulipas, Mexico, making it the largest massacre yet recorded in Mexico's drug war. The Zetas cartel assassins were linked to a group of renegade soldiers from an elite division of the Mexican Army trained at Ft. Benning. And the list goes on.

For the last 20 years the SOA Watch has convened an annual presence at the base to call attention to these atrocities. Beginning as a handful of protesters, it has grown into one of the most dynamic movements of cross-continental resistance to militarism in the world. New this year, is the endorsement of the Encuentro of the Americas, a convention of representatives of social organizations from 19 countries that met in June in Venezuela. There will be simultaneous vigils to the Ft. Benning gathering in Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, and other countries.

The November demonstration features educational workshops, lots of music, international speakers, and a moving procession to the gates accompanied by the dirge-like reading of the names of dead and disappeared victims of SOA with the resonant "Presente" response chant. This year there will be two forms of civil disobedience, those crossing the line onto the base and those risking less serious charges in another action.

Dozens of LEPOCO activists have joined the yearly pilgrimage to Ft. Benning. Those who walk this year will be in the company of great LEPOCO spirits including Joe DeRaymond, Art Landis, and Arlene Grow. Bob and Carmen Riggs and Sarah Snider are among those making the pilgrimage this year. Visit www.soaw.org or contact LEPOCO for more information.

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

☪ **Ratification of the new START treaty** is likely to come up for a vote in the current lame-duck session of Congress. The treaty was recommended for ratification by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in September by a 14-4 bipartisan vote. The Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace Action, and others are calling for ratification even though this is only an incremental step and not perfect, it does move us in the right direction toward the ultimate goal of the abolition of all nuclear weapons. It is important to contact Sen. Bob Casey (202-224-6324) and Sen. Arlen Specter (202-224-4254) and seek their assurance that they will vote yes. It could also be very helpful to contact friends and family in states with swing Senators and urge them to call their Senator through the Capitol Switchboard (202-225-3121) like McCain (AZ), Bennett/Hatch (UT), Snowe/Collins (ME), Brown (MA), Graham (SC), Voinovich (OH), Grassley (IA), Alexander (TN), Cochran (MS), Bond (MO), Gregg (NH), Murkowski (AL), Burr (NC), LeMieux (FL), Lieberman (I-CT).

☪ Please note that the **Bethlehem Peace Vigil** will be only on the second Thursday of the month starting in December. The time also changes to 4-5 pm, to accommodate the earlier darkness. Please stand with the regular vigilers, Tom Ulrich, Ellen Buck, Vince Stravino and Bob Riggs. You don't need to call ahead, just show up with your sign or use one of the extra signs that are always available.

☪ Hope UCC, 1031 Flexer Ave., Allentown, is hosting a **SERRV International Bazaar** on Sun., Nov. 21, 11:30 am-3 pm. There will be usual wide array of handmade crafts created by artisans from around the world. All proceeds go to SERRV International and the Get In Touch Foundation. Bring a canned good for Second Harvest and enter to win a free holiday gift.

☪ LEPOCO will be represented at two events over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. On Nov. 26, we'll be tabling at the Black Friday **Benefit for Food Not Bombs L.V.**, at the Secret Art Space (on Rink St., between Vine & New Sts., Rink lies between 3rd & 4th Sts.), south Bethlehem. The green door opens at 7 pm. \$6-8, along with any canned goods you wish to donate, will get you three bands (Complete Strategist, We Have Heaven, and Pet Milk) for a good cause in a cool space. On Sun., the 28th, the Secret Art Space will also be hosing the Black Sunday **Indie Craft Market** between 12 noon and 7 pm. LEPOCO Peace Boutique will join over 15 local crafters/artists/packrats selling their wares. Avoid the mall, shop local!

☪ The Allentown Brew Works is holding its **Craft Beer Festival** on Sat., Dec. 4, Noon to 8 pm, and has invited LEPOCO to be one of the beneficiaries from their fundraising efforts. The annual event, which features over 25 (mostly local) beers, is a perfect sampling opportunity for fans of diverse brews. Advance tickets are now on sale for \$25 at www.thebrewworks.com/events. When you enter the promotional code "LEPOCO" \$5 of your ticket price is donated to us. Sign up and raise a glass for LEPOCO!

☪ On Nov. 1, ground was broken for the memorial dedicated to **Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King** in the triangle-shaped park at Union St. and Martin Luther King Dr., Allentown. It is hoped that the project will be complete by the M.L. King Birthday Holiday in January. While most of the funding for the project has been secured, donations are still needed to cover about \$80,000. Contact Kevin Easterling at 484-661-1161 or info@mlkmemorialproject.org for more info.

☪ On Nov. 10, Rep. Dennis **Kucinich** made a statement in response to the expectation that the deficit commission would call for raising the retirement age for Social Security...: "For millions of older Americans, every day gets a little harder. Even though the costs of medication, transportation, and utilities are rising, we have already denied seniors a modest Cost of Living Adjustment to their Social Security payments for two years. The war in Af-

ghanistan costs the taxpayers \$190 million PER DAY. We will continue to spend \$1.3 billion every week on war in Afghanistan for the indefinite future while we force our seniors to make tough choices between their medications and their food; their rent and their heat; their phone and gas for their car... If we have enough to wage war, we have enough to take care of our seniors."

☪ Monica McAghon will write a report on the **CELDF Democracy School** held in Allentown, Nov. 5-6 for the next issue of the this Newsletter. The School was organized by the Alliance for Sustainable Communities-L.V.

☪ The newly formed **First Amendment Network** is asking for support from community, environmental, human rights, and anti-war groups that were tracked in the PA "Terror Watch" bulletins. They also seek support from all citizen groups fighting to protect our civil liberties, free speech and the right to dissent. They call on Governor-Elect Corbett to end the tracking and spying on activist and protest groups in Pennsylvania, regardless of the overseeing agency. For more information see www.aclupa.org/warondissent.



Check out www.lepoco.org for a Calendar of Events, the LEPOCO Newsletter Archive, YouTube videos, and the opportunity to click the "Donate" button and contribute to LEPOCO with your credit card through PayPal. Visit the "membership" page to renew your membership or make a monthly pledge.

Sign up for LEPOCO's weekly e-mail update of area peace and justice events by writing to lepoco@fast.net.

Bits & Pieces

☸ A quick and simple way to support LEPOCO's peace and justice work in the Lehigh Valley is now on our website at www.lepoco.org. If you are comfortable with on-line financial actions, as I am, you will find the link to "Pay Pal" safe and easy to use. LEPOCO needs our support and now there is another option to do just that. Check it out and support LEPOCO.

- Tom Ulrich

☸ Two gatherings in the Mennonite community offer people an opportunity to explore immigration issues. On Sat., Nov. 20, there will be a workshop at the Towamencin Mennonite Church, 1980 Sumneytown Pike, Kulpsville, on "A Place to Call Home: Welcoming New Immigrant Neighbors." For more info. see efpic.ppir.org.

Feb. 11-13, 2011, the Eastern District Conference and Franconia Mennonite Conference will hold their Winter Peace Retreat at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA, on the same theme. Rick Ufford-Chase, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship will be the featured speaker. The registration deadline is Jan. 21. The cost is \$163 each for adults. More info. is available at www.peaceretreat.ppir.org.

☸ At the invitation of Peace Project/Kids for Peace, LEPOCO members Hilda Landis, Kim Moyer and Robert Daniels II, attended an International Peace Dinner in Lansdale on Nov. 6. The guest speaker, Law Eh Soe, an exiled photojournalist who fled Burma following the Buddhist monk uprising of 2007, spoke poignantly about his tumultuous country, imprisoned leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and his work as a photographer. Photos taken during what became known as the "Saffron Revolution" appeared worldwide and garnered international attention to the cause of those demonstrating against the military junta. On the power of the photographic image he said, "Today it's a picture, tomorrow a story. Next year it's history." Law Eh Soe gave his talk on the eve of elections in Burma.

Less than a week after the controversial elections, Nobel peace prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 15 of the past 21 years under house arrest, was released from detention. It is expected that her National League for Democracy party will challenge the election results because of widespread electoral fraud. Visit www.uscampaignforburma.org for more info.

☸ Who needs Netflix when the LEPOCO Peace Center has all your dvd needs covered with our **Peace Video Library**? Over 150 films are available to our members. From the documentaries of Michael Moore, Errol Morris, and Robert Greenwald, to fictional films like the Best Picture winner *The Hurt Locker*, the Dr. Strangelove-inspired comedy *In the Loop*, and the classic *Gandhi*, to speeches from past Annual Dinner speakers like Noam Chomsky, Jennifer Harbury, and Bruce Gagnon, there's something for everyone with a dvd player and passion for peace and justice. A donation of \$5 per dvd, per week, is kindly requested. Come peruse the selection at LEPOCO during normal business hours or visit www.lepoco.org/dvdlibrary.html for a complete listing of titles with links to film descriptions.

☸ Amnesty International Group #531 in Allentown will host a "Write-for-Rights" event on **Human Rights Day**, Friday, December 10, 4-10 pm, at Hope Church UCC, 1031 Flexer Ave., Allentown. This event is one of many being held around the globe, where activists will gather to write letters demanding the release of Prisoners of Conscience. The public is invited to participate. You can RSVP by calling 570-668-5753.

☸ EARTHWORKS' Oil & Gas Accountability Project is holding a **National People's Oil and Gas Summit**, Nov. 19-20, in Pittsburgh. At the Summit, participants will meet people affected by oil and gas drilling from across the U.S. Those attending will learn about oil and gas impacts, toxics associated with drilling activities, how natural gas fits into the climate change debate, and how to protect to your community. For more info. call Lisa Sumi at 970-259-3353 or see www.earthworksaction.org/2010summitagenda.cfm. Registration is \$120.



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

- Sun., Nov. 21, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at home of Barbara Wurth in Bethlehem. Call 610-691-8730 for directions.
- Thurs., Dec. 2, 11 am: **Newsletter Planning Meeting** at LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Thurs., Dec. 2, 4 pm: **Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Thurs., Dec. 2, 7 pm: **Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Fri., Dec. 3, 1:15 pm: **Nuclear Abolition Sisters** meeting at Olive Branch Restaurant, south Bethlehem.
- Fri., Dec. 3, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at home of Bob Riggs in Bethlehem. Call 610-691-8730 for directions.
- Mon., Dec. 6, 7 pm: **Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Mondays, Dec. 13 & Jan. 10, 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.
- Fri., Dec. 10, 10:30 am: **Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace** meeting at Crocodile Rock, Hamilton St., Allentown. The meeting will adjourn to join the Noon, Friday, Peace Vigil at the Federal Building at 5th & Hamilton.

*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 Fundraising Committee,
the Youth & Militarism/Truth in Recruiting Committee,
the Economic Crisis Committee: please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a
regularly updated calendar of events and a schedule of meetings please see
www.lepoco.org.*



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Meetings Calendar

Nazareth-to-Bethlehem

Christmas Peace Pilgrimage Saturday, December 11

*(See page 3 or the brochure with the
October Newsletter for more information.)*

Rally for
Lehigh Valley Jobs
Thursday, December 9
6 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Lehigh Valley
424 Center Street
Bethlehem

Regular Peace Vigils

Our wars continue.

Please help witness for peace.

Bethlehem: 4 - 5 pm, Second Thursdays
3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem
Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103
/ Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136

Allentown: Noon - 1 pm, Fridays
Federal Courthouse, 5th & Hamilton Sts.;
Contact: Rev. John C. Fowler 610-746-5013



Holiday Open House

LEPOCO Peace Center
Sunday, December 5,
1 - 4 pm

(See page 1 for more info.)