

## Hedges at Moravian\_\_\_\_\_

You must feel the pain of this now,  
You must feel the grief right now.  
You must love this world so much  
to be able to say 'I lived'...

- Nâzim Hikmet

*I've Been Down So Long,  
Being Down Don't Bother Me.*

- Blues song performed by Charlie Musselman &  
Cyndi Lauper and many others.

In his address at Moravian College on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Christopher Hedges used the metaphor of Melville's *Moby Dick*, to illustrate the illusion of human progress presented by corporate capitalism. He compared the whaling ship, the Pequod, to the U.S. and the obsessed Captain Ahab to those who believe that progress at any cost is worth the effort. The great white sperm whale, Moby Dick, is corporate capitalism (an insult to this beautiful creature) which will eventually destroy us. The Ahabs of the world continue their efforts to capture the corporate leviathan in spite of the devastation to the environment, the guarantees for a planet inhospitable to life, the lost homes and wages of workers, the student loans of young college graduates without jobs and the general despair of the population.

Hedges quoted poetry and literature to encourage us to resist the urge to give into despair or retreat into a magical thinking or childlike optimism. He advised our participation in nonviolent resistance and the use of IMAGINATION to transcend the "molten pit" of reality (Nietzsche). "We need poetry, music, especially singing, theatre and art to help us survive." If one to five percent of the population participates in nonviolent resistance, corporate structures can be threatened.

Hedges referred to Reinhold Niebuhr's "sub-lime madness in the soul" as the ability to fight back against impossibility. "We always have a choice; we can be embers of light in the act of rebellion. We must believe that good always draws to good."

- Mimi Lang

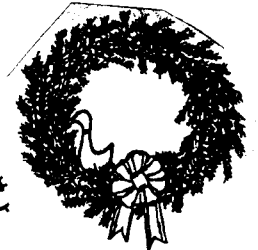
## Farbod at LEPOCO \_\_\_\_\_

On Sunday, 20 October in the LEPOCO office, a record crowd of 32 heard Faramarz Farbod, Moravian College's native Iranian political scientist, offer a

wealth of otherwise inaccessible information on the complex political turmoils in Iran, Syria, and Egypt. Highlights from this wide-sweeping, richly detailed analysis follow.

After a reformist uprising in the 1990s (ignored by the US) and the more recent, violently repressed Green Wave movement, Iran's chief power resides in the non-elected Supreme Leader. A repressed but still existent reformist element elected President Hassan Rouhani, who is seeking to resolve the crisis over Iran's nuclear-  
(continued on page 2)

Holiday  
Open House



Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

12 - 4 pm

&

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

1 - 4 pm

LEPOCO Peace Center

313 West Fourth Street, south Bethlehem

Fair trade crafts & food  
from around the world through

SERRV;

Buttons, Stickers, Cards;

Holiday Cards & 2014 Calendars

(Items also available during normal office hours  
until the end of December.)

# Farbod at LEPOCO

(continued from page 1)

enrichment program – a crisis manufactured by the West, not viewed by the region's Arab nations as any threat. In the U.S. Congress Obama must fight a growing "zero-enrichment" faction in order to form a sane Iran policy. Iranian oil and banking interests, proponents of neoliberal policies, want a rapprochement with the U.S. to get the sanctions lifted – for their own advantage, rather than for relief of the population.

In Egypt, with Mubarak gone, Mubarakism (neoliberal deregulation, privatization, and gutting of social spending) lives on under the Egyptian military, who control about 40% of the economy. Lack of social services opened the way for Islamists to win power through aid to the poor, who backed Islamist candidates. Reformist elements unfortunately nominated too many candidates (six) and thereby split the vote. Yet the mistakes of elected President Mohammed Morsi could have been corrected by parliamentary tactics. Instead, the coup that ousted him brought the military to power. Obama's much-touted cutting of military aid actually has withheld only such big items as F-16s (not needed by the regime) while still providing the smaller weapons needed to repress dissidents. The Egyptian revolution remains unfinished.

The heartbreaking scene in Syria shows seven million refugees, half under the age of 15. Once a secular state under a monopolistic, heavy-handed regime, Syria had nevertheless protected its religious and ethnic minorities. Like Iranian and Egyptian leaders, President Assad has oppressed his people with neoliberal policies. These policies, exacerbated by drought, brought great harm especially in the rural areas, where the uprising began among some 1½ million "floating migrants." Soon the social-justice movement became split and compromised by being taken over by violent and foreign-backed elements. Syria is now wracked by struggles between rival opposition groups and proxy wars, with Saudi Arabia playing a large role.

A lively question-and-answer period brought this informative gathering to a close.

- Addison Bross

## Related Resources:

# Watch for news from an international conference, "For a Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East," in Haifa, Israel, December 5-6. Sponsored by Middle East and Israeli leaders and activists it has been called in response to past Israeli refusal to participate in the Helsinki conference on eliminating nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

# Go to [www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org) and read their Action Alert: Peace at the Precipice, containing suggestions for action to support the diplomacy with Iran.

# Read the November 12<sup>th</sup> article in *The Morning Call*, "Turkey Alarmed by Islamist Fighters," that touched on

some of the many complex issues at play within and around the war in Syria.

## No War Drones Activism:

# In late October five Catholic Worker activists were acquitted for blocking the entrance to Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, near Syracuse, New York, earlier in 2013. Drones are operated from this base. The five had held signs condemning the drone killings of civilians, including children. They argued in court that drone strikes are illegal and that they were upholding the law, not breaking it, by trying to stop drone attacks. Source: [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org), 10/25/13.

# On October 29<sup>th</sup>, U.S. lawmakers heard from victims of U.S. drone strikes for the first time at a briefing held on Capitol Hill (only five representatives chose to attend). A Pakistani school teacher (Rafiq ur Rehman) and his two children told the story of a late 2012 drone attack in North Waziristan that left the teacher's mother, 67-year-old Momina Bibi, dead. She was picking okra with her grandchildren, including Rehman's children, when the drone strike occurred. The children were both injured. Nabia, a nine-year-old, said she used to play outside, but is now too afraid to do so. Her brother, 13-year-old Zubair, said, "I no longer love blue skies. Drones don't fly when the sky is grey."

# If you are not attending the conference, watch for news from the "Drones Around the Globe: Proliferation & Resistance," gathering in Washington, DC, November 16-17.

## Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

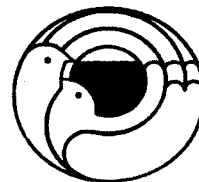
Bethlehem, PA 18015

phone: 610-691-8730

fax: 610-691-8904

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

e-mail: [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)



The *LEPOCO Newsletter* is published eight 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, Martha Christine, Sheila Clever, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Janet Goloub, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Monica McAgnon, Dan Miller, Janet Ney, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

# Popcorn & Politics

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Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

## "No"

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

Best Foreign Language Oscar-nominated film is a dramatic look at the role a creative advertising campaign had in motivating Chilean citizens to remove military dictator Augusto Pinochet from power in 1988. Starring Gael Garcia Bernal, the film features archival footage from the that era. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Directed by Pablo Larrain. 118 minutes. 2012.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm

## "Dirty Wars"

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

Documentary follows investigative reporter Jeremy Scahill as he delves into the hidden world of covert wars, from Iraq to Yemen, Jordan, Somalia, and beyond. What begins as a report on a deadly U.S. night raid in a remote corner of Afghanistan quickly turns into a global investigation of the secretive and powerful Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC).

As Scahill digs deeper into the activities of JSOC, he is pulled into a world of covert operations unknown to the public and carried out across the globe by people who do not exist on paper and may never appear before Congress.

Directed by Rick Rowley. 87 minutes. 2013.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



## Peace Pilgrimage: Saturday, December 14

Your participation in this year's Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage is important.

- 1) Join all or part of the walk (see brochure).
- 2) Attend the closing program with speaker, Peter Lems of American Friends Service Committee (see enclosed brochure).
- 3) Help prepare a big pot of soup to feed tired walkers at the end of their journey. Call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 or Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407 for more information or to say you can help prepare the soup.

## Book Group

The First Tuesday LEPOCO Book Club will meet on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, to discuss *People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks. This is an intricate novel that traces the journey of a rare illuminated Hebrew manuscript from Spain to Sarajevo, from Venice to Australia -- a sweeping adventure through five centuries.

The group will not meet in January. On February 4<sup>th</sup> the book for discussion will be, *Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys, an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make This Country Work*, by Jeanne Marie Laskas; on March 4<sup>th</sup>, *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins...*, by Kirstin Downey; on April 1<sup>st</sup>, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of*

*Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander; and on May 6<sup>th</sup>, *Hammarskjold: A Life*, by Roger Lipsey.

So choose one or more of these books that you would like to read and join the lively discussion. The Book Club meets at the Bethlehem Wegman's (off Route 512, north of Rt. 22). The meeting starts at 6 pm. You can get some food and/or drink and join the group in the upstairs dining area.

For more info. contact Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

## Stand Up & Speak Out at Horsham: November 30 & December 28

The last Saturday in November and December peace activists will gather at the intersection of Easton & County Line Roads, Horsham, to protest the proposed Horsham Drone War Command Center. The Center is expected to open as early as late 2014, but the peace groups have gathered in Horsham on last Saturdays since May to say, "Stop the Drone War Command Center Before It Starts." This Center is the closest manifestation to the Lehigh Valley of the drone war build-up. It is important for as many of us as possible to join these protests. Letters of concern/protest to Gov. Corbett and federal representatives on this issues are also important.

If you want to join the car pool from Hellertown on either date please contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

# Eleanor Hay:

8 April 1915 - 9 September 2013 \_\_\_\_\_

Eleanor Hay was already into her 90s when she first set foot inside the LEPOCO Peace Center. She attended a Popcorn and Politics presentation of, "A Force More Powerful," and during the post film discussion shared how she'd been a pacifist for as long as she could remember. She recalled when "the boys came home" at the end of World War I. Her native Canada lost over 60,000 lives in the "Great War" and that loss impacted a very young Eleanor so much that she came to tears during the recollection.

From then on Eleanor became a fixture in the front row of LEPOCO's monthly film series. She holds the distinction of being the sole attendee of the October 2010, screening of, "Chicago 10." She said that with only her in the audience I wouldn't have to go through the "trouble" of showing the movie, but I assured the 95-year-old that if she'd gone to the trouble of driving herself to the Peace Center for a film on a cold autumn evening, it would be no trouble for me to show it. Together we sat in the front row and shared a cherished conversation afterward.

Eleanor participated in a number of other LEPOCO activities. From attending several potlucks and Annual Dinner events to being one of the most faithful collators of LEPOCO's newsletter, hers was a familiar face and one that has been missed since she last stepped into the Peace Center in late 2012.

Not too long before her last appearance at LEPOCO a fellow newsletter collator remarked to Eleanor at how amazing it was that she was still so active as a volunteer in spite of being a couple years shy of her centennial. Without missing a beat Eleanor simply replied, "It's something I can do."

The humble and steadfast way in which Eleanor took to tasks and duties was an inspiration then and will continue to be for the rest of my days. Eleanor Hay. Presente!

- robert Daniels II

## Responding to C.A. Migrants \_\_\_\_\_

Fifteen people met at LEPOCO on October 17 to hear Gabriella (Gabby) Martinez speak about her work with Jesuit Migrant Service in Mexico. In an interview with WFMZ-TV the same evening she said, "Of every hundred undocumented migrants who enter Mexico (from Central America), only 20 are successful in reaching the U.S. The rest are lost, they die or disappear along the way, it really is a humanitarian tragedy."

Gabby said Mexico is more cruel to Central America migrants than the U.S., but organizations like hers have set up 65 places where migrants can find shelter and/or a human rights center as they journey through her country. At these centers they document the experiences of the Central American migrant, and

work to prepare them for a safe journey. Gabby said immigration reform in the U.S. will help people already here, but she believes only economic development in Central America will stop the flow of migrants fleeing the violence of repression and crime and the violence of severe economic injustice.

Miriam Taylor, currently a Witness For Peace (WFP) volunteer in Mexico interpreted for Gabby. Walker Grooms of WFP in Washington, DC, organized Gabby's mid-Atlantic speaking tour. Bob and Carmen Riggs hosted the three young visitors for their time in Bethlehem.

Almost \$100 was donated toward the expenses of the trio's October tour. The program was organized by LEPOCO's Americas Solidarity Group (ASG) that is always looking for new participants. (Call LEPOCO, if you can help, or attend an ASG meeting.) You can learn more about WFP-led delegations to countries in the Americas at [www.witnessforpeace.org](http://www.witnessforpeace.org).

- Nancy Tate

**Thank You!!!**

*to the over 100 of you  
who have responded generously to  
Stefan Rogers' fall fund appeal letter with  
donations of a few dollars*

*to  
donations of several hundred dollars.  
They all are helping to keep LEPOCO open  
and to continue our urgent work for peace.*

AND

*If you would like to broaden our network of supporters  
consider using the enclosed coupon  
to give the "Gift of LEPOCO" for the holidays.*

### 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. 4 <sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.		

# The Struggle Shared —

*Listen more often to things than to beings:  
'Tis the ancestor's breath, when the fire's voice is heard,  
'Tis the ancestor's breath, in the voice of the waters.*

*Those who have died, have never, ever left  
the dead are not under the earth.*

*They are in the rustling trees,  
They are in the groaning woods.  
They are in the crying grass,  
They are in the moaning rocks  
The dead are not under the earth.*

- "Breaths," Sweet Honey in the Rock

**SOA WATCH 2013: DEMANDING JUSTICE, NOT IMPUNITY** - This time of year, we may don costumes, pretending for a day, to be someone we are not. Perhaps we remembered on a visceral level when the lights flickered, the Halloween storms of the past two years. In the Celtic tradition, Samhain, is the time of year when the veil is thinnest between the world of the living and the world of the dead. Throughout Latin America, it is celebrated as Dia De Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, a holiday that focuses on remembering family and friends who have died.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, SOA Watch activists were on Capitol Hill to solemnly and festively honor the many freedom fighters who have fallen in the struggle for justice. For Jon Fromer, Joe DeRaymond, Oscar Romero, Art Landis and thousands of others, we say, "Presente!"

As SOA Watch builds momentum for the annual gathering, November 22 -24, in Columbus, Georgia, to Close the School of the Americas, now euphemistically called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, (WHINSEC), there is much to remember.

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the military coup in Chile that overthrew the elected president, Salvador Allende, and included the execution of cherished musician Victor Jara.

In December of 2012 Chilean Judge Miguel Vasquez Plaza charged two former officers as principally responsible for Jara's death and indicted three others as accom-

plices in the murder of Chile's beloved folksinger. Finally bringing these criminals to justice is a way of seeking justice for all the victims of the Pinochet dictatorship, and is a current demand of SOA Watch.

This November also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Roy Bourgeois' tree-sit at Ft. Benning with a boombox blasting Archbishop Oscar Romero's plea to the Salvadoran military to lay down their weapons and end the repression. Since 1990, over 200 human rights activists have been arrested while participating in nonviolent direct action at Ft. Benning, and have collectively spent over 100 years in prison.

From Estadio Chile in 1973, to the murder of priests and nuns in El Salvador in the 1980's and the crimes of Guatemalan Dictator Efraim Rios Montt, to the 2009 coup in Honduras and the violence against indigenous communities in Colombia, to the present militarization of the U.S. /Mexico Border -- tens of thousands have died, and the trail of blood leads to Columbus, Georgia.

Over the years LEPOCO activists have participated in the weekend of rallies, workshops, street theater, concerts, and much more. They return to our valley inspired by the extraordinary example of love in action, and energized to be part of the momentum to change oppressive U.S. foreign policy, and close the SOA. If you are ready for such a transforming experience, call the LEPOCO office to get connected to others who are planning to make the trip this year.

**FUKUSHIMA: MORE DEADLY THAN EVER** - Even as preparations are made for a very risky cleanup operation to remove fuel rods from the damaged Unit 4 Fukushima Daichi Plant, two new earthquakes, one 4.9 and the other 5.0, with epicenters close to Fukushima, were reported by the Japan Meteorological Agency. Earlier last month, a quake measuring 7.3 was reported. Although no reports of damage have been reported for any of the quakes, the tremors were felt as far away as Tokyo on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The planned operation involves the manual removal of 400 tons of spent nuclear fuel rods, and is so delicate that the slightest tremor during the operation could result in massive releases of radiation into the atmosphere, or cause an explosion, a catastrophe greater than Chernobyl. And the operation in November is only the first step in a decommissioning process expected to take decades.

The Fukushima plant has had a series of mishaps over the last few months, including radioactive water leaks from storage tanks, resulting in concerns in the international community about Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) ability to safely close the plant down.

A petition on MoveOn.org, penned by antinuclear activist Harvey Wasserman, is asking the United Nations to intervene at the crippled plant. More than 100,000 people have signed on (and LEPOCO signed as an organization). The petition reads in part: "At Fukushima Unit 4, the impending removal of hugely radioactive spent fuel rods from a pool 100 feet in the air presents unparalleled scientific and engineering challenges, with the potential for 15,000 times more fallout than was released at Hiroshima. We ask the world community, through the United Nations, to take control of this uniquely perilous task." It is slated for delivery to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, and U.S. President Barack Obama in early November.

- Jeff Vitelli

# Bits & Pieces

Ⓢ In honor of historian **Howard Zinn** and all the ordinary people he celebrated in his work, on November 5, scholars and activists participated in Read-in of Zinn's work at Purdue University and on other campuses. The event was planned after a news report that the current Purdue University President Mitch Daniels, had in 2010 as Governor of Indiana, tried to censor and ban Howard Zinn's, "A People's History of the United States," from Indiana schools. The Zinn Read-in was held to commemorate academic freedom, as a declaration of anti-censorship, and in support of the ongoing fight against the privatization of public education in the U.S.

Ⓢ On November 24, **Honduras is holding a presidential election.** The country has been plagued by repression and violence since the coup that overthrew democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya in 2009.

In the current election, the consistent front-runner in polls has been Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, the wife of the deposed former President Zelaya. She is the candidate of LIBRE, a party formed from the post-coup resistance movement that unites a broad coalition including labor, LGBTI activist, campesino leaders, and human rights defenders.

At least eight LIBRE activists and candidates have been killed since May 2012. On October 24, Honduran journalist Manuel Murillo was found dead, shot in the head. He was a cameraman, well known for his filming of the militarized scene following the 2009 coup. In 2010 he had been kidnapped and tortured by Honduran police officers demanding his videos. Before he was killed, Manuel was working for one of the Congressional candidates for LIBRE. He was 32 years old and father of two children, ages seven and nine.

Three members of the U.S. House of Representatives and thirteen members of the U.S. Senate have signed

letters addressed to the U.S. State Department calling for all possible efforts by the U.S. government to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections in Honduras. We need to pay close attention to developments in Honduras around this election.

Ⓢ **Save the Date:** Saturday, January 18, in the afternoon, LEPOCO's Nuclear Abolition Sisters are planning an event in Allentown to commemorate the birthday and peace witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ⓢ **Recent op-eds** in The Morning Call include one by Gary Olson on "Protesting to Stop the 'Ecological Apocalypse,'" on October 22; one by Hans Wuerth, "Kristallnacht Was 'an Unparalleled Day and Night of Terror,'" on November 6; and one by Nancy Tate, "U.S. Drone Attacks Represent 'Gangster-Style Foreign Policy,'" on November 16.

## Yes, There They/We Go Again ... Speaking Out for Justice:

Ⓢ On **October 29**, East Stroudsburg University students rallied on campus to protest potential faculty layoffs...

Ⓢ On **November 7**, students and faculty at Lehigh University promptly responded to vandalism, that included racial slurs, hurled at the Umoja House where 28 students live. A large rally was held within 24 hours to denounce the vandalism...

Ⓢ The International Peoples Tribunal on Leonard Peltier was held **October 24**, on Oneida land, near Green Bay. Leonard Peltier has been imprisoned for 38 years. For more info. see [www.whoisleonardpeltier.org](http://www.whoisleonardpeltier.org)...

Ⓢ On **November 7**, 100 people marched from Easton to Phillipsburg on the "free bridge" across the Delaware River to "Bridge the Gap for Marriage Equality." On the New Jersey side three same-sex couples were married...

Ⓢ On **October 8**, as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on another "money in politics" case (McCutcheon V. FEC), citizens groups rallied outside to get big money out of elections...

Ⓢ On **November 2**, Lehigh Valley residents held a March Against Corruption at the Allentown Brew Works, signing the American Anti-Corruption Act sponsored by [www.represent.us](http://www.represent.us)...

Ⓢ On **October 31**, more than 200 people, many of them unemployed and living near the hockey arena and other buildings under construction in downtown Allentown, gathered at a center city church to demonstrate their desire for jobs in the new buildings...

Ⓢ Over 100 people attended an **October 30**, meeting held by the Department of Environmental Protection about the proposed Allentown plant that would burn trash and sewage sludge to create electricity. Lehigh University students were among those holding signs and chanting slogans against the project...

Ⓢ On **November 9**, 400 labor union representatives marched in Pottsville to protest union-busting right-to-know laws that are supported by Pottsville beer-maker, Dick Yuengling, who is #371 on the Forbes Magazine list of the 400 wealthiest U.S. citizens...

Ⓢ *The James Clappers and Keith Alexanders of this world simply CAN-NOT do what they see as their job of snooping on the lot of us on this planet without this incredibly talented and dedicated generation. They CAN-NOT; and so they are in deep kimchi. If only a small percentage of this young generation have the integrity and courage of an Ed Snowden, the prospect is dim that repressive measures in violation of citizens' rights previously taken for granted can succeed for very long without full disclosure.*

- Ray McGovern writing on October 15, about his visit with Edward Snowden in Moscow

Check out the LEPOCO website

at [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org)  
for a Calendar of Events,  
Newsletter Archive,  
Videos, & More.

Sign up for LEPOCO  
e-mail updates

or

to receive your copy of the  
newsletter by e-mail  
by calling 610-691-8730 or  
by writing to [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net).

# Bits & Pieces

☯ Each march LEPOCO chooses half of the members of the **Steering Committee** for the organization to serve a two-year term. If you would be interested in working with LEPOCO in this capacity or if you have suggestions for someone who would be perfect in this capacity, please contact the Peace Center at 610-691-8730

☯ Some people are concerned about various aspects of a **large development proposed for south Bethlehem**, within two to three blocks of the LEPOCO office. If you want to speak with some of the people expressing these concerns please contact LEPOCO for suggestions.

☯ We know that wildlife in Pennsylvania is having a rough time given among other challenges: global warming and natural gas development. Now **legislation** (HB 1576 and SB 1047) has been introduced in Harrisburg (with support from gas and coal interests) **that would weaken protections for wildlife and waterways**. Environmentalists, two state agencies, and hunting and fishing groups oppose this legislation. Contact with state legislators is important. For more information, see *The Morning Call*, November 8 and 14, or see [www.dela.warariverkeeper.org](http://www.dela.warariverkeeper.org) and go to "Help Protect PA's Streams & Endangered Species" under "Take Action."

☯ On November 9, the Justice & Advocacy Committee of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches brought together a wide variety of people working on issues around prisons, locally and in Pennsylvania, for a day-long conference, "**The Heart of Justice: Breaking the Cycle of Fear, Violence, Punishment, Retaliation.**" The conference was held at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown.

One group leading a workshop at the conference was **Decarcerate Pennsylvania**, a relatively new organization, hoping to expand throughout the state from their current bases in Phila-

delphia and Pittsburgh. They have organized several dramatic and visible actions over the past year, each saying we should move from building prisons to building our communities. Specifically, their platform calls for: no new prisons; a reduction in the number of people in prison; and reinvesting prison dollars in community institutions.

At LEPOCO's Action Meeting on November 11 it was decided that we should join the coalition of organizations and individuals supporting DecarceratePA. You can learn more about the organization at [www.decarceratepa.info](http://www.decarceratepa.info).

For more information about the follow-up to the conference visit [www.ja.ppir.org](http://www.ja.ppir.org).

☯ Following a Friday of pouring rain LEPOCO lucked out with beautiful weather for the Saturday **Yard Sale** on October 12. **Sarah Andrew and Marc Rittle** deserve a special thank you for their gracious hosting of the event. Also, thank you to all who staffed the sale and to everyone who generously donated a wide variety of treasures. Over \$700 was raised for LEPOCO.

☯ **Anna Maria Caldara** will be signing copies of her book, "Lenape Culture in Stone and Wood," at the Mora-

vian Book Shop, Main St., Bethlehem, from 2 to 4 pm, on Saturday, November 30.

☯ On November 7, Rachel Maddow of MSNBC interviewed **Congressman John Lewis** on her weeknight program. She talked a lot about the FOR (Fellowship for Reconciliation) - published comic book, "Martin Luther King and The Montgomery Story." She focused on how the 1958 booklet ended with "step-by-step" guidelines for how to replicate "the Montgomery method." Representative Lewis said in the interview, "I think the (nonviolent, civil disobedience) methods that we used during the '60s, and Dr. King and others used during the '50s, are still very effective, because we can present our bodies. We can say, 'Here we are!' You can be young, you can be older, or much older. It doesn't matter. You can be low income, or middle income, or you can be wealthy. But you have a body. And you can bear witness to the truth. You can find a way to get in the way. We all can practice the way of peace, the way of love, and the way of nonviolence."



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

**Friday, November 22, 1 pm:** **Newsletter Planning Committee** meeting at the Peace Center.

**Thursday, December 5, 5 pm:** **Nuclear Abolition Sisters Meeting** at Olive Branch Restaurant, south Bethlehem.

**Sunday, December 8, 7 pm:** **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearsal & meeting at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs in Bethlehem. Facilitator: Jeff Vitelli.

**Monday, December 9, 10 am:** **Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Mondays, December 9 & January 13, 7 pm:** **LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at the Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

**Thursdays, December 12 & January 9, 6:15 pm:** **Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center (prior to the meeting some in the veterans group will participate in the second Thursday Peace Vigil, 4-5 pm, and go for dinner at 5:15 pm, at the south Bethlehem Perkins Restaurant).

**Tuesday, January 14, 3:30 pm:** **Bike-Walkathon 2014 Planning Committee** meeting at LEPOCO.

*Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information on the Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing, the Peace Camp Planning Committee, the Military Charter School Response Committee, or about any of the meetings listed above, 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)

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 617  
Lehigh Valley, PA

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Bits & Pieces  
Meetings...

## Monthly Peace Vigil

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

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Second Thursdays:

December 12 & January 9

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

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

## Popcorn & Politics/ First Friday Films

December 6, 7:00 pm

"No"

January 3, 7:00 pm

"Dirty Wars"

(See page 3 for more details.)

Saturday, December 14

Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Peace Pilgrimage

(See insert for more info.)

## Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 12-4 pm

&

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 pm

LEPOCO Peace Center

(See Page 1 for more info.)

## Stand Up & Speak Out!

Saturdays, November 30 & December 28  
12 Noon

Protest Horsham Drone Command Center

(Outside Horsham Air National Guard Station,  
Easton & County Line Roads, Horsham, PA)

10:45 am: Carpool from Lehigh Valley

(From Hellertown Park & Ride, Silvēx Rd. near intersection of Rt.  
412 & I-78, behind Wendy's)

Please call 610-691-8730 to sign up or with questions.

(See Page 3 for more information.)



Give the  
"Gift of LEPOCO"  
for the holidays!!



Give a year's membership  
in LEPOCO (\$35 each)  
to friends and family.  
We will send them  
an announcement card  
to arrive before December 25  
(or other timing you choose)  
and all the copies of the  
2014 LEPOCO Newsletter.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City Zip

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City Zip

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm enclosing payment for a gift member-  
ship(s) for the people listed above. Please  
mail the announcement card  
on December 20 or on \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Gift Giver Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City Zip

# 54th Annual Nazareth to Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage

Saturday, December 14, 2013

## Walk the Road of Peace

For over 50 years people dedicated to peace have been gathering in Pennsylvania to walk the 10 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on the second Saturday of December. The Peace Pilgrimage, symbolic of the journey of Mary and Joseph, provides all of us, those who walk, those who pass us on the highway, and those who read about the walk, with an opportunity to consider the true meaning of Christmas. The sight of 200 pilgrims walking with stars and peace signs inspires us to focus on the need for Peace on Earth. Consider walking with your family and/or friends. If you are concerned about your ability to complete the full 10 miles, frequent rest stops and relief transportation are available.

## More Than a Walk

Even if you are not able to join the pilgrims, please consider participating in our related events:

- Christmas Carol singing at the Central Moravian Church steps.
- Simple supper and message from our guest speaker at Christ Church at Market and Center Streets.

## Evening Speaker

This year our speaker is Peter Lems, program director for Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran at the American Friends Service Committee. Peter has coordinated advocacy and educational campaigns in the US, worked with the Palestine Human Rights Campaign and other organizations focused on the Arab world, and he has travelled to Jordan and Syria to work with Iraqi refugee concerns. Peter's talk is entitled **"Rekindling Our Commitment to Humanity and Democracy: Lessons from Iraq."**



## Registration

To reserve bus transportation, please register at [www.peacewalk.org](http://www.peacewalk.org) and include the names of all people coming with you. You are welcome to come even if you have not pre-registered. You may join at any point along the way, but keep in mind that the times listed are approximate.

Dress appropriately for the weather; we walk in sun, wind, rain or snow. Persons desiring overnight lodging or for more information, call Rick Dow at 610-865-5204, or the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, 534 Chew St., Allentown, PA 18102, 610-433-6421 or visit our website: [www.peacewalk.org](http://www.peacewalk.org).

## Suggestions for Participants

During the past 50 years walkers have learned a couple of things that may be useful for you

- Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Consider carrying a walking stick for the rough pavement.
- Dress in layers as conditions can change.
- Utensils - in the interest of conservation, bring a cup or a bowl for water and/or soup and a spoon
- We ask you not to bring political signs, as this is a non-political pilgrimage and not a demonstration.
- Lunch is not provided, so you may want to bring a snack and eat a hearty breakfast!

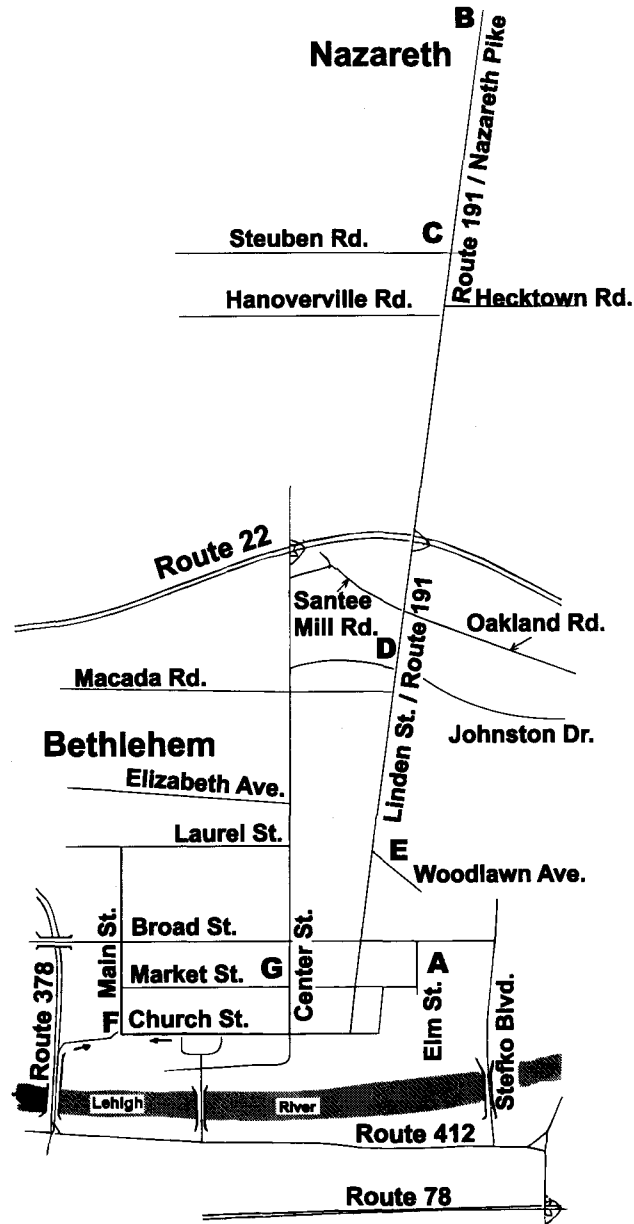
## Pilgrimage Sponsors

- Baptist Peace Fellowships of PA & DE
- Church of the Brethren: Commission on Witness, Atlantic North-East District
- Catholics for Peace
- Peace and Justice Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
- Evangelical Lutheran Church: Peace and Justice Committee, Northeastern Penn. Synod
- Hibernia Peace Plantation
- Kirkridge Retreat Center
- Lehigh County Conference of Churches
- Lehigh Presbytery
- LEPOCO Peace Center
- Mennonite Central Committee, US Peace & Justice Ministries
- Peace on Earth/ Every Church a Peace Church
- Peace and Justice Committee of the Eastern District and Franconia Mennonite Conferences
- The Religious Society of Friends: Peace Committee, Baltimore Yearly Meeting; Peace Testimonies Group, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; and Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting
- Unitarian Universalist Church of The Lehigh Valley Peace Group
- United Church of Christ, Penn North-East Conference
- United Methodist Church, Church & Society Work Team, Eastern Penn. Conference

**Schedule**

Participants will meet in the parking lot at 520 E. Broad Street, Bethlehem (corner of Broad & Elm) before 11:00 AM. Buses will transport pilgrims to Nazareth Moravian Church on Center Square.

<b>A</b> 10:45 am	Buses begin loading 520 E. Broad Street (Bechtel Building, Bethlehem), for Nazareth
<b>B</b> 12:00 n	Pilgrimage begins at Moravian Church, Nazareth <b>LUNCH NOT PROVIDED</b>
<b>C</b> 1:30 pm	Rest stop, Trinity Lutheran Church, on Rt. 191 just north of Steuben Rd.
<b>D</b> 2:45 pm	Rest Stop, First Baptist Church, on Rt. 191 between Oakland Rd. and Johnston Dr.
<b>E</b> 3:45 pm	Light Candles: First Church of the Nazarene, 1500 Linden St., Bethlehem
<b>F</b> 4:45 pm	Singing Christmas Carols at Central Moravian Church steps
<b>G</b> 5:30 pm	Supper and Rally, Christ United Church of Christ, Market & Center Streets



(Map is not to scale)

**54th Annual  
Nazareth to Bethlehem**

**Christmas  
Peace  
Pilgrimage**

Saturday, December 14, 2013

