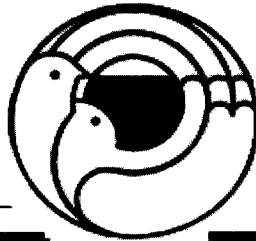


October
2011
Vol. 46 No. 7



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

Finding Hope After 10 Years of War Sunday, October 9, 2011 3:00 pm Rose Garden Park, Bethlehem

This gathering, planned by LEPOCO's Action Meeting and the Nuclear Abolition Sisters, will include poetry, music, readings, sharing and reflection to mark the 10th year of the war in Afghanistan.

Bethlehem's Rose Garden is the same place we gathered 10 years ago to take 6000 Steps For Peace, also on a Sunday afternoon. We had gathered then to remember those killed in the attacks of September 11th, 2001, (then thought to number over 6000) and we did, though their number ultimately was determined to be almost 3000. But, on that day the U.S. government ignored the pleas of the 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows and others that, "Our grief was not a cry for war," and started the attack on Afghanistan. That war continues, as does the war in Iraq that started less than two years later. Many, many more have been killed and maimed in war in these ten years and our country is suffering the many costs of war, including the huge financial costs.

Please join us as we reflect together to build our hope, solidarity, and energy to move forward in what continues to be a very difficult time.

- Nancy Tate

*We stand before giants at a time when
Afghanistan's heart is withering, along with the hopes of
human civilization.*

*For those of us who live in war, we have a
heightened awareness that the end comes to all of us
eventually, but we wonder if, in the short meantime, we can
find compassion and truth.*

- Our Journey To Smile, a youth organization in Afghanistan

October: A Month of Change

Occupy Wall Street: *...if we unite there is a potential to transform a corrupt political process and realize a society based on human needs, not hedge fund profits.* These words are from "The Revolution Begins at Home: Wall Street Protests Enter Third Week" published in *The Occupied Wall Street Journal*. There has been much coverage of this action and some local folks have been there (Robert Daniels II and Tim Chadwick were among the over 700 arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge on October 1st. We hope they will write or talk more about their experience later.) As this newsletter is being prepared Occupy Allentown and Occupy Bethlehem efforts have begun. We will post what we know in weekly e-mail updates and you can call LEPOCO (610-691-8730) to find out what we know at any time. Robert Daniels is following developments here and can give logistical advice for those going to New York to support the actions there. Also, see www.occupytogether.org.

Remembering 10 Years of War: United for Peace & Justice and the War Resisters League has organized a program, "War Voices: Building Community After a Decade of Struggle at Home and Abroad," for October 7th, in Washington, DC, 6:30 to 9:30 pm, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Speakers will include representatives from Afghans for Peace and Phyllis Bennis.

Stop the Machine! Create a New World! As Curt Day wrote in the last LEPOCO Newsletter the occupation/demonstration in Freedom Plaza begins in Washington, DC, on October 6th. The date was chosen to mark the 10th anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan and the beginning of the 2012 federal austerity budget. The organizers call on people of conscience and courage - all who seek peace, economic justice, human rights and a healthy environment - to join together. More information is available at www.october2011.org. For information on car pools from the Lehigh Valley please contact LEPOCO.

Keep Space for Peace Week: Around the world people will gather at military bases and installations, October 1-8, to say Stop the Drones, End the Wars, Bring Our War Dollars Home. Closest to us will be the nonviolent resistance at Lockheed Martin, the world's largest weapons corporation, on Saturday, October 8, 1 to 2:30 pm, at Mall & Goddard Blvds., Valley Forge (behind the King of Prussia Mall). See www.space4peace.org for more information.

Troy Davis, Ray Krone & the Death Penalty

Troy Davis was executed by the state of Georgia at 11:08 p.m. on September 21, 2011. During the 20 years he was confined on death row, seven of the nine eyewitnesses whose testimony had convicted him, contradicted or recanted their testimony. No physical evidence ever tied Troy to the murder of police officer Mark MacPhail. More than a million people from all over the world signed petitions, made phone calls, or sent emails in an attempt to stop Troy's execution and free him. Georgia officials ignored every red flag raised for innocence and truth.

The murder of Troy Davis by the state of Georgia pierces the heart. With Troy Davis' execution, Georgia officials elevated vengeance over humanity, compassion, and justice. They killed Troy, but we will not let them silence his call for justice. We will be loud, we will be clear: we do not accept vengeance in the name of justice. We do not accept a system of criminal punishment that values courtroom victory over the truth. We reject a system so glutted with power as to ignore common-sense indicators of misconduct and error. We reject a system that impassively murders our fellow citizens, whether innocent or guilty, because our reason and our common humanity tell us that murder is wrong no matter who commits it.

That is exactly the message Ray Krone brought to the Lehigh Valley when he spoke at Lafayette College and Lehigh University in mid-September. Ray, a native of York, Pennsylvania, spent 10 years in an Arizona prison, three of them on death row, for a crime he did not commit. Ray was exonerated in 2002 by DNA evidence. The story of his arrest, conviction, and incarceration is jaw-dropping. Ray's railroad ride to death row was only possible because of persistent police and prosecution misconduct, the ignoring of evidence, the prosecution's reliance on junk science, and its priority to develop a crime theory, twist evidence to fit the theory, and "close the case" rather than seeking the truth. Everyone should pay attention to what happened to Ray Krone. If it could happen to him, it can happen to any of us. Ray, like Troy Davis, is a very special person: positive, optimistic, so welcoming and friendly. He has devoted himself since his exoneration to telling his story and urging his listeners to demand that prosecutors be held accountable for their actions and that the death penalty be abolished.

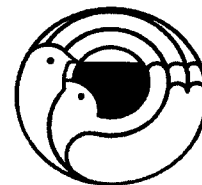
The death penalty is a horror. It murders some murderers, some guilty, some innocent, at some times, in some places, by some method, always at the whim of those in charge. It tantalizes the victim's family with the promise of closure that it can't deliver. It dooms both the families of the victim and the accused to years of sorrow and delayed healing. And what does it do to the rest of us? For some of us it completely shatters our

moral compass, *a la* those of us who applaud and cheer at the thought of electing a president who can brag he has executed 234 people...and counting. What does it do to you? Shape your response remembering Troy Davis' call for justice: "The struggle for justice doesn't end with me. This struggle is for all the Troy Davises who came before me and all the ones who will come after me... We need to dismantle this unjust system city by city, state by state and country by country..."

"No matter if that is in physical or spiritual form, I will one day be announcing, 'I AM TROY DAVIS, and I AM FREE!'"

"Never stop fighting for justice and we will win!"
- Maria Weick

Check out the LEPOCO website
at www.lepoco.org for a
Calendar of Events, Newsletter Archive,
Videos, & More.
Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail updates
by calling 610-691-8730 or
by writing to lepoco@fast.net.



Newsletter of LEPOCO

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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.

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

Popcorn/Potluck & Politics

Friday, October 7th, 7 pm: *Hidden Battles*

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

This documentary follows a female Sandinista rebel, an Israeli officer, a Palestinian member of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Vietnam vet, and a U.S. veteran of Somalia, as they come to terms with their combat experiences. The film offers unique insight and hope into the internal conflicts that human beings around the world continue to face long after they have left the battlefield. Directed by Victoria Mills. 65 minutes. 2011.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, October 16th, 6 pm: Mimi Lang & Kelly Quain

"A Report on Freedom From Fracking"

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Mimi Lang and Kelly Quain, both active members of LEPOCO, participated in the Stop Dirty Gas Drilling events in Philadelphia, September 7-8. Many local activists attended the September 7th rally (along with around 1000 people) but Mimi, Kelly, and Mary Lou Hatcher also stayed for the conference, "Freedom From Fracking: Building Strategies Together," on September 8th. They will report on the information they learned from excellent speakers and workshops. This P&P will be just days before the Delaware River Basin Commission meets to set rules for gas fracking.

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

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

Sunday, October 30th, 6 pm: Pastor Samantha Lioi

"Justice & Peacemaking in Colombia"

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Samantha Lioi joined a Christian Peacemaker Team delegation to Colombia in July. The delegation visited with human rights workers in northeast Antioquia - lawyer collectives, campesino organizations, farmers and small scale miners. They were focusing on land rights and those resisting displacement due to transnational corporations trying to set up large-scale gold mining in the area. Christian Peacemakers have been working in Colombia since 2002 and see their work, including this delegation as partnering with the people of Colombia in their work for justice and peace. Samantha Lioi is the associate pastor at Whitehall Mennonite Church.

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

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

Friday, November 4th, 7 pm: *Berkeley in the Sixties*

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

This documentary captures the decade's events - the birth of the Free Speech Movement, civil rights marches, anti-Vietnam War protests, the counter-culture, the women's movement and the rise of the Black Panthers - in all their immediacy and passion. Archival footage is interwoven with interviews and songs of the era to bring the 1960s to life.

Directed by Mark Kitchell. 117 minutes. 1990.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

LEPOCO Book Group

The First Wednesday Book Group will meet on October 5th, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. The group will discuss *Heading South, Looking North*, an autobiography by Ariel Dorfman. It presents Dorfman's inner journey, giving a passionate look at exile and bilingualism. It is a hymn to the Allende revolution in Chile.

For November 2nd, the group will read, *The Autobiography of an Execution*, by David R. Dow. Dow is a

professor at the University of Houston Law Center and litigation director at the Texas Defender Service.

And, for December 2nd, the group will read, *When the Stars Fall to Earth*, by Rebecca Tinsley, a novel centered around the plight of five Darfuri refugees as each one copes with life and soul-threatening circumstances.

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

- Susie Ravitz



Stop the Pipeline Action

On the night of Tuesday August 30th, after watching footage of actress Daryl Hannah, NASA scientist James Hansen, the ever-brilliant and wonderful environmentalist Bill McKibben and hundreds of other courageous people from various walks of life get arrested at a sit-in in front of the White House, I decided to take a stand for this beautiful Earth we call home. I boarded a morning bus from Philadelphia to DC, the very next day.

From August 20th through September 3rd, over 1200 people decided to make a true statement of opposition to the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline (see August-September issue of LEPOCO Newsletter). An environmental disaster in the waiting, the proposed pipeline will use oil from the Alberta tar sands and cut through thousands of miles of pristine wilderness, farmland that sustains lives, and indigenous communities all the way from Alberta, Canada, down to Texas oil refineries. It will keep our country horribly addicted to fossil fuels that threaten our future and future generations -- global warming/climate change, oil spills, the clear-cutting of forests.

President Obama has the sole power to veto this pipeline -- if he chooses. It has nothing to do with Congress, and no compromises need to be made. This is a life or death issue of our time.

On a sunny Thursday, September 1st (after a wonderful legal training and pasta dinner in a DC church the night before) I chose to stand for life and my future children by civilly disobeying the powers that be. I got arrested for the first time in my life, in front of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. It was a landmark day in my life.

We chanted, "We're gonna kick out fossil fuels, we're gonna kick out fossil fuels, stop the pipeline!" and, "Whadya want? Climate justice! When do we want it? NOW!" I have never felt more moved and inspired by my fellow humans.

As we all work and struggle for peace and justice in this world, more uncompromising and powerful actions need to be taken by each one of us. We can now only hope that President Obama has heard our call and has the integrity to stand up to Big Oil and say NO! to climate chaos, and YES! to the survival of our planet.

- Evan Hoffman

Tar Sands Action is calling for more action at the White House on Sunday, November 6th, one year before the next presidential election. They are calling for people to come out in large numbers to encircle the White House, in a giant, solemn protest. Acting on November 6th they hope to remind the President that this pipeline is a threat to the planet and to his reelection chances. He will decide on the Keystone XL oil pipeline before the end of the year. Participating in this protest does not involve risking arrest. For more information or to sign up see www.tarsandsation.org. For information on local ride coordination call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

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Stop the Pipeline Action: Part II

This year for my birthday on September 3rd I decided to do something different. For years I have thought and spoken about the dangers of climate change and have taken action against it, by having rallies and starting groups like Transitions Lehigh Valley. These actions have been necessary and good, but as a self-proclaimed activist I felt compelled to step up and exhort our president by risking arrest at the White House protesting the Keystone XL pipeline.

Opposing the pipeline is a true environmental concern, most important is how wrong the choice is to use this method of extracting and processing tar sands with natural gas that has been fracked. In addition to releasing 2.5 times the greenhouse gasses compared to processing oil from wells, enormous amounts of water will be compromised. The pollution and global chaotic climate change may be a death sentence for billions of beings planet wide. September 3rd was the final day of two weeks of protest with the largest number of people (243) arrested for civil disobedience. Since it was the last day I was concerned that as they had on the first day the police might actually lock us up for over 50 hours. Fortunately, it was only about four uncomfortable hours of being arrested, including sitting with tight handcuffs in the back of a paddy wagon with 16 others under the blazing DC sun. Experiencing the commitment, energy and ideas of others made this quite worthwhile for me. Please write to the White House and tell Obama to ban the pipeline.

- Gene Hunter

LEPOCO Theatre Party

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

"Phil Ochs: There But For Fortune"

6 pm: Reception (food, drinks, & snacks) at LEPOCO with special guest, Sonny Ochs, sister of Phil Ochs.

7:30 pm: Film at Frank Banko Alehouse Cinema at SteelStacks with panel discussion featuring Dave Fry of Godfrey Daniels, Ted Morgan, Lehigh University professor, and Sonny Ochs.

\$15 donation for reception & movie

(\$10: young people & limited income; \$20: special supporters)

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

Directed by Kenneth Bowser. 2011. 96 minutes.

Call LEPOCO, 610-691-8730, to make a reservation and to volunteer to bring finger food or beverages.

The Struggle Shared

*Now we've got big companies, that somehow think that Energy
is the most important thing that people need,
So they want to drill for gas, or need some place to dump their ash,
and they're poisoning our water with their greed.
But the people here say, "No, let our hills and valleys go,
They're full of life, and have always been that way,
We don't want to change it now, let the streams and rivers flow,
and lets make the corporate polluters pay."*

- New verse to *The Dam Song* by J. Vitelli

WALK AWAY FROM COAL - On a gray Saturday, September 24th, about 40 colorful activists rallied a mile south of Portland, Pennsylvania, with the gray profile of the GenOn Portland Generating Station as a backdrop. They held a beautiful blue puppet of a smiling Earth Mother and signs: "Wash Your Hands of Dirty Coal," and "Breathe Deep: Close GenOn." They chanted, sang songs, and waved at passing traffic on Rte. 611.

The protest was part of the Moving Planet Worldwide Day of Action, organized locally by MAPLE (the Multistate Alliance to Promote Lasting Energy), a regional coalition including Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, and Clean Water Action.

The Portland Station's two coal-fired boilers came on-line in 1958 and 1962, have never had stack scrubbers installed to reduce emissions, and have been emitting sulfur dioxide fumes over Portland and across the river to four New Jersey counties for 50 years. GenOn has also been dumping its heavy metal concentrated ash in an abandoned quarry outside of Bangor. "The Portland plant is one of the top five sulfur dioxide polluters in the U.S. It's one of the worst coal plants this country has. GenOn should retire the Portland plant and walk away from coal," said Christine Guhl, of the Sierra Club.

Residents have been fighting the plant for years, and last year got the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency. The state of New Jersey filed a petition under the Clean Air Act citing violations of the one-hour SO₂ national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS)

and in March 2011, the EPA administrator proposed granting New Jersey's petition to order GenOn to reduce toxic emissions. The EPA's decision is expected next week.

The original plan for the protest included a walk along a route symbolizing the path of the plume of pollution from the plant. When organizers pursued the PennDot permit process, they met resistance from Portland Borough Council, which refused to provide a required letter, and they could not get a police escort along the narrow stretch of Rte. 611. Rather than abandon the action, the coalition made alternative plans to shuttle participants to the plant from Portland following a short walk across the footbridge from New Jersey.

Lydia Stettler, a Mt. Bethel resident who suffers from asthma, spoke at the rally, "For the past 31 years I have lived next door to the Portland plant. They avoided upgrading, ignoring pleas of Pennsylvania and New Jersey citizens. GenOn has continually been allowed to pollute the air for all this time, but we aren't even allowed to walk in support of our right to clean air."

"NO JUSTICE, NO SWEETS" IN HERSHEY - Last summer, under a J-1 visa cultural exchange program, four-hundred students from around the world enrolled as guest workers to experience working in the U.S., practice their English, and perhaps see a little of the country. They had paid between \$3000 and \$6000 in fees and travel expenses for the opportunity to come here. They landed in a Hershey's chocolate pack-

aging warehouse, were paid \$7.85 to \$8.35 an hour, worked six days a week (with no paid over-time), were quartered four to a room in company housing, and had \$395 a month in rent deducted from their paychecks. After deductions the students were earning \$40 to \$140 a week. They came to realize that their jobs had previously been union positions, paid at the rate of \$18 per hour, before the J-1 program, subcontracted by Hershey to Exel, displaced the local workforce.

When the students concluded in August that they were being exploited, they reached out to the unemployed. They staged a three day strike, with 300 of the 400 guest workers participating. Their demands included return of their cultural exchange program fees, that Hershey end the J-1 cultural exchange exploitation of guest workers, and that the 400 jobs be returned to local workers at a living wage. They garnered support from the unemployed, The National Guestworker Alliance, SEIU Local 668, United Students Against Sweatshops (Penn State), and presented a petition to Hershey's board chairman LeRoy Zimmerman with 63,000 signatures endorsing their demands. After three days, most of the strikers returned to work with the promise of a week's paid vacation. Thirty of the students did not, and have embarked instead on a national tour, speaking at union halls and community events, raising awareness of the growing problem of employers using the State Department guest worker program to exploit foreigners on cultural exchange visas.

Godwin Efobi, one of the guest workers, a medical student from Nigeria, said, "I never imagined when I came to the United States that I would go to some labor meeting..., but Hershey forced us to become part of the labor movement. The solidarity and support from the Americans has truly been incredible. In a round-about way, this is the best cultural exchange we could have had." - Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

☪ Thank you to the dedicated group of peace activists who joined the Labor Day Parade organized by the United Steelworkers of America, Local 2599, on September 4, carrying the general message, "Jobs Not Wars." It was a fun event featuring the music of the lively marching band from Moravian College. The peace contingent included Vince Stravino, Tom Ulrich, Susie and Art Ravitz, Peter Crownfield, Lorraine Pasquali, Marion Throne, Evan Hoffman, Kathy Hoffman, Phil Reiss, and Ellen Buck.

☪ Lehigh Valley Quakers will hold their annual **Friends Craft, Bake & Book Sale** on Sat., Oct. 15, 10 am to 3 pm. The Quaker Meeting is located at 4116 Beth Pike, Bethlehem, 1/2 mile north of Rte. 22 on Rte. 512. Among the crafters at the events will be Bear Honey Farms, Kimono Studios, and the makers of quilts, fused glass, ornaments, and more. Lunch will be served. See www.lehighvalleyquakers.org for more info.

☪ **Cornel West**, professor of religion and African American studies at Princeton University, spoke at Riverside Church (New York City) on September 9th for a commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Attica prison rebellion. His remarks were aired by *Democracy Now!* on Sept. 12th (the program can be seen at www.democracynow.org).

On that occasion Cornel West said, *...we live now in revolutionary times, but the counter-revolution is winning... The greedy oligarchs and plutocrats are winning. One out of four corporations don't pay taxes... And yet, not just 21 percent of our children live in poverty (of all colors, each one precious) 42 percent of America's children live in poverty or near poverty. That is sick. It's a moral obscenity. It's a national disgrace. And yet, we have a political class, no matter what color they are, that won't say a mumbling word about that poverty.*

Cornel West and Tavis Smiley teamed up for **The Poverty Tour** ear-

lier this year and reports from that Tour will be aired on the Tavis Smiley Show, Oct. 10-14, on PBS (at 11:30 pm on WHYY-TV and at 12:30 am on WLVT-TV).

☪ **Thank you** to everyone who has helped with LEPOCO tables and booths at fairs and festivals in late August and through September: Mimi Lang, Kelly Quain and Susie Ravitz set up the table at the community expo at Northampton Community College on August 25; robert Daniels II and Kelly Quain staffed the table at Lehigh University's community expo on August 19; September 16-18 the LEPOCO boutique was at the Kempton Sustainable Energy Festival thanks to robert Daniels II, Kim Moyer, Ginny and Tom Booth, John Zachmann, Carmen and Bob Riggs, Pat Judge, Nancy Tate, Tom Stinnett, Susie Ravitz, Mimi Lang, Renate Brosky, and Martha Christine; and September 24, Ellen and Lee Buck, Nancy Tate, Tom Stinnett, Dave Witham, and Ruth Walden staffed the LEPOCO booth at the Peace Fair at Buckingham Friends Meeting & School in Lahaska.

☪ There will be a **Pennsylvania Conference Against Torture**, Fri. and Sat., Oct. 28th (7-8:30 pm) and 29th (9:30 am to 4 pm) in Harrisburg. Organized by the Pennsylvania Program of American Friends Service Committee and the Pennsylvania Network Against Torture (a network of individuals, faith groups, and civic organizations) the gathering will focus on U.S.-sponsored torture, torture in our domestic prisons and immigrant detention centers, and training for professional and volunteer

caregivers of torture survivors. For more information see www.panetworkagainsttorture.org or call Scilla Wahrhaftig at 412-371-3607.

☪ Thank you to the 20 people who attended or supported the **LEPOCO Theatre Party** at David & Kim Rose's home on September 29th. The group enjoyed excellent food and conversation before walking to Lafayette College for the school's production of "The Laramie Project," a play by Moisés Kaufman that told the story of the community of Laramie, Wyoming, during the year after the murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998. Members of the Teton Theater Project had conducted over 200 interviews in the community during that year. It was heartening to see the Lafayette College community grappling with the issues raised by the play. Many students wore t-shirts that read, "Hate Is Not a Lafayette Value." The program notes said, *...we, as a community, bring the arts and rational dialogue to the battle against bigotry, homophobia, and hatred, and we keep Matthew's legacy alive.*

☪ The **2012 calendars** have arrived! The Syracuse Cultural Workers wall calendar features a cover with the most appropriate poster message, "Do It Yourself, Do It Together, Become the Revolution."

The War Resisters League is publishing their last book calendar. The theme "Organize This! A 1955-2011 Retrospective," gives a clue that the calendar features all the calendar covers since they were first published in 1955. Both calendars are \$14.95 each.

Support LEPOCO!

___ Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$_____.
(\$35 individual; \$45 hh; \$75 supporter; \$5 lim. income)

___ I am also enclosing an extra donation of \$_____.

___ I would like to support LEPOCO's work with a ___ monthly /
___ quarterly pledge of \$_____.

___ I'm interested in the following issues: _____.

Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Return to: LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.

or

Donate through PayPal by going to the "membership" page at www.lepoco.org.

Bits & Pieces

☪ On Sat., Oct. 29, 8:30 am to 3 pm, there will be a conference on **"The Growing Economic Divide: Which Side Are You On?"** sponsored by the Lehigh County Conference of Churches Justice & Advocacy Committee. It will be led by Steve Schnapp of United for a Fair Economy and will be held at Zion's Reformed UCC, 620 Hamilton St., Allentown. Suggested donation is \$5 (\$2 for students and the unemployed) that covers a continental breakfast and lunch. The conference will feature biblical reflection, interactive workshops and seminars on the roots of economic inequality and public policy. For more info. call 610-433-6421 or see www.wealth.pppj.org.

☪ The **Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition (PICC)** is working to prevent passage of several bills in Pennsylvania that mimic Arizona's anti-immigrant legislation. Two lobby days in Harrisburg were held in late August and another event is planned for Tues., Oct. 18. There will be an issue briefing from 10 am to Noon and visits to legislators' offices will take place in the afternoon. Car pooling is being planned from the Lehigh Valley. Call Rebecca Hufstader at PICC (215-832-0895) for more info. or see www.paimmigrant.org/events/lobby-day-2011.

☪ On Friday, October 21st, from 10 am to Noon, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will meet to "consider adoption" of regulations which will lift the moratorium on gas drilling in the Delaware River watershed. The meeting will be held in Trenton, NJ, in the Patriots Theater of the War Memorial, 1 Memorial Drive. For three years the Delaware Riverkeeper and others have fought to protect the Delaware River watershed from the abuses of fracking. Over 69,000 comments have been filed with the DRBC - a record for public interest in an issue with this Commission. Lawsuits have been filed in an attempt to stop the DRBC from moving ahead without the needed en-

vironmental studies on which to base any regulations. The Delaware River was designated the most threatened river in the U.S. in 2010. The water supply for over 15 million people will be at risk if drilling is allowed to go forward.

Many groups are calling on people to be in Trenton on October 21st to say **"Don't Drill the Delaware."** (Please arrive by 7:30 am, to get a seat at the meeting.) Buses are being arranged from various locations including from the Lehigh Valley. Please contact Faith Zerbe at the Delaware Riverkeeper office to reserve a seat: faith@delawareriverkeeper.org or 215-369-1188.

More information will be available at the LEPOCO Potluck & Politics on October 16th (see page 3 for details).

☪ In an August post Z-Blogger Carl Davidson (also national co-chair for the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism) wrote about **"More Taxes for More Wars? Scrambled Brains in High Places."** He wrote, *Members of Congress had best be careful. If it hasn't already done so, the "deficit madness" virus circulating in those hallowed halls will turn your brains into scrambled eggs.* He was discussing a proposal by Rep. Jim McGovern to raise taxes to pay for the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He wrote further, *...I have a better idea. First, end the wars immediately, and only allocate enough money to get all our troops and*

contractors back home lickety-split. Second, pass a bill to pick up the tab by doing away with the oil depletion allowances and all other tax breaks on the oil companies. If that's not enough, put a tax on transfers of oil stocks and the profits of military contractors. And if they try to jack up the price to gasoline to cover their war expenses, nationalize them. After all, they're the only ones really benefiting from these foreign policy disasters.

Once that's out of the way, we can turn to the more strategic solution: a job creating financial transaction tax on all Wall Street gambling to fund the clean energy and green manufacturing revolution we need to move away from fossil fuels altogether. There are all sorts of places to begin, from 'shovel-ready' low-skilled jobs repairing the locks and dams on our rivers, to higher skilled jobs building and installing county-owned wind and solar generators as public power utilities.

Monthly Peace Vigils

Our wars continue.

Please help witness for peace.

4:30-5:30 pm

Second Thursdays
(Oct. 13 & Nov. 10)

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Contact:

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

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

Mondays, October 10 & November 14, 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.

Wednesday, October 12, 6 pm: **Nuclear Abolition Sisters Meeting** at Olive Branch Restaurant, south Bethlehem.

Thursdays, October 13 & November 10, 7 pm: **Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Friday, October 14, 1 pm: **Newsletter Planning Meeting** at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thursday, October 20, 3:30 pm: **Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wednesday, November 2, 11 am: **Americas Solidarity Group** 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 LEPOCO Peace Singers, the Peace Camp Planning Committee, or the Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings please see www.lepoco.org.



Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Meetings...

"Finding Hope After 10 Years of War"

Sunday, October 9, 3:00 pm

Rose Garden Park, Bethlehem

(See page 1 for more information.)

LEPOCO Theatre Party

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

"Phil Ochs: There But For Fortune"

6 pm: Reception (food, drinks, & snacks)
at LEPOCO with special guest, Sonny Ochs.

7:30 pm: Film at Frank Banko Alehouse
Cinema at SteelStacks with panel discussion.

(See page 3 for more information.)

Potluck & Politics

Sunday, October 16, 6 pm

Mimi Lang & Kelly Quain

"A Report on
Freedom From Fracking"

Sunday, October 30, 6 pm,

Samantha Lioi

"Justice & Peacemaking
in Colombia"

(See page 3 for more information.)