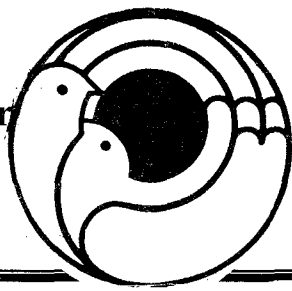


Late September
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Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

Ending the War

Some 2.5 million Iraqis are now refugees in neighboring countries. Another 2 million are internally displaced. Most of Iraq's cities and towns still lack regular electricity, sanitation and other basic services, and suffer from economic depression. Up to half of Iraqis are unemployed.

Two years ago, the British medical journal *Lancet* reported 650,000 civilians killed - the number has no doubt grown.

The number of US casualties is approaching 4000. Since the surge began, more than 600 soldiers have been killed and 4000 injured.

The Pentagon has already spent \$456 billion of our tax-dollars on this bloody fiasco, and if Bush and his cronies have their way, it will go on indefinitely.

The deceit and greed behind this war has not been lost on the majority of the U.S. public. In an article published September 8th on www.commondreams.org, Tom Hayden notes:

"On nine occasions, more than 100,000 people have assembled, several times in numbers closer to 500,000.

"Nearly 200 city councils and legislatures have voted to oppose the war.

"Cindy Sheehan and other military families have neutralized the old claims that the peace movement is against the troops."

"The 2004 election was *the first in our history* (italics added) when the American voters turned out a congressional majority over a war in progress."

The Washington Peace Letter (Summer 2007) reports that more than 600 people were arrested in congressional offices across the U.S. between January and June 2007, protesting the war and occupation in Iraq, many in groups of two or three people each.

Hayden writes, "Whether impeachment happens or not, the Bush administration is being impeached in installments - Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Libby, Gonzales..."

He goes on to argue that the peace movement, despite the ongoing crisis of the war, is suffering from success, not failure. Step by step, we need to ensure that the war is the issue on which the elections turn.

In the meantime, we must be creative and thorough as we find new ways to oppose a war that will probably take at least another 600 U.S. lives and thousands of Iraqi lives before November 2008 if the brakes are not applied. And we must all "interrupt our lives"

to join the vigils, the marches, the lectures, and continue writing the letters and making the phone calls to assure that the message against the war remains strong.

Hayden ends with this: "Iraq is the focal point for confronting the great issues of our future. The fight is on. As Bobby Sands, the Irish hunger striker used to say, everyone has a part to play, and our reward will be seen in the smiles of the children."

- Mike Lawton

Raed Jarrar to Speak Oct. 15

Raed Jarrar, an Iraqi political analyst and consultant to AFSC's Iraq Program will speak in Bethlehem on Monday, October 15. His topic will be "Crisis in Iraq: Politics, Oil, and Refugees."

Raed Jarrar will speak at Lehigh University's McGinnes Hall, at 4 pm, near the corner of Packer Ave. and Vine St., on the south Bethlehem campus. The public is welcome.

He will also (tentatively) speak for a community forum at 7 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem.

Raed Jarrar, a professional architect, did postgraduate studies at the University of Jordan. After the U.S.-led invasion, Jarrar returned home to become country director for CIVIC (Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict) Worldwide, the only door-to-door casualty survey group in post-war Iraq. He then established *Emaar* (meaning "reconstruction" in Arabic), a grassroots organization that provided humanitarian and political aid to Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs). *Emaar* delivered medicine and food and helped initiate micro-enterprise projects for IDPs, with specific concern directed towards women and children.

(See Over)

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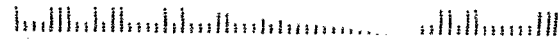
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Raed Jarrar to Speak Oct. 15

(continued from front side)

In 2005 Jarrar moved to the United States where he has contributed to several Iraq-related projects.

Monica McAghon quotes Raed from a talk he gave at a May American Friends Service Committee Symposium on Iraqi Refugees, "I believe that politics is not separate from infra-structure and architecture and anthropology and sociology... I worked with CIVIC and *Emaar* - not political organizations, but deep inside they are politicized. They represent the basics of rebuilding Iraq as a whole from the inside." He said, "Iraqis can live together, even when we have religious and political differences and problems..." Monica writes that, "His presentation helped me see hope for Iraq, and increased my motivation for opposing this war and occupation."

Raed Jarrar is a contributing writer and analyst for *Foreign Policy in Focus* and for *AlterNet*. He maintains *Raed in the Middle*, a web-log with timely analysis of current Iraqi political conditions. He has appeared on CNN, Al Jazeera, BBC, and Democracy Now.

LEPOCO Peace Picnic

Sun., Sept. 30, 3-7 pm
Friends Meetinghouse, Bethlehem
(See enclosed flyer)

Sept. 22-23: Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival, Kempton, PA

Sept. 29: Buckingham Peace Fair

Sept. 29: Stop the War Now! March on Washington

Popcorn & Politics

Friday, October 5, 7 pm
Children of Men

Potluck & Politics

Sunday, October 14, 6:30 pm
Susie Ravitz

Report on Interfaith Peace Brigade to Israel/Palestine

Eyes Wide Open

Display memorializing Pennsylvania troops killed in Iraq
Sun.-Mon., Sept. 23-24
Lafayette College, Easton
Tues., Sept. 25
Northampton Community College
See enclosed flyer.

LEPOCO Yard Sale

Saturday Oct. 6
See flyer inside

Weekly Peace Vigils

Bethlehem: 4-5 pm, Thursdays
3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem
Allentown: 12-1 pm, Fridays
5th & Hamilton Sts.
Easton: 10-11 am, Saturdays
Centre Square

Save the Date: **Saturday, October 27**

National Mobilization to End the War in Iraq
Join the Mid-Atlantic demonstration in Philadelphia
One of 10 Large Demonstrations for Peace Across the U.S.
Contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 for transportation information.

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