

April
2015

Vol. 50 No. 3



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

Mobilizing For Peace & Planet -- and Against Nuclear Weapons, April 26

LEPOCO has endorsed Peace & Planet's Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just, and Sustainable World. 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the United States atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and, it also marks 45 years since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) entered into force.

After 70 years of knowing the horrors and threats of nuclear war; and after 45 years with a procedure available to dismantle this threat, isn't it long past time for the world's governments to implement the steps to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons as set forth in the NPT?

We can help bring this disarmament message to the 189 members of the NPT as they gather at the United Nations this April 27 to May 22, to review the NPT's operation.

On Sunday, April 26, people will rally and march in New York City to demand that the promise of the NPT -- a nuclear-free world -- be met. The day's activities will include an Interfaith Convocation for Nuclear Weapons Abolition at the Church Center at the UN; a Rally at Union Square North (including the kick-off of a "global wave" to say goodbye to nuclear weapons); a March from Union Square to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza; and a Peace Festival at the Plaza. Millions of petition signatures collected from around the world and calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons will be delivered to UN and NPT Review Officials.

Prior to the Sunday Mobilization a conference will take place April 24-25, at Cooper Union, NYC, featuring workshops and speakers from Japan, the Philippines, the U.S. and other countries. Registration is \$30, with a student/low-income option of \$15.

For further information on all of these activities please see www.peaceandplanet.org. You can also sign the petition for abolishing nuclear weapons at this site.

LEPOCO will help coordinate transportation to NYC for these important events April 24-26 -- whether you want to travel with a friend by bus or in a carpool. Call 610-691-8730 to make transportation plans or to let us know you plan to be part of the Peace & Planet Mobilization. Let us know if you can help circulate the Peace & Planet Petition for signatures.

- Adam Heidebrink-Bruno & Nancy Tate

Tax Day: Why Do We Pay So Much For War? _____

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, Tax Day, is the latest date for regular filing of our 2014 tax forms. I know from experience that many taxpayers wait until then to mail their taxes in person at various post offices.

LEPOCO is an organization dedicated to opposing unnecessary wars and aggressive operations. Vietnam and the Iraq invasions are examples. I do not oppose the maintenance of a reasonable size armed force, only the use of those forces for aggression. Note the destabilization of Iraq and Syria due to the U.S. and European meddling.

That is why volunteers from LEPOCO hand out flyers at various local post offices in the Lehigh Valley on Tax Day, April 15. The flyers (produced by the War Resisters League) detail the large amount of your tax dollars spent on the Defense Department.

If you can help distribute leaflets at a local post office for a couple of hours on Tax Day please contact LEPOCO (610-691-8730) to sign up for your time and place. If you do not have a partner you will be paired with someone.

- John Zachmann

Peace Camp 2015: 25 Years of Guiding Young People in Nonviolence

Spring is here! Dare we dream of warm summer days? Some of us dream of drum circles, giant parachutes, and flying water balloons. I hear unrestrained laughter. I visualize endless smiling faces in the midst of international dance class. I can feel the contagious excitement when I inform the children it is time to join Roberta in the joyous peace songs that she teaches us.

There are so many wonderful activities that we all share during the week of Peace Camp. This year Camp will occur Monday through Friday, July 27-31. We will convene at the First Presbyterian Church in Allentown (Tilghman St. and Cedar Crest Blvd.).

Do you know any children ages 5-12 who could benefit from such wonderful experience based on love and caring? A registration form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please contact LEPOCO if you can use more to share with others.

Would you like to be part of the teen & adult team that helps guide young people at Peace Camp? A volunteer interest form is also enclosed with this newsletter.

- Dan Miller