



"Picture a World Without Violence"

Over 125 students, grades 6-12, from 16 area schools submitted entries to LEPOCO's 50th Anniversary Poster Contest. They created posters on three themes: "War is Not the Answer"; "Peace Takes Courage, Too"; and, "The Lehigh Valley Is No Place for Hate."

On Saturday, November 14, in addition to all the winners' works, at least one representative piece of art from each school that had entries was on display at Northampton Community College's Fowler Family Southside Center. Lisa Penyak played a meditative steel tongue drum as more than 70 students, family members and friends gathered at NCC for the Poster Contest Awards Ceremony.

Welcomed by Mimi Lang, and introduced by Ronnie Arena, a teacher at her school, student Frances Hendricks read her poem, "The Pen Is Mightier than the Sword." Awards were presented by Martha Christine, teacher and LEPOCO Poster Committee convener, Berrisford Boothe, artist and Lehigh University Professor, and Jackie Lima, artist and Gallery Director at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Boothe mentioned the late great musician Gil Scott-Heron and his rap poem/song, "Work for Peace," and with fellow judge Jackie Lima, warmly presented winning students with a certificate, words of praise, a "Make Art Not War," button, and encouragement for their art. Six top winners received cash awards totaling \$1000, and 20 students received honorable mention certificates. Afterwards, the crowd enjoyed light refreshments, browsed and discussed the gallery of posters.

Cash awards were presented to: Anna La, from South Mountain Middle School - Grand Prize; Dasani Blount, from Nitschmann Middle School - Second Place, Middle School; Skylar DeLabar, from Palisades High School - Second Place, High School; Daniel Strauss, from Brandywine High School - Third Place, "War Is Not the Answer"; Hailey Wills, from Eyer Middle School - Third Place, "The Lehigh Valley Is No Place For Hate"; and Zachary Ryan, from Eyer Middle School - Third Place, "Peace Takes Courage, Too."

Judges for the contest were Pennsylvania State Representative Steve Samuelson, Jackie Lima, Berrisford Boothe, Martha Christine, and Amanda Zaniesienko. The posters were on exhibit at NCC for one month. They will be at the Bethlehem Public Library December 14 - January 10. Please visit. The LEPOCO 50th Anniversary Committee is planning to exhibit the posters in public locations throughout much

of 2016. If you have suggestions for possible display locations please contact LEPOCO. Exhibit locations will be announced in this newsletter and in LEPOCO's weekly email calendar as they are set.

- Monica McAgon

(Members of LEPOCO'S 50th Anniversary Planning Committee not mentioned in the article: Steve Kraft, Kathryn Hoffman, Susie Ravitz, Tom Stinnett, Bob & Carmen Riggs, Nancy Tate.)

(Please see the photo report from the Awards Ceremony on page 4 of this newsletter.)

Excerpts from "Art for Peace"

In the summer of 2014, a very ill, but wise older man, named Peter Cohen, came to LEPOCO to share his parting words with us. He was one of the founders of LEPOCO and, 49 years later, he was still working on expressing peace through his writing and painting skills. His advice to LEPOCO on that special day was: "Continue to be a messenger of peace... we are still needed... There are forces at work for good in the universe... Do what we do because it is the right thing to do... Sponsor a valley-wide poster contest."

Peter's advice was one of the inspirations for the "Picture a World Without Violence" poster contest.

Besides the excitement of the awards at the ceremony on November 14, the event was notable because most of the people who came may have never heard of LEPOCO. Now they have some awareness that there is a Peace Center in the Lehigh Valley and they know a little of what we do.

- From an article by Mimi Lang published in the newsletter of the L.V. Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

"Finding Light in a Time of Darkness:

The Peace Witness of
the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Friday, January 15, 2016

7:00 pm

Town Hall Rotunda, Bethlehem City Hall
10 E. Church St., Bethlehem

A reading and discussion of King's "Beyond Vietnam"
speech delivered at Riverside Church, NYC,
in April 1967, one year before his assassination.

Planned by the Stop the Wars Committee of LEPOCO.