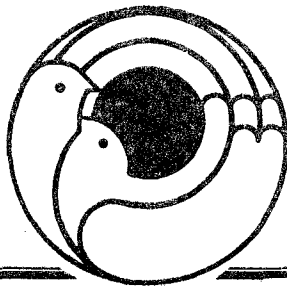


April  
2006

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Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

## Doug Rokke to Speak on DU Dangers

Dr. Doug Rokke, United States Army veteran and health physicist expert on the health and environmental effects of Depleted Uranium munitions, will be presenting talks in the Lehigh Valley, April 10-12.

Rokke was a member of the United State Army Medical Command's Biological and Chemical Teaching, Medical Response and Special Operations Team in the first Gulf War and served as Director of the Depleted Uranium Assessment Project from 1994 to 1995. In these capacities, he was tasked with preparing soldiers to deal with chemical, nuclear or biological attacks. He also developed an instruction curriculum for responding to such weapons including Depleted Uranium, health effects and environmental clean-up. Rokke's expertise is augmented by his own exposure to DU suffered during the Persian Gulf War.

During these years Rokke became increasingly concerned about Depleted Uranium weapons use by the U.S. and it allies because of the serious health problems soldiers and civilians were experiencing in Kosovo, Iraq, and Vieques, Puerto Rico. When he raised his voice to point out the problems -- to whistleblow -- the Army ignored his concerns and Rokke lost his job. He began teaching at Jacksonville State University in Alabama and continued his activist campaign to educate the public about DU, to pressure Congress to aid DU-exposed, sick Persian Gulf War Veterans, and to force the U.S. to take responsibility for DU use around the world which has left behind contaminated people and lands.

### Public talks by Dr. Doug Rokke

#### *"Depleted Uranium: Health & Human Effects."*

Tues., April 11, 11 am-12:30 pm, Kiva, Northampton Community College, Bethlehem.

Wed., April 12, Noon-1 pm, Gagnon Hall, 100 Hugel Science Center, Lafayette College, Easton.

Wed., April 12, 4-5 pm, Packer Memorial Chapel, Lehigh University, Bethlehem.

Wed., April 12, 7 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. Sponsored by the Church, the Sierra Club, and LEPOCO.

He will also speak for some classes at Moravian College and other opportunities are welcomed. Please call Suzanne Marshall at 610-882-0769 to make arrangements.

Doug Rokke works with the Massachusetts-based Traprock Peace Center, Veterans for Peace, and other organizations to present scholarly papers on the DU issue, give speeches to the public, peace groups, environmental groups, and medical professionals. He has spoken throughout the world, including before both houses of the British Parliament and at the United Nations, in his passionate effort to halt the use of DU weapons and end war. Rokke believes, "It's a crime against humanity to use uranium munitions in a war, and it's devastating to ignore the consequences of war."

(continued on page 2)

## March for Peace in New York on April 29



Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, United for Peace and Justice, RainbowPUSH Coalition, National Organization for Women, Friends of the Earth, U.S. Labor Against the War, Climate Crisis Coalition, Peoples' Hurricane Relief Fund, National Youth and Student Peace Coalition and Veterans For Peace are calling us to New York City to March for Peace, Justice and Democracy. Their call says there is "too much wrong in this county. We have a foreign policy that is foreign to our core values and domestic policies wreaking havoc at home. The times are urgent and we must act."

The demands of the demonstration include: No more never-ending oil wars; Protect our civil liberties and immigrant rights; End illegal spying, government corruption and the subversion of our democracy; Rebuild our communities, starting with the Gulf Coast; Stop corporate subsidies and tax cuts for the wealthy while ignoring our basic needs; Act now to reverse the climate crisis and end the war on nature.

We all need to be there, if at all possible. Unfortunately, due to many spring trips, so far we have been unable to find a bus to charter from the Lehigh Valley for April 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope this will change. But we are considering car/van pooling and resources to help small groups travel together to the City by public transportation. If you want to march in NYC on April 29, please complete the coupon on the back page of the newsletter or call us (610-691-8730) or e-mail us ([lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)) with the same information.

## Ray Krone's Story Brought to Local Schools

Ray Krone, a Pennsylvania native, spent 10 years in an Arizona prison, three of them on death row, for a murder he did not commit. In 2002 Ray was exonerated by DNA evidence. On Feb. 22 and 23 he told his story to more than 550 people while speaking at Moravian Academy, Muhlenberg College, Lehigh University, and Moravian College.

Ray's story commanded his audiences' complete attention. It's the story of an innocent citizen, with no prior record of any kind, being convicted of murder and sentenced to death, because police investigators and prosecutors focused so determinedly on securing a timely arrest and conviction that they repeatedly dismissed whatever corroborated Ray's innocence. Ray's case shares many of the elements too common to exonerees' stories: shoddy police work, prosecutorial mishandling of evidence, lack of evidence, a lone "expert" witness, discounted by all other experts, but paid big bucks to back the prosecution's version of events.

How does anyone survive such institutionalized injustice? Ray credits the fact that his family and friends never doubted his innocence. But Ray's real

strength seemed to me to be his own personality. Somewhere along the way Ray was able to turn his private hell into opportunity and motivation. Somewhere along the way he chose to look forward instead of backward. Since his release Ray has devoted himself to ending the death penalty and spreading the word that our justice system needs to find a way to purge itself of the individuals who abuse the power entrusted to them. Ray's message was two-fold: **ABOLISH** the death penalty and **TAKE ACTION** for what you believe in to help make a better world.

The anti-death penalty actions listed in the February LEPOCO newsletter are still actionable. Your state reps need to know you want a moratorium **NOW**; that you **SUPPORT HB 1410** (pre-trial determination of mental retardation in capital cases), **HB 1473** (compensation for the wrongly convicted), **HB 2366** (expungement of record for the wrongly convicted), **SB 631** (pre-trial determination of mental retardation), **SB 1069** (Innocence Commission bill). The next meeting of the Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing is Tuesday, April 25 at 8:30 am, at the LEPOCO Peace Center. For more information on any of the above contact David Rose at 610-253-2577 or Maria Weick at 610-346-8793.

- Maria Weick

## Department of Peace

There is a great (and growing) movement for peace in the U.S. that LEPOCO people should know about and take part in. It is led by Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio who is proposing a Department of Peace in the President's Cabinet. His House Bill 3760 is supported by Senate Bill 1756 introduced by Senator Mark Dayton of Minnesota.

The primary function of a Department of Peace will be to research, articulate and facilitate nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflicts.

Walter Cronkite says this: "It's not a matter of simply getting another Department of government. You are speaking of an entire philosophical revolution. It would create a massive, basic change in the entire approach to our relationships with other humans."

For lots of great information to [www.thepeacealliance.org/main.htm](http://www.thepeacealliance.org/main.htm). Let's get behind this effort for **PEACE!**

- Tom Lloyd

## Doug Rokke to Speak

(continued from page 1)

While presenting talks around the country, Rokke says, "I'm reminded that some religions believe that 'a child will lead us to peace.' But if we contaminate the

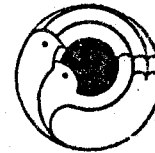
environment, where will the children come from? The children won't be there. War has become obsolete...."

- Suzanne Marshall

Source for quotes: "The War Against Ourselves," by Doug Rokke and An Interview with Major Doug Rokke by Sunny Miller in *Yes! Magazine* (Spring 2003).

### Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern  
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The LEPOCO Newsletter is published 10 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a non-violent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

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Limited Income Member . . . . . \$ 5  
Household Membership . . . . . \$30  
Supporting Member . . . . . \$50

Articles/news should be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month for use in the following month's newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: Ellen Buck, Peter Crownfield, Fran Dreisbach, Arlene Grow, Mike Lawton, Tom Lloyd, Bob Riggs, Tom Stinnett, Joan Stolz, Joan Stone, Nancy Tate, Marion Thorne, Jeff Vitelli, Hans Wuerth and Ursula Wuerth.

Thanks to all the people who staple, fold and label the newsletter each month.

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Dan Acker (co-treas.), Ellen Buck, Peter Christine, Peter Crownfield (ex-officio), Robert Daniels, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Holly Kent, Sigourney LaBarre, Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Janet Ney, Sue Ravitz, and Nancy Tate (ex-officio).



On Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, LEPOCO will host the third annual Youth Peacemaker Training (YPT) at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting House in Bethlehem. YPT is a nonviolence training that aims to empower youth to make real change - in their personal lives, in their school and community, and in the larger world. This program offers students the unique opportunity to spend one full day learning about and discussing ways they can resist violence and make significant social change with other like-minded individuals. The best part? Youth Peacemaker Training is organized for students, by students. So you'll be learning from your peers, who share your same concerns and aspirations.

If you love peace, and are concerned about food justice, globalization, and students' rights (among many other current issues!) then YPT just might be the perfect addition to your calendar!

The training will run from 9 am until 4 pm and is open to all interested high school youth. For more information, and to pre-register, please contact LEPOCO Peace Center. *The registration box on the back page of this newsletter may also be used. Please mail promptly.*

- Sarah Weick

## Joe DeRaymond To Begin Three-Month Prison Term

First, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the FOR Colombia Peace Program. My decision to cross the line at Fort Benning, and submit to a prison sentence is directly related to my experience with the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó as a FOR volunteer. FOR provides crucial support to the Community. Thanks also for personal contributions, and equally, personal expressions of support.

Between April 11 and July 8, my address will be: Joseph DeRaymond, #92569-020, FCI Schuylkill Satellite Camp, P.O. Box 670, Minersville, PA 17954. Do not send money or stamps. Books must come from the publisher, magazines and newspapers may be sent by personal mail.

If you would like to visit, please write me with your address and contact information, and I will put you on my visitor's list. Everyone who visits must first be investigated by the Bureau of Prisons, a process that takes about 30 days. Visiting hours are 8 am-3pm weekends, only.

Naed Smith, a co-defendant from Harrisburg, will also be at the Schuylkill Camp. The various developments with prisoners are on the School of Americas Watch website, [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org).

Representative Dent still has not agreed to vote for or co-sponsor HR-1217, a bill to investigate and either close or reform the SOA/WHISC. Letters or calls to his office to urge him to close this terrorist training school in the heart of the homeland are needed.

- Joe DeRaymond

## Join Us on the "Paths To Peace" this July

You know that CHANCE card in Monopoly with the little guy knocking on the door and the big lettered "OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS" letting you know something good is just ahead? Well, the information about Peace Camp that is in this newsletter is YOUR chance card. And when you make the decision to be a teen or adult volunteer at this year's Peace Camp you are guaranteed to find many good things ahead. Those "good things," according to the evaluations that last year's volunteers filled out, ranged from "enjoying a joyous, peaceful atmosphere" to "feeling glad to be a role model" to "relating to others -- young and old -- in a respectful way."

You might like to know that this year's planning group for Peace Camp includes eight people who were new to camp last year. That 2005 week-long experience was so positive and powerful that we all felt we wanted to use our energies to continue this summer opportunity where "young people (are) making peace." That's a pretty great way to spend the week of July 24-28, 2006. Plus you get to learn the Moose song!

What's keeping you? Sign up! (See the enclosed volunteer form that will help you let us know what you would like to do at Peace Camp.) An early sign-up would help us plan even more effectively. Thanks!

☺ Cyndy Hasz



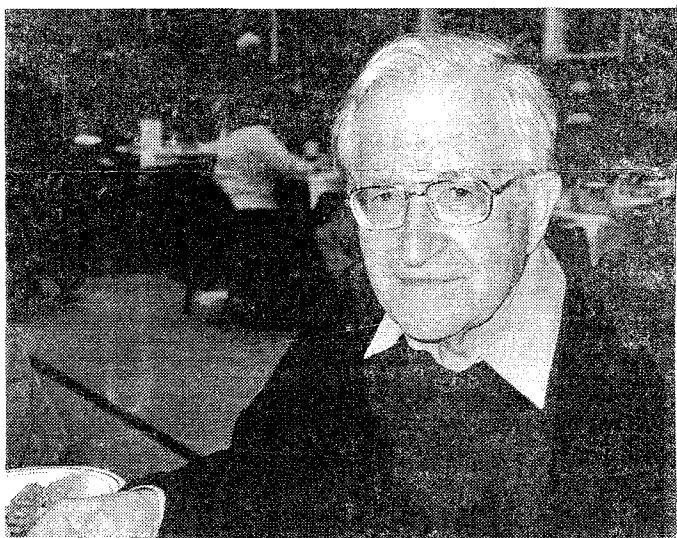
## Tax Day Monday, April 17

Help leaflet at a local post office with the informative War Resisters League "pie-chart" flyer. This flyer has details about the real amount of our tax dollars going for the military and war.

Please call 610-691-8730 or complete the coupon on the back page of this newsletter to sign up for a time and a place to help with leafleting on Monday, April 17.

# Noam Chomsky in Bethlehem

Within minutes of Noam Chomsky's speech on March 18<sup>th</sup>, even the most learned progressive activists, the most cynical opponents of empire, and the most overwhelmed parents, increasingly weary of the world we're preparing for our children, found themselves transported into a vision of this world more horrifying, more tyrannical, and more devastating than anything we had ever dared to admit to ourselves: radical global climate instability; bloody civil war in Iraq; a government hell-bent on glory even at the expense of the world's very existence; an empire looming around us and through us far surpassing its European precursors in deadliness, brutality, destructive capability, and righteous disguise; unreliable nuclear attack detection technology in Russia; Iran seemingly forced to choose between the false security of nuclear arms and the threat of a U.S. invasion; a media so thoroughly indoctrinated it no longer even realizes when it lies to us. A society so atomized it no longer realizes when it



Noam Chomsky at LEPOCO Dinner on March 18, 2006. Photo by Sue Ravitz.

lies to itself. In the words of the professor's most recent book, the choice we faced was clear: hegemony or survival.

My wife, pregnant six months with our second child, grabs my pen and scribbles with frustration in my notebook: "It is NO FUN being pregnant listening to this."

I suddenly fell under the spell of a daydream in which we all just started crying. Our speaker eventually had to stop speaking, looked curiously at us, we strange, sensitive Bethlehemites, and found himself unable to console us with his classic words of hope - *The public is on our side! All of this is still very much under our control!* - words that have kept so many in the audience going for longer than I have even been

alive. And in my dream he too started to cry, to cry for this beautiful world that we all have fought so hard to save from itself, to save from us.

Extinction. He didn't talk to us about the extinction of our own way of life, or the extinction of our species alone; he talked to us about *total* extinction, about *nothingness*. When we are all gone, no one will be there to remember us - or to blame us. How could we have responded appropriately to such a threat? Extinction is the incarnation of unreasonableness itself. It exists in between our rational words and arguments. Like the nothingness in the center of a vase, formed by the contours of the vase in its periphery, so is our nothingness, our extinction, formed by the kind of reasonableness and logic that legitimizes war in the name of peace, debt in the name of development, and rejecting the Kyoto protocol in the name of "sound economic policy." Our extinction, if it is to come to that, is the unreason at the center of what stands for reason today, the involution of the vase, empire collapsing in on itself...

Perhaps the tears we shed in my daydream *would* have been an appropriate response. Or perhaps it wasn't a dream at all, maybe we did all cry together that night, even if not on the surface or out loud. On the surface, out loud, we learned how to keep up a fight now fueled, beneath the surface, by the kind of solidarity that only emerges through the tears animals shed with one another and for one another, while facing the possibility of their own extinction, of their own nothingness.

The following Thursday, I met Joe, a LEPOCO member bound for jail for crossing the line at the School of the Americas. He was holding a sign at the weekly peace vigil at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wyndotte in Bethlehem. Standing on that corner for the first time, I felt myself in the presence of a special and courageous group of people. Waves of energy and hope beaming from their eyes, their commitment stretched out into the beeping of supportive drivers and back into the succinct messages on their signs, the gleaming sun, the blue sky. Hope. I don't know how all this translated into hope, but it did. Perhaps there's no ground to hope, no reason for it. Perhaps it's as meaningless as the nothingness it opposes. As such, wouldn't hope be an appropriate response to despair? Once you realize the beauty of the blue sky you open yourself to the possibility of being heartbroken at the threat of its destruction. Perhaps love is intensified through the threat of impermanence because, strangely, I did feel a renewed love for this world after the speech and a new resolve to fight for it. The power and strategy, I realized, of Professor Chomsky's work, is to open us up to the depths of the most profound sadness in order to raise us up into the highest and strongest experiences of love. And perhaps the kind of energy needed to save this world can be generated only through the most pas-

(continued on page 6)

# An Evening With Two Michaels Committed to Ending This War

The plastic straps holding my wrists behind me were starting to create pain in my old injured shoulder. The transit bus wasn't the most invigorating way for us to be kept while awaiting arraignment for civil disobedience at the White House. At some point the pain was so great that I demanded that the cuffs be moved to the front of my body. Despite that pain, there were invigorating conversations and discussions on that bus in front of the U.S. DC Park Police station the night of September 26, 2005. The chanting and song that followed ten hours of pain, frustration, and boredom made it seem only a heartbeat in time.

That is the environment in which some of the activists of LEPOCO, Mike Lawton, Robert Daniels, and I met Michael Berg for the first time. A man of slight build, but strong in passionate resistance, he joined into those conversations almost casually, as if his story was no more dramatic than any of ours. However, his story is one that rang through the media with the fervor of human tragedy, thrusting his family reluctantly into the international spotlight. His son, Nick, was murdered in Iraq in 2004 after traveling there early that year to find work and to make good on his "American dream" of making a lot of money in a short time. He was a courageous young man, climbing electrical towers and doing dangerous work without fear or trepidation. Nick believed in what his country was doing in Iraq, so he hoped to help rebuild the infrastructure and be part of the creation of a democracy.

We listened to Nick's father recount how he, too, had gone to Iraq and tried to meet with President Bush, attempting to find out what had happened to his son. We could not help but be moved. Why had his son been made a tool of the Jihadist's propaganda by killing him and posting it on the Internet? He was upset to find so many contradictory details to the story told in the press.

While the loss of his son has had a profound effect on his personal and professional life, Michael Berg has maintained his steadfastness in working to end war and its consequences. At the December trial for our civil disobedience at the White House, Michael Berg was one of our defense witnesses. He gave an impassioned plea that moved even the judge. He has been arrested three times since September and continues to speak out and march in ardent opposition to the war and occupation in Iraq.

After moving to Delaware in May 2005 Michael Berg registered as a Green Party voter and is now running for Congress. His announcement of his candidacy said, "I am seeking the nomination of the Green Party of Delaware for Congress because the people of our state and our country want peace, jobs, and a culture of

truth that looks to our common future." (See [www.bergforcongress.us](http://www.bergforcongress.us).)

We are proud to announce that the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition and the Lehigh Valley Progressive Student Alliance are co-sponsoring a program featuring Michael Berg and FLASH! Michael Hoffman of Iraq Veterans Against the War. They will speak on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7 pm, in Whitaker Lab Auditorium, East Packer Ave., Lehigh University, Bethlehem. This is a prelude to the important march and rally against the war being held in New York City on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can attend what promises to be a vibrant and moving evening.

For more information, contact Tim Chadwick at 610-216-7947 or LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

- Tim Chadwick

## Popcorn & Politics

at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Friday, May 5, 7 pm

*1<sup>st</sup> Friday Film*

*"Occupation Dreamland"*

Filmed in early 2004, directors Ian Olds and Garrett Scott, with full access from U.S. authorities provide an unflinching glimpse inside the lives of the Army's 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division stationed in Falloujah, Iraq. Depicted is an uneasy coexistence between soldiers who often question a mission they feel duty-bound to fulfill and an Iraqi citizenry who doesn't seem to want them there. The film is 78 minutes long.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



## Help Bring the Close the SOA Vigil to Washington, DC

April 23-25

While our friend Joe DeRaymond and others spend several months in prison for their efforts calling for closing the SOA, we can join in these lobby days to the same end. A vote on HR-1217, which Rep. Dent has so far failed to co-sponsor, could come as early as June.

This legislation would close and investigate the SOA/WHINSEC.

Please see [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org) for more information or call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 if you would like to join the local delegation to Washington, DC.



Mimi Lang welcomes everyone at LEPOCO program on March 18. Photo by Sue Beyer of *The Express Times*.

## A LEPOCO Celebration!

The LEPOCO Annual Dinner and Program, celebrating our 40th anniversary, was a great success. About 200 people attended the dinner; tickets were sold out weeks in advance.

As the volunteers were busily cooking up a delicious meal, a steady flow of members arrived, stopping to look at pamphlets and buttons, and to greet old friends. Kenneth Moore entertained us with his own compositions on the piano.

Mimi Lang gathered guests to their seats to listen to the LEPOCO Peace Singers perform "El Pueblo Unido." Guests enjoyed eating Mexican corn and cheese bread, aniseed carrots, rice, and Caribbean vegetable stew. For dessert there was baked bananas with ice cream.



Ellen Buck and Maria Weick work to prepare the Caribbean Stew for the dinner. Photo by Sue Ravitz.

As we settled into our meals, Mimi returned to the microphone to give us a welcome. She likened LEPOCO to a light: not a bright search light, not a garish neon

light, but a gentle warm light that signifies human's rediscovery of fire.

After Mimi's inspiring speech, the LEPOCO peace singers serenaded us with "We Shall Not Give Up the Fight" and "The Water is Wide." Monica and Ray Sommerville announced the winners of the Art Raffle (see winners' names on Bits & Pieces page). Local progressive artists and craftspeople donated art, pottery, quilts, and wood crafts.

Following the raffle, Ellen Buck presented the Steering Committee announcements. She thanked past Committee members and announced new or reconfirmed members: Holly Kent, Janet Ney, Susan Ravitz, and Peter Christine. Janet Ney gave a well-earned thank you to all the volunteers who made the dinner possible. With the dinner over, we all made our way to the sanctuary to join the 300 newly arrived people waiting to hear the rest of the program and Noam Chomsky's talk.

Once again Mimi welcomed us. This time she made us think of LEPOCO using the metaphor of wind. Born as a tiny breath 40 years ago, LEPOCO is now a blustering gale that urges us onward into the face of the corrupt system. The speech got us all in the right mood to see the excellent film by Guy Gray, Jeff Vitelli, Mike Lawton, and Suzanne Marshall about the origins of LEPOCO and the history of activism in the Lehigh Valley. Once more, to raise our spirits, the Peace Singers sang: "Live Peace!" "There's No Business Like War Business," and "Power and Glory."

At this point, after a brief introduction from Mike Lawton, Noam Chomsky took the stage.

- Peter Christine

## Noam Chomsky

(continued from page 4)

sionate love of this world, a passionate love that has the sadness he details for us as its guide.

I grabbed a peace sign and held it high - for the first time in quite awhile and for the first time ever in Bethlehem - and promised Joe I'd take his spot while he's gone.

- Ken Burak

Save the Date

The Annual LEPOCO

Bike/Walkathon

Saturday, June 3, 2006

Join us to ride or walk to benefit

LEPOCO and

Pennsylvania Abolitionists United Against  
the Death Penalty.

Pledge sheets available in late April.

Call 610-691-8730.

# Does JROTC Belong In Our High Schools? \_\_\_\_\_

The U.S. military plans to continue expanding JROTC units across the country. High schools within the Lehigh Valley are not exempted from these expansion efforts. Easton Area School District (EASD), recently targeted for a possible JROTC unit, has reportedly deferred their decision on JROTC for the time being (as of mid-March), perhaps to gather more information. JROTC is controversial for several reasons.

Cost is a major issue for high schools considering JROTC. Research about existing programs uncovers many hidden costs. The EASD received a preliminary estimate of less than \$40,000 per year in cost to the district for JROTC, but the national average for the actual yearly cost for JROTC per school is nearly doubles that. Only a small number of students participate in JROTC, making the costs very high per student for the estimated one hundred students enrolled in each program.

JROTC claims to invoke discipline, leadership, and other qualities that produce an ideal U.S. citizen. There is controversy over simply defining what makes a good citizen. However, the violence and war promoted in JROTC are generally not considered valid forms of problem solving for those committed to nonviolence. And, the JROTC weapons training goes against strict zero-tolerance policies enforced for school safety in most districts.

JROTC denies being a recruiting tool for the military and maintains their program reduces drop-out rates for the high school students involved. However, since a "C" average is required to be part of JROTC it is not really targeting those students at the highest risk of dropping out. And it would be expected that about half of the JROTC graduates from Easton (or any school) would enlist in the military. Indeed, William Cohen, former Secretary of Defense said, JROTC is "one of the best recruitment programs we could have."

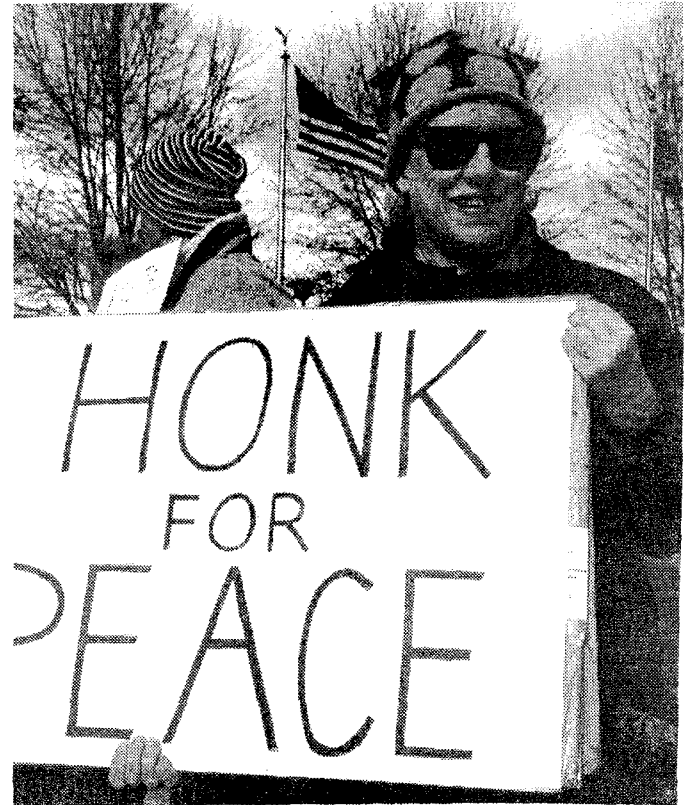
EASD would have no control over the curriculum or textbooks used in JROTC and instructors would be retired members of the military. This leads not only to concern over the material presented, but also to concern over the ability of the teachers. The texts often glorify war and illustrate a skewed version of U.S. history. They can contradict other courses taught within the school district.

Any military program raises concern about prejudice against homosexuals and the differently-abled. Instructors would exclude those groups of people and the same groups could be denied entry into JROTC or later military enlistment.

Many factors of the JROTC program contradict the mission of EASD and most other schools. Costs, intentions and the quality of the curriculum are questionable. The research that we did in reviewing the possibility of JROTC at Easton Area High School indicates that JROTC is not an appropriate component in our

schools, even beyond our standing opposition to the military's presence in our schools.

- Holly Stoneback



Pat Hampton was one of twenty-two peace vigilers in Hellertown, standing in a bright sun on Sunday, March 19. Photo by Nancy Tate.

## *War Hurts Us All!*

### *End the U.S. Occupation of Iraq!*

Under these familiar themes 296(!) local peace witnesses participated in vigils on March 19, the third anniversary of the start of this sorry war. (Thank you to Tim Chadwick and the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition for the organizing.) There were 18 vigils from New Tripoli to Pennsburg, from Phillipsburg to Nazareth, with several each in Allentown and Bethlehem. They ranged in size, from five, six or seven people to 35 or 42 people each, everyone facing a brisk wind as they held their message to end the war. In Hellertown we were filmed by an unidentified, unfriendly man, but got oodles of friendly positive honks. Indeed, all reports were that passersby were very friendly. Local newspapers, dailies and weeklies, gave good coverage. In Emmaus, high school students brought a large flag they had made on cardboard with one toy soldier attached to represent each U.S. troop killed in Iraq. Following the vigils a march was held in Allentown starting at Muhlenberg College organized by the Lehigh Valley Progressive Students and a candlelight vigil was held at Muhlenberg later in the evening sponsored by the college Democrats. What will we do to end this war before the fourth anniversary?

- Nancy Tate

# The Struggle Shared

When the animals come to us,  
asking for our help,  
will we know what they are saying?  
When the plants speak to us  
in their delicate, beautiful language,  
will we be able to answer them?  
When the planet herself  
sings to us in our dreams,  
will we be able to wake ourselves, and act?

- Gary Lawless

"For the Animals" from *First Sight of Land*

**LONG LIVE THE SANTA MONICA NINE!** - Jim Hightower reports in his February *Lowdown*, on a herd of nine cattle, once destined for the meat-market, who escaped from a ranchers pen five years ago, bolted across a bush interstate highway near Beverly Hills, CA, and disappeared into the neighboring national recreation area of the Santa Monica Mountains. They have rarely been seen since that day, much less rounded up and sent meat-packing.

One park ranger who has reported encounters with the renegade herd reports that they are surprisingly wily, wiry, and fleet of foot. "I came close to them, and they just took off, like a herd of deer might if you were to come too close."

If this image flies in the face of our usual expectations of a bunch of thousand-pound cud-chewing, mooing, lumbering bovines, Hightower suggests that there is a lesson to be learned here. First, he ponders that the people of the U.S. sometimes seem as fat, lazy and submissive as a field of cows. Then posits that the rebellion of the Santa Monica Nine illustrates that "we all have the seed of insurgency within us, ready to empower us to break loose from the confines of the corporate order, and live life on our own terms."

Source: *The Hightower Lowdown*, 2/06

**ONE HUNDRED DAYS FOR DARFUR** - under the logo "Stop the Genocide," the Save Darfur Coalition is coordinating a three month national campaign of events to call attention to the human rights atrocities that have plagued western

Sudan over the past several years. There are 150 organizations under the umbrella, nationwide, but locally, the coalition includes The Institute for Jewish/Christian Understanding, the Office of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown, the Jewish Community center, Muhlenberg College student organization "Do It for Darfur," and the Lehigh Valley Group 347 of Amnesty International.

The objective is to generate a million postcards to President Bush by April 30<sup>th</sup>, and to push for passage of HR-3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, which among other provisions, would support the African Union and United Nations Peacekeeping missions in the region, and would call for accountability of Sudanese perpetrators by the International Criminal Court.

To date there have been several events in the Lehigh Valley, including a panel with Rep. Charles Dent, who is a cosponsor of HR-3127. A bus has been reserved to take people to the Save Darfur: Rally to Stop Genocide on April 30<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC.

To obtain a pre-printed postcard or make a bus reservation contact Karen Berry of the Lehigh Valley Amnesty International Group at 610-866-2655. See [www.savedarfur.com](http://www.savedarfur.com) for more info.

**GUNS DOWN IN EASTON** - Readers of the *Morning Call* may have been intrigued by an article in the January 19<sup>th</sup> issue, promoting a March for Peace in Easton. The

walk, product of a broad united front of city officials, church and civic leaders, family members of victims of gun violence, and peacemakers, is the latest salvo in a growing movement that expresses the urgent need to take a nonviolent stand against gun violence in the city and the Valley.

"Guns Down," initially started in 1996, was an effort organized by Khaliq Al-Shabazz, to collect guns from the citizens to get them out of their homes, and off the streets. Al-Shabazz, a former Easton resident, who promoted his cause in a coloring book several years ago, was shot and killed in Florida, last May. His sisters, Patricia Alford and Carol Franklin, decided to honor their brother by picking up his passion for stopping the violence, and have emerged as spokespersons for the Easton drive. They made a videotape of the January 28<sup>th</sup> Walk and are doing outreach to families of victims. They are planning a community-wide picnic for Saturday, May 27, at Hugh Moore Park in West Easton, 12-7 pm. Call Patricia Alford for more information at 610-559-5724.

City Councilman Ken Brown, and Rev. Phil Davis, pastor of Greater Shiloh Church, were also involved as organizers of the Walk. They are associated with El Puente/The Bridge, a service organization that seeks to reach across race and class barriers to help those affected by violence based on their needs. Ken Brown is consulting with the city solicitor to determine if a curfew can be introduced in the municipal legislation. Phil Davis has convened Clergy to discuss how to maximize their role in ending violence. "Many times we wait until a crisis happens to work together," he said. "This is bittersweet for us. It's bitter because the crisis had to happen, but it's sweet because now we are going to start working together..."

Source: *The Morning Call*, 1/19/06, B-1

- Jeff Vitelli



# Bits & Pieces

Ⓐ Daniel Ellsberg, writer, activist and former Vietnam War government strategic analyst who leaked the Pentagon Papers to the media in 1971, will speak on Tues., April 11, at 8 pm, in Packard Aud., Lehigh Univ., Bethlehem.

Ⓐ The film, The Future of Food, about the genetic engineering of food, will be shown at Kirkridge (Main Lodge), north of Bangor, on Sun., April 30, at 2 pm. Donations will be accepted at the door. The film was an award winner at Sundance Film Festival. For more info. call Anna Maria Caldara at 610-599-9985.

Ⓐ The Nineteenth Street Theatre, Allentown, will show Why We Fight, April 8-16. The film is also being shown at the Pocono Cinema & Coffee Shop, Stroudsburg. Check with the theaters for viewing times. Opening with Dwight Eisenhower's warnings about a military-industrial complex, Eugene Jarecki's film examines the economic engines behind the U.S. war machine and the rise of U.S. empire.

Ⓐ The Preliminary Hearing for the Dent Nine, arrested in Rep. Charles Dent's office on January 17, will be Mon., April 24, at 1 pm, at the office of District Judge Wayne Maura, Canal Plaza, 565 W. Lehigh St., Bethlehem. The "Nine," Sarah Snider, Joe DeRaymond, Bernie Berg, Anna Maria Caldara, Maria Weick, Art Landis, Tim Chadwick, Robert Daniels II, and Susie Ravitz, were at Dent's office calling on him to support legislation like John Murtha's HJR 73 calling for the termination of the deployment of U.S. troops in Iraq "at the earliest practicable date." Dent 9 supporters are urged to attend the Hearing.

Ⓐ On Tues., May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, the Students for Social Change club of Palisades High school will host a moderated debate about Intelligent Design in the public school science classroom. Panelists include biology professor Dr. Steven Krawiec of Lehigh Univ., Pat Raynock, biology

teacher at Palisades High School, and Dr. Robert Newman of Hatfield Theological Seminary. The community forum will be held at the High School Aud., 35 Churchill Rd. Kintnersville.

Ⓐ The Fired Up Film series at Muhlenberg College will close this spring with Films by Jim Schneider and His Students on Wed., April 19, at 7 pm, in the Center for the Arts Recital Hall, at the College in Allentown. The evening will feature documentary projects Jim Schneider was working on before his death in early 2005, and films by students.

Ⓐ In early February the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network awarded Mimi Lang the Raker Spirit Award as the employee who most exemplifies the spiritual values that have come to be known as the Raker legacy. As a leader in LEPOCO many believe Mimi should also receive a peace spirit award. Congratulations Mimi!

Ⓐ The Fellowship of Reconciliation is organizing a delegation to visit communities and organizations in Colombia who are struggling for the right to say no to armed conflict and working to create peace and justice at the grassroots. The delegation will be July 15-29 and costs \$1300 (not including air travel to Colombia). The delegation will visit the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. Registration is requested by May 15. Call 415-495-6334, or see [www.forusa.org/programs/colombia](http://www.forusa.org/programs/colombia).

Ⓐ The New Earth, An Exhilarating Story of Transformation, is an original play written and directed by Pana Columbus. It will be presented by the Circle of Stones Ritual Theatre Ensemble April 20-22, in the Diamond Theatre, Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh Univ., Bethlehem. For tickets call 610-758-2787 or see [www.lehigh.edu/zoellner](http://www.lehigh.edu/zoellner). Cost: \$15.

Ⓐ A Memorial Meeting for Tom Fox was held on March 29 at Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse. Tom Fox was a Quaker with the Christian Peacemaker Team in Iraq. He and three other CPTers were kidnapped last year. He was killed in early March. Only days before this memorial was held the other three CPT members were released. CPT said a fitting memorial for Tom Fox would be to "join

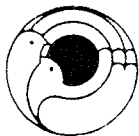
our voices on behalf of those who continue to suffer under occupation, whose loved ones have been killed or are missing. In so doing, we may hasten the day when both those who are wrongly detained and those who bear arms will return safely to their homes."

Ⓐ Here is other Annual Dinner housekeeping information: 1) There was a long article in *The Express Times* about LEPOCO on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you would like to see a copy. 2) Thank you to Don MacRae for sponsoring a day of ads honoring LEPOCO's 40 years on WDIY radio on Sat., March 18. 3) If you would like copies of any of the recipes from the Annual Dinner please contact the office. 4) We plan to have available copies of the video and audio tapes from Noam Chomsky's talk at the Annual Dinner Program. Logistical plans for that are still in process. 5) The following people won Art Raffle prizes at the Dinner: Clarke & Ardis Chapman, Chris Solliday, Helen Brennan, Joanne Hessmiller, Clint & Sonja Walker, Tom Stinnett, Linda Brindle, and Anne Blackford.

## Remembering Rosemarie Friedman

We report with sadness the death of ex-LEPOCO staff member Rosemarie Friedman on February 15, 2006. She was a spirited "troublemaker" in the best sense of the word and had no fear of speaking truth to power. As a dedicated civil rights activist and a champion of humane treatment of the poor and homeless, she was a founding member of Easton's Fair Housing Committee, and committed much of her energy in the 70s and 80s towards bettering the lives of welfare recipients. She was a passionate anti-war activist, a talented seamstress, an avid gardener, a wonderful cook and a lover of cats. She worked at LEPOCO in the early 1990s, and spruced up our boutique displays and organized a huge spring flower sale as a fundraiser. Family and friends gathered at Lafayette College to remember Rose on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

- Susie Ravitz



# LEPOCO

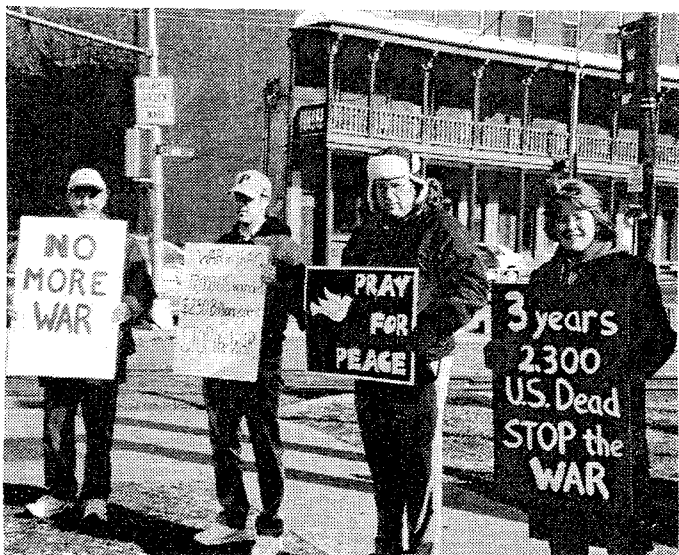
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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**!!!! Dr. Doug Rokke on Dangers of Depleted Uranium, Tues. & Wed., April 11 & 12!!! (See page 1.)**



Emil Brisson, Zachary Brisson, Tom Stinnett and Pat Brisson were among the peace vigilers in Phillipsburg on March 19<sup>th</sup>. See page 8 for more information. *Photo by Sue Ravitz.*

**Tax Day: Monday, April 17** (See page 3.)

I can help leaflet at a local post office on Tax Day.

I prefer the hours of \_\_\_\_\_. The post office at \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ would be best for me.


City \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: LEPOCO, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

**Youth Peacemaker Training: Saturday, April 22**  
Starting promptly at 9:00 am  
(See page 3 for more information.)




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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: YPT, c/o LEPOCO, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015



**March for Peace on April 29<sup>th</sup>**  
(See page 1 for more information.)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I want to March For Peace in NYC on April 29.

Please reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) on the L.V. bus.  
I've enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 per seat).

I prefer to go on public transit. Please send me basic information about the plans for the day.  
Return to: LEPOCO, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.