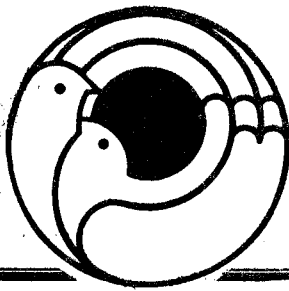


August –  
September  
2007



vol.42 no.5

Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

**Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern**

## Iraq Summer

With summer coming to an end, the Iraq Summer Campaign is passing out yard signs and bumper stickers and gearing up for its grand finale – the Take-A-Stand Meeting to be held August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Citizens who are tired of the War in Iraq should come out and use the event to help put pressure on Congressman Charlie Dent to vote for bringing the war to an end. The meeting will include information about Iraq not included in typical media reports as well as numerous opportunities for activism. The Take-A-Stand Meeting will be held at the Steel Workers Van Bittner Memorial Union Hall, at 53 E. Lehigh St., in Bethlehem. A RSVP to [pennsylvania9@iraqsummer.org](mailto:pennsylvania9@iraqsummer.org) is not required, but would be appreciated.

Congressman Dent has consistently stated his hesitancy to take a position on reducing the number of  
(continued on page 2)

## Cindy Sheehan Inspires Valley's Peace Community

Driven by the reality that, "...accountability, humanity, and peace are so important to us that we just dropped everything to do this," a refreshed Cindy Sheehan and her caravan regrouped for "The Journey for Humanity" which left Crawford, Texas on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The group included, at times, such notable peace activists as retired Army Col. Ann Wright, Kathy Murphy, Carlos Arrendondo, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Debra Sweet, David Swanson, Ray McGovern, and more.

They traveled through the South with stops at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and New Orleans. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, former USAF Captain, Louise Legun, and I joined the caravan at Arlington National Cemetery where a group of approximately 300 marched to the office of Rep. John Conyers. Cindy, Rev. Yearwood, David Swanson, and Ray McGovern met with Conyers for an hour while the rest of us lined the hallway waiting to hear whether Rep. Conyers would initiate impeachment proceedings. When Conyers failed to follow through, 45 individuals sat down and were arrested for disorderly conduct.

From Washington, D.C., Cindy's caravan headed to Philadelphia, and on to Allentown on July 25<sup>th</sup>. As local activists began to assemble at 15<sup>th</sup> and Allen Streets across from the National Guard Armory, Cindy's caravan quietly enjoyed a wonderful dinner at

the Episcopal Church of the Mediator. The tables were decorated with bright orange tablecloths (the color orange represents dissent) and fresh flowers. Ellen Bell, Louise Legun, Maison Blanc, Susie Ravitz, and I all contributed to make the dinner a huge success.

After dinner the "Journey" contingent joined the 70 or more protesters at the Armory location. Elijah LoPinto of the Allentown Armory Activists led the march south on 15<sup>th</sup> Street to Hamilton Street and on to the Sterling Hotel for a rally. What a grand sight! All the posters, banners, and chanting protesters occasionally joined by passing local citizens. The arrival at the Sterling Hotel formed a cohesive, energetic assembly of 200-300 people waiting to hear from this warm, intelligent, knowledgeable, dedicated Gold Star mother.

Rousing speeches by Col. Ann Wright, Peter Christine (LEPOCO), Louise Legun (Veterans for Peace), Joe DeRaymond (Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition), John Potak (Allentown Armory Activists), Carlos Arrendondo, Louis Yako (Lehigh University graduate  
(continued on page 8)

## Eyes Wide Open Across PA

The Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition is bringing this exhibit back to the Lehigh Valley, September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. Eyes Wide Open speaks directly to our hearts and reminds us of the terrible human cost of war. Over 170 pair of combat boots tagged with the names and some mementos of Pennsylvania soldiers who have died in the Iraq war will be displayed. There is also a visual representation of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians who have died in this conflict. The multimedia display includes information on the costs and the consequences of the war.

The exhibit will be at Lafayette College on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and will be at Northampton Community College on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Specific details on  
(continued on page 2)

## Veterans For Peace

### Active This Summer

Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, members of Veterans For Peace, Lehigh Valley Chapter, participated in a March and Peace Fair in Reading. The event was held by an anti-violence coalition of Berks County. The march covered four to five miles through parts of downtown Reading and the fair was held at a city park. During  
(continued on page 2)

# Iraq Summer

(continued from page 1)

troops in Iraq until he hears the Petraeus Report coming in September. With word coming out recently that the report will be written, not by Gen. Petraeus, but by the Administration, it is more important than ever to let Rep. Dent know he can no longer use the Petraeus Report as an excuse for prolonging this endless war.

The Iraq Summer campaign is a national effort directed by Americans Against Escalation in Iraq (AAEI). AAEI is a coalition of numerous groups including VoteVets.org, MoveOn.org, the SEIU, US Action, Working Assets, the Center For American Progress, and Win Without War. The campaign has targeted various Republican Senators and members of Congress who have been consistently supporting the President's plan for endless war. The campaign is targeting Republicans because that's where the base of the President's support is. These members can be convinced to vote against the President on the war issue in the future.

In Pennsylvania, the campaign is focused on Sen. Specter and Congressmen Charlie Dent, Tim Murphy, Jim Gerlach, Phil English, and Todd Platt. The message of the campaign is that these Senators and Representatives are out of touch with their constituents, who overwhelmingly want the War in Iraq brought to an end. The campaign insists that these elected officials "take a stand" - either with their constituents, or with President Bush.

- Aaron Swisher, Organizer for the Iraq Summer Campaign

Editor's Note: Yard signs from the Iraq Summer Campaign stating, "Support the Troops; End the War," are available at the LEPOCO Peace Center or by calling Aaron Swisher at 202-210-2080.

# Eyes Wide Open Across PA

(continued from page 1)

the times and exact sites will be available shortly. The exhibit is free and open to public. American Friends Service Committee, an international social justice organization, developed and maintains this exhibit. The national exhibit has been disbanded as too large to be practical. The logistics of handling almost 4000 pairs of boots becomes too difficult and expensive. The Pennsylvania exhibit started in 2005 and has been to over 20 cities around the state. The web site, [www.afsc.org/pittsburgh](http://www.afsc.org/pittsburgh), contains details and pictures from the various cities.

There is a need for many volunteers to staff the exhibit and set up and tear down the exhibit each day. If you can help, please call the LEPOCO Peace Center at 610-691-8730.

- Terry Briscoe

# Veterans For Peace

## Active This Summer

(continued from page 1)

the fair, Veterans For Peace erected and staffed a booth in which pictures and posters pertaining to the conflict in Iraq were displayed. Books, pins and bumper stickers were sold, as well as donations received toward purchase of telephone cards to be given to wounded veterans in military hospitals.

Several contacts were made with individuals from the Reading area regarding the possible organization of a Veterans For Peace chapter in Berks County. Also, participation in this event provided experience toward our staffing a similar booth at The Allentown Fair.

- Paul Fichter

Editor's Note: Veterans For Peace can still use a little help with staffing their booth at the Allentown Fair, August 28-Sept. 2. If you can help, contact Louise Legun or LEPOCO (and we'll talk to Louise). Even if you cannot help, be sure to visit their booth at the Allentown Fair.

### Weekly Peace Vigils

**Bethlehem:** 4-5 pm, Thursdays

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem

Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103

**Allentown:** Noon-1 pm, Fridays

Federal Courthouse, 5th & Hamilton Sts,

Contact: Rev. John Clint Fowler, 610-746-5013

**Easton:** 10-11 am, Saturdays, Centre Square

Contact: Reggie Regrut, 908-859-5632

*Please attend as often as you are able!*

### Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

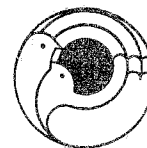
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The LEPOCO Newsletter is published 10 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a nonviolent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

#### Annual dues are:

Regular Member . . . . . \$25

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, Martha Christine, Peter Christine, 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: Addison Bross, Peter Christine, Robert Daniels II, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Holly Kent, Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Michelle Mecham, Janet Ney (co-treasurer), Sue Ravitz, Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

## Popcorn & Politics

at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 7 & 8, 7 pm

### *When the Levees Broke:*

#### *A Requiem in Four Acts*

On Friday, see Acts I and II of an intimate, heart-rending documentary portrait of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina that tells the personal stories of those who endured this harrowing ordeal and the story of the federal government which failed them. Directed by Spike Lee. 120 minutes. Projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center. (2006).

On Saturday, see Acts III and IV. Also 120 minutes.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, Oct. 5, 7pm

(1<sup>st</sup> Friday Film)

### *Children of Men*

In the year 2027, eighteen years since the last baby was born, a disillusioned former activist and his ex-lover become unlikely champions of the human race, risking everything to deliver the miracle the whole world has been waiting for. In the same vein as the futuristic thrillers, "Blade Runner," "The Road Warrior," and Orwell's "1984," this acclaimed feature offers a frightening glimpse of our possible future and a pointed look at the world we live in today. Starring Clive Owen, Julianne Moore, and Michael Caine. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón. 109 minutes. (2006).

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

## Potluck & Politics

Sunday, October 14, 6:30 pm

### Susie Ravitz

*Report on Interfaith Peace Brigade  
to Israel/Palestine in May-June 2007*

Please bring food to share for the Potluck Dinner.

## September 15<sup>th</sup> March on DC:

### Impeach Bush & Cheney and End the War

The national organization A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) is planning a demonstration in Washington, DC, on Saturday, September 15, starting at Noon, at the White House, followed by a march to the Capitol. Locally, contact Joe DeRaymond



at 610-419-4656, regarding car pools. Contact LEPOCO for information about buses from nearby communities.

You can sign A.N.S.W.E.R.'s petition for impeachment at [www.impeachbush.org](http://www.impeachbush.org). And, Louise Legun has collected information for writing and/or making phone calls to members of the House Judiciary Committee to urge them to co-sponsor Dennis Kucinich's HR-333, that calls for impeaching Vice President Dick Cheney. If you would like a copy of this list, call 610-691-8730, or e-mail [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net) and request a copy.

## Yard Sale: October 6

LEPOCO's Annual Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, in the Forte Building, 1337 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., in South Bethlehem. We need donations of items to sell and baked goods as well.

We also need helpers to set up, sort, sell and clean up before, after and during the sale and to help distribute flyers in the neighborhood. Whatever help or goods you can donate will be much appreciated.

Bring donations to LEPOCO Peace Center, Tuesday - Thursday, October 2-4, noon to 5 pm, daily, or bring them to the Forte Building on Friday, same hours.

This is an important fundraiser and popular outreach event. We need your help. And don't forget to come to shop for great recycled goods.

- Joan Stolz



SECOND ANNUAL LEPOCO

# PEACE

# PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPT 30, 2007, 3-7 PM

AT THE

FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE

(on Rt. 512, about 1/2 mile north of Rt. 22)

GREAT POT LUCK FOOD      LIVE MUSIC  
FACE PAINTING      GAMES      BASKET RAFFLE

VEGETARIAN HOT DOGS & "The Fixings" WILL BE PROVIDED  
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE  
AND A \$5 DONATION

GO TO [WWW.LEPOCO.ORG](http://WWW.LEPOCO.ORG) FOR MORE INFO

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# A Nuclear Update

In the month of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, here is a primer to get you thinking "nuclear." There is good news and bad news. First the good news.

*The New York Times* reported on July 15, that "North Koreans Say They've Shut Nuclear Reactor," and an article by David E. Sanger fills us in on the whole nuclear story of North Korea. He observes that now we're back to where the Clinton Administration was with its 1994 accord. This is the accord which Ms. Rice denounced as an ill-conceived give-away, and which was dismantled in 2003 by hardliners of the Bush administration. So it goes...

A team of UN inspectors verified North Korea's claim. Lots more work needs to be done to insure a safe disarmament process. Read up on this historic and positive event. Sanger's article is full of information that we, as responsible citizens, should know.

Elsewhere, UN inspectors on July 30 visited a nuclear reactor being built in Iran. The UN Security Council has demanded that Iran stop construction of the reactor at Arak. Western powers suspect Iran's nuclear program involves making bombs. Iran says Arak is for medical and agricultural uses.

Now here is the real bad news. The Bush administration plans to begin designing, manufacturing, and deploying a whole new generation of nuclear weapons, with the goal of replacing every nuclear warhead in the U.S. arsenal by 2030, called "Complex 2030." The weapons labs were concerned that the plutonium "pits" at the core of every warhead age. But a panel of independent scientists concluded that the plutonium pits will continue to be reliable for at least 85 years,

and possibly much longer. Yet the Bush administration has made its decision and finds all kinds of other rationalizations for going ahead with this ill-conceived plan. This will also increase the likelihood of renewed nuclear testing.

So, what country would you call the "evil empire"? The United States does not need new nuclear weapons. Instead, it needs a new nuclear weapons policy - and it needs one now! For the sake of our planet, it's time to make this also a personal issue.

- Ursula Wuerth

## Hiroshima-Nagasaki 2007

"The Nuclear Threat is Not Over" was the theme of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki remembrance organized by the Nuclear Abolition Sisters on August 16. Carrying signs demanding a ban on nuclear weapons, more than 20 people walked from the Peace Pole in the Rose Garden Park at 8th Ave. and Union Blvd., Bethlehem, to the Tondabayashi Garden outside the Bethlehem Library on Church Street. Our purpose was to call attention to the nuclear threat posed by U.S. government policies that plan for the development of new nuclear weapons and thereby seriously undermine international efforts at nuclear non-proliferation.

At the Tondabayshi Garden approximately 40 people listened to a program of readings and song. Our resolve to work for peace and a nuclear-free world was nourished by selections that mixed poetic truths about ourselves and about war and peace, with the gruesome facts that define the use of nuclear weapons.

The nuclear threat is not over! Take action - oppose US government nuclear policies that would ensnare the world once again in games of brinkmanship, made all the more dangerous by the realities of globalization and terrorism. Actions and information on nuclear weapons are regularly available at the website of the Union of Concerned Scientists, [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org). The next meeting of the Nuclear Abolition Sisters will be Thursday, September 20, at 6 pm, at the Olive Branch Restaurant, south Bethlehem. Come to help plan local opposition to nuclear weapons. - Maria Weick

## Town Meeting with the Senator

Sen. Arlen Specter was greeted by a polite, but focused audience at his town meeting in Forks Township on August 9. The crowd of 200 wanted answers on why he doesn't support ending the war in Iraq, impeachment and accountability, and better health care. These recurring themes were supported by audience applause and rumblings. Even Sen. Specter's expertise with a mixed crowd was challenged. This was a town meeting where the advocates for peace shone so brightly.

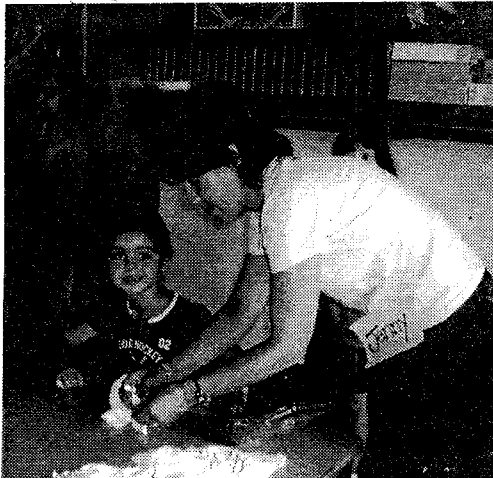


Martha Christine and Monica McAgnon carry the lead banner in the peace walk before the Hiroshima-Nagasaki program on August 16. Corinne Walden, Bob Riggs and Anna Maria Caldara are behind the banner.

Photograph by Susie Ravitz.

# Peace Camp 2007 Was a Success!

Over 70 children participated in Peace Camp (Young People Making Peace Summer Day Camp), July 23-27, at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. Over 50 teenagers and adults helped make the camp possible each day as leaders and helpers, as resource people, preparing snacks and the Friday luncheon, and doing other tasks. Thank you to First Presbyterian Church for the use of their space, to the center for Humanistic Change for their special assistance, to the active Peace Camp Planning Committee, and to Donna Hartmann who led that Committee. It was a very successful camp.



Jenny Freeby helps a Peace Camper in the Yellow Group.

The follow-up for 2007 began with an evaluation meeting (dinner prepared by Donna Hartmann) on July 30. Planning for 2008 will start with a meeting this fall. If you would like to help with planning next year please contact Donna Hartmann or the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Peace Camp is a very special gift to young people in the Lehigh Valley. As they work together, adults, teens and younger people, all learn more about building a peaceful world.



Kim Nguyen plays with some of the children in the Red Group. Photographs by Melissa Vaca.

## Some Upcoming Events:

The Ground Truth, the powerful film that follows the lives of young U.S. soldiers as they experience recruitment and training, combat, homecoming, and the struggle to reintegrate with families and communities, will be shown by the Cedar Crest College Peace Coalition on Thursday, September 6, at 7 pm, in Miller Hall, Room 33, at the college. This film has been shown several times this summer and everyone praises its moving anti-war message. Call Linda McVeigh at 610-282-5586 for more information.

The Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 22-23, at the Kempton Community Center (west of Allentown, south of I-78 via Rt 143 or Rt. 737). The festival will feature workshops, working demonstrations, products, entertainment, speakers, children's activities, food and more. See [www.paenergyfest.com](http://www.paenergyfest.com) for more information.



### Attention High School Students and Their Family, Friends, & Acquaintances!!!

To avoid the unwanted calls from military recruiters and to avoid sharing your personal data with those same recruiters, it is important to complete an opt-out form for your high school (see below). A larger version is available from LEPOCO or at [www.militaryfreezone.org/opt\\_out.pdf](http://www.militaryfreezone.org/opt_out.pdf).

#### OPT OUT FORM

**Section 9528 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001** requires schools to release our family's private information to military recruiters unless we "opt out" in writing.

\_\_\_\_\_ As a student, I am exercising the right to "opt-out" and request that my own name, address and telephone number not be released to military recruiters.

\_\_\_\_\_ As a parent, I am exercising the right to "opt-out" and request that you do not turn over the name, address and telephone number of the following student to military recruiters.

School \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

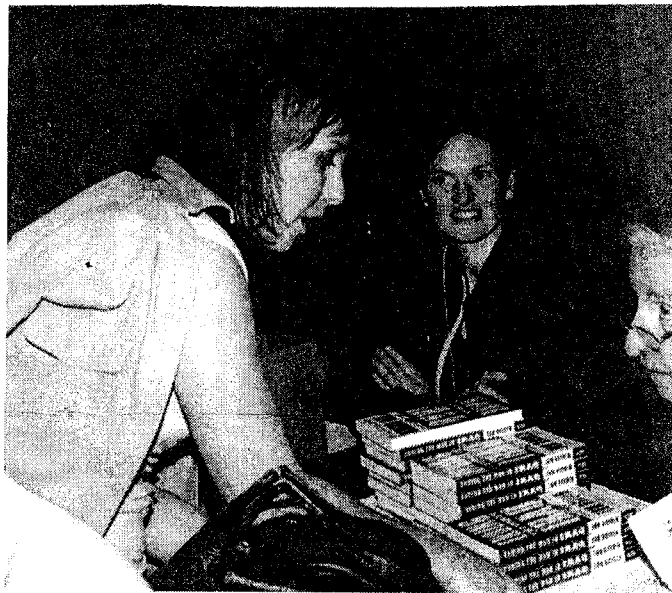
Federal public law 107-110, section 9528 of the ESEA, "No Child Left Behind Act" requires school districts to release student names, addresses, and phone numbers to military recruiters upon request. The law also requires the school district to notify students and parents of the right to Opt-Out from this by requesting that the district not release students information to military recruiters. This form is intended to serve as a request to withhold this information.

# UFPJ National Assembly —

United for Peace and Justice held their 3<sup>rd</sup> National Assembly in Chicago, June 22-24. I had the honor of representing LEPOCO as the group delegate.

The attendance was over 300 people representing thirty-five states. The assembly was densely compact from beginning to end with information, plenary sessions, and break out groups. I attended groups focused on student involvement and counter recruitment that I found to be both helpful and informative.

The theme of the assembly was to strategize for the next phase of the anti-war movement. A comprehensive program proposal was sent to all delegates prior to the event and was modified based on the input and votes of delegates during the plenary sessions at



Tom Hayden signing his book, "Ending the War in Iraq" for Stephanie Garman. She donated the book to LEPOCO.  
6/22/07 Photo from UFPJ web site.

the assembly. I have copies of the proposal for any interested persons. The plan suggested the following:

- 1) work to end congressional support of the war;
- 2) counter-recruitment, support for military resisters as well as veterans and military families;
- 3) projects to expose the economic costs of war and the military budget;
- 4) engaging in the 2008 electoral season to project a peace and justice agenda;
- 5) developing skills and organizing trainings for local groups;
- 6) challenging war profiteers;
- 7) a nationwide public education project.

The central action being called for by United for Peace and Justice is a day of regional, mass antiwar demonstrations in 6 to 8 cities around the country on Saturday, October 27th. The goal is to tap into the broad sentiment against the war and to bring new people into the streets in numbers we have not yet seen. But instead of asking everyone to go to Washington,

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organizers from around the country decided it was time to offer people mass mobilizations closer to home. LEPOCO has been encouraged to combine efforts with the Mid-Atlantic region.

There were a number of impressive speakers including Tom Hayden as Friday night's main speaker. He recently wrote a book titled, "Ending the War in Iraq" which is in the LEPOCO office for anyone who would like to borrow and read it.

A new steering committee was elected as the last order of business. I left Chicago with a great sense of belonging to a larger consciousness that is working towards a common goal. There are many days that our work can feel remote and isolated here in the Lehigh Valley, which made the assembly refreshing and deepened my personal commitment to the anti-war movement.

-Stephanie Garman, Youth and Militarism Coordinator for LEPOCO

## Nader Speaks to Greens In Reading

I attended the Green Party national convention in Reading on July 14 at the Sovereign Center for the Arts. The keynote speaker was Ralph Nader, consumer activist and former candidate for U.S. president.

His main theme was lack of ballot access for minor parties, especially in Pennsylvania. He described Pennsylvania as the King Kong of ballot busters. In contrast to Pennsylvania requiring 67,000 signatures, New Jersey only required him to obtain 1000 to get on the ballot in 2004. The Democratic Party filed suit against Nader's list of signatures in 2004. Signatures were invalidated because they went below the line or because the voter moved since registering although they were still eligible to vote. The judge levied \$81,000 in costs against Nader. This is unprecedented in U.S. history. He said court costs should be leveled against the objectors, not the candidate.

Major parties think the two-party system is sacred, but there is nothing in the Constitution forbidding multiple parties. Majors try to stop minors from participating in debates. (Greta Browne was denied participation in a Channel 39 debate in 2006 despite the fact that she was a legitimate candidate for Congress.)

Ralph commented on how taxpayer money is stolen by Halliburton, Exxon-Mobil and other corporations, who pushed Bush to invade Iraq. He praised John Edwards as the only candidate to mention the plight of the poor. In 1999 the military budget was \$290 billion and now it is twice that figure.

The speech was followed by a standing ovation and calls for Ralph to run for president in 2008.

- John Zachmann

# The Struggle Shared

*The less political policies are derived from a concrete human "here and now," and the more they fix their sights on an abstract "some day," the more easily they can denigrate into new forms of human slavery.*

- Vaclav Havel from the time when he was a prisoner in Czechoslovakia

## BATTLE LINES FORM AROUND HAZLETON'S IMMIGRATION LAW

On July 27<sup>th</sup> Federal District Judge James M. Munley overruled Hazleton, Pennsylvania's Illegal Immigration Relief Act, as unconstitutional. Far from burying the xenophobic legislation that demonizes undocumented immigrants, and scapegoats them for all of the city's growing pains, the new ruling has fired up proponents on both sides of an important national debate. Not only will the Munley decision be appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, but Hazleton's Mayor has been catapulted to national prominence, and now may run for the U.S. Senate in a bid to pursue his mission. As none other than Pat Robertson said on MSNBC, there are over a hundred other communities which have proposals similar to Hazleton's, believing that if the Federal Government won't enact and enforce laws restricting "illegals" it is up to municipalities to do so.

Hazleton's law would require that English be the official language, and would suspend the business permits of any employer who hires or rents to undocumented workers. In its case, representing the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Community Justice Project, the attorneys from the Immigrant's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union argued that although the intent of the law is to target only "illegal immigrants" the effect is to promote discrimination of all foreigners, regardless of their immigration status, because it is so hard to determine who is in the country without proper documentation.

Although Hazleton's Mayor Louis Barletta has blamed "illegal immigrants" for a budgetary crisis, over-burdened health care systems, and a wave of crime in his campaign

for legislative relief over the past year, the facts that emerged in the trial were that the city has moved from a \$1.2 million budget deficit to a small surplus, hospitals have served fewer immigrants than other area hospitals, and generated a system-wide profit of \$4 million last year, and finally, while there has been a surge in crime statistics over the last ten years, less than 1% were committed by immigrants.

Judge Munley's ruling said, in part: "The genius of our constitution is that it provides rights even to those who evoke the least sympathy from the general public... Whatever frustrations the officials of Hazleton may feel about the current state of immigration enforcement, the nature of the political system in the U.S. prohibits the city from enacting ordinances that disrupt a carefully drawn statutory scheme."

Hazleton's "illegal is illegal" approach is simplistic, and clearly begs the question of what the real answers are to the current flaws in our national immigration policy. This writer suggests that the answers may be found in issues that concern all working people: universal health care, a guaranteed living wage, the right to unionize and organize against the Walmartization of the economy, and international labor solidarity to resist the effects of Free Trade Agreements as a root cause of why so many foreign workers are driven to immigrate to the U.S. (see Joe DeRaymond's piece in the last *LEPOCO Newsletter*).

Sources: *The Morning Call & Free For All*, newsletter from ACLU of Pennsylvania.

IMPEACHMENT ON A ROLL - At the Allentown Armory Activist picnic on July 14<sup>th</sup>, (see last month's "Struggle Shared") the nationwide drive for impeachment of Bush and Cheney shifted gears and set off from the bucolic South Mountain

Park on the next leg of a long haul across the country.

Jim Goodnow and a group of Iraq Veterans Against the War boarded "The Yellow Rose of Texas Bus for Peace" to the cheers of the Impeach for Peace Picnickers and rolled off the mountain. Over the past 22 months, Jim and some part of the veteran's group have driven the Yellow Rose through 28 states with messages like, "I refuse to fight in a war started by men who refuse to fight in a war."

While the Yellow Rose vets are driving for an end to the war, and impeachment, they are calling for a national strike if Congress does not act. Incidentally, if the Yellow Rose seems to stop at McDonald's an inordinate number of times, it may not be as much for the food, as for the cooking oil: the engine is equipped to burn biodiesel fuel. To track their progress across the country, log onto [yellowrosepeacebus.blogspot.com](http://yellowrosepeacebus.blogspot.com).

RENEWABLE ENERGY FAIR - over the past many months, several members of the Lehigh Valley Alliance for Sustainable Communities have traveled to participate in regular meetings of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Renewable energy Conference.

The outcome of this commitment is the Pennsylvania Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Festival to be held in Kempton on Saturday and Sunday, September 22-23, from 9 am to 7 pm, each day, rain or shine. This is the third annual fair to be held on the 66-acre grounds of the Kempton Community Center.

If you attend, you can expect to be in workshops with respected experts from across the U.S., see exhibits and demonstrations of products that save energy and promote socially just relationships between humans and other inhabitants of the planet. Admission cost is \$12 per adult (\$15 for campers), \$6 for those 12 to 21 years old, and under 12 free. For directions or more information, check their website at [www.paenergyfest.com](http://www.paenergyfest.com).

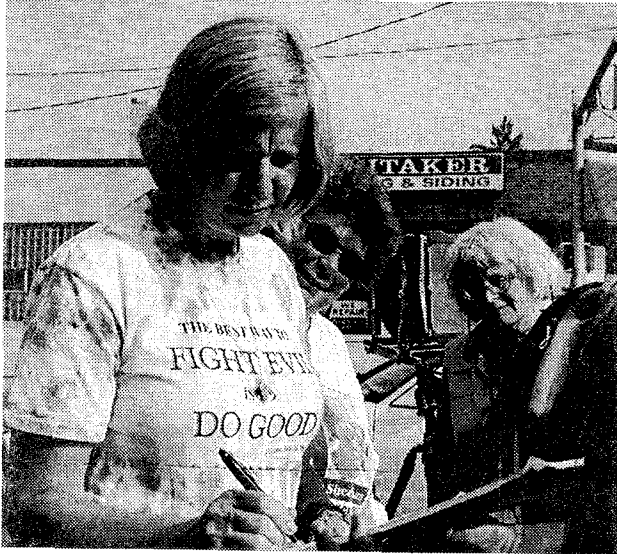
- Jeff Vitelli

# Cindy Sheehan Inspires Valley's Peace Community —

(continued from page 1)

student from Iraq), a musician, and a poet led up to Cindy Sheehan's speech. Addison Bross facilitated with dignity, introducing Cindy from whose speech I'd like to quote:

"Before we left, I had said, if Nancy Pelosi doesn't put impeachment back on the table, I'm going to run against her. Impeachment was never hers to take off the table. You don't come in and take part of the Constitution off the table. What do you take off next? George Bush has been systematically destroying the Constitution since he has come into power. The First



Cindy Sheehan signs a petition in Allentown as her sister, Dede Miller, and Judith Ross look on.

Photo by Susie Ravitz.

Amendment, the Fourth Amendment, the Eighth Amendment, all of the Amendments, the Supremacy Clause, Article 6 - he has been violating our Constitution, trampling on it, and I believe that if they don't impeach George Bush and Dick Cheney, they might as well shred the Constitution, because it will be invalid.

"Congress has been busy for the last six years handing over all their power to George Bush. They handed him their power to wage war. George Bush has said that no one in my administration has to testify to anything under oath: Dick Cheney has said he is not part of the executive branch and he doesn't have to give his papers to the national archives. What else have these people done? They have authorized torture. That is un-American. That harms our soldiers in the field. And, no information you get from torture is valid. It's inhumane. This policy of torture - torture harms the torturer as much as the tortured. And we are a nation of torturers. George Bush has made us a nation of torturers.

"George Bush left our brothers and sisters in the Gulf States of Mississippi and Louisiana hanging off their roofs. One of our stops was New Orleans. The

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ninth ward is being systematically taken away from the people, the people who own their homes. You know, the City will go in and mow the grass, and if the homeowners do not pay their bill the City will confiscate their property. That is so they can build luxury condominiums and casinos. Nature gave George Bush and his cronies the justification for a huge gentrification project.

"George Bush has even ignored Supreme Court rulings, especially Hamdan vs. Rumsfeld that said that detainees deserve their due process. George Bush has taken away Habeas Corpus. That does not just stop at terrorists, it applies to anyone that George Bush deems a terrorist. 'They' could be us. We can be detained if George Bush says to do it. We can have our property taken away, our assets taken away by an order signed a few days ago. If you undermine his policy in Iraq, you can have your assets taken away from you. Nobody is stopping this maniac.

"We went to John Conyers' office, one of my heroes, one of my mentors, a lifelong public servant who has done heroic things. And he said, 'We can't impeach, because we don't have the votes. If we impeach and fail, Fox will make us look stupid.' So I said, 'If I had to worry about Fox news, I would not even get out of bed.' I just asked him when Congress was going to do the morally correct thing, not the politically stupid thing. I said, 'If you are not going to help us, then the people have no recourse. We have no recourse against these criminals in the White House.' John Conyers said, 'Yes, you do, you can vote out the enablers in 2008.'"

"Let's look at what's going to happen in 2008. Say we do elect more Democrats, say we do elect a Democratic President, it's way too late to hold George Bush and Dick Cheney accountable. If anybody thinks they're going to give up their power that easily, they're wrong. Why did George Bush put, in a presidential directive, that he could declare martial law at any time, if he did not intend to use it, and to make himself the only decider in the entire country? That's not how our country works. We have checks and balances, and if Congress won't be a check and balance, if the media won't do their job as the Fourth Estate, then we the people have to be the checks and balances on this out of control government that we have.

"We are very pleased by the energy and the turnout and all the honks we received on our march here, and the wonderful energy that is here in Allentown. We know that your community has been especially hard hit by Bushco, and so we are here to encourage you and to get encouragement from you and we are really thrilled - it's been really great here."

- Judy Woodruff

Editor's Note: You can read Cindy Sheehan's entire speech at [www.lv-independent.org](http://www.lv-independent.org).



# Bits & Pieces

Ⓢ Walt Garvin and his guests will be sharing their views on progressive politics on radio station, WGPA, Mon.-Thurs., Sept. 10-13.

Ⓢ The Lehigh (University) Dialogue Center will hold its annual **Interfaith "Iftar" Dinner** at 6 pm, Sun., Sept. 16, at the Holiday Inn, Fogelsville. The event is free and will feature talks by local leaders of different faiths and organizations. To make a reservation call 610-871-0562 or e-mail [contact@lehighdialogue.org](mailto:contact@lehighdialogue.org) before Sept. 5.

Ⓢ Several statewide organizations are organizing a "No Hate in Our Town!" response to anti-immigrant activities taking place across PA. For more info. contact Dennis Biancuzzo at 717-695-0185 or see [www.paunity.bravehost.com](http://www.paunity.bravehost.com).

Ⓢ Peace & Justice Weekends at Kirkridge, Bangor, include the following: Daniel Berrigan and Elizabeth McAlister on "Walking With Sorrow: Suffering Servant Songs," Sept. 14-16; and, Hossein Alizadeh on "Iran: Unveiling the Mystery," Oct. 12-14. For more info. see [www.kirkridge.org](http://www.kirkridge.org) or call 610-588-1793.

Ⓢ Thank you to all the energetic LEPOCO folks who helped staff our booth at the Pride Festival on Aug. 19. Attendance at the festival was only slightly dampened by the rain.

Ⓢ To understand the subprime loan crisis see "The Hightower Lowdown," Aug. 2007, titled, "The Subprime Mortgage Disaster: Loan Sharks Wreak Havoc on Main Street and Wall Street." See [www.hightowerlowdown.org](http://www.hightowerlowdown.org).

Ⓢ The Washington Peace Letter, published by the Washington, DC, Peace Center, Summer 2007, reports that more than 600 peace activists were arrested across the U.S. in non-

violent actions against the War and Occupation in Iraq, between January and June 2007.

Ⓢ You can help support a call for the U.S. Senate to filibuster any funding request that fails to include funds to bring the troops home as quickly and safely as possible by going to [www.filibusterforpeace.org](http://www.filibusterforpeace.org).

Ⓢ The Coalition for Peace Action (Bucks County) is holding a public dialogue on foreign policy with **Rep. Patrick Murphy** on Thurs., Aug. 30, at 7 pm, at the Doylestown Presbyterian Church, 176 E. Court St. A potluck supper begins at 6 pm. Call 215-547-2656 for more info.

Ⓢ On Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>, the **Just Foreign Policy** reports that their estimate of violent Iraqi deaths due to the U.S.-led invasion and occupation has crossed the one million mark.

Ⓢ As of early Aug. 2007, nearly 260 cities nationwide have passed local resolutions calling on Congress to end the war in Iraq, according to the Peace Action Education Fund.

Ⓢ "Death: The War's Only Victor!" is theme of a Die-In planned by the Brandywine Peace Community for center-city Philadelphia for Mon., Sept. 17, in response to the Petraeus Report, due out Sept. 15. For more info. call 610-544-1818.

Ⓢ The July 8, 2007, edition of *The Express-Times*, featured an article, "Mission of Faith," about the Rev. John C. Fowler and the peace vigil he has led every Friday, at noon, in Allentown (at 5<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton, Sts.), since before the war in Iraq started. If you would like to read it, the LEPOCO Office has a copy or see if it is available on-line.

Ⓢ A young woman named Peace, walked through Lahaska in late July on her 1000-mile journey started in Portsmouth, NH on June 1. In the tradition of Peace Pilgrim, she carries no money and no food (only an ample supply of water). She said she fasts until she is given food and she walks until she is given shelter. Her tunic says "Walking for Peace." She will complete her walk in Central Pennsylvania.

Source: Bucks County Herald, 8/2/07

Ⓢ Local newspapers carried the following op-eds in recent weeks: "Americans Should Listen to the Words of Cindy Sheehan," by Joe DeRaymond, 7/29/07, *The Express-Times*; "Bottled Water Isn't Environmentally Friendly," by Arthur Caplan, 8/10/07, *The Morning Call*; "Rep. Dent Should Vote 'Yes' on SCIP Compromise," by David Brown, 8/15/07, *The Morning Call*; "Immigrant Workers Should Be Welcomed," by Joe DeRaymond, 8/16/07, *The Morning Call*.

## MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... ETC.

Tues., Sept. 4, 7 pm: LEPOCO **Steering Committee** meeting at the Peace Center.

Thurs., Sept. 6, Noon: LEPOCO **Fundraising Committee** meeting at NAWAB Restaurant, south Bethlehem.

Mon., Sept. 10, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at Peace Center. All members and friends welcome at this monthly business meeting where the activities of all committees and working groups are reviewed.

Tues., Sept. 11, 7 pm: **Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition Meeting** (proposed) at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wed., Sept. 12, 7 pm: **Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at the Peace Center.

Thurs., Sept. 13, 7 pm: **Veterans for Peace** meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sun., Sept. 16, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearsal at home of Bob Riggs, west Bethlehem. Call 610-867-1244.

Wed., Sept. 19, 7 pm: **Association for Students Advocating Peace** meeting at the Peace Center.

Thurs., Sept. 20, 6 pm: **Nuclear Abolition Sisters** meeting at Olive Branch Restaurant on Broadway, south Bethlehem.

Mon., Oct. 1, 7 pm: LEPOCO **Steering Committee** meeting at the Peace Center.

Mon., Oct. 8, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at Peace Center.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able.



# LEPOCO

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P&P's 9/15/07 March on DC Yard Sale Peace Picnic
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Bits & Pieces Meetings...

Come Ask Congressman Charles Dent  
to *Take a Stand* On the War in Iraq!  
Tues., Aug. 28, 7 pm  
Steelworkers' Union Hall, Bethlehem  
(see pages 1&2)

LEPOCO  
**Yard Sale**  
**Saturday**  
**Oct. 6**  
See page 3

Popcorn & Politics  
Fri. & Sat., Sept. 7 & 8, 7 pm  
*When the Levees Broke*

Popcorn & Politics  
Friday, October 5, 7 pm  
*Children of Men*

Potluck & Politics  
Sunday, October 14, 6:30 pm  
**Susie Ravitz**  
*Interfaith Peace Brigade to Israel/Palestine*

**Aug. 28-Sept. 2:**  
Veterans For Peace booth at Allentown Fair (see p. 1&3)

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

**Sept. 29:** Peace Fair, Buckingham Friends Meeting, Lahaska (see p.9)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual LEPOCO Peace Picnic**  
**Sun., Sept. 30, 3-7 pm**  
Friends Meetinghouse, Bethlehem  
Food, Games Music  
(See page 3)

**Eyes Wide Open**  
*Display memorializing Pennsylvania troops killed in Iraq*  
**Sunday-Monday**  
**Sept. 23-24**  
Lafayette College, Easton

**Tuesday, Sept. 25**  
Northampton Community College  
See pages 1&2

