



Randy Kehler to Speak at Annual Dinner

LEPOCO will welcome longtime activist, Randy Kehler, as its speaker at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 29, starting at 5:30 pm, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem.

When Joan Baez received an award from the War Resisters League (WRL) at its 90th Anniversary Celebration, she, in turn, gave her award to Randy Kehler for his lifetime achievements. During that same evening, WRL honored Daniel Ellsberg who was inspired by Randy Kehler. According to Randy, "Daniel Ellsberg credits a speech I gave at the WRI (War Resisters International) Triennial Conference at Haverford College in 1969, which he attended, as the critical event that led him to release the top-secret 'Pentagon Papers.'" (You can get that story in Ellsberg's own words if you turn to Chapter 17 of his book, *Secrets: A Memoir of the Vietnam War and the Pentagon Papers*).

Randy Kehler has been actively engaged in research, writing, organizing, and advocacy regarding a range of public policy issues for the past 40 years. These issues have included nuclear disarmament and alternatives to armed conflict, energy reform, land stewardship, economic development, electoral democracy, and government transparency and accountability.

A graduate of Harvard College, Randy spent 22 months in federal prison for his refusal to cooperate with the Vietnam-era military draft. Randy is a co-founder of the Traprock Peace Center (Deerfield, MA); the Franklin County (MA) Community Development Corporation; the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign (national); the Working Group on Electoral Democracy (national); the anti-nuclear power Safe & Green Campaign & SAGE Alliance (VT, MA., NH); and, most recently, Project Unspeakable (national). He is also a frequent speaker in high schools and colleges on the topic of "active nonviolence."

Randy and his wife Betsy Corner have lived in Colrain, MA, for the past 35 years. As conscientious objectors to war, Randy and Betsy have for many years redirected their federal income tax payments to non-military needs such as food for the hungry,

shelter for the homeless, and relief for war victims (including U.S. soldiers). Their war-tax refusal and the story of the IRS seizure of their home is the subject of an award-winning documentary film entitled "An Act of Conscience" (Turning Tide Productions, 1997).

Randy's topic will be, "Resisting the Secrecy and Lies that Make War (and Other Forms of Violence) Possible."

In preparation for Randy's visit and for Tax Day, April 15, LEPOCO will show, "An Act of Conscience" on Friday, March 14, at 7 pm, on the large screen at LEPOCO.



Annual Dinner Tickets:

- \$30 - Regular Adult; \$75 - Special Supporter;
- \$10 - Limited Income Adult / Child;
- \$10 - Program-only, regular;
- \$5 - Program-only, limited income

*Dinner tickets by advance reservation only.
Program-only tickets available at the door.*

Return Coupon

**LEPOCO Annual Dinner:
Saturday, March 29, 2014**

**Wesley United Methodist Church
2540 Center St., Bethlehem**

(Pre-dinner music at 5 pm; Dinner at 5:30 pm)

Enclosed is \$ _____. Please reserve ____ tickets for:

Name _____ Phone _____

____ Mail tickets to:

Address _____ Zip _____

____ Hold tickets at door.

Return to:

LEPOCO, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015,
before 5 pm, Monday, March 24, 2014.

LEPOCO's 14th Annual Dr. M. L. King, Jr. Memorial Event

On January 18, over 25 LEPOCO members and friends walked through the freezing Allentown streets, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message to end poverty, racism, and war. From the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King Memorial at 4th Street to the Public Library at 12th Street, we walked with lead banner and peace flags to the rhythm of drum, tambourine, and beaded gourd. At the library about fifty people gathered to hear the program of song, commentary, and discussion.

After introduction and *Down by the Riverside* sung by the LEPOCO Peace Singers, two poems by Maya Angelou were read: *Abundant Hope* for Dr. King, and *We Lift our Tearful Voices to say 'Thank You'* for Nelson Mandela, who died December 5, 2013.

That Kind of Grace, sung by the Peace Singers, was followed by the "songspeak" of "Still Seeking the Beloved Community," by Roberta Meek, Muhlenberg College instructor, jazz vocalist and Peace Camp leader of many years. Roberta reminisced about meeting her hero Dr. King when he visited her father and other activists in Philadelphia. She recalled sitting on the lap of her weeping father, watching Dr. King's funeral on TV. Roberta occasionally wove song into her comments, urging people to join in humming, clapping, or singing along with *Amazing Grace*, *This Little Light of Mine*, and *We Shall Overcome*. Roberta's mention of Dr. King referring to himself as "maladjusted" to the injustices in our world seemed to especially resonate with those in attendance.

What would Dr. King do in 2014? A moment of reflection brought forth comments from the audience about Roberta's talk and Dr. King's prescient message. The prison issue was revisited. (Read: [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness](#), a book by Michele Alexander, and the topic of LEPOCO's Book Group on April 1.) The program ended with the song *Siyahamba*.

The Nuclear Abolition Sisters, who planned the event, thank everyone for attending and for the generous collection that covered the cost of the event and a little more.

- Monica McAghon

Cuba Today

Recently I distributed donations at a community center in Cuba and enjoyed a standing ovation and songs. Cubans like U.S. citizens, but hate our government's policies of economic blockade and attempts to undermine the current Castro government.

Cuba, however, is a poor nation with crumbling infrastructure especially along the beautiful seaside in Havana. A Cuban economist told us that the original model of communism was a utopian ideal and never a practical form of government. He said that, today, the

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accepted system is socialism while slowly moving into a controlled smaller dose of Capitalism. He estimated that the U.S. economic blockade has cost a trillion dollars in lost trade to Cubans since President Eisenhower. A tobacco farmer told us that 90% of his harvest goes to the government, but 10% is now given to him for personal profit as a private entrepreneur and he could live well on that arrangement.

Havana was crowded with hoards of European and Asian tourists traveling in new Chinese buses. Cubans receive free health care, education including college and beyond for qualified students, and housing subsidies. Wages are low. College graduates do public service to repay their free education. Crime, drug trafficking, and AIDS occur, but are greatly less than we experience. No U.S. businesses, banks, or products of any kind were seen.

Cuban war veterans who served in the people's revolt in Angola in 1980 told us that they had positive experiences serving in defense and civilian support primarily. Today several thousand Cuban medical doctors provide medical care to rural Brazilians in exchange for Brazilian oil.

Every year the United Nations votes that the U.S. should end its economic boycott of Cuba. This year, again, Israel remained the only country voting with the United States in the UN to support the U.S. economic blockade started in 1960. All the other 188 member countries voted that the U.S. should end this relic from the Cold War.

- Vince Stravino

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

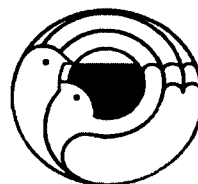
Bethlehem, PA 18015

phone: 610-691-8730

fax: 610-691-8904

website: www.lepoco.org

e-mail: lepoco@fast.net



The *LEPOCO Newsletter* is published eight 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	\$35
Limited Income Member	\$ 5
Household Membership	\$45
Supporting Member	\$75

Articles/news should be submitted to the address above for consideration for the next issue of the newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: robert Daniels II, Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Jeff Vitelli.

Thanks to all the people who collate and prepare the newsletter for mailing each month.

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Sarah Andrew, Terry Briscoe, Martha Christine, Sheila Clever, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Janet Goloub, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Monica McAghon, Dan Miller, Janet Ney, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

Popcorn & Politics

Friday, March 7th, 7:00 pm

"A Place at the Table"

A Popcorn & Politics Film projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

This documentary investigates incidents of hunger experienced by millions of people in the United States, and proposed solutions to the problem.

Narrated by Jeff Bridges. Directed by Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush. 84 minutes.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, March 14th, 7:00 pm

"An Act of Conscience"

A Popcorn & Politics Film projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

This is a special P&P -- not on the First Friday. Randy Kehler, featured in this documentary, is LEPOCO's Annual Dinner speaker in March (see page 1). Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner's life-long commitment to pacifism led them to risk losing their home. For fourteen years, they publicly refused to pay federal taxes as a protest against war and military spending. The film chronicles the couple's five-year struggle to nonviolently resist the seizure of their home by the IRS. They were joined by supporters from across the country, including Fr. Daniel Berrigan and Pete Seeger.

Narrated by Martin Sheen. Directed by Robbie Leppzer. 90 minutes. 1997.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, April 4th, 7:00 pm

"Dirty Wars"

A Popcorn & Politics Film projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

This documentary follows investigative reporter Jeremy Scahill as he delves into the hidden world of covert wars, from Iraq to Yemen, Jordan, Somalia, and beyond. What begins as a report on a deadly U.S. night raid in a remote corner of Afghanistan quickly turns into a global investigation of the secretive and powerful Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). Scahill is pulled into a world of covert operations unknown to the public and carried out across the globe by people who do not exist on paper and may never appear before Congress.

Directed by Rick Rowley. 87 minutes. 2013.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



Book Group

The First Tuesday LEPOCO Book Club will meet next on March 4th. The book for discussion will be, *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, and the Minimum Wage.*, by Kirstin Downey. On April 1st, the group will discuss, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander; and on May 6th, *Hammarskjold: A Life*, by Roger Lipsey.

Choose one or more of these books that you would like to read and join the lively discussion. The Book Club meets at the Bethlehem Wegman's (off Rt. 512, north of Rt. 22). The meeting starts at 6 pm. You can get some food and/or drink and join the group in the upstairs dining area. For more info. contact Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

Help Observe Black History Month

LANTA and the Liberty Bell Museum have linked their projects honoring civil rights icon Rosa Parks, almost 60 years after her "sit-in" on a Montgomery, AL

bus. LANTA has installed plaques on a front seat of each of their buses, "Dedicated to the Memory of Rosa Parks." The Liberty Bell Museum (in Zion's United Church of Christ, 622 Hamilton St., Allentown), is featuring an exhibit, "From the Bell to the Bus and Beyond: Rosa Parks," through May 31. Ride a LANTA bus to see the plaques and call 610-435-4232 for more about the exhibit.

Muhlenberg College, Allentown, is presenting three films followed by panel discussions under the theme, "Created Equal," to honor the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation.

"Slavery By Another Name," about convict labor. Film Screening, Mon., Feb. 10, 7 pm; Panel Discussion, Thurs., Feb. 13, 7 pm.

"Freedom Riders." Film Preview, Mon., March 10, 7 pm; Panel Discussion, Tues., March 4, 7 pm.

"The Loving Story," about laws that banned interracial marriages. Film Preview, Mon., April 7, 7 pm; Panel Discussion, Tues., April 8, 7 pm.

The films will be previewed in Trexler Library, B-02 and the panel discussions will be held in Level A Concourse of the Library.

Remembering Pete Seeger

Pete Seeger, an inspiration for so many of us, died in late January. It has been truly heartening to read, hear and see the many reports on the deep significance of Pete Seeger's life.

*Old devil hate, I knew you long ago,
Then I found out the poison in your breath.
Now when we hear your lies, my lovers gather 'round
And help me rise to fight you one more time!*

From "Old Devil Time," words & music by Pete Seeger, 1969

In 2013 Pete and his family allowed Syracuse Cultural Workers to produce the first "official" T-shirt of Pete's message though, typically, he did not want his name on it! The T-shirt shows Pete's banjo with its iconic saying, "This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender." With the banjo is Pete's quote, "...the right song at the right moment can change history."
1919-2014, Pete Seeger Presente! Syracuse Cultural Workers, 1-29-14

He (Pete) was the quintessential Energizer Bunny, with multiple ideas constantly popping out of his mouth that he would always write on scraps of paper and give to people.
Nadine Bloch, www.wagingnonviolence.org, 1-28-14

John Cronin, the former head of the environmental group Riverkeeper, remembers spying a solitary older man about two years ago on the Beacon waterfront scooping litter into a plastic bag. When the man stood up he recognized the signature ramrod bearing of Mr. Seeger... Another time he spotted Mr. Seeger, bundled up against a sleet-laced cold, on a roadside..., holding up a sign proclaiming, "Peace," making his own quixotic statement on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
"The Man Up the Hill in His Log Cabin..." by Joseph Berger, *New York Times*, 1-29-14

"He was both the God-like figure to folk people, but then the most un-God-like person to walk the earth. He had no sense of pretense. That was his beauty. There was no ego involved at all. He cared more about the world and community and power of folk music."
Dave Fry quoted in the *The Morning Call*, 1-29-14

Pete Seeger sang until his voice wore out, and then he kept on singing, decade upon decade. Mr. Seeger ... sang for children, folk-music devotees, union members, civil-rights marchers, antiwar protesters, environmentalists and everyone else drawn to a repertoire that extended from ancient ballads to brand-new songs about every cause that moved him. But it wasn't his own voice he wanted to hear. He wanted everyone to sing along... For Mr. Seeger, folk music and a sense of community were inseparable, and where he saw a community, he saw the possibility of political action.
"A Folk Revivalist..." by Jon Pareles, *New York Times*, 1-29-14

I went to the Soviet Union three times, in 1964, and in 1967, I think, and again in 1981, I concentrated on singing songs of the civil rights movement, rather than the labor movement, because that's what really turned my life around: seeing what Dr. King did, without using force and violence.

2008 interview with Pete Seeger by Sarah van Gelder, *Yes! Magazine*, www.commondreams.org, 1-28-14

Somehow the two of them (Pete and Toshi Seeger) managed to merge an unending optimism with a grounded, realistic sense of life in all its natural travails and glories.
Harvey Wasserman, www.commondreams.org, 1-28-14

"He was critical and thoughtful and argumentative and inspiring and all those things. What a blessing to have somebody like that."
Mark Moss quoted in "Folk icon remembered..." *The Express-Times*, 1-29-14

Pete gave us everything -- inspiration, humor, organizing, collective empowerment. And Pete -- and now his legacy -- remain among the most principled and committed of our artists. He never lost his way in the toughest battles -- through the civil war in Spain and the depression, through the perils of the McCarthy era when he showed up after being subpoenaed, but refused to testify about his ideas or associations.

"We'll Carry the Song..." Phyllis Bennis, www.commondreams.org, 1-29-14

Well, it's been my belief that learning how to do something in your hometown is the most important thing... If there's a world here in a hundred years, it's going to be saved by tens of millions of little things. The powers-that-be can break up any big thing they want. They can corrupt it or co-opt it from the inside, or they can attack it from the outside. But what are they going to do about 10 million little things? They break up two of them and three more like them spring up!
2008 interview with Pete Seeger by Sarah van Gelder, *Yes! Magazine*, www.commondreams.org, 1-28-14

*Some say that humankind won't long endure
But what makes them so doggone sure?
I know that you who hear my singing
Could make those freedom bells go ringing...*

From "Quite Early Morning," words & music by Pete Seeger, 1969

Please watch/listen to, two replayed interviews with Pete Seeger: www.democracynow.org 1-28-14 & www.loe.org (Living on Earth) 1-31-14.

The Struggle Shared

Sunflower Sentinels:

A poem by Jeff Vitelli about South Bethlehem's Maze Garden

In the Maze

Garden, Heavy-headed sunflowers sway and bow
over beds of beans and squashes, peppers and eggplants,
tomatoes, beets, and basil awaiting harvest.

In this

Amazing Oasis of peace and calm,
neighborhood men and women
come to munch on greens from the soil.

Amazing!

A community garden growing,
flourishing, surviving, lush and green
not twenty yards away from the dusty demolition.

Rising

from the ashes of gentrified urban blight,
appears this model of sustainability,
like a prescient vision of the kind of hope,

Hope

that can sprout from reclaimed ground
where-ever we plant seeds of communities
presided over by enormously disarming
sunflowers.

SAVING THE MAZE GARDEN -

In 1996, the year that Bethlehem Steel stopped making the product that was the lifeblood of the city's economy, a small group of Lehigh University students, and community residents dedicated The Maze Garden on a plot of dusty land at the busy intersection at the foot of southside's Fahy Bridge.

The abandoned property had been bought at auction by the county for \$1, and donated to the city for economic development. The intricate design of raised beds and paths was inspired by the myth of Theseus, representing rebirth, and the challenge of transition.

Over the past 18 years, with the dedicated support of community and student groups, the Maze Garden has supplied residents of the neighborhood, and organizations like New Bethany Ministries soup kitchen, with a bounty of fresh produce, as well as a place of tranquility. It has become an education site for southside children working with Lehigh students.

In November, the community learned that the city was planning to sell the land to a developer who plans to build a seven-story office building on the site. At a city council meeting on November 19th, despite vocal objections from a group of Lehigh stu-

dents, and many community members, Bethlehem City Council, with Karen Dolan being the only dissenting vote, decided to go ahead with the sale of the Maze Garden to facilitate the city's application for a multi-million dollar "City Revitalization and Improvement Zone" subsidized with state taxes.

The Maze Garden support network is rallying. Breena Holland, an Associate Professor of Political Science and the Environmental Initiative at Lehigh University, and Director of the South Side Initiative's Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture Working Group, spoke at the City Council meeting, "Before they do anything to the land or demolish the garden, I'd like a formal commitment to ensure it will be moved and paid for by someone..." Her students have been meeting with Lehigh officials and city officials. A site has been selected for transplanting the Maze Garden, to the Bethlehem Greenway, between Webster and Taylor Streets.

One of the next steps is to reach out to the extended South Side Community to build strong alliances between the vision and passion of the Lehigh students, and the day-to-day reality of the residents. What is envisioned is a walk from New Bethany Ministries, at

the west end of 4th Street, to Victory House at the other end of the Greenway, stopping at some of the community centers along the way -- Unity House, the Rooney Building, Café The Lodge -- talking along the way about replanting the Maze Garden.

The time-frame for the appearance of bulldozers at the Garden is uncertain, but may depend on how vocal the community is in demanding the preservation of Maze Garden plantings.

PHYLLIS HOFFMAN, PRESENTE -

Kathryn Hoffman, familiar veteran LEPOCO activist, traces her radical activist beginnings to the writings of John Peter Altgeld, the only socialist governor of the State of Illinois. Her mother, Phyllis Braendle was reading one of his books one night when she was working the reception desk of a women's dorm. Her father, Richard Hoffman walked by, recognized the title, and struck up a conversation, which developed into a relationship, eventually a marriage, and five children, including Kathryn.

Phyllis Hoffman passed away on January 8th, at the age of 86, at home, surrounded by her children. Phyllis had been living with her daughter, Marilou, in Rhode Island. After her husband died in 1986, Phyllis had lived with Kathryn and her family, in Allentown for several years.

While she lived locally Phyllis taught in the Allentown School District, and was active in LEPOCO. Even when she moved out of the area, living in Arizona, and then in Rhode Island, she remained a devoted member of LEPOCO, attending our Annual Dinner last year, and participating in events whenever she was able.

Phyllis, a great lover of animals, a world traveler, and a life-long peace and justice activist, was also a devoted Methodist, and loved John Wesley's exhortation to "do good to whoever you can, whenever and wherever you can, for as long as you can."

As Kathy's anecdote about her radical origins makes clear, Phyllis's seeds of activism were planted deep and spread wide, ensuring that, as Roberta Meek sang-spoke to those gathered at the January 18th MLK event in the Allentown Public Library, "the circle is unbroken."

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

☪ The Bethlehem Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. will hold their 69th Annual **Freedom Fund Dinner** on Sun., Feb. 16 -- reception at 2:30 pm, and dinner at 3 pm. The speaker will be Kevin Peterman of Howard University, on "Education Under Fire." Donation is \$35. For more info. or reservations call 610-866-2078 or 610-865-9379.

☪ Harvey Wasserman has written a lot about the dangers of the ongoing nuclear disaster at **Fukushima**, Japan. His articles are often published at www.commondreams.org. On Jan. 12 he wrote that the "Toll of U.S. Sailors Devastated by Fukushima Radiation Continues to Climb." There is now a federal class action lawsuit for the "first responders" on the USS Ronald Reagan and other U.S. ships who were drenched in radioactive fall-out as they were delivering humanitarian aid to tsunami victims near Fukushima in March 2011.

On Feb. 3 he published "50 Reasons We Should Fear the Worst from Fukushima." Reason 22: "Three Russian scientists who compiled more than 5000 studies concluded in 2005 that Chernobyl had already killed nearly a million people worldwide."

☪ Northampton Community College will hold their 4th Annual **Peace & Justice Conference** on Thurs., March 27, 9:30 am - 3 pm. The keynote lecture at the conference will be delivered by Kelsey Timmerman about "Going Global: A Search for Community in a Globalized World."

☪ *When a company pays its labor less than its labor can live on, yet pays its CEO a salary 400 times as large as its workers are paid, it is paying him an unearned dividend out of its vital assets, that is, out of the lives, the health and the happiness of its employees.*

- from letter to the editor, "\$15 an Hour Should Be...Standard," by William Asley, 1/13/14, *The Intelligencer*, Doylestown.

☪ *The billionaires who own Walmart pay their workers less than a living wage. No doubt God will welcome them through the pearly gates as a reward for their virtue of thrift.*

-from a letter to the editor, "Criticizing the Rich?" by Bernie Berg of Easton, 1/10/14, *The Morning Call*

☪ While a U.S. Conference of Mayors survey of our 25 large and midsize metro areas finds that **homelessness** and hunger have increased in this country, the city of Allentown continues to struggle to meet the needs of people who are homeless there.

Thank you to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for working to help those living in the cold and to Bill White, a columnist at the Morning Call, for writing about the issue.

☪ A new grass-roots group, **Jobs for Allentown**, has been formed to help ensure that Allentown residents, many of them poor, get the first crack at the hundreds of jobs expected to be created in the new downtown arena zone. The group also wants assurance that arena zone jobs will pay a living wage. The group rallied for these goals on Jan. 22, at Allentown City Hall before the meeting of the official Allentown Jobs Task Force, an offshoot of the Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Development Authority.

☪ WLVT, Channel 39, will air an American Masters program, "**Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth**," on Wed., Feb. 12, at 10 pm. Alice Walker will celebrate her 70th birthday.

☪ *To not merely adopt pacifism as a personal philosophy, but rather to*

stake your career and your organization's future on a belief in the power of nonviolence as a political force, requires tremendous determination. It took years of deliberation and delay for Martin Luther King to take such a step. But when he finally did, the result was decisive: King went from being someone who had been repeatedly swept up in the saga of civil rights - a reluctant protagonist in the battle against American apartheid -- to being a shaper of history.

- from "When Martin Luther King Gave Up His Guns," by Mark Engler & Paul Engler, published 1/15/14, at www.wagingnonviolence.org.

☪ *Five years after the march (in 1963), Dr. King was speaking out against the Vietnam War, condemning America's militarism and imperialism -- famously stating that our nation was the "greatest purveyor of violence in the world." He saw the connections between the wars we wage abroad, and the utter indifference we have for poor people and people of color at home.*

- from essay by Michelle Alexander written for 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and quoted by Rethinking Schools in "Connecting the Dots for a Better World," 1/30/14

Check out the LEPOCO website at www.lepoco.org for a Calendar of Events, Newsletter Archive, Videos, & More.

Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail updates or to receive your newsletter by e-mail by calling 610-691-8730 or by writing to lepoco@fast.net.

Support LEPOCO!

___ Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$ _____
(\$35 individual; \$45 hh; \$75 supporter; \$5 lim. income)

___ I am also enclosing an extra donation of \$ _____

___ I would like to support LEPOCO's work with a ___ monthly / ___ quarterly pledge of \$ _____

___ I'm interested in the following issues: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Return to: LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, or Donate through PayPal by going to the "membership" page at www.lepoco.org.

Bits & Pieces

Ⓔ Each March LEPOCO chooses half of the members of the **Steering Committee** for the organization. They will serve a two-year term. If you would be interested in working with LEPOCO in this capacity or if you have suggestions for someone who would be perfect as a Steering Committee member, please contact the Peace Center at 610-691-8730

Ⓔ **"Peter Schumann: The Shatterer,"** the first solo museum exhibition of Bread & Puppet Theater founder and director Peter Schumann, will continue at the Queens Museum in New York City, until March 30. The exhibition marks the 50th anniversary of the Bread & Puppet Theater and is introducing new audiences "to a largely unseen body of work by one of the most independent, prolific, and complex artists of our time." For more info. see www.queensmuseum.org.

Ⓔ At noon, on Thurs., Feb. 20, "fracking fighters" from across the Mid-Atlantic will converge in Baltimore at the War Memorial Plaza (corner of N. Gay & E. Fayette Sts.) to take a stand against what Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) calls the biggest single **gas drilling threat: Cove Point**. Cove Point is a \$3.8 billion export terminal that would take fracked gas from throughout the Marcellus Shale, liquefy it on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, and ship it to Asia. If Cove Point gets built by Dominion Resources (CCAN calls Dominion mega-polluters) there will be enormous increased pressure to frack throughout our region. See www.chesapeakeclimate.org for more info.

Ⓔ For a multitude of reasons we are encouraged to buy locally-grown food but we learn from the local chapter of **Buy Fresh Buy Local** that the Lehigh Valley has lost 80 percent of its farms and 53 percent of its farmland in the last century. This alone is reason to support the residents of Allen Township who are speaking out against a

proposal to build a sprawling FedEx facility in their township. This also leads one to question the wisdom of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission when it says the FedEx mega hub is "a good fit with its vision for development."

Ⓔ On Jan. 27, over 550 groups in the U.S. signed a statement addressed to the U.S. Congress urging them to oppose legislation that would put the **Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TPP)** on a "fast track" for approval.

January 2014 marked 20 years of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) and Jan. 28-31, North American activists gathered in Mexico City at a forum saying, "Enough of Free Trade! No TPP!"

Witness for Peace reports on some of NAFTA's legacy in Mexico: 12 million more impoverished people; small-scale Mexican farmers no longer able to sustain themselves on their land; and, while only 25% of Mexicans live

in the countryside, they account for 44% of those who migrate to the U.S.

The 550 groups that signed the TPP letter told Congress, "After decades of devastating job loss, attacks on environmental and health laws and floods of unsafe imported food under our past trade agreements, America must chart a new course on trade policy." For more information on what we can do to stop the TPP see www.citizenstrade.org.

Ⓔ **Decarcerate Pennsylvania** will hold an organizing meeting for the Lehigh Valley area on Sat., March 1, 1:30-3:30 pm, at St. James AME Zion Church, Allentown (410 W. Union St.). Decarcerate PA's mission is to have no more prisons built in our state; to reduce the number of people in prison; and to begin community reinvestment in schools, jobs, housing, etc., instead of expanding our prisons.



MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... ETC.

- Mondays, February 10 & March 10, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at the Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed and set.
- Tuesday, February 11, 3:30 pm: Bike-Walkathon 2014 Planning Committee** meeting at LEPOCO.
- Thursday, February 13, Noon: Nuclear Abolition Sisters Meeting** at Panera's Restaurant, Rt. 33 & Freemansburg Ave.
- Thursdays, February 13 & March 13, 6:15 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center (prior to the meeting some in the veterans group will participate in the second Thursday Peace Vigil, 4-5 pm, and go for dinner at 5:15 pm, at the south Bethlehem Perkins Restaurant).
- Thursday, February 13, 7 pm: Annual Dinner Planning Meeting** at Bethlehem Wegman's (off Rt. 512 just north of Rt. 22), purchase food and/or beverage and meet in upstairs dining area.
- Friday, February 14, 1 pm: Newsletter Planning Committee** meeting at the Peace Center.
- Sunday, February 16, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearsal & meeting at home of Amanda Zaniesienko in Bethlehem. Rehearsals will also be held Sundays, March 2, 16, and 23. Call 610-691-8730 to get locations.
- Monday, February 17, 4 pm: Military Charter School Response Committee** meeting at LEPOCO.
- Tuesday, February 18, 3:30 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing** meeting at LEPOCO.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information on the Americas Solidarity Group, the Peace Camp Planning Committee, or about any of the meetings listed above, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings please see www.lepoco.org.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015
610-691-8730 lepoco@fast.net
Fax: 610-691-8904 www.lepoco.org

Address Service Requested

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Lehigh Valley, PA

See Inside:

Page 1

Annual Dinner

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ML King Event
Cuba Report

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P & P
Book Group
Black History
Month

Page 4

Remembering
Pete Seeger

Page 5

Struggle Shared

Page 6 & 7

Bits & Pieces
Meetings...

Enclosed

Art Raffle Tickets

Monthly Peace Vigil

Our wars continue.

Please help witness for peace.

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Second Thursdays:

February 13 & March 13

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103 /
Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136

LEPOCO's

Fantastic

Annual

Art Raffle

See tickets enclosed
with this mailing.

LEPOCO Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 29

Speaker: Randy Kehler

For reservation form and more information please see page 1.

Popcorn & Politics

Fridays
at 7 pm:

March 7

"A Place at the
Table"

March 14

"An Act of
Conscience"

April 4

"Dirty Wars"

(See page 3.)

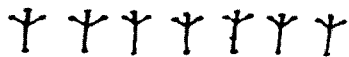
LEPOCO 2014 Art Raffle

Benefits Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern (LEPOCO).

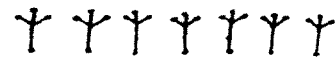
Drawing at LEPOCO's Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 29, 2014.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$1 per ticket / \$5 for 6 tickets.

See over for tickets. Separate drawings for each prize!



Prizes



Hand-turned Wooden Bowl by Lee Buck

Lee is a long-time LEPOCO member and area artist. His beautiful hand-turned wooden bowls have graced the Art Raffle for several years. He is a woodworker, gardener, and beekeeper.

Small Oil Painting by William DeRaymond

William DeRaymond, a practicing artist for 30 years, has participated in numerous shows on the East and the West Coasts. This year he is donating a small painting and stand that could be set on a table. For more information on his work see www.deraymond-art.com.

Hand-Crocheted Afghan by Anna Reczek

Anna is donating another of her colorful hand-crocheted afghans -- red, black and white this year. This is a beautiful prize of coziness. Anna is retired, and a very active resident at the Rooney Seniors Building, teaching crocheting classes among other activities.

Bright, Happy Quilt by Holly Rodriguez

Donated by Ellen Buck, a quilting group partner with Holly Rodriguez, this quilt, measuring 66" square, features joyful colors and a tie-dyed lining. Ellen Buck has frequently donated quilts she has made to the Art Raffle, but this year she is choosing to donate one made by a sister quilter.

Wheel Thrown Pottery from Sommerville Pottery

Monica & Ray Sommerville (formerly of Allentown) create pottery at their home and studio in New York state. This year's donation is a set of four lidded canisters glazed in red and black with a matching utensil holder. Fans of Sommerville Pottery can find their work online at www.sommervillepottery.com.

A Set of 6 Tickets to the SouthSide Film Festival (SSFF)

This prize is for six passes good for individual screenings at the 11th annual SouthSide Film Festival in Bethlehem, June 10-14, 2014. The festival features independent fiction and documentary films from across the nation and around the world as well as Q&A sessions with the filmmakers. See www.ssff.org.

No purchase required to participate. A purchase will not increase the odds of winning. The chance for winning depends on how many tickets are sold or are submitted and how many people choose to put their tickets toward a given prize. The chances of winning a given prize could range from 1 in 50 to 1 in 10,000.

Winners not present at drawing will be notified by phone or mail.

Sponsored by LEPOCO, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.

LEPOCO 2014 Art Raffle

Drawing at LEPOCO's Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 29, 2014

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$1 per ticket / \$5 for 6 tickets.

See over for description of prizes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Separate drawings for each prize!

Please designate (below) which drawing (prize) you want for this ticket.

(If you do not designate, we will distribute your ticket randomly.)

- Hand-Turned Wooden Bowl by Lee Buck
- Small Oil Painting by William DeRaymond
- Hand-Crocheted Afghan by Anna Reczek
- Bright, Happy Quilt by Holly Rodriguez
- Wheel-Thrown Pottery from Somerville Pottery
- Six Tickets to June 10-14, SouthSide Film Festival (SSFF)

Please return this ticket with donation: by mail before March 28 to LEPOCO, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, or at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 29, 2014, before 6 p.m. No purchase required to participate. A purchase will not increase odds of winning.

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