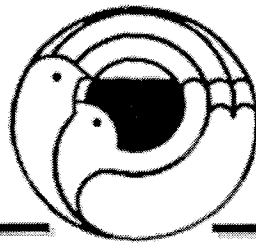


February- March
2008

Vol. 43 no. 2



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

LEPOCO Annual Dinner: A Community Event _____

LEPOCO and its community of peace advocates gather together each year for the Annual Dinner, a special event that forges bonds of friendship and solidarity among those who seek solutions to the problems that threaten peace and our planet. A featured speaker, this year Bruce Gagnon, highlights a full day of camaraderie, creativity, and hard work.

Quoting from our organizational brochure: *LEPOCO members share a vision that we can build a sane and more just world. Gathering strength from our diversity, we work together and as individuals for nonviolent change, starting in our own community.*

Sharing a meal, lovingly prepared by the dedicated hands of LEPOCO's volunteers, is just one of the many ways that those who share the vision can express their common hopes and dreams. The meal itself is always a unique vegetarian experience. Starting around noon, volunteers report to the Cathedral Church of the Nativity to peel, cut, and chop (recipes are from "scratch"), set the tables, decorate, and get ready for the sale of books and buttons. It's a full day for many people.

If you are able to offer assistance, in any capacity, as an Annual Dinner volunteer - there are both cooking and non-cooking opportunities - call the LEPOCO office, 610-691-8730. We started planning the dinner months ago so it is not too early to call and offer your services.

As noted in the January issue of the LEPOCO newsletter, Bruce Gagnon will bring a message entitled "Swords into Plowshares: Transforming the Military Industrial Complex." Bruce has written, "A key reason for America's desire to kill the U.N.'s space weapons ban treaty negotiations is that the military-industrial complex views space as a new market. The weapons corporations have been saying for decades that Star Wars will be the largest industrial project in the history of the planet Earth. Both Democrats and Republicans get the message and understand that their corporate sponsors want them to leave the door open to a new, costly and destabilizing arms race in space." Bruce will bring an important perspective to the need to find peace.

Tickets for the dinner are \$25 for regular adult, \$50 for special supporter, and \$10 for limited income adult or for children under 12. There will be no dinner tickets at the door without a reservation. Program-only tickets are \$10, limited income, \$5. There will be tickets at the door for program only. A special "deal" is to be

had for those who can attend both the Bright Morning Star Concert on Sunday, March 16 (see page 3), and the Annual Dinner -- \$35 for both (separately they are \$42 regular admission).

- Janet Ney

Five Years Too Many _____

In a February 5th article, "Iraq's Tragic Future," that appeared on www.commondreams.org, Scott Ritter (who spoke here to an overflow crowd in the summer of 2006) wrote, "Iraq, far from being a nation on the rebound, remains a mortally wounded shell, the equivalent of a human suffering from a sucking chest wound, its lungs collapsed and its life blood spilling unchecked on the ground." After further analysis and the statement that 2008 will be the year the "surge" in Iraq will be exposed as "a grand debacle," he concludes that "...the only policy direction worthy of consideration here in the United States concerning Iraq is the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of American forces..."

We are called by Scott Ritter's words to action, even after five years. The call for withdrawal will be part of all the 5th anniversary activities locally and in Washington, DC. March is the month to again do what you can to help end the war. An abbreviated list of local and national activities is on the back page of this newsletter. Your participation is crucial.

In an encouraging note, it seems the public has heard some of the peace message about the war in Iraq. A report on an AP-Ipsos poll that appeared in *The Morning Call* on February 9th, found most people believe that the way to get the country out of the recession is to get the country out of Iraq. This is rather striking since much reporting says the war is falling behind the economy as a national concern, but here the public is seeing the connections between the two and supporting those who call this the Iraq recession. Again this is a call for our action and work to end the war now.

A third call to action is need to keep the peace message before the candidates as the primary activities move to Pennsylvania. We provide the voices to move away from the pressures of military-industrial complex.

And finally, the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq has risen to above 3970. Sadly, this number is likely to climb to 4000 before the end of March. Please see page 11 of this newsletter for Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition plans to respond to this tragic milestone.

The United States of America vs. Arthur R. Landis

On January 28th, I attended the trial of my dear friend Art Landis in Columbus, Georgia. Accompanied by Art's wife Hilda, Sarah Snider, and dozens of supporters, I sat and witnessed the inspiring testimony of eleven human rights activists charged with "trespassing on a military base." The eleven were arrested at Ft. Benning last November during the annual Demonstration to Close the School of the Americas. (See previous articles in the Dec. 2007 and Jan. 2008 *LEPOCO Newsletter*.)

One by one the defendants gave compelling reasons for why they did what they did. Some were clergy and invoked religious reasons; some spouted detailed treatises on the flaws of U.S. foreign policy; while others simply spoke of common sense. When the time came for Art to take the stand he humbly asked for "a moment or two of silence." Judge Faircloth indulged the request and afterward said, "Mr. Landis, I want to tell you that I found that very refreshing."

Before the verdict of "guilty" was said aloud Judge Faircloth spoke of the confines of his position. He claimed not to share the luxury of the accused activists, that of being able to follow the "spirit of the law," but instead said that it was required that he stick strictly to the "letter of the law." He believes his position calls for him to be an instrument of justice, but that trials such as these cause him to be a "confused instrument." It sounded like words he'd spoken many times before. Indeed, this was the eighth School of the Americas Watch trial over which he'd presided. But, perhaps a shift in his consciousness is occurring because the "guilty" seemed to receive light prison sentences in comparison to other years.

Typically a first time trespasser has understood that a prison stint of 90 days could be expected for their so-called offense. This year the majority of first timers received only 30-45 day sentences. On January 28 only three 90-day sentences were handed out. One was for a young woman who went separately from the ten, climbed the barbed-wire fence and upon landing on the other side allegedly engaged in some non-violent resistance with arresting officers. The other two 90-day sentences were for persons who'd crossed before.

Of particular note is Ed Lewinson. Legally blind since birth, Ed "crossed the line" for the fourth time last November, but this was the first time he'd actually been prosecuted. Ed took the witness stand and demanded "the right to live in the world." Frustrated by previous dismissals because of the condition of his sight, Ed asked to be treated like everyone else. In an odd and refreshing reversal of power roles, the judge tried to negotiate terms with Ed: "How about 90 days of house arrest?" Ed strongly declined. After a big sigh Faircloth announced, "Well, I want to make you happy. 90 days in a federal prison." Ed graciously thanked the judge.

As for Art, he got a 30-day sentence to take place in a yet-to-be-determined local facility. Stay tuned for further details on where, when, and how you can stay in touch with our own "prisoner of conscience." As Art stepped out of the courtroom Judge Faircloth remarked to him, "I admire your spunk." Hear, hear! Something we all can agree on.

- robert Daniels II

Editor's Note: For video of the pre-trial press conference, march, and previous night's "Festival of Hope," featuring Fr. Roy Bourgeois, please take a look at LEPOCO's internet presence on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/rhubarbdoom>. You can learn more about the work to Close the SOA at www.soaw.org. If you want to help with LEPOCO's support for Art, please call LEPOCO (610-691-8730) for a report from the Americas Solidarity Group meeting on February 25th.

LEPOCO Bike/Walk-a-Thon: June 7, 2008

The wait is finally over, because the Bike/Walk-a-Thon Committee has now set the 2008 date for this perennially popular annual fundraiser. (We knew you'd be excited!) This year's Bike/Walk-a-Thon will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008. Please mark your calendars, and plan to take part in the fun-filled event as a biker, walker, or volunteer. And please stay tuned for more information about the event in future newsletters!

- Holly Kent

Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

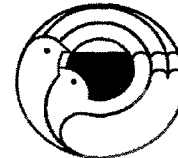
Bethlehem, PA 18015

phone: 610-691-8730

fax: 610-691-8904

website: www.lepoco.org

e-mail: lepoco@fast.net



The *LEPOCO Newsletter* is published 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 \$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: 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 Cross, 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).

Singing Out For Peace

On Sunday, March 16, Bright Morning Star, the wonderful band that performed in the Lehigh Valley during their earlier tours, 1978-1990, will return in concert as part of their 2008 reunion tour.

The concert, at 4 pm, will be in the beautiful sanctuary at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem.



Ken Giles, Marcia Taylor, Charlie King, Court Dorsey, Cheryl Fox and George Fulginiti-Shakar, all the original performers, have re-grouped after two decades of individual performance experience, now livelier and more astute than ever.

Their backgrounds, ranging from classical music to rock and roll, from folk to top 40, from symphony or-

chestra to avant-garde theater, combine to make their performance a journey through the worlds of drama, politics, people, humor, satire and spirituality. Their songs are a rare combination of powerful, often original lyrics and rich melodies that shine in intricate harmonies - often a capella. They will pass around guitars, fiddle, bass, banjo, harmonica, recorder, trombone, piano and kazoo.

Holly Near welcomed their reunion performances by saying, "Bright Morning Star reunites to bring harmony and spirit to community in a time when it is most desperately needed." Pete Seeger said of their work, "They're doing exactly what Woody Guthrie and I tried to do forty years ago."

Tickets are \$17, regular, and \$8, limited income. For \$35 you can get a ticket to the concert and LEPOCO's Annual Dinner (separately the tickets are \$42 total). Because a concert is an expensive undertaking we are seeking special supporters who can give \$100 for two tickets. (See the coupon on the enclosed half-sheet and return it to make your reservation.)

Don't miss a chance to hear Bright Morning Star revive old favorites, and bring new musical messages that speak to our troubled world and energize our activist spirits.

- Nancy Tate

Potluck / Popcorn & Politics

Sunday, March 2, 6 pm: Ted Glick speaking on "No War, No Warming"

Ted Glick is the Coordinator of U.S. Climate Emergency Council and is active with the organization, No War, No Warming. For 40 years Ted Glick has been a progressive social change activist and will explain why a dramatic and urgent shift from fossil fuels to a clean, green economy is the key to human survival. Last December he concluded a 104-day fast for peace and environmental rescue. Since 2000 he has been writing "Future Hope," a column of political and social commentary, archived at: www.ippn.org.

Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6 pm. Ted's talk will begin around 6:30 pm. (We offer our apologies if this message arrives after this program occurs. As this page is being prepared there is still hope it could arrive in time, but no guarantee, so we opted to include it, just in case.)

Friday, March 7th, 7 pm: No End In Sight

A *First Friday Film* projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

With exacting precision this jaw-dropping documentary chronicles the reasons behind Iraq's descent into chaos following the fall of Baghdad in 2003. Using candid interviews with Washington insiders, the film makes a coolheaded case against the incompetent, blundering Bush administration. Directed by Charles Ferguson. 102 minutes. 2007.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, April 4th, 7 pm: Good Night & Good Luck

A *First Friday Film* projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

David Strathairn takes on the role of Edward R. Murrow, the principled "face of television" who takes on the Communist witch-hunting Senator Joseph McCarthy in the Red Scare 1950s United States. This is a powerful portrait of a true investigative journalist who stood up to fear and falsehood. Directed by George Clooney. 93 minutes. 2005.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



The How & Why of the War Tax Boycott

"Why Isn't Everyone Who's for Peace a War Tax Resister?" inquires a National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) brochure. On February 10th, twenty-five people gathered at LEPOCO to ask that question of themselves, and learn from guest presenters Ruth Benn and Mariana Garrettson.

Long-time peace activist Ruth Benn manages NWTRCC from her home in Brooklyn, New York. After an inspiring short film featuring England's Peace Tax Seven, Ms. Benn described her own experiences as a war tax resister. Estimating that she has incurred a \$40,000 "debt" by withholding taxes, she reported that the IRS removed "some money" from her account in 1989. Noting that the IRS has ten years to collect from delinquent payees, Ms. Benn frequently receives letters -- 13 in one day, recently! -- threatening extra fines if the taxes are not remitted. "These letters scare many people into compliance," Ruth stated. "The war in Iraq is costing \$10 billion-\$12 billion a month. There's nothing the IRS can do compared to what our tax dollars are destroying in other countries."

Ms. Benn adjusts the allowances on her W-4 form so that nothing is withheld. With the money that would have been funneled to war she re-directs her taxes to humanitarian projects, such as depleted uranium victims, or the Peace Tax Fund in Washington, D.C. She noted that the IRS prefers to collect money, not property, so they don't seize cars much anymore.

Mariana Garrettson, a Quaker who lives north of Scranton, began resisting by withholding her federal tax on her local telephone bill. Three years ago, she and her husband withheld all of their income taxes. Five months later, they received a letter from the IRS, and \$100 was seized from their account. The IRS also put a levy on her paycheck.

Since then, the couple has readjusted their approach as life changes dictate. Only Mariana's husband resisted the second year. When they had a baby, they made less money and did not owe anything. Mariana stressed that people do not have to withhold everything. Options include living below the taxable income; earning taxable income, but not filing or paying; or, refusing to pay even a dollar or ten dollars. "The amount withheld is symbolic, because, comparatively, it is so small," Ms. Garrettson said. "But the act of withholding gives the individual an opportunity to speak about why he or she is doing it."

Both women urged sending periodic letters to federal representatives restating one's decision not to pay war taxes.

Participants were intrigued that a Lehigh Valley War Tax Resistance Peace Fund still exists. It was founded in the late Vietnam War era by Anna Hunt, Nancy Tate, Tom Stinnett, Clarke Chapman, and others. Money collected has been loaned, interest-free, to community projects.

4 LEPOCO Newsletter/February-March 2008

Other local and national resources for war tax resisters include the LEPOCO office (extensive NWTRCC literature); Peter Goldberger, a Philadelphia lawyer who represents war tax resisters (these are civil cases, not criminal, when tried); and the 500-member War Tax Resistance Penalty Fund in Indiana (if your money is seized by the IRS, the Fund can reimburse for interest taken, and penalties.) In follow-up to the workshop (and for those who were unable to attend on Feb. 10) there will be a support group meeting for war tax resisters (of all kinds) on Sunday, March 9, at 2:30 pm at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

On the 5th anniversary of the Iraq War, March 19th, 2008, the IRS building in Washington, D.C. will be one of the sites of civil disobedience. A national activity announcing the 2008 War Tax Boycott is being planned for Tax Day, April 15th. In the meantime, those moved to align peace with their pocketbooks can sign the 2008 War Tax Boycott (www.wartaxboycott.org) or write to 2008 War Tax Boycott, NWTRCC, P.O. Box 150553, Brooklyn, New York 11215. (A War Tax Boycott registration form is also available at LEPOCO.)

By disengaging our own personal contribution to the war, we hasten its end. Truly, "Not one more death! Not one more dollar!"

- Anna Maria Caldara

Nuclear Nugget

From the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA) comes the announcement that the National Nuclear Security Administration has announced plans to build a new nuclear weapons production plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. If built, this plant would be in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. OREPA writes, "If we remain silent, we are giving our approval to a new nuclear arms race, an enduring nuclear arsenal, and a nuclear shadow over generations to come. Do the one thing you can do for your children and all the world's children: speak for peace. You don't have to be an expert, you just have to speak from the heart. This is the message: No new bomb plants. Spend the billions on building a stronger society, where everyone has food, shelter, health care, and the prospect of a living-wage job. Lead the world to true security. Keep the promise we made in the Nonproliferation Treaty in 1970 to pursue complete nuclear disarmament."

Written comments should be submitted to: Theodore Wyka, Complex Transformation SPEIS Document Mgr., US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20585; or by e-mail to: complextransformation@nnsa.doe.gov. The comment period ends April 10, 2008. More information is available at OREPA's website: www.stopthebombs.org.

- Maria Weick

Steering Committee Nominations

Each year some members of LEPOCO's Steering Committee are elected. The Steering Committee is the decision-making body of LEPOCO. It meets the first Monday of the month to prepare for the Action Meetings which are held on the second Monday of the month. The Steering Committee often brings recommendations about finance, personnel, and other organizational issues to the Action Meeting.

The election will be completed at the Annual Dinner, on March 29th. Members may also mail in their ballots to arrive by March 28th. Write-in candidates are welcomed.

This year Susie Ravitz is retiring from the Steering Committee after years of faithful service, creating an opening for one two-year term starting in April. Many thanks to Susie for her work on the Steering Committee and it is good to know she will continue to provide leadership in LEPOCO on several committees and at the Action Meetings. Also, three current members are up for re-election. Those up for re-election are:

Peter Christine of Bethlehem first became aware of LEPOCO as a young child, because the Peace Singers often showed up at his house to rehearse. Being a Quaker and the child of a Peace Singer, he saw the light early on. When he was about ten he started attending vigils, marches, and other events, and at 14 he became the youngest person ever elected to the Steering Committee. Now, at 16, he's running for a second term.

Peter plays cello with the Young People's Philharmonic, is involved with local environmental groups, and is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Coalition for Alternative Transportation (CAT). He's also on CAT's Advisory Committee.

Addison Bross of Bethlehem first got involved with LEPOCO in the early 80's. He has fond memories of working LEPOCO's lemonade stand at the Christmas City Fair. He has since been involved in many LEPOCO projects, including leading the *Guns, Greed, and Globalization* study group, writing the Op-ed for

The Morning Call on the occasion of LEPOCO's 40th anniversary, and facilitating the Cindy Sheehan program when she came to the Valley last year. Addison is running for a second term on the Steering Committee.

Addison teaches English at Lehigh University, and is Co-Director of the Peace Studies minor at Lehigh. He also co-leads a nonviolence training at Kirkridge entitled, "Creating a Culture of Peace."

Holly Kent of Bethlehem became involved in LEPOCO in 2003. She is a graduate student at Lehigh University working on her PhD in Women's History. She is a member of Amnesty International. She has volunteered for LEPOCO at fairs and festivals, is on the Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee and is a faithful caller for the Phonathon each year.

Holly will be finishing her studies at Lehigh later this year, and may have to leave the area for her work. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on the Steering Committee to complete her term, please fill in the space provided below* and mail it in or bring it to the dinner.

Nominated to fill the vacancy on the Steering Committee is:

Mimi Lang of Bethlehem first got involved with LEPOCO in 1987 through her involvement with the Peace Pilgrimage. She's since become the LEPOCO representative to the Peace Pilgrimage.

Among many other LEPOCO activities, Mimi's been active with the Nuclear Abolition Sisters, the Americas Solidarity Group (especially in their work with Haiti), and she's been, for several years, the Annual Dinner Program Facilitator.

Mimi is the Spinal Cord Resource Nurse at Good Shephard Rehabilitation Hospital in Allentown.

- Mike Lawton

Check out the LEPOCO Website at

www.lepoco.org.

There is a great calendar maintained by Robert Daniels II for information on upcoming events.

Election Ballot

At-Large Steering Committee Members (vote for four)

Peter Christine _____

Addison Bross _____

Holly Kent _____

Mimi Lang _____

*Please note here if you or anyone you know would be interested in serving on the Steering Committee to complete Holly Kent's term if she has to leave the area: _____

This ballot can be cast at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 29, 2008, by 6:15 pm, or by mail to arrive at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, by Friday, March 28, 2008.

Cluster Bombs Keep On Killing

Friday evening, February 8th, Dan Allen gave a presentation at Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting House on the lethal effects of cluster bombs and the grassroots effort to encourage Congress to limit the use and export of these weapons. Dan is a Legislative Program Assistant with Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), working specifically on cluster bombs, land mines and the arms trade.

An enthusiastic gathering of more than 30 concerned citizens came to hear Dan speak. He began by describing cluster bombs (or cluster munitions) as weapons including large cargo containers and submunitions (sometimes called bomblets). The cargo containers are fired, launched or dropped by aircraft or land based artillery. The containers open over a target area and disperse submunitions designed to explode when they hit their target. Most cluster bombs contain hundreds of submunitions that are unguided so that one cluster bomb can cover an area the size of multiple football fields with explosions and shrapnel. Typically many cluster bombs are used at once resulting in several thousand bomblets, effectively carpeting an area up to one square mile.

Dan went on to explain how cluster bombs pose a unique threat to civilians both during and after conflict. Because the footprint of these cluster bombs is so large, they cannot distinguish between military targets and civilians located within that footprint, and since most modern conflicts involve fighting within urban settings, this means that cluster bombs are likely to cause serious problems for civilians. This, we learned, is not the only problem cluster bombs pose. Because a large number of submunitions fail to explode as intended, areas bombarded with cluster bombs become contaminated with unexploded ordinance. These "duds" can explode later when children pick them up and play with them (they are small and sometimes brightly colored with ribbons attached); they can explode when people hit them with a tool while farming; and sometimes they are sensitive enough to function like a landmine. These unexploded submunitions put lives and livelihoods at risk for a long time after a conflict.

The use of cluster bombs also appears to violate International Humanitarian Law which prohibits indiscriminate attacks and requires that all parties to a conflict take all feasible precaution to minimize incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects.

There is some hopeful news. Legislation that would ban the use of cluster munitions in or near civilian populated areas has been introduced in both the Senate and the House. The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2007 (S.594 and H.R.1755) would prohibit the expenditure of government funds for the use, sale and transfer of inaccurate and unreliable cluster bombs.

Some of the ways you can help are:

** Urge members of Congress to support this legislation. Send the enclosed postcard to Sen. Arlen Specter, Federal Bldg., 504 Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18101.

** Write a letter to the editor explaining the threat posed by cluster bombs and why the U.S. must change its policy.

** Educate the community. Large scale progress will not occur until there is a groundswell of support for banning cluster bombs. Talk with your friends, family and others in our community. For more information see www.banclusterbombs.org.

If you would like to participate in a delegation to Sen. Specter's office to discuss this issue, contact Dan Falco at 610-797-1864.

- Dan Falco

Veterans For Peace Active In February

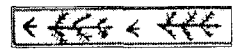
On February 2nd, Ann Wright was at the Moravian Book Shop and spoke to a group of over thirty people about her new book, *Dissent: Voices of Conscience (Government Insiders Speak Out Against the War In Iraq)*. In her talk, Ms. Wright, a retired Army Colonel and former Deputy Ambassador to several State Department global missions, related her growing unease with this country's run-up previous to a planned invasion of Iraq and the lack of justification for such an endeavor. This unease ultimately resulted in her resignation in protest from the State Department. She cited instances of resignations by many government employees of different branches and levels due to disenchantment regarding our Iraq involvement. Following her talk Ms. Wright answered questions and signed copies of her book, which may be obtained at the Moravian Book Shop (\$17.95). Later she joined about twenty people, organized by the local Veterans for Peace chapter, for dinner and conversation at the Hotel Bethlehem.

On February 23rd and 24th, a very successful fundraiser Open House was held at the home of Louise Legun and Judy Woodruff in Allentown. The purpose of this event was to raise money for the upcoming Iraq Veterans Against the War action, IVAW Winter Soldier II. This activity will involve testimony by veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan as well as by Iraqi and Afghan survivors about the realities of those wars. Winter Soldier II will take place March 13-16 in Washington, DC. Sholom Keller and Dave Lindorff spoke at the Open House on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. Over \$1300 was raised to support Winter Soldier II! Donations in support of this event may still be sent to: Iraq Veterans Against the War c/o AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Bldg. C, Philadelphia PA 19102 with a memo that it is for Winter Soldier II. For information on viewing the Winter Soldier hearings see www.ivaw.org.

- Paul Fichter



LEPOCO 2007 – Highlights



2007 was not a year for the faint of heart. Our country's blind commitment to war, our elected official's refusal to uphold the Constitution and defend unequivocally human and civil rights, has certainly tested the resiliency of our hope. But LEPOCO activists in 2007 remained steadfast in their press for peace and social justice. Take heart from your activism and celebrate it as you read this year in review!

JANUARY - FEBRUARY



- The Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace was formed, led by Louise Legun. These vets have lost no opportunity to speak out against the war and for the impeachment of President Bush and Vice-President Cheney.

1/11: LEPOCO members participated in protests against Guantanamo in Washington, DC, Allentown, and Bethlehem as part of the International Day to Shut Down Guantanamo.

1/12: 75 people attended a reading of Dr. Martin Luther King's "Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam," at Bethlehem's Town Hall, organized by the Nuclear Abolition Sisters.

1/26: 100 peacemakers from the Lehigh Valley traveled to Washington, DC, by bus to join a half-million people demanding an end to the war in Iraq.

1/27: Nancy Tate and Kathryn Hoffman joined 40 others from Pennsylvania to lobby our representatives to end the war.

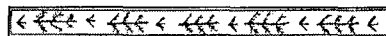
1/26: Molly Ivins died, but just days before her death left us with a final exhortation: "We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every single day, every single one of us needs to step outside, and take some action to stop this war. Raise hell!"

- The Youth & Militarism work continued with the monitoring of military recruiting in local high schools and planning counter-recruitment efforts.

2/1: *The Bethlehem News* tipped its hat to Bernie Berg with an article entitled, "Lone Protester: Ever Notice that One Guy Outside Dent's Office?" Never underestimate the power of one!

2/25 - 26: The Nuclear Abolition Sisters brought Frida Berrigan and Amanda Daloisio to speak on "Bush's Nuclear Weapons Renaissance," at LV Friends Meetinghouse, Lafayette College, and Lehigh University.

MARCH - APRIL



3/18: 150 Lehigh Valley residents gathered in 11 townships throughout the Valley to protest the war in Iraq.

3/19: Fifteen LEPOCO members and others participated in a demonstration at Rep. Dent's office in Bethlehem followed by a six-mile walk to the Federal Building in Allentown to demand that our Congressional reps bring an end to the war.

3/26: Joe DeRaymond, Sarah Snider and Tim Chadwick returned from El Salvador where they participated in observances commemorating the assassinations of Fr. Rutilio and Archbishop Romero, and where they gathered information on the causes of Salvadoran migration to the US.

3/30: Susie Ravitz represented LEPOCO speaking at the "Enabling Nonviolent Choices for Families, Communities, Nations - for All" conference at Kutztown University.

3/31: Kathy Kelly, founder of Voices in the Wilderness, Nobel Peace Prize nominee, winner of numerous awards for peacemaking spoke at the LEPOCO annual dinner insisting on the power of ordinary people's voices to end war and social injustice. "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

4/6: Members of LEPOCO's Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing participated in an anti-death penalty vigil organized by Catholics for Peace and Justice.

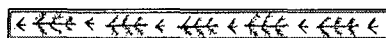
4/14: LEPOCO was part of southside Bethlehem's National Climate Action Day community event.

4/17: 20 LEPOCO members spent "Tax Day" distributing war tax resistance information from the War Resisters League outside local post offices

4/23: The Trial of the "Philadelphia Declare Peace 14," included Tim Chadwick and Robert Daniels II. The "14" were arrested in September 2006 for calling on Senator Santorum to act to end the war in Iraq. They faced the stiffest charges for war-protesting in Philly since the 1980s. But, they were found Not Guilty.

4/27: Potluck and Politics hosted Frances Goldin, literary agent for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and at 83, still working hard on behalf of peace and social justice.

MAY - JUNE



5/12: 22 area high school students attended Association of Students Advocating Peace's 4th annual Youth Peacemaker Training held at the LV Friends Meetinghouse.

5/19: Monica McAgnon and Nancy Tate attended the American Friends Service Committee Symposium on Iraqi refugees in Philadelphia.

5/28: LV Veterans for Peace marched in the Bethlehem Memorial Day Parade carrying a banner that read, "Honor Veterans; No More War."

6/2: 22 bikers and 11 walkers took part in the annual LEPOCO Bike/Walk-a-thon, raising over \$3100 for LEPOCO, Haiti Partners in Health, and the work of the Philadelphia House of Grace Catholic Worker in Haiti.

6/15: 140 people visited Rep. Dent's Bethlehem office with written messages opposing the war in Iraq!

6/22 - 24: Stephanie Garman, Youth and Militarism Coordinator, represented LEPOCO at the UFPJ National Assembly in Chicago.

- Iraq Summer arrived in the Lehigh Valley and LEPOCO had the privilege of welcoming organizers Aaron Swisher and Dorotheilia Mills to antiwar work in the Valley.

- Susie Ravitz accompanied the Interfaith Peace Brigade on a peacebuilding journey to Israel and Palestine.

JULY - AUGUST



7/14: LV Vets for Peace participated in a March and Peace Fair in Reading.

7/23 - 27: More than 50 teenagers and adults helped make Peace Camp a special experience for the 70 children who attended.

7/25: Cindy Sheehan joined a demonstration of 70 activists in front of the Allentown National Guard Armory, and then led a march to the Sterling Hotel on Hamilton Street to speak to an overflow crowd of 300 people.

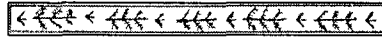
8/16: The Hiroshima-Nagasaki remembrance organized by the Nuclear Abolition Sisters highlighted the theme, "The Nuclear Threat is Not Over," and included a march in Bethlehem from the Peace Pole in the Rose Garden to the Tondabayashi Garden.

8/19: LEPOCO tabled at Allentown's Pride Festival.

8/28 - 9/3: LV Vets for Peace staffed a booth at the Great Allentown Fair. (That's a lot of volunteer hours!)

8/28: Aaron Swisher organized the "Take A Stand On the War in Iraq" event at the Steelworkers' Union Hall in Bethlehem, again asking Rep. Dent to oppose the Iraq War. This followed Aaron leading the organizing to build attendance at Senator Specter's Town Meeting near Easton where profound questions were raised about the Iraq war and the catastrophic failures of the present White House.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER



9/15, 19-20, 29: LEPOCO members were among tens of thousands who attended three separately organized Washington, DC, actions against the war. Tim Chadwick and Joe DeRaymond were among those arrested at The Capitol in the "Rivers of Blood Start Here" Die-In.

9/23 - 24: LV Peace Coalition brought the Eyes Wide Open exhibit for a return engagement, featuring 170 pairs of combat boots tagged with the names of Pennsylvania soldiers killed in Iraq, to the Lehigh Valley at Lafayette College and Northampton Community College.

9/29: LEPOCO tabled at the Buckingham Peace Fair.

9/30: 70 people attended the 2nd annual LEPOCO Peace Picnic which took place at the LV Friends Meetinghouse.

10/6: The LEPOCO yard sale.

10/15: Raed Jarrar of American Friends Service Committee spoke at Lehigh University and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley on "Crisis in Iraq: Politics, Oil, and Refugees."

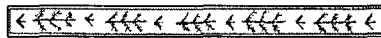
10/27: 50 people traveled from the LV to participate in the National Mobilization to End the War in Iraq in Philadelphia, joining with thousands of others to form a human chain stretching from the VA hospital on Woodland Ave. to Independence Mall.

10/28: The Allentown Armory Activists led the anti-war/impeach contingent in the Allentown Halloween Parade.

10/30: Mike Hoffman, a Marine Corp veteran, spoke at NCC on his combat experience in Iraq.

- Bolivia became the fifth Latin American country to withdraw from SOA training programs.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER



11/16 - 18: A number of LEPOCO activists traveled by bus and car pool to the Close the SOA Convergence at Fort Benning, GA. Art Landis from Perkasio, a member of the Dent 9, was arrested for crossing the line. Art was recently sentenced to 30 days in federal prison. (See related article in this newsletter.)

12/8: 200 people walked the 10 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem as part of the 48th annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage.

12/18: The LV Committee Against State Killing organized a march across the Free Bridge from Phillipsburg to Easton to celebrate the abolition of the death penalty in New Jersey and call for abolition here in Pennsylvania.

In addition, celebrate the numerous planning meetings, the breadth of information made available at Popcorn/Potlucks and Politics, the faithfulness of the weekly antiwar vigils. And in 2008, let's resolve to help each other take even bigger steps for peace and social justice.

- Maria Weick

The Struggle Shared

The plague - that scourge capable of wiping out an entire population - was a phenomenon parallel to that of war. Propagated by ignorance, the plague remained dreaded and invincible for thousands of years. People of all nations accused their enemies of using poisoned needles to spread the plague. Thus, while blaming others, no people of any nation thought to look within their own environment for the invisible source of their suffering.

- Maria Montessori

Excerpted from Pax Christi's *Peacemaking: Day by Day*

THE OH-REALY FACTOR - If any of our readers were in the audience at Easton's State Theater on January 26th to hear "infotainment star" Bill O'Reilly, they were undoubtedly amazed by the material that he presents as fact.

As an example of his unabashed inflammatory style, the Southern Poverty Law Center's *Intelligence Report* has an article about an O'Reilly show aired on Fox News Channel in June 2007. On the program he claimed to expose "a national underground network of pink-pistol-packing lesbians who are terrorizing American cities... raping young girls, attacking heterosexual males at random, and forcibly indoctrinating children as young as 10 into a homosexual lifestyle..."

O'Reilly's guest for the segment was Rod Wheeler, a D.C. Metropolitan police officer turned Fox-News crime analyst. He asserted that, "We've actually counted, just in the Washington, DC, area alone (that's Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia), well over 150 of these crews..."

Intelligence Report (IR) investigators talked to Gaithersburg, Maryland, detective Patrick Word, president of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigation Network, representing 400 criminal justice professionals in the same DC Metropolitan area. "Our membership reports only one lesbian gang," he told the *IR*. Sgt. Brett Parson, former commander of the DC Metropolitan Police Dept. Lesbian Unit said, "We have 150 to 170 total gangs in the DC area, and out of those, only nine where the prodom-

inance of members are female. You simply cannot make the jump that they are lesbians. I think it's fair to talk about violence and female gangs, but to sensationalize or marginalize a community by making a statement like that seems irresponsible."

Intelligence Report editors note that the day after the *IR* article was posted on their website, Wheeler apologized, and retracted most of his facts as misstatements. O'Reilly admitting that while some of the report may have been "overstated," still says there was a core of truth to the pink-gun-toting lesbian gang story.

PROFESSIONALS STAND

AGAINST TORTURE - While the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association have expressly forbidden their members from even indirect association with the enhanced interrogation techniques used against suspected terrorists in U.S. military installations like Guantánamo Bay, the American Psychological Association (APA) has so far been reluctant to go that far.

At its annual convention in San Francisco last summer, the APA specifically proscribed members from participating directly in more than 20 kinds of interrogation procedures including those involving isolation, sensory deprivation, and sensory assaults. Psychologists at facilities which use such techniques are duty-bound by the APA to report abuses they witness, and the APA threatens sanctions against members who fail to do so. The APA insists that psychologists can play a vital role in helping in-

terrogators control their excesses, and without psychologists to report abuses, detainees would be left alone, subjected to interrogators' frustrations and sadism.

Critics of the APA policy believe the position is merely a self-serving attempt to protect billions of dollars in DoD contracts and APA members with ties to the military. Protestors include several high-profile psychologists, including Mary Pipher, who returned her 2006 APA presidential citation in protest.

Robert J. Lifton, known for his studies of the role of doctors in Nazi Germany underscores the thinking of the critics, "Psychologists are meant to heal, not break down, and therefore any consulting or involvement in interrogations... should be prohibited by the American Psychological Association."

CELEBRATING NONEGENARIAN PEACEMAKERS

George Willoughby turned 93 in December, and his wife Lillian reached 93 in January. The Brandywine Peace Community has been celebrating the Willoughby's 61 years of activism. In the thirties they worked to resettle European refugees in the U.S. During World War II they helped to relocate Japanese Americans who had been interned. In the fifties, they protested nuclear weapons. Always, they promoted the integration of the races, preservation of open spaces, and new models of communal living. They resisted the Vietnam War, led peace walks, one of which reached Moscow, developed nonviolence training workshops based on Gandhian principles, and took these workshops all over the world. Their energy is unflagging in their present opposition to the War on Drugs, and the war in Iraq.

Gregory Barnes has written *A Biography of Lillian and George Willoughby: Twentieth Century Peace Activists* (2007, The Edwin Mellen Press).

- Jeff Vitelli

M.L. King Peace Witness

The inspiration from the Martin Luther King, Jr. speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," filled the warm, softly-lit space at Godfrey Daniels Coffee House on Sunday afternoon, January 27. Bob Weick, lary moten, and Eva Moorhead captured the challenges from the words of King in their energized reading of the famous speech that was delivered at Riverside Church, April 4, 1967. All present joined Grace Adele Spruiell and the LEPOCO Peace Singers in rousing versions of familiar songs from the struggles for justice and peace. Grace Spruiell also sang "Lord How Come Me Here?" as a beautiful solo. Thank you to Godfrey Daniels and all who participated.

The printed program included this Dr. King quote: "The past is prophetic in that it asserts loudly that wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows. One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. How much longer must we play at deadly war games before we heed the plaintive pleas of the unnumbered dead and maimed of past wars?"

The 5th annual Youth Peacemaker Training is on its way!

YPT is a fun and interesting day-long workshop for high schoolers, hosted by the Association of Student Advocating Peace (ASAP). The program includes non-violence training activities; workshops on topics related to peace, justice, and students' rights; and, perhaps most importantly, a delicious free lunch! The YPT is an exciting opportunity for students to learn about peace activism, as well as meet like-minded peers. We are still in the planning stages, but our tentative date is Saturday, April 19th. For more information about YPT or ASAP (we always welcome people to join the committee), please contact me at: oldcdogs@yahoo.com.

Voices of Hope - Agents of Change

The statewide speaking tour, organized by Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and others, will visit Bethlehem with two outstanding speakers on Tuesday, April 1.

Juan Melendez spent over seventeen years on Florida's death row for a crime he did not commit. Despite the injustices he has suffered, Juan Melendez has traveled throughout the United States and Europe, telling his story -- a story that underscores all the problems with capital punishment.

Rev. Walter Everett lost his son, Scott, to murder in 1987. Finding no comfort in the death penalty, he joins others in the restorative justice movement, telling his story to honor the memory of his son.

10 LEPOCO Newsletter / February-March 2008

Both men will speak at two programs. First at 11 am, they will be at Northampton Community College, Green Pond Rd., Rm. 220 in the College Center. At 4 pm, they will speak at Moravian College, in Prosser Aud., Hauptert Union Bldg. (An evening program may yet be scheduled.) The public is urged to attend.

In a related effort, members of the Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing will attend a conference titled, *Should the Death Penalty Be Abolished?* sponsored by the Adams Center for Law and Society at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Call David Rose (610-253-2577) regarding rides to attend the lectures and panels on Thursday, March 27. Topics include: "Lethal Injection in America," "Is the Death Penalty Just and Moral?" and "Is the Death Penalty Administered Fairly and Non-Arbitrarily?" The conference will open with an evening lecture by Sister Helen Prejean on March 26.

Stand Up for the Constitution

Abuses of the Bill of Rights have been flagrant and prolific. Since 2001 we have seen illegal National Security Letters, warrantless wiretapping, indefinite detentions, secret prisons, and torture. Join with others to safeguard civil liberties.

Every First Monday, Noon to 1 pm

(March 3rd and April 7th are the upcoming dates.)

Contact: Bill of Rights Defense Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Louise Legun at 610-437-5314.

(Please wear red, white and blue and carry signs in red, white and blue to strengthen the visual effect.)

Action Meeting Update

All LEPOCO members and supporters are invited to attend the Action Meeting on Monday, March 10 (always on the second Monday of the month). The business meeting begins 7 pm (to discuss finances, office management, etc.) and then at 7:30, the action-packed part of the meeting begins. This month a special focus will be on learning about the work of the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition, where LEPOCO focuses its efforts against the Iraq war in network with other local peace groups.

Weekly Peace Vigils

A number of hearty souls have kept vigil for peace through rain, snow and sun, for at least five years. As we say "Five Years Too Many," on March 19th, and we sadly anticipate that the 4000th U.S. soldier will be killed in Iraq, we need to strengthen our peace witness. Won't you join a vigil?

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

4-6 pm, Fridays

Pennsylvania National Guard Armory, 15th & Allen Streets

Contact: Allentown Armory Activists

Easton: 10-11 am, Saturdays

Centre Square

Contact: Reggie Regrut, 908-859-5632

Bits & Pieces

LEPOCO is very blessed right now with **interns and community service volunteers**. Thank you to Lehigh University students, **Christina Stegura** and **Calvin Smiley** for their work on death penalty issues, and **Matthew Schaner** and **Christian Bingham** for their general work with LEPOCO including the preparation of this newsletter and work on the Bright Morning Star concert. And, thank you to **Bianca Jackson** and **Mario Marti** for choosing to do community service at LEPOCO.

Thank you to **Phil Reiss**, active with Veterans For Peace and all local peace work, for presenting the anti-war message about Iraq on "Business Matters," WFMZ Channel 69 on February 11.

Please see the January issue of the LEPOCO Newsletter (page 3) for information about the **Youth & Militarism position**, for which we haven't completed interviews. If you have questions please call 610-691-8730.

Villanova University will present another of their excellent conferences on the Middle East, **April 25-26** at the Connelly Center on campus. *In Search of a Homeland: The Quest for Place and Peace in Palestine and Israel* will present speakers addressing the history and root causes of the conflict as well as the current realities and hopes for peace. Speakers will include Dr. Hanaan Ashrawi, Rev. Naim Ateek, Dr. Marc Ellis, and Jeff Halper of Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. Register online at www.FOSNA.org or call David Yeaworth at 610-526-2776.

You may see some seedlings sprouting in LEPOCO's window as **Annie Hasz** and her young friends start plants for a community vegetable garden. The New Bethany Gardening Club will ultimately plant their seedlings in the Maze Garden near 3rd & New Sts., south Bethlehem.

Daniel Ellsberg, the Pentagon Papers whistleblower, activist, author of *Secrets*, and 2006 Right Livelihood International awardee, will join his son, **Robert Ellsberg**, publisher of *Orbis*

Books/Maryknoll, former editor of the *Catholic Worker*, and author of *All Saints*, to lead a Kirkridge weekend on "Experiments in Truth and Conscience with the Ellsbergs." Program and Room & Board is \$375 (early birds get \$35 off) for the weekend of **May 16-18**. See www.kirkridge.org or call 610-588-1793 for more information.

Thank you to all those who have donated art works, crafts, and tickets to the **LEPOCO Art Raffle** this year. The enclosed ticket sheet is in a different format from previous years. Please let us know how you like it (or not).

On January 11, the 6th anniversary of prisoners being sent to the U.S. military detention center at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, Amnesty International Group #531 held a vigil in Allentown to "**Shut Guantánamo Down**," and people gathered at the LEPOCO Peace Center to view, *Breaking the Silence: Torture Survivors Speak Out*. Four-hundred people from across the U.S. held a Funeral Ceremony outside the Supreme Court in Washington, DC, remembering those who have died in custody at Guantánamo and mourning the death of habeas corpus. Eighty were arrested and held for many hours under very poor conditions. See www.witnesstorture.org.

Save the date, **Tuesday, April 15, Tax Day**, to join the annual leafleting

presence at local post offices as people mail their tax returns. We will distribute the War Resisters League pie chart flyer that shows where our taxes go. Call 610-691-8730 to sign up for a time and place to leaflet.

As of February 28th, 3973 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq. Very sadly, that number could reach 4000 before the end of March.

The Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition will observe that tragic milestone with a peace gathering in Bethlehem. **The day following the announcement that the 4000th U.S. soldier has been killed (please see www.icasualties.org) we will meet outside the Pennsylvania National Guard Armory, 301 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem, at 6 pm.**

After brief remarks we will march/walk to the office of Rep. Charlie Dent, 701 W. Broad St., to deliver a call for an end to the war. The walk/march will then proceed to the Peace Pole in Bethlehem's Rose Garden Park, Union Blvd. & 8th Ave., for a short closing. Please plan now to participate and bring your friends and family.

If you have questions please contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 or talk with anyone active in the Peace Coalition.

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

Mondays, March 3 & April 7, 7 pm: LEPOCO Steering Committee meeting at the Peace Center.

Sundays: Association of Students Advocating Peace meetings to plan Youth Peacemaker Training. Contact Peter Christine at oldcdogs@yahoo.com for time and place.

Sun., March 9, 2:30 pm: War Tax Resisters Support Meeting at the Peace Center.

Sun., March 9, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearse at home of Bob Riggs, Bethlehem.

Mondays, March 10 & April 14, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the Peace Center. All members and friends welcome at this monthly business meeting where the activities of all committees and working groups are reviewed.

Thursdays, March 13 & April 10, 7 pm: Veterans for Peace meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Fri., March 14, 7 pm: Peace Singers rehearse at home of Barbara Wurth, Bethlehem.

Wed., March 24, 8:30 am: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wed., April 2, 6 pm: Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee meeting at the Peace Center.

Wed., April 2, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Tues., April 8, 7 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wed., April 9, 6 pm: Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at the Olive Branch restaurant, Bethlehem.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information about any of these meetings or want to know the next meeting for the Peace Camp Planning Committee or the LEPOCO Fundraising Committee, please call the Peace Center at 610-691-8730.



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 617
Bethlehem, PA

See Inside:

Page 1

Annual Dinner
Anniversary of
War

Page 2

Art Landis & SOA

Page 3

Potluck/Popcorn &
Politics

Bright Morning
Star

Page 4

War Tax Boycott
Nucleaer Nugget

Page 5

Steering
Committee

Page 6

Cluster Bombs
Veterans For Peace

Page 7 & 8

2007 In Review

Page 9

Struggle Shared

Page 10 & 11

Bits & Pieces
Meetings..
Meetings..

Five Years Too Many

Help make the 5th anniversary the last anniversary of this war!

Locally:

Friday, March 7, 7 pm: Popcorn & Politics - "No End In Sight" (see page 3)

March 13-16: View the Winter Soldier Hearings II on satellite TV or on the web. See www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier for more information.

Sunday, March 16, 4 pm: "Singing Out For Peace" Bright Morning Star Reunion Concert, Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem. (see page 3 & insert)

Wednesday, March 19, 4-6 pm: Anniversary of the War Vigil For Peace, National Guard Armory, 15th & Allen Sts., Allentown.

Wednesday, March 19, 7 pm: "Exit Strategy: 5 Year of War," a panel discussion, Miller Forum, Moyer Hall, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, featuring David Halperin, Center for American Progress; Michael Hoffman, Iraq Veterans For Peace; and Brian Mello, Professor of Political Science at Muhlenberg.

Saturday, March 29, 5 pm: LEPOCO's Annual Dinner. (see page 1 & insert)

Nationally (Contact LEPOCO 610-691-8730 to learn about local car pools):

March 7-10: Interfaith Peace Witness & Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, Washington, DC. See www.olivebranchinterfaith.org & www.advocacydays.org.

March 7-23: Spring Break in Washington, DC to End the Iraq War calls all college students to join in for as many days as possible. See www.ourspringbreak.org.

March 19: A day of nonviolent civil disobedience and direct action against the war and occupation in Iraq, Washington, DC. See www.5yearstoomany.org.