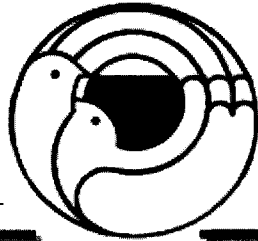


February-March  
2011  
Vol. 46 No. 2



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

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Well, hopefully, you, dear reader, will be coming to the LEPOCO Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 5, at 5 pm, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity (Third & Wyandotte Sts, south Bethlehem). It is a celebration to honor you and other members of the peace community in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. LEPOCO staff and volunteers work creatively to choose a speaker and prepare a menu that offers rewards to both your appetite for delicately prepared vegetarian food and your intellectual thirst for truth.

The dinner encompasses the skills of many members of our community as they plan and shop and chop and cook and set up and practice singing and offer their presence in so many helpful ways. It is similar to a family preparing a birthday party for a loved one. No detail is overlooked in the effort to make the party a success. LEPOCO is a family and we are celebrating, in essence, our birthday in recognition of 46 years of offering peace and justice activities in the Lehigh Valley.

Our speaker for the evening will be David Wildman who writes and speaks on a variety of human rights issues as a member and director/member of several national human rights organizations. He is executive secretary for Human Rights & Racial Justice with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He has been engaged in efforts to establish an exit strategy in Afghanistan and the debate about the US role in the Israel/Palestine conflict. Some members of LEPOCO will remember a meaningful evening discussion about the book he co-authored with Phyllis Bennis, *Ending the US War in Afghanistan: A Primer*. His talk will be on "Ending the War in Afghanistan; Ending the War on State and Local Budgets; How We Bring Our War Dollars Home."

Besides the opportunity to eat great food and hear David Wildman speak, the evening also promises the opportunity to mingle with interesting people and review and purchase literature and peace boutique items. (The pre-dinner gathering starts at 5 pm and the dinner at 5:30 pm.) Generous local artists and donors have provided items for the Art Raffle that helps to offset the cost of our work. A speedy election tally will allow the announcement of the Steering Committee members for the coming year.

You have the opportunity to send in your raffle tickets, your election choices and your dinner reservations with the information in this newsletter (see the insert, page 4 and page 1, respectively). We always rejoice

at early reservation notices. Not surprisingly, we frequently run out of room. Reserve now so you can help us celebrate our birthday.

- Mimi Lang

### March 19: Eight Years of Occupation \_

To mark the tragic anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, the regular Second Thursday vigilers in Bethlehem (gathering for peace at Third & Wyandotte Streets on Thursday even before the war began) are moving the March Vigil to the Third Thursday, March 17, 4-5:30 pm. This will be a special time for a local call for an end to our wars, the week of the Iraq War anniversary.

Lee Buck recently answered one *Morning Call* letter writer who mistakenly accused the vigilers of ending their Bethlehem presence after Pres. Bush left office. Lee wrote that over these many years, the vigils have continued, "calling attention to the killing, the cost in dollars to the nation, and the cost to the servicemen and women and their families." Please join in making the local call for an end to our wars on March 17.

- Nancy C. Tate

#### Return Coupon

**LEPOCO Annual Dinner: Saturday, March 5, 2011**

Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity  
321 Wyandotte St., south 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. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015,  
before 5 pm, Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

#### 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.

# A Spring of Action

### **March 3-4:** *Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution: Weaving Together Community & Curriculum*, the 1st Annual Peace Conference at Northampton Community College. For more info. contact Kiki Anastasakos at 610-861-5568.

### **March 10-13:** *Creating a Culture of Peace (CCP) with Janet Chisholm and Barb Gessner* at Kirkridge Retreat & Study Center, Bangor. Cost \$395, includes meals and housing. Call 610-588-1793 for more info. or see [www.kirkridge.org](http://www.kirkridge.org).

### **Saturday, March 19:** *Resist the War Machine! led by Veterans For Peace.* During the Berkeley Free Speech Movement in 1964, Mario Savio said, *There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part, you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop.*

In the spirit of Mario Savio, with the knowledge that attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan continue unabated, and with the knowledge that endless war has achieved normalcy in this country, Veterans For Peace is again calling on citizens to join with us in veteran-led civil resistance at the White House on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the eighth anniversary of the start of the invasion of Iraq.

Last December, 131 mostly veterans were arrested at the White House fence. On Saturday, March 19, we are anticipating even more arrests as Veterans For Peace and our allies are determined to deepen the resistance. Whether or not you choose to be arrested, you will be making a strong statement to those who are running the war machine, by joining with veterans at a rally at Lafayette Park at noon. Because this is a peaceful act of civil resistance, all those participating by risking arrest will be asked to sign a pledge of nonviolence in word and deed.

Local Veterans For Peace members and others plan to participate. The action is endorsed by Peace Action, the ANSWER Coalition, CODEPINK, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, War Resisters League, and other organizations. For more info. see [www.StopTheseWars.org](http://www.StopTheseWars.org) or contact LEPOCO. - Louise Legun

### **Sunday, March 20:** *Rally for Bradley Manning, Quantico, Virginia*, to support accused WikiLeaks whistle-blower Army Pfc. Bradley Manning. For more info. see [www.bradleymanning.org](http://www.bradleymanning.org).

### **March 19-22:** *Peace Action Spring Lobby Weekend*, Washington, DC, focusing on ending the war in Afghanistan. Contact Jonathan Williams at 443-474-8919 for more info.

### **April 2-3:** *Working for Peace in Latin America: A Weekend with SOA Watch Founder Father Roy Bourgeois.* The Witness for Peace - Mid-Atlantic Retreat  
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2011, will be held at South Mountain YMCA Camp, Wernersville, near Reading. Cost: \$100 covers food and lodging. Registration deadline: March 22. Call 706-405-1273 for more info.

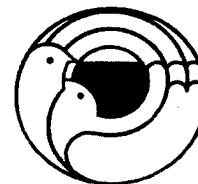
### **April 4-11:** *SOA Watch Spring Days of Action, Washington, DC.* Street theater, lobbying direct action, fast for justice, vigils and more. See [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org) for more info.

### **Friday, April 8:** *Pentagon Action for Peace & the Environment: War Creates Climate Crisis*, Washington, DC. Sponsored by National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance. For more info. contact [joyfirst5@gmail.com](mailto:joyfirst5@gmail.com).

### **April 9-10:** *Confronting US Militarism: Education & Strategy Conference to Build a Stronger Movement to End US Militarism and the Militarization of Latin America*, Washington, DC. See [www.lasolidarity.org](http://www.lasolidarity.org).

### **Tuesday, April 12:** *Global Day of Action Against Military Spending.* A local event is being planned. Please contact LEPOCO to help in planning or for more info.

### **Monday, April 18:** *Tax Day.* Leafleting at local post offices with the War Resisters League pie chart about military spending. Contact LEPOCO to help with this effort.



## 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](http://www.lepoco.org)  
e-mail: [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)

The LEPOCO Newsletter is published 8 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 staple, fold and label the newsletter each month.

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Addison Bross, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Becky Irwin, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Ruth Karpinski, Mimi Lang, Janet Ney, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), Ruth Walden.

# Popcorn/Potluck & Politics

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Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm:

Nico Udu-gama & Gabriela Uassouf

*"SOA Watch & the Movement Against Militarization in Latin America"*

LEPOCO Potluck & Politics at the Peace Center

Nico and Gabriela will discuss the work of SOA Watch (the group opposing the School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Georgia, also known as WHINSEC/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) as the organization responds to growing U.S. militarization in Latin America.

Nico Udu-gama is the U.S. Field Organizer for SOA Watch.

He lived in the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Colombia (on the accompaniment team with Joe DeRaymond). He later worked with other communities in Colombia, worked with tenants facing displacement in Brooklyn, NY, and spent time with villages resisting the Apartheid Wall in Palestine.

Gabriela Uassouf, of Argentina, is a long-term SOAW Latin America intern, based in Venezuela.

A graduate of Dickinson College, her activism has included work with Argentina's neighborhood assemblies movement, work with a community TV station and a women's group in Venezuela.

*Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6 pm.*

*The presentation and discussion should begin around 6:45 pm.*

Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm: The Tillman Story

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

Pat Tillman's family tells the real story about what happened on April 22, 2004, in Afghanistan, when the pro football player-turned-U.S. soldier was killed by friendly fire, and not by the Taliban, as first reported. This documentary pieces together the Tillmans' search for the truth, a military cover-up, and a confrontation of the Bush administration.

Directed by Amir Bar-lev. 95 minutes. 2010.

*Please note: This film was originally scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>, but was moved to this date because March 4<sup>th</sup> is the night before the Annual Dinner.*

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm: Tim Chadwick

*"Why I Fast for Justice: Guantánamo, the Obama Administration, Broken Promises"*

LEPOCO Potluck & Politics at the Peace Center

Area activist Tim Chadwick has participated for several years in Witness Against Torture's Vigil and Fast for Justice in Washington, DC. The Vigil and Fast, held each January 11<sup>th</sup> (the anniversary of when the first "war on terror" prisoners arrived at Guantánamo Bay in 2002) and January 22<sup>nd</sup> (the anniversary of President Obama's inauguration and pledge to close the facility), calls for the closure of Guantánamo and the end of torture. There are twelve days of vigils, lobbying, teach-ins, acts of nonviolent civil disobedience and fasting in our nation's capital. Tim will talk about his experiences with Witness Against Torture ([www.witness torture.org](http://www.witness torture.org)) and share photos and stories of the men still detained, as well as those who have been exonerated.

In particular he will highlight the tragic story of Adel Fattouh Ali Al Gazzar who was released, but lives in limbo in Slovakia, unable to return to his native Egypt.

*Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6 pm.*

*The presentation and discussion should begin around 6:45 pm.*



## LEPOCO Book Group

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The First Wednesday LEPOCO Book Group will meet next on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6 pm, at Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. At that meeting the group will discuss *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver (1998). This book is "a compelling family saga and a sobering picture of the horrors of fanatic fundamentalism and an insightful view of an exploited country (the Congo) during three turbulent decades."

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the group will discuss *The End of War: How Waging Peace Can Save Humanity, Our Planet and Our Future*, by Paul Chappell.

These books were moved forward a month when the February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. New readers and discussion participants are welcome. Call Bob & Carmen Riggs at 610-867-1244 or Becky Irwin at 610-351-6946 if you have questions.

- Susie Ravitz

# Steering Committee Nominations

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LEPOCO's Steering Committee plans and provides leadership for the Action Meetings, held the second Monday of the month (these meetings are open to all members and friends of the organization). The Committee makes decisions between monthly meetings and handles finances, personnel, and other organizational issues. The election for this year's Steering Committee will be completed at the Annual Dinner. (See balloting instructions below.)

Addison Bross, Becky Irwin, Mimi Lang, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Ruth Walden and Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer) will continue serving their Steering Committee terms that began in 2010.

Assuming all these nominees are approved, we will be "growing" the at-large members of the Steering Committee from eight to nine. This is in accordance with LEPOCO's constitution that requires six to ten people serving in this capacity. (We will continue to have two elected co-treasurer's on the Steering Committee as well.) Please note the line on the ballot below where you can note your interest in serving on the Steering Committee or you can suggest another person for this position.

Julius Iwantsch of Bethlehem has been a LEPOCO member since the mid-1970s. He works as a design draftsman, working mainly with municipal clients. His interests include U.S. military involvement, military service alternatives for young people, and bringing this country's reputation up to what it should be -- through change. He enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, and home renovations. He has been co-treasurer for over 12 years.

Ruth Karpinski of Allentown has been a convert to peace activism/nonviolent action. She has been involved with LEPOCO since 2004. Some of her activities have included participating in several protests against the war in Iraq locally, in D.C., and in Toronto, Canada. In Canada, she was a member of a drumming group for peace and was active with Iraqi and Iranian

groups for social change and understanding. She has also traveled south for a Civil Rights tour where she gained a greater understanding of U.S. history and the poverty that still exists in our country. Ruth is a nutritionist and massage therapist by trade. For over 10 years she has been studying North American food choice and trade; and the impact it has on our health and the environment.

Janet Ney of Allentown has served as an at-large Steering Committee member for eight years. She has been facilitating the Annual Dinner for several years, and is a member of the LEPOCO Peace Singers. She previously served on the National Committee of the War Resisters League for ten years. Janet is the Associate Executive Director of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley and has worked for the organization over 27 years. She is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown and volunteers for the Presbytery of Lehigh.

Kelly Quain of Easton is currently a student at Northampton Community College. She was first introduced to LEPOCO when she happened upon a counter-recruitment table in her high school cafeteria. After attending two Youth Peacemaker Trainings while in high school her commitment to the peace and justice community was sealed. Since then she has been involved in local and national campaigns involving a variety of issues from militarism to nuclear disarmament. Within LEPOCO she is involved with the Nuclear Abolition Sisters and would like to work towards getting more young people involved. (She wrote a fantastic fund appeal letter for LEPOCO last fall.) This would be her first term on the Steering Committee.



## Election Ballot

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At-Large Steering Committee Members (vote for three):

Ruth Karpinski \_\_\_\_  
(2-year term)

Kelly Quain \_\_\_\_  
(2-year term)

Janet Ney \_\_\_\_  
(2-year term)

Co-Treasurer (vote for one):

Julius Iwantsch \_\_\_\_  
(2-year term)

\*Please note here if you or anyone you know would be interested in serving on the Steering Committee:

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This ballot can be cast at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 5, 2011, by 6:15 pm, or by mail to arrive at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, by Thursday, March 3, 2011.

# The Struggle Shared

*Can the peace movement talk in loving speech, showing the way for peace? I think that will depend on whether the people in the peace movement can "be peace." Because without being peace we cannot do anything for peace. If we cannot smile we cannot help other people smile. If we are not peaceful then we cannot contribute to the peace movement."*

- Thich Nhat Hanh,

From "A Love Letter to your Congressman" in *Peace Is Every Step*.

## THE PENTAGON'S DREAM

**WEAPONS** - Planning for the future has generally not been a forte for the US Government. The economic collapse and climate crisis come to mind as examples of lack of foresight. Not surprisingly, the military is an exception to this rule.

Within the Department of Defense sits the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA). Founded in 1957, in response to the Soviet launch of Sputnik, with a current budget of \$3 billion annually, DARPA's mandate is to invest in Research and Development of futuristic weaponry. Past credits include the B-52, Tomahawk Cruise Missiles, and Predator Drones. Although DARPA's work is veiled in secrecy, Nick Turse posted an article on Tomdispatch.com, that gives a glimpse of "Six Terrifying New Weapons Being Created by the Pentagon."

The list includes an anti-tank round with a powerful magnetic field that would forcefully inject molten metal into a target on impact. Then there's a long-range anti-ship missile with "high probability target identification in dense shipping environments, and precision aimpointing for maximum lethality;" the first guided small caliber bullet; and, a land drone that would operate semiautonomously in urban surveillance and could keep entire cities under an omnipresent unblinking eye.

On one project, Raytheon and Boeing have identical DARPA contracts for \$21.3 million for Research and Development. Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics are also major players.

Source: [www.AlterNet.org](http://www.AlterNet.org), 1/31/11 and [www.tomdispatch.com](http://www.tomdispatch.com)

## PEACE COMMUNITY &

**VIOLENCE IN TUCSON** - While people around the world have reacted to the shooting rampage in Tucson last month, an ongoing discussion within the peace movement on where violence originates, and what to do to stop it, has taken on new urgency.

Many believe guns are the problem, with everyone from the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence, and Mayors Against Illegal Guns, to Michael Moore documenting frightening examples of how easy it is for assault weapons to end up in the wrong hands, and calling for gun control. Other activists may argue that, "Guns don't kill people, people kill people," and the roots of violence lie much deeper, in a strident political climate that increasingly sweeps us in a tide of intolerance, even in the language we use when we are in conflict with each other. In a local example, Addison Bross had a letter published in the January 16<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Morning Call*, headed "Let's examine where hate speech has taken us."

Bob Moore, of the Coalition for Peace Action, which sponsors Ceasefire NJ, submitted a letter to regional papers which brings the perspectives together. "While most of the media attention about (the Tucson) tragedy has focused on those who promote extremism and violent imagery, such as Sarah Palin and Glenn Beck, it is very difficult to reign in such enticement to violence as long as it is not overt, and targeting specific people. We should strive for curtailing it, but I'm not optimistic about chances for near term improvement. But what is quite doable, and has been done by almost every other industria-

lized nation, is to have sensible gun violence prevention laws that would prevent anyone who might succumb to such provocation from obtaining such lethality." The successful campaign of the Heeding God's Call Coalition in Philadelphia to close Colosimo's Gunshop is a brilliant example of such doability (recall "TheStruggle Shared" article of November 2009).

Locally, activists including members of LEPOCO, have begun attending Bethlehem City Council meetings where recent discussions have disturbed some attenders. The intent is to defend freedom of speech for all who attend, while invoking a tone of civility and respect for differences of opinion.

## TWENTY YEARS OF WAR ON

**IRAQ** - On January 15<sup>th</sup>, as we observed Martin Luther King's Birthday, Pax Christi and other peace groups in Washington, DC, held a march on the White House to commemorate another anniversary. January 16, 1991, marked the beginning of Operation Desert Storm. Those of us who watched our television monitors recall that more than 1000 sorties were flown by U.S. fighter jets in the first 24 hours, and the sustained aerial bombardment went on for 42 days.

There were untold civilian casualties, and the devastation of Baghdad's infrastructure, only exacerbated by the blockade and economic sanctions that followed for more than 10 years, left Iraq without electricity, drinking water, a stable food supply, or a reliable transportation system, and created millions of orphans and displaced Iraqi's before the beginning of the invasion and occupation starting in March, 2003.

Now, 20 years later, though an end to U.S. combat operations has been announced, 50,000 U.S. Troops still occupy Iraq, and the long road to recovery and reparations has barely begun. There have been over 4400 U.S. casualties and there is no definitive end in sight. Twenty years is too long. It is time to end the war and the occupation.

- Jeff Vitelli

# A Special Peaceful Vacation Opportunity!



The LEPOCO Steering Committee is offering a



**GREAT** chance to

**support local peace and justice work**

and have a wonderfully peaceful vacation, too!

## What's being offered?

An extended weekend stay, in a lovely, privately owned,

*Delaware shore home*

(Photographs will be displayed at LEPOCO Annual Dinner, March 5<sup>th</sup>,  
or visit LEPOCO Peace Center. Questions: call 610-691-8730.)



## Where is it located?

*Savannah's Landing, Ocean View, Delaware*

(south of Rehoboth, north of Ocean City - Md., & 4 hrs. from Bethlehem)

## Available When?

**Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> - Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

(4 nights & 4 days, 12:00 noon - 12:00 noon)

## How do we take advantage of this opportunity?

The LEPOCO Steering Committee is asking for **\$800.00** or **best offer** (no less than \$500).

(The true value would be much higher.)



## You may choose to:

- \* email your offer in via: [LEPOCO@fast.net](mailto:LEPOCO@fast.net),
- \* stop by the LEPOCO Office to give your offer, or
- \* phone in your offer via: 610-691-8730.

Note: *Date & time will determine the winner of high offers of equal value so please act quickly.*

**All offers must be in by 5:00 pm Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

The winner will be announced in the March 17<sup>th</sup> LEPOCO weekly email.  
The actual winner will be notified by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

# Bits & Pieces

☪ In late January the Americas Solidarity Group of LEPOCO sent a statement of support to groups in Ciudad Juárez who were holding a weekend of fasting and public reflection with the theme: **"Stop the War ... No More Bloodshed."** It was the first anniversary of a massacre of 18 teenagers in their city and the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death. Ciudad Juárez is afflicted by the most intense violence in this hemisphere. The LEPOCO statement read in part, "We are saddened by the tragic events in your city, but we are also saddened by our failures as a country - our failure to get and keep guns under control; our failure to be a force for peace in the Americas...; our failure to seriously reduce the demand for drugs in the U.S.; and, our failure to build just economic relations with others in the Americas."

☪ Thank you to the readers who helped present Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s **"Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam"** on Jan. 16 in Bethlehem. Also, a special thank you to Sharon Brown of Moravian College who spoke to remind us of the many ways we need to bring Dr. King's message forward in our time.

☪ The exhibit, **"Welcome, Neighbor,"** was produced after several of months of interviews, photographs, transcriptions and design by The Collective Memory Project. The work was done by Moravian College students, Emma Cleveland of the ACLU, photographer Marco Calderon, and Peter Crownfield of the Alliance for Sustainable Communities. The exhibit has been at Moravian College since Feb. 8. It will open with a reception at the Allentown Public Library (1210 W. Hamilton St.) on Thurs., March 10, at 6:30 pm, where it will remain until April 3. From there it will move to the Sigal Museum in Easton (342 Northampton St.) for an opening reception on Thurs., April 7, at 6 pm. It will be open until May 1. Contact the ACLU at 484-350-3767 for more info.

☪ Gary Olson, chair of the Political Science Dept. at Moravian College wrote an insightful article, **"Cuban Internationalism As Engaged Empathy,"** that was published at [www.zcommunications.org](http://www.zcommunications.org) on 12-29-10. He writes about the Cuban policy of sending medical teams to countries around the world, "Cubans were first on the scene after the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti because 314 Cuban health professionals had been working there since 1998."

☪ On Feb. 9, *The Express Times* published a strong editorial, **"Put the Death Penalty Out of Its Misery."** One paragraph read, "What Pennsylvania has today is what New Jersey had before its Legislature and governor ditched capital punishment in 2007 - a system that taxes the public cruelly and unusually, raised false hopes for families of victims, and is, without question, inescapably flawed."

☪ On Jan. 3, *The Express Times* published an excellent piece by Coleman McCarthy, who directs the Center for Teaching Peace, in Washington, DC. The title, **"Why ROTC Shouldn't Be on Campus."**

☪ On Thurs., Feb. 24, The Delaware River Basin Commission will hold one of three hearings on the regulations they will put in place following their current moratorium on **natural gas fracking** in the river basin. Clean Water Action, Bethlehem, is organizing car pools to this hearing. Contact them at 610-691-7395 for more info. If you want to learn more about the DRBC actions and public participation in this process you can view a workshop (held Feb. 18) at [www.delawareriverkeeper.org](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org).

There are ongoing showings films about the hazards of natural gas fracking. On Sat., Feb. 26 at noon, *Gasland* will be at the Pocono Community Theater (88 S. Courtland St., E. Stroudsburg) with a live video link to the film's director Josh Fox for Q.&A. Donation: \$20. On Sat., March 5, at 2 pm, *Gasland* will be shown by the Sierra Club at the Ice House (on Sand Island), Bethlehem. On Sat., March 12, at 6 pm, "Split Estate" will be shown at the Grand Eastonian Suites Hotel (140 Northampton St.) to benefit the Committee to Save Williams Township. Donation: \$20.

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

**Monday, Feb. 21, 6:30 pm: Peace Camp Planning Meeting** for summer 2011 at LEPOCO Peace Center

**Wed., Feb. 23, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Thurs., Feb. 24, 4 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Sun., Feb. 27, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at home of Martha Christine in Bethlehem. Call 610-691-8730 for directions.

**Thurs., March 3, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at LEPOCO Peace Center. Call 610-691-8730 for more info.

**Thurs., March 10, 3:30 pm: Bike-Walkathon Planning Meeting** at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Thursdays, March 10 & April 14, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Fri., March 11, 1 pm: Newsletter Planning Meeting** at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Mondays, March 14 & April 11: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All members and friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

**Tues., April 19, 7 pm: Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

*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 if you want to know the next meeting the Nuclear Abolition Sisters,*

*the Youth & Militarism/Truth in Recruiting Committee,*

*the Fundraising Committee, or the Economic Crisis Committee: please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and a schedule of meetings please see [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).*



# LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015  
610-691-8730 [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)  
Fax: 610-691-8904 [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org)

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Bits & Pieces

LEPOCO Annual Dinner

## Saturday, March 5

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

### David Wildman

Ending the War in Afghanistan; Ending the War on State & Local  
Budgets; How We Bring Our War Dollars Home

(See page 1 for more info. & reservation form)

Thursday, March 17, 4-5:30 pm

### Peace Vigil

(week of the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of U.S. invasion of Iraq)

End Our Wars

Bring the War Dollars Home

(see page 1 for more info.)

Potluck & Politics

"SOA Watch &  
the Movement Against  
Militarization in Latin  
America"

Sunday, March 13, 6 pm

LEPOCO Peace Center