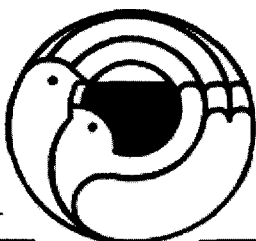


February-March
2012

Vol. 47 No. 2



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

Annual Dinner: A Time For Renewal

There's an event that always seems to me to be a harbinger of spring -- LEPOCO's annual dinner. This year's dinner is very early so spring must be just around the corner. We hope you are planning to attend on Saturday, March 3, 2012, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Third and Wyandotte Streets, Bethlehem. The festivities begin at 5:00 pm, with appetizers and conversation followed by a scrumptious dinner.

The highlight of the evening will be the speaker, Ray McGovern, who will speak on "The Moral Imperative of Activism."

He wrote for his website, www.raymondmcgovern.com, the following biographical information: "Ray came from his native New York to Washington, D.C., in the early Sixties as an Army infantry/intelligence officer and then served as a CIA analyst from the administration of John F. Kennedy to that of George H. W. Bush." Subsequently, "In January 2003, Ray helped create Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) to expose the way intelligence was being falsified to 'justify' war on Iraq."

The evening will include a brief annual meeting of LEPOCO with Steering Committee elections (see the ballot on page 4). There will also be the drawing for the wonderful Art Raffle prizes. (See the enclosed tickets that you can purchase in advance. Request more tickets if you can sell some to your friends.) And, of course, the LEPOCO Peace Singers will be on hand to provide musical entertainment.

Tickets are available now (see return coupon below). Please note that this is a fundraiser for LEPOCO. We think the price of a ticket is very reasonable for a special evening. Any contributions over and above the price of the ticket will be appreciated.

The Annual Dinner is an example of the uniqueness of LEPOCO. This more than 45-year-old organization is driven by its volunteers. We have a wonderful staff in Nancy Tate and Robert Daniels II, and we could not manage without their dedication and hard work. But, volunteering for LEPOCO provides so many opportunities for committed peacemakers to develop program, take on projects, and move forward at his/her own pace.

The dinner happens because there are volunteers willing to devote their time and talents to plan a meal,

plan an inspiring program, prepare the meal from scratch, and offer an evening of camaraderie, thoughtful conversation, and good times.

LEPOCO needs your commitment, your imagination, your dreams of what we, the peace community, can do. Get involved today!

- Janet Ney



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 3, 2012**

*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. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015,
before 5 pm, Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

Steering Committee Nominations

A Year of Transition

Two years ago LEPOCO decided to "grow" the Steering Committee from six at-large members plus two co-treasurers to 6-10 at-large members plus the co-treasurers. The purpose was to involve more people in the work of this Committee. Since that By-Laws change we have had nine at-large members plus the treasurers.

This year we found ourselves needing to fill eight of those eleven slots. To avoid such a massive turn-over on alternate years in the future, two of our present members of the Committee will run for one-year terms. This will make the number of slots coming open relatively equal in odd and even years.

Thank You

First, a huge thank-you to those who have served on the Steering Committee, but are retiring from those duties at this time (in each case it is their choice to do so). Mimi Lang has been on the Steering Committee for four years, though she has been active in most everything LEPOCO for much longer. Ruth Karpinski has been one of our younger members of the Committee for three years. Becky Irwin has made a special contribution in her two years on the committee by convening the Financial Stabilization and Development Ad Hoc Group. Ruth Walden's special contribution has been all her work as convener of Peace Camp.

We will miss all four of the women on the Committee, but look forward to their future contributions to peace work with LEPOCO in other realms.

Janet Ney, Kelly Quain, and co-treasurer, Julius Iwantsch, are each one year into their current two-year term and will continue making their special contributions to LEPOCO's Steering Committee.

Current Nominations

Now for the people running to fill those eight open slots. Please see page 4 for the list, bios, and a ballot.

Bring Troops & Dollars Home —

On February 11th in Allentown, 30 people of conscience joined the March to Bring Troops and War Dollars Home From Around the World. We gathered in front of the new Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King statue, feeling the spirited company of peace witnesses as we recalled the ever inspiring words of Dr. King: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." (After the march we gathered at St. John's Lutheran Church to watch the film, "Call to Conscience," about the significance of King's Riverside Church speech of April 4, 1967.)

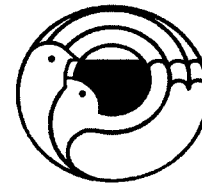
We marched through the sad streets of Allentown wondering how the city might be different had so many of our tax dollars not gone for war and militarism over the past decades. We were greeted warmly by the over 250 people accepting our leaflet. The Nuclear Abolition

Sisters had painted colorful flags representing over 60 of the countries where the U.S. has a larger troop presence. We acknowledged the troops coming out of Iraq and called for their return from the over 140 countries, total, where they are stationed. Our communities and the people of this country can no longer afford to pay for the \$2.1 million spent by the Pentagon every minute of every day. For a lovely photo presentation about the march click the link at www.lepoco.org.

- Nancy C. Tate

Supporting Delegates to El Salvador —

On February 12th, over 20 people gathered at the home of Bob and Carmen Riggs to learn about the plans of Sarah Snider and Mike DiPaulo to join the CIS (Centro Intercambio & Solidaridad) International Election Observer Mission to El Salvador, March 5-13, 2012. They will be accompanying the mayoral and legislative assembly elections in that country to strengthen transparency in the election process and to promote people-to-people solidarity. Having already covered the expenses of their trip, donations were given toward CIS's Joe DeRaymond Memorial Fund. They will go to projects like the school in La Loma, a community that Joe had visited during his many visits to El Salvador. Over \$1700 has been collected from the gathering and other fund raising. We look forward to a trip report upon Sarah and Mike's return.



Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern
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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 collate and prepare the newsletter for mailing each month.

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

Popcorn & Politics

Friday, April 6th, 2012, 7 pm:

Death and Taxes

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

This is a tightly paced film featuring twenty-eight people who offer their motivations for and methods of resisting the war machine with their tax money while redirecting tax dollars to peace work.

Produced by the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. 30 minutes. 2010.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, May 4th, 2012, 7 pm:

The Interrupters

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

This documentary tells the moving and surprising story of three members of CeaseFire who work as "violence interrupters" in Chicago. With bravado, humility and humor they courageously try to protect their communities from the violence they once employed. It is directed by Steve James, whose previous films includes *Hoop Dreams* and *At the Death House Door*. 125 minutes. 2011.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Please Note: There will be no Popcorn & Politics First Friday Film in March since the Annual Dinner will be held the weekend that the film would normally be shown.



LEPOCO Book Group

The First Tuesday Book Group will meet on March 6th, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. They will discuss *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain*, by Lynne Olson (2010). This is the story of the WW II alliance between the U.S. and Britain from the perspective of Edward R. Murrow, Averell Harriman and John Gilbert Winant.

On Tuesday, April 3rd, the group will discuss *Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence* by Christian Parenti (2011). Parenti, an investigative journalist, travels to the front lines of climate change and finds failed states, climatic disasters, and the unsettling presence of Western military forces.

An Unbroken Agony: Haiti, from Revolution to the Kidnapping of a President, by Randall Robinson (2007) will be discussed at the group's May 1st meeting. In this book, Robinson, a bestselling author and social justice advocate, explores the heroic and tragic history of Haiti. He traces the history of a people forced across the Atlantic in chains; recounting their spectacularly successful slave revolt against France and the two-hundred years of reprisals that would follow. The fate of Aristide's presidency is tied to this people's century-long quest for self-determination and his removal from power exposes the apartheid-like forces that frustrate these aspirations even today.

To learn more about the book group, please call Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

Save the Date

LEPOCO Bike/Walkathon
Saturday, June 2, 2012

Symposium on Marcellus Shale Issue

On Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17, the Lehigh Valley Sierra Club and Berks Gas Truth will hold "Marcellus Shale Exposed: A Symposium for Truth and Action," at Northampton Community College, Bethlehem. The Friday evening program will feature "Gasland," the documentary by Josh Fox.

On Saturday, a keynote address by Dr. Anthony Ingraffea of Cornell University's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, will be followed by Task Force sessions to plan actions for environmental protection, health and safety. Resource people will be: Deborah Rogers, Energy Policy Forum; Karen Feridun, Berks Gas Truth; Jeff Schmidt, Pennsylvania Sierra Club; Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network; Dr. Vera Cole, Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association; Drs. Michelle Bamberger and Robert R. Oswald on the Impacts of Gas Drilling on Health.

One must register on-line to participate. To do that go to www.marcellus-shale-exposed.org.

Steering Committee Nominations

(Please see background on the election on page 2.)

Sarah M. Andrew has been a member of LEPOCO for about a decade serving for a time (2002-2004) as the Youth and Militarism Coordinator. She recently moved back to Bethlehem with her husband and two young children after a lengthy sojourn in Chicago, where she earned her law degree. She has a law practice in Bethlehem, focusing on elder law and other civil matters. Her activist interests are in social and economic justice; she believes firmly in the power of grassroots organizing.

Terry Briscoe of Bethlehem is the coordinator of Pax Christi Lehigh Valley, part of the international Catholic peace organization. He is also a member of the local Catholics for Peace and Justice group. He has been a long-time member of LEPOCO and was a leader in the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition when it was most active 2002 to 2010. He is retired from Bethlehem Steel. He and Sylvia have four children and nine grandchildren.

Addison Bross of Bethlehem, has been involved in LEPOCO since the early 1980s. He has often made a special contribution with his wise and informed writing and speaking about peace issues. This will be his third term on the Steering Committee. He is a professor of English emeritus at Lehigh University and founded their Peace Studies minor. He is a trained facilitator for "Creating a Culture of Peace" and is active in the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. He is determined to help find the changes that would be beneficial for the work of peacemaking and justice-advocacy in the Lehigh Valley.

Sheila Clever first served on the LEPOCO Steering Committee from 2001-2003. She is a researcher and teaches at Muhlenberg College as a molecular biologist. She is on the Peace & Justice Committee and the Greening Creation Committee at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown and the Justice & Advocacy Committee with the Lehigh County Conference of Churches. Her current activities in LEPOCO include the Peace Singers and cooking for the Annual Dinner. Sheila and Ron Clever have seven children in their merged family.

Janet Goloub of Treichlers, is a long-time leader in the Americas Solidarity Group. She served two previous terms on the Steering Committee, 1996-1998 and 2000-2002. She worked in the past as an arts administrator, sings with Camerata Singers and Lehigh University's Choral Union, and is an on-air volunteer at WDIY. She is an avid gardener and hiker. In 2009 she completed section hiking the Appalachian Trail. A world traveler, she was a member of solidarity delegations to Haiti and Colombia.

Stefan Rogers of Allentown grew up in Indiana. He was influenced by the Peace Studies program at Manchester College (where his parents taught) and youth activities in the Church of the Brethren. After completing his college studies at Juniata and Manchester Colleges he moved to the Lehigh Valley and married Sharlee DiMenichi. He is completing his first term on the Steering Committee and hopes his job will allow him to be more active during this term. He participated in the activities of the Allentown Occupy last fall.

Susie Ravitz of Easton was a founding member of LEPOCO and has been a faithful member of the Steering Committee for six terms. She is a mainstay of the Nuclear Abolition Sisters. Her recent peace work has included participation in an Interfaith Peace Builders delegation to Israel/Palestine. Retired from her work at Valley Youth House and Art's Toy Manufacturing Company, she is on the Board of the Easton Area Neighborhood Center and travels a lot to visit her children and grandchildren from California to Israel - the youngest being twin granddaughters born in Brooklyn in January.

Tom Stinnett of Riegelsville will continue serving as co-treasurer, a role he has filled recently since 2009, and which he also filled as solo treasurer from 1974-1983. A mechanical engineer he is mostly retired from his work in the biotechnology equipment field, but still does some consulting work. He has served as president of Riegelsville Borough Council for many years and is married to LEPOCO staff-person, Nancy Tate. He has been active in many aspects of LEPOCO's work since 1972.

Election Ballot

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

Sarah Andrew ____
(2-year term)

Addison Bross ____
(1-year term)

Janet Goloub ____
(2-year term)

Susie Ravitz ____
(1-year term)

Terry Briscoe ____
(2-year term)

Sheila Clever ____
(2-year term)

Stefan Rogers ____
(2-year term)

Co-Treasurer (vote for one):

Tom Stinnett ____
(2-year term)

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

This ballot can be cast at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 3, 2012, by 6:15 pm, or by mail to arrive at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, by Friday, March 2, 2012.

The Struggle Shared

The Occupy Movement has tapped into the energy supply that many oppressed and exploited people ultimately discover. We discover it when we come out of denial that we are a subjugated people. We discover just how energizing it can be to delegitimize oppressive institutions and authorities. And when these oppressive authorities react with violence to peaceful resistance, their violence validates their illegitimacy -- and provides us with even more energy.

- Bruce Levine, AlterNet, 12/5/11

381 DAYS OF PROTEST - The People's Organization for Progress (POP) is a grassroots, community-based association of citizens in Newark, New Jersey, that has struggled for racial, social and economic justice since the late sixties. On June 27th of 2011, to celebrate Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted 381 days, POP launched a Daily People's Protest Campaign for Jobs, Peace, Equality and Justice.

Every weekday since June, from 4:30 to 6 pm, at the intersection of Springfield Ave. and West Market Street in Newark, on Saturdays between 12 noon and 2 pm at the corner of Broad and Market, and on Sunday, between 2 and 3 pm, on Springfield Ave, there has been a people's presence. The typical fliers call for a National Jobs Program, an End to Wars, Worker's Rights and Collective Bargaining, a Moratorium on Foreclosures, No Privatization of Public Education, a National Healthcare Program, and Affordable College Education.

The list of organizations that have endorsed the Daily People's Protest fills an entire page (no spacing, small print). There is an organizing meeting every Thursday at 6:30 pm at the Abyssinian Baptist Church to keep the demonstrations fresh and energizing.

On January 16th, for example, the birthday of Martin Luther King, and the 203rd consecutive day of the People's Daily Protest Campaign, there was a March and Rally for Economic Justice and Voting Rights that concluded with a program at City Hall Council Chambers, co-sponsored by a City Council Member.

The guiding principal of People's Organization for Progress is in the words of Frederick Douglas quoted on their promotional brochure: "If

there is no Struggle, there is no Progress."

THE NATION GONE FROM LIBRARY - Frequenters of the Bethlehem Public Library may have noted in recent months that some of our favorite magazines have disappeared from circulation. *The Progressive* was stopped early in 2011. Most recently *The Nation*, the oldest continuously published weekly magazine in the United States, founded on July 6, 1865, and self-described as "the flagship of the left," has stopped arriving. The most recent issue in the stacks is from November 2011.

When I inquired at the Library Information Desk, staff cited budgetary constraints. Public libraries have been hit hard by state funding cuts, and some of the more costly magazine subscriptions needed to be cancelled. A decision was made by the Board to cut some of the more political magazines. *The Nation* was selected as the left-leaning publication. *American Spectator* was chosen as the right-wing journal to eliminate.

The Bethlehem Public Library currently has over 150 magazines, covering every nook and cranny of the political spectrum, and special interests from cats to bicycles to guns to brides. Of all the subscriptions, about a half dozen are gift subscriptions from Library supporters. Certainly one option for getting *The Nation* reinstated is for someone to purchase a subscription and donate it to the Library. But the other determining factor in choosing which magazine subscriptions to cancel is its popularity. We progressive thinkers have apparently not been making our voices heard in this particular way.

What is needed is for users of the Bethlehem Public Library to let their progressive preferences be known.

Visit the Library, check out the back issues of *The Nation*, and your other favorite progressive journals. Go to the Information Desk and request that *The Nation* be reordered. Call, or write a letter with that request.

ROY BOURGEOIS AT MORAVIAN ACADEMY - On Friday, March 30th, Moravian Academy is sponsoring a reception and Latin American tapas with live music, followed by a presentation by Fr. Roy Bourgeois on "The School of the Americas and U.S. Foreign policy in Latin America." Roy Bourgeois was our Annual Dinner speaker in 1999, and has inspired many LEPOCO activists who have participated in the School of the America's Watch demonstrations and activities over the years.

The tapas will begin at 5 pm in the Walter Hall Auditorium of Moravian Academy Upper School, 4313 Green Pond Rd., Bethlehem, with Father Roy's presentation at 6 pm. There is no cost to the public, but we are asked to bring canned good donations for New Bethany Ministries Food Bank. Register ahead by calling Katherine Burd at 610-691-1600.

FRANCES MOORE LAPPE AT LEHIGH - The Humanities Center of Lehigh University, as part of their Visions Series, is sponsoring a Political Visions Symposium, March 29-30, 9 am to 6 pm, each day. Among the participants in the symposium is Frances Moore Lappe.

The most famous of her 18 books, is *Diet for a Small Planet*, which sold three million copies. It is considered "the blueprint for eating with a small carbon footprint since long before the term was coined" and is often listed among books whose words have changed the world. Her most recent book is *EcoMind: Changing the Way We Think to Create the World We Want*.

Other participants in the Political Visions Symposium include Wafaa Bilal, of Tisch School of the Arts, NYU; Paddy Woodworth, Journalist; Juan Cole, University of Michigan; and Carol Adams, Writer. For more information call Susan Shell, Coordinator of Lehigh's Humanities Center, at 610-758-4375.

- Jeff Vitelli

Occupy Spring Thaw _____

Winter has seen the eviction and voluntary disbandment of many of the encampments of the Occupy movement in the United States. Locally, Occupy Allentown and Occupy Bethlehem were removed by police, while in Easton a General Assembly decision resulted in a hiatus for the encampment. Though local Occupy activists aren't visibly camping they continue to participate in marches and organize online on Facebook and in person at General Assemblies. Keep tuned in by going to www.occupylehighvalley.org.

Washington, D.C., has maintained not one, but two encampments that continue (under serious restrictions by the National Park Service). Whether the campsites last through the rest of the winter or not the nation's capital is set to be a focal point for the Occupy movement as the weather gets warmer. On March 30th, people from across the country will gather for an "American Spring" in Washington, DC. In a statement released on January 14th, Margaret Flowers wrote, "The National Occupation of Washington, DC (NOW DC) opposes the corruption of both parties in conducting U.S. domestic and foreign policies. Our most precious safeguard, the Bill of Rights, has been effectively destroyed, and the Supreme Court has allowed the Constitution to be perverted... We are uniting against a corporate-controlled government which has failed abysmally to promote the public well-being and in doing so we will demonstrate our commitment to creating a new world where the people, not the 1%, rule."

In addition to a mass encampment in DC, other plans include an Occupy Social Forum, a concert (featuring Ani DiFranco and Jackson Browne among others) and civil resistance. Visit www.nowdc.org for the latest developments.

- robert Daniels II

Witness Against Torture formed in 2005 when 25 U.S. citizens went to Guantánamo Bay and attempted to visit the detention facility. This year's action was co-sponsored by Amnesty International, Physicians for Human Rights, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, among others. Visit www.witnesstorture.org for more information.

- robert Daniels II

Honoring Bank Transfer Day—

Among the many positive things the Occupy movement has meant to me, perhaps the simplest and yet most meaningful, has been the push it gave me to move my money from a big bank to a credit union. It was through Occupy that I learned about Bank Transfer Day, a consumer activism initiative which called for a voluntary switch from commercial banks to cooperatively owned, not-for-profit credit unions on November 5th, Guy Fawkes Day.

At last my outrage at Too-Big-To-Fail Wall Street Bank Bailouts outweighed my sloth. I made the switch on November 5th and at the following LEPOCO Action Meeting I pitched the idea for the organization to finally make the move from Bank of America (which had been receiving a lot of bad press for proposing a \$5 a month fee for debit cards) to First Commonwealth Credit Union. LEPOCO's Steering Committee agreed the move was long overdue and tasked co-treasurers Julius Iwantsch and Tom Stinnett with the job of moving the money.

That switch has been made with added benefits for LEPOCO members. Karen Wagner, First Commonwealth's Member Development Manager, has advised that as a member of LEPOCO, you may open a new savings account and free Value Checking account with one of the following incentives through June 30, 2012: \$100 for a new free Value Checking account with a minimum direct deposit of \$500 per month; \$50 for a new savings account with a minimum direct deposit of \$100 per month; or, \$25 for a new savings account with a minimum direct deposit of \$50 per month. Bring this article to any branch to receive the cash incentives.

Other benefits of First Commonwealth's Value Checking account include: no minimum balance requirement; free Visa Check Card; free first box of checks; free on-line banking and on-line bill payment; and, as a member of First Commonwealth, your immediate family members are eligible to open accounts as well. Visit First Commonwealth at www.firstcomcu.org or call 610-821-2400, ext. 6777, for more information.

While removing your money from a tainted banking institution to put it into a saner, more philosophically aligned one isn't the revolution Guy Fawkesians may imagine, it is a valid and effective form of protest against a corrupt financial system. And unlike the Fawkes plot, it's nonviolent, which is a perfect fit for LEPOCO.

- robert Daniels II

Witness Against Torture in DC

Thirty-seven members of Witness Against Torture were arrested in front of the White House on January 12th as the culmination of their annual protest calling for the closure of the U.S. military base in Guantánamo, Cuba. Dressed in the iconic orange jumpsuits and black hoods and accompanied by a cage representing indefinite detention, the activists were warned to clear the sidewalk by National Park Police or risk arrest. After occupying the sidewalk for more than three hours, they were arrested one by one. This nonviolent resistance action came at the end of a ten-day fast which began on January 2nd.

Bethlehem activist Tim Chadwick, who once again made the trip to Washington D.C., reflected on the January 12th action by saying, "It was a drizzly rain, and the first time in the hood that I freaked out, because I could not see, and felt like it must feel to have a hood on for days, in shackles, sent on a plane ride to Guantánamo. It was scary and made me cry."

Bits & Pieces

☯ If you are involved in a simpatico business or organization that would like to place an **ad in LEPOCO's Annual Dinner printed program**, please contact robert Daniels at the LEPOCO office (610-691-8730). (Business cards are \$25; half-page is \$50; and full-page is \$75.) Deadline for copy is Monday, February 27.

☯ Nine years ago, in mid-February, United for Peace & Justice (UFPJ) led U.S. anti-war activists in an historic demonstration opposing the war in Iraq. Over 11 million people around the world took action making it the biggest protest in history. The "power of the peaceful" was recognized by the media as the world's Second Superpower. Now the troops are finally home from Iraq, but the U.S. occupies that nation with contractors, while fighting continues in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and war drums are sounding toward Iran. UFPJ is inviting peace activists to a conference to "**Occupy Peace**" in Philadelphia, February 24-26, to deepen and broaden our opposition to the U.S. war machine and to help build the powerful justice movement growing in the U.S. See www.unitedforpeace.org for more information and to register. If you would like to car pool from the Lehigh Valley, call LEPOCO (610-691-8730).

☯ LEPOCO members and friends concerned about the impact of natural gas hydraulic fracturing have been invited by a Quaker Meeting in the affected region of our state to a weekend tour. "20 Hours in Tioga County" would give participants a chance to see some of difficult changes being faced by the people who live there. If you would like to be a participant in such a tour or if you would like to help plan the logistics for it please contact LEPOCO.

☯ A Committee strategizing to bring **Low Power FM community radio** to the Lehigh Valley continues meeting. Their next meeting will be Tues., Feb. 28, at 7 pm, at the offices of the Martin

Luther & Coretta Scott King Memorial Project, Max Hess Bldg., 1244 W. Hamilton St., Suite 105, Allentown (484-661-1161). On Thurs., March 22, the group will meet at the LEPOCO Peace Center and hear from a grant writing expert. The group is being advised by the Prometheus Radio Project in Philadelphia. For more info., contact Burr Beard at 610-419-0482.

☯ On Thurs., March 1, 6:30-8 pm, the Children's Coalition of the Lehigh Valley will hold their **Family Policy Summit** in Prosser Aud., Moravian College, Bethlehem. The Summit will provide key policy developments in the 2013 Pennsylvania state budget regarding the needs of children, with a focus on low income families. For more info., contact Deb Evans at 610-861-1340.

☯ The Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space will hold their **annual conference in Gangjeong village on Jeju Island, South Korea**, Feb. 24-26. The 400-year-old village and endangered soft-coral reefs offshore will be destroyed in the build-ing of a port for U.S. Navy Aegis destroyers. A leader of the Global Net-work said, "Like millions of people around the world they (the people of Gangjeong) have found themselves on the front line of the struggle

against empire, greed and militarism. It is so important that their courage and resis-tance is recognized and supported." See www.space4peace.org for more info.

☯ On Fri., March 30, 9 am to 3 pm, Northampton Community College will hold their second Peace & Justice Conference, "**Justice Or Just Us? Activism in the Age of Inequality.**" For more info. contact the college.

☯ The School of Americas Watch is calling people to come to Washington, DC for **Days of Action to Close the SOA and End Militarism**, April 14-17. The four days' activities will include lobbying, a conference, strategy sessions, a concert, and a march on Capitol Hill with street theater and direct action. For more info. see www.soaw.org.

☯ A Planning Group for **Peace Camp 2012** in July held a first meeting on February 16th. There is good energy among the group to take on various tasks of organizing. The one big deficit the group has at this time is the need for a convener to hold the planning together. If you are interested in this important, intense, but rewarding volunteer job, please contact LEPOCO. Of course many other volunteer jobs will be looking for people to fill them as planning for the camp proceeds.

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

Friday, February 24, 1 pm: Newsletter Planning Committee meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sunday, February 26, 7 pm: Peace Singers rehearse at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, Bethlehem.

Wednesday, March 7, 10:30 am: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thursdays, March 8 & April 12, 6 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Mondays, March 12 & April 9, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the Peace Center. All members and friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

Wednesday, March 14, 3:30 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thursday, April 19, 3:30 pm: Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee meeting at the 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 of the Nuclear Abolition Sisters or the Peace Camp Planning Committee, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings please see www.lepoco.org.



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

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Meetings...

LEPOCO Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 3, 2012

Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Speaker: Ray McGovern

(See pages 1 for more information.)

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

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

Monthly Peace Vigil

*Our wars continue.
Please help witness for peace.*

4:00-5:00 pm

Second Thursdays

(March 8 & April 12)

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Contact:

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