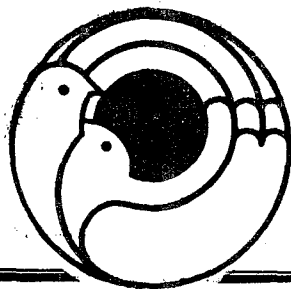


January
2008

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Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

Annual Dinner Speaker: Bruce Gagnon

Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the *Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space* will speak for LEPOCO's Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 29th. Gagnon co-founded the Global Network in 1992. The title of his presentation at the dinner will be "Swords Into Plowshares: Transforming the Military Industrial Complex."

The Annual Dinner will take place at the Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 3rd & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem. There will be pre-dinner music and appetizers at 5 pm, with the dinner starting at 5:30 pm. Tickets 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. If space allows, program-only tickets will be sold at the door.

Between 1983 and 1998, Bruce was the state coordinator of the *Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice*. In 1987 he organized the largest peace protest in Florida history when over 5000 people marched on Cape Canaveral in opposition to the first flight test of the Trident II nuclear missile. He was the organizer of the Cancel Cassini Campaign (the Cassini project launched 72 pounds of plutonium into space in 1997) that drew enormous support and media coverage around the world and was featured on the TV program *60 Minutes*.

Gagnon believes that valuable resources on the moon and the planets will be the next battleground for corporate profits. "The U.S. intends to control...and dominate space and deny other countries access," he

says, adding that the means for seizing such control are nuclear, they threaten everyone on earth, and divert funding from the common good.

Bruce speaks internationally and has written for publications such as *Earth Island Journal*, *Counterpunch*, *Z Magazine*, *Space News*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Asia Times*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Canadian Dimension*, and *Sakai Journal* (Japan). His book *Come Together Right Now: Organizing Stories from a Fading Empire* was published in 2005. He also writes a popular blog called *Organizing Notes*.

Bruce has co-produced two videos, *Arsenal of Hypocrisy* (2003) that spells out U.S. plans for space domination, and *The Necessity of the Conversion of the Military Industrial Complex* (2006). Both have been extensively shown on Free Speech TV. He hosts a cable TV show called *This Issue* that currently runs in eight communities in Maine, where he lives now.

Bruce began his career by working for the United Farm Workers Union in Florida organizing fruit pickers. He is a Vietnam-era veteran and an active member of Veterans for Peace. He recalls that his own shift in consciousness began when a handful of Vietnam War protestors stood outside the Air Force base in California where he was stationed. Remembering this, he perseveres, and continues to find new ways to enlist the concern of others. For more information on Bruce's work see www.space4peace.org.

- Mike Lawton

Remembering the Peace Witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Sunday, January 27, at 2:30 pm, LEPOCO will hold the now annual program remembering the peace witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by reading the "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," speech delivered at Riverside Church on April 4, 1967, a year before this leader and prophet of nonviolence was assassinated. This year the speech will be delivered by Eva Moorhead, Iary moten, and Bob Weick. The program will be held at Godfrey Daniels Coffeehouse, 7 East 4th St., south Bethlehem. (There will be no charge, but Godfrey's wonderful desserts and treats will be available for a charge.) Grace Adele Spruiell, the LEPOCO Peace Singers and others will sing and lead the singing of protest songs and spirituals. Don't miss this opportunity to again be inspired by the King peace witness.

LEPOCO Among Those Honored at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Convocation
Lehigh University held their Inaugural Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Convocation, Building "the Beloved Community," on Monday, January 21. As part of the program, sixteen individuals and organizations were honored for their service to the University and the community. LEPOCO was among the sixteen. Lehigh is sponsoring two other important programs in observance of the King Holiday (see over).

Other Martin Luther King Events

On Tuesday, January 29, at 7:30 pm, Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan will speak on From the Corrosive Cancer of Hate to the Compelling Call For Compassion, in Prosser Aud., Moravian College, Bethlehem. Dr. Kirk-Duggan is Professor of Theology and Director of Women's Studies at Shaw Divinity School, Shaw University, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

And finally, on Wednesday, January 30, Jonathan Kozol will speak on "Prophetic Justice: The Vision of Dr. King and the Present Crisis of Our Separate and Unequal School System," at 7 pm, in Packard Lab Aud., Lehigh University, south Bethlehem. Kozol's books include *Death at an Early Age* and *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*. A new book, *Letters to a Young Teacher* published in 2007.

Bill O'Reilly at the State Theatre

For the third consecutive year, Fox Cable Television "infotainment" star, Bill O'Reilly, will be at Easton's State Theatre on Saturday, January 26. He will participate in a 6 pm reception followed by his 8 pm performance. His visit to the Lehigh Valley should not pass without some expression of disapproval for his polarizing behavior. I'm inviting LEPOCO members to join me on the sidewalk in front of the State Theatre to bring an appropriate message to Mr. O'Reilly's fans. That message might include, "Bill O'Reilly's rhetoric is like alcohol - it makes you feel good, but it poisons the brain." If you have any suggestions and if you can join me, call 908-859-5632.

A separate but related issue is that the State needs to be encouraged to invite speakers/performers with

Nuclear Nugget

Albert Einstein said that our hope for rescue from nuclear weapons lies in citizens' insistence that they not be used. Will we rise to meet that responsibility?

"Through the release of atomic energy, our generation has brought into the world the most revolutionary force since prehistoric man's discovery of fire.

"This basic force of the universe cannot be fitted into the outmoded concept of narrow nationalisms. For there is no secret and there is no defense; there is no possibility of control except through the aroused understanding and insistence of the peoples of the world. We scientists recognize our inescapable responsibility to carry to our fellow citizens an understanding of atomic energy and its implication for society. In this lies our only security and our only hope -- we believe that an informed citizenry will act for life and not for death." - Albert Einstein, January 22, 1947

other perspectives on U.S. politics. People like Noam Chomsky or Al Franken could likely attract just as large an audience. I suggest we send letters to the State Theatre asking them to invite such people.

- Reggie Regrut



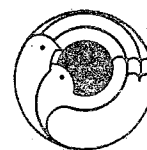
Be All You Can Be... Work For Peace!

Part-Time Paid Staff Position Available

LEPOCO is seeking a staffperson to work 10 to 15 hours per week on our Youth & Militarism Program. Responsibilities include outreach and education at public events, schools, and with young people in general. Candidates should be comfortable doing presentations, speaking in public, communicating with school officials and working closely with high school-aged students. Other duties include developing and maintaining relationships with local schools, phone calls, mailings, attending meetings and conferences, ordering and managing the Y&M counter-recruitment materials. We would prefer candidates who can make at least a one-year commitment to this position. Call 610-691-8730 for more information or send a letter of interest to LEPOCO, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 or to lepoco@fast.net. Please respond ASAP.

Newsletter of LEPOCO

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

Annual dues are:

Regular Member	\$25
Limited Income Member	\$ 5
Household Membership	\$30
Supporting Member	\$50

Articles/news should be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month for use in the following month's newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: Ellen Buck, Martha Christine, Peter Christine, Peter Crownfield, Fran Dreisbach, Ariene Grow, Mike Lawton, Tom Lloyd, Bob Riggs, Tom Stinnett, Joan Stolz, Joan Stone, Nancy Tate, Marion Thorne, Jeff Vitelli, Hans Wuerth, and Ursula Wuerth.

Thanks to all the people who staple, fold and label the newsletter each month.

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

Popcorn & Politics

First Friday Films
projected on the big screen at the
LEPOCO Peace Center

Friday, Feb. 1st, 7 pm

Salt of the Earth

Using mostly non-professional actors, blacklisted director Herbert J. Biberman recreates a strike by zinc miners in New Mexico and thus explores the complex issues of labor relations, minority rights, and the struggle of women to achieve equality and dignity in their daily lives. 94 minutes. 1954.

To be preceded by "The Hollywood Ten," a short film about the filmmakers blacklisted during the McCarthy era.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, March 7th, 7 pm

No End In Sight

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.



LEPOCO Steering Committee

The election for LEPOCO's Steering Committee is held at the Annual Dinner in March. There are four seats to be filled this year (to serve March 2008-March 2010). At least some of the present members will be willing to serve again, but at least one new person is needed for the committee. If you are interested in this job please call 610-691-8730 or talk to Susie Ravitz. The Steering Committee meets on the first Monday of the month and facilitates the monthly Action Meeting which takes place on the second Monday. They are also called to help make decisions between meetings, usually through a phone poll.

Potluck & Discussion on the Devastation Caused by Cluster Bombs

Dan Allen, Conventional Weapons Legislative Program Assistant for Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC, will speak at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting House, (Rt. 512, 1/2 mile north or Rt. 22, Bethlehem), on Friday, February 8th, about the lethal effects of Cluster Bombs. These weapons open in mid-air and disperse smaller sub-munitions which are designed to kill every living creature within an area the size of 2-4 football fields. Cluster Bombs have a deadly record of killing and maiming civilians both during and after attacks as many of the sub-munitions do not detonate immediately and become "de facto" land mines.

There will be a Potluck Dinner at 6:30, (please bring some food to share), followed by Dan Allen's presentation and discussion. Coffee and Tea will be provided. For more information contact Dan Falco at 610-797-1864.

- Dan Falco

Together We Can Defund the War: A Workshop on the 2008 War Tax Boycott

On Sunday, February 10th, 2-4:30 pm, at the LEPOCO Peace Center, (313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem), you will have the opportunity to learn about the new campaign led by the National War Tax Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC). The campaign is an effort to unite taxpayers who oppose this war in an act of nonviolent civil disobedience to show Congress how to cut off funds for the war.

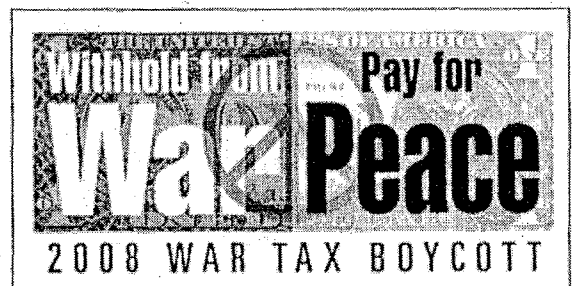
Ruth Benn, coordinator for NWTRCC since 2003, staffperson for the War Resisters League for 13 years, and a long-time war tax resister, will lead the workshop presenting information about the War Tax Boycott campaign and the long history of war tax resistance in our country. Others may join her to talk about their tax resistance experiences.

Please call 610-691-8730 or e-mail lepoco@fast.net to sign up for the workshop. Though not required, advance registration will help us prepare set-up and materials.

Other groups supporting the 2008 War Tax Boycott include the Nonviolent Direct Action Working Group of United for Peace and Justice, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace, and the War Resisters League. More information on the campaign can be found at www.wartaxboycott.org.

Henry David Thoreau said: "If a thousand (people) were not to pay their tax bills this year, that would not be a violent and bloody measure, as it would be to pay them and enable the state to commit violence and shed innocent blood.

- Nancy Tate



Art Landis on Trial January 28th

Last November (2007) I participated in the 18th annual Vigil and Demonstration to Close the School of the Americas, at Fort Benning, Georgia, aimed at shutting down this controversial training facility. (The School of the Americas now goes by the name of Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation or WHINSEC).

I was one of ten protesters arrested by military police and charged with criminal trespass for stepping onto the military post through a hole in a fence at the construction site of the National Infantry Museum off South Lumpkin Road at Ft. Benning. Another person was arrested for climbing over the fence at a different location on the perimeter of the Fort.

I had traveled down to Georgia earlier that week with Joe DeRaymond, Tim Chadwick and Sarah Snider. We left Thursday morning and arrived very early Friday morning.

There were meetings on Friday and Saturday night for those of us that were going to do civil disobedience. We started those meetings as complete strangers to each other, but bonded quickly. Arrangements were made for the civil disobedience on Sunday. Saturday I spent a lot of time thinking and I had a hard time sleeping. I had some fears about prison -- I still do -- but I decided to do it anyway. I felt it was my duty to stand up and say no to certain things: to the training of terrorists and assassins with my tax dollars.

We crawled under the fence and in a very short time we were picked up, handcuffed, and taken to a building to be processed. We were then kept on a bus

under guard for most of the day. We have been released on bail, and our trial is scheduled for January 28, in Columbus, GA.

I would like to thank my friends in LEPOCO for allowing me to do civil disobedience with you in the past. That helped prepare me for and inspire me to do this action. Thank you, family, for giving me the freedom to say no to U.S. imperialism. I thank all who have gone before me, fighters for equality for women, civil rights for blacks, liberation for gays, and justice for workers.

I'm very inspired by poetry, and particularly e.e. Cummings' "I Sing of Olaf," which tells the story of one conscientious objector. I wish I could honor by name those who have said, "No More," to war and were executed on the spot. I wish I knew where they were buried, those brave unsung heroes of mine.

- Art Landis

Join the Nationwide Movement of Weekly Peace Vigils

Bethlehem: 4-5 pm, Thursdays

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem
Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103

Allentown: Noon-1 pm, Fridays

Federal Courthouse, 5th & Hamilton Sts
Contact: Rev. John Clint Fowler 610-746-5013

Easton: 10-11 am, Saturdays Centre Square

Contact: Reggie Regrut, 908-859-5632

Please attend as often as you are able!

On December 20, 2007, this very bundled group of people walked from Phillipsburg, New Jersey, to Easton, Pennsylvania, across the "Free Bridge" bearing the message that the action of New Jersey's state government to abolish the death penalty needs to come to Pennsylvania. Carrying "Stop Executions in Pennsylvania," the group of twenty people stopped at Pennsylvania State Representative Robert Freeman's office on Northampton St., Easton, to sign a petition for action by the state legislature to follow the lead of New Jersey. The walk ended with a brief presence at the Northampton County Courthouse, home to the active advocate of the death penalty, District Attorney John Morganelli. *The Morning Call* and *The Express Times* both carried stories and photos of the march and WLVT-TV carried stories on their regular and Latino news programs. Thank you to all who marched on a cold December day.

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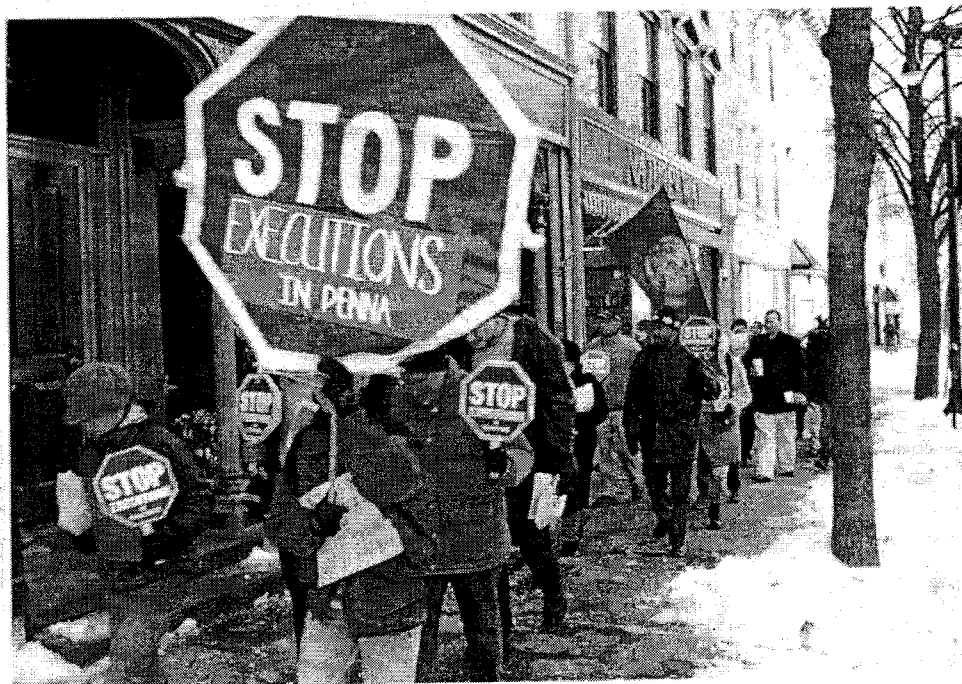


Photo by Gabriel Rose

The Struggle Shared

And we call him by the Prince of Peace,
And we call him by the Savior,
And we pray to him upon our knees
To forgive our misbehavior
And we fill the churches with our families
and our faith in him increases
But we turn the places that we worship him
from a temple to a robber's den,
In the words of the Rebel Jesus...

- Jackson Browne, "The Rebel Jesus"

NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM

PILGRIMAGE 2007 - Alan Jennings, as speaker at the repast following the Annual Peace Pilgrimage, invoked the image of the angry Jesus in the temple railing against the conditions of poverty and neglect of the poor and said "the motley couple" and their infant would have encountered the same had they come to the Lehigh Valley in 2007. As director of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley for the past three decades, Alan had an arsenal of statistics to drive home the analogy. Almost the complete text of his talk was published in *The Morning Call* on Christmas Day.

The evening program was complimented by a performance from LEPOCO's Peace Choir, featuring new arrangements by Ken Moore of John McCutcheon's "Christmas in the Trenches," and Anne Hill's "That Kind of Grace," with a new verse about Cindy Sheehan.

The walk itself, the 48th Annual Pilgrimage, was a very visible and energetic demonstration of the peace message. The official head count leaving Nazareth was 199, with people jumping in and dropping out all along the route, participation hovered around 200, considerably up from the last few years, with lots of first-timers including at least one group of students from a local high school.

At the First Baptist Church rest stop, the assembly joined in an ecumenical peace message of prayers from Christianity and Judaism. (A third representative from Islam was unable to be there.) Planning is already under way, not just for next

year's 49th Pilgrimage, but for the Jubilee 50th Peace Pilgrimage in 2009. Lace up your walking shoes, and get involved, assuming that there will be lots of peacemaking yet to do next year and beyond.

ANNE WRIGHT BOOKSIGNING -

Readers who attended Cindy Sheehan's talk in Allentown last summer at the Sterling Hotel, may remember Anne Wright as the retired Army Colonel who spoke eloquently about her distancing herself from the U.S. Government and its military over her opposition to the war in Iraq. Anne Wright also served 16 years in the U.S. Foreign Service including being on the team that reopened the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan in December 2001.

Anne has written a book, *Dissent: Voices of Conscience: Government Insiders Speak Out Against the War In Iraq*. She will be at the Moravian Bookshop on Main St., Bethlehem, for a book signing on Saturday, February 2nd, 1-3 pm. She will speak briefly at 1 pm.

Dissent, published by KOA Books, profiles the government officials whose loyalty to the Constitution, and the people of the U.S., transcended partisan politics. It includes testimony and stories from Craig Murray, who leaked documents about horrific human rights abuses in Uzbekistan; John Brady Kiesling, and other ambassadors who resigned in the run-up to the Iraq war; and others. "From desk jockeys to high-ranking diplomats, these patriotic men and women share one common trait: a willingness to stand up and speak truth to

power. By exposing policies and actions that run counter to the nation and its people, they elucidate why dissent is crucial to a thriving democracy."

The book will be available at the Moravian Bookshop around January 15th for \$17.95. For more information on Anne Wright's visit, call the Bookshop at 610-866-5481 or see www.moravianbookshop.com.

BOLIVIA TO PULL OUT OF SOA -

In October, Bolivian President Evo Morales announced that his government will gradually withdraw its military from training programs at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), formerly known as the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Bolivia will join Costa Rica, Argentina, Uruguay and Venezuela as the fifth country in the region to formally withdraw from the SOA.

In the past SOA trainees have played a crucial role in the political history of Bolivia. Hugo Banzar Suarez, whose military dictatorship ruled Bolivia from 1971 to 1978, attended the School in 1956, and was inducted into its "Hall of Fame" in 1988. Tens of thousands of Bolivian officers have been trained at the SOA over the past 50 years. As recently as 2006 two former graduates of the SOA were arrested on charges of torture, murder, and violations of the Constitution for their role in the deaths of 67 people in El Alto, Bolivia, in September 2003.

In his announcement Morales concluded, "They are teaching high-ranking officers to confront their own people, to identify social movements as their enemies." The decision is seen as a tremendous victory for torture survivors, movement leaders, and human rights activist in Bolivia, and throughout Latin America.

- Jeff Vitelli

Stand Up For the Constitution

Besides being leaders of the local chapter of Veterans For Peace, Louise Legun and Judy Woodruff have undertaken another important effort in this new year.

On Monday, January 7, they began a monthly demonstration to "Stand Up For the Constitution," at Allentown City Hall (4th & Hamilton Sts.). They displayed a 3'x4' copy of the Bill of Rights with portions highlighted that have been damaged by the Patriot Act, the Military Commissions Act and other acts of recent years. Leaflets from the Bill of Rights Defense Committee were distributed. Red, white and blue were the patriotic colors of the signs and also the colors worn by many of the over one dozen participants. You are invited to join them on February 4th (the first Monday): same time, same place.

For more information, contact Louise and Judy at 610-437-5314.

Seniors Get Involved!

The Current Events Group at the Elm Street Senior Center in Allentown has been securing signatures on petitions to our U.S. Congressman Dent urging his support for U.S. House Bill 676, known as the "Single-payer National Health Program" to provide universal healthcare for all U.S. citizens. This was done after a thorough look at what other industrialized countries offer their citizens. In addition, we collected many reports dealing with the funding of our current system of care.

Reports by both the Office of Management and Budget in Congress and independent health care surveys show that the current health care programs are unnecessarily expensive. For example, while standard Medicare administrative costs are 3%, Medicare replacement programs charge our government 30% for their administrative services. Is this fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars? Please note that I am a senior who has lived through the depression and witnessed its horrors for rich and poor alike. As parents and grandparents we (the Current Events Group) do not want to see this happen again. Our objective is to see that the government spends our money as efficiently as possible. A national healthcare system is the efficient alternative to our present costly programs. In fact, recent polls show that 65% of U.S. citizens favor a one-payer healthcare program. While getting our Congress to hear this majority call for a National Health Program is daunting, there is another way.

We have an opportunity to achieve our goal by following the Canadian Plan: after one Canadian province started with care for its own citizens, the rest of the country followed. By petitioning our State Legislature for passage of The Family & Business Healthcare Security Act, Senate Bill 300 or House Bill 1660 for

Universal Healthcare for Pennsylvanians, we could lead the nation toward better and less costly healthcare.

To expedite the matter, you can help the working poor and citizens of our state by picking up petitions and asking family, friends and neighbors for their signatures. It may surprise you to find a positive non-partisan response, which is what I have discovered.

If you have any questions regarding the National Bill, contact Ruth Livesay at 610-435-4261. For copies of the petition and other information on the State Bills contact: Health Care for All Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 828, Levittown, Pa. 19058 or www.healthcare4allpa.org.

- Ruth Livesay

A "Sicko" Surprise

As a bonus to the January 4th Popcorn and Politics screening of the film *Sicko* at the LEPOCO Peace Center was the surprise appearance of John Graham, one of the 9/11 rescue workers who traveled with Michael Moore to Cuba and was featured in the film. Mr. Graham was generous with his time and graciously stayed after the movie to answer questions from the audience about his experience on September 11th, 2001, his medical concerns, his time in Cuba, and his interactions with Michael Moore. He urged support for HR-676 which Ruth Livesay writes about above and urged everyone to make sure others get to see "Sicko."

Editor's Note: These words from Robert Daniels II remind us of the important work Robert does arranging the First Friday Films and that an excellent review of *Sicko* by Robert appears at www.bethlehemregurgitator@bravehost.com.

Support Malalai Joya in Afghanistan

In September 2007, I had the opportunity to meet Malalai Joya, a native of Afghanistan who was elected to their Parliament in 2006, one of a small number of women. In May of 2007, she was removed from the Parliament after she called for the prosecution of drug lords and warlords who had also been elected to Parliament. She was told she could return to the Parliament if she apologized. She refuses to apologize, yet continues to work in Afghanistan for democratic change. A documentary film about her work and election, *Enemies of Happiness*, was shown last year on PBS-TV. Because she challenges the patriarchal system and cultural repression where, for example, 70% of women are still forced into arranged marriages, there have been four assassination attempts on her life. Malalai needs our help. I encourage you to visit her website, www.malalaijoya.com, and if possible, make a donation so that she can continue to pay for her security needs.

The film, *The Kite Runner*, is set in Afghanistan and has been showing locally. If you see this film I hope you will be inspired you to visit Malalai's website.

- Reggie Regrut

Bits & Pieces

☯ Frida Berrigan, young social activist, WMD analyst, writer and editor, will lead a retreat on *Tools for the Long Haul: Stories, Community, Action and Laughter*, Feb. 1-3 at Kirkridge Retreat & Study Center, Bangor. Program: \$135 or Program & Room and Board: \$310. Registration: 610-588-1793 or www.kirkridge.org.

Also at Kirkridge this month for the same fee:

Feb. 14-17, Janet Chisholm and Addison Bross, will lead *Creating a Culture of Peace Nonviolence Training*, an interactive, skill-building retreat to learn about active nonviolence, social change and community building.

Feb. 22-24, John Dear, S.J. will lead *The Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Nonviolent Jesus*, an Easter preparation in prayer, reflection and Bible study viewed through the lens of active nonviolence.

☯ The Adams Center for Law and Society at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA, is holding an impressive conference, March 26 and 27, *Should the Death Penalty Be Abolished?* The evening of March 26, Sister Helen Prejean will speak at 7 pm. On March 27 there will be lectures and panels on *Lethal Injection in America, A Look at the Death Penalty Through the Eyes of an Exonerate & Family Members of Homicide Victims, Is the Death Penalty Just and Moral?*, and *Is the Death Penalty Administered Fairly and Non-Arbitrarily?*

Members of the local Committee Against State Killing plan to attend the program on March 27. If you would like to car pool, contact David Rose at 610-253-2577.

☯ Joe DeRaymond and Tim Chadwick were among 34 peaceful U.S. citizens arrested at the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC, on September 20, 2007, in the "Rivers

of Blood Start Here" Die-In. They held pictures of Iraqi civilian victims of the war, wore red paint splotted shirts to simulate the blood spilled in this war, and fell to the floor. Within minutes they were arrested. Their trial was held in D.C., Jan. 16-18. Both Joe and Tim talk of the remarkably moving statements made by those on trial. But the court had no understanding for the importance and validity of their message under international law or any law. They were sentenced to seven days in jail suspended sentence and six months probation. Joe has a beautiful piece published on www.counter.punch.com, Jan. 21st, that puts this trial in context, "Getting Beyond Vain Hope for Impachment: Protest and Trial in Washington, DC." Call LEPOCO if you cannot view this on line.

☯ Bright Morning Star may be here in concert Sunday, March 16th as part of their reunion tour. We are very lucky that they will visit Bethlehem.

Please stay in touch for more information on tickets. Bright Morning Star delivered their moving music of protest in the 1980s and Charlie King, a lead member of the group, has performed here several times.

☯ *The Morning Call* reports that 49,000 pounds of bombs were dropped on the lush farm region of Arab Jabour in the southern outskirts of Baghdad, on Jan. 10th. An estimated 90,000 pounds of explosives were dropped in parts of six provinces across central Iraq during the first 10 days of January. These facts bring us the cruel reality of this war. These bombs do not miss the birds, the animals, or the innocents.

On the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq, United for Peace & Justice is calling us to Washington, DC, for a Mass Nonviolent Civil Disobedience. If you want to heed this call and join others in traveling to DC, please call the LEPOCO office at 610-691-8730.

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

Sat., Jan. 26, 2 pm: Association of Students Advocating Peace meeting at home of Tim Morgan. Call 610-866-7527 for directions.

Tues., Jan. 29, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Mondays, Feb. 4 & March 3, 7 pm: LEPOCO Steering Committee meeting at the Peace Center.

Fri., Feb. 8, 1 pm: 2008 Peace Camp Planning meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sun., Feb 10, 7 pm: Peace Singers rehearse at home of Barbara Wurth, Bethlehem.

Mondays, Feb. 11 & March 10, 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.

Thurs., Feb 14, 6 pm: Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at home of Mimi Lang, Bethlehem.

Thursdays, Feb. 14 & March 13, 7 pm: Veterans for Peace meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wed., Feb. 20, 8:30 am: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thurs., Feb. 20, 7 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Fri., Feb. 22, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearse at home of Martha Christine, Bethlehem.

Sun., March 9, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearse at home of Bob Riggs, 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 Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee or the LEPOCO Fundraising Committee, please call the Peace Center at 610-691-8730.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern
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(610) 691-8730

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The King Peace Witness



Sunday, January 27, 2:30 pm

Godfrey Daniels Coffeehouse
7 East 4th St., south Bethlehem
(see page 1)



LEPOCO Annual Dinner Saturday, March 29, 2008

Enclosed is \$ _____.

Please reserve _____ tickets for:

Name _____ Phone _____

_____ Mail tickets to:

Address _____

_____ Hold tickets at door.

Return to LEPOCO, 313 West 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, before 5 pm Thursday, March 27, 2008.

Tickets: \$25-Regular Adult; \$50-Special Supporter;
\$10-Limited-Income Adult; \$10-Children;
\$10-Program-Only Regular;
\$5-Program-Only Limited Income.

Together We Can Defund the War: A Workshop on the 2008 War Tax Boycott Sunday, February 10

2-4:30 pm

LEPOCO Peace Center

313 W. 4th St., south Bethlehem

Call 610-691-8730 or e-mail lepoco@fast.net to make a reservation.

(See Page 3)