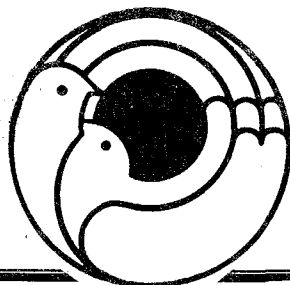


January-
February
2007



vol.42 no.1

Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

Frida Berrigan to Speak on Nuclear Weapons and Guantánamo

Frequently, just opening the morning newspaper fills us with dread. For example, the elite board of the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* is shifting the minute hand on their Doomsday Clock from 7 minutes to 5 minutes before midnight, a reflection of increasing concern about the brewing of a "Second Nuclear Age;" and, prisoners remain at Guantánamo Bay held without charges, tortured, suffering human rights abuses, hidden away so illegal and unspeakable acts can be perpetrated against them. Some, like Frida Berrigan, respond to the increasingly violent news by daring to commit their lives to resisting, as Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker movement said, the "filthy rotten system" of war and injustice that keeps people poor and homeless.

On February 25th LEPOCO's Nuclear Abolition Sisters are bringing her to speak at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse (on Route 512, 1/2 mile north of Route 22), for a potluck meal and talk beginning at 6 pm. Her topic will be "Whose Future? Reversing Bush's Nuclear Renaissance." She will remain in the Lehigh Valley on February 26th and will speak to students at locations not yet determined, on the topic "The Road Out of Guantánamo: Resisting the War On Terror."

Frida Berrigan, the niece of poet-priest Plowshares activist Daniel Berrigan and daughter of plowshares activists Elizabeth McAlister and the late Phil Berrigan (co-founders of the Jonah House collective) was born into a community of people that lived simply, prayed together and attempted to continuously expose the violence of militarism and consumerism in creative ways. The torch of expressive nonviolence and the struggle for justice was thus passed on to a spiritual woman of impressive intellect, compassion, and activism.

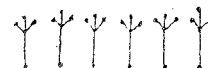
In December 2005 Frida Berrigan and 25 others traveled to Cuba and walked 70 miles to visit and support the prisoners at Guantánamo Bay and "tell the story of how far the Bush administration has gone to hide its torture and abuse of prisoners." She has written extensively about newly developing nuclear weapons policy, the arms industry and rampant worldwide arms trading. In a recent article she writes that "hidden in the innocuous sounding Department of Energy is the National Nuclear Security Administra-

tion with a vision for a "responsive nuclear infrastructure that can continuously dismantle and rebuild nuclear weapons, reducing their numbers and increasing their potency, while ensuring that, at any moment an American leader might want to destroy the planet many times over, nuclear production rates can be rapidly increase."

Frida Berrigan is a board member of the War Resisters League, and is part of Witness Against Torture: A Campaign to Shut Down Guantánamo. She is also a senior research associate at the World Policy Institute's Arms Trade Resource Center where her primary research areas include nuclear weapons policy, war profiteering and corporate crimes, weapons sales to areas of conflict and military training programs.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear this insightful and empowering woman.

- Susie Ravitz



Announcement! Announcement! Save the Date!

You are invited to attend LEPOCO'S Annual Dinner at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, on Saturday, March 31, 2007, starting with pre-dinner music and appetizers at 5:15 pm.

Our speaker will be Kathy Kelly, Co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. Over ten years Kathy has been a courageous witness for peace, standing with those in jeopardy and staying true to her own principles of opposition to war.

Tickets for the dinner will go on sale in February: Patron-\$50; Adult-\$25; Limited Income-\$10; Children-\$10.

Look for more info. in the next newsletter.

Pennsylvania Delegation to Examine the Causes of Migration

Here in eastern Pennsylvania, many cities, boroughs and townships have passed or are considering legislation attacking the immigrant population. There are an estimated 12 million immigrants from Latin America living and working in the United States. About two million are Salvadoran. The forces that have created this migration have been set in motion, I believe, by United States economic policies, codified by the free trade agreements CAFTA and NAFTA.

From March 8 to March 16, a delegation will visit El Salvador, to commemorate the death of Father Rutilio Grande, who was assassinated in 1977. Fr. Grande's life and death were a great influence on Archbishop Oscar Romero. There will be a group of people from Pennsylvania joining this delegation. We expect to use this time to also examine the causes of migration.

We will participate in the meetings and events of that week commemorating the sacrifices of those who have struggled for justice, meet with Salvadoran civil society representatives, and visit rural communities. We will gain a view of the struggles facing El Salvador today, looking from the South.

How can we better understand their dilemmas, their struggle, than by visiting and sharing with them for this time? By remembering those who have given their lives, and by talking with those in the midst of the struggle today, we can bring back a message of understanding. After our return, we will issue a report, and hopefully coordinate with others in trying to change the direction of our nation's approach to those who migrate here from Latin America.

If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with Joe DeRaymond at 610-419-4656 or jderaymond@rcn.com. A website dedicated to the larger delegation organized by CIS (Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad or Center for Exchange and Solidarity) can be found at www.cis-elsalvador.org.
- Joe DeRaymond

Help End the Death Penalty

You can help end the death penalty in Pennsylvania without even leaving the comfort of your sofa, that is, if you are sitting with your laptop, and it has wireless.

By adding your name to the mailing list of the Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty you not only improve their ability to demonstrate support (and therefore apply for grant money), you also will receive timely notices on suggested actions organ-

2 LEPOCO Newsletter / December 2006

ized around pending executions; when and if they occur.

Just send an e-mail to ahover@pa-abolitionists.org; subject: "I oppose the death penalty." In the body, list your name, street address, and contact phone number. That's all it will take. Help end executions in Pennsylvania.

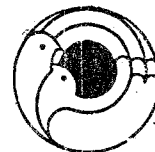
- David Rose

Exxon-Mobil and Global Warming

Last September, Britain's Royal Society found that the world's largest publicly-traded organization, Exxon-Mobil, contributed nearly \$16 million between 1998 and 2005 to a network of 43 advocacy groups that waged a "sophisticated and successful disinformation campaign" to mislead the public about global warming. Now the Union of Concern Scientists has issued a 63-page report entitled, "Smoke, Mirrors, and Hot Air," documenting the oil giant's attempt to deny fossil fuels contribute greatly to rising temperatures. Concurrently, the San Francisco Federal Appeals Court has almost halved the damages Exxon-Mobil must pay for the 1989 Valdez oil spill. The court reduced the payment from \$4.5 billion to \$2.5 billion, saying the previous decision had been excessive. Perhaps these latest transgressions will help us decide not to patronize Exxon-Mobil, and/or to destroy our credit cards from this company. My source for the above is the latest two issues of the "Asheville Global Report." They are citing *The Guardian* and the BBC.

- Anna Maria Caldara

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 non-violent, 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, Peter Crownfield, Fran Dreisbach, Arlene Grow, Mike Lawton, Tom Lloyd, Bob Riggs, Tom Stinnett, Joan Stolz, Joan Stone, Nancy Tate, Marion Thorne, Jeff Vitelli, Hans Wuerth and Ursula Wuerth.

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

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Dan Acker (co-treas.), Ellen Buck, Peter Christine, Peter Crownfield (ex-officio), Robert Daniels, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Holly Kent, Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Janet Ney, Susie Ravitz, and Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

Popcorn & Politics

at the LEPOCO Peace Center
313 W. 4th St., south Bethlehem

Friday, February 2, 7 pm

(1st Friday Film)

Malcolm X

In recognition of Black History Month the LEPOCO Peace Center will screen this Oscar nominated documentary which follows the vibrant and turbulent life of the civil rights leader. Narrated by James Earl Jones (reading from *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*) and featuring news footage of Muhammad Ali, Eldridge Cleaver, Angela Davis, Ossie Davis, Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Jackson, Elijah Muhammad, Betty Shabazz, Malcolm himself, and many others, this 92-minute film is a portrait of a complex man and the complex times in which he lived. Directed by Arnold Perl.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, March 2, 7 pm

(1st Friday Film)

Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train

This documentary film follows the life and times of the renowned historian, activist, and author of the best selling classic *A People's History of the United States*. From his early days as a shipyard labor organizer and bombardier in World War II to an academic rebel and leader of civil disobedience Howard Zinn has been catalyst for progressive change for more than sixty years and is a model and inspiration for those who seek justice and peace. 78 minutes. Directed by Deb Ellis and Denis Mueller. Narrated by Matt Damon.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

New VFP Chapter Forming

If you are a U.S. military veteran and are interested in drawing from your personal experiences and perspectives to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war -- and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives -- you may wish to consider membership in the Lehigh Valley chapter of Veterans for Peace. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty who wish to join will be given free membership for one year while on active duty.

The major objectives of Veterans for Peace are:

1) To increase public awareness of the costs of war.



2) To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations.

3) To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.

4) To seek justice for veterans and victims of war.

5) To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans for Peace pledge to use nonviolent means and to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

If you are interested in joining, yearly membership is \$25.00. You may contact LEPOCO member and U.S.A.F. veteran Louise Legun at 484-553-9476 or louise.legun@rcn.com.

- Louise Legun



Theater Party:

"Iraq In Fragments"

Friday, February 16, Dan and Kris Acker have invited LEPOCO folks to their home in Allentown for a reception before the movie "Iraq In Fragments," playing at the Nineteenth Street Theatre that weekend.

As a LEPOCO Theater Party it is a modest fundraiser. A donation of \$12 is requested to cover the reception and the movie. Robert Daniels II, one of LEPOCO's film aficionados, will introduce this movie at the reception.

"Iraq In Fragments" illuminates current-day Iraq in three acts, building a vivid picture of a country pulled in different directions by religion and ethnicity. It has been hailed by critics as a stylistically bold, humanist take on the difficulties of post-invasion Iraq. Act One follows Mohammed Haithem, an 11-year-old auto mechanic in the mixed Sheik Omar neighborhood in the heart of old Baghdad. Act Two is filmed inside the Shiite movement of Moqtada Sadr. Act Three follows Iraqi Kurds as they assert their bid for independence, rebelling against the past atrocities of Baghdad rule.

The movie is 94 minutes. It is in Arabic, Kurdish and English with subtitles.

Please call 610-691-8730 to make a reservation and get directions for the Theater Party which starts at 6:30 pm, at 2121 Walbert Ave., in Allentown.

- Nancy Tate

Association of Students Advocating Peace (ASAP)

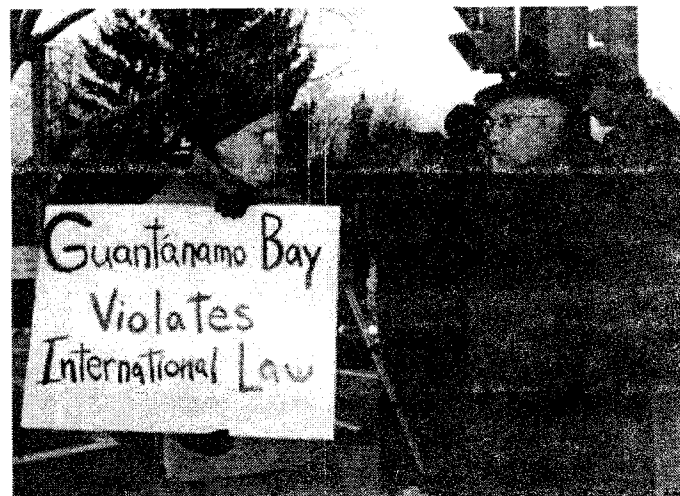
The Association of Students Advocating Peace, ASAP, (formerly the Youth & Militarism Committee) held its third meeting on January 17th. It was a lively group, 13 students attended. We discussed the activities of recruiters in the school. To make sure the schools are abiding by equal access laws with recruiters, Stephanie Garman, the Youth and Militarism Coordinator, is gathering information about recruiters' activities from students through the ASAP meetings.

We also discussed the group's upcoming events. The Peace Art and Expression Contest deadline has been extended, and we hope to have the awards ceremony sometime at the end of February. We will have food, art from the contest, and live performances.

Another big event that is coming up is the Youth Peacemaker Training. This will take place in late April. It is a great opportunity for students to learn about nonviolence.

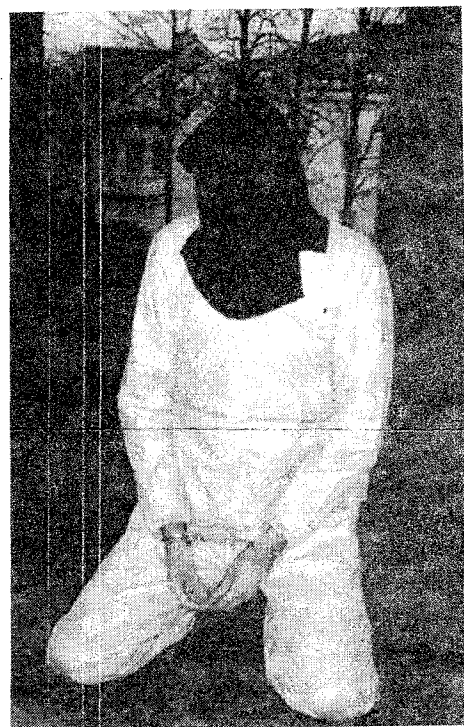
The next meeting of ASAP will be February 7th, at 7:00 pm, at the Humanities Center, 224 W. Packer Ave., Lehigh University. Contact Stephanie Garman at sgarm588@kutztown.edu for details. Whether you are a student, or interested in student issues, I recommend you come and join us.

- Peter Christine



International Day to Shut Down Guantánamo

Tim Chadwick joined the national protest in Washington, DC, on January 11th, sponsored by Witness Against Torture and locally the Thursday Weekly Vigil was dedicated to calling for the closing of Guantánamo as



shown in the photos above. In the top photo Peter Crownfield holds a sign while talking with Mohamed Bugaighis, another vigilante. In the bottom photo, Robert Daniels, II, wears an orange jumpsuit and a hood, similar to those worn by prisoners at Guantánamo, while kneeling, a pose that prisoners have been forced to take.

On the same day, immediately following the regular Thursday vigil and at the 3rd & Wyandotte location, Diane Petro organized a vigil to protest President's Bush's plans to "surge" the U.S. troop levels in Iraq. Over 50 people participated. This was part of a national call by moveon.org and others.

On January 2nd Reggie Regrut organized a protest at Center Square, Easton, to protest the war, marking the death of 3000 U.S. troops in Iraq. Again about 50 people participated.

**"We must find new ways to
speak for peace."**

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On January 12th at Town Hall, Bethlehem, in an annual program honoring Dr. King as a peace witness, about seventy-five people heard his "Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam." Ursula Wuerth prepared a tribute to the peace activism of Coretta Scott King, who died January 2006.

With Robert Daniels II's technical support, a recording of Dr. King's original delivery at Riverside Church, New York City, April 4, 1967, began and reading shared by fifteen people. Mimi Lang facilitated, the LEPOCO Peace Singers sang, Roberta Meek soulfully rendered "God Bless the Child," Tim Chadwick remembered Bayard Rustin, and Maria Weick urged us to be like Dr. King.

Thus, in honoring Dr. King's opposition to the war in Vietnam, we must call on Rep. Dent, Senators Specter and Casey to seek regional diplomatic resolution to the sectarian conflicts in Iraq, support independent humanitarian rebuilding aid, and begin withdrawing U.S. troops.

- Monica McAgthon

The Struggle Shared

*They say
the spirit army is approaching.
The spirit army is approaching.
The whole world is moving onward,
the whole world is moving onward.*

*See, everyone is standing, watching
Everyone is standing, watching.*

- Arapaho Ghost Dance Song

**SELF-IMMOLATION PROTESTS
INCENDIARY WEAPONS** - On the morning of November 3, 2006, on a busy off-ramp, in Chicago's rush-hour traffic, Malachi Ritscher set fire to himself. Although his suicide received scant media attention, was dismissed as the desperate act of a man with severe depression, his own website, the anti-war sign found near his charred remains, the obituary that appeared in Harper's Magazine, and internet blogs, tell a different story.

Malachi was a passionate anti-war and free speech activist. He was particularly appalled at the U.S. military's use of cluster bombs, and other weapons intended to burn human flesh, in Iraq. In his suicide note, he wrote, "Here is the statement I wish to make: If I am required to pay for your barbaric war, I choose not to live in your world. I refuse to finance the mass murder of innocent civilians who did nothing to threaten our country... If one death can atone for anything, in any small way, to say to the world: I apologize for what we have done to you, I am ashamed of the mayhem and turmoil caused by my country."

As Joe DeRaymond points out in an article he published on the Counterpunch website, Malachi Ritscher was not the first person to immolate himself to protest the mass burning of civilians in war. When the U.S. was using napalm on the Vietnamese in 1965, Norman Morrison made himself a light in view of Robert McNamara's window at the Pentagon. In Vietnam, several Buddhist monks (Quang Duc, 1963; another un-named monk in Phanthiet; Thich Nu Thanh Quang in 1966) publicly immolated themselves, with each burning galva-

nizing opinion and resistance to the war. Alice Herz (1965), Roger La Porte (1965), and George Winne, Jr., all immolated themselves to illuminate the U.S.'s incendiary policy in Vietnam.

To Malachi Ritscher, and all those who have joined the "Spirit Army" to atone for the crimes of our nation's leaders: PRESENTE. You are with us.

UPRISING IN OAXACA - You won't even find much about it in *The Nation*, let alone in the main-stream media, but the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, has been, since May 2006, an incubator of indigenous resistance that is part of the trend in progressive people's movements throughout Latin America.

Nancy Romer, a CUNY psychology professor, and member of the American Federation of Teachers, was in Oaxaca in November, and wrote a long article which appeared on CommonDreams.org, chronicling her observations. She describes the streets of the city of Oaxaca (the state Capital) as "an intense dialectic of liberated zone and battleground."

What began in May as a teacher's strike and encampment in the *zocalo* (main square) was met with violent repression from the Mexican Government. The initial support garnered among students, parents and the community, expanded quickly into a mass-based coalition that soon included 935 organizations, united under The Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO). The teachers original demands grew to include the removal of the state's corrupt and repressive governor, and a new constitution that would employ traditional indigenous decision-making processes.

At every stage police have attempted to violently suppress the movement. Each battle inspired new forms of creative resistance: erection of barricades which became performance spaces; appropriation of radio stations to broadcast people's news; a national teacher's strike, followed by a one-day civic strike.

As of December 30, 20 people had been killed nearly 400 injured and 350 placed under arrest. Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch are taking an active role in addressing the ongoing repression. The American Federation of Teachers has pledged support for the APPO, and United for Peace and Justice has mobilized support in the U.S. to apply pressure to the Mexican Government to respect the autonomy of the people of Oaxaca.

PEACE STUDIES CURRICULUM

AT LEHIGH - In late 2006, the faculty of Lehigh University gave final approval for a Minor in Peace Studies to be offered at the school. The inter-departmental program is described in the new course catalogue: "In a series of courses in the humanities and social sciences, the Peace Studies Minor will focus for one of the two main components, on the history, theory and practice of non-violent direct action... In its second component, students will gain an understanding of the causes of Armed International Conflict, and the policy processes that influence escalation and de-escalation of hostilities..."

Addison Bross began teaching the introductory course for the winter term, on January 16th. While the enrollment was originally set at 25, it was quickly over-enrolled, so the cap was raised to 40. On the first day of class, there were 38 students signed up. The minor in Peace Studies will require four additional courses including an internship.

- Jeff Vitelli

Looking Back at the Pilgrimage

This year's annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage was a roaring success. Enthusiasm in the walkers, shepherds, and people who allowed their churches to be permeated by famished walkers was very high, as was the quantity of walkers. Several pilgrims reported that the number of walkers was "more than last year," and I, a veteran of three walks, had not seen a crowd on this a scale before. This amount of new pilgrims, including a woman all the way from Iran, and a man from Vietnam, was very heartening to me.

The pilgrims walked the 10-mile stretch between Nazareth and Bethlehem, the "Peace Cities," stopping on the way at various churches that generously offered their space (thank you to the Nazareth Moravian Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church, First Church of the Nazarene and Christ United Church of Christ). In Bethlehem the pilgrims passed out flyers informing locals about the pilgrimage, and sang carols. After arriving at the final destination, pilgrims were treated to a simple dinner of soup and sandwiches, which was a delight to all the walkers. While enjoying dinner, walkers were serenaded by the

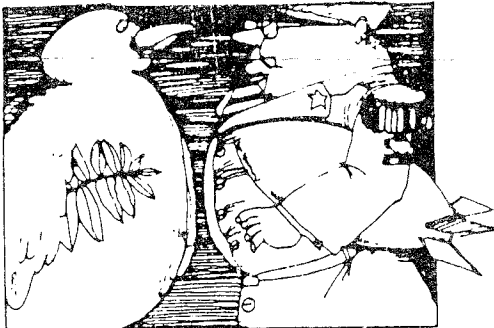
LEPOCO Peace Singers. Many traditional songs had been modified with new words to fit the peace and social justice goals of the choir. The "Peace Pilgrim of the Year Award" was given to Nancy Tate, who has committed long years of service to LEPOCO.

To complete the evening, pilgrims enjoyed a lively interactive speech by Rev. Bob Edgar, former U.S. Congressperson and currently General Secretary of the National Council of Churches entitled, "Blessed Be the Peacemaker With the Courage to Act." This was one of the best speeches I've ever heard because his moving message was, "We are the leaders we've been looking for." His speech motivated us to keep working for peace, against all odds.

All this was incredible on its own, but what amazed me quite a bit was the reaction of other non-pilgrims along the way. Quite a few people beeped car horns, and one enthusiast leaned out her car window, shouting, "My brothers and my sisters!" One group of people we passed even burst into applause.

- Noah Root

This report originally appeared in *The Bethlehem Regurgitator's* December issue, available online at: bethlehemregurgitator.bravehost.com. It is slightly shortened for this newsletter.



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

- Tues., Jan. 30, 7 pm: Annual Dinner Planning Committee meeting at Peace Center. (See page 1.)
- Wed., Jan. 31, 4:30 pm: Newsletter Planning Committee meeting for next newsletter at Peace Center.
- Wed., Jan. 31, early evening: Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting over dinner. Time and location to be determined. Call Peace Center for details (610-691-8730). (See page 1.)
- Mon. Feb. 5, 7 pm: LEPOCO Steering Committee meeting at Peace Center.
- Tues., Feb. 6, 8:30 am: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at Peace Center. (See page 2.)
- Wed., Feb. 7, 7 pm: ASAP (Association of Students Advocating Peace) meeting at Humanities Center, 224 W. Packer Ave., Lehigh Univ. (See page 4.)
- Thurs., Feb. 8, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at Peace Center.
- Sun., Feb. 11, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearse at Ursula Wuerth's home. Call 610-691-8730 for directions.
- Mon., Feb. 12, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at Peace Center. All members and friends welcome!
- Wed., Feb. 21, Noon: LEPOCO Fundraising Committee meeting at NAWAB Restaurant, south Bethlehem. (See page 3.)
- Tues., Feb. 27, Noon: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at Peace Center. Peace Camp Planning Meeting at Peace Center.
- Wed., Feb. 28, 6 pm: Bike-Walkathon Planning Committee meeting at the Peace Center. New committee members are welcomed!
- Wed., Feb. 28, 7 pm: Peace Camp Planning Committee meeting at Peace Center. Americas Solidarity Group meeting at Peace Center.
- Sun., March 4, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearsal. Site to be announced. Please join the meetings and work of these groups as you are able.

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!

Bits & Pieces

Ⓢ James Baldwin: Down From the Mountaintop will be performed by Tony Award nominee Calvin Levels on Wed., Jan. 31, at 7:30 pm, at the Williams Center for the Arts, High & Hamilton Sts., Easton. Call 610-330-5009 for tickets. The critically acclaimed solo play depicts the rich and impassioned life of the American novelist, playwright, essayist and civil rights activist.

Ⓢ Dr. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate will speak at Lehigh University, Zoellner Arts Center, 420 E. Packet Ave., Bethlehem, Thurs., Feb. 1, at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15. Call 610-758-2787.

Her topic is "Empowerment and the Escape from Poverty." Dr. Maathai is founder of the Green Belt Movement in Kenya and is currently a Visiting Fellow at Yale University's Global Institute for Sustainable Forestry. The Green Belt Movement, founded in Kenya in 1977, has planted more than 10 million trees to prevent soil erosion and provide firewood for cooking fires. The program has been carried out primarily by women in the villages of Kenya.

Ⓢ From Montgomery to the New Millennium, an exhibit dealing with racism, poverty and other universal problems, will be displayed at Northampton Community College's Fowler Southside Center, 511 E. Third St., Bethlehem, through Feb. 16. The exhibit is honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., and African-American History Month and includes works by local and regional artists. Of special note is a 73-foot-long paper mural of prominent African Americans created by Whitehall High School students as part of an annual Martin Luther King, Jr., project. The exhibit is open Mon.-Fri., 9 am to 5 pm. Call 610-861-5580.

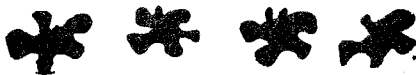
Ⓢ The Exonerated, a play by the men and women released from

death row, will continue at South Camden Theatre Company, Sacred Heart Church, Broadway & Ferry Ave., Camden. The cast includes local actor, Bob Weick (well-known for his performance of *Marx in Soho*). Donation: \$15. Call 856-456-2850 for reservations and more info.

Ⓢ The Morning Call of December 24, 2006, Christmas Eve, carried a wonderful story by Tim Blangger, "One Vet's Vigil: Christmas Reminds Paul Fichter of Miss Liberty Takeover 35 Years Ago." The story tells of when Paul Fichter and 14 other Vietnam Veterans Against the War occupied the Statue of Liberty at Christmastime, 35 years ago. If you did not get to see it, the office has a copy.

Ⓢ The Eastern District Conference Franconia Mennonite Conference will hold their Winter Peace Retreat, Feb. 9-11, at Spruce Lake Retreat. Fr. John Dear, Jesuit Priest, Peace Activist and Author, will lead the adult program on "Jesus and the Road to Peace: A Spirituality of Gospel Nonviolence." For more info. call 570-595-7505.

Ⓢ Mike Boehm, a Vietnam veteran who has been working in My Lai and elsewhere in Vietnam since 1992, will present slides and talk about current peace and reconciliation projects in Vietnam at Buckingham Friends Meeting on Thurs., Feb. 16, at 7 pm. The Meeting is at 5684 Old York Rd., Lahaska, PA. Call Holly Olson at 215-453-7358 for more info.



Ⓢ The Philadelphia Declare Peace 14 Trial is set for Mon., April 23, at 8:30 am, in Municipal Court, 1301 Filbert, Rm. 1003, Philadelphia. Tim Chadwick and Robert Daniels II, both of Bethlehem, and Silvia Brandon-Perez of the Pocono area, are among the 14. They all face up to a year in prison on charges of

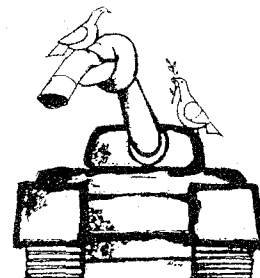
criminal trespass, defiant trespass and criminal conspiracy. For more info. contact robert Daniels at 610-781-5612.

Ⓢ Writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 15, 2006, the new U.S. Senator from Virginia, Jim Webb, said: *The most important -- and unfortunately the least debated -- issue in politics today is our society's steady drift toward a class-based system, the likes of which we have not seen since the 19th century. America's top tier has grown infinitely richer and more removed over the past 25 years. It is not unfair to say that they are literally living in a different country... The top 1% now takes in an astounding 16% of national income, up from 8% in 1980. The tax codes protect them, just as they protect corporate America, through a vast system of loopholes.*

Incestuous corporate boards regularly approve compensation packages for chief executives and others that are out of logic's range... When I graduated from college in the 1960s, the average CEO made 20 times what the average worker made. Today, that CEO makes 400 times as much.

In the age of globalization and outsourcing, and with a vast underground labor pool from illegal immigration, the average American worker is seeing a different life and a troubling future... Medical costs have risen 73% in the last six years alone. Half of that increase comes from wage-earners' pockets rather than from insurance, and 47 million American have no medical insurance at all.

... our government leaders have no greater duty than to confront the growing unfairness in this age of globalization.



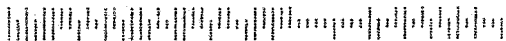


LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern
313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015
(610) 691-8730

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See Inside:

Page 1

Frida Berrigan
Speaking Here
Annual Dinner

Page 2

Delegation to El
Salvador
Stop the Death
Penalty Action
Global Warming

Page 3

Popcorn & Politics
New VFP Chapter
Theater Party

Page 4

Assoc. of Students
Advocating Peace
M.L. King Program
Shut Down
Guantánamo

Page 5

The Struggle Shared

Page 6

Peace Pilgrimage
Report
Meetings,
Meetings...

Page 7

Bits & Pieces

Frida Berrigan
Sunday, February 25, 6:00 pm
"Whose Future?"
Reversing Bush's Nuclear Renaissance"
Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse
Rt. 512, 1/2 mile north of Rt. 22, Bethlehem

Monday, February 26
"The Road Out of Guantánamo:
Resisting the War On Terror"
Time and place to be announced.
See page 1 for more information.

First Friday Film
Popcorn & Politics
Malcolm X
LEPOCO Peace Center
313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem
Please bring a snack
to share.
See page 3 for more info.



Save the Date
LEPOCO Annual Dinner
Saturday, March 31
Speaker: Kathy Kelly
See page 1 for more info.

Iraq In Fragments
LEPOCO Theater Party
Friday, February 16, 6:30 pm
Film at Nineteen Street Theatre
Party at home of Dan & Kris Acker
See page 3 for more information.