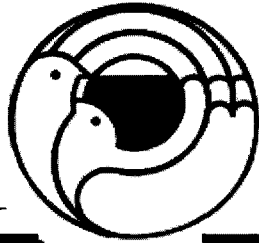


July-August
2012

Vol. 47 No. 5



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

Hiroshima - Nagasaki Observance

Sunday, August 5, 2012

6:00 pm

“Living in the Nuclear Age:
Doing What Is Possible”

Tondabayashi Serenity Garden
Bethlehem

(on Church St., next to the Public Library)

Music, Readings, Poetry & Reflection

Organized by the Nuclear Abolition Sisters
(Rain site to be announced.)

(Note: This event takes place during the first weekend of Musikfest, please allow ample time to find parking, consider car pooling with others, consider biking/walking if that is feasible, or consider Musikfest public transit options, but plan to be there.)

Peace Camp - 2012

*Teaching Peace all the world around...
Teaching Peace in Bethlehem and Allentown...*

If you want a place to go
for thoughtful play...
Cicada shells on your shirt,
which you dyed
with colours, bright as day...
If you'd like to play a game
where you win and so do they...
Sing songs about a thirsty moose
And a "zt zt" mosquito, every day...
If you want to be with friends
Who say HEY! Let's play
Drip-drip drop!
It's a VERY hot day...

Peace Camp is where you want to be!!!
Teen helpers will read books to you and me.
Leaders will help us use the words that make us see
That all living things

are more than just an animal or a tree
That they are valuable and they need to be
Treated as if they are the key
To what we want the world to be.

AND...Dan may bring a bee!
(or ONE HUNDRED THREE!)

July Twenty Three to July Twenty Seven
Nine AM to Twelve PM 'n

Don't forget to tell your friends
That Peace Camp is FUN from beginning to end!

*One by one in our work and in our play...
We are teaching peace by what we do and what we say...
We are teaching peace by what we do and what we say...*



- Amanda Zaniesienko

Festivals: Help Needed

LEPOCO will be participating in several festivals in August and September. Volunteers will be needed to help with staffing at each of these.

Pride in the Park Festival

Cedar Beach Park, Allentown
Sunday, August 19, noon-6 pm

Community/Club Expo at Lehigh University

Monday, August 27

The Peace Fair

7, 4-6 pm

Buckingham Friends Meeting, Lahaska, PA
Saturday, September 22

The Pennsylvania Renewable Energy
& Sustainable Living Festival

Kempton

Friday-Sunday, September 21-23

Please call the LEPOCO Peace Center at 610-691-8730 if you can help at any of these times.

“Young People Making Peace Summer Day Camp” will be held, July 23-27, at First Presbyterian Church, Allentown. If you know children who would like to attend please get their applications (available at the LEPOCO Peace Center or at www.lepoco.org) in as soon as possible.

The Deadly Drones

The last weekend in April, CodePink, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Reprieve sponsored a "Drone Summit" in Washington, DC, on "Killing & Spying by Remote Control." It marked the publication of Medea Benjamin's book with a similar title, "Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control." A few hundred people attended, but the panels over 20 speakers from around the world best demonstrated the grave concern many hold about this new technology for killing.

Clive Stafford Smith of Reprieve in the UK told the story of Tariq Aziz, a Pakistani teenager who had lost a cousin to a drone attack, who was troubled by the constant noise of the drones flying over his remote village, and who had been trained by a human rights lawyer to photograph drone devastation in his village. The speaker had met this quiet teenager, only days before Tariq Aziz was killed by a drone attack.

Speakers from and about Yemen and Somalia talked about the covert intervention by U.S. drones in complex situations where we do not understand what our spy drones are showing - often with deadly results.

One speaker from Pakistan, Rafia Zakaria, said her country is searching for a solution to terrorism, but drones are not that solution. She said 200,000 people have been displaced by drone attacks since January 2012 based on the work of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees.

Anna Buttar, a Pakistani-American physician, who now lives in Lahore, asked, "What worse terror can there be than a faceless person thousands of miles away who pushes a button and you are dead?"

But, the race is on to promote this technology around the world and in the U.S. - with, of course, lots of money to be made by weapons manufacturers. The official debate about and the controls on the use of drones is almost nonexistent internationally or domestically. Homeland Security is dropping money on local police departments for drones (and other weapons) with little, if any public discussion about whether said technology is appropriate in a given community. Fifteen nations are using drones and their use is expected to expand with non-state actors eager to use the technology in ways that are likely to create even more chaos. All of this points to the need for national and international bans and regulation.

A speaker from the International Committee for Robot Arms Control said, "This (the unregulated expansion in the use of drones) is not inevitable."

LEPOCO hopes to bring the Know Drones Tour, a grassroots educational effort working toward an international ban on war drones (weaponized drones or those used for surveillance) to the Lehigh Valley sometime in September. If you would like to help work on such an effort please contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

A good short piece about drones is "Five Reasons Drone Assassinations Are Illegal," by Bill Quigley, at www.commondreams.org, May 15, 2012.

Witness For Peace has published an excellent on-line packet, about Honduras since the 2009 coup entitled, "Take Action For Honduras: Responding to the Human Rights Crisis." You can find it at www.witnessforpeace.org (go to Honduras Solidarity Action Toolkit and Resources).

On June 22nd Paraguay's president, Fernando Lugo was ousted by the country's Congress in an "impeachment trial" in which he was given less than 24 hours notice and two hours to defend himself. Lugo, a former priest, is called the "Bishop of the Poor," and is known for defending peasant rights. Foreign ministers from the Union of South American Nations, travelled to Paraguay on June 28th, to tell the rightwing opposition that this clear violation of due process was also a violation of UNASUR's democracy clause. Find more about this at www.democracynow.org (the June 25th interview with Greg Grandin), and at www.commondreams.org (the June 29th article by Mark Weisbrot).

On August 12th Mexico's Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity will launch a "Peace Caravan" through the U.S., starting in San Diego, visiting two dozen cities, and ending in Washington, DC, in September. The Caravan will be led by victims of Mexico's drug war who have transformed their losses into moral, courageous, and compassionate action. The Americas Solidarity Group of LEPOCO is looking for ways to support the Caravan when it is on the east coast.

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

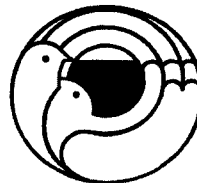
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The *LEPOCO Newsletter* is published 8 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a nonviolent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

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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: Sarah Andrew, Terry Briscoe, Addison Bross, Sheila Clever, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Janet Goloub, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Janet Ney, Kelly Quain, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

Popcorn/Potluck & Politics

Friday, August 3rd, 2012, 7 pm

"Grave of the Fireflies"

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

Anti-war anime film focuses on a young Japanese boy and his little sister as they struggle to survive during the waning days of World War II. This film is highly regarded as one of the greatest animated movies ever made.

Directed by Isao Takahata. 88 minutes. 1988.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, September 7th, 2012, 7 pm

"Sing Your Song"

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

Hoping to inspire a new generation of activists, entertainer Harry Belafonte allows intimate access to his life to document his many decades as a performer and as a tireless advocate for human rights around the world. As a supporter of Martin Luther King Jr., and the victim of racism during his tours of the southern United States, Belafonte was deeply committed to social change in the U.S. and later worked to end apartheid in South Africa.

Directed by Susanne Rostock. 103 minutes. 2011.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, September 30th, 2012, 6 pm

Bud Courtney: "Heartbreak & Hope in Iraq"

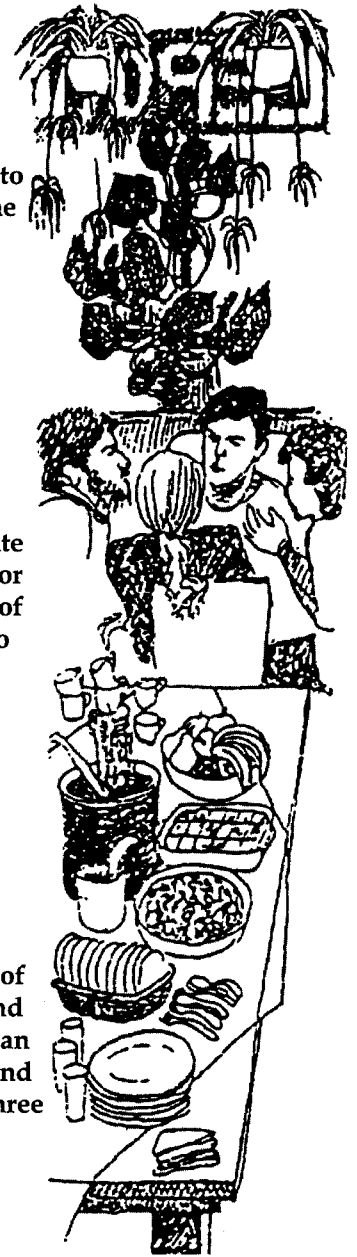
Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Bud Courtney lives at the Catholic Worker's Maryhouse in New York City. The mission of Catholic Worker Movement is to "live a simple lifestyle in community, serve the poor, and resist war and social injustice." For past three years he has also been a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), an organization of peace workers serving in conflict areas around the world. With CPT he has traveled to Palestine once and to Iraq twice, where he spent three months each visit. He plans to return to Iraq in November.

His talk will be accompanied by photographs.

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

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



LEPOCO Book Group

The First Tuesday Book Group will meet next on September 4th, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. They will discuss *Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830-1970*, by Lynne Olson. This book is the first comprehensive history of the vital role women -- both black and white -- played in the civil rights movement. The book puts a human face on the civil rights struggle and shows that face was often female. (This book was originally scheduled for discussion in June, but due to many conflicts for regular participants in the group, that discussion was canceled, as were the meetings in July and August -- all to give more time for reading and more opportunity for discussion of this wonderful book.)

On October 2nd, the group will discuss *Scoop*, by Evelyn Waugh. One member of the group says this selection will leave the reader "amused instead of heart-broken." In the 1938 book, *Scoop*, surreptitiously dubbed "a newspaper adventure," Waugh flays Fleet Street and the social pastimes of its war correspondents as he tells how William Boot became the star of British super-journalism and how, leaving part of his shirt in the claws of the lovely Katchen, he returned from Ishmaelia to London as the "Daily's Beast's" most accoladed overseas reporter.

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



- 1) On May 2nd, LEPOCO greeted Vice President Joe Biden in Easton with a banner expressing budget spending that tilts heavily in favor of the military.
- 2) Occupy Wall Street thawed out from winter hibernation with a May Day march that brought tens of thousands into the streets of New York City...
- 3) ...including LEPOCO's 2010 Annual Dinner speaker Reverend Billy.
- 4) Kim Moyer and son complete a sale at Jim Thorpe's Earth Day Festival.
- 5) Walt Garvin approves of Scott Slingerland's bike safety inspection...
- 6) ...while Tom Ardizzone leads participants of LEPOCO's Annual Bike-Walkathon in pre-event tai chi stretching.
- 7) Mother Earth is unceremoniously taken advantage of in Tioga County when gas companies erect giant drills to bore out another hydro-fracking well.
- 8) Bryn Hammarstom talks with the "24 Hours in Tioga County" group.

- 9) A lone bird sits atop a simulated tombstone in Cedar Beach Park...
- 10) ...as Taps is sung at the close of the annual Lehigh Valley Veterans For Peace Memorial Day event.



Fracking in Tioga County —

The weekend of May 5-6, eleven local activists travelled to Tioga County, Pennsylvania. "We were there to witness, to listen, to try to understand what people living with hydraulic fracturing are experiencing, and to let this visit enlighten our actions as concerned Pennsylvanians -- as sister and brother activists," said Nancy Tate. Some attendees wrote about the experience and excerpts follow.

Karen Berry wrote:

It's hard to comprehend the fracking picture -- economic, social, corporate, human health and environmental impacts -- even with a 115-mile tour through a county hit hard by natural gas interests. Miles of 50-foot wide swaths are being cut for underground gas lines to transport gas to terminals through forests and farm land. Lots of five to seven acre well and test well sites, compete with the 20-acre production sites. Huge surface impoundments complement the other changes. Seismic testing apparatus sits along roadways at hundred yard intervals for mapping underground faults.

The natural gas industry has infiltrated the county and changed its character... Tioga County is a now a network of production, waste disposal and storage, treatment and transportation facilities, with many new and expanded businesses for support. The economy looks good -- new motels, new and expanded trucking firms, new restaurants, sign makers, water haulers, water testers, oil field services. A recent ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated UGI's first use of Tioga gas. Shell Oil is the big investor because economics have driven smaller companies to other places. Along with its industrial facilities, Shell is paving county and state roads and making other contributions to Tioga residents to advance its cause.

On the negative side, there's lots of out-of-state new workers, some people can't sell their homes because of proximity to fracking sites, health worries bubble up in conversations with people, farming may be considerably diminished (although the economy had already hit it hard) and groups of people are polarized into those who want it and those who say, "I wish I never heard of Marcellus Shale."

Diane Dilendik wrote:

It seemed that the majority of residents are not really better off. Apartment and room rents have quadrupled as out-of-area workers swarm into the county. Residents who had never locked their doors now find it necessary. Police and social service departments now deal with greatly increased cases of rape, public drunkenness, thefts, and domestic violence. Neighbors have turned against neighbor as one has signed a lease to the drillers and those next door did not. The industrialization that comes along with the process is unimaginable. Valuable timber has been destroyed for pipelines and access roads, sometimes even dividing a home from the barn. The Johnsons, farmers we visited, had 28 cows quarantined for one year after they drank some waste water which

had leaked into a corner of their pasture. Nine out of eleven cows had still born calves that year --- an unheard of number. Farmers are stuck in the middle -- they don't make enough margins to pay their bills yet they can't sell to co-ops and high end restaurants if fracking contaminates their land and water. The fishing, hunting, vacation, and retirement dollars which once sought this beautiful county are drying up as well.

Nancy Tate wrote:

There is so little government intervention/regulation on behalf of those local people facing this experienced, well-heeled gas operation. Little has been done to inform people of their mineral rights; of the advantages/disadvantages when they enter agreements with large companies to use their property; of the hazards they face from water and air pollution in many forms. Little has been done to provide appropriate advance and follow-up testing of the water and of the health of people, animals and the land. Little has been done to hold the gas industry responsible for spills, contributions to global warming, contaminated water, the loss of peace and quiet....

(continued on page 6)

A NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

STOP the Frack Attack

July 28, 2012
Washington, DC

Join the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and a nationwide coalition from California to New York, North Dakota to Texas. People from across the country are coming together to end oil and gas drilling that harms public health, water, and air quality. The U.S. Capitol is "The Right Place," and this is, "The Right Time," to tell Congress, the President and the world, to end the rush to drill and to Stop the Frack Attack! We want our elected representatives to stand with communities who want to protect their land, their health, their water and the environment and to develop and support sustainable energy sources; not fossil fuels.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is organizing a bus from Easton, Pennsylvania, to the rally in Washington, DC, on Saturday, July 28. Tickets are \$29 per person, leaving from the Park & Ride at Route 33 & William Penn Highway. Arrive at 8:30 am. Bus leaving by 9 am, with no waiting for stragglers. Sign up by going to www.delawareriverkeeper.org. More information will come to you after you sign up.

- Diane Dilendik

We, and they, face many more struggles for safety, environmental protection and the back to basics issues about using less energy, more locally- and micro-produced energy, cleaner energy.

Mimi Lang's editorial was sent to the Allentown *Morning Call*, but not published: *It was heartening to read that Bethlehem City Council had the wisdom to join with other communities in informing Governor Corbett and state legislators that the zoning restrictions of the recently passed Act 13, the Mad Rush to Frack Act, are not acceptable. A gas drilling site, a pipeline or loud compressor station can be located 300 feet from your home. AlterNet described the law as "the most anti-democratic, anti-environmental law in the country, giving gas companies the right to drill anywhere, overturn local zoning laws, seize a property and muzzle physicians from disclosing specific health impacts from drilling fluids on patients." Penalties for willful violations are \$5000. A small inconvenience for gas drillers who reaped \$3.5 billion in gross revenues in 2011 as reported in "The Morning Call" on May 7th. Act 13 is a gift to gas drillers and a disaster to health and safety regulations related to fracking.*

John Zachmann's letter to editor was published in *Easton's Express-Times*:

...What impressed us the most was the farm of an older couple (the Johnsons), who raised a few head of beef cattle. Several years before, they signed a contract without a lawyer for a mere \$14,500 for the right of Shell Oil Company to build a fracking pad about 75 yards above the house.

The couple suggested that Shell build a road to the pad about 100 yards from the house. Shell refused and insisted on using the existing road between the house and barn. The farmer said every day about 100 trucks travel to the pad on that road, upsetting the tranquility and causing extreme inconvenience.

The couple also suspects fracking fluid spilled into a pond where the cattle drink. They said seven of 11 calves born this year died.

This is a good example of callous capitalism, in which corporations have no consideration for people's lives. Unfortunately Gov. Corbett and many legislators are in the pocket of the gas industry and don't levy taxes as do other states.

The group visiting Tioga County included John Zachmann, Fran Dreisbach, Mimi Lang, Karen Berry, Sheila Clever, Nancy Tate, Tom Stinnett, Christie Roysdon, Diane Dilendik, Bob Taetzsch, and Monica McAghon. The group spent a few hours' tour visiting fracking sites with tour guide and coordinator Bryn Hammarstrom, Jr., followed by a potluck dinner and panel discussion with Chip Hollister, John Kesich of Wellsboro Friends Meeting, and Mark Blumler, SUNY Binghamton professor. Special thanks go to Wellsboro Monthly Meeting hosts Rhonda & Peter Keller, Beth Higginson & Brandin Boyd, and Bryn Hammarstrom & Lynne Graham.

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"Report from '24 Hours in Tioga County' Delegation" Potluck & Politics was held at Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse on June 10th. Christie Roysdon presented a selection of photos from the trip and members shared their experiences and movement since then. Karen Berry spoke further about the inadequacy of Act 13 and a bipartisan movement towards more regulation at the state level. She worked with Marj Lofland who sent DVDs about fracking to every Pennsylvania state legislator and plans to follow-up with visits. Christie Roysdon put together a list of reading resources about fracking which is available at the LEPOCO office.

- Monica McAghon

Other News About "The Gas Rush" Impact

During the month of June there was an effort to protect the Riverdale mobile home community located on a beautiful bend of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Lycoming County, just outside of Jersey Shore, PA. Thirty-seven families lived there in their own mobile homes sitting on rented space. In another sad impact of Pennsylvania's gas rush the landlord for this community sold the land to Aqua America, a water company that will be building a pumping station to extract three million gallons of fresh water from the river every day and selling it to fracking corporations.

The water company offered the occupants of this community much less than they needed to move their homes. Seven families decided to resist and stay put. They were joined by over a dozen young people, many of them veterans of various Occupy actions. For a few weeks they held out, but the latest news is that the community is moving out as this newsletter is being completed (July 5-8).

(Thank you to Sue Lyons for much of the information above. She visited the Riverdale Community on June 9. Also see www.saveriverdale.com for more information.)

John Zachmann and Julie Edgar were among the Pennsylvanians lobbying the state legislature for tougher environmental regulations on gas drillers on June 19th. The lobby day was organized by Clean Water Action.

The New Jersey Highlands Coalition (www.highlandcoalition.org), the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and others are taking action with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to question the expansion of a Tennessee Gas natural gas pipeline across the Delaware and through the Highlands forested watershed to transport Marcellus Shale fracked gas to eastern markets and distribution hubs.

The "Rev. Billy Bulletin" (www.revbilly.com) (June 11 & 30) reports opposition to a Spectra natural gas pipeline under the Hudson River to NYC. Rev. Billy writes that they are confronting "the SERPENT DEVIL, the steel tube that shoots 800 million cubic feet of gas under the Hudson in its evil dreams."

The Struggle Shared

"You live inside us, beings of the future.

In the spiral ribbons of our cells, you are here.

*In our rage for the burning forests, the poisoned fields, the oil-drowned seals,
you are here.*

You beat in our hearts through late-night meetings.

You accompany us to clear-cuts and toxic dumps and the halls of the lawmakers.

It is you who drive our dogged labors to save what is left..."

- Joanna Macy, *Prayer for Future Beings*

MONSANTO BUYS BEE RESEARCHERS - It has been known for years that bee populations worldwide are threatened, and it has been suspected that a link to their demise is genetically modified corn. The link is clear enough that Poland recently banned Monsanto, the massive biotechnology company responsible for developing, producing and marketing most of the world's genetically modified corn, and thereby contributing to the demise of the insects that are so vital to our food chain.

Monsanto's response to coming under such fire was to purchase Beeologics, one of the world's largest bee collapse research firms dedicated to "restoring bee health and protecting the future of insect pollination." Beeologics is recognized and respected for their expertise by the USDA, as well as leading entomologists worldwide. Monsanto, of course, has always enjoyed a great relationship with the USDA, which has even given the company special seed approval for their newest genetically modified seed varieties, despite growing evidence that links such crops to severe organ damage and other health concerns. With the USDA's blessing, and the blind eye of the mainstream media, Monsanto's financial gains continue to soar.

Steve Censky, CEO of the American Soybean Association, said in an interview that Monsanto's buy-out of Beeologics "was a move to help Monsanto and other biotech giants squash competition and maintain profits. After all, who cares about public health?" It seems that when a giant corporation like Monsanto cannot answer for their environmental devastation they

simply buy up a company to become their own experts in denying that any link exists between their faulty product, and the destruction of the world's ecosystems.

GRUESOME DOG EXPERIMENTS AT WAYNE STATE - Remember the story that appeared in this column last year about Class B "random source" animal dealers who abduct people's pets, often from their backyards, and sell them to research facilities? (*Struggle Shared*, 8/11). The winter issue of *Good Medicine: Journal of Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM)*, features the horrific journey of a young Dalmatian-mix named Queenie between June 2009 and June 2010.

Queenie was described as a curious, friendly and gentle dog when she was turned into the Gratiot County, Michigan, Animal Shelter as a stray. Only ten days later she was transferred to R&R Research, a Class B "random source" dog dealer. R&R sold Queenie to Wayne State University in September 2009, to be used in heart experiments.

She had devices surgically implanted in her heart and arteries to induce hypertension, and was forced to run on a treadmill, while still recovering from surgeries. Queenie lived for seven months with catheters in her arteries and veins, a constant cascade of pain, depression, and eventually self-mutilation, before she was killed by laboratory personnel when she could no longer run on her treadmill.

Queenie is one of hundreds of dogs who are being subjected to heart experiments at Wayne State

University, experiments being funded with millions of dollars in taxpayer money through the National Institutes of Health. PCRM has filed complaints urging prosecutors in Michigan to charge Wayne State with felony animal cruelty for multiple violations of at least four requirements of the federal Animal Welfare Act. R&R Research has been cited 11 times since 2007 for violations of the Animal Welfare Act. A senior USDA official has requested that R&R's license be revoked, but the company remains in business as the USDA completes their investigation.

For more information see www.PCRM.org/WayneState.

OCCUPY THIS ALBUM - Since last September, the Occupy Wall Street movement has catapulted progressive activism to dimensions and expressions not felt in this country since the 1960s. Early on, it occurred to Jason Samel that the power of music was an important part of the organizing that was taking place. He founded Music for Occupy and produced a four CD set, that includes the voices of 99 musicians representing the 99%. Featured musicians are as well-known as Joan Baez, Steve Earle, and Arlo Guthrie, and as unknown as neighborhood street performers. The musical genres, racial, cultural, and socio-economic diversity, are truly reflections of the Occupy Movement itself.

As Jason Samel writes in his notes, "Through the beauty of the music, the listener gains a prospective (sic) of what millions of others throughout the world are feeling... We hope that the music you hear will inspire you to stand up and allow your voice to be heard while supporting those who already are." As Arlo sings in *All Over the World*, "We won't be satisfied, until the whole world's occupied."

You can buy *Occupy This Album* in commercial recording outlets, or online from the OWS website. Give it a listen. You'll be inspired even on your darkest days.

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

Ⓟ **"The Nuns on the Bus: Nuns Drive For Faith, Family, & Fairness,"** ended their 2700-mile trip through nine states from Des Moines, Iowa, to Washington, DC, on July 4th. They visited Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick's (8th Congressional District in Pennsylvania) office in Middletown, Bucks County, on June 29th. The nuns' effort was critical of the Ryan Budget proposal that passed the House with Fitzpatrick's support. The nuns say Ryan's plan would cut \$36 billion from food assistance programs without trimming the military budget or increasing taxes on the wealthy. Simone Campbell, Ex. Dir. of NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, the group that organized the nuns, closed their trip by saying we need communities of people who embrace the word, who "hug people to life, not to death."

Ⓟ Members of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows has issued a statement regarding the increasing **violence in Syria**. It says in part, we "*are anguished by the escalating violence in Syria and its devastating consequences for the people of Syria. We join our voices with others calling for: an immediate ceasefire; an end to the shipment of arms and military supplies to Syria; immediate and safe access by humanitarian aid agencies to all Syrian civilians; and urgent negotiations for a peaceful resolution in the interests of the people of Syria.*" (For more info. on September 11th Families see www.peacefultomorrow.org. For a helpful analysis see Phyllis Bennis' "Syria: Only Diplomacy Can Stop the War," of June 26 at www.aljazeera.com.)

Ⓟ At the 80th annual **U.S. Conference of Mayors** on June 16th, the meeting adopted a resolution entitled "Calling for U.S. Leadership in Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Redirection of Nuclear Weapons Spending to Meet the Urgent Needs of Cities." (The full resolution can be read at www.usmayors.org/80thannualmeeting.)

Ⓟ Copies of the Summer 2012 issue of "Nukewatch Quarterly" are available

at LEPOCO. It includes articles about NATO, nuclear waste, Fukushima, and more.

Ⓟ On June 24th about two dozen people were treated to a report, with photographs, about the life of **Greta Browne and Guy Gray** now that they are living in Brazil. Having moved from the Lehigh Valley to Brazil last September they are enjoying an extended visit with family and friends in the U.S. during June and July. They are planning to ultimately settle on a farm that has been in Greta's family for many years. The farm is in the high plateau, the *cerrado*, of the country. They plan to use sustainable agriculture and building practices as they establish their life there. The gathering at the home of Janet Goloub and Martin Boksenbaum also raised over \$100 each for the work of LEPOCO and for the environmental work of Guy and Greta in Brazil.

Ⓟ **Vincent Stravino** wrote a guest column that was published in the *Express-Times* on June 11, titled "An Up-Close View of the Israel-Palestinian Dispute." He reported on his recent trip to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories with Interfaith Peace Builders. This was his second trip to the region with the Peace Builders group.

Ⓟ **Addison Bross** gave a beautiful review of the book "**Daniel Berrigan: Essential Writings**" (edited by John Dear, SJ) for a small Potluck & Politics gathering at LEPOCO on July 1st, during the early July heat wave. It was good to revisit Fr. Berrigan's words

and actions that have inspired so many since the 1960s. Copies of a brief timeline of Berrigan's life, prepared by Addison, are available at LEPOCO. He shared Berrigan's short poem, "Credentials," which ends:
*So the rose is its own credential, a certain Unattainable effortless form: wearing its heart
Visibly, it gives us heart too: bud, fullness and fall.*

Ⓟ Public Citizen has reported that leaks from U.S. negotiations with eight Pacific countries reveal the Obama Administration's intention to out-NAFTA NAFTA. The **Trans-Pacific Partnership** (TPP) deal has been negotiated in secret (except for 600 corporate advisors) and would: reward outsourcing of jobs to lower-wage countries; give foreign corporations immunity from U.S. laws; allow foreign corporations to challenge U.S. laws in foreign (secret) tribunals; and, wipe out national protections for workers or the environment. Read more about this horrifying proposal in an article by Lori Wallach in *The Nation* (July 16-23, 2012) at (reprinted at www.commondreams.org, 7/3/12).

Check out the LEPOCO website at www.lepoco.org for a Calendar of Events, Newsletter Archive, Videos, & More.
Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail updates by calling 610-691-8730 or by writing to lepoco@fast.net.

Support LEPOCO!

- ___ Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$_____.
(\$35 individual; \$45 hh; \$75 supporter; \$5 lim. income)
- ___ I am also enclosing an extra donation of \$_____.
- ___ I would like to support LEPOCO's work with a ___ monthly / ___ quarterly pledge of \$_____.
- ___ I'm interested in the following issues: _____.

Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Return to: LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015.

or

Donate through PayPal by going to the "membership" page at www.lepoco.org.

Bits & Pieces

☯ LEPOCO's **Annual Bike/Walk-a-thon** took place on June 2nd. It was a warm, but very pleasant day for both riders and walkers. Thank you to the 30 people who participated and the many others who supported the event with their donations. Over \$2000 was raised to benefit LEPOCO and the "Occupy" movement, locally and nationally.

Thank you to Scott Slingerland of CAT (Coalition for Appropriate Transportation) for bike tune-up assistance and Tom Ardizzone for leading a *tai chi* warm-up. Thanks to those who gave in-kind donations: Aardvark Sports Shop and The Old Library Shop of Bethlehem; Genesis Bicycles, Quadrant Bookmart, and Nature's Way Market of Easton; and, Valley Preferred Cycling Center of Trexler-town.

For their special fundraising effort the following people were given the various gift certificates: Ursula & Hans Wuerth, Diane Dilendik, Jeff Vitelli, Walt & Kevin Garvin, Peter Crownfield, and John Zachmann.

☯ Long-time LEPOCO member and peace activist, **Tom Lloyd**, is under hospice care. Cards of support can be sent to him at 400 Kirkland Village Circle, Room 120R, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

☯ **Barry Bean**, Lehigh University Professor of Biology and long-time LEPOCO friend died on June 25. His quiet and thoughtful way in the world will be missed by all who knew him. He joined peace vigils and hosted peace gatherings, among other actions of support since his first contact with LEPOCO in the late 1970s.

☯ **Max Snider**, retired professor and father of Sarah Snider, died June 30. A nice report on his life was featured in an obituary published in local newspapers on July 3. He was predeceased by his wife, Lois. They were long-time members of LEPOCO, and supporters of many progressive efforts in northern Buck County and the Lehigh Valley.

☯ There will be two "**Envision Lehigh Valley**" public meetings on Wed. July 11, 4-6 pm, and 6:30-8 pm, at SteelStacks in south Bethlehem. The gatherings are intended to engage Northampton and Lehigh County residents in a three-year discussion about the economy, food, transportation, housing, jobs, climate and energy, to help create a vision for a sustainable future. (For more info. contact Rachel Bradshaw at rbradshaw@renewlv.org.)

☯ A **Voter ID Town Hall** will be held by the ACLU of Pennsylvania-Greater L.V. Chapter and Equality Pennsylvania, on Wed., July 18, at 6:30 pm, at Seegers Union, 111-113, Muhlenberg College, Allentown. Call 215-592-1513 x122 for more info.

Such a meeting is needed because our state's new voter ID law could disenfranchise up to 750,000 registered voters - 9.2% of the state's voters. The ACLU and others have filed suit challenging the constitutionality of the new voter ID law, but meetings like the one on July 18, are important to soften the impact of the law if the courts do not overturn it.

☯ The Allentown Public Theatre is presenting a staged reading of "**The Exonerated**" at the America on Wheels Museum (5 N. Front St., Allentown), on Fri. & Sat., July 27 & 28. This

play by Jessica Blank and Eric Jensen tells the story of six death row inmates, wrongly convicted, and later exonerated and freed. Tickets are \$15. For more info. see www.allentownpublictheatre.com.

☯ The Independent Art Space Gallery in Kutztown (19 E. Main St.) is displaying the works of photographer Michael Shaw in an exhibit named, "**Save Penn's Woods: The Story of How Drilling for Natural Gas is Changing Pennsylvania's Woods & Waterways Forever**," through July 31. (For more info. call 610-597-7948 or see www.theindependent.space.com.)

☯ There was very little coverage of the **large demonstrations in Chicago** in May on the occasion of the NATO Summit held there. Local newspapers did carry a lovely photo of the thousands filling the streets on Sunday, May 20, "upset with the war in Afghanistan, climate change and union rights erosion." On May 28 Democracy Now broadcast the moving statements of 40 U.S. veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as they spoke and hurled their medals at the NATO gathering. (You can listen or watch this program at www.democracynow.org.)

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

Tuesday, July 10, 7 pm: Peace Camp 2012 Planning Committee meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thursdays, July 12 & August 9, 6 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Friday, July 13, 11 am: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Friday, July 13, 1 pm: Newsletter Planning Committee meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Tuesday, July 17, 6 pm: Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at Olive Branch Restaurant, south Bethlehem.

Mondays, August 13 & September 10, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

Wednesday, August 15, 3:30 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

*Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able.
If you want more information about any of these meetings;
or if you want to know the next meeting of the the Annual Dinner Planning Committee, or the LEPOCO Peace Singers please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.
For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings
please see www.lepoco.org.*



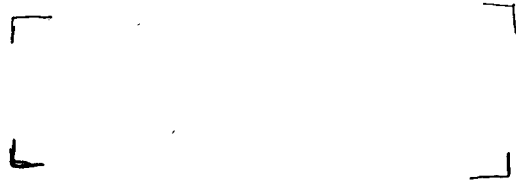
LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Young People Making Peace Summer Day Camp July 23-27, 2012

(See page 1.)

Monthly Peace Vigil

Our wars continue. Please help witness for peace.

4:30-5:30 pm

Second Thursdays: July 12 & August 9 (Hiroshima Day)

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

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

STOP the Frack Attack!

Washington, DC

Saturday, July 28

(See page 5.)

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Observance

"Living in the Nuclear Age: Doing What Is Possible"

Sunday, August 5, 6:00 pm

Tondabayashi Serenity Garden, Bethlehem

(See page 1.)