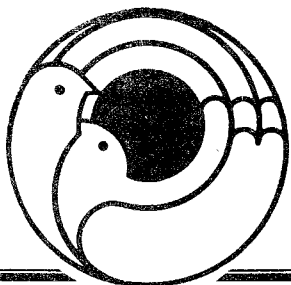


June
2005



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

vol.40 no.5

Please note *new location!*

Español for Activists!

Learn Spanish language basics to communicate and build community with our Latino neighbors throughout the Americas.

1:00-4:00 pm, Sunday, June 12th

Workshop fee: \$20

New location:

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley
Center & Wall Sts. (424 Center St.), Bethlehem

Instruction and music provided by

Silvia Brandon-Perez

*of the Pocono Progressives; all proceeds benefit
LEPOCO; light refreshments included.*

Call the LEPOCO Office to register: 610-691-8730.

Peace Camp: Planning & Recruiting Underway

Think you might have a hidden knack for Israeli circle dancing? Do you want to make a necklace out of pretzels or paint a hat made of newspaper? Are you better at leapfrog than any amphibian? Then make sure to fit Peace Camp into your summer schedule!

This year's camp will take place July 25-29, at the First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. We're currently looking for campers between the ages of five and twelve who want to play games, sing songs, make crafts, eat delicious snacks, and learn more about bringing peace and justice into the world. Peace Camp celebrates diversity and encourages open-mindedness about different life experiences. During the week, we hope to create a community of mutual respect between all age groups, ethnicities, and ability levels that will continue after the last day of camp.

If you're into making new friends and having lots and lots of fun, then sign up! Registration is on a first come, first served basis. We suggest that you register by Monday, July 12. If you need a registration form, please contact LEPOCO at (610) 691-8730. (You should have received a form with you May Newsletter.) Make sure to ask for copies for your friends and neighbors who might also be interested in attending.

Are you too old to leapfrog, but want to participate in Peace Camp anyway? LEPOCO is looking to

enlist volunteers to help Peace Camp run smoothly. If you have the spirit of peace inside of you and want to help impart it to the next generation of peacemakers, Peace Camp is the perfect opportunity. We particularly need group leaders and helpers, but if you can't commit to the whole week of camp, there are lots of other positions available including preparing snacks and teaching games. Any assistance or skill you can offer would be greatly appreciated. Teens are especially encouraged to volunteer! If you're interested, please call LEPOCO to get a Volunteer Form (also included with the May Newsletter). The training for Peace Camp leaders and helpers is on Sunday, June 26, so we hope to have your commitment by that date.

We hope to see you at Peace Camp in July!

- Jessica Jones

Potluck & Politics

Popcorn & Politics

at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Friday, June 24, 7 pm

Potluck & Politics

Robert Daniels

A Report on the

Gandhian Legacy Tour

(Please see Part I of Robert's written report on this trip starting on page 7.)

Robert was part of a delegation to India early this year, visiting places that were important in Gandhi's nonviolence campaigns. Please bring some food to share for dinner together at 7 pm.

Friday, July 8, 7 pm

Popcorn & Politics

Join in viewing two segments from the three-hour documentary series, "A Force More Powerful," exploring some of the nonviolent movements against oppression in the 20th century. (The series premiered on PBS in September 2000.) We will watch "Nashville: We Were Warriors," and "India: Defying the Crown." Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



Military Resisters and "I Will Not Kill"

In a highly-militarized society like the U.S., it takes great courage to speak out as a conscientious objector, especially for those who are already in the military. But several military personnel have taken public stands as conscientious objectors, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) recently announced a new campaign to encourage conscientious objection and other forms of resistance to war.

Two cases illustrate the difficulties military resisters face. One of the first high-profile resisters of the Iraq war was Iraq veteran Camilo Mejia, who announced publicly early in 2004 that he was a CO and refused to return to Iraq. His claim was quickly denied, and he was sentenced to one year in prison. "I was a coward not for leaving the war, but for being part of it in the first place," said Mejia as he left military prison in February 2005.

One of the most unusual cases arose in December, when Petty Officer Pablo Paredes publicly refused to board ship for Iraq. He filed as a CO, but his claim was never decided -- instead, he was charged with unauthorized absence and missing his deployment. When he was tried last month, the military judge allowed the defense to present a claim that the war is illegal and military personnel have a duty to refuse illegal orders. The government attacked this claim on cross examination, but the presiding judge said, "I think the government has successfully proved that any seaman has reasonable cause to believe that the wars in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq were illegal." (That's right, the government proved the case for the defense.) The judge dismissed the unauthorized absence charge. Paredes was nevertheless convicted of

missing a scheduled movement and sentenced to three months at hard labor and other restrictions (but no prison time).

Amnesty International names both Mejia and Paredes as prisoners of conscience and called on the authorities to revoke their sentences.

In May FOR announced the "I Will Not Kill" campaign to educate young people about war and conscientious objection. The new campaign will encourage resistance to war and the impacts of war, opposition to a draft and dismantling of the Selective Service System, and conscientious objection as a positive alternative to violence. The campaign also will work to establish a culture where U.S. resources are redirected to address more of the root causes of violence and toward creating greater equality in education, health care, and employment.

The "I Will Not Kill" campaign arose out of the FOR's "Conscience and Courage Gathering" in February. This gathering was also the source of the Nyack Declaration, which expresses support for all conscientious objectors, including those who object to specific wars, to particular methods of warfare, to supporting warfare with taxes, or to the so-called poverty draft-systems that leave some individuals with little alternative to the military for employment. Readers are urged to sign the Nyack Declaration. Contact the LEPOCO Peace Center for a copy or download it from <www.forusa.org> or <www.iwillnotkill.org>.

- Peter Crownfield -


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 and schools. 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@postmark.net. Please respond by June 15, 2005.

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, Mike Lawton, Tom Lloyd, Bob Riggs, Brad Schultz, Tom Stinnett, 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 Crownfield, Annie Hasz, Robert Daniels, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Janet Ney, Sue Ravitz, and Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

Youth Peacemaker Training Report

On Saturday, April 30, LEPOCO held the second annual Youth Peacemaker Training at Moravian College in Bethlehem. The 19 high school students who attended break the mold. These young people are making a difference. Instead of studying war, they're teaching social justice. And instead of fast food, they shared an organic vegan lunch organized by Hannae Pavlick a student at Liberty High School.

The day began with a nonviolence training led by Jeff Vitelli. Students from all corners of Lehigh, Berks, Bucks and Northampton counties quickly found common ground. They discussed philosophies of peace leaders such as Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King, Jr., realizing that nonviolence is not passivity, but a path of action.

"Building community for nonviolent action takes place one relationship at a time," said Jeff.

In small groups, they developed a "culture of peace," creating their own culture and mores. One group's society focused on shifting dollars from funding the military machine to better schools and health care. Shrinking the growing gap between the rich and poor was a common theme. Each group grappled with how to make their ideas appeal to the public.

"We need to get people to place value on things other than money and power," said Kailyn Fulmer, a junior at Easton Area High School.

In a workshop facilitated by Annie Hasz and Sarah Weick, home-schooled students from Bucks County, the group discussed why globalization in its current form is so destructive, and how nonviolent movements have changed the world.

"Wal-Mart makes more profit than the budgets of all of the South American countries combined," said Annie, pointing to the stranglehold corporations have over the economy.

Emily McGlynn, a senior at the Lehigh Valley Charter School of the Performing Arts, led one session about how to be an effective voice for change, especially when talking with friends who have differing opinions.

"We need to use words that make sense to others, and get inside their mindset," said Emily. "We need to present ourselves as diplomats, not zealots."

Sign the Two Minutes for Peace Pledge

Join the local people who spend the few minutes that it takes to call their local representatives at least once a week to say: "End the war. End the occupation. Bring the troops home."

Call 610-691-8730 if you would like a Peace Pledge form.

The last workshop focused on how personal choices can be tools for peace. Dawn Liberto of United Students Against Sweatshops advocated becoming a conscious consumer, providing a laundry list of all of the products produced by Pepsi.

Each attendee agreed to take one personal step toward peace -- these ranged from changing their eating habits to setting up counter-recruitment tables at their schools.

"You should feel empowered just by the fact that you've taken one step toward peace," said Pavlick. "Every moment is a chance for peace."

- Kelly Prentice



(left to right) Cordelia Eddy, Katie Hrtmann-Dow, and Sigourney LaBarre participate in the Youth Peacemaker Training program on April 30. (Photo by Kelly Prentice.)

Weekly Peace Vigils

Bethlehem

4-5 pm, Thursdays

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem

Contact: Maria Weick 610-346-8793

Please Note:

Thursday, June 23rd, 4-7 pm

Extended Summer Solstice Peace Vigil in Bethlehem

Please make a special effort to join all or part of this special vigil.

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, 906-859-5652

Please attend as often as you are able!

Gandhian Legacy Tour:

Part One

I deliver grandfather clocks "for a living." It's what i do for money. I get into all kinds of homes. From gated communities to trailer parks, condos to projects, retirement homes to funeral parlors, it seems the love of a fine timepiece knows no economic boundary or state of being. Granted, if you've the \$ for one of these clocks you're certainly not starving, but i digress...(too early to launch into High Horse Zealot Mode...Wait a paragraph or two... It's coming).

Today, February 11th 2005, i find myself in the home of Shelly P. who doesn't like the grain of the wood on the clock delivered. "Too dark." This is the third visit in ten days to this particularly picky customer's home. A discolored fragment of a quarter of an inch of the back panel of the clock is causing her much distress. Me too, but my reasons are surely not the same.

My humor has worn thin and i'm having a difficult time looking her in the eye. I'm afraid to speak, for if i were to open my mouth it would be the end. The dam would be blown, the barrier obliterated, the leak become a Biblical flood. I stick to "name/rank/serial number," but it's hard. I want to speak. I want to tell Shelly all about my recent trip to India...

30 December 2005: In the wake of the tsunami i arrive. Mumbai (Bombay) by midnight. A mysterious taxi ride through twisted dark streets to the hotel. After a full day spent in planes i'm not sure that any of what i'm seeing is real. Best not to make any judgments 'til the morrow.

Of the 32 participants in this Gandhian Legacy tour i was the last to arrive. They all got a good night's sleep while i'm still not convinced that this isn't a dream. Never thought i'd get here. Never had the desire until a few short years ago when i heard Arun Gandhi speak about the life and philosophy of his famous grandfather. Life took a sharp turn, peaks and valleys, and here i am.

Breakfast and it's, "Get on the bus." But wait! A shoeless beggar girl is working her way through this sea of white skin. Palm upturned, she tugs at the sleeves of those before me. They are ever-so-polite in their refusals and quickly scamper to the refuge of the tour bus. It's surreal, unreal, until her eyes meet mine. Brown, round, and full. Eye contact. That's the end and the beginning. A friend of a friend warned with much gravity that "India changes you." Indeed. As this little girl approached i started to feel what was meant by this deceptively simple statement.

Gentle tugs at my sleeve. I acknowledge her. This is real. She points to my shoes and then her bare feet. She points to her stomach and mouth. I feign misunderstanding, but i get it. This is really happening. Not in a book, nor a movie. Not even a National Geographic special. This desperate child is at my feet tapping my shoes as i shuffle on, staying with the group, denying her.

Behind the window of an air conditioned luxury bus i stare at my weak-knees. I'm a coward, a fraud, and worst of all, a tourist. I can't accurately say what else i saw the rest of that day. The vision of that poor girl stayed (stays) with me and tainted everything that came after (and hereafter). What should i have done to lessen her suffering? Would the rupees in my pocket have been enough to "lift her up," or would they have only encouraged the gangs that prey on and use children as pawns?

Maybe i could have offered temporary relief, but what really needs to be done is a connecting of dots. Realization of my place in this drama. My responsibility, my culpability. Admission of my support of the cycle of violence and then a restructuring. A new dedication to the poor of the world. Awakening to the fact that "they" are not "the other," but indeed, the same as me. My family. "The World House." I didn't come here to be comfortable. I'm not looking to escape. I'm not here to get off the hook, but to sink it deeper. What i've seen here stings and so it should. I pray that i never become numb to the shock of poverty.

New Year's Day. Hotel lobby. I'm approached by a man from London named Jon. He's here "on holiday." Thought he'd ring in the new year in an "exotic" place. Hung-over and unable to sleep he came down to the lobby. He's been pacing all night.

Jon goes on to speak of an awakening similar to mine that occurred just the day before. He was out having lunch by the beach when he witnessed a young child being beaten by an adult. Specifically the child's hands were being hit with a board. Outraged Jon went to intervene, but was held back by the waiter who explained that, "This is how it is. The child's hand is crushed so that when they hold out their palms they're all the more pathetic and wretched for the tourist who will very quickly give up their money to make the horrible sight go away."

Jon said his heart has been broken. Things would never be the same. "It's all wrong, Bob. It's all wrong..."

Shiver and chill. "India changes you." This is not a dream, nor a nightmare, but brutal reality. The Indian newspapers are filled with news of the tsunami and the American administration's response. Bush and company are talking mere millions for relief while spending billions on a misadventure in Iraq. Their priorities are clear.

These dislodged and displaced peoples on the front page, the poor who sleep in the shadow of billboards advertising opulence, the shoeless little girl tugging at my sleeve, and the beaten with crooked fingers are not victims of the tsunami, but victims of militarism. Victims of a dominating culture that does not promote life. Every day of war is a day of theft from the poor. Those billions so fruitlessly spent promoting violence could have fed and sheltered all who suffer, could have gone toward the building of more stable struc-

(continued on page 8)

Preserving Checks and Balances: The Future of the USA PATRIOT Act

As Congress debates renewing sections of the USA PATRIOT Act, the Bill of Rights Defense Committee of the Lehigh Valley, LEPOCO and the ACLU of PA hosted a talk on May 19th by ACLU national organizer, Matt Bowles, to inform the public about an important opportunity to restore safeguards and prevent the government from further expanding its powers. About 10% of the Patriot Act is set to sunset by the end of 2005 (unfortunately some of the worst provisions are permanent and not up for renewal). The Senate Judiciary Committee will determine what gets expanded and what expires making Senator Specter (who chairs that committee) the most important senator and Pennsylvania the most important state right now in this battle to restore civil liberties.

Last year Specter signaled his support for civil liberties by co-sponsoring the SAFE Act (S-1709), which aims to restore privacy safeguards on records seizures, limits roving wiretaps, and enables challenges to the gag orders that accompany some Patriot Act provisions.

The Horror in Haiti

On Monday, April 25th, over 50 people gathered at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the L.V. in Bethlehem, for a program planned by LEPOCO's Americas Solidarity Group. They heard stories and saw photos of Haiti presented by Thomas Griffin, an immigration lawyer from Philadelphia, who has felt compelled to visit Haiti several times because of the lack of credible media reports about conditions there and the overthrow and deportation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004.

Thomas Griffin, a former police detective who speaks several languages including Haitian Creole, documented the shacks, car-frame bridges over waters fetid with sewage, the barefoot children, and untreated medical needs of people in the poorest sections of Port-au-Prince. He reported that hospitals, police stations and schools have been abandoned due to militia violence. Griffin and Johanna Berrigan, a physician's assistant who has also visited Haiti, and accompanied Griffin on April 25th, gave care where they could while in Haiti, taking the wounded to hospitals in parts of the city that often ignore and do not treat the poor.

Griffin said of the militias: "They're nice guys individually, and desperate for jobs, but used by the wealthy, who buy them clothes (uniforms), feed them, give them guns (rifles, machine guns)." Wealthy landowners live in beautiful neighborhoods along with people backing corporate interests in Haiti's cheap labor and raw materials. Griffin traced U.S., Canadian

This is an important historical moment for reform of the Patriot Act. The ACLU and many leading conservative organizations have launched a bipartisan effort (see www.checksbalances.org) to seek passage of the SAFE Act. Senator Specter is under extraordinary pressure from the Republican Party and the Bush Administration to renew and expand the Patriot Act and abandon the SAFE act. He needs to see a firestorm of support from his constituents, especially local and state political leaders, demanding passage of the SAFE Act and to allow the Patriot Act provisions to sunset.

Matt Bowles urged all who care about this issue to immediately contact Senator Specter and their local and state leaders to demand support for a pro-civil liberties position by Specter.

All are invited to attend a statewide strategy meeting organized by the ACLU and featuring national liberal and conservative leaders in Harrisburg on Saturday, June 18th. For information on local car pooling to this meeting call Clint Walker at 610-868-7432. For more information on the meeting see: www.aclu.org/safeandfree.

- Barbara Diamond

and French complicity in the violence perpetrated by the militias. Militia go into the poorest neighborhoods to torture and kill youths, leaving bodies in the streets to enforce fear and terror in the people who elected President Aristide and still want him back. The UN Peacekeepers shadow the militias, are ineffective and often kill with impunity.

Griffin reported that on Independence Day, January 1, the Haitian people were prevented from celebrating the legacy of Toussaint L'Ouverture's revolt over slavery. Haiti under Aristide sought billions in reparations from France for the exploitation of Haiti when it was France's wealthiest colony. Griffin said such reparations to Haiti are opposed because they would set a precedent for world justice and pave the way for the U.S. and others to have to pay reparations for slavery.

Griffin visited Father Jean Juste who was in prison on trumped up charges to keep him from preaching social justice to his people. Griffin showed photos of overcrowded holding cells where the prisoners do not eat unless food is brought to them by their own family and friends.

Griffin, tall and thin, gave a calm delivery, but warned the audience of the graphic violence of the photos he shared. He went into the state morgue in Port-au-Prince and took photos of the maggot-ridden, tortured and murdered bodies strewn like garbage. After he took those pictures he ran out to vomit behind a tree.

(continued on page 8)

CPT Reports from Palestine & Iraq

On April 19, Art and Peggy Gish of Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) spoke in Quakertown for Peace Action of northern Bucks County. Art and Peggy have worked with CPT in Hebron, Palestine, and Iraq, respectively.

Introducing CPT, Art said the organization was started by members of the three historic peace churches (Quaker, Mennonite and Church of the Brethren), but is now even more ecumenical. He talked of the importance of serious peacemaking taking the same risks as soldiers by entering areas of conflict to witness. He is hopeful that like Brethren Volunteer Service, that became a model for the Peace Corps, CPT will be a model for much larger peacemaking efforts in future conflicts.

Working with CPT in Hebron since 1995, Art is one of the 6-8 CPT members that share an apartment there. They listen to all sides in the conflict. He mentioned especially listening to the Israeli soldiers and noted that over 1000 Israeli soldiers are refuseniks (a number comparable to 75,000 U.S. war resisters).

Art said CPTers are observers having the "grandmother effect" in reducing violence. "There are things people won't do if someone is watching them."

CPT goes one step further with nonviolent direct action saying that "when evil happens, good people should get in the way." He told stories of walking with children on their way to school past military roadblocks.

In recent months Art has been accompanying a group of shepherds who are trying to protect their work and their sheep through a nonviolent action campaign. (A story about his work with the shepherds appears in the recent issue of *Fellowship* magazine published by FOR.)

Though Art sees little hope for resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict he does believe the conflict would be settled quickly if President Bush threatened to stop U.S. aid.

The work of CPT in Iraq seems even more difficult. Peggy Gish first joined CPT there in October 2002 and has been in Iraq 16 out of the last 30 months. CPTers live in Baghdad, but they do travel to other cities.

CPT listens to the stories of those who have experienced violence, like a 39-year-old man who was shot eight times in early January. Fifty-two bullets hit his car. This happened when U.S. troops, holed-up in a university building, were fired upon. Apparently the troops could not determine the source of the firing so they began firing on whatever was nearby including this man's car and three other cars. Five Iraqis died and 15 were wounded.

In March Peggy was one of five CPTers who visited Fallujah with Iraqi human rights workers. They were surprised when they were allowed to enter

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the city. 350,000 munitions were used in the attack on Fallujah in late 2004. She described the damage she saw there as "horrific." Sixty percent of the homes were destroyed, 20% are useable, and 20% are only partially useable. In a part of the city that was complete rubble people are living in tents donated by the Red Crescent.

A focus of CPT's work is encouraging nonviolent movements in Iraq. They have provided nonviolence training for a group of Shi'a Muslims and they plan to train others.

CPT is working to determine how many Iraqi women are being held in prison and to seek their release.

Peggy believes CPT may be the only U.S. citizen group working inside Iraq since most civilian groups left in the summer and fall of 2004. (She said there could be other small U.S. groups there working with a low profile.) Because of the worsening security situation since last September CPT members have been taking more security precautions in dress and travel.

Peggy saw the recent Iraqi election as a rejection of the U.S. presence in Iraq (the U.S.-picked candidate, Allawi, got only 15% of the votes), but also said it was the day with the most violence since the U.S. invasion.

For more information on CPT see www.cpt.org. Both Art and Peggy have written books about their CPT experiences.

- Nancy C. Tate



from: das kenscht

An Evocative Workshop

Please join Rita Corriel, Lic. Psychologist, to discuss the importance of releasing anger, fear and pain, in this monumental time we are living through. As activists, we need to get creative, and bring the new "paradigm" into our world now. A process of emotional release will be taught, so that we can transform ourselves, and shift our perspectives. Let's move forward in peace and creativity.

No problem can be solved by the consciousness that created it.

- Albert Einstein

The group will meet at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 7 to 9 pm, Wednesday, June 22. Limited seating.

(See "The Struggle Shared" in the last newsletter for more information.)

The Struggle Shared

Against the irrationality of violence it is necessary to propose the irrationality of forgiveness... that forgiveness is not forgetting, but rather remembering with different eyes, that without reconciliation there is no future, that hatred and resentment have great psychological effects, that truth and justice are indispensable elements of reconciliation, and finally, that compassion and tenderness must be reinstated as basic elements of the culture of peace.

- Fr. Leonel Narvaez,
founder of ESPERE (Colombian Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation)

FOR FAIR TRADE, LOOK FOR "JUSTICIA" LABEL - In 2003 five Mexican women were laid off from the large maquiladora where they had worked making clothes for Levi's and other U.S. apparel companies. Almost without missing a stitch, they began a small scale clothing production business in their border town of Piedras Negras, Mexico.

For 40 years, American Friends Service Committee has worked closely with women in the area, helping them found the Comité Fronterizo de Obreras (Border Committee of Women Workers, or CFO), and empowering these workers to develop a creative response to the negative impacts of global competitive markets, so typified by the maquiladora sweatshops.

Thus was born Maquiladora Dignidad y Justicia. By late 2004, the first order of 1000 tote-bags was shipped to U.S. markets. T-shirts and sweatshirts, all made of organic cotton, are in the pipeline for production. The products bear the CFO logo, and the words Justicia, Libertad, Autonomia.

This project is just one glowing example of a larger, and growing movement of workers struggling to demonstrate that it is possible to do business ethically and fairly. The Fair Trade Movement depends for its success on a pool of consumers who will choose to buy products that represent these values, and will abandon products made in sweatshop conditions, even if they have to pay more. To learn more see www.cfo-maquiladoras.org.

JOIN THE CITGO BUYCOTT - Among the top oil-producing nations of the world, only one, Vene-

zuela, is a democracy with a president who has been elected on a platform of using the country's oil revenues to provide health care, literacy and education, and subsidized food for millions of the poor.

Citgo is a U.S. refining and marketing firm that is a wholly owned subsidiary of Venezuela's state-owned oil company. When you buy Citgo gasoline, your money supports Venezuela's economy to help the poor, not firms that promote corporate agendas. So, Jeff Cohen, on Common Dreams.org (5/6/05), suggests the opposite of a boycott, a BUYcott of Citgo, if you must fill your tanks (obviously walking, biking, busing, etc. are much preferred).

There are 14,000 Citgo stations throughout the U.S. Two that we know of are at Center and Broad, Bethlehem, and on Union Blvd., near the Lehigh Shopping Center, between Bethlehem and Allentown.

ARMY RECRUITERS STAND DOWN - On May 20th, 7500 Army recruiters from 1700 stations around the country were ordered to do no recruiting and spend a day retraining with commanders to emphasize ethical conduct.

The first-ever such one-day stand-down was ordered in response to a spate of media exposes about deceptive recruiting practices around the country. Recruitment quotas for 2005 are running about 15% behind, largely due to public opinion against the war in Iraq. Recruiters are under tremendous pressure to perform. "No one wants to join," said one interviewed recruiter. "We have to play fast and loose with the rules just to get by."

In Colorado, an enterprising high school journalist asked, "How far will the Army go?" to nab recruits. He went on to record and videotape two recruiters referring him to a website where he could create a fake high school diploma, complete with grade transcripts. They accompanied him to a store to buy a detox kit to conceal traces of marijuana in his blood-stream in order to pass an Army drug-screen.

In a Texas case, a potential recruit who called a recruiter to cancel an appointment was told that a warrant for his arrest would be issued if he did not show up.

And, as reported in the May 20th edition of *The Morning Call*, a Northampton Area High School senior was a victim of recruiter fraud when she was promised that if she signed up for the Pennsylvania National Guard she would be sent to nursing school, only to discover that her unit was bound for Iraq. She has retained a lawyer, and is fighting her recruitment. The Army National Guard, meanwhile, considers her AWOL.

By the Army's own count, there were 304 substantiated cases of recruiter impropriety in 2004, up from 213 in 2003. Other observers figure that there are another two and three violations unreported for each case publicized. Since October 2004 the Army reports 480 allegations of recruiter impropriety, including attempts to conceal mental health and criminal histories, falsification of documents, wallet card cheat sheets slipped to recruits taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test administered at many high schools, and instances of sexual misconduct by recruiters against high school recruits.

One U.S. Congressman, Rep. Peter Stark, has called for an independent investigation of, "The Army's illegal and dishonorable recruiting tactics."

Sources: *The Morning Call* 5/20/05, *New York Times*, 5/3/05, Associated Press 5/20/05, KHOU-TV 5/19/05.

- Jeff Vitelli



(left to right) Nancy Tate, Anna Maria Caldara, Monica McAghon, Susie Ravitz, and Mimi Lang joyfully wait for the start of the "No Nukes! No Wars!" march in New York City on Sunday, May 1st. As reported in the last newsletter 40,000 people including 1000 people from Japan marched that day in support of nuclear disarmament as the meetings about the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty were to begin at the United Nations. (Photo taken by anonymous passer-by.)

The Horror in Haiti

(continued from page 5)

Johanna Berrigan from House of Grace Catholic Worker in Philadelphia spoke after Tom Griffin. She has also visited Haiti several times in recent months. She commented about humanitarian work there, the harassment long-time solidarity workers are experiencing and her own hopes to establish a clinic in one of the poor neighborhoods.

LEPOCO has copies of Thomas Griffin's report, "Haiti Human Rights Investigation: November 11-21, 2004" (\$8.00) and copies of a much shorter report by Johanna Berrigan about her visits to Haiti.

- Monica McAghon

Gandhian Legacy Tour

(continued from page 4)

tures, could have gone into an early warning system that would have prevented many of the deaths attributed to the tsunami...

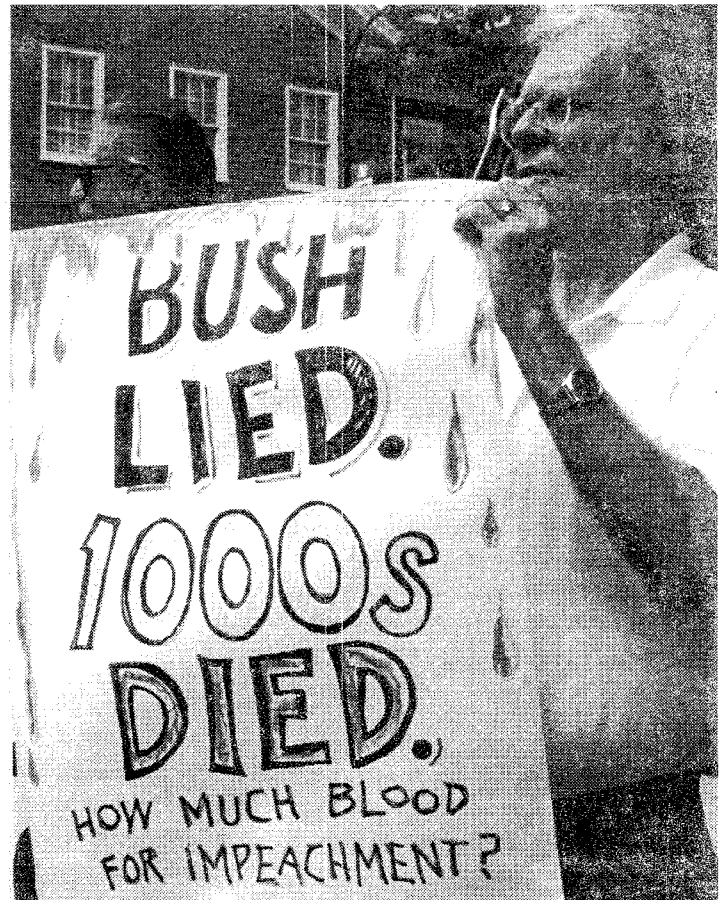
Much could have been done, but wasn't. I've returned to the empire, to Shelly P.'s living room. With much information and too many manners I have come back to the dilemma of the privileged. I kept my mouth shut. Grinned and bore it. Shelly got another

"more perfect" clock and I?...I betrayed one of the voiceless.

-robert Daniels II

Biking and Walking on June 4th

Over 30 people walked, rode, or volunteered for LEPOCO's Annual Bike/Walkathon on Saturday, June 4th. Over \$1800 in pledges will benefit the work of LEPOCO and the national Iraq Veterans Against the War (after expenses). Many thanks to the active participants, those who pledged, and those businesses who sponsored the event (Genesis Bicycles of Easton, Bethlehem Bookloft & Caffeine Café, Lehigh Valley Velodrome of Trexlertown, Nature's Way Market of Easton, the Old Library Shop of Bethlehem and Quadrant Bookmart of Easton. A damp early morning turned into a really pleasant day for the walk and ride. Everyone completed the effort safely (and with the bonus of great conversations) after a little confusion about the route for some walkers.



Addison Bross holds his sign at 5th & Hamilton Sts., Allentown, Monday, June 6th, at the Impeach George W. Bush demonstration organized by Lynne Hanna of Allentown. Inspired to action by the revelations of the Downing Street Memo, Lynne gathered a lively group of over 60 people with colorful signs and banners for two-hours of chanting in the hot sun. For more information see www.downingstreetmemo.com. (Photo by Nancy Tate.)

Bits & Pieces

☯ Thank you to Bob Weick who performed Marx in Soho and Anna Maria Caldara and Brian Carroll who opened their home in Bangor for the performance on Sat., May 14th. The 50+ people who attended saw a great performance of a great play and generously made donations to benefit LEPOCO and the actor. Bob Weick is still seeking venues for the play which he has performed over 40 times in eight states. (It is worth noting that Anna Maria's many projects for peace, based in her Bangor home, were honored in a story in *The Express-Times* on May 2nd.)

☯ LEPOCO will have a booth at the Pride In the Park Festival in Allentown, on Sun., June 19. We will need many volunteers to staff the

booth. If you would like to help for a couple of hours that day, please call 610-691-6740.

☯ A small group of LEPOCO folks have been meeting to plan how LEPOCO can better use available technologies (computers mainly) to improve our work and outreach efforts. If you have ideas or would like to be part of the discussion please contact the office.

☯ If you are not one of the 500 people receiving LEPOCO e-mail Updates -- you can be. Just send us your e-mail address with the request for the updates by phone, by letter, by e-mail or in person.

☯ Help plan the South Bethlehem Greenway on Wed., June 22. Meetings, 3-5 pm at Sayre Hall, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 3rd & Wyandotte Sts., and 7-9 pm at the Forte Bldg., 5th & Williams Sts., will include the unveiling of the final draft for the proposed Greenway. This is the third public meeting for this project.

☯ *I suppose by year five of the G.W. Bush era we should be immune to shocks, but I honestly cannot get used to the constant brazenness of this Administration. Our task as fighters for justice, dignity, peace, and sustainability has never been an easy one... For the unconvinced, we have to keep connecting the dots; for the committed we have to keep organizing and mobilizing; and for the despairing we have to encourage them and each other to keep fighting. It is no easy road to justice!*

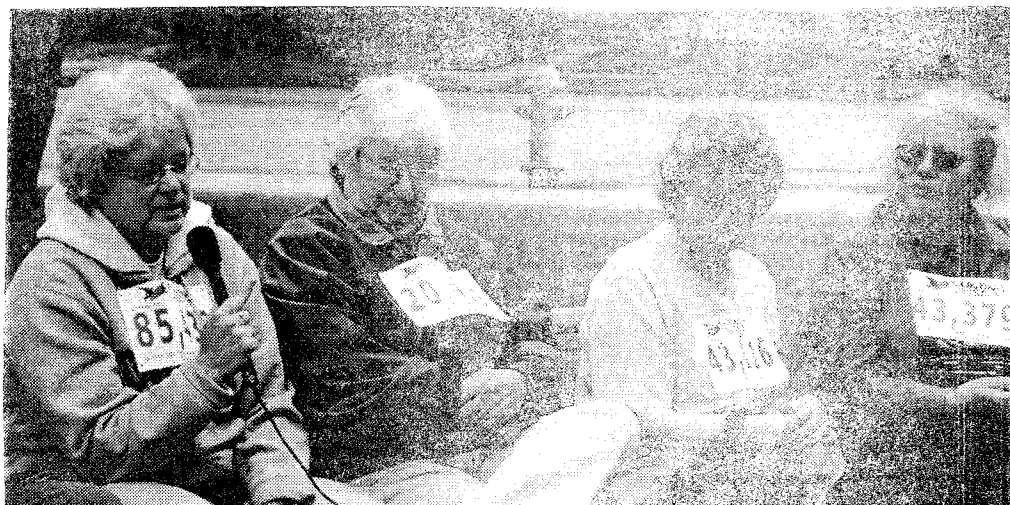
- Njok Njoroge Njehu

Outgoing Director, 50 Years Is Enough

☯ Joe DeRaymond plans to support the 16th Pastors for Peace U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment when the caravan passes through Philadelphia in early July. If you would like to join him please call 610-868-4337. The caravan will travel on 13 routes through the U.S. and Canada, July 5-16, spend time in Cuba July 23-30 after training and travel in Texas and Mexico. Besides delivering aid to Cuba they present a reverse challenge to the embargo by delivering aid from the Cuban people to the people of the U.S. as they reenter the U.S., July 31-Aug. 1. For more info. on the caravan call Pastors for Peace at 212-926-5757 or see www.pastorsforpeace.org.

☯ Jim Shackelford and Maritza Alvarez invite your participation in a new group on Drugs, Labels and Psychiatry. Their first meeting was April 29, but you can contact them at 610-432-0158 or jimshackelford@hybeam.net for upcoming meetings and plans.

☯ Voices in the Wilderness members in New York City are planning 40 days of action, education, fasting and community building, June 28 to Aug. 6, under the theme, "Water Not War." They will distribute materials on the water situation in Iraq, present a teach-in on water issues, take actions to Bechtel, Coca-Cola, oil companies, etc. For info. about joining this effort call Gabe at 212-491-1162 or Mary Anne at 718-859-9009.



(left to right) Louise Legun, Judy Woodruff, Phyllis Hoffman and Kathy Hoffman are part of the sharing circle at the peace vigil held on Counting the Cost Day, Sunday, May 15. The vigil which took place at the Peace Fete in Rose Garden Park, Bethlehem, gave people a chance to share their feelings about the war in Iraq before taking on the assignment of wearing a "Counting the Cost" number through their daily activities. The number represented one of the people killed in the war -- U.S., Iraq, or other international. Rob Kunsman helped those gathered remember Maria Guricka, a U.S. humanitarian worker killed in Iraq in April 2005. Over 40 people locally, and many more around the country, participated in Counting the Cost -- publicly calling for an end to the war by remembering those who have died. Thousands of dollars were raised for humanitarian aid and peace work as each participant donated \$10 to this effort organized nationally by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. (Photo by Sude Savitz)



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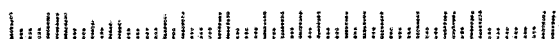
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Bits & Pieces

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1-4 pm ¹² "Spanish for Activists" workshop, UU Church of L.V., Bethlehem, \$20 donation. (see p.1)	7 pm ¹³ LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting, at Peace Center. All members & friends welcome!	1 pm ¹⁴ Peace Camp Planning Mtg. at LEPOCO 4:30 pm Newsletter Planning Mtg. at LEPOCO	1955 ¹⁵ 28 people arrested in NYC for refusing to take shelter during Civil Defense drill	4-5 pm ¹⁶ Weekly Peace Vigil, Bethlehem (see p.3)	Noon-1 pm ¹⁷ Weekly Peace Vigil, Allentown (see p.3)	10-11 am ¹⁸ Weekly Peace Vigil, Centre Square, Easton
Father's Day ¹⁹ PRIDEFEST, Allentown (see p.9)	²⁰	2 pm ²¹ Peace Camp Planning Mtg. at LEPOCO	An Evocative ²² Workshop 7-9 pm led by Rita Corriel at LEPOCO Peace Center (see p.6)	4-7 pm ²³ Extended Weekly Peace Vigil, 3rd & Wyandotte, south Bethlehem	7 pm ²⁴ Potluck & Politics: "A Gandhian Legacy Tour," Robert Daniels, LEPOCO Peace Center (see p.1)	10-11 am ²⁵ Weekly Peace Vigil, Centre Square, Easton
12:30-4:30 pm ²⁶ Peace Camp Training, 1st Presbyterian, Allentown 7 pm Peace Singers meet to sing, Tom Carlin's, Beth.	²⁷	1895 ²⁸ Mass burning of firearms by Russian Doukhobors	Noon ²⁹ Americas Solidarity Group Meeting at LEPOCO	4-5 pm ³⁰ Weekly Peace Vigil, 3rd & Wyandotte, Bethlehem	Noon-1 pm ¹ Weekly Peace Vigil, 5th & Hamilton Sts., Allentown	10-11 am ² Weekly Peace Vigil, Centre Square, Easton
³	INDEPENDENCE DAY ⁴	⁵	Saskego:nah Long Daylight, Big Moon ⁶	4-5 pm ⁷ Weekly Peace Vigil, 3rd & Wyandotte Sts. Bethlehem	7 pm ⁸ Popcorn & Politics with two segments from "A Force More Powerful" Peace Center (see p.1)	10-11 am ⁹ Weekly Peace Vigil, Centre Square, Easton