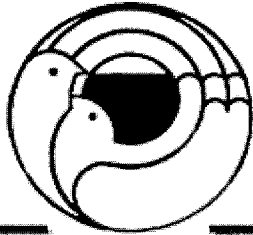


June-July  
2009

Vol. 44 No. 4



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

## Cindy Sheehan to Speak \_\_\_\_\_

As part of a national book tour promoting, "Myth America: 10 Greatest Myths of the Robber Class and the Case for Revolution," Cindy Sheehan will visit the Lehigh Valley on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. She will appear at 7 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem.

When her son Casey was killed in combat, Cindy Sheehan decided to take a public stand against the war in Iraq. In 2005, her month-long encampment outside the ranch of then-president Bush, in Crawford, Texas, inspired the nation and created a surge in anti-war sentiment. Since then, Ms. Sheehan has been a tireless peace activist, traveling the globe advocating an end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Cindy is barnstorming across the United States in an effort to re-invigorate the peace movement, to help re-frame the debate, and to re-energize the citizens of this country to find a new path from militarism and war, towards peace and justice. Please come out to share an intimate and enlightening exchange of ideas and love with this important leader of the peace movement.

The program is co-sponsored by the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley and the Thomas Paine Chapter 152 of Veterans For Peace. Admission is free, though an offering will be taken to help cover Cindy's travel expenses. Copies of Cindy's new book will be available at the event and she will be signing them. Call Louise Legun or Judy Woodruff at 610-437-5314 for more information.

- robert Daniels II

## War Is Not A Game \_\_\_\_\_

The Army Experience Center (AEC) is a \$12 million, 14,000 sq. ft. facility in the Franklin Mills Mall in Philadelphia. It is equipped with PCs and Xbox 360s as well as an apache helicopter, a humvee, and tank simulation games for kids as young as 13 to play. The AEC also has plenty of military recruiters to help you out.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> over 200 people of all ages gathered in protest of the AEC. Members from about 30 different groups including Vets for Peace (the local Thomas Paine Chapter represented the Lehigh Valley along with LEPOCO and ASAP members), CodePink, SDS, Student Peace Action Network, Brandywine Peace Community, and World Can't Wait, were all in attendance. The day began at St. Luke's Church with a rally that got everyone energized for the mile walk to the Franklin Mills Mall. The march was alive with drumming, chanting, and many honks of support from passing drivers. We

entered the mall, still chanting, and successfully delivered our criminal complaint to the director of the AEC as well as the mall owner. The complaint accused the AEC of "Endangering the Welfare of Children," "Criminal Solicitation of Minors," and "Corruption of Minors."

Most of the group remained in front of the AEC, chanting and talking to shoppers until we received our third warning from the police at which time all but seven cleared out. These seven were arrested, released later that night, and must return for a court hearing in June. This action was a great success and we look forward to shutting down the AEC for good. To find out more about the AEC and the campaign to shut it down visit [www.shutdowntheaec.net](http://www.shutdowntheaec.net).

- Kelly Quain

Editor's Note: To view a video from the May 2<sup>nd</sup> demonstration at the Army Experience Center please visit LEPOCO's YouTube page at [www.youtube.com/rhubarbdoom](http://www.youtube.com/rhubarbdoom).

## What About the Economic Crisis?—

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 60 people gathered at the Bethlehem Public Library to watch a video and hear from two speakers on "The Economic Crisis: Where Our Money Went and Some Things We Can Do About It." Those in attendance were eager for the discussion, intently taking in the presentations by Alan Jennings, Executive Director of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, and Tom Hyclak, Professor of Economics at Lehigh University, and offering numerous questions to the speakers. The forum was inspired by the new national effort, A New Way Forward (ANWF). ANWF calls for breaking up the too-big-to-fail banks. Their 35-minute video shown to open the forum can be viewed at [www.anewwayforward.org](http://www.anewwayforward.org).

The LEPOCO Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Crisis planned the forum and will meet again on Monday, June 22, at 7 pm, at the home of Mimi Lang for further study and discussion of possible action. For more information contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

On the day of the forum Joseph Stiglitz, the winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in economics, wrote in Australia's "The Age" (available at [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)), "This raises another problem with America's too-big-to-fail, too-big-to-be-restructured banks: they are too politically powerful. Their lobbying efforts worked well, first to deregulate, and then to have taxpayers pay for the clean-up. Their hope is that it will work again to keep them free to do as they please, regardless of the risks for taxpayers and the economy. We cannot afford to let that happen."

- Nancy C. Tate

## A Peaceful Gathering

A little over a month ago, on a warm and sunny Saturday, a group of about 15 high school students gathered at the Lehigh Valley Quaker Meeting House to discuss and practice peacemaking. During weeks of preparation, the Association of Students Advocating Peace (ASAP) had put together a daylong workshop filled with discussions and a guest speaker. In the morning, after icebreakers, the group of teens split up to discuss topics ranging from discrimination and the media, to what can be done to further peacemaking on all fronts. After a second round of discussions, and a delicious homemade vegan meal of carrot soup, mac and cheez, and warm bread, our guest speaker, Karen Dolan arrived. Karen Dolan, a member of Bethlehem's City Council and a Liberty High School teacher, led a stimulating dialogue connecting her personal story and world violence, teaching us that peacemaking starts in small doses -- in our homes and in our schools. The students who attended the youth peacemaker training felt that they had learned much that day, and expressed a desire to continue as a group. ASAP is currently putting together a monthly meeting where similar topics can be discussed and actions can be taken to further peacemaking in our community. Any high school students who would like to be involved can contact robert Daniels II at LEPOCO.

- Emily Gamber

## Veterans For Peace, Lehigh Valley Thomas Paine Chapter, Report

On April 1<sup>st</sup> Veterans for Peace Chapter 152 Coordinator Louise Legun hosted the radio program "Lehigh Valley Discourse" on WDIY 88.1 Bethlehem. Her guest was Dr. Philip Butler, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a Lt. Commander at the time of his retirement from twenty years of Navy service. Almost eight years of that service was spent as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. Dr. Butler spoke of incidents of torture to which he was subjected while a prisoner and offered his current opposition to the use of torture, namely that it is immoral, it is illegal, and it does not work. When asked if U.S. society is becoming more violent, he responded that he felt we have always been a violent society.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Friends Meeting in Bethlehem, VFP sponsored a slide presentation by Chris McIntosh, representing Veterans for American Interests in Israel-Palestine. Mr. McIntosh served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Marine Corps officer and has traveled extensively through the Middle East including five months spent as a news service intern with Search for Common Ground. He spoke of current U.S. policies relating to the region focusing on Israel and Palestine and the importance of ensuring that those policies advance U.S. interest. Mr. McIntosh also stressed the need for this country to use its influence to encourage the Arab States and Israel to

effect peace based on international law. The program concluded with an active Q&A session.

On her April 29<sup>th</sup> radio program Ms. Legun interviewed Larry Opthof, an Army Vietnam Veteran and VFP member. Mr. Opthof related some of his experiences while the member of a reconnaissance unit as well as his subsequent wounding in and evacuation from Vietnam. He also spoke of his increasing disenchantment upon returning home. He mentioned his lack of belief in this country's involvement in Iraq due in part to similarities he sees with our Vietnam experience; one similarity being that if the people of a country with which we are militarily involved do not want us in their country, we should not be there.

In conjunction with a coalition of regional peace groups, VFP Chapter 152 joined approximately two hundred people May 2<sup>nd</sup> in a demonstration at the Franklin Mills Mall outside the Army Experience Center (see longer report on page 1). On Memorial Day local Veterans For Peace marched in the Bethlehem parade as they have in earlier years.

- Paul Fichter

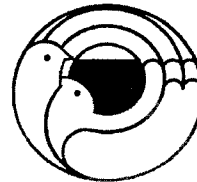
Check out the LEPOCO website

at [www.lepoco.org](http://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 be sending a message to [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net).



Newsletter of LEPOCO

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

### Annual dues are:

Regular Member ..... \$35

Limited Income Member ..... \$ 5

Household Membership ..... \$45

Supporting Member ..... \$75

Articles/news should be submitted to the address above for consideration for the next issue of the newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: robert Daniels II, Bob Riggs, Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Jeff Vitelli.

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

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Addison Bross, Peter Christine, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Ruth Karpinski, Mimi Lang, Michelle Mecham, Janet Ney, Susie Ravitz, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

# Popcorn / Potluck & Politics

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Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm: *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*

Popcorn and Politics: A *First Friday Film* projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

The true story of Germany's most famous anti-Nazi heroine follows her involvement with the underground student resistance group, The White Rose. Closely following interrogation records and court transcripts, the film covers the White Rose's activities, arrest, trial, and sentence in 1943.

Passionate champions of freedom and personal responsibility, Sophie Scholl and the White Rose have become synonymous with civil courage and peaceful struggle against violence and oppression.

Directed by Marc Rothmund. In German with English subtitles. 117 minutes. 2005.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm: Joyce Ravitz

*"Personal Reflections on Five Days in a War Zone"*

LEPOCO Potluck & Politics at Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse

(on Rt. 512, ½ mile north of Rt. 22, just north of the stop light at Wegman's)

Joyce Ravitz, a retired school teacher and an activist for peace and justice for 50 years, will report on the 13-member delegation to Gaza that she was part of May 23 - June 1. Two other members of the delegation will join her in the presentation. They traveled under the auspices of Code Pink.

*Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6 pm. The presentation and discussion should begin around 6:30 pm.*

Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm: *Johnny Got His Gun*

Popcorn and Politics: A *First Friday Film* projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo directs this film adaptation of his own classic anti-war novel. After a mortar shell leaves his body mangled on the final day of World War I, Joe Bonham lies trapped in a hospital bed, a fully conscious quadruple amputee who cannot speak, hear, or see, left to wander within his own mind between his harsh reality and memories of a happier life long gone. 106 minutes. 1971.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*



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## A Chance For Expanded Discussion

On March 29, 18 stalwart LEPOCO members gathered in Mimi Lang's sunny living room to reflect. It was "LEPOCO in the Age of Obama: A Chance for Expanded Discussion." To begin, each person presented a hope for the organization for this new time. Hopes ranged from making prejudice uncool and encouraging more diplomacy in foreign policy, to involving more youth and simply getting to know LEPOCOites better.

Following the introductions, we split up into three groups to discuss three questions: Where do you find the most hope in this new time? What can LEPOCO do now? and What are the biggest pitfalls for LEPOCO at this time? Themes that were reported back after the discussions included the opportunity and necessity of reaching out and connecting, not only with new Obama campaign groups, but with other groups in general, especially more racially diverse organizations. The economic crisis as an opportunity for new ways of thinking and the receptive White House as an opening to push for peaceful foreign policy were discussed. The biggest pitfalls were the lack of new blood in the organization, and that we spread our energy too thin with so many projects.

After tasty snacks and a rousing (if slightly tuneless) rendition of the "Fixin' to Die Rag" the group

recon-vened for a brainstorming session. With Jeff Vitelli as our scribe, we filled pages of tablet paper with our dreams for the future, from public financing of political campaigns to a peace-based economy to making cars illegal. Towards the end of our dreaming, we discovered that our goals largely fit into four categories: Human Rights, Economic Rights, Environmental Rights, and Technology. We also made lists of organizations with which we should collaborate, ranging from Healthcare 4 All PA to the "Obamistas" to Middle Eastern groups.

Since there wasn't enough time to discuss in any detail any of our four main goals, working groups have been formed to follow up in each of these categories. The purpose of these possibly temporary groups is to discuss how LEPOCO's work might be changed related to those issues and make suggestions. So far the Human Rights Group has made some recommendations to the Action Meeting and initiated a statement on torture (see page 7 & 8). The Economic Rights Group has been very busy and organized a panel discussion on the economic crisis (see page 1). Stay tuned for more updates as the other working groups follow up on all these ideas. If you would like to be involved in these discussions please contact the LEPOCO office.

- Peter Christine

## El Salvador's Mauricio Funes, A New President -- A New Path

On March 15, 2009, Mauricio Funes of the political party Frente Faribundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) won the Presidency of El Salvador in a tight race that was resolved by a margin of 51.32% for the FMLN to 48. 68% for the Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA) party candidate Rodrigo Avila. For the first time in the history of this Latin American nation, a President has been elected who does not represent the oligarchy that has ruled since colonial times. The rule has often been brutal, and the nation suffers today in a regime of poverty, crime and forced emigration.

I was in El Salvador for both the legislative and mayoral elections of January 18, 2009, and for the presidential election of March 15, participating in the eighth Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad (CIS) international election mission as an observer and coordinator. It was my fourth election mission with the CIS. I volunteer with these missions in the hope that an informed international presence during the election process will deter violence and fraud. Crime does not thrive in the light, would be the theory.

Our mission was supported by a strong turnout of volunteers. 260 people from 19 countries volunteered to be either coordinators or observers of the election with the CIS. There were an estimated 4000 national and international observers granted credentials from El Salvador's Tribunal Supremo Electoral, which allowed us to enter the voting centers and observe the election at close hand. We were trained in the elements of the electoral process including the role of a board of electoral workers from the political parties participating in the election, called a Junta Receptora de Votos (JRV) or "vote receiving board." There were over 9500 JRV's in this election, each equipped to accept 450 votes

At the January 18<sup>th</sup> election, Salvadoran voters selected their municipal governments and National Assembly legislators. There had been an undercurrent of fear flowing through the process. The campaign of ARENA had emphasized the threat of communism, of turning over the country to Venezuela and Cuba if the FMLN would win. The brutality of ARENA governments over the years is reflected in their continued use of the hate of communism as a technique of organizing. In the early 1980's, ARENA rose out of the oligarchy that has controlled the nation for centuries, as a political organism accompanying the death squads and inspired by the Republican Party of Ronald Reagan. They have won the last four presidential elections and are known as the Government Party.

I questioned whether ARENA would allow under any circumstances an FMLN victory. The fact that they did permit a relatively fair and open election on March 15 is a sign of hope, because they had the money, power and ability to steal it. If they had, Salvadoran society would have been torn open into conflict.

In the first week after his victory, Mauricio Funes made clear the tone and direction of his governance. In a speech he gave in San Salvador on March 19, he referred to a Roque Dalton poem, stating, *Ahora es el turno del ofendido, ahora es la oportunidad de los excluidos, ahora es la oportunidad de los marginados, ahora es la oportunidad de los auténticos demócratas*, (translation: now is the turn of the offended, now there is opportunity for the excluded, for the marginalized, for authentic democrats). Funes went on to dedicate his rise to the presidency to Archbishop Oscar Romero - *a un santo que ilumina al pueblo salvadoreño, a nuestro obispo mártir monseñor Óscar Arnulfo Romero*" (translation: to a saint who illuminates the Salvadoran people, to our martyred bishop Monseñor Oscar Arnulfo Romero).

Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated on March 24, 1980, at a mass in the chapel at Divina Providencia, a hospital where he lived and worked. It was a savage political act widely attributed to the founders of the ARENA party. He was shot because he had spoken out, in the context of the life of Jesus Christ, against the repression of the Salvadoran government and the Salvadoran military. He said in a mass at the cathedral in San Salvador, on March 23, 1980, "cese la represión" (stop the repression), and continued with the famous passage in which he implored the military and paramilitary of El Salvador to stop killing their sisters and brothers, that they did not have to obey an order that was against the teachings of God. The homily is a beautiful, fully formed analysis of the moment. He speaks of Lent, the upcoming Easter, the struggle of Salvadoran society for justice, a careful reporting of many of the massacres and murders and disappearances during the prior weeks -- and the crimes of the government and military are all enumerated in a flow of clear language. Further, Romero uses documentation from Amnesty International to make his point that the government and military had violated all norms of human conduct in their policies of the preceding weeks, months and years. For this, for speaking truth in a moment of crisis for El Salvador, he was assassinated.

Mauricio Funes became the President of El Salvador officially on the first of June. Many have compared Barack Obama and Mauricio Funes. Both campaigned on a "change" platform. Both have telegenic looks and are articulate and intelligent. We will see if the community that elected Barack will also demand of him a program of true economic and social justice. The hard work of governance now confronts Mauricio Funes and the FMLN. They should enjoy the support of the international community, which can maintain vigilance that they be given the space to govern and rebuild El Salvador. We can support with material, technical and volunteer aid a program to bring the promise of the Peace Accords of 1992 to fruition. Adelante!

- Joe DeRaymond



# The Struggle Shared

*And still I return to Love.*

*Love of place, love of neighbors, love of you*

*If the world we know is to crumble*

*the world we create can only start where we are.*

- Russell Libby, "A Pledge," from *Balance, A Late Pastoral*

## ASIA PACIFIC ANTI-MISSILE

CONFERENCE IN SEOUL - Especially in the looming shadow of the present geopolitical crisis around North Korea's underground testing of a 10-20 kiloton nuclear weapon on the morning of May 25<sup>th</sup>, it is good to know that the peace movement in South Korea remains very active.

LEPOCO member Ken Moore lives in Seoul, Korea, and sent his account of the International Conference Against the Asia Pacific Missile Defense and For the End of the Arms Race held there April 16-18. Bruce Gagnon, of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, our Annual Dinner speaker in 2008, was the keynote speaker at this lively conference. There were speakers and delegates from the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, and many other activist organizations from Europe, Asia and North America. The host Korean Organizing Committee, was prominent, and did an excellent job accommodating the delegates in the impressive facilities of the Seoul Foundation for Women and Families.

Themes that emerged emphasized the shift in StratCom's mission from defensive to offensive strategies, allowing preemptive first strike nuclear attacks. (Strat Com, the U.S. Strategic Command with underground headquarters near Omaha, Nebraska, is described by some as "the most dangerous place on earth.") Supposed threats from Iran and North Korea are being used as excuses for military and economic encirclement of Russia and China, respectively, adding to global tensions and setting the stage for a renewed arms race. Military solutions are being promoted to deal with scarcity of resources, unrest and dislocations resulting from climate change and global economic collapse.

Counterbalancing these alarming reports were the many reports of global resistance to militarization, from the Czech Republic where pro-

tests have blocked the installation of a U.S. missile defense radar station, to Bath, Maine, where workers at the Bath Iron Workers are leading efforts to convert the plant from making Aegis class destroyers, to making wind turbines. What emerges, as one speaker put it, is "a new global vision, and collective responsibility and action... to develop ideas in terms of collective security rather than collective defense."

## PEACE GATHERING AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

- In the November 2008, issue of this column I reported on the efforts of local mayors to effect local ordinances to control the flow of illegal firearms used to commit violent crimes in our communities. Since that writing, the national Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition has been successful in getting Walmart, the largest national retailer of guns, to sign a Partnership Agreement based on a 10-point Code of Conduct for how gun purchases should be conducted to eliminate "straw purchases" of weapons most likely to be used to commit crimes.

In January, LEPOCO member Bob Walden took part in a "Historic Peace Church" gathering in Philadelphia. Part of this five-day conference was a nonviolent "Witness on Gun Violence." After informational workshops and plenaries, they marched to Colosimo's, a notorious Philadelphia gun shop, where 400 people asked the owner to endorse the same "Code of Conduct" that Walmart had signed. A dozen people were arrested for nonviolent civil disobedience outside the store. Their trial was held on May 26<sup>th</sup> and all twelve were acquitted. Although the owners of the gun shop have still not agreed to sign the "Code of Conduct," the pressure is on, with demonstrations continuing outside the shop. The court decision is clearly a victory for the movement in Pennsylvania to restrict the flow of illegal firearms.

To see the full text of the "Code of Conduct" or get more information about the campaign in Philadelphia go to [www.peacegathering2009.org](http://www.peacegathering2009.org). Locally, contact Bob Walden at 610-861-0653, or this writer.

## REMEMBERING AURELIA TATE

All too often, it seems, one of the functions that this column serves is to note the passing of people who have been important to LEPOCO, and the larger peacemaking community. Sadly, I have such a note this month.

Princess Aurelia Moles Tate, mother of one of our office coordinators, Nancy Tate, died on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at age 92, in Roanoke, Virginia. To know a little about the life of Aurelia sheds some light on the dedication to peace and justice which we know so well in Nancy. Aurelia grew up on a farm in Bedford County, Virginia, the second child in a family that eventually included eleven children. She worked in weaving mills, and throughout her life was a creative seamstress and later an oil painter. In 1940 she married Printiss Tate. They settled into a home near Salem, and for sixty years there, Aurelia grew gardens, raised chickens, an occasional cow or pig, Nancy and her two brothers. She was an active member of the Green Hill Church of the Brethren, and a committed member of the Plowshares Peace Center whose activities often paralleled LEPOCO's. In 2001, Aurelia suffered a debilitating stroke, and had since lived in a nursing home. Throughout her life, and to the end, one of her greatest joys was singing.

In the spring of 1979, when the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island was threatening Pennsylvania, a small group of us in LEPOCO decided that the most sensible response to the crisis was to evacuate. We set out in a caravan, and landed at the home of Aurelia and Printiss, where we stayed, sleeping on floors, eating communal meals, and relying on the amazing generosity of the Tates. The visit made a lasting impression on my family, and the few times that I've seen Aurelia since are memories of warmth and joy. She really was a Princess of Peace. Let us share our sincerest expressions of sadness for her loss to Nancy Tate.

- Jeff Vitelli

## Condemning Torture \_\_\_\_\_

On pages seven and eight of this newsletter you will find a LEPOCO statement condemning torture. It was approved by the May Action Meeting and has been sent to numerous government officials -- legislators and administrators. The statement was initially drafted by a committee that included Addison Bross, Peter Christine and Dagoberto Mosquera, at the behest of the LEPOCO in the Age of Obama Human Rights Committee convened by Bob Riggs at his home on April 27.

It is urgent that we continue speaking out against torture at this moment in our country's history. As this newsletter is being prepared the Religious Witness to Call for a Commission of Inquiry on Torture gathered outside the White House on June 11 (see [www.nrcaat.org](http://www.nrcaat.org)). Later this month there will be other demonstrations in Washington, D.C. On Thursday, June 25, a number of national groups are holding Torture Accountability Day. Their activities in D.C. include a march to the Justice Department (see [www.tortureaccountability.webs.com](http://www.tortureaccountability.webs.com)). On Saturday, June 27, the Torture Abolition Survivor Support Coalition (TASSC) will hold a 24-hour vigil across from the White House to commemorate the UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors (see [www.tassc.org](http://www.tassc.org)). If you would like to car pool from the Lehigh Valley for either of these events please contact LEPOCO.

In the June 15, 2009, issue of *The Nation*, Jonathan Schell writes about, "Torture and Truth." It is an article that is well worth reading. It concludes: "Better to look the torture in the face and having looked, to remember, and having remembered, to respond, and having responded, to call those responsible to account so that we never do this again."

## A "Mimi's 70!" Party \_\_\_\_\_



A darling (and resident poet, popular program M.C. and generally great peace activist) of our local peace movement, Mimi Lang, turns 70 this summer, and, bless her, she wants to celebrate with a dance party for peace that raises money for LEPOCO. Will you help her celebrate and help see LEPOCO to a rosier financial future?

The party at Mimi's Bethlehem home, will feature music by popular DJ Evan Hoffman. While Evan is part of the inspiring younger generation of peace activists, he is guaranteed to play the lively dance music of all generations that will raise our hopes for a better and happier world for all.

Save the date, Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 7-10 pm, to dance, to enjoy the company of peace people of all ages and to fete our dear friend and peacemaker. The suggested donation is whatever one can afford \$7-\$70 (\$17, \$27, \$37...). Please also bring a beverage or favorite snack/dessert to share. To facilitate planning, call LEPOCO (610-691-8730) to let us know you plan to attend the "Mimi's 70!" Dance for Peace Party.

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## The Need for Counter-Recruiting \_\_\_\_\_

July 17-19, in Chicago, the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth will hold a National Counter-Recruitment & Demilitarization Conference: It's Our World. Change It! The conference will bring together a broad spectrum of people to share skills and form relationships to help build a permanent resistance to militarism. Youth, parents, educators, veterans, artists, members of social justice groups and more will gather for practical training, to learn about legislative challenges and to plan public pressure to promote non-military alternatives. Three Lehigh Valley activists hope to attend and would welcome others to join them in a car pool. Call LEPOCO if you are interested.

In a related issue the Youth and Militarism work at LEPOCO faces a quandary. More people need to be involved if a serious effort is to be made toward reaching out to young people, the targets of military recruiters. Can you help? Contact robert Daniels II at LEPOCO if you are interested.

## Tabling in Jim Thorpe \_\_\_\_\_

Hi! My name is Michael Karpinski. I am 10 years old and in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I really enjoyed volunteering on Earth Day in Jim Thorpe. When I saw my aunt, Ruth Karpinski, sitting in the booth handing out information, I wanted to help also. Passing out the educational papers, helping the people pick out the buttons and bumper stickers and counting the change were my favorite things that I was able to do. I am really good at math so counting change was fun and easy for me and a way I could help. I learned about how so much tax money goes to the military. I learned about educating other people. That made me feel smart. I like making change happen! I also like how I got to sit in the shade. And my other favorite booth at the celebration was the funnel cake booth. I ate two funnel cakes! My younger brother Nick also helped by finding buttons that people picked out in the cartons. He had a lot of fun too! I never knew volunteering could be so much fun. I love to volunteer!

## Help Support Local Women's Center \_\_\_\_\_

In the wake of the tragic murder of abortion services provider Dr. George Tiller in Wichita, Kansas, the Allentown Women's Center is on heightened alert. Since its inception this abortion clinic has been an ongoing target of anti-abortion pickets, harassment and threats to women seeking abortions as well as to staff and volunteers. The Justice Department and the FBI are kept well informed and offer what help they can, but the fear and the obvious raised level of danger have left the Women's Center in need of more volunteer help. Anyone interested in providing support and help is urged to contact Jen Boulanger, director of the clinic at 610-770-9077.

# Statement of the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern (LEPOCO) in Condemnation of Torture

Adopted at the monthly Action Meeting on 11 May 2009

We, members of LEPOCO Peace and Justice Center, deplore and condemn the acts of torture authorized by highly placed members of the United States government and committed by U.S. service personnel or by contractors hired by U.S. officials at Abu Ghraib, at Guantánamo, at Bagram Air Force Base, and at "black sites" in various parts of the world.

We call on our Senators, Arlen Specter and Robert Casey, and our Representatives, Charles Dent, Patrick Murphy, Paul Kanjorski, and Tim Holden, to support our demand for full disclosure of the circumstances that led U.S. officials to adopt this policy.

We strongly support President Barack Obama in his plan to close the internment facility at Guantánamo Bay, and we urge him to begin procedures without delay to close the Bagram Internment Facility, which is already poised to take Guantánamo's place.

**The acts of torture committed under U.S. officials' authorization during our struggle against terrorists were:**

- **a violation of international law and of specific treaties and agreements to which the United States is a signatory.**

Torture is a violation of the Third Geneva Convention (1949) (a treaty concerning the treatment of prisoners) and the United Nations Convention on Torture (1984). In signing this latter document, President Ronald Reagan proudly acknowledged the prime role of the U.S. in establishing this international prohibition against "inhumane treatment or punishment." He also emphasized that under this agreement every nation "is required to prosecute torturers who are found in its territory or to extradite them to other countries for prosecution."

In the aftermath of World War II, during proceedings of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, Japanese soldiers who had inflicted waterboarding on U.S. POWs were convicted of torture and sentenced to be hanged. Republican presidential candidate Senator John McCain in a campaign speech on 29 November 2007 acknowledged this fact. According to the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law, U.S. courts have consistently defined waterboarding as torture and condemned it as a violation of U.S. statutory prohibitions. The UN special rapporteur on torture, Manfred Nowak, stated on 24 April 2009 that the U.S. is legally obligated under the UN Convention on Torture to prosecute persons engaged in torture.

- **an officially authorized program, not an aberration committed on the whim of individuals.**

For example: According to a de-classified report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, on 17 July 2002 CIA Director George Tenet met with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, who gave clearance for the CIA to carry out its proposed interrogation of Abu Zubaydah, subject to approval of the legality of the plan by the Office of Legal Counsel. The report also states that Attorney General John Ashcroft "had concluded that use of waterboarding was lawful." Waterboarding was also approved in a presidential finding signed in 2002 by President Bush, Secretary Rice, and Attorney General Ashcroft.

- **an ineffective tactic in a war against terror. Torture cannot produce reliable information for preventing attacks; far from making our citizens safe, it has endangered both civilian citizens and service personnel.**

In a recent speech in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, human rights lawyer Jennifer Harbury explained that detainees are unlikely to have all the information required to prevent an attack, and when tortured, commonly give misleading statements. Abu Zubaydah, an alleged Al Qaeda operative, was waterboarded at least 83 times in 2002. Contrary to reports that Zubaydah yielded



information only after torture, Ali Soufan, the FBI agent who personally questioned Zubaydah before the CIA obtained exclusive access to the suspect, has stated that Zubaydah was not uncooperative under traditional interrogation methods, without recourse to torture: "There was no actionable intelligence gained from using enhanced interrogation techniques on Abu Zubaydah that wasn't, or couldn't have been, gained from regular tactics."

Furthermore, Ali Soufan has also testified that because the FBI's agents refused to employ the "enhanced interrogation techniques" used by the CIA, they were barred from interrogating key detainees, even though the FBI possessed information regarding these suspects not possessed by the CIA. The use of torture thus created a wall between the two agencies, making interrogation far less effective. In 2004, the CIA's inspector general reported there was no proof that the use of torture had thwarted "specific imminent attacks." Robert Muller, Director of the FBI, declared that torture had not prevented any attacks against the United States. Given the popular resentment aroused by the U.S. practice of torture in the Middle East, this policy is likely to swell the ranks of potential terrorists.

Instead of employing torture as a method for saving U.S. lives by uncovering terrorist plots, the Bush administration perpetrated some of its torture practices in order to justify its pre-existing theory about the identity of the terrorists of 2001. Frustrated in its attempts to link the terrorists of 9-11 to Saddam Hussein, Bush officials, according to a recently released Senate report, attempted to wring such testimony from detainees through "enhanced interrogation."

- **a rejection of the standard of morality and respect for human dignity traditionally embraced by most leaders and ordinary citizens in the United States.**

Former Vice President Dick Cheney soon after the terrorist attacks of 2001 stated, "The American way of life is non-negotiable." But our government's sanction and use of torture threatens the very moral values of our nation, if not challenged. To claim, as Mr. Cheney has done, that U.S. lives were saved by gathering information about terrorist plots through torture, cannot justify the violation of human dignity that torture constitutes. Values by their nature are to be maintained in the face of danger and uncertainty; if our values influence our behavior only when implementing them is safe and easy, then these values are not really ours.

Our leaders' desperate attempts to evade forthright questioning, to hide incriminating facts behind obscure redefinitions of the term "torture," and to deny the truth outright continue to bring shame on our nation. Despite the clarity of the above-mentioned documents prohibiting torture, former President George W. Bush complained that "the rules [concerning torture] are so vague that they [CIA agents] cannot interrogate without being tried as war criminals. . . . I've said to the people that we don't torture, and we don't" (CBS interview, 6 September 2006). Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently told a Bethesda, MD, school child that President Bush was trying to protect the country following September 11<sup>th</sup>, and that Bush "was also very clear that we would do nothing against the law."

**Hence we are led to conclude as follows:**

If renewed programs of torture by U.S. officials are to be prevented, we must fully determine by what specific process under the last administration torture came to win official sanction and precisely how it was used.

A Quaker organization, the Friends' Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), has called for the creation by the President or by Congress of a Commission of Inquiry - a fact-finding body similar to a truth and reconciliation committee - charged with determining the facts of the matter. The FCNL has called also for the Department of Justice to appoint a special prosecutor who will investigate abuse of detainees and determine personal accountability for its perpetration.

We, the members of LEPOCO, strongly concur with the FCNL in these two demands. We call also for the full support of Senators Specter and Casey and Representatives, Dent, Murphy, Kanjorski, and Holden, as well as that of every U.S. citizen, in their speedy implementation.



# LEPOCO Financial Report 2008

Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance	2008
Contributions, gifts, grants and similar amounts received	\$2,000.00
Membership Dues, Fund Appeals, Phonathon, Pledges	\$31,669.86
Investment Income	\$4,749.59
Profit on Boutique Sales	\$524.87
Annual Dinner	\$1,498.76
Art Raffle	\$467.88
Bike-Walk-A-Thon	\$1,156.70
Yard Sale	\$863.82
Misc. Programs (Bright Morning Star, etc.) (Gross Inc.)	\$3,789.15
Misc. (Interest, Copier, etc.)	\$109.99
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$46,830.62</b>
Contributions to Others (L.V. Peace Coalition)	\$26.14
Salaries and Benefits to Employees	\$30,489.73
Rent, Electric, Telephone, Insurance, etc.	\$9,376.52
Computer Access & Domain Fees	\$410.53
Printing and Postage	\$5,876.91
Other Expenses (Programs & Events)	\$2,144.47
Supplies (Office, Copier, Printer, Paper)	\$1,761.86
Repairs (Office, Copier & Printing Press)	\$1,078.07
Late Fees for Late Tax Filings	\$1,123.79
Miscellaneous (Working Groups, Bank Fees, etc)	\$662.87
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$52,850.89</b>
<b>Excess or (Loss) for Year</b>	<b>\$(6,020.27)</b>
<b>Fund Balances at the Beginning of the Year</b>	<b>\$28,905.32</b>
<b>Change in Investment Value</b>	<b>\$(13,726.97)</b>
<b>Fund Balance at the End of the Year</b>	<b>\$9,158.08</b>

2008 Fund Balances	Beginning of Year	End of Year
Cash, Savings and Investments	\$38,282.80	\$17,891.05
Liabilities	\$9,377.48	\$8,732.97
Net Assets and Fund Balances	\$28,905.32	\$9,158.08

## Allentown's Peace Parade

The LEPOCO Peace Center participated in the lively and colorful International Peace Parade put together by the Arts Luminarium in Allentown on a sunny Sunday in mid-May. The parade featured the costumes, customs, music and dance of the area's many cultures. Many thanks to those who marched on LEPOCO's behalf, including members of A.S.A.P., Blue Mountain Zendo, 14 Acre Farm, the LEPOCO Peace Singers, and LEPOCO members at large. See [www.artsluminarium.com](http://www.artsluminarium.com) for more information on this interesting new effort in Allentown.

### SUPPORT LEPOCO!

Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
(\$35 individual; \$45 household; \$75 supporter; \$5 limited income)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# Bits & Pieces

☺ Thank you to the 30 energetic folks who participated in LEPOCO's **Bike/Walkathon** on Saturday, June 6, as walkers, riders, and staffing volunteers. It was a lovely day after a week of rain and the walkers enjoyed the adventure of the new route, designed and annotated by David Rose. The riders had a safe journey on a city-to-country route that many riders had covered in earlier years. After all the pledges are in there should be close to \$2000 raised -- half will support LEPOCO's work and half will support local food pantries. All participants are encouraged to get their pledges in ASAP. If you did not get to participate, you can still make a donation to this effort.

☺ LEPOCO will have a table at **Allentown's 11<sup>th</sup> Street Block Party** (on 11<sup>th</sup> Street between Turner and Chew Streets) on Saturday, **June 20<sup>th</sup>**, 10 am to 4 pm. Several dozen community groups will be participating. If you would like to help with staffing LEPOCO's table please contact the Peace Center at 610-691-8730. (Also, let us know if you would like to help with staffing LEPOCO tables at other festivals this summer.)

☺ Thank you to the 18 people who helped hand out War Resisters League pie charts calling for cutting the military budget on **Tax Day**, April 15<sup>th</sup>. While our efforts did not get the attention of the media frenzy over the tea party folks, we did have a lot of good discussions and gave flyers to around 1500 people. The flyers are still available at the Peace Center if you did get to see a copy.

## Events at Kirkridge

### Retreat & Study Center, near Bangor:

September 10-13: *Creating a Culture of Peace Training of Trainers with Janet Chisholm.*

September 18-20: *"Community or Empire - Which Will We Build?" with Daniel Berrigna & Elizabeth McAlister.*

November 6-8: *"Love Force - The Peacemaker's Way" with Richard Deaty.*

November 13-15: *"Making Activism Smarter & Thriving Personally" with George Lakey.*

For more information see [www.kirkridge.org](http://www.kirkridge.org) or call 610-588-1793.

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☺ The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual **SouthSide Film Festival** runs June 16-20 in south Bethlehem, showing dozens of films. Here is some information about eight documentaries that are especially interesting.

*American Outrage* is about two grandmothers who square off against gold mining corporations and the nuclear industry to protect the land of the Western Shoshone Nation. *Devil's Tower* tells the story of the Lakota struggle to protect their lands and sacred places.

*Breaking Stones* is about a child in Nepal who works breaking up heavy stones instead of going to school, providing insight into the lives of 200,000 displaced people in that country. *Sastun* tells the story of a herbalist scouring the tropical rainforests of Central America in search of cures for deadly diseases. (These first four films will be shown Wed. and Fri. evenings.)

*Free the River Park* is about a Philadelphia community's effort to save a Schuylkill River Park for public use in the face belligerent big business. *Imminent Domain* examines gentrification in NYC's Lower East Side. (These two films will be shown Thurs. and Fri. evenings and Sat. afternoon.)

*Displaced - The Unexpected Fallout from the Cold War*, is about communities in South Carolina displaced in 1951 to make way for the Savannah River Nuclear Plant. *Vernaya (Faithful)* tells the story of the Nekrasov Cossacks who returned in 1962 to the country of their ancestors (then the Soviet Union) after 150 years of enforced exile in Turkey. (These last two films will be shown Wed. and Sat.) See [www.ssff.org](http://www.ssff.org) for more info.

☺ On May 19, Calvin Smiley organized a Solidarity Day for **Troy Davis**, who has been on death row in Georgia for 17 years, despite strong evidence suggesting that he is innocent. 90 signatures for clemency for Troy Davis were collected at 4<sup>th</sup> & New in south Bethlehem. We

will miss Calvin Smiley's strong organizing against the death penalty during his years at Lehigh University, but wish him well as he goes to graduate school in Delaware.

☺ There will be a networking picnic in support of the **Lehigh Valley Bucks & Doe** effort to get a local currency *a la* the Ithaca Dollars, on Saturday, June 27, 11 am to 3 pm, at Bethlehem's Saucon Park, off Rt. 412 near Hellertown. See [www.lvbucksanddoe.org](http://www.lvbucksanddoe.org) for more information.

☺ On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, *The Intelligencer*, Doylestown, reported that the "Sandal Sisters," **Maria Weick** and daughter, Beth Weick, had passed the halfway point on the 2200-mile Appalachian Trail. They began their walk in Georgia in March and have confronted even extreme weather in their sandals, earning their "Sandal Sisters" nickname. Despite snow and rain many days they have kept a pretty fast pace. The paper reports on their commitment to nature and a minimal carbon footprint as they hike. We look forward to their safe return later this summer.

Our other current local traveler by foot, **Greta Browne**, is home for another short break as she walks much of U.S. 11 from New Orleans to Rouses Point, NY, to call attention to global warming. She has also passed her halfway point (somewhere in southwest Virginia), having covered 900 miles. During her break her small vehicle is being repaired. She will head back to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to continue walking soon. Read her comments and see pictures from her journey at [www.forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com](http://www.forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com). You can also contact her there if you would like to join her for any of her remaining walk.

☺ The **Lehigh Valley Storytelling Guild** will hold their festival June 26-28. Among their performers is Oni Lasana of the National Association of Black Storytellers. On Sat., June 27, she will present "Lias' Mother," offering a personal view of a black woman's life in the 1800s with drama and humor. Advance tickets for that performance at Godfrey Daniels are \$15.50 (\$18.50 at the door). Call Godfrey Daniels at 610-867-2390 for more information.

☺ Thank you to **robert Daniels II** who spoke about peace activism for a class at Cedar Crest College on May 30<sup>th</sup>; and to **Donna Hartmann** who spoke about Peace Camp for the Unitarian Church Coffee Hour on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

# Bits & Pieces

Ⓞ If the 20<sup>th</sup> Century is recognized as the century of human rights; individual, social, economic, political and cultural, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will be known as the Century of the Rights of Mother Earth, of the animals, plants, all living creatures and all beings, whose rights must also be respected and protected.

-Evo Morales Ayma, Pres. of Bolivia, 4/22/09 at the U.N. on the First International Day of Mother Earth

Ⓞ Big time lobbying is certainly being done by the insurance companies and others that profit from the sad state of health care in this country, so it is very important that those who have a more compassionate and comprehensive vision for a health care system where we put people before profits lobby Congress also. One of several opportunities for this will come on Thurs., June 25. **SEIU Healthcare is organizing buses** from Allentown (and other cities in Pennsylvania) to a rally and lobby day in Washington, DC. You can sign up at [www.seiuhc.org](http://www.seiuhc.org). The bus trip is free.

Ⓞ The Voices of Experience and Reconciliation Tour visited Easton, May 4-5, speaking out against the death penalty at a public program, at Lafayette College, at a ministers meeting and with local prisoners. **Rev. Walter Everett** was one of two speakers on the tour and *The Morning Call* carried a story about him on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, "Learning the Power of Forgiveness." It is important to note that the story was written by Tim Blangger, shortly before this excellent reporter was laid off in the latest round of Morning Call evisceration. Also, thanks to David Rose for organizing the local visit of the tour.

Ⓞ Twenty-three peace groups in the Philadelphia area will hold a **Father's Day Peace Event** near Senator Arlen Specter's home on Sunday, June 21, 2-4 pm. The gathering will be on West Schoolhouse Lane (at Vaux St.) in the East Falls section of the city. Call 215-843-4256 for more information.

Ⓞ Phyllis Bennis wrote about Pres. Barack Obama's Cairo speech in *Foreign Policy in Focus*, on June 8<sup>th</sup>: *The shift in discourse, away from justifying reckless im-*

*perial hubris, unilateralism, and militarism, and toward a more cooperative and potentially even internationalist approach was potent. The actual policy shifts were much smaller. It remains the work of mobilized people across the United States...to turn that new language into new policies - reversing the escalation and moving toward ending Obama's war in Afghanistan and Pakistan, ending the occupation of Iraq immediately rather than years from now, ending U.S. military aid to Israel and creating a policy based on an end to occupation and equality for all, launching new negotiations with Iran not based on military threats, implementing U.S. nuclear disarmament obligations, and more. That's the next step.*

Phyllis' complete article is available at [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org).

Ⓞ "Gilgamesh" will be presented by the Circle of Stones Theatre Ensemble, June 19-28, at Allentown's Symphony Hall, 23 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Known for their plays dealing with protecting our earth environment, this production promises to herald a vision for a new Allentown." See [www.symphonycircle.org](http://www.symphonycircle.org) for tickets and more information.

Ⓞ *It is good that our Administration is reaching out to the Muslim world. It is bad to spend another \$100 billion to keep wars going which will kill innocent Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.*

*It is good that we try to create an incentive for people to buy efficient cars. It is bad that the car vouchers will not be expressly for the purchase of cars made in America. It is even worse that we tie such an incentive to a war funding bill...*

*Meanwhile, ...factories and auto dealers are closing, people are losing...their jobs, their homes, their health care...their retirement security...*

- Rep. Dennis Kucinich, speaking on the supplemental to fund our wars, 6/9/09

Ⓞ Lafayette College is sponsoring a **Sustainable Energy Conference**, July 27 - August 1. Students, educators, entrepreneurs, and policy makers are all invited. For more information call Bill Dougherty at 610-264-4440 x17 or see [www.sustainableenergyconference.com](http://www.sustainableenergyconference.com).

Ⓞ In a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder on May 29, Gov. Ed Rendell recommended that the Dept. of Justice pursue civil rights charges against two Schuylkill County men involved in the **beating of Mexican immigrant Luis Ramirez** in Shenandoah on July 12, 2008. Ramirez died two days later. The statement says, "Such lawlessness and violence hurts not only the direct victim of the attack, but also our towns and communities that are torn apart by such bigotry and intolerance."

## MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... ETC.

**Tues., June 16, 8:30 am: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.**

**Wed., June 17, 6 pm: Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at the Olive Branch Restaurant, 355 Broadway, south Bethlehem.**

**Mon., June 22, 7 pm: Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Crisis meeting at Mimi Lang's home, Bethlehem. Call 610-691-8730 for directions.**

**Thurs., June 25, 7 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.**

**Tues., June 30, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.**

**Tues., July 7, 4 pm: Fundraising Committee meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.**

**Thursdays, July 9 & Aug. 13, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meets at the LEPOCO Peace Center.**

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

**Thurs., July 16, 6 pm: Peace Camp Training for leaders and helpers, First Presbyterian Church, Tilghman & Cedar Crest, Allentown. Contact LEPOCO or see [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org) if you need a Volunteer Interest Form.**

*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 miss the meeting listed above and want to know about their next meeting; or if you want to know the next meeting of the Newsletter Planning Committee, the LEPOCO Peace Singers, the Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee, the Youth & Militarism Truth in Recruiting Committee, or the Association of Students Advocating Peace: please call the Peace Center at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and a schedule of meetings please see [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).*



# LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015  
610-691-8730 [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)  
Fax: 610-691-8904 [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org)

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 617  
Bethlehem, PA

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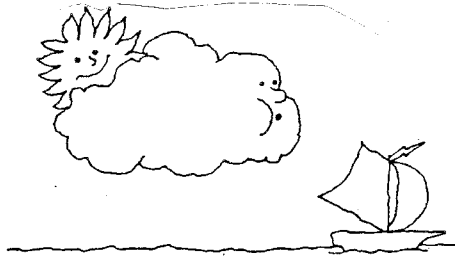
Condemning Torture

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Bits & Pieces



## **Weekly Peace Vigils**

*Our wars continue so the witnessing for peace must continue. Will you be there?*

**Bethlehem:** 4:30-5:30 pm, Second Thursdays

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

**Allentown:** Noon-1 pm, Fridays

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

4:30-5:30 pm, Fridays

PA National Guard Armory, 15<sup>th</sup> & Allen Sts.

**Easton:** 10-11 am, Saturdays

Centre Square  
Contact: Reggie Regrut 908-859-5632

*Please support the faithful individuals who keep these vigils going!*

**July 27-31, 2009**  
**Young People Making Peace**  
**Summer Day Camp**  
**9 am to Noon, Daily**  
See inside for registration form.

### Popcorn & Politics / First Friday Film

Friday, July 3, 7 pm

**Sophie Scholl: The Final Days**

At LEPOCO; share snacks & beverages.

### Potluck & Politics

Sunday, July 12, 6 pm

**Joyce Ravitz**

**Personal Reflections on Five Days in a War Zone:**

**A Delegation to Gaza**

At Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse; bring food to share.

### Popcorn & Politics / First Friday Film

Friday, August 7, 7 pm

**Johnny Got His Gun**

At LEPOCO; share snacks & beverages.

See page 3 for more details on all the above.