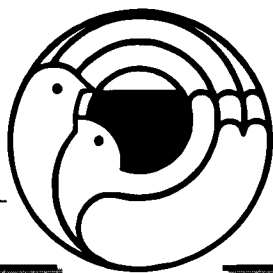


March  
2010



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

Vol. 45 No. 2

# The Annual Dinner is Coming!

*Camaraderie: Noun, French, from camarade, comrade. A spirit of friendly good-fellowship.*

On the first Saturday in March, the 6<sup>th</sup>, in the always-welcoming and graciously appointed Sayre Hall of Cathedral Church of the Nativity in south Bethlehem, LEPOCO will hold our Annual Dinner.

Each year, we come together to plan, cook, mingle, catch-up, listen, sing, and support peace, dialogue, uppityness – the passionate work and witness for justice in our world. (The justice part preferably to come while we're still around.)

Have you heard some of the new rowdy and quite topical songs the Peace Chorus is doing? They have new members and lots of energy, which will be on display for us that evening.

It goes without saying that the dinner will be delish – a panoply of grains and fruits, veggies, and other tasty ingredients, in recipes from around the globe, made by seasoned and new volunteer cooks. (I've been part of the cooking crew many times, and recommend it as a good time.)

I know, the wars drag on, the planet is getting warmer, our kids and grandkids deserve a better future, and our political activism sometimes seems futile. Now corporations get more say than they already have – it's enough to put a person under the covers. *Instead*, come to the Annual Dinner – meet and mingle during the social half-hour at 5 pm, have some delicious starters, get your spirits lighter and get ready to enjoy the program.

We have had some great dinner guest speakers over the years, haven't we? Remember Howard Zinn? His spirit is going to be with us that night, perhaps inspiring us to find some hope and energy in hard times. Noam Chomsky? Phyllis Bennis? Father Roy Bourgeois? Who do you remember? Who would you like to hear for a future dinner?

This year we get to experience something a bit different in our speaker – a performance artist and sly change provocateur, The Reverend Billy, who leads "The Church of Life After Shopping." (See Robert Daniels' article in the last newsletter.) I hear the phones are ringing at the office for tickets to experience the Rev. There are many ways to open the door to changing consciousness, and Rev. Billy's is unique. The young and young in mind will be open to his art and message.

If you can, bring someone new to LEPOCO with you to the dinner, because LEPOCO and the circle of local activism need to grow. And don't forget to order your dinner and arts raffle tickets soon. See you there...

- Kathy Hoffman



*Rev. Billy and members of the Church of Life After Shopping Choir carry their message to England with their usual flair.*

## Annual Dinner Tickets:

- \$25- Regular Adult;
- \$50 - Special Supporter;
- \$10- Limited Income Adult / Child;
- \$10 - Program-only, regular;
- \$5 - Program-only, limited income

Dinner tickets by advance reservation only.  
Program-only tickets available at the door.

*Pre-dinner music at 5 pm;  
Dinner at 5:30 pm.*

*LEPOCO Annual Dinner: Saturday, March 6, 2010  
Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 321 Wyandotte St., south Bethlehem*

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mail tickets to:

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hold tickets at door.

Return to: LEPOCO, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, before 5 pm, Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

# Why Is the U.S. Supporting a Coup Government?

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Sylvia Metzler of Philadelphia, came to the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse to speak about her trip to Honduras. Her talk was organized by LEPOCO's Americas Solidarity Group. Together with a group of 20 people organized by the Quixote Center, Sylvia took part in a delegation to Honduras from Nov. 25 - Dec. 2, 2009, around the time of the "election" in that country. However, they were not there as election observers because they did not believe the election to be legitimate -- that view was shared by the OAS (Organization of American States), the Carter Center, and the UN. But, they were there as witnesses to the human rights violations and anti-democratic measures being committed by the coup regime. The regime took power after the elected President Manuel Zelaya was removed in a military coup d'état on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Sylvia Metzler expressed her feeling that visiting Honduras in late 2009 felt very much like being in Honduras in the 1980s because of the militarization of the country, and the reports of human rights abuses. The reports of abuses heard by the delegation included direct threats of violence, assassinations, disproportionate violence, economic threats and bribery, detentions, disappearances, raids on private property, rapes, the presence of the military and the police in polling stations, and threats against the press and censorship.

On "Election Day" the delegation travelled around the country speaking to many people -- political activists and Honduran citizens from all walks of life. Most people they spoke with were against the coup and had decided not to vote even though the local news channels and newspapers urged them to do so. Fear tactics were being used to scare people into voting or to urge them not to join the activist movements against the coup. People had been told there would be violent retaliations against them by police and military forces if they did not vote. Employers were using fear tactics as well, saying to their employees that if they came back to work without the black ink mark on their finger (the mark showing that they had voted), they would be fired. The media was broadcasting reports that the polling stations were full of people and that the polls had to remain open for an extra hour. Businesses gave people discounts if they came in with the inked voting finger.

Sylvia reported that many in Honduras believe the United States government had something to do with the coup. Though no one has proof, Sylvia came to share this belief after hearing the analysis of the Hondurans.

One striking point she made was that after the "election" the resistance movement in Honduras pledged to continue their nonviolent struggle to bring democracy back to their country.

President Zelaya has left Honduras and Porfilio Lobo was installed as president on January 27<sup>th</sup>. According to a recent update from the Quixote Center seven resistance members were killed in January and

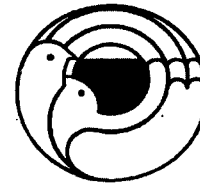
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there were 12 other targeted incidents including beatings, detentions and disappearance. This information was documented by the Committee of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared. People continue to flee the country to protect their lives. And on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Vanessa Zepeda, a 29-year-old nurse, an active member of the resistance movement and a union organizer was murdered - her body dumped in a neighborhood with strong links to the resistance. She was the mother of three children, the youngest only four months old.

While the U.S. government is backing the highly contested elections in Honduras and pushing for international recognition of the Lobo government, we need to call on our elected representatives to end U.S. funding of state terror in Honduras. We need to tell them of our alarm at the growing human rights crisis there. You are invited to attend the meetings of the Americas Solidarity Group (ASG) as we consider how to respond to the crisis in Honduras and to other issues in the Americas. Please contact LEPOCO for the next meeting date.

Join the ASG for a trip to Washington, DC, April 17-19, to participate in meetings, training, and lobbying, organized by SOA Watch on crucial Latin America issues like the current repression in Honduras. Contact LEPOCO if you would like to join this trip.

- Yisol Yanez & Nancy Tate



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.

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Regular Member .....	\$35
Limited Income Member .....	\$ 5
Household Membership .....	\$45
Supporting Member .....	\$75

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

Newsletter Staff: robert Daniels II, 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, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm: Split Estate with Catherine Frankenberg

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Catherine Frankenberg is Program Organizer for the local Clean Water Action office. She will lead a discussion following the screening of *Split Estate*. The film is an eye-opening examination of the consequences and conflicts that can arise between surface land owners, and those who extract the energy and minerals below. This documentary is of value to anyone wrestling with the implications of natural gas drilling that is apparently entering a boom phase in Pennsylvania. The film is 76 minutes and was released in 2009.

Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 7 pm.

The film and discussion should begin around 7:30 pm.

## Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm: An Act of Conscience

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

How far are you willing to go to stand up for your deepest beliefs? For Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner of Colrain, Massachusetts, their life-long commitment to pacifism led them to risk losing their home. For fourteen years, they publicly refused to pay federal taxes as a protest against war and military spending. As a consequence, their home was seized by U.S. marshals and IRS agents. Narrated by actor Martin Sheen, this feature-length documentary chronicles the couple's five-year struggle to nonviolently resist the seizure of their home, in which they are joined by hundreds of supporters from across the country, including Father Daniel Berrigan and Pete Seeger. Directed by Robbie Leppzer. 90 minutes. 1997.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



## The Milestones of Our Wars

Today as we are finishing this newsletter we are also preparing for the peace vigil that will give public witness to the 1000<sup>th</sup> U.S. soldier having died in the war in Afghanistan and to our opposition to that war. The Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition (LEPOCO, Veterans for Peace, Catholics for Peace, L.V. Friends Meeting, Flaming Fundamentalists for Peace, L.V. Greens) has joined with others across the country to mark this sad day.

The significance of the 1000<sup>th</sup> death is heightened by the fact that the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan in 2009 was twice as high as that figure for any previous year of the war. And, the civilian deaths continue to mount - one example being the 27 people, including women and children, killed in a NATO bombing strike February 21.

In March we meet another milestone in our wars - the seventh anniversary of the March 19, 2003, U.S. invasion of Iraq. While the form of the occupation there has changed, it continues. And, the impact of that war and occupation will be felt in Iraq and the U.S. for decades. There are multiple opportunities this year for being part of the peace making in mid-March.

1) Lehigh Valley Veterans For Peace - Thomas Paine Chapter, will have a contingent in Allentown's St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 21. Call Louise Legun at 484-248-6113 for the details. Veterans and the supporters of veterans are all welcome.

2) The monthly "Shut Down the Army Experience Center" (AEC) vigil at Franklin Mills Mall, northeast Philadelphia, will have a special focus on the anniversary

of the war on Saturday, March 20. The vigil runs from 11:30 am to 1 pm, each third Saturday. Vigilers gather at the corner of Woodhaven & Knights Rds., and proceed to the AEC inside the Mall. A local contingent is planned. Call LEPOCO for info. on car pools.

3) ANSWER, a national anti-war group, is calling for a demonstration against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in Washington, DC, on Saturday, March 20. There are at least a dozen people interested in attending - a few more and we could afford to engage a bus. In any case we will organize car pools, so call LEPOCO if you are interested.

4) A group of national religious peace organizations is convening a Truth Commission on Conscience in War. The Commission will begin its work with a public hearing at Riverside Church, NYC, on Sunday, March 21, 4-8 pm. The Commission hopes to engage faith communities and the public in conversations about freedom of conscience for members of the U.S. Armed Forces. On March 21 testimony will be taken from veterans of current and previous wars, and briefings will be given by expert witnesses from the fields of law, ethics, psychology and journalism. For more information see [www.conscienceinwar.org](http://www.conscienceinwar.org).

5) Write to the editor and to Congress with a message like this one from AFSC: "If President Obama hadn't decided to add more to the incredible economic costs of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, there wouldn't be a need to freeze essential domestic programs at a time when millions of Americans are still suffering from the Great Recession."

- Nancy Tate

# The Struggle Shared

*To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic, it is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places – and there are so many – where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is a magnificent victory.*

- Howard Zinn,

the closing paragraph to his autobiography, [You Can't Be Neutral On a Moving Train](#)

## ARE YOU ADDICTED TO

CARBON? - LEPOCO member and climate activist Greta Browne is launching a new initiative and invites us to sign up for a ten-step Carbon Addiction Program (CAP). The pledge is to 1) acknowledge our part in a carbon addicted culture, 2) understand the threat to the planet of carbon emissions, 3) realize the urgency of taking action to stop the threat, 4) participate in public efforts to curb our addiction, 5) increase our own understanding of the problem, 6) complete a Carbon Footprint Test (go to [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com) for one simple test among the many available), 7) select and engage in actions to decrease your carbon footprint, 8) let others know what you are doing and why, 9) keep CAP informed of your progress, and 10) encourage others to reduce their carbon emissions.

While clearly CAP is a spin-off of 12-step recovery models like AA and NA, it is very different in one respect: CAP is the flip-side of Anonymous. Because Carbon Addiction is so universal, so little understood, and so harmful left unchecked, it is necessary for acknowledged addicts to be quite public in order to increase awareness, dig out the cultural roots of our addiction, induce others to join us, and stand in solidarity with each other.

Presently, there are 13 people who have signed the pledge, and begun working the program. The initiative is in a trial stage and the website is incomplete, but you can check the progress of the program, see what individuals have done, and contribute to the dialogue by going to [www.10stepcap.blogspot.com](http://www.10stepcap.blogspot.com). There

are links to many fine resources and lists of suggested actions, and there is a good forum for asking questions and seeking answers. Greta plans to have a public sign-up for CAP on Earth Day 2010 (April 22). She wants to have 100 active participants before she goes public.

HOWARD ZINN, PRESENTE - On January 27<sup>th</sup>, Howard Zinn, the people's historian, died in Santa Monica, CA, at the age of 87. After a year of grueling travel and speaking engagements, he was resting -- swimming laps in a pool -- and succumbed to a heart attack.

Best known for [A People's History of the United States](#), which most recently was the basis for a History Channel special "The People Speak." Matthew Rothschild, Zinn's editor at [The Progressive](#) magazine, said the famous history book should be a standard resource in all classrooms in the U.S. His friend and colleague, Noam Chomsky, reflected that Zinn had "a reverence for, and detailed study of what he called 'the countless small actions of unknown people that lead to those great moments that enter the historical record.'"

Howard Zinn grew up in Brooklyn during the Depression. He was a bomber pilot during World War II, an experience which set his passionate opposition to war and militarism, and his commitment to nonviolent direct action. In 1944 he married his wife Roslyn, who was also an activist, and was his principal editor. Howard would say, "I never showed my work to anyone except her."

He was teaching at Spelman College, an all-black women's school in

the south, during the Woolworth Lunch Counter sit-ins fifty years ago last month. He was fired from Spelman when he supported the group of students who joined the rebellion sparked by the direct action campaign in Greensboro. Among his students was a young Alice Walker who said recently, "He was thrown out because he loved us, and showed that love by just being with us. He loved his students, and didn't see why we should be second class citizens."

More recently he was an inspiration to and supported one of the founding members of September 11<sup>th</sup> Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. James Carroll wrote, "He so believed in America that he believed it could transcend itself. He lifted up alternative futures, and insisted they were possible. Indeed Zinn's life was a testament to possibility, and all who rerverve his memory know this from their own experience."

In 1990 Howard Zinn generously spoke for LEPOCO's Annual Dinner drawing a large crowd. I can also recall standing on a picket line in front of the Democratic National Convention Center in Chicago, 1968, with Howard Zinn and perhaps a dozen others protesting the police riots in Grant Park during the convention.

There are remembrances of Howard Zinn too numerous to mention, many of them available at [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org).

In a fitting tribute to Zinn the Selkie Theatre will present a concert reading of Howard Zinn's, "Voices of a People's History of the United States," on Saturday, March 13, at 8 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students). For reservations and more information call 610-351-3526. Selkie Theatre is led by George Miller and Kate Scuffle, both well-respected and well-seasoned theatre producers, recently returned from several years in Ireland. Bob Weick, who has been presenting Zinn's play, "Marx in Soho," all across the U.S. will be among the cast on March 13. Though planned before Howard's death, this production gives us a timely opportunity to honor his life and witness one of his important works.

- Jeff Vitelli

# Remembering LEPOCO's 2009: *The Year in Review* \_\_\_\_\_

### The year began with a performance at First Night in Bethlehem by the LEPOCO Peace Singers and then a gathering, sponsored by the Nuclear Abolition Sisters on January 19, to honor Martin Luther King's peace witness at the Allentown site where a memorial to Dr. King and his wife Coretta Scott King is planned. (Unfortunately, snow drove the gathering inside.) Appropriately, the date for the gathering was the eve of the inauguration of our first African-American president, Barack Obama.

### This year saw the continuation of regular peace vigils Fridays and Saturdays in Allentown and Easton, respectively; and monthly vigils in Bethlehem on second Thursdays..

### The Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing had several members attend a conference in Harrisburg entitled "Training for the Long Run," sponsored by the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, 22-25 January. A variety of inspiring and useful workshops were offered.

### In January the Lehigh Valley Chapter (152) of Veterans for Peace (VFP) named itself the Thomas Paine Chapter. This sister organization met monthly at the LEPOCO office where former members of the military and their friends planned all manner of peace activities including a regular program on WDIY hosted by Louise Legun, marching in the Memorial Day parade, and a demonstration at Musikfest's "free speech zone."

### Peter Lems of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) on 15 February reported on his visit to Afghanistan (December 2008) to 75 people at the Friends Meetinghouse. A quarter of all Afghans, he reported, are living as refugees, receiving no benefits from the \$100 million per day spent on war -- a sum capable of greatly advancing the rebuilding of the nation's schools and other infrastructure.

### At noon on 19 March, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Iraq invasion, the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition requested local houses of worship to ring their bells for six minutes -- one minute for each year that the Iraq occupation had till then continued.

### Jennifer Harbury, human rights lawyer, activist and writer, spoke at LEPOCO's Annual Dinner on 14 March, detailing her experiences falling in love with Guatemalan guerilla Efraim Bamaca Velasquez (Commander Everardo), marrying him, fasting after his disappearance in protest before authorities' offices in Guatemala and the United States, learning at last, after great struggle against stonewalling officials in the two countries, of his death under torture, and continuing her vigorous crusade against the torture regime that we as citizens of the world's only superpower must confront in "Abu Ghraib and Gitmo by way of Guatemala."

### On 14 March Green Party activist and LEPOCO member Greta Brown began her walk from New Orleans -- following for a time the route of hurricane Katrina (September 2005) among wrecked homes of "climate refugees" -- to Rouses Point, NY, to raise awareness of global climate change. She wrote a highly inspiring blog, including photos and a video, with a map showing her incremental progress, links to climate-change information, and writings from her followers at [www.forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com](http://www.forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com). Her walk was covered by the *New York Times* and others.

### On 15 March was held the presidential election in El Salvador, for which LEPOCO's Joe DeRaymond served as an observer and coordinator of other observers, having served in a similar role for the nation's municipal and National Assembly elections January 18<sup>th</sup>.

### LEPOCO and the L.V. Peace Coalition gathered members to join a rally against the war sponsored by United For Peace & Justice in New York City on 4 April, the anniversary of Martin Luther King's Riverside Church speech.

### A brainstorming-planning session, "LEPOCO in the Age of Obama," was held at Mimi Lang's house on 29 March to consider where we now find most hope (in connecting, reaching out to various other -- especially racially diverse -- groups), what we can now do (take the current economic crisis as an opportunity for public education), and where our biggest pitfalls lie (in failing to attract new -- especially younger -- activists and in spreading ourselves too thin through too many projects). Out of this meeting a Human Rights Group and an Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Crisis were formed.

### Members leafleted at post offices on tax day (15 April), offering taxpayers brochures providing an account of what their tax dollars actually support -- quite different from the IRS's explanation, attached to their income tax forms.

### The Association of Students Advocating Peace (ASAP) held its Annual Youth Peace Maker Training Workshop on 25 April, covering such topics as discrimination, the local food movement, the policies of the Obama administration, the environment, and the media.

### A new, luxurious and expensive (\$12 million) military recruiting enterprise, the Army Experience Center at Franklin Mills Mall near Philadelphia, was the target of a mass protest on several occasions in 2009 starting on Presidents' Day. On one occasion the AEC director was handed a formal complaint against criminal solicitation of minors and other charges. See [www.shutdowntheaec.net](http://www.shutdowntheaec.net).

(continued on the next page)

# Remembering LEPOCO's 2009: *The Year in Review* \_\_\_\_\_

(continued from page 5)

### At its 11 May meeting LEPOCO's Action Committee approved the Human Rights Group's statement against torture. The statement, which condemned the practice as a violation of international law and U.S.-ratified treaties, an officially authorized program rather than an aberration, an ineffective method of information-gathering, and a rejection of our common standard of morality, was sent to various officials and appeared in the June-July issue of LEPOCO's newsletter.

### LEPOCO's Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Crisis organized a forum, "The Economic Crisis: Where Our Money Went and Some Things We Can Do About It," was presented at Bethlehem's public library 9 June.

### On Sunday, 12 July at the Friends' Meetinghouse, Joyce Ravitz with two colleagues presented "Personal Reflections on Five Days in a War Zone" - her account of the devastation in Gaza Strip from her journey there in May.

### Dozens of young people and adults smiled, shared stories, danced, sang, and played games the last week of July at the Peace Camp held in Allentown each summer.

### On 1 August a dance-party-fundraiser entitled "Mimi's 70," in celebration of a milestone in the life of long-standing LEPOCO activist Mimi Lang was held at her home. Evan Hoffman was DJ; the event was a smashing success.

### Dr. Walter Tsou, former Philadelphia Health Commissioner, and Chuck Pennacchio of Health Care 4 All PA, spoke at a forum on 13 August on prospects for reform of our health-care system, organized by the Committee on the Economic Crisis, giving valuable information on Pennsylvania HB 1660, for one-payer health insurance for the state.

### LEPOCO members and many others mourned our great loss of Joe DeRaymond, of brain cancer, on 1 October at a memorial service at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem, 7 October. Joe's ashes were scattered at Ft. Benning, GA, by longtime companion and fellow activist Sarah Snider during an immense demonstration against SOA/WHINSEC 20-22 November. See the eulogy, "Joe DeRaymond: Presente!" by Nancy Tate in the November newsletter.

### On 5 October, the anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan, Greta Brown, Tim Chadwick and Robert Daniels joined the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance in Washington, DC. Some of the group, denied a meeting with an aide to the President, blocked the entrance to the White House, some being arrested.

### Several LEPOCO members joined a great throng of Pennsylvanians at a rally for health care reform 20 October at the State capitol at Harrisburg to hear speakers and lobby legislators.

### The series of First Friday films, shown on the big screen at 313 West Fourth Street continued throughout the year, including such highlights as the troubling *Waltz With Bashir* (on an Israeli soldier's psychological burden from witnessing the massacre that occurred during Israel's invasion of Lebanon, 1982) and *What Would Jesus Buy* (about the Reverend Billy's quirky, irreverent protest against overshopping).

### Over 40 guests attended the theatre party to see Michael Moore's film "Capitalism: A Love Story" at the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre in October and the reception at Becky and Bruce Irwin's home.

### The first week in December found LEPOCO members opposing the newly announced build-up of troops in Afghanistan, first at a rainy Wednesday evening peace vigil attended by 40 people in Allentown, and then in the cold early Friday morning at Lehigh-Carbon Community College where President Obama was speaking.

### The year ended with the 50<sup>th</sup> Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Peace Pilgrimage, held 12 December, concluding with a rousing sermon, "Get On the Path," by the Reverend James A. Forbes, formerly of Riverside Church, and a lively performance by the LEPOCO Peace Singers.

- Addison Bross

**Delegates to El Salvador:** Sarah Snider, Mimi Lang and Robert Daniels II, will join a delegation to El Salvador, March 19-27, to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Monseñor Romero program, accompanying the Salvadoran people in their struggle for social and economic justice. CIS (Center for the Exchange of Solidarity), the group hosting the delegation, is the organization with whom the late Joe DeRaymond worked on his many visits to El Salvador. The delegation will visit the rural community where a school is being named after Joe. If you want more information about the trip, please contact LEPOCO.

Also, this provides another opportunity to make donations to CIS in Joe's memory. Checks can be sent to Los Olivos, CIS, PO Box 76, Westmont, IL 60559-0076, noting that it is for the Joe DeRaymond Memorial Fund. Or, you can contact Robert Daniels at LEPOCO about carrying such donations with them into the country.

**LEPOCO Book Group Meetings:** The next one will be Wednesday, March 3, at 6 pm at the Panera Bread Cafe, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. At that meeting they will discuss *An American Requiem* by James Carroll, an honest and haunting memoir, evoking the love, loss and heartbreak in Carroll's relationship with his father, his church and his country. The narrative is set amid the stress of war and political and social change.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> the group will discuss *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism* by Andrew Bacevich, and on May 5<sup>th</sup>, they will discuss *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai.

# Bits & Pieces

☪ Emma Cleveland, the staff person for the new **Immigrants' Rights Project of the ACLU of Pennsylvania** has announced an Open House for Thurs., **March 4**, 6-8 pm, at Zion UCC, 620 Hamilton St., Allentown. There will be music by the Latin jazz band "Ensemble 7," food, and information about the Immigrants' Rights Project which will lead bilingual workshops, "Know Your Rights." For more info. call 484-350-3767.

☪ **The Rev. Dr. Robert Edgar** will give the keynote address at a local conference on hunger issues, Sat., **March 27**, 8:30 am to 3 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, 3231 Tilghman St., (at Tilghman & Cedar Crest Blvd.), Allentown. The conference, "**Hunger at Home: Food for Our Neighbors**," is sponsored by Lehigh County Conference of Churches, Bread for the World and Second Harvest. There will be workshops and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Suggested donation: \$10.

☪ **Joyce Ravitz** will report on her 2009 trip to Gaza, "**Personal Reflections on Five Days in a War Zone**," on Wed., **March 31**, at 7 pm, at the Phillipsburg Public Library, 200 Frost Ave. (two blocks from Rt. 22, behind the Phillipsburg Municipal Bldg.). Her story is an important one for everyone wanting to find peace in the Middle East.

☪ **Pennsylvanians for Alternative to the Death Penalty** is sponsoring a **Lobby Day** at The Capitol, Harrisburg, Tues., **March 16**, at 10 am. If you would like to be part of this effort to help move Pennsylvania away from the practice of state killing, please contact LEPOCO or talk with David Rose.

☪ **Save the Date!** LEPOCO's 2010 **Bike/Walkathon** will be Sat., **June 5**, in Bethlehem. Besides raising funds for LEPOCO, some of the donations will go for Partners in Health for work in Haiti and to Health Care 4 All Penn-

sylvania's efforts to get a single-payer health care plan in our state.

☪ **Peace Camp 2010** needs your help. We need a convener or co-conveners and members for the planning committee. New and former leaders at Peace Camp are all welcome. This is LEPOCO's most important and direct effort to reach young people in the work for peace. Please contact the office at 610-691-8730 if you can help.

☪ **Alwyn Eades**, a LEPOCO member, had an excellent op-ed published in *The Morning Call* on Feb. 11, where he explained the importance of the book, *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*, by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett.

☪ Contact LEPOCO now to sign up to help with **leafleting** at local post offices on **Tax Day, April 15**. We will hand out the War Resisters League "pie chart" flyer that analyzes the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Budget.

☪ **The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference** will begin at the United Nations in May.

**April 23-May 2**, people will gather in NYC from around the world to call for Peace and Human Needs: Nuclear Disarmament Now! There will be an international conference and a march and rally in Midtown Manhattan. Stay tuned for local plans for participation.

☪ Those eager to get a sneak peek of LEPOCO'S Annual Dinner speaker, **Reverend Billy**, can catch a special short performance on **Fri., March 5**, at **8 pm**, in southside Bethlehem's charming **Wildflower Café** (316 S. New St.). The Wildflower is precisely the kind of small, locally-owned business that the Rev. and his Church of Life After Shopping champions. So if you're out and about on First Friday, stop in for a mug of organic fair trade coffee, a healthy nutritious snack, and some hot cider with your "sermon." Visit [www.revwilliam.com](http://www.revwilliam.com) or [www.wildflowercafebethlehem.com](http://www.wildflowercafebethlehem.com), or call 610-758-8303 for more details.

☪ **Volunteers** still needed for the Annual Dinner. Please call 610-691-8730 if you can help anytime, day or evening, March 6.

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

- Sun., Feb. 28, 7 pm:** **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at the home of Ursula Wuerth, Center Valley.
- Mon., March 1, 11 am:** **Newsletter Planning Committee** meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Mon., March 8, 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.
- Tues., March 9, 7 pm:** **Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition** meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Thurs., March 11, 6 pm:** **Nuclear Abolition Sisters** meeting at the Olive Branch Restaurant, 355 Broadway, south Bethlehem.
- Thurs., March 11, 7 pm:** **Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace** meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Fri., March 12, 2 pm:** **Committee on the Economic Crisis** meeting at the home of Mimi Lang, Bethlehem.
- Tues., March 23, 10 am:** **Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee** meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Mon., April 12, 7 pm:** **LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

*Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able.  
If you want more information about any of these meetings;  
or if you want to know the next meeting of the Americas Solidarity Group,  
the Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing,  
the 2010 Peace Camp Planning Committee, (the last three groups were meeting the  
week this newsletter was being prepared so we did not have next meeting dates)  
the Fundraising Committee, the Youth & Militarism/Truth in Recruiting  
Committee: please call LEPOCO 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

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## LEPOCO's Annual Dinner Saturday, March 6, 2010

Featured Speakers:

**The Rev. Billy & Savitri D.**

spiritual leaders of the  
Church of Life After Shopping

**"Lifting the 'Peace-a-lujah' Voice"**

(see page 1)

## Regular Peace Vigils

*Our wars continue. Please help witness for peace.*

**Bethlehem:** 4-5 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 C. Fowler 610-746-5013

**Bethlehem:** Noon-1 pm, Third Wednesdays

Brownbagger Vigils: "Healthcare Not Warfare"

Outside Rep. Dent's Office 6th & Broad Sts.  
Contact: Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136

"Voices of a People's History  
of the United States"

By Howard Zinn

A Concert Reading

Saturday, March 13, 8 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley  
424 Center St., Bethlehem

Presented by Solidé Theatre  
Reservations & Info. call 610-351-3526

(see page 4)

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  
by writing to [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)