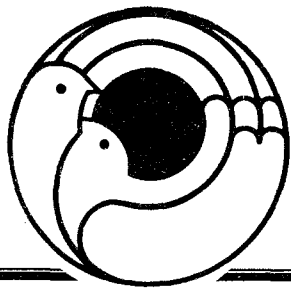


May  
2005

vol.40 no.3



Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

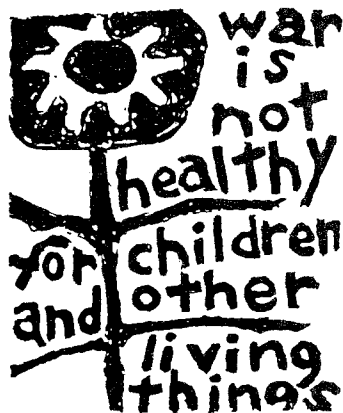
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

## Counting the Cost in Iraq

Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) urges us to help count the cost of the war in Iraq.

We are all invited to publicly wear a specially prepared number that day representing one of the over 100,000 Iraqi citizens, U.S. soldiers, coalition soldiers and other internationals who have died in Iraq. This campaign, "Counting the Cost: Stopping the War," needs 100,000 participants to join in wherever life takes them on that day -- creating a dispersed and strong protest of the war.

The numbers can be purchased on-line at [www.countingthecost.org](http://www.countingthecost.org) for a \$10 donation. After production and shipping costs are covered, the rest of the funds raised will go for humanitarian aid work in Iraq and continued anti-war work.



LEPOCO and others in the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition will support this effort in two ways:

1) The Counting the Cost number signs (designed to be worn like a marathon runners' number) will be available at the LEPOCO Peace Center for the \$10 donation during the week of May 9-13 (normal office hours) for those who cannot or prefer not to purchase a number on-line. The \$10 donations will be forwarded to WILPF.

2) We will hold a short Peace Vigil the morning of May 15, at the Peace Pole in the Rose Garden Park (8<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Union Blvd., Bethlehem) from 9-9:30 am. The vigil will unite us as we begin a day of public witness. At this vigil we will remember especially Marla Ruzicka and Faiz Ali Salim, who were killed by a car bomb in Iraq on April 16. Marla, a young (28) U.S. citizen, had worked to count the victims of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and to seek humanitarian aid for

those victims -- founding CIVIC (Campaign for Innocent Victims In Conflict). Faiz (43) was CIVIC's country director in Iraq and a new father.

Please join this simple, but potentially powerful witness against the war. Call 610-691-8730 if you have any questions or want a number saved for you.

- Nancy C. Tate

## Marx In Strong Demand

Some of us first learned to appreciate Bob Weick's performance of *Marx in Soho* last November in Allentown at a LEPOCO theatre party that attended the play after a warm reception at the home of Kathryn Hoffman and Jim Schneider.

Bob Weick has gone from The Philly Fringe Festival last September and Allentown in November to perform *Marx in Soho* 40 times in eight states (at colleges and high schools and for theatre companies and community groups).

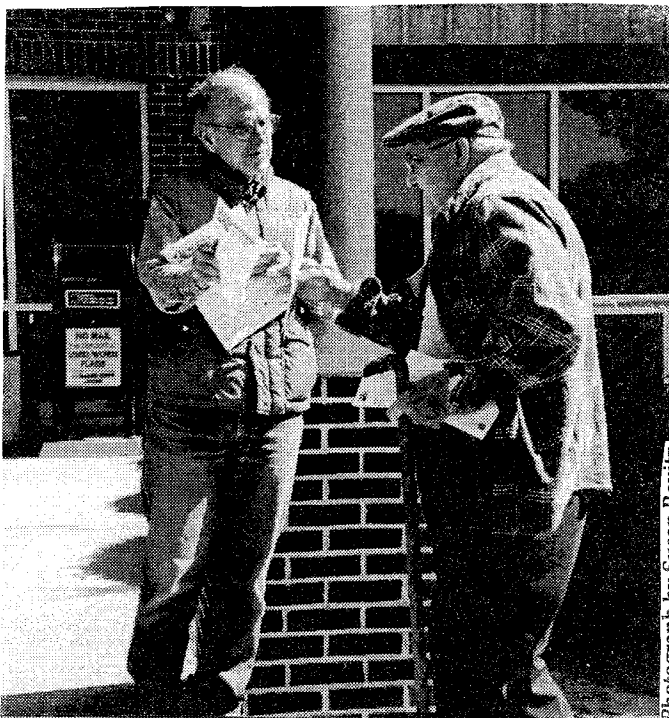
He will perform *Marx in Soho* again, to benefit LEPOCO, on Saturday, May 14, in Bangor, at the home of Brian Carroll and Anna Maria Caldara. The time is 7 pm, and a donation is requested to benefit LEPOCO and the performer.

In the play, written by Howard Zinn, agitating the authorities of the after-life to clear his name, Karl Marx comes to earth for one hour to make his case. He launches into a passionate, funny, and moving defense of his life and political ideas. Marx urgently uses current news and events to clarify his ideas and their relationships to the contemporary United States.

If you saw *The Express Times* article about Anna Maria Caldara (5/ 2/05), you know theirs is also a special home historically (a former Jewish synagogue), and that Brian and Anna Maria have established a special spirit of peace and community in their space -- making it the perfect spot for this play.

The Carroll-Caldara home is at 27 South Fourth St. in Bangor (one block off Market St.). If on-street parking fills up, one can park at the lot for Trinity Lutheran Church. If possible, please call Brian and Anna at 610-599-9985 to let them know you plan to attend so they can prepare adequate seating. Refreshment donations are welcomed, but not required.

- Nancy C. Tate



Photograph by Susan Ravitz.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Peter Crownfield hands a fellow, beleaguered taxpayer a flyer outside the Palmer Post Office. Nearly two thousand copies of the War Resisters League flyer, which spells out the staggering costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, were distributed by 31 LEPOCO members at nine different post offices in the Lehigh Valley and Jim Thorpe. It is significant that those leafleting at the Palmer Post Office encountered no problems this year. Last year on Tax Day, two leafletters were arrested for the same activity. Those charges were ultimately dropped at the behest of the Northampton County District Attorney.

## Some Briefs...

The emergency funding that the Senate passed 99-0 last week gives the military roughly \$80 billion and pays for the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan only through September. That is twice what President Bush insists he needs to cut from the federal support for Medicaid over the next decade.

- Robert Scheer, *The Morning Call*, 4/28/05

32 Nobel prizewinners and 237 nongovernmental organizations and parliamentarians from around the world issued a statement on April 5<sup>th</sup> urging that strategic nuclear weapons systems be "stood down" from Launch on Warning status, in order to lessen the risk of accidental nuclear war. In spite of significant reductions in the numbers of nuclear warheads held by the U.S. and Russia from 1990 onwards, both countries maintain thousands of warheads on "launch on warning" status. A number of terrifying "near misses" have taken place, both during and after the end of the Cold War, in which the fate of civilization and most living things has depended on correct decision-making by

highly-stressed military personnel or on presidents whose sobriety has been questionable.

Source: A release from several international contacts including the Mayor of Hiroshima.

Kathy Kelly of Voices in the Wilderness and three-time Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, will speak in Scranton on Thurs., May 12, at 7:30 pm, sponsored by the Scranton Fellowship of Reconciliation. The event will take place at Marywood University Nazareth Hall, Crystal Room.



### Weekly Peace Vigils

#### *Bethlehem*

4-5 pm, Thursdays

3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem

Contact: Maria Weick 610-346-8793

#### *Allentown*

Noon-1 pm, Fridays

Federal Courthouse, 5<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Sts,

Contact: Rev. John Clint Fowler, 610-746-5013

#### *Easton*

10-11 am, Saturdays

Centre Square

Contact: Reggie Regrut, 908-859-5632

*Please attend as often as you are able!*

### Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

Bethlehem, PA 18015

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The LEPOCO Newsletter is published 10 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a non-violent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

#### Annual dues are:

Regular Member . . . . . \$25

Limited Income Member . . . . . \$ 5

Household Membership . . . . . \$30

Supporting Member . . . . . \$50

Articles/news should be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month for use in the following month's newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: Ellen Buck, Peter Crownfield, Fran Dreisbach, Mike Lawton, Tom Lloyd, Bob Riggs, Brad Schultz, Tom Stinnett, Joan Stone, Nancy Tate, Marion Thorne, Jeff Vitelli, Hans Wuerth, and Ursula Wuerth.

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

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

## Peace Camp 2005

Planning is underway for Peace Camp 2005! It is sure to be a lively week of games, songs, stories, arts, and activities stemming from the core principles of peace and justice. During the course of a morning at Peace Camp a child may sing "The Moose Song" and other favorites, do a weaving based on a Mexican folk tale, play a game of balloon toss, and get a snack of juice and "peace rocks" before learning Israeli circle dancing.

Peace Camp provides a supportive and exciting environment to celebrate diverse cultures, explore nature, make friends, learn and play.

LEPOCO is now seeking volunteers, especially teens, to be helpers and leaders. If you love children and are enthusiastic about making peace, we'd be grateful for your participation. To be a part of this year's Peace Camp please complete and return the Volunteer Interest Form included with this newsletter. To register your child for Peace Camp please complete and return the green flyer that is also enclosed. We hope you can join us!

- Annie Hasz

## Potluck & Politics

### Popcorn & Politics

Friday, May 20, 7 pm

*Potluck & Politics*

**Anna Maria Caldara**

*40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March from Selma to Montgomery: A Personal View* (Please see Anna Maria's written report on pages 7 & 8.) At this presentation she will present slides and talk about her experience on the walk. Please bring some food to share for dinner together at 7 pm. The presentation should begin around 7:30 pm.

Friday, June 3, 7 pm

*Popcorn & Politics; 1st Friday Film* The film (followed with discussion): *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*. Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, June 24, 7 pm

*Potluck & Politics*

**Robert Daniels**

*A Gandhian Legacy Tour of India: Dec. 28, 2004 to Jan. 13, 2005* Robert will report on this inspiring trip he took with a Global Exchange delegation led by Arun Gandhi. Please bring some food to share for dinner together at 7 pm. The presentation should begin around 7:30 pm.



## Bike/Walk-A-Thon: June 4

Make sure to mark Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, on your calendar, the date for the LEPOCO Bike/Walk-A-Thon. Just think, by taking a few hours on a Saturday morning you can help bring peace to our world, enjoy the great outdoors, and at the same time share the company of friendly and interesting people.

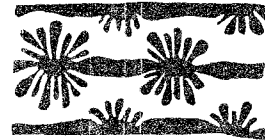
The Bike/Walk-A-Thon will begin with a delicious complementary breakfast served at the starting point as a send-off before bikers and walkers leave to enjoy an early summer walk through historic Bethlehem or a ride through the rolling countryside of scenic Lower Saucon Township.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure/pledge sheet that has further information. If you would like additional pledge sheets or have misplaced yours, please call the LEPOCO office at 610-691-8730 and more will be mailed to you.

The beneficiary this year, besides LEPOCO, will be IVAW (Iraq Veterans Against the War). A former soldier from Macungie, who had served in Iraq, Mike Hoffman, co-founded this organization. It is comprised of a group of veterans that have served since September 11, 2001, and who are committed to saving lives and ending the violence in Iraq by an immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces.

Hope to see you with walking shoes or bike on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

- David Rose



### Be All You Can Be...Work For Peace!

*Part-Time Paid Staff Position Available*

LEPOCO is seeking a staffperson to work 10 to 15 hours per week on our Youth & Militarism Program. Responsibilities include outreach and education at public events and schools. Candidates should be comfortable doing presentations, speaking in public, communicating with school officials and working closely with high school-aged students. Other duties include developing and maintaining relationships with local schools, phone calls, mailings, attending meetings and conferences, ordering and managing the Y&M counter-recruitment materials. We would prefer candidates who can make at least a one-year commitment to this position.

Call 610-691-8730 for more information or send a letter of interest to LEPOCO, 313 W 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 or to [lepoco@postmark.net](mailto:lepoco@postmark.net). Please respond by June 15, 2005.

# Peace, Justice, Inspiration, and Dance at April 9th Conference

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On Saturday, April 9, 175 local advocates for peace and justice attended a Peace Conference hosted by the Bethlehem Unitarian Universalist congregation and the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition, at the UUCLV.

The day began with a talk by Paul Loeb, author of *Soul of a Citizen* and other books of inspiration for social activists. Paul spoke of a river of social justice, bigger than we are, to which all of us belong, extending back through all of our ancestors and mentors, and forward to include future activists and the better world to come, growing as we invite more people to join us in our work.

Paul told stories about what sustains social activists, like his friend Hazel Wood in Seattle. Hazel worked for social justice, and kayaked, for most of her 101 years, telling Paul that this work we do is the very meaning of our existence. Paul talked of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Laureate, carrying on his lifetime of work for social justice in the face of great obstacles, sustaining himself with a love of life's joys, as when, after a speech in Los Angeles at a fund raiser for South Africa, he enthusiastically joined the jubilant crowd in the middle of the dance floor.

After Paul Loeb's talk, participants attended workshops and visited the Idea Fair. Children learned drumming and peaceful puppeteering, made origami peace cranes, and walked a labyrinth. In local poet Marilyn Hazelton's workshop on Peace Poetry, participant Lilly Gioia wrote these lines:

PLANT A YARD SIGN  
ON THE FRONT LAWN  
OF YOUR HEART  
THAT SAYS:  
NOT IN MY NAME!

Father John Dear gave the last talk of the conference, lamenting that ours has become such a culture of violence, creating even a false spirituality of violence. He denounced such a spirituality of "Just Wars" as heresy, blasphemy, and idolatry, as the antithesis of the active, radical, and provocative nonviolence lived and proclaimed by Jesus, and sought by visionary leaders of all of the world's major religions. Father Dear argued that there is no cause, however noble, that justifies war. He called upon the peaceful to accept even violence against themselves without a hint of wanting violence in return, out of love for the entirety of humanity, and belief in the way to peace.

In a compelling moment at the end of Father Dear's talk, Concei da Silva Civala, leader of a workshop on child soldiers, based on his own experience as a child forced into combat in Angola, approached the microphone and expressed a newly found interest in Father Dear's nonviolent disarmament efforts as an

alternative to violence even against the killers of his childhood.

Sacred Circle Dances were led by Moon Eagle Arndt and Sally Eiler Cordova to close the conference, and providing inspiration to the participants for the peace and justice work that they do.

If you missed this wonderful conference, you can read the thoughts of many of the speakers and workshop leaders at the conference website, [www.workingforpeaceandjustice.org](http://www.workingforpeaceandjustice.org).

- Crafford Harris

## Paul Robeson Celebrated at Lafayette

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I had the privilege of participating in a conference entitled "Paul Robeson: His History and Development as an Intellectual" at Lafayette College, April 7-9, 2005. Having grown up with Paul Robeson's voice booming through my house and hearing my parents speak of him often with much admiration, I knew I had to carve these three days into my schedule.

Paul Robeson, Jr., now 77 years old, and his wife Marilyn attended the first day and a half of the conference. Mr. Robeson, Jr. offered excellent insights during the question and answer periods of the plenary sessions. I had the pleasure of chatting with him after one of them. Mr. Robeson, Jr. was the keynote speaker on the first night, and held the audience in rapt attention. His words were inspirational not in the passive way of making you feel "good," but in a way that almost demands action. If anyone in the audience had been lazy about their involvement and activism in matters of human rights, Mr. Robeson Jr. had them rethinking their priorities!

One of the presenters was activist Nelson Peery. Mr. Peery, author of the award-winning book, "Black Fire: the Making of an American Revolutionary," really hit home when he spoke of the issue of class being the most critical one in the U.S. today. He spoke of the devastating effect of the privatization of water in Detroit, Michigan. There are over 42,000 citizens now living without this basic human need met. I spent part of the lunch break talking further with Mr. Peery (or Nelson, as he insisted I call him) and was awed by his wisdom.

All of the other presenters, including Amiri Baraka, were also wonderful! In particular, Randall Robinson gave an incredible second night keynote address. The question and answer period following his speech was fabulous. On the last day, I called my children, ages 24 and 15, to come join me to enjoy a dramatic reading of Robeson's "Here I Stand." It was a once in a lifetime experience to share this with them! To learn more about Paul Robeson or the conference, go to [www.lafayette.edu/webdata/robeson](http://www.lafayette.edu/webdata/robeson).

- Roberta Meek

# Revisiting the Nuclear Weapons Issue

## Peace Walkers Pass Through L.V.

The Lehigh Valley was blessed with the presence of 40 peacemakers, April 23-26. Participants in the International Peace Walk In Commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nuclear Bombing of Hiroshima, were walking from Oak Ridge, Tenn., to the UN Headquarters in New York City. They came through the Valley, walking over 15 miles a day, regardless of the weather. They were mostly from Japan, Australia, and the U.S., with a wide range of ages.

At a community potluck with the walkers on April 24, a walker from Australia described the horrible legacy of uranium mining on indigenous communities in his country, and another walker from Tennessee talked about the importance of supporting a strengthening of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as the meetings get underway in NYC in May. He said the treaty is very much under threat of collapse, especially due to U.S. actions. He also told us of the plans for a large demonstration at Oak Ridge, Tennessee (home of the Y-12 nuclear facility which produced components for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs) on August 6, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first atomic bombing.

The walkers were a moving community that needed much support. Many people locally provided that support. Some of those who made a special effort were: Crafford Harris, who dedicated at least three days to meeting their many needs with help from other members of Unitarian Universalist Church of the L.V., Anna Maria Caldara, Judy Woodruff, Louise Legun, Donna Hartmann and the Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting, Bob Walden and First Mennonite Church, Allentown, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Allentown, the Nuclear Abolition Sisters, Mimi Lang, Monica McAgnon, Susie Ravitz, Jeff Brightbill, Sharon Mills, and undoubtedly others whose names I do not know.

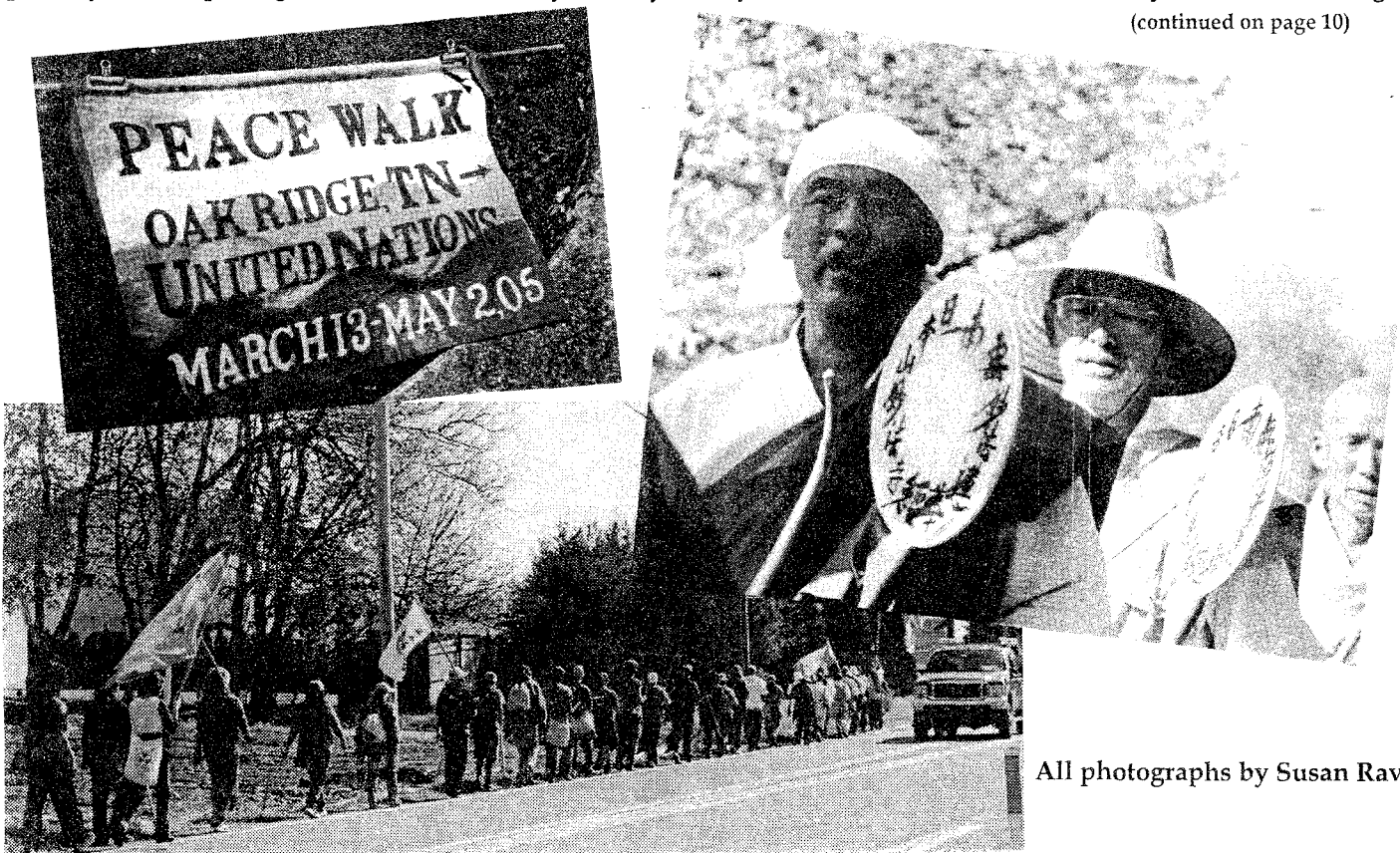
Photographs of the walkers appeared in both local newspapers, taken on their last day in the Valley.

## Mayors For Peace

After some persistent work by Ursula Wuerth, Mimi Lang and Monica McAgnon, the mayors of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton issued a joint resolution supporting the work of Mayors for Peace. The mayor of Bangor has also issued a proclamation at the encouragement of Anna Maria Caldara.

Founded by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Mayors for Peace is working to rid the world of nuclear weapons by 2020. Opening the Central Park Rally on May 1, Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima said, "Mayors For Peace are go-

(continued on page 10)



All photographs by Susan Ravitz.

Top Left: This is the colorful banner carried by the lead walker featuring the beautiful mountains near Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where the walk began.

Top Right: Some of the walkers were Buddhist monks who (along with other walkers) maintained a steady meditative drum beat to accompany their prayers for peace.

Bottom: The peace walkers make their way along Freemansburg Ave., between Bethlehem and Easton, on Tuesday morning, April 26, their last day in the Lehigh Valley.

## Land Use Draws Attention —

How do local land use decisions affect the quality of our lives? On March 21, over 70 local citizens met at the Bethlehem City Hall Rotunda to explore this question. Interest was high due in part to the recent draft plan of the Joint Planning Commission that states we have been losing our farm fields and forests at a rate of 3.5 square miles per year since the 1990s. The forum was organized by the Alliance for Sustainable Communities-Lehigh Valley which invited a panel of local experts to lay out the situation.

Robert Freeman, State Representative from Easton, led off with a summary of the governmental policies that have encouraged suburban sprawl. He cited the interstate highway system, and the urban renewal schemes of the 1960s, single use zoning and the loss of neighborhood schools as factors that have encouraged the flight to the suburbs. He believes zoning changes that allow mixed uses and clustering of houses would go a long way to building communities, not just developments, and saving land.

Joyce Marin, an Emmaus councilwoman put her faith in walkable communities and sustainable local businesses to help stem the out-migration of talented young people from Pennsylvania as cited in the recent Brookings Report.

Bill Rosebrock, chair of the Warren County, NJ, Environmental Commission believes that only regional planning commissions empowered by the state to

enforce land use decisions can effectively challenge large developers. He cited the successes of the Pine-lands Commission and the recently formed Highlands Commission in his state. The latter could be extended to include our own South Mountain.

Diane Elliot, of the Maynard Center for Local Government at Lafayette College helps townships plan land use in groups to increase their effectiveness. She advocates a restoration economy that would allocate 20% of public funds for new development, 40% for maintenance and conservation and 40% for restoration projects, such as brownfields development.

Jerry Brunetti, a farmer and agricultural activist from Lower Mt. Bethel Township, argued strongly that the future success of farming for the Lehigh Valley rests on growing food for local and regional consumption. Farmers can make more money this way than by raising grain for large corporate buyers.

Moderator, Greta Browne, made sure everyone who attended had a chance to speak. Comments ranged from young people who mourned the loss of local parks to politicians who came to convince us of the priority they place on land use. Attendees were also invited to indicate on a map their favorite places and places that have been lost. All the ideas were recorded and can be viewed online at [www.sustainlv.org](http://www.sustainlv.org). At this website you can learn about follow-up meetings and other forums presented by the Alliance.

- Guy Gray

## Nonviolence in the Age of Terrorism

Arun Gandhi, the grandson of peace activist and nonviolence advocate Mahatma Gandhi, visited Lehigh University on April 20<sup>th</sup> to talk about the outlook for peace activism in today's world.

As an author, journalist, and founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, Gandhi has embraced his grandfather's legacy by dedicating his life to promoting nonviolence. At the M.K. Gandhi Institute in Memphis, Tennessee, he has introduced educational programs aimed at conflict prevention, anger management, diversity training, and community building. In Gandhi's opinion, "nonviolence has to be a grassroots movement" and "the power of nonviolence lies in the people. They are the real superpower, not weapons." Getting people to come together to support a culture of peace instead of the culture of violence that exists today would eliminate the fear of terrorism or the desire to invent costly new weapons.

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Gandhi became even more encouraged to speak out on nonviolence. "I thought no one would call on me to speak," said Gandhi, "but since then, invitations have sky-rocketed." Arun and his wife, Sunanda, travel all over the world speaking and teaching about nonviolence and promoting the work of the Gandhi Institute. One of his most important lessons for peace activists is

to "set realistic goals." "We have to know our limitations," said Gandhi. "Generally, when people get frustrated with the failures of their peaceful plans, they get angered and want to join 'the gang.'" Yes, even peace activists get angry, but in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." In other words, we must strive for nonviolence in our everyday lives. We must expel anger from our hearts in all its forms; whether it is racism or simply getting upset at a family member. Anger leads to violence and violence is unnatural so what we really need to do is unlearn violence.

"When I see common people do great things, I am inspired," said Gandhi. We can all inspire each other to follow the path of nonviolence if we only dare to take the first step in our own life. Not only is this goal realistic, but it can also improve the quality of life for you and those around you. Nonviolence is possible now just as it always has been. Our leaders may not believe this, but we must remember that change starts with each of us. The "power of the people" is the only thing that can save us from sinking deeper into the abyss.

If you would like to learn more about the M.K. Gandhi Institute see [www.gandhiinstitute.org](http://www.gandhiinstitute.org).

- Greg Bailey

# Sunburned, Footsore, & Empowered!

In sandals, workboots, sneakers, and just plain shoes, fifty people gathered in Alabama, March 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005, to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the walk led by Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery. Under sponsorship of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), we followed the entire 54-mile route. Ranging in age from 15 to 60-plus, we were natives of Australia, Japan, the United States, and Africa. Some were actual survivors of Bloody Sunday, that infamous day when state troopers and cavalry attacked the non-violent crowd trying to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

The original march was devised with two goals. One, it was meant to relieve the grief at the murders of Jimmie Lee Jackson, a local community member, and Rev. James Reeb, a Unitarian minister from Boston. (Viola Liuzzo would be killed the evening the march ended.) Two, it addressed African American voter disenfranchisement in the deep South.

In 2005, our message highlighted the Voting Rights Act, several provisions of which may expire in two years. "It is racism, pure and simple, which is preventing a permanent law protecting the African American and minority vote in the U.S.," declared SCLC President Charles Steele. "We need ratification, but we also need to admit the racism of society, and to devote ourselves to its elimination."

## Daily Highlights

*Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

Giants of the Civil Rights movement rivet the crowd at Brown Chapel, in Selma, site where the march began in 1965. We absorb the inspiring words of Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young, John Lewis, Jesse Jackson, Martin Luther King III, and others. Rosa Parks, seven members of James Reeb's family, the sister of Jimmie Lee Jackson, and Viola Liuzzo's two daughters surround the podium. Together with these people and 10,000 others, we patiently inch six blocks to the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We flood the pavement below the superstructure spanning the Alabama River. While I imagine blood smeared here 40 years ago, a police officer shakes my hand and welcomes me to his home state.

*Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Theme: Education*

Eleven school buses travel with us. Periodically, Bloody Sunday veterans hop aboard to inform the students of the historical significance of the march, then and now.

An impending squall halts our march early. We return to downtown Selma to visit the Slavery Museum and the National Voting Rights Museum. The latter is housed in the very building where the White Citizens' Council, businesspeople who enforced segregation, used to meet.

Rev. James Bevel begins our evening program with a lecture on nonviolence. (When the Sixteenth

Street Baptist Church was bombed on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1963, killing four girls, he organized the project in Selma which eventually culminated in the march to Montgomery.)

Dr. Asa Hilliard speaks of cultural genocide and the concept of Maat (Mah-at), the ethos of ancient African life. It espoused justice, order, harmony, truth, balance, reciprocity, and love.

Charles Steele relates that the SCLC has begun a Conflict Resolution Center in Israel ("northeast Africa"), which had been a dream of Dr. King's. Italy, China, and Haiti have also requested these schools teaching the way of nonviolence!

*Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Theme: Health*

Our feet beg for mercy by noon; we have trekked over eight miles since breakfast. But with six miles more to consume, we encourage each other and find strength in the Civil Rights anthems we sing. Viola Liuzzo's grave, just off the highway, is our destination.

Ms. Liuzzo was the victim of KKK bullets as she drove a marcher back to the airport in 1965. "The significance of Viola Liuzzo is that she was a middle class white woman of relatively comfortable circumstances," states Rev. Fred D. Taylor, SCLC's coordinator of direct action. "Yet she left the husband and family she loved in Michigan to answer the call of her conscience."

Supper is served as we attend an "Ending Health Disparity" forum at Baptist Hill Church in Lowndesboro. A rousing gospel concert at Mount Gilliard Baptist Church in White Hall precedes sleep.

*Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Theme: Economics*

Hordes of high school students accompany us for a few miles. I walk with a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, Lekeisha, who evades my questions. We proceed in silence. When we part, I give her an original 1965 "We Shall Overcome" button, depicting a black hand and a white hand shaking, as a memento.

John Rankin is my "two by two" partner when we continue. He wears the same vest he sported in 1965 when a police officer's club cut his head on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

We engage two police officers, one of whom is Capt. James Lyons, in a long conversation. Along with four federal marshals, they walk—and ache—with us daily. (A helicopter and van scan ditches for bombs; motorcycle police operate alongside patrol cars. The Alabama Dept. of Public Safety has drawn from eight counties to guard Highway 80 to Montgomery!)

At our evening work session, we learn that 27,000 people are prison inmates in Alabama, 60% are African Americans. A plea is made to "Save the Black Farmer," whose land is being reclaimed by the U.S. government. Fifteen million acres have been lost so far.

*Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Theme: Safeguarding the Right to Vote*

Fourth-graders and high school students fall into step with us. At the border of Montgomery County, which we reach by late morning, we pause for a cere-

(continued from page 8)

7 LEPOCO Newsletter / May 2005

# Sunburned & Empowered!

(continued from page 7)

mony thanking the loyal state troopers. The marchers present a handmade card we have signed; SCLC President Steele delivers a tribute. Handshakes and hugs erupt spontaneously between those in uniform and those not. We are all wistful that Capt. Lyons, whom we have besieged with questions more than any other officer, will be departing here, at the city limits.

We are happily surprised that Alabama State Rep. John F. Knight, Jr. has paid for our lunch at Alabama State University (ASU.)

We march to Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. Every class is outside waiting for us, with a banner of welcome. Together we sing "We Shall Overcome."

*Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

Only five miles to do today as our steps lead us closer to downtown Montgomery; bicyclists who pedaled from Rhode Island join us.

Touching moments occur as dozens of employees from a health care facility line both sides of the highway and cheer as we pass. A distant cluster of preschoolers wave a sea of little arms back and forth.

We arrive at St. Jude's, the last campsite of the 1965 marchers. At the nearby Freewill Missionary Baptist Church, we meet Ms. Baskin and Ms. Whitlow, who risked personal safety to monitor KKK meetings in the 1960s. We attend a seminar hosted by the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act.

At the City of St. Jude School, we listen as the students read us a tribute. One holds a sign that reads, "March Today to Vote Tomorrow!"

After supper, we are honored at a Stars of Freedom concert, simulating a celebration 40 years ago by Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, and others. Talented singers and dancers entertain the enthusiastic audience.

*Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

Larry Lewis, our unofficial videographer, greets us this morning with, "One more river to cross!" Yes — one more walk, approximately four miles, and our pilgrimage ends.

After breakfast, scores of people descend on the school. A local and out-of-town blend, they will make the final stretch of the journey with us.

I hold the far left edge of the SCLC banner as five other people claim its billowing mass. We slowly pass streets of old, neglected dwellings. Some of the inhabitants wave, nod, or smile; others just stare.

As we approach downtown, we pause at a historical marker. At this corner in 1955, Rosa Parks climbed on a bus and refused to relinquish her seat to a white man, breaking the law. The Rosa Parks Library and Museum rise gracefully behind the sign.

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King held his first pastorate, crowns a slope to our right. Directly ahead gleams the State Capitol.

A bevy of distinguished guests greet us. We remember Martin's words of 40 years ago, at this spot:  
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"The end we seek is a society at peace with itself...at peace with its conscience. That will be the day not of the black man, not of the white man, but of Man as Man."

The crowd disperses, but the marchers stay. We sign our names, ages, and addresses on the banner we have carried for 54 miles. Our emotional attachments dissipate in hasty goodbyes.

A Civil Rights hymn that we sang day after day echoes in my mind. "Time is winding up...So much corruption in the land, Why don't the people take a stand? Time is winding up."

- Anna Maria Caldara

Editor's Note: Anna Maria Caldara was joined by Alice and Amanda Rader (formerly of Allentown, now living in Arizona) and Erika Linnander of Nazareth, for this walk from Selma to Montgomery.

## Don't We Have a Right to Vote?

Most U.S. citizens believe that our voting rights are protected in the U.S. Constitution. In fact, after the 2000 election debacle, the Supreme Court concluded in a majority opinion that "the individual citizen has no federal constitutional right to vote for electors of the president of the United States." The word "vote" only appears in the constitution with reference to nondiscrimination in voting in the 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> amendments. Our "right to vote" is a State right, as provided in the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., of Illinois spoke at Lehigh University on April 11<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Tesolini Lecture Series, on his proposed constitutional amendment to ensure voting rights are universal and equal throughout the United States. He eloquently presented the case for such an amendment as the only way to repair our obviously flawed electoral system.

Under the current state right system, there are 13,000 separate and unequal jurisdictions administering elections -- some electronically, some with lever machines, and some with punch card ballots. Each state sets its own laws regulating elections. And for example, while some states allow death row inmates to vote, many states disenfranchise all convicted felons for life. In 2004, nearly five million U.S. citizens (mostly black and poor) could not vote because of felony conviction.

In both 2000 and 2004 the error rate alone (3-4%) would have been enough to reverse the election outcomes. We are one of only eleven nations (out of 119 worldwide) that elect representatives to govern, yet do not provide an explicit right to vote in our federal constitution.

Since Rep. Jackson introduced it in the last session of Congress, House Joint Resolution 28 has gained 58 co-sponsors. Local representatives can be urged to join those supporting a constitutional amendment to ensure fair elections and the uniformly administered right to vote for every U.S. citizen over the age of 18.

- Jeff Vitelli



# The Struggle Shared

*We may want a diversity of tactics, just as a builder wants a diversity of tools, but building a just society with violence is like trying to build a wooden house with a blowtorch.*

- George Lakey,  
from "The Sword That Heals"

## A MONUMENT TO DRAFT

RESISTERS - In Kootenay, British Columbia, the local chapter of Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) had plans to build a massive statue showing a Vietnam-era draft resister being welcomed by a Canadian. Nelson, the site proposed for the statue, is a city of 9300 people nestled in the fjord-like inlet of a 90-mile long lake in the mountains of British Columbia. At one time, an amazing 10% of the population participated in an FOR peace demonstration. The town is for peace. Not surprisingly, this peaceful setting fosters tourism as the primary industry and means of survival for folks thereabouts.

When the news of the proposed monument reached conservatives in the U.S., a furor of opposition began. There were death threats. Veterans of Foreign Wars appealed to George Bush to intervene. None of this deterred the people of Nelson, and plans went ahead. Then a massive letter-writing campaign in the U.S. threatened a tourism boycott of the region. Residents began besieging Nelson Mayor, Dave Elliott, originally a big supporter of the monument, with their economic fears.

Wishing to keep the good will of the people of Nelson, the Kootenay FOR eventually decided to seek another location to plant its monument to resisters. Isaac Romano, a leader of Kootenay FOR, said, "It's a very special town. I wouldn't want anything to hurt it."

While news of the plan to honor resisters drew opposition, it has generated even more support. There are now plans for a massive reunion of draft resisters on July 7-8, 2006. There is talk of creating a documentary film about the 50,000 U.S. citizens who left the country

rather than serve in Vietnam. And FOR is moving full-steam ahead on siting the statue, perhaps in a larger Canadian city that won't be as vulnerable to lost tourist trade.

How timely this story is, as rumors that U.S. policy makers are preparing to restart the draft to fill the military's needs for more young bodies in the Iraq War. For more information on these efforts contact FOR, Box 271, Nyack NY 10960 or see the website: [www.ourwayhome.reunion.com](http://www.ourwayhome.reunion.com).

Source: FOR Witness, Winter 2005.

## DO THE EMPIRE'S FOLLIES

MAKE YOU ANGRY? - If you have not already tuned out the daily news in this culture of violence in which we are immersed, you are probably aware of some strong emotional reactions. Terror. Grief. Shame. And anger.

Rita Corriel is a LEPOCO member, and a practicing psychologist who believes that anger, in particular, has a powerful energy that can be transformed into creative action. Our counterculture of nonviolence often tells us to suppress our anger, and replace it with positive feelings like love and compassion. Many of us get overwhelmed and depressed by the metallic, "humvee" atmosphere that has pervaded so much of our psychological space, especially since September 11, 2001. Rita understands that depression is anger turned inward. She believes that anti-war activists must learn to work through their anger, utilizing an evocative process that opens the door to creative action.

To this end, she has proposed a talk and discussion session. The specifics are still formative, but probably a two-hour gathering sometime in June at the LEPOCO Office. Rita is interested in hearing people's thoughts and knowing

how many people are interested. You can contact her at [rcorriel@fast.net](mailto:rcorriel@fast.net).

## ANOTHER COLOMBIAN PEACE STORY - While visiting relatives in Barranquilla, Colombia, over

Christmas, LEPOCO members Tom and Susannah Carlin came across an article in the local newspaper, and were moved to translate it for us, and pass it on. The story is apparently typical for Colombian daily papers, and was not a major headline.

Residents of poor neighborhoods in the municipality of Maicao organized a first-ever Christmas Peace Walk to appeal to the fighters on all sides to cease-fire over Christmas. Over 200 people came out. The walk was led by children, who, as the local priest explained, are most hurt by the violence. "The groups at the margin of the law are enlisting children in their ranks, and also, because of their innocence and defenselessness, the children are vulnerable to terrorist attacks around the country."

Seven-year-old Silvia Paola, hair uncombed, barefoot, wearing a dirty dress, and carrying a white flag, tugged on the sleeve of a newspaper correspondent, and asked confidently to speak. She said "I ask the guerrilleros and the paramilitaries to leave the poor out of their fighting. I don't know these people, and because of them, I am alone, I don't know where my parents or my siblings are. They came, and we had to leave the finca."

To read the full translation of the article, contact the LEPOCO Peace Center. Thanks to Tom and Susannah.

Source: *El Heraldo*, Barranquilla, Colombia, 12/21/04

- Jeff Vitelli

# Revisiting the Nuclear Weapons Issue

(continued from page 5)

ing to make it impossible for anybody to not think about the danger of nuclear weapons. The opinion of the majority of the world (for peace) should be recognized. We are ready for a world without violence, particularly nuclear violence."

The joint proclamation from our cities reads in part, "...Weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world..." We "...call upon the U.S. President to commence negotiations on the prohibitions and elimination of nuclear weapons."

Contact LEPOCO for a copy of the mayors' resolution and a copy of an Op-Ed by Mimi Lang that appeared in the *Morning Call* on April 28, talking about nuclear issues, the Mayors for Peace and more.

## 40,000 March in NYC

On May 1, at least a dozen Lehigh Valley folks joined the beautiful march and rally in New York City to say no to nuclear weapons and no to the hypocrisy of the myth of WMD's in Iraq as an excuse for war. 1000 people came from Japan, a delegation similar to others from Japan that have marched for nuclear disarmament on several occasions since the 1 million person march for disarmament in 1982 that was a prelude to the UN Special Session on Disarmament. On May 1,

it was the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that marchers and speakers were trying to save.

One young man from Japan told me he came because his is the last generation that will be able to learn directly from the *Hibakusha* (victims of the atomic bombings) about the horrors of nuclear war.

Besides Mayor Akiba, quoted earlier, Dr. Helen Caldicott spoke of the total lack of understanding by President Bush and his Secretary of State, about the dangers of the 2500 nuclear weapons each, still held by the U.S. and Russia. She talked of our nuclear war against Iraq, saying that through the use of depleted uranium we have condemned large segments of the Iraqi population to congenital deformities forever.

We learned from one speaker that 500 people were arrested for protesting nuclear weapons in the Netherlands during the last week of April. And, Daniel Ellsberg declared Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli nuclear weapons whistle-blower, the freest man in the world because of his courageous speaking out against the nuclear weapons possessed by Israel and other countries.

- Nancy C. Tate

Editor's Note: The Nuclear Abolition Sisters will meet to plan local observances of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Wed., May 11, at 6 pm, at the Olive Branch Restaurant, Bethlehem.

## Clergy & Laity Concerned Gather in NYC

"Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism and militarism." - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Standing in the pulpit where Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his historic speech against the war in Vietnam, the Rev. Jesse Jackson roused the large multi-racial, multi-faith audience assembled in New York City's Riverside Church with the plea that, "God need not bless America...America bless God!"

Jackson spoke of a country and a people of faith gone astray, of morality co-opted by the religious right, of the need to end our misadventure in Iraq now. "The unjust means of the Iraq war cannot have an end worthy of celebration." His was the keynote speech of the a three-hour event entitled, "When We All Get Together: An Interfaith Service of Remembrance, Resistance, Reverence, and Renewal," held on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Speakers also included Jim Wallis (*Sojourners Magazine*), Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr. (pastor at Riverside Church), Rev. Osagyefo Uhuro Sekou (co-leader of CALC-I), and Susannah Heschel (Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College). Heschel challenged the audience concerning the criminality of the war by saying, "Some of us may be guilty, but ALL of us are responsible." Although representing various faiths including Buddhism, Chris-

tianity, Judaism, and Islam, all seemed to speak with one voice concerning the matter at hand.

The grim procession of symbolic cardboard coffins that opened the proceedings served to remind everyone of the hurt we all share...as well as the mission.

The somber and inspiring Palm Sunday service sponsored by United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), was the inaugural action for Clergy and Laity Concerned about Iraq (CALC-I), "An interfaith coalition of religious leaders, faith communities, institutions, organizations and lay leaders committed to peace and justice."

In February, I attended several founding meetings for CALC-I in St. Louis at the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Assembly of UFPJ. There it was decided that CALC-I would be one of the major pillars to support UFPJ's "urgent and pressing aim to end the U.S. war and occupation of Iraq." Throughout the coming year, CALC-I will be offering communities of faith resources and activities including a "Plowshares Tool Kit" and training seminars. For more information please see [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org) and [www.clnnlc.org](http://www.clnnlc.org).

- robert Daniels II

# Bits & Pieces

Ⓔ Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition is scheduled to meet on Thurs., May 19, at 7 pm. After this meeting was set we learned about the Patriot Act meeting (see below) on the same night. Should the Peace Coalition Meeting be rescheduled? Please call LEPOCO (610-691-8730) with your opinion if you attend Coalition meetings.

Ⓔ On Thurs., May 19, at 7:30 pm, Matt Bowles will speak on Preserving Checks & Balances: The Future of the USA PATRIOT Act, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley. Matt Bowles is the National Field Organizer for the ACLU. The presentation has been organized by the Bethlehem Bill of Rights Defense Committee. Call Clint Walker at 610-868-7432 for more info.

Ⓔ The Alliance for Sustainable Communities of the Lehigh Valley has published their directory of Organizations That Promote Sustainable Communities - 2005. There are extra copies available at LEPOCO or call 610-838-7666.

Ⓔ The 2004 LEPOCO Financial Report promised for this newsletter will be mailed with the spring fund appeal letter.

Ⓔ Youth & Militarism activists, organized by staff person Peter Crownfield, will be in four high schools during May with counter-recruitment literature. This is a reg-

ular effort and more helpers are needed. If you can volunteer or want to learn more contact Peter at 610-691-8730.

Ⓔ Many people want LEPOCO to have a more sophisticated presence on the internet and take advantage of other computer aids. There will be a potluck dinner and discussion to begin addressing these suggestions in a realistic context on Thurs., May 12, starting at 6 pm, at the LEPOCO Peace Center. Bring your ideas, concerns and some food to share. The meeting will be facilitated by Margot Hillman.

Ⓔ Southside Bethlehem is facing another issue of community preservation. There is a petition circulating to keep Broughal Junior High School in the community rather than moving it to a site where all students would need to be bused to school, on top of south mountain. If you would like to help in this preservation effort, contact Kim Carrell-Smith at 610-694-8821.

Ⓔ The Coalition for Peace Action in Bucks County is presenting a Peace Week Film Festival, May 16-20, including two films being shown at the Quakertown Public Library. On Mon., May 16, at 5 pm, "The Fourth World" will be shown, and on Thurs., May 19, at 3 pm, they will show "In Whose Interest?" and "Nonviolent Peace Force" at Quakertown. Other films will be shown at the Perkasio and Doylestown Libraries and at other locations in the county. LEPOCO has a copy of the complete schedule or call 215-541-0123 for more info.

Ⓔ Another possible environmental disaster looms based on an e-mail from Brett Heffner, as a limestone quarry is proposed for Lower Milford Township. Other communities could be impacted due to water and transportation issues. If you want more info. see [www.crushthequarry.org](http://www.crushthequarry.org).

Ⓔ Many people who live near the CFC Logistics food irradiator are celebrating the announced closure of the irradiator. Many years of organizing and economic pressures had an impact on the company. The

space will be converted for food storage. There have been several good reports about this development in local newspapers. See [www.nocobalt-4-food.org](http://www.nocobalt-4-food.org) for more info.

Coming in your next Newsletter: Reports on the Haiti presentation by Tom Griffin and Johanna Berrigan on April 25<sup>th</sup>; a report on The Christian Peacemaker Team program in Quakertown on April 19; and a report on the wonderful Youth Peacemaker Training held at Moravian College on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ⓔ A water bottle requires 17.5 times its weight in water to produce. Drinking more water from the tap is a water saving action. A soft drink requires 8 times its volume in water to produce.

Source: Newsletter of the New Community Project, Summer 2004

Ⓔ In this year of anniversaries, let us remember another one, May 4, the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of four students and wounding of nine others at Kent State University in Ohio. At that time, Pres. Nixon had just escalated the War in Vietnam and launched the invasion of Cambodia.

Ⓔ Courage to Resist (a project of military families, veterans and concerned community members) is calling for a National Day of Action for GI Resisters on Tues., May 10. This is the day before the U.S. military is bringing sailor Pablo Paredes and soldier Kevin Benderman before military court martial tribunals for their opposition to the Iraq War.

See [www.couragetoresist.org](http://www.couragetoresist.org) for more information on the May 10<sup>th</sup> project.

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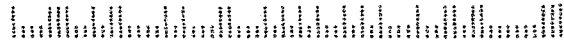
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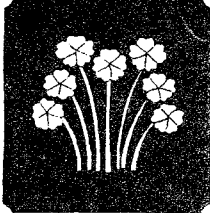
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8 MOTHER'S DAY	9 7 pm LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting. Everyone welcome. At the Peace Center.	10 1995 Nelson Mandela inaugurated President of South Africa	11 6 pm Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at Olive Branch Restaurant, Bethlehem (see p.10)	12 6 pm Potluck Dinner Meeting on LEPOCO Computer Possibilities & Realities. At Peace Center. (see p.11)	13	14 7 pm Play: "Marx In Soho" starring Bob Weick, at Carroll-Caldara home, Bangor. (see p.1)
15 9-9:30 am Vigil to begin "Counting the Cost; Stopping the War" witness. Peace Pole, Bethle. (see p.1)	16 4:30 pm Newsletter Planning Mtg. 6:30 pm Bike/Walkathon Planning Mtg. Both at LEPOCO.	17 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY	18 <b>May</b>	19 7 pm L.V. Peace Coalition Mtg. at Peace Center (see p.11) 7:30 pm Patriot Act Mtg. (see p.11)	20 7 pm Potluck & Politics with Anna Maria Caldara on Selma to Montgomery 2005 (see p.3)	21
22 1838 4000 Cherokee dfe in "Trail of Tears" forced removal	23	24 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FOR DISARMAMENT	25	26 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty signed by US & USSR	27	28 1946 General Strike, Rochester, NY
29	MEMORIAL DAY		1 Noon Americas Solidarity Group meeting at Peace Center	2	3 7 pm First Friday Film -Popcorn & Politics: "The Trials of Henry Kissinger" at Peace Center (see p.3)	4 9 am LEPOCO Bike/ Walkathon, Bethlehem. (see insert & p.3)