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

Hope Rises from the Ashes of My Lai _____

The LEPOCO Peace Center is sponsoring a visit by Mike Boehm of Madison Quakers, Inc. He will give slide presentations and lead discussions about a series of current peace and reconciliation projects in Vietnam. He will talk for four programs locally.

On Tuesday, November 10th, at 9 am, he will be at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Poconos, 920 Ann St., Stroudsburg (18360). Next, he will speak at Lafayette College's Kirby Hall (Room 104), Easton at 12:15 pm (pizza will be served). Tuesday evening at 7 pm, Mike will make a presentation at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1422 Church Rd., Pen Argyl (18072).

Wednesday, November 12th, he will give another evening presentation at 7 pm, at Hope UCC, 1031 Flexer Ave., Allentown. An informal gathering with Mike will take place in the Peace Garden at Jordan UCC, 1837 Church Rd., Allentown, at 3:30 pm, that day.

All events are free and open to the public.

Mike Boehm is a veteran of the U.S. war in Vietnam where he served in Cu Chi from 1968 to 1969. Boehm first returned to Vietnam in 1992 to help build a medical clinic. While there he began to come to terms with his own experiences there and to understand the tremendous capacity of people-to-people projects for building peace and reconciliation between our two societies. Since 1992 Boehm has returned to Vietnam 23 times to facilitate various projects including: micro-credit programs in 17 villages, the My Lai Peace Park, and construction of primary schools. Boehm is also an avid nature photographer, a woodworker, and he plays old-time music on the violin. He built two wood-strip canoes, one from recycled wood, and in 1973, he canoed the length of the Mississippi River by himself.

- robert Daniels II

Get on the Path & Stay on the Path

On December 12th, this year's speaker for the 50th (!!!) Annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage will be the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr.

Forbes is the first African-American to have served as Senior Minister of one of the largest multicultural congregations in the nation, Riverside Church in New York City. Born in 1935 in North Carolina, Forbes is a lively and fiery speaker, passionate about social causes. He carries on the legacy of William Sloan Coffin, whom

he succeeded at Riverside, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who gave his famous "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" from Riverside's pulpit. Rev. Forbes is the author of several books, has been the host of his own radio program, and was named by *Newsweek Magazine* as one of the twelve "most effective preachers" in the English-speaking world. He became nationally known when he was featured in a discussion on PBS's *Now With Bill Moyers*.

The title of Forbes' speech at the Peace Pilgrimage is "Get on the Path and Stay on the Path." After the ten-mile walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem in brisk December air, Forbes's words will surely warm the walkers' hearts and sooth their tired feet. May his talk inspire the walkers and the Pilgrimage to stay on the path of peace for another 50 years!

For details on the times, places, and other logistics of the walk and program, please see the enclosed Peace Pilgrimage brochure.

- robert Daniels II

Afghanistan: Another Anniversary

On October 5th, in Washington, D.C., a weekend of activities around the anniversary of the start of the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan culminated with the largest act of nonviolent civil resistance to the war since President Obama took office. Local participants included Greta Browne, Tim Chadwick, and robert Daniels II. Many national organizations were represented including the War Resisters League, World Can't Wait, Catholic Worker, Code Pink, and Veterans For Peace.

Tim and robert joined the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) group at the press entrance to the White House, hopeful for a meeting with an Obama Administration representative. When the meeting was denied the 23 members of the group did a "die-in," blocking the entrance, and thus delaying the start of a presidential press conference by nearly an hour. The Park Police did not arrest anyone. (Elsewhere, 61 individuals in the "picture post-card" zone directly in front of the White House were arrested.) After nearly two hours, the Secret Service arrived at the press entrance, and without warning, assaulted the 23 NCNRers, physically bullying them away from the gate. A number of demonstrators were shaken by this sudden burst of violence -- one grandmother was in tears. A formal complaint is being filed against the Secret Service for their use of unnecessary force.

- robert Daniels, II

Activism For Real Health Care

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Crisis held community forums about health care in three cities on three consecutive nights at the end of September. Our hope was to gain greater public exposure for the exciting possibilities presented by the Family and Business Healthcare Security Act (Pennsylvania House Bill 1660, Senate Bill 400). The Act is also called Health Care4AllPa. Although the Act has been in the Senate and House for several years, it has recently become a major issue because of the national health care crisis. In spite of the advantages offered by this comprehensive legislation, there is little awareness of the plan in the general community.

The forum began with a viewing of the 40-minute interview Bill Moyers conducted with Wendell Potter, the ex-Cigna executive who has become a leading proponent of one-payer healthcare. Several committee members who watched the video each night were inspired each time to continue our efforts. The inspiration comes from Mr. Potter's revelations about the determination of the Health Care industry to ignore the needs of the people while pursuing higher profits.

The video was followed by a presentation about the details of the one-payer system for Pennsylvania. We would like our state to lead the way by providing publicly funded, privately delivered health care at a reasonable price. The Act is a common sense solution to providing comprehensive care for all citizens of Pennsylvania. It includes vision and dental care and does not exclude those with pre-existing conditions. Present state and federal funds and a 3% personal and 10% business tax pays for it. There are no profits and no shareholders.

Imagine the economic advantages a single-payer system would provide! Our counties, city governments and school districts would save millions of health care dollars. Businesses would return to Pennsylvania because of the health care plan. Our taxes would be lower. No more outrageously high insurance premiums.

Then, on Tuesday, October 20th, 14 people from the Lehigh Valley joined a rally of 1500 people in the Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg, to hear rousing speeches from Chuck Pennachio, Director of HealthCare4AllPa, Wendell Potter and other health care activists from across the U.S., a primary care physician and a small businessman, and House and Senate representatives who are supporting the bill. The rally was followed by enthusiastic visits to our representative's offices to garner their support.

To discover if your representatives are sponsors, go to www.healthcare4allpa.org. The 27-page bill is available online. It is easy to read. Please contact your state representatives and senator and tell them you want them to pass this legislation. We need this bill now.

- Mimi Lang

Editor's Note: The presenter for our local forums in September was Mimi Lang. She and Dominic Buscemi and Ruth Livesay are all quite good at introducing HealthCare4AllPA to

local organizations. Contact LEPOCO or any of them directly to invite them to your meeting.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Crisis of LEPOCO will continue to give attention to this issue. Please call the office (610-691-8730) or watch weekly e-mail updates for the next meeting date.



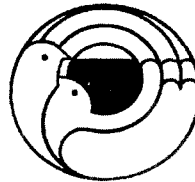
Forced From Home: Global Refugees —

In late September the L.V. Peace Coalition, Catholic Charities, Lawyers Without Borders at Lehigh University, and Lehigh's Global Union, sponsored a program featuring the stories of local refugees who have fled war and terrible repression in Burma, Iraq and the Congo.

The program was attended mostly by students. They heard moving narratives of despair, tragedy and hope from the young refugees who are about their age. Addison Bross presented a short overview of how current economic and governmental structures force people into becoming refugees. It was clear the sad and difficult stories of the five young people touched the hearts of those in attendance.

Thank you to Terry Briscoe and the others who made this program possible. Contact Catholic Charities for information about helping with their work.

- Nancy Tate



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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, Michelle Mecham, 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 & Politics

Friday, November 13th, 7 pm: Coal Country

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

This documentary tells of the dramatic struggle around the use of coal. Coal provides over half the electricity in America. In Appalachia, miners and residents are locked in conflict:

Is mining and processing coal essential to providing good jobs, or is it destroying the land, water and air? What does this mean for the rest of the U.S. and the world?

(This film comes us courtesy of the Sierra Club and is being shown on this date as part of a national effort to raise awareness on the issue of mountaintop removal.)

Directed by Phylis Geller. 45 minutes. 2009.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, December 4th, 7pm: What Would Jesus Buy?

A *First Friday* Film projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

This docu-comedy follows the Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir as they go on a cross-country mission to save Christmas from the Shopocalypse: the end of humankind from consumerism, over-consumption and the fires of eternal debt!

Directed by Rob VanAlkemade. 91 minutes. 2007.

Due to the New Year's Day holiday and our lead projectionist's trip to India, there will be no First Friday P&P film in January. The First Friday Film Series will resume in February with *The Cove*.



LEPOCO Phonathon Now In Progress

In early November all regular readers of this newsletter should have received a fund appeal letter written by Vince Stravino, who signed off as "supreme fundraiser." We know we will need some "supreme" responses to continue the work of LEPOCO. Some of you have already responded with generosity. Thank you! We hope many more will be able to respond with a pledge or a one-time donation soon. It seems worth stating in these difficult economic times that we hope people will make a donation they can afford, whether that is smallish or larger in amount. We know that if lots of people give even small donations it goes a long way toward meeting LEPOCO's modest budget.

In follow-up to the letter, volunteers will be calling people on LEPOCO's mailing list on selected days and evenings in November, December and January. If you can help with calling (a task that is a big contribution in itself), please contact the LEPOCO Office at 610-691-8730. If you are able to respond to the fund appeal by mail it will save us a phone call.

We know our situation is fragile and will be most grateful for whatever you can donate. We also know the work for peace and justice is as important as ever.

LEPOCO's Holiday Open House:

Sunday, December 6, 1 - 4 pm

LEPOCO will hold its annual open house on December 6th, 1-4 pm, in our office and Peace Center at 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem. Items for our sale include fair trade crafts and food from around the world through SERRV, a large collection of buttons, bumper stickers and other peace and justice items, holiday cards with meaningful messages, and 2010 peace calendars from the War Resisters (a book calendar

with the theme, "Sparking Change: Poster Art & Politics," and from the Syracuse Cultural Workers (a beautiful wall calendar).

Be sure to stop by on December 6th or sometime before the holidays. The special items will be available during regular office hours until at least December 23.

*The nation's political leaders
and their corporate puppet masters
have fouled this nation up to a fare-thee-well.
We will not be pulled from the morass without a big effort
from an active citizenry,
and that means a citizenry fired with a sense of mission
and the belief that their actions,
in concert with others,
can make a profound difference.*

- Bob Herbert, Op-ed, *The New York Times*, 10/27/09

Weekly / Monthly Peace Vigils

Our wars continue.

Can you join the much-needed witnessing for peace?

Bethlehem:

4:30-5:30 pm, Second Thursdays

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem

Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103

Allentown:

Noon-1 pm, Fridays

Federal Courthouse, 5th & Hamilton Sts.

Contact: Rev. John C. Fowler 746-5013

Easton:

10-11 am, Saturdays

Centre Square

Contact: Reggie Regrut 908-859-5632

Reporting From Honduras —

After 28 years of civilian rule marked by regular elections, Honduras was hit again by a "golpe de estado." On June 28th the military forcibly removed the elected president, Mel Zelaya, and flew him to Costa Rica. Meanwhile, the legislature installed Roberto Micheletti as president. There have been massive demonstrations in the streets of cities across Honduras against the move. Repressive measures by the new regime have resulted in the suspension of civil rights, including a shutdown of the media not following the official line, and curfews designed to stop the protests.

Ovidio Flores and his wife Jovita, long time residents of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and consultants on community development all over Latin America, recently visited friends in the Lehigh Valley, and met with members of LEPOCO to share their observations based on personal experiences.

The Flores couple tells of a great deal of suffering in the poorer communities of this third poorest nation in the Americas. Ovidio commented that the poorest in a society are the most vulnerable to social upheavals because they have no economic cushion to fall back on. Many live day to day on what they can earn from selling vegetables, or tortillas on the street. When there are curfews sometimes lasting for days, they soon have nothing to eat.

This coup, Ovidio says, is the result of a clash between the old guard and the "new momentum" in Honduras, characterized by the coming of age of a younger population, many of whom were students who suffered during the repressive years of the 1980s during the Contra War staged from Honduras. These former students have become lawyers, doctors, teachers and politicians who are not willing to allow the heavyweights of by-gone years to continue in power for their personal benefit, at the expense of the welfare of the general population.

Mel Zelaya's election was a manifestation of this new momentum. Since the very beginning of his administration, Zelaya has been attacked in the press, largely dominated by the long time moneyed interests of the "banana republic." The legislature and Supreme Court also have continued to be dominated by these well-heeled special interests, many of whom have connections with U.S. multi-national enterprises.

This political situation has resulted in deep divisions in Honduran society affecting families, churches and entire communities, Ovidio says. Much of the division is determined by economic levels, with a large majority of the "resistencia" (or resistance to the coup) being the poorer sector longing for change -- change they see in the Zelaya administration. For example, the Catholic Church is made up mostly of people from the poorer classes who tend to side with Zelaya. The hierarchy of the Church, including Cardinal Rodriguez (who was on the government payroll before Zelaya came to power), wants to see Zelaya go.

The Flores couple recites many personal stories of the effects of the coup on their daily lives. Ovidio for example was hosting a delegation from a church in Ohio in the aftermath of the coup. The airports were shut down for days. The group was able to book passage on a bus to El Salvador, and flew home from there.

While the Organization of American States attempts to broker an agreement to end the impasse, Ovidio says "Whatever they take from us, they cannot take our hope."
- Urbane Byler

Editor's Note: There is currently a shaky agreement to return Zelaya to power, but human rights advocates continue to need our support. They believe their struggle is just beginning.

Trade Policy & Immigration —

On Sunday, October 18, 16 people gathered at Martin Boksenbaum's and my home to hear Paola Gutierrez Galindo speak about Mexican migration. Sra Galindo is from one of the poorest regions in her nation, Mixteca, in the second poorest Mexican state, Oaxaca.

She said that 50% of migrants leave to find work and as family reunification, i.e., families joining their migrant members in the U.S. The other 50% go for a variety of other reasons. 50% are ages 15-24. Traditionally migrants went to the southwest U.S.; now 50% go to the south and northeast cities. Remittances back to Mexico from the U.S. and drug trafficking are the two main sources of revenue in Mexico, according to Sra Galindo.

Because Oaxaca is a rural state, it has suffered greatly from the effects of NAFTA, e.g., cheap corn and beans imported from the U.S., making the organically grown produce pre-NAFTA too expensive for local farmers to grow and sell. The many promises made to the people by NAFTA eventually developed into loss of communally owned land, family disintegration, loss of customs, drug addiction, disease -- and the increase in migration.

The presentation ended with Ben Beachy, Witness For Peace's mid-Atlantic staffperson, describing congressional efforts, through HR-3012, toward a complete reevaluation of NAFTA, CAFTA, and all other such trade agreements. A petition is available at LEPOCO for sending to local Congresspeople, urging them to sign on to this resolution.

- Janet Goloub

Protest the military coup in Honduras & the U.S. military bases planned for Colombia

**Join the Mass Mobilization
to Shut Down the SOA**

November 20-22

Ft. Benning, Georgia

Call LEPOCO 610-691-8730 for information on local plans.

Walking & Organizing to Save the Grandchildren _____

You may know that earlier this year I walked 1150 miles along US Route 11, from New Orleans to the Canadian border, hoping to bring some attention to the climate change crisis and to find some serenity for my troubled spirit.

In September 2008, I joined a group that was reading Mark Lynas' book, *Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet*. Lynas outlines the likely scenarios for rising temperatures on our planet, each chapter dealing with an increase of one degree Celsius above the temperature to which most animal and plant life has adapted over recent centuries. By the time I got to chapter three I was heartsick with the realization that unless we humans change our course consequences will be disastrous, and my grandchildren are certain to feel the impact.

Here are some of the things I'd already learned from *An Inconvenient Truth*, but that now sank in more deeply.

Ice melting in both the Arctic and the Antarctic causes: 1) rising seas around the world; 2) acidification of the ocean waters, which destroys the coral reefs that harbor so much of the teeming oceanic life; 3) an increase of water temperatures, destabilizing the major air currents that impact weather conditions and storm formation. Already low-lying coastal areas and islands, especially in the South Pacific, are experiencing rising waters in some of their most densely populated areas, creating waves of climate refugees. And Brazil, where there has been no history of hurricanes, registered its first such storm in 2008, part of a changing pattern of storms over the Atlantic Ocean.

The melting of glaciers on mountains in the five major continents threatens the water supplies of millions of people who have depended on the yearly cycle of freezing and melting for their drinking water and for agriculture. If the glaciers disappear altogether, as seems inevitable, far-reaching famine and disease will occur.

Rising temperatures around the planet threaten the habitats of many insects, birds and reptiles. Human diseases such as malaria are spreading into areas where they didn't exist, and plant pests such as the pine-beetle, that decimates Colorado's aspens, are rebounding because the yearly freezing that kept them under control no longer occurs as dependably. Droughts, forest fires, dust bowls, and killing heat are increasing around the world, as well as monsoons and flooding due to storms.

There's more, but just this is enough to make a grandmother quake in her sneakers. I spent a rewarding five months on the road and would do it again, but I still fear that for the most part we Americans in the U.S., the biggest creators of carbon and methane emissions, are unwilling to change our ways or to cooperate with the rest of the world in adopting measures to miti-

gate climate change and control it to some degree.

Some argue that only policies at the highest levels can bring the necessary results, but I believe that each one of us must do our part in lowering the impact of our lifestyle and in raising awareness among those around us. To this end I've launched a 10-step Carbon Addiction Program that I invite you to join at www.climatewalk.homestead.com. Or call me if you don't use the internet: 610-865-9050.

- Greta Browne

Editor's Note: Greta Browne talked about and showed photographs from her walk for a LEPOCO Potluck & Politics program in October. She is willing to talk to other groups in churches, schools, community groups etc. Her talk and her effort are interesting and engaging. Please help her find places to give this important presentation.

Other Climate Protection Action

While coal mining protests are occurring around the world and in the U.S., Kathy Mattea will give a multi-media presentation, "My Coal Journey" in Foy Concert Hall, at Moravian College on Wednesday, November 11, at 7:30 pm. Kathy Mattea is a Grammy-award winning artist with a deep passion for protecting the mountains and the people from destruction. Tickets are \$10 and are available through the Lehigh Valley Arts box office.

And, more than 80 local faculty members at Lehigh Valley area colleges and universities signed "A Declaration in Support of a 350 PPM Limit on CO₂ in the Atmosphere." This statement in support of a strong Climate Treaty "demands that governments meeting this December in Copenhagen create a climate treaty in accord with the latest science."

Book Group Forming _____

The LEPOCO Book Group met for the first time on November 4th to plan their reading and discussion adventures. They will meet again on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6 pm; Wednesday, January 13th at 6 pm; and Wednesday, February 3rd at 6 pm. The group will meet at Panera Breaad (café), 3301 Bath Pike/Center Street, Bethlehem. (Panera's is located a few hundred yards south of Rt. 22, near the Center St. Exit.)

The books to be discussed are: *The Lemon Tree*, by Sandy Tolan on December 2nd; *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry on January 13th; and *The Biography of Harry Truman* by David McCullough on February 3rd. To join the group or for more information, call Susie Ravitz at 610-253-2522 or LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

Check out the LEPOCO website

at www.lepoco.org for a

Calendar of Events, Newsletter Archive, Videos, & More.

Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail updates

by calling 610-691-8730 or by writing to lepoco@fast.net.

Community or Empire?

The Kirkridge Retreat held on September 18-20 was very well attended. The overarching theme was building community. The renowned, respected and beloved presenter was Daniel Berrigan, S.J. Also taking the podium at intervals was Elizabeth McAllister, noted peace activist in her own right and Frida, the accomplished daughter of Liz and Phillip Berrigan. Other family members made the trip to Dan's last retreat at this facility. The 90 attendees clearly held Dan in the highest regard. Many knew him from past retreats and actions going back many years. In the context of the peace movement, community was defined as a group of people with shared vision and a common cause. Dan and Liz were the first signatories on the National Register for Conscientious Objectors at Kirkridge with the whole room as witnesses.

Elizabeth led off with some reflections on the Old Testament Book of Kings. Some remarks: most of the kings were war-like and sanctioned their behavior with divine approval from the warlike and vengeful god of their scriptures. Liz likened today's world leaders to these men of old. Power unrelieved and lethal is pathological. We are all contaminated by Empire. Making peace is at least as costly as making war.

Father Dan spoke about Jonah and his trials and the resultant spiritual growth. He drew parallels to us in this century. We do not suffer enough as peacemakers. We must embrace the difficult. There is no theme; there is only us trying and trying again to lead others to peace. He quoted Dorothy Day on how to pursue this goal: "Stick with the bottom (the poor)." Gandhi: "Means and ends are the same in the struggle for justice." Advice: contemplation and action. Or, put another way: pray and picket.

We must not waste energy obsessing about outcomes, just keep trying. It is the most worthy goal.

- Sharon Mills

Report From the Veterans For Peace Thomas Paine Chapter 152

On September 4th and 25th, and October 30th, approximately twelve members of Veterans For Peace held vigils on the Fullerton Avenue overpass above Route 22. The group wore white on black T-shirts with the caption, "Stop the War(s)" prominently displayed on the fronts. An unscientific estimate of 5000+ vehicles passed under the vigilers with the majority of their occupants expressing a supportive response. There will probably be more of these vigils in the future. Anyone interested in joining our vigils is welcome.

Largely through the efforts of group members Victor Madeson and Sharon Mills, Lehigh Valley VFP presented a concert by David Rovics the evening of September 23, at the Wingate Hotel, Allentown. A world renowned folk singer who has been compared to Phil Ochs, Mr. Rovics presented an hour and a half concert before a most receptive audience. While his spo-

ken delivery and music were for the large part low key, the lyrics to most of his songs had an appreciable edge; including one offering devoted to the pirates of Somalia. Following the concert Mr. Rovics remained at the venue for some time and spoke with members of the audience prior to his departure the next morning for the G-20 Meeting protests in Pittsburgh.

Individual members of Veterans For Peace continue to join vigils held in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton on a regular basis.

- Paul Fichter

Anti-War Alert!!

Eight Years of War. No More!!

The Obama Administration is very close to making a decision on further troop deployments to Afghanistan. When (if) they announce additional troop deployments (which would constitute a *de facto* escalation of the war), there will be an Anti-War Protest

outside the Federal Building,

5th & Hamilton Sts., Allentown, from 4:30 -6 pm,
on the next working day after the Obama
Administration's announcement.

Be alert. The announcement could come at any time.

Pak-Afghan Talk Held in October

A big thank-you to Dr. M. Ashraf Adeel for his presentation about the Pak-Afghan Dilemma on October 19. There was an excellent turn-out for the program at Allentown's 1st Presbyterian Church. Dr. Adeel was very helpful in explaining the complexities of the various factions and issues at play in the war in Afghanistan, the fighting in Pakistan, and in the larger region, including Iran, China, and India. Some of the questions raised indicated a disappointment that Dr. Adeel puts more faith than many peace activists in the positive impact of U.S. and NATO military forces in the region. Thank you also to the Peace, Justice & Missionaries Committee at First Presbyterian for hosing the event.

SUPPORT LEPOCO!

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

NAME

PHONE #

e-mail

ADDRESS

CITY

ZIP

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

Joe DeRaymond: ¡ Presente ! —

Joe DeRaymond, a dear friend of many LEPOCO members, a dedicated peace activist, and an inspiration to so many people, died on October 1. He had battled brain cancer since March 2008, valiantly enduring the prescribed treatments, but also continuing his activism with Latin American allies and on other fronts until about a month before his death. A huge absence is now felt in LEPOCO. This short remembrance of Joe is dedicated to his oft-stated commitment to "the work" — the agitation, the organizing, the cogent perception and description of injustice, the solidarity, the persistence — that so defined his life.

LEPOCO first met Joe when he visited the office in 1973. Anna Hunt talked with him then. The interweaving of his life and this organization continued over the following decades.

In 1977 Joe was a co-founder of the Quite Early Morning Collective in Freemansburg, as this group committed to simple, alternative lifestyles, purchased a home together so members could decrease their negative footprint on the earth. He lived in the collective house for the rest of his life. He also owned land in the mountains of West Virginia, a demonstration of his attachment to protecting the environment, and a place where he often sought refuge or retreat.

Joe joined the work against nuclear power in the 1970s and 1980s. He participated in demonstrations locally and nationally and on one occasion traveled with other local folks to Barnwell, SC, for a national march and civil disobedience opposing the nuclear waste facility there. From 1979 to 1982 he was the driving force behind Citizens Against Nuclear Transport (CANT) as they organized a petition drive in Northampton County seeking a vote on whether the transport of nuclear materials should be banned on local highways. Though the vote was not allowed, thousands signed the petition and volumes of educational work grew around the effort. At that time he was also active in the community organizing of CORCO in Easton.

Drawn to the electoral arena, Joe ran for a seat on Northampton County Council as an independent in the 1980s and as a Green Party candidate in 2001. He was a key member of the team leading the campaigns of Bernie Berg for the 15th Congressional District seat, challenging the incumbency of Don Ritter. Bernie says Joe printed his pamphlets and "fed me my lines."

Joe joined demonstrations and sit-ins, both locally and nationally, protesting the Central America wars. About his participation in a 1986 demonstration he said: *I participated in a protest called the Pledge of Resistance and we sat in at The Capitol after Congress passed the appropriations to the Contras which violated international law. Eighteen of us were convicted of crimes in a six-week trial in Federal Court, convicted of sitting in on three counts of criminal violation related to that. We didn't have to do jail time, but there it is.*

Joe first traveled to Nicaragua in 1983 and 1985, joining brigades to help with the coffee harvest. He re-

turned to that country on many occasions, including in 2000, when he helped build homes near Matagalpa following the destruction from Hurricane Mitch; in 2002, when he traveled with the Nicaragua Network to Bluefields lending support to an indigenous rights lawyer whose husband had been murdered because of her work; and in 2006 with Sarah Snider as election observer with a Witness For Peace delegation.

In 1997, Joe spent a month in a program at the Center for the Exchange of Solidarity (CIS) in El Salvador. He described CIS's work as "attempting to create different conditions for the majority of Salvadorans who live in poverty." He traveled to El Salvador with CIS many times after that, including in early 2008 when he investigated the lead poisoning being created by a battery "recycling" operation in San Juan Opico. During that trip the illness of his brain tumor arrived. He wrote about this in one of his riveting pieces, "Brain Cancer in a Dramamine Age" (at www.dissidentvoice.org).

Again early this year Joe was in El Salvador for a sea-changing election that brought Mauricio Funes, the candidate of the FMLN to the presidency. Funes dedicated his election to the martyred Archbishop Oscar Romero. Joe wrote beautifully about the election and Romero in the June-July issue of the LEPOCO Newsletter. (If you haven't read the article find your old newsletter and read it or read it on-line at www.lepoco.org.) Joe was with CIS in El Salvador one final time this summer looking at the impact of the Funes presidency and he wrote a piece, "Coups and Gold," (published at www.sustainlv.org) about a month after the coup in Honduras. He reported on a meeting he had with leaders from the Federation of Salvadoran Union Workers when they gave their analysis of the Honduran coup, "They said that democracy is in danger in Latin America and that the Honduran coup is a message from the forces of the right."

In June 2002 Joe attended a local talk by Javier Sanchez who was on tour for the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) talking about the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in Colombia. By the next June Joe was on his way as a member of the three-person FOR Peace Team to accompany the Peace Community. Located in the mountains of northern Colombia the Peace Community struggles to claim the space of non-violence in the midst of a decades-old civil war. Joe lived there for six months and returned in early 2005 for two more months of accompaniment. Joe was deeply committed to this peasant farming community as they struggled against the globalization and militarization that defines so much of our world. During his latter stay he witnessed the horror that the community suffers for being neutral in their country's war -- pledging not to carry arms, not to participate in any way in the war, not to aid any of the armed actors. While Joe was there, eight members of the community were massacred, including four children and a founder of the Peace Community, Luis Eduardo Guerra. Joe wrote, "This crime against humanity epitomizes the dirty war in Colombia." Over 150 members of the community have

(continued on page 8)

Joe DeRaymond: ; Presente ! —

(continued from page 7)

been murdered for their neutral stance. Joe became involved in local Amnesty International efforts after his time in Colombia.

Returning to Colombia this summer, Joe traveled with an FOR delegation that included Sarah Snider and a leader from La Loma, El Salvador. He got to know that small community as he worked with CIS. Joe was determined to build a link between the peace work in El Salvador and Colombia and to make his last trek up the mountain trail (this time on horseback) to the Peace Community. He did.

Sarah Snider and Joe made the trip to Ft. Benning, Georgia, many years, starting in 1998. The demonstrations outside the School of the Americas (SOA) there began after the Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter were assassinated in El Salvador by SOA graduates in 1989. At first Joe and Sarah joined the thousands who "crossed the line" at Ft. Benning with little legal consequence. After 9/11 fences went up around the base and "crossing the line" brought more serious charges. In 2005 Joe, knowing this, crossed the line, and served three months in federal prison. At his sentencing he spoke about the Peace Community massacre in Colombia: *The United States each year sends many hundreds of millions of dollars to the Colombian military, and the Colombian military sends more soldiers to the School of Assassins than any other nation. Each year, Colombia leads our hemisphere in human rights violations, and each year our Congress and President send more of our tax dollars to support policies of assassination and torture. The School of Americas Watch has identified members of the Colombian military who were in command positions of the Colombian military brigade in control of the region where the massacre of February 2005 occurred.*

Joe made huge banners to display locally in the ultimately successful effort to end the U.S. Navy's bombing of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. He supported Pastors for Peace Caravans to Cuba in defiance of the embargo, and he wrote about and helped draft the statement from LEPOCO on the root causes immigration.

While Joe's work in Latin America stands out, he was active in so many ways. Opposing the Iraq War he joined civil disobedience actions at the White House protesting the war. In January 2006 he and eight others sat-in at Rep. Charles Dent's local office. The subsequent trial found Joe, his lawyer father, and Attorney Martricia McLaughlin presenting the defense for the Nine. In September 2007 he joined the Rivers of Blood civil disobedience action at the U.S. Capitol.

He was a war tax resister and wrote of the tragedy that is war (specifically the Iraq War), *The human cost is measured in thousands of U.S. lives, tens and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives. The environmental cost is staggering. Nothing is more destructive of the global environment than war... The devastation in Iraq is mirrored in the degradation of our communities, loss of funds for*

housing, healthcare, environmental quality, youth programs, and a lack of support for conversion to an economy not based on petroleum.

Joe was active in work against the death penalty, participating in Lehigh Valley CASK and bringing deep theoretical understanding and personal sensitivity to the committee. He took a special interest in the case of Dennis Counterman, a local man who ended up on Pennsylvania's death row. One of Joe's articles about Dennis Counterman was published at www.counterpunch.org and eloquently brought forth the unethical actions by the prosecutor in the case and the inadequate counsel provided for Mr. Counterman. Joe visited Dennis Counterman after he was released from death row and ultimately, from prison.

Joe wrote and wrote and wrote. He contributed to a 1970s alternative publication called "The Well," he published (including running the printing press) several issues of "The New Valley Press" in the 1980s, he wrote Op-eds and letters to the editor for local newspapers, he published pamphlets on current issues, and in recent years wrote articles for several websites including one he initiated, Lehigh Valley Independent Press, (www.lvindpendent.org).

Our sympathies go out to Sarah Snider, Joe's companion and activist ally for many years, his parents and his eight siblings, and to all his countless friends locally and around the world. Thank you to everyone who provided the assistance he needed as he battled cancer. His family held a lovely memorial service for him on October 7. His humanitarian spirit soared in our hearts as Bach and Pachelbel came from the First Presbyterian Church organ, and his family, Mimi Lang and Bernie Berg gave remembrances. It was fitting that in yet another act of witness Joe's humble and powerful voice for peace and justice inhabited a place that may not have heard from the likes of him for quite awhile.

No one can fill Joe's gentle giant shoes, but hopefully many of us will be inspired to continue "the work" that he found so important. He wrote, *It is up to us to resolutely try to hold accountable our government and corporate actors for their actions damaging humanity and the Earth -- to intervene if necessary with imagination, nerve and a commitment to a nonviolent ethic that is strong in its resistance and generous in its joyful approach to struggle. Adelante* in memory of this great presence we were so privileged to know.

Some are dedicating this year's trip to Ft. Benning, to Close the SOA, to Joe's memory. Some will be joining a delegation to El Salvador in 2010, on the 30th anniversary of Romero's assassination, to honor Joe and visit the school being named for him. Gifts in memory of Joe can be sent to the Fellowship of Reconciliation/ Colombia Program, 436 14th St. #409, Oakland, CA 94612, to aid their work with the Peace Community and/or to Los Olivos, CIS, PO Box 76, Westmont, IL 60559-0076, noting that it is for the Joe DeRaymond Memorial Fund. (For more information about any of these efforts contact LEPOCO.)

- Nancy Tate

The Struggle Shared

*When we ended slavery we all went free,
when we stopped child labor that was victory,
when women started voting, true democracy,
but we still haven't got it, and we can't let it be
when we're a part of a system, against it or willing
every last time that the state does the killing,
a part of us dies, under American skies.*

- Anne Hills and Tom Paxton, *Under American Skies*

TROY DAVIS: ANOTHER PRISONER OF U.S. INJUSTICE -

Last month's column featured the 33-year ordeal of Leonard Peltier, perhaps our nation's best-known political prisoner. There are hundreds of innocent people in prisons, some on death rows, across the country, and once in awhile one emerges to shine a light on our deeply flawed and rotting criminal justice system. Such is the case of Troy Davis.

In August 1989, violence broke out at a late-night party in Georgia. An off-duty policeman was shot dead, and two other people seriously injured. Troy Davis was arrested, eventually convicted, and sentenced for the murder and two assaults.

Despite the absence of any physical evidence linking him to the crime, with seven of nine trial witnesses recanting their testimony, and 20 appeals to the original conviction, he has been on Georgia's death row for 18 years. Finally, on August 17th, the U.S. Supreme Court voted seven to two, to stay his scheduled execution, and remand his case back to Federal District Court in Georgia for possible retrial. It is worth noting that although many innocent people have been released from death rows under state laws, this is the first case in which the Supreme Court has intervened on the basis of possible innocence rather than technicalities.

Troy Davis' story would be buried under the tremendous weight of injustice, like the other innocent prisoners referenced above, were it not for the tremendous support from his defense committee. Appeals for justice have been made by the likes of President Jimmy Carter and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Amnesty International and the NAACP have adopted his case as a symbol of all that is wrong with the death penalty.

As one page in the ongoing effort to publicize the epic saga of criminal injustice in our country, LEPOCO's Committee Against State Killing (CASK), along with local Amnesty International and Easton NAACP chapters, sponsored a Teach-In on the Troy Davis Story, on October 15th. About 20 people attended the forum in Easton's Trinity Episcopal Church, to hear Attorney Jim Moreno, from the Federal Community Defender's Office Capital Habeas Corpus Unit, report on the significance of Troy Davis' case and next steps for the movement against the death penalty. For updated information see www.justicefortroy.org, or contact a member of Lehigh Valley CASK through the LEPOCO office.

CLOSING COLOSIMO'S - In the July 2009 *Struggle Shared* I wrote about the Philadelphia Witness Against Gun Violence in January 2009 that included pickets outside a notorious gun shop named Colosimo's. The interfaith community, Heeding God's Call, has continued their vigil these many months, and recently, Bob Walden, a participant in the original witness, forwarded reports, including very favorable press, of an astonishing victory.

There was a powerful prayer service outside Colosimo's on September 21st. On the 22nd, the U.S. Department of Justice filed charges against the store for knowingly allowing straw purchases of weapons (a sale to someone banned from owning firearms due to criminal record, through an intermediary). The next day, at a press conference outside the store, Colosimo's attorney announced that the store would be permanently closed.

Federal authorities charged the gun store owner, James Colosimo, with knowingly selling a total of ten firearms on at least six occasions to

straw purchasers. Law enforcement data revealed that a large number of weapons used to commit violent crimes in the area had come from Colosimo's. According to Bryan Miller, executive director of Ceasefire New Jersey, which has worked closely with Heeding God's Call, "Every bad guy in Philly knew where to go to get a gun. Gun traffickers in the region will be mourning the closing of Colosimo's, but law abiding citizens should rejoice." As Bryan says in his note to supporters, this enormous victory should give the disarmament movement "new spirit, momentum, visibility, and (perhaps most importantly) clout."

SHOP FAIR TRADE THIS SEASON -

Pachacuti is the name of an ancient Incan ruler who is still held in high esteem by indigenous peoples of Peru and South America, for the tremendous growth of the Incan Empire under his reign, and the benefits his people enjoyed. In the Quechua language, the word "pachacutec" has come to mean "a change for the better." Pachacuti is also the name of the business venture of Carol Stengel, LEPOCO member, and free trade entrepreneur, who would like our members to know about her effort as the holiday gifting season approaches.

Carol is certified with the Fair Trade Federation, is a member of the Sustainable Business Network, and endorses the fair trade philosophy ensuring that artisans are paid a fair price for their wares, that there are no sweatshops, child labor, or working conditions that violate human rights involved in the production of goods she sells. Currently, she has sterling silver jewelry from India, Nepal, Thailand, and Mexico. She also has textiles from Bolivia, Peru, and the Mayan Highlands, and a line of fragrant soaps from Bali.

She frequently sets up her display at the Perk on Main Coffee Shop, Emmaus, does home jewelry parties, and sells some items on consignment at local shops. Although she hopes to have a "brick and mortar location" at some point, now most of her sales are done on-line. Go to www.pachacutitionline.com to see photographs, and learn more about fair trade enterprise.

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

☪ Thank you to **Becky & Bruce Irwin** for hosting a party at their Allentown home for LEPOCO folks in October before and after the group went to see Michael Moore's *Capitalism: A Love Story* at the 19th Street Theatre. Over 40 people attended the warm and lively gathering. For all those who have had the opportunity to see this impressive movie (and anyone else) you may be interested in Michael Moore's Action Plan, posted on October 22nd at www.commondreams.org. He suggests actions directed at elected officials and actions to take care of one's self until we "get through this mess." The suggestions are both practical (some rather simple) and inspirational.

☪ Thank you to all those who supported the LEPOCO **Yard Sale** in early October - donating items to be sold; sorting and pricing "the stuff;" leafletting the neighborhood; staffing the sale; purchasing lots of the "great stuff;" carting away the leftovers. We raised over \$700 for LEPOCO's coffers and recycled lots of that "stuff." A special thank you to Marion Throne for selling LEPOCO Yard Sale items from 2008 at neighborhood yard sales in Hellertown this past summer. She raised \$60 for LEPOCO.

☪ *Agence France-Press* reports that a top investigator at the United Nations says **U.S. drone attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan** could be breaking international law against summary executions. Jane Mayer writes at length in *The New Yorker* (Oct. 26, 2009) about the troubling drone programs of the CIA and the military. Drone attacks have been responsible for hun-

dreds of deaths of men, women and children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. **The first CIA drone attack of the Obama Administration took place on his third day in office.** Our new president has authorized as many CIA aerial attacks in Pakistan during his first 9½ months in office as George W. Bush did in his final three years.

☪ **Art Simon**, founder of Bread for the World, will speak about his new book, *The Rising of Bread For the World*, on Sun., Nov. 22, at 3 pm, at Luther Crest Retirement Community, 800 Hausman Rd., Allentown.

☪ **2010 Calendars** from the War Resisters League and from the Syracuse Cultural Workers are now available at the LEPOCO Peace Center. They are both beautiful.

☪ If you are tempted to believe that nuclear power plants are part of "the solution" to the climate crisis, you need to contact the **Nuclear Information Resource Service** (www.nirs.org). You will learn about the stratospheric costs, the cost overruns, the rate shock, the water wasted, the radioactive waste and other pollution issues. You can sign up to receive their Action Alerts.

☪ Robert Daniels II will be off to India at the end of December for a much deserved vacation in one of his favorite places. Gwen Colegrove is also traveling to India on a separate trip in 2010. They invite others to join them as they view **India-themed films** on the big screen at LEPOCO as follows: Sat., Nov. 21 - *The Darjeeling Limited*, at 7 pm; Thurs., Dec. 3 - *Monsoon Wedding*, at 7 pm; and Thurs., Dec. 17 - *Gandhi*, at 6:30 pm. Call Robert at LEPOCO if you have questions.

☪ **PeaceWork**, one of the most prized publications for peace activists has ceased publication. Published by the American Friends Service Committee out of their Cambridge, Massachusetts,

office, it was a monthly feast about the issues peace and justice always presented with a look toward nonviolent activism and in an inspirational spirit. The economic damage created by the forces of greed has wiped out some wasteful excesses in our lives, but unfortunately it has also destroyed all too many positive, helpful and important institutions like *PeaceWork*. Thanks to all those who kept it going for 37 years.

☪ LEPOCO signed up for a booth at **Pennsylvania Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival** in Kempton for the first time this year. We had some hesitation because of the cost and length of the event (three days and lots of hours each day). Robert Daniels' willingness to staff the booth for long hours and the help of several other people made it happen. We met some new friends, shared lots of information, and sold a fair amount of buttons, bumper stickers and such at the September event.

LEPOCO also took its show of information and peace boutique items to the 10th Peace Fair at the Buckingham Friends Meeting in Lahaska in September. Thanks to Ellen & Lee Buck, Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Robert Daniels II and Kim Moyer. And, we had fun at the inaugural Celebration of Gifts on Market St. in Bethlehem. The Peace Singers performed and we had a booth at the Celebration.

☪ **The International Peace Bureau** will hold their annual conference, "Rolling Back Militarism: A Task for the Global Movement," at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, Nov. 14-18. For more info. see www.ipb.org.

☪ John Einarson, a resident of Kyoto and Vietnam veteran, recently wrote at CommonDreams.org that President Obama should use his November visit to Japan as an opportunity to visit **Hiroshima**. As the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, he should speak from Hiroshima allowing "the entire world to imagine a future no longer held hostage by fears of cold war, nuclear winter, or nuclear terrorism." Einarson's short piece was originally published in the *Japan Times*.



Events at Kirkridge

Retreat & Study Center, near Bangor:

December 2-6: "Creating a Culture of Peace: Training of Trainers" with Janet Chisholm and T. Michael Rock.

For more information see www.kirkridge.org or call 610-588-1793.

Bits & Pieces

⊕ Carolyn Heggen will lead the Winter Peace Retreat of the Franconia Mennonite Conference & Eastern District Conference Peace & Justice Committee on the theme of "**Compassionate Peacemaking: Extending Hope and Healing To Those With Soul Wounds.**" The program will be held at the Spruce Lake Retreat, Feb. 12-14, 2010. Cost is \$155 for each adult. There will also be a children's program led by Maria & Pat Pietrak. For more inf. see www.efpic.ppir.org.

⊕ The Coalition for Peace Action, based in Princeton, NJ, will hold their 30th annual Conference & Interfaith Service for Peace, on Sun., Nov. 15. The morning Interfaith Service will feature Rabbi Michael Lerner and is free. The afternoon Conference (1:30-5 pm) will feature Dr. Lawrence Korb, Jo Comerford, Bill Hartung and Eugene Jarecki, all speaking on the theme of "Toward a Peace Economy." An advance registration fee is needed for the Conference. See www.peacecoalition.org for more info.

⊕ **Anne Feeney**, the labor folk singer from Pittsburgh, wrote in her November *Anne Feeney's Fellow Travelers' Advisory*, "It just makes me sick to see what our corporate congress is doing with health care. Mandates, bah! More billions for the insurance companies. Maybe we haven't closed Gitmo yet because that's where we're going to send all the 'mandate scowflaws.' My heartfelt congratulations to the hundreds of people who have gotten arrested across the country while occupying insurance gangsters' lobbies and congressional offices!" If you want to know more about the hundreds of occupiers see www.mobilizeforhealthcare.org. They say they began their mobilization on September 27th "to demand an end to a system that profits by denying people care."

⊕ At a **Showdown in Chicago** thousands of activists gathered to protest against the banks that brought on the financial meltdown of 2008. The protesters gathered for three days of

educational activities and a large march, sending an alternative message aimed at the American Bankers Association convention being held in Chicago's Sheraton. The protesters, many of whom have experienced personal economic hardship, demanded oversight and accountability and reforms that would rein in the banks. One speaker said, "I want to see the government stop bailing them (the banks) out. They've given trillions to the banks and the war in Iraq. How about a trillion for jobs, food, schools and a moratorium on foreclosures?"

⊕ The **Hope UCC Holiday Bazaar** will be held Sun., Nov. 22, 11:30 am to 3 pm, at 1031 Flexer Ave., Allentown. They say they are one of the largest SERRV sales in the Lehigh Valley.

Lehigh Valley Friends (Quakers) will hold their **Annual Fall Craft Fair & Used Book Sale**, Sat., Nov. 14, 10 am to 3 pm, at the meeting house, on Rt. 512, about ½ mile north of the Rt. 22.

⊕ *We are in the middle of an epic battle for the soul of a nation. AIG has its bailout. What about small children whose parents can't take them anywhere but a crowded emergency room and only after they have gotten really sick? What about those parents leaving the emergency room with prescriptions they can't afford? Are we going to step up, or not? This is*

not about socialism, and even the Republicans in Congress who oppose health care reform know it. This is about controlling capitalism so that it doesn't victimize the poor and sick.

- Scott Berman, M.D., of Bethlehem, writing in *The Morning Call*, 10/26/09

⊕ On November 4th, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 344-36 in support of the remarkably biased HR-867 which called on the President and the Secretary of State to unequivocally oppose any endorsement of the "Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict," also known as the **Goldstone Report** for Richard Goldstone, the noted jurist who authored it for the UN. During the debate on the House floor, it became increasingly clear that the Members of Congress who voted for this resolution had not read the Report.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich said on the House Floor, "The resolution before us today, which would reject all attempts of the Goldstone Report to fix responsibility of all parties to war crimes, including both Hamas and Israel, may as well be called the "Down is Up, Night is Day, Wrong is Right: resolution."

Richard Goldstone was interviewed on "Bill Moyers Journal" on Oct. 30. It can be viewed online if you did not see the original airing of the interview.

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

Mondays, Nov. 9 & Dec. 14 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.

Thursdays, Nov. 12 & Dec. 10, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Fri., Nov. 13, 10:30 am: Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Crisis meeting at Mimi Lang's home, Bethlehem. Call 610-691-8730 for directions.

Fri., Nov. 13, 1 pm: Newsletter Planning Committee meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sunday, Nov. 15, 7 pm & Fri., Dec. 4, 5:30 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearse at the homes of Martha Christine and Bob Riggs, respectively.

Wed., Nov. 18, 6 pm: Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at the Olive Branch Restaurant, 355 Broadway, south Bethlehem.

Tues., Dec. 1, 10 am: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Tues., Dec. 1, 2 pm: Fundraising Committee meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wed., Dec. 9, 7 pm: Americas Solidarity Group 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 Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition, the Youth & Militarism/Truth in Recruiting Committee, or the Association of Students Advocating Peace: please call the Peace Center at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and a schedule of meetings please see www.lepoco.org.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Meetings...

"Hope Rises
From the Ashes
of My Lai"

Mike Boehm

Vietnam Veteran

Tuesday & Wednesday

November 10 & 11

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It is up to us to resolutely try to hold accountable our government and corporate actors for their actions damaging humanity and the Earth -- to intervene if necessary with imagination, nerve and a commitment to a nonviolent ethic that is strong in its resistance and generous in its joyful approach to struggle.

- Joe DeRaymond, 1950-2009

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Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 6

1-4 pm

LEPOCO Peace Center

(See page 3 for more info.)

**50th Annual
Nazareth-to-Bethlehem
Christmas Peace Pilgrimage
Saturday, December 12**

Guest Speaker:

The Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr.

(See page 1 and insert for more details.)