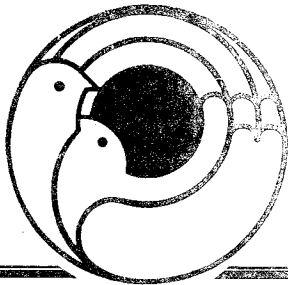


November-  
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Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

## Whitehouse 300+ Update

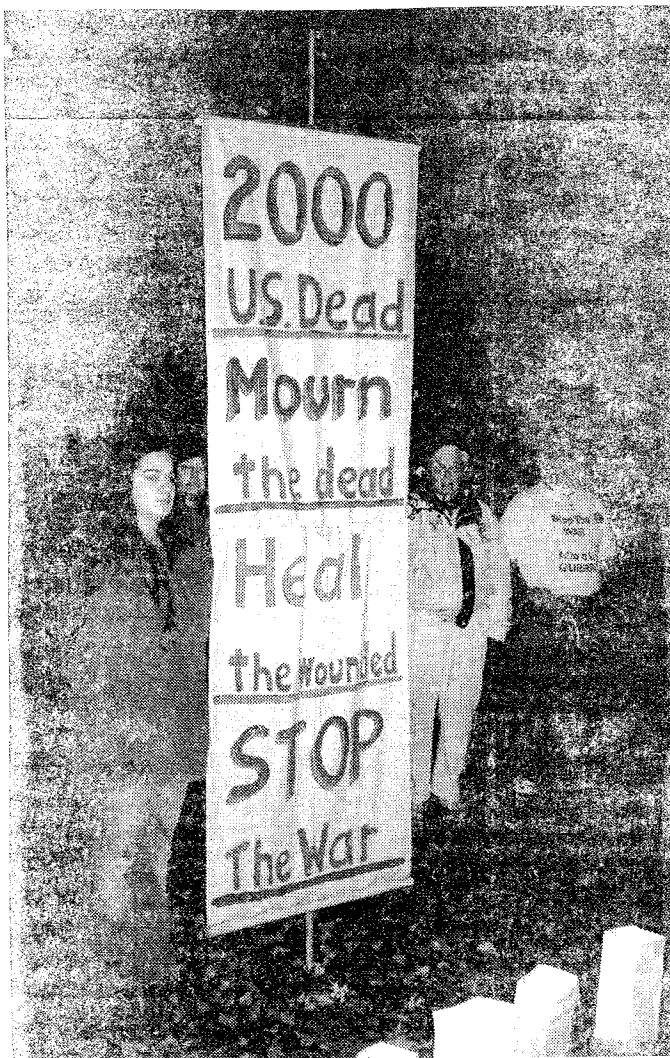
At least 47 people, including clergy, received a court date of November 16<sup>th</sup> for their arrest at the White House on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Charged with "parading without a permit," those arrested were demanding an end to the war in Iraq. LEPOCO members Nancy Tate, Bileen O'Donnell, Virginia Cassell, and Anna Maria Caldara are among those who have not paid the fine and who intend to appear in U.S. District Court, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Constitution Ave. NW, Courtroom #4, at 9:30 am. A vigil/rally will be held at 8:30 am on the steps of the Courthouse.

Attorney Mark Goldstone has been retained by the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance to assist the protesters on November 16th. As of late

October, he stated that the government has not yet made a decision regarding whether or not to prosecute. If prosecution occurs, it is more likely that those with a court date of December 21<sup>st</sup> (which includes LEPOCO members Mike Lawton, Joe DeRaymond, Robert Daniels, and Tim Chadwick) will also be tried.

Cindy Sheehan, whose son Casey was killed in Iraq, will be among those in court on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Discussing her decision to challenge the charge, she has written, "I cannot live freely in a country where

(continued on page 4)



## Remembering the 2000 & the 30,000+ to Say "Stop the War"

On Wednesday, October 26, over 140 people gathered at Bethlehem's Peace Pole for a beautiful vigil marking the sad milestone that 2000 U.S. troops had been killed in Iraq. With 24 hours notice people held vigils in towns across the country like the one in Bethlehem.

Ellen Buck designed a solemn memorial display with representations for the U.S. troops killed and the Iraqi dead. Mike Lawton made the large banner which you can see to the left. Ruth Karpinski is holding it with Kathryn Hoffman, Fran Dreisbach and Tim Chadwick standing nearby. Beverly Morgan sang and the names of Pennsylvania troops killed in the war were read along with the names of some of the Iraqis killed.

Thank you to the ad hoc committee that helped make this observance possible and to all those who witnessed for peace by attending.

Rep. John Murtha's strong statement against the war on November 17 was encouraging, but the number of U.S. dead has now risen to 2094 (as of Nov. 20) and an Iraqi funeral procession was attacked in recent days. It is so important to encourage other elected representatives to speak out as Murtha did and to quickly lend their support to Rep. James McGovern's bill, H.R. 4232, that would end funding for the deployment of U.S. armed Forces in Iraq. See <[www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)> for more details on this bill.

- Nancy C. Tate

# Renato Arieza and the Peace Communities of Colombia

On October 19<sup>th</sup> I heard Renato Arieza, a leader in the San José de Apartadó peace initiative in northwest Colombia speak. Renato spoke of the situation in Colombia and the struggle of his community. It was a grim and moving speech, even once removed through the words of the translator.

The event took place at the Lehigh University Humanities Center. About 30 people attended in the small room, many standing or sitting on the floor. (Renato spoke that evening at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown, also for about 30 people.)

The translator, Sarah Weintraub, introduced the speaker, the situation in Colombia, and spoke of her experience living in accompaniment with the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. She is a volunteer with the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).

To give some of that background information on the situation in Colombia, there has been fighting between the guerillas and the government allied with the paramilitary for forty years. At first the guerillas were idealists rising up in hope of revolution and a better country, but now it is more a war of territory and domination – little of the idealism remains. Consequently, many of the civilians, mostly poor farmers have become disillusioned and want to be left alone to carry out their normal lives. Unfortunately, when communities declare themselves neutral the militant groups take an “if you’re not with us you’re against us” stance, so peace initiatives are attacked from all sides.

The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó began in 1997 when the group of compasinos in Apartadó declared themselves neutral. This should have meant that the military would not be allowed in their community, but there have been 154 murdered or disappeared people from the community since its beginnings, 80% of these crimes were committed by the military or paramilitary.

In spite of all these tragic experiences, the people in the community remain strong. “As a leader in this community I may be forced to face death on any day,” said Renato. He also went on to say that many of the people in the community who gave up and moved to an area secured by the government went back to the homes in the community saying, “in the city we were starving. Here we may be killed, but we will die with a full belly.” To hear of such determination in the face of grisly death is a powerful and frightening experience. Hearing this from my perspective, that of a fortunate young person, whose idea of activism is writing letters, e-mails, and articles, and attending protests, makes me wonder how strong my convictions would be in such dire circumstances.

According to Renato, taking a stand for the civilians in Colombia need not be life threatening. Even if you choose to go with FOR, accompanying the community, you should be fairly safe. As a United States citizen it is highly unlikely that any militant group would risk harming you. Please do not, however,

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think that you can only help by drastically changing your lifestyle. You can also lobby your congressperson to pressure Colombian officials to recognize San José de Apartadó and other similar communities. Educate yourself about the plight of those caught in the war in Colombia and inform your friends, neighbors, colleagues, classmates about what you have learned.

In the conclusion of his speech, Renato said, “We are clear and we are conscious. We are trying to create a different and distinct world. In order to create a different and distinct world we need your support.” I hope his story can convince you to give that support.

- Peter Christine

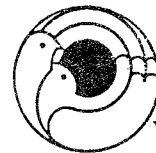
## A Further Update From the Peace Community:

There is more troubling news from the Peace Community. A November 7<sup>th</sup> Action Alert from FOR reports on multiple abuses against the community by soldiers and paramilitaries, including the detention of 13-year-old Samuel Mora on two occasions. Both times Samuel was threatened with death.

From SOA Watch we have learned that Arlen Salas David, a leader in the community, was murdered on November 17<sup>th</sup> by the military while he and six others were weeding corn. A statement from the Peace Community says in part, “We make an appeal for... international support, so that our extermination can be stopped; so that the inhabitants of the whole region... are not forced to become internally displaced, which the Army has told us is their objective.”

Contact Philip French, Director of Andean Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State, 2201 “C” St. NW, Washington, DC 20520, and urge the State Department to withhold human rights certification for Colombia until the murders of and human rights abuses against civilians in San José de Apartadó are prosecuted.

Newsletter of **LEPOCO**  
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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.

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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, Arlene Grow, Mike Lawton, Tom Lloyd, Bob Riggs, Tom Stinnett, Joan Stolz, 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 (ex-officio), Robert Daniels, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Holly Kent, Sigourney LaBarre, Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Janet Ney, Sue Ravitz, and Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

## Close SOA / WHINSEC

Joe DeRaymond, Sarah Snider, Tim Chadwick, and Bob and Carmen Riggs were at Ft. Benning, Georgia, November 18-20. As this newsletter is being prepared, joining the 19,000 gathered to demand the closing of the School of the Americas (SOA), now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security and Cooperation (WHINSEC). We will look forward to their further report upon return.

We have heard by phone that Joe DeRaymond was among the 30+ people arrested for "crossing the line" (three fences topped with barbed wire surrounding Ft. Benning). They took this risk to take their call for closing the SOA onto the grounds of the fort. They were arrested on Sunday afternoon, Joe posted \$1000 bond to be released on Monday afternoon.

Leading up to that important demonstration the Americas Solidarity Group sponsored a showing of "Hidden in Plain Sight," an excellent video about the SOA (available to be borrowed from LEPOCO) on November 4<sup>th</sup> and a talk by Fr. Bernard Survil on November 6<sup>th</sup> where he assessed the strength and importance of the movement to Close the SOA. At the latter gathering we were treated to music by Sylvia Brandon Pérez and her son.

## Steering Committee Changes

Over the past several months two vacancies occurred on the LEPOCO Steering Committee. In August Annie Hasz, a member since 2003, left the Lehigh Valley to attend college in Asheville, North Carolina. In September Peter Crownfield, a member since March 2004, was hired as director of the Youth and Militarism Committee and is now an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee.

Sigourney LaBarre of Easton, a junior at Moravian Academy has been appointed to fill Annie's term. Sigourney is an active member of Amnesty International at her school and has been an enthusiastic volunteer at LEPOCO's Peace Camp. She has also worked with SECO, a youth organization involved in social and environmental issues.

Holly Kent of Bethlehem was appointed to complete Peter's term. Holly is a graduate student at Lehigh University working on her PHD in Women's History. She is a member of Amnesty International, participates in weekly vigils against the war in Iraq and has volunteered for LEPOCO at fairs and festivals, helped with the Bike-Walkathon last year and does calling on the Phonathon.

The steering committee directs the planning for LEPOCO Action Meetings and makes decisions for the organization on issues that come up between those monthly meetings.

- Susan Ravitz

## Potluck & Politics

John Zachmann, long-time LEPOCO member and activist, traveled to Venezuela this past August with a Global Exchange delegation. They visited a variety of organizations in Caracas and in the countryside. As Venezuela's president takes a leading role in challenging U.S. policy in this hemisphere, we need to better understand developments in that country.

John will show slides and photographs and report on his trip at a Potluck & Politics program, "Venezuela: A New Beginning," on Friday, December 2, at 6:30 pm, at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Please join the discussion. Bring some food to share. The presentation will begin shortly after 7 pm.

## Counter-Recruitment Leafletters

Large delegations of early morning leafletters have greeted students at two local high schools in recent weeks giving young people points to consider before enlisting in the military and asking "Why is a local peace organization not welcome in your school?" Thanks to Maria Weick, Bernie Berg, Beverly Morgan, Reggie Regrut, Kathleen McAllister, Dan Hunter, Joe DeRaymond, Sarah Snider, Judy Woodruff, Kelly Prentice, Charyn Ayoub and Peter Crownfield for bright and early work. If you would like to help in future efforts please contact Peter at the LEPOCO Office.

## Costumed Leafletters

On October 26<sup>th</sup> Barbara Diamond and Diane Petro were seen in Bethlehem dressed as Betsy Ross and the Statue of Liberty distributing leaflets against the U.S. Patriot Act. The occasion was the anniversary of the passage of the Act in 2001. For a current update on the status of the renewal of that Act as it is passing through Congress see <[www.aclupa.org](http://www.aclupa.org)>.

## Phonathon Thanks

Thank you to those who have called and those who have donated as part of LEPOCO's Annual Phonathon fundraising effort. We are close to finished with the calling. Your donations will help keep the Peace Center open, staffed and busy with activity. Thank you again.

*LEPOCO Open House*  
*Sunday, December 4, 1-4 pm*  
313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., South Bethlehem  
*(See back page for more info.)*

# In the Belly of Jonah and St. Patrick

"...and for the swift, nonviolent collapse of the United States empire, Amen!" Such was the closing of the Saturday morning prayer on the second day of my visit to Jonah House. 'Twas nothing unusual about the request. At that point in my journey i was beyond raising an eyebrow at such gentle pleas. The night previous was spent dining with an instant family of radical peacemakers whose dinner conversation was about more than the weather and sports scores. Trial dates and jail time were the main subjects of discussion. And just minutes earlier i'd hand-fed goats and llamas in the midst of healthy trees and fallen headstones...

Jonah House is an intentional community devoted to issues of militarism, social justice, and the environment. Situated on a 22-acre pocket of land in downtown Baltimore, Maryland, members live together sharing prayer, work, and resources. In the aftermath of the Harrisburg Conspiracy trial of 1972, Liz McAlister, husband Phil Berrigan, Daniel Berrigan, SJ, and other like-willed souls founded Jonah House as a way to sustain nonviolent resistance to the "filthy rotten systems of domination that lie in the heart of empire." House painting was the trade that most early participants engaged in to "make a living." Now and for the last decade members of Jonah House have lived on and tended to the grounds of St. Peter's Cemetery as a way of "earning their keep."

Spurred by an invitation given by Liz at a recent Kirkridge retreat i'd come chiefly seeking a solution to the dilemma of how best to serve the family-at-large (King's "world house," Gandhi's "All men are brothers," Namaste' and so on) without neglecting the family-in-detail (parents, girlfriend and son, "blood relatives" and the like). This weekend was a particularly good time to visit, for Peter DeMott and Clare Grady, two of the St. Patrick's Four, were there with members of their families in tow.

On St. Patrick's Day 2003, just a few days before "Shock and Awe," four members of the Ithaca Catholic Worker Community poured their own blood on an U.S. flag and on the walls of a U.S. Army/Marine Recruiting Station in Lansing, New York. The four were tried by state prosecutors in 2004. A "hung jury" mistrial was declared when nine of the 12 member jury voted to acquit. A year later federal prosecutors took up the case and tried the four on charges of conspiracy. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the St. Patrick's Four were found not guilty of conspiracy, but guilty of the lesser charges of trespassing and destruction of property. Over the course of the weekend i was able to work, dine, and talk with Clare and Peter, their children, spouses, and with other similarly experienced residents of Jonah House on how to live an engaged activist's life without failing the family at home. Due to space limitations and the sharp scissors of the

LEPOCO newsletter staff i'm not at liberty to expand much beyond a simple one word answer: "Community." Time and again it was thoroughly illustrated to me how the need for dialogue with and support from a tight knit group of committed peacemakers is integral in a life of simple living, humble walking, and injustice confronting.

I often find that as answers reveal themselves, just as many new questions spring up. I've reconciled myself with this being the nature of a curious life, but just before departing i found myself reminded of a bit of advice that cuts through a lot of these minor queries: Within view of the common room of Jonah House, where i'd just shared liturgy and lunch, hugs and handshakes, said my farewells to another extended family, one is able to discern amongst trees that bear much fruit the relatively fresh grave of Phil Berrigan. A modest marker in black marble, the cross-shaped headstone reads simple words echoed from one generation of prophets to another the advice, the admonishment, "Love one another." Amen.

- robert Daniels II

For more information please see <jonahhouse.org> and <stpatricksfour.com>. Feedback is welcomed and appreciated: <rhubarbdoom@hotmail.com>.

## Whitehouse 300+ Update

(continued from page 1)

people are allowed to commit murder and roam free to commit more mayhem while other people who are exercising their first amendment rights to free speech are locked up in jail...If I go before a magistrate..., I will tell him/her (these words of Gandhi): 'If you believe in what you are doing, give me the stiffest sentence possible. If you don't, then resign.'

- Anna Maria Caldara

## A Further Update:

On November 16 and 17 the first trial of those arrested on September 26<sup>th</sup> was held in Washington, DC, as expected, with around 40 defendants presenting their own defense. Cindy Sheehan was represented by a lawyer.

Charges were dropped against Eileen O'Donnell and a few others apparently because their arresting officer did not show up to testify. (Was the officer sympathetic to the peace activists?)

Anna Maria Caldara, Virginia Cassel and Nancy Tate were among the 25+ defendants found guilty and sentenced to the original fine of \$50 + \$25 court costs. The defense strongly argued that the illegal actions of the U.S. government's war in Iraq had required them to deliver their human petition to the White House on September 26 calling for an end to the Iraq War. We hope the defendants on December 21<sup>st</sup> find a more favourable response from the court.

# The Struggle Shared

*Should any political party attempt to abolish Social Security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes you can do these things. Among them are... a few Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional political or business man from other areas. Their numbers are negligible, and they are stupid.*

- Dwight D. Eisenhower, 11/8/54,  
Pennsylvania NOW Times, Fall 2005

## ONE THOUSAND EXECUTIONS

LATER - In 1976, a year of bicentennial celebrations, the Supreme Court of our nation ruled, in *Gregg vs. Georgia*, that capital punishment was not unconstitutional, giving states the authority to put people to death. And the executions began.

No cause for celebration, Amnesty International, and other groups that have monitored the application of the death penalty, predict that the thousandth execution since the reinstatement of the death penalty, will take place in the month of November. One John Hicks, scheduled for execution by the state of Ohio, on November 29<sup>th</sup>, could have that dubious distinction, according to AI.

Pennsylvania Abolitionists, and a coalition of national groups, including Amnesty, are calling for local outcries against the death penalty to mark the occasion of the thousandth execution as a national disgrace. Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing (LV-CASK) is organizing a campaign of letters against the death penalty. CASK will meet on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am, at the LEPOCO Peace Center to make further plans. If you would like to help, please attend the meeting, or call LEPOCO or David Rose.

According to recent polls, a majority to U.S. citizens now oppose the death penalty, believing it to be ineffective, unfair, and a waste of tax dollars. Increasingly, churches are taking public positions against the death penalty as an immoral use of government power. Around the world, 120 nations have abolished the death penalty. Among our allies, only Japan still puts its citizens to death.

Let's hope the thousandth execution will be the death penalty's "hundredth monkey," the point at which suddenly everyone recognizes the same truth: that killing people is wrong. For more information call David Rose, of LV-CASK, at 610-253-2577.

## LAKSHMI COW SANCTUARY

- On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, LEPOCO activist Anna Maria Caldera joined 18-20 other friends of animals in a walk around the town of Bangor to raise public awareness about the appalling cruelty of conditions on factory farms. Walkers obtained pledges to raise funds for the farm sanctuary movement. There were several photo-ops for the group, with good pictures picked up by local media, and the walkers distributed fliers about factory farming to those they passed on the walk route.

Farm Sanctuary is the national group that called for coordinated activities. The local walk was organized by the Lakshmi Cow Sanctuary, a beautiful natural acreage near Bangor that currently has nine cows, some of them "liberated" from slaughterhouses, and brought there for veterinary care, and to live out their days in a place where they are loved and respected for their animal beauty, not the taste of their flesh.

Sankar Sastri, the founder and owner of Lakshmi Cow Sanctuary, invited Anna Maria and all the walkers on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, to retreat to the farm after their walk, to meet the resident cows, and share a wonderful vegan meal. Anna Maria was impressed by the spirit of this day. If you visit the Bangor area, you too can experience the awe of sanctuary. Call Sankar Sastri at 610-599-8824.

BRING HOME PENNSYLVANIA'S GUARD - The Pennsylvania Campaign to Bring Home the National Guard is a new mobilization of anti-war sentiment in the state with a clear strategy linking local impacts of the war in Iraq to the national momentum to bring an end to the war.

The campaign begins with a 10-point resolution, where-asing the most familiar arguments for opposing the war (no WMD's, no links between 9-11 and Iraq, majority of people now favor withdrawal, etc.) as well as some lesser-known reasons specific to the Pennsylvania National Guard Troops (Guard was created to protect Pennsylvanians in time of natural disasters, or threats within the state's boundaries, PA Guard troops on active duty in Iraq are the largest contingent among all state Guard units, etc.)

The resolution calls upon the Governor to pursue every avenue to bring home Pennsylvania's Guard troops without delay, and it calls upon the Governor and state legislators to press our congressional representatives in Washington, DC, to support House Joint Resolution 55 which requires the president to develop and implement a plan for withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces from Iraq, beginning no later than October 2006.

Besides the resolution there is a citizen's petition, to be circulated in communities all over the state. They plan to bring the petitions to local government officials, and get local municipalities to endorse the resolution. Such endorsements will mount pressure on the Governor and state legislature to act.

The Campaign has put together an organizer's packet which is available from LEPOCO, or contact the Campaign to Bring Home the National Guard, at PO Box 1791, Media, PA 19063. LEPOCO needs a representative to attend the planning meetings of this group. Call 610-691-8730 if you can help.

- Jeff Vitelli

# Summer in Botswana

This past summer, I spent five weeks in Botswana. Botswana is in the southernmost part of Africa, right above South Africa. It's a hugely tourist-ed country, a beautiful and ravaged place. I had to wonder driving down the rugged roads just how many other people had seen exactly what I was seeing, and how many of the elephants were tired of these loud boring people staring at them. The reason I went wasn't to stare at elephants, although besides feeling extremely voyeuristic by being in their home, I felt so privileged to see their wildness. The reason I took this trip was because it was a chance to get multiple things out of the way that I had never done in my life yet and that I might be too scared to do one at a time.

I had never been to an airport, or flown on a plane (that I could remember), never gone out of the country, never done any kind of summer camp, never stayed away from home besides a few days. My trip took care of everything. I won't go into the details of how frightening it was to take off in a plane after seeing my parents for the last time for five weeks, or the 22-hour plane ride. And I won't tell you about how awkward it was to meet 16 other kids with whom I would be spending the summer and about whom I knew almost nothing. Let me say, this beginning was truly the most eye opening thing, the most unstable time, the most amazing jump.

I went with a group called The Experiment in International Living. They take groups of young people all over the world to get into the community and do some kind of service. There were 19 of us altogether, 17 young people around my age, mostly younger, and two older guides. June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> we were in Mokolodi Nature Reserve, where we slept in bunk beds. We were fed in a big dining hall, and given our first taste of mealy meal, squash, and Rooibos tea that would come to be the constant every morning. From July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup> we stayed in Oodi, a village on the outskirts of Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. We were separated, so fresh from a little familiarity, to live with families who took us in. After this full and crazy time during which we experienced a wedding, were learning a new language, and one Experimenter had a hospital stay, we went to Lolwapa Lodge in the city. During the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, we had a brief break from feeling like the outsiders that we were, a few days to get on the Internet, and eat lots of peanut butter.

After Lolwapa we went to Manacheng, where we did the service portion of the trip; this was one of the things which drew me to Botswana in the first place. We partnered with Habitat for Humanity and built three homes in a week, helping local builders with our free labor. We were there until the 25<sup>th</sup>, learning how to mix cement, lay bricks and carry lots of water. Then onto Kasane, where we stayed until the 28<sup>th</sup>. This was the prime shopping opportunity, since there were avenues built specifically for tourists with lots of expen-

sive and rural looking things. I bought lots of cheap earrings. In Kasane, we prepared for our time on the road, the part of the trip that most of us looked forward to the most. We bought lots of snacks, made a smashing trail mix, and I watched my roommates stay up late deciding what clothes to pack. I had no problems with that since I packed the lightest of everyone.

The safari whizzed by too fast, too slow. Four days, each night a different campground and a different slice of the clearest night sky I'd ever seen. We counted down each night to what we would do first when we got home.

I can't pretend that everything was lovely, not at all. The country is in the midst of the worst drought it has ever seen, the economy is drooping, and animals are far too thin. The AIDS crisis weighs heavily on Botswana in a financial way as well as in the everyday lives of people. There are countless orphans, too many for the bill-boards. In the midst of tragedy people rebuild, and there was hope strung around each situation. Looking over the journal I kept during the trip, I feel everything rush back to me as if it's happening now, as present as something so surreal could be.

- Hannae Pavlick



## High School Students Protest

Hi, I'm a student from Pennridge High School who organized a walk out against militarism in our school on November 2<sup>nd</sup> (the anniversary of Bush's re-election, and somewhat in conjunction with the World Can't Wait actions). There were only a few of us, but we marched from the school down the street to my house and put up "Stop Militarism in Pennridge" flyers all down the street.

We watched "Fourth World War" at my house and ate a vegan lunch. Then we made protest signs and marched to the recruitment center. We put out 20 candles to symbolize the 2000+ U.S. troops who have died in Iraq. A recruiter came out and shoed us away; so we moved a few feet away from the recruiting center.

On the way there and back to my house we had more than TWO HUNDRED people honk their car horns against war and militarism (including mailmen, sanitary department of Perkasio drivers, soccer moms, school bus drivers, teachers coming home from school, everyone). One woman honked her horn for three straight blocks, turned around the block and did it again, screaming!

People walked up to us on the street in solidarity. A police officer came up to us and took down our information saying that someone told him we were giving people the middle finger! (We were giving PEACE SIGNS!)

Everyone really enjoyed it and we want to do it again.

- Cordelia Eddy



# Bits & Pieces

ⓐ The Third Thursday Film Series at the Mauch Chunk Museum & Cultural Center will continue on Dec. 15, at 7 pm, with the showing of *The Battle of Algiers* (1966). The documentary-style film provides a case study in modern warfare and has astonishing relevance today. The Museum is located at 41 W. Broadway, Jim Thorpe. Call 610-781-5612 for more info.

ⓑ Sarah Ongiri reports on a new organization called the Holistic Moms Network. It is a national non-profit for those interested in natural health and mindful parenting. You can learn more about the Lehigh Valley chapter from Sarah at 610-882-0328 or <[saongiri@aol.com](mailto:saongiri@aol.com)>.

ⓒ History students at Lehigh University organized two days of presentations on a wide range of topics about *The Iraq & Afghanistan Wars in U.S. Politics, Culture and Society*. Since the students did the presentations they learned about their subject matter even if the audiences were small.

ⓓ Thank you to Gladys Carter, Lise Carlson, Joan Stolz, Susie Ravitz, Joan Stone, Ellen Buck, Tom Stinnett, and Nancy Tate for staffing the LEPOCO table that sold fair trade crafts at the Wesley Church Craft Fair on Nov. 12.

ⓔ In October the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem reestablished their Peace Committee with the primary goal to work for the creation of a United States Department of Peace. For more info. talk to Tom Lloyd.

ⓕ Sarah Snider filmed Renato Ariza's talks in the Lehigh Valley. If anyone was unable to see him on Oct. 19 you can borrow the video from Sarah. See page 2 for more info. on his visit.

ⓖ People in the Pocono Progressives were very busy Nov. 11 and 12. On Friday they organized a demon-

stration outside the Tobyhanna Army Depot while Pres. Bush spoke on Veterans Day to promote his war. Standing in cold winds the demonstrators were covered by *The Pocono Record* and NPR. On Sat., the Progressives hosted the U.S. Tour of Duty with Ray McGovern, Gold Star Mother Nadia McCaffrey and a film, "Caught in the Crossfire: The Untold Story of Falluja," at the Pocono Cinema. Great peace work!

ⓗ Brandywine Peace Community is holding A Human Rights Day Observance on Sun., Dec. 11, at 4:30 pm, with a panel presentation on "Health & Human Rights in Haiti," with Dr. Robert Boucher, Johanna Berrigan, and Tom Griffin, all of whom have traveled to Haiti in the past year investigating the massive human rights violations there. The program at University Lutheran Church, 3637 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, will begin with a potluck dinner (bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share). For more info. call 610-544-1818.

ⓘ United for Peace & Justice reports on support that people give to victims of Hurricane Katrina with a special bent toward justice. They quote an eye-witness who says, "White New Orleans is steadily coming back, and Black New Orleans is moving out."

Dec. 8-10 the People's Hurricane Relief Fund & Oversight Coalition is organizing activities demanding a grassroots-led approach to reconstructing the Gulf Coast region. A National Assembly of Gulf Coast survivors will be held in Jackson, Mississippi. Displaced residents will be the center of the assembly, but supporters are welcome. A march will be held in New Orleans to lift up the voices of low-income African American Katrina survivors and their right to return and be part of the planning process. See <[www.communitylaborunited.net](http://www.communitylaborunited.net)> and <[www.commongroundrelief.org](http://www.commongroundrelief.org)> for more info.

ⓙ On Nov. 10 Moravian Theological Seminary hosted Dr. David Smock from the United States Institute of Peace. At his lecture he reported on various efforts of this government agency to provide support for conflict resolution around the world. He said, "Peace does happen. It is breaking out all the time; even as there are new conflicts."

ⓚ *Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price* had 7000 screenings across the nation last week. Some had hundreds in attendance. There were at least ten local showings. How appropriate when these purveyors of sweat shop goods are popping up everywhere.

## Meetings...Meetings...Meetings

Mon., Nov. 28, 7 pm: Peace Camp Planning for July 2006 at LEPOCO.

Tues., Nov. 29, 8:30 am: L.V. Committee Against State Killing Meeting at LEPOCO.

Tues., Nov. 29, 5:30 pm: Ad hoc group planning civil disobedience against Iraq War meeting at LEPOCO.

Tues., Nov. 29, 7 pm: L.V. Peace Coalition Meeting at LEPOCO.

Wed., Nov. 30, 4:30 pm: LEPOCO Newsletter Planning Meeting at LEPOCO.

Wed., Nov. 30, 7 pm: Counter-Recruitment Committee Meeting at LEPOCO.

Sun., Dec. 4, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers meet and practice at Barbara Wuerth's home in Bethlehem. Call 610-691-8730 for more info.

Mon., Dec. 5, 7 pm: LEPOCO Steering Committee Meeting at Office.

Tues., Dec. 6, 4 pm: Americas Solidarity Group Meeting. This meeting may be rescheduled. Please call 610-691-8730 for more info.

Thurs., Dec. 8, 7 pm: Annual Dinner Planning Meeting at LEPOCO.

Mon., Dec. 12, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at Office.

Wed., Dec. 14, Noon: LEPOCO Fundraising Committee Meeting at NAWAB Restaurant, south Bethlehem. Call 610-691-8730 for more info.



# LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern  
313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015  
(610) 691-8730

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Bits & Pieces

## *LEPOCO Open House Sunday, December 4*

*1-4 pm*

*313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., South Bethlehem*

Items also available during regular office  
hours after December 4.

MWF 10am-5pm

TTh Noon-6 pm

Call for extended hours.

*Fair Trade Crafts*

*from around the world  
Year 2006 Peace Calendars*

*Peace Boutique Buttons & Stickers  
Peace & Justice Cards for the Holidays  
and Year Round*

## **Potluck & Politics Friday, December 2**

**6:30 pm**

**John Zachmann**

*"Venezuela: A New  
Beginning"*

LEPOCO Peace Center

313 W. 4th St.

south Bethlehem

*Bring some food to share.*

For more information see page 3.



*Forty-sixth Annual Nazareth to Bethlehem*

## **Christmas Peace Pilgrimage**

**Saturday, December 10**

**Speaker: Sr. Patricia Keefe Of Nonviolent Peaceforce, USA**

*See enclosed brochure for more information.*

