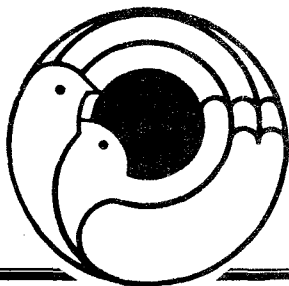


November  
2006

vol.41 no.8



Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

**Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern**

## How to Stop Perpetual War for Peace?

The Tour for a Just Foreign Policy will visit Bethlehem on Saturday, November 11. We are again fortunate to have some well-informed speakers visiting our area, two of whom have on-the-ground experience in Iraq and Iran, and they arrive only four days after the election in which the Iraq War has been a major issue. The Tour will feature three speakers and an exhibit of powerful images from Iran, Iraq and Lebanon taken by award-winning photo journalists.

The theme for the tour is "Perpetual War for Peace? What Can We Do to End One War and Prevent Another?" The program will begin at 1:30 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem (at the corner of Center and Wall Sts.). The photo exhibit will be on display starting at 1 pm and following the program.

The speakers are Raed Jarrar, an Iraqi-Palestinian blogger, activist and architect. Raed Jarrar promotes The Iraq Reconciliation Plan proposed by the Iraqi Parliament in June 2006. He was recently part of a Global Exchange delegation that brought together antiwar activists from the U.S. and members of the Iraqi Parliament in Jordan to strategize about ending the war. Raed was in Iraq during and after the 2003 invasion. He took part in humanitarian projects including serving as the Country Director of CIVIC Worldwide, the only door-to-door casualty survey in Iraq after the invasion. He now works as the Iraq Project Director for Global Exchange and maintains a popular web-log that includes analysis and news summary regarding Iraq and the Middle East.

Antonia Juhasz, the second speaker, wrote, "The Bush Agenda: Invading the World One Economy At a Time," where she uncovers the history and key role of U.S. corporations in the creation of the Bush agenda. She presents the Iraq War as the most brutal application of this policy, showing how the administration has fundamentally transformed Iraq's economy, locking in sweeping advantages to its corporate allies. Juhasz is a visiting scholar at The Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC.

Rostam Pourzal, the third speaker, is President of the U.S. branch of the Campaign Against Sanctions and Military Intervention in Iran. He is an independent researcher and organizer for human rights. He visits Iran

regularly and has served on the boards of several Iranian-American organizations. He has been interviewed on Pacifica Radio, CNN International, MSNBC and Aljazeera, among others.

The exhibit will include photographs by Lynsey Addario, Mohammad Kheirkhah, Andrew Stern, and Ramin Talaie.

The tour is traveling throughout the northeast (Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York), November 1-12. For more information on the tour see [www.justforeignpolicy.org](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org).

The tour's visit to the Lehigh Valley is sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition of which LEPOCO is a participating group.

- Nancy C. Tate



## Taking the Costs of War to the Door of Congress

As the dawn came out of the darkness, fourteen of the seventy human beings that participated in the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition Peace Vigil on October 26<sup>th</sup> began the day with interfaith prayers. Then the reading began of the names of three thousand ten coalition soldiers who have passed away in Iraq, interspersed with the names of Iraqi civilians who have died since the March 2003 invasion. The darkness gave way to light as people started appearing on Broad Street, at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Bethlehem, across from the office of Representative Charles Dent. As the names hung in the cool air, a gong rang between each reading, and supporters of the vigil came and went. People walked by taking flyers that insisted that Rep. Dent be accountable for his complicit actions in support of war and militarism.

The hustle and bustle of city traffic heightened; honking horns of support dominated the quiet cool air, as the names were continuously read. Names from Australia, Ukraine, Island Nations, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, and many other small nations. Names of men and women from Portland, Maine, to Plantation, Florida, from Oceanside, New York, to Shawnee, Okla-

(continued on page 2)

## Join Thousands Protesting the SOA

The entrance to Ft. Benning, home of the notorious School of the Americas (now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation -- WHINSEC), will be the scene once more of a protest rally and vigil November 17, 18 and 19, in Columbus, Georgia. Car pools from the Lehigh Valley, a bus from Scranton with stops in Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg (it costs \$200, including hotel room; call Sister Suzanne at 570-489-2023 for more information), and caravans of peace demonstrators from all over will soon be converging on Columbus. Call the LEPOCO office to find out how you can join them, or how you can assist others to go.

This year's congressional effort to close the school failed again, but legislative efforts will continue, led by Reps. Jim McGovern, Democrat from Massachusetts, and John Lewis, Democrat from Georgia. (Congressman Charles Dent and Senators Specter and Santorum all voted to keep the school in operation.) The school is part of the U.S. military budget funded by taxpayers.

SOA/WHINSEC has been supplying assassins, dictators and death squad leaders for oppressive regimes in Latin America since 1946. Its graduates have left a trail of blood and pain in every country to which they have returned. Among those targeted are educators, union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. Many hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, disappeared and forced into refuge by those trained at the school.

Countries with the worst human rights records have consistently sent the most soldiers to be trained: Nicaragua during the Somoza dictatorship, El Salvador during the bloodiest period of repression; and now Colombia accounts for approximately half of students currently attending. The good news is that several countries, most notably Venezuela, have announced that they will no longer send students to the school.

Last November, LEPOCO's Joe DeRaymond was one of 37 demonstrators who committed civil disobedience by entering the grounds of Ft. Benning. They were arrested and charged with trespassing on federal property. Joe spent three months in the federal prison at Schuylkill, Pennsylvania. It is anticipated that others will follow their example at this year's demonstration. LEPOCO has a 30-minute DVD entitled "Line Crossers" which contains eloquent testimonies by many who were arrested last year, explaining why they were willing to subject themselves to prosecution and prison.

It's not too late to plan on making the trip to Columbus. Call the LEPOCO office or speak with Joe DeRaymond, Tim Chadwick, or Bob Riggs for further information. LEPOCO has created a fund to assist with expenses for those who may need help in making the trip. Contributions to the fund will be welcomed.

It is hoped that election changes in Congress could make the efforts to close SOA/WHINSEC much more likely to succeed.

- Bob Riggs

## Taking to Costs of War to the Door of Congress

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homa, from Independence, Missouri, to Chino, California, from Dresden, Tennessee, to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Despite the cold and somewhat windy conditions, over seventy supporters participated throughout the day and evening vigil. In addition to the names of coalition service personnel read, the names of Iraqi civilians, police, businessmen, woman, and children, young and old were read to represent the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who have died. A simple banner dominated the vigil: "War is Not the Answer."

The time has come for our Congressional representative to stand up to the Executive Branch of government and end war as their choice over diplomacy and reconciliation. During the afternoon both of the candidates challenging Rep. Dent in the upcoming election participated in the vigil. Green Party candidate, Greta Browne, an outspoken advocate for "bringing the troops home now," as well as Democratic candidate, Charles Dertinger, made an appearance in support of the day-long vigil.

Thanks to robert Daniels II for his organizing efforts and for being the anchor for the vigil that ended at 12:40 am the next day. If you would like to find out more about the national legislative campaign that this vigil embodied, go to [www.declarationofpeace.org](http://www.declarationofpeace.org).

- Tim Chadwick



### Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

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

Annual dues are:

Regular Member . . . . . \$25  
Limited Income Member . . . . . \$ 5  
Household Membership . . . . . \$30  
Supporting Member . . . . . \$50

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

Newsletter Staff: Ellen Buck, Peter Crownfield, Fran Dreisbach, 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 Christine, Peter Crownfield (ex-officio), Robert Daniels, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Holly Kent, Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Janet Ney, Susie Ravitz, and Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

# Opening Eyes To Resistance Unarmed

Friday, November 10, 7 pm, Lehigh University, Room 303, the University Center: Renata Rendon, Advocacy Associate for the Americas of Amnesty International, Washington, DC, will speak in conjunction with the Photo Exhibition in the Girdler Gallery, "Resistance Unarmed." Renata Rendon has had extensive experience working with Congress on Colombia and Central America human rights issues.

Renata was a volunteer with the Fellowship of Reconciliation for six months, working in Colombia on the various projects of the Colombia Peace Program. She was present in the community of San José de Apartadó in February of 2005, when eight community members were massacred. Her direct experience gives her testimony a power that opens eyes about the reality of life in Colombia. As "The Advocate," a publication of the City University of New York reported, "Renata Rendon's testimony moved the audience to tears. This was the first time that Ms. Rendon was speaking in public about her experience in San José de Apartadó where she witnessed the exhumation of eight bodies (including those of three children) massacred on February 21, 2005. She came to know these people personally, and as a Fellowship of Reconciliation accompaniment worker helped search for bodies."

Since that time, Renata has worked on bringing the message to Congress, with FOR and Amnesty, in order to change policies that encourage violence and grant impunity to violent actors. She will have much to share about the current situation and the prospects for change in Colombia and the Americas.

- Joe DeRaymond



This creative project may take on any form you wish: poem, video, drawing, essay, photo, work of fiction, ect. Performance art such as dance or music expression may also be submitted by arrangement

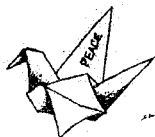
1st Place: \$100

2nd Place: \$75

3rd Place: \$50  
& many more prizes

**For High School Students**

Deadline: January 16, 2007  
Submit to: LEPOCO Peace Center  
313 W 4th Street Bethlehem, PA 18015  
Or Email Submissions at [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)  
Questions? Contact Stephanie Garzaan  
610-737-2249



Sponsored By



The Nuclear Abolition Sisters want to raise awareness and promote opposition to the danger presented by nuclear weapons. Each month we will provide LEPOCO Newsletter readers with a fact that highlights the nuclear threat to life on Earth.

## November's Nuclear Nugget

10,729: Total number of intact U.S. nuclear warheads. All told, the explosive power of U.S. nuclear warheads is 100,000 times greater than the single Hiroshima bomb. And our nuclear war plan keeps many of these weapons on hair-trigger alert. [www.nrdc.org/nuclear](http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear)

## Popcorn & Politics

at the LEPOCO Peace Center

Friday, December 1, 7 pm

1st Friday Film

### "The Road to Guantanamo"

This 2006 docudrama focuses on the "Tipton Three," a trio of British Muslims who on a trip to Pakistan to attend a wedding soon found themselves in the captivity of U.S. forces and transported to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they were held without charge for over two years. Directors Michael Winterbottom and Mat Whitecross recount the travails of the three by inter-cutting interviews and news footage with recreations of their Kafka-esque journey through the world's most notorious military prison. 95 minutes.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share. The film will be projected on LEPOCO's big screen at the Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., south Bethlehem.



## Step Up!

In troubled times, it's essential to strengthen the bonds of support that hold the progressive community together.

As anyone reading this knows, these are certainly troubled times. The current political climate, so skewed towards corporate profit and hegemony for the rich, is front-loaded to put a steady squeeze on those of us without tons of walking-around money.

For over 40 years, LEPOCO has worked to organize local opposition to the grip of greed, to honor people

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## EYO Touches Our Hearts

We were privileged to have had the Eyes Wide Open Across Pennsylvania (EYO) exhibit in the Lehigh Valley October 6-8. It gave us the opportunity to talk with so many people - to witness their sadness about the war in Iraq; their sadness about all war.

The 128 boots set up each day to represent the U.S. troops from Pennsylvania who have died in that war brought those 128 spirits to the places where the boots were gently placed each day. (The number has now grown to 136 dead from Pennsylvania.) Some visitors carefully read and looked at the photos, poems, newspaper clippings, notes and other mementos left in some of the boots by family and friends. Other visitors felt those mementos were too private for viewing.

The flow of visitors (probably over 500 total) was steady throughout the time that the exhibit was open at Packer Chapel at Lehigh University, on Payrow Plaza, near the Bethlehem Public Library, and on the Front Lawn of Muhlenberg College.

At the training for listeners held the night before the Lehigh University exhibit, we learned the importance of making the space of the exhibit welcoming to all who stopped by, whether they supported or opposed the war. Those who staffed the exhibit as "listeners" and other volunteers were privileged to talk with people we would never have met at public gatherings in opposition to the Iraq war. We all know the importance of those vigils and protests against the war, but Eyes Wide Open presented a very special and different kind of opportunity.

The training for listeners was led by Scilla and Paul Wahrhaftig from American Friends Service Committee in Pittsburgh. They travel the state with the exhibit and have had a very busy schedule in the month before the election.

During the Vietnam War there may have been more public and collective acknowledgement of our grief for those killed, as the horror was broadcast on television - the body bags holding dead troops and the burning of Vietnamese villages. EYO is one small opportunity to share our collective grief about the U.S. troops who are dying in Iraq ("needlessly," as so many visitors said) and our grief about the much greater loss of Iraqi civilian lives (over 50 times greater, as the exhibit explained) including tiny babies, old people, men and women. Since the exhibit, the latest Johns Hopkins study published by *Lancet* estimated that 650,000 Iraqi civilians have died in the war.

We heard many stories. One young college student, a member of the military reserves, returned from Iraq only five months ago and fears being called again with "three days" notice in the middle of his college career, to fight a war he does not support.

We heard expressions of thanks from Vietnam veterans for having the exhibit.

Many people shed tears for the lives lost, even though they knew no one in particular who had died.

A touching moment came on Sunday when family members of one of the local soldiers killed visited the exhibit and shared their grief standing around their relative's boots. They left mementos in the boots to travel with the exhibit around Pennsylvania and shared their frustration at not being able to learn the full story of how their loved one died. Scilla Wahrhaftig will facilitate their contact with other Gold Star Families.

It is always difficult to imagine the losses of Iraqi society. One of the information panels describes what life might be like in the U.S. if we were living under a comparable siege. ...3300 Americans had died in car bombings, grenade and rocket attacks, machine gun spray, and aerial bombardment last week... New York City has only four hours of electricity a day... Displaced by violence, about 16.5 million people have become internal refugees.

We are so grateful to Scilla and Paul for preparing this exhibit that helps educate the heart about the human cost of the Iraq war - any war. We are also grateful to the Chaplains Office at Muhlenberg College and at Lehigh University, to the other sponsoring groups at Lehigh, to the local media for coverage that allowed many more people to know about the exhibit, and to the dozens of volunteers who set up and staffed the exhibit, carefully organizing the boots, shoes and information signs. It was a blessed opportunity.

- Nancy C. Tate

## Renewable Energy Festival

Perhaps most people don't think Pennsylvania Dutch cooking, fresh Amish farm produce, and solar energy go together. This is probably only because they have not been to the Pennsylvania Alternative Energy and Sustainable Living Festival. Old meets new, simple meets high tech every year in Kempton for what I think is Pennsylvania's most exciting festival.

This year, the festival was held September 22-23. Although the weather was hardly ideal for an alternative energy festival (cloudy and raining off and on) it was a great day for meeting interesting people, eating good food and learning about renewable energy and sustainability. Free workshops ranged from Natural Gardening, to increasing your wind turbine capacity, to artisan cheese making. Those with a little more ambition could pre-register for a workshop, on things like making bio-diesel, and building a cob oven. If someone wasn't in the mood to commit to any one workshop in particular, he or she could peruse the farmers' market (with delicious fresh produce and baked goods) or the exhibition hall. Most of the stalls in the exhibition hall were renewable energy contractors--installing solar collectors, or selling bio-diesel-- and environmental organizations.

The only disadvantage of the festival is that while the Kempton Fairground provides lots of space and beautiful scenery, it is very difficult to get to. There is no public transportation (although this year Kutztown

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# The Struggle Shared

*The task is endless, it's true. But we are here to pursue it... We have not overcome our condition, and yet we know it better. We know that we live in a contradiction but we also know that we must refuse the contradiction, and do what is needed to reduce it. Our task is to find the few principles that will calm the infinite anguish of free souls. We must mend what has been torn apart, make justice imaginable again in a world so obviously unjust, give happiness a meaning once more to peoples poisoned by the misery of this century.*

- Albert Camus

*Lyrical & Critical Essays, 1968*

## NUCLEAR NORTH KOREA: A COMPENDIUM OF SENSIBLE

VIEWES - As we ride the final weeks into the 2006 election with Bush being desperately presidential, focusing the third and final spoke of his inaugural Axis of Evil in the crosshairs of his pugilistic foreign policy, I try to find sense in it all. My truth-seeking forays regarding the North Korean nuclear test steered me to some fruitful reading.

Jonathan Schell, commenting in *The Nation*, (10/30/06) reflects on the "shock waves from Kilju" as an aftershock of Hiroshima, that all the other meaningful events of these days, "all they mean, or will even mean, can, together with the whole human fabric, be brought to nothing in the flashlit voice of the apocalypse of which a forgetful world was reminded by the shock waves spreading out of Kilju."

There are dozens of insightful pieces on CommonDreams.org, including an article by Matthew Rothschild (*The Progressive*): "The coterie around Dick Cheney rejoices at the growing divide between North Korea and China, and the more aggressive military and foreign policy of Japan, and compromised efforts of South Korea to engage the North... An amplified North Korean threat works wonders on Capitol Hill, and with our allies to push missile defense, more military spending, and the like..."

The Friends Committee on National Legislation said in a release of October 9<sup>th</sup> that the North Korean government's decision to conduct a nuclear test explosion "is a predictable consequence of the failure of

the Bush administration to develop a comprehensive diplomatic strategy toward the Korean Peninsula. Ignoring the advice of analysts, former diplomats and experts on East Asia, the administration has chosen to pursue a policy of confrontation with North Korea that began with President Bush's use of the phrase 'Axis of Evil' in his first address to Congress."

Interested in learning about the response of the South Korean Peace Movement to the North Koreans joining the club of nuclear nations, I spoke with Alice Andrews, of the Asia Program for American Friends Service Committee. AFSC meets with and sponsors delegations of South Koreans in the U.S. and also takes delegations from here to the Korean Peninsula.

In the wake of the nuclear test, one group in particular, Women Making Peace, called for resolution of the confrontation through dialogue, not force, urging the South Korean government to become more proactive in promoting existing reconciliation projects, like the Mt. Kumgang Tourism project, that encourages South Koreans to visit relatives in the North, and is a boost to the North's economy. Similarly, the Kaesong Industrial Complex is an economic zone near the N. Korean Border, where many S. Korean firms have invested, and where both peoples can meet. There is hope in S. Korea that through such interfacing, N. Korea's paranoid and defensive government can be gradually weaned into the economic and geopolitical community of Southeast Asia, and the world.

Finally, members of the United Nations General Assembly's disarmament committee last week criticized the exclusive focus on North Korea. Delegates said that Pyongyang's announcement that it had conducted a nuclear test only underscored the urgent need for the nuclear powers to get behind the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

## SANTORUM "CRIMINALS"

PREPARE - Those arrested, detained and arraigned in September on charges of criminal and defiant trespass and criminal conspiracy for the nonviolent occupation of the Widener Building where Senator Rick Santorum's Philadelphia office is located (see October LEPOCO Newsletter article) have been meeting regularly to consider their defense before an initial hearing scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>.

The group of 14 decided to formally call themselves the "Philadelphia Declare Peace 14," at a meeting in October. They have consulted with attorney Paul Hetzmecker, who is advising them on legal possibilities. He will represent those who are not choosing to go *pro se*, representing themselves at trial.

According to Robert Daniels II, one of the 14, among the possibilities are being assigned, on the 21<sup>st</sup>, to Community Court, which would probably mean Community Service. They could also be heard in Municipal Court and placed on probation. They could be fined and/or sentenced to jail time.

The Declare Peace 14 plan a support demonstration at their hearing on the 21<sup>st</sup> (details to be announced). For more information, contact the Brandywine Peace Community at 610-544-1818 or see [www.brandywinepeace.com](http://www.brandywinepeace.com). You can also speak directly to Robert Daniels II, Tim Chadwick or Silvia Brandon Perez, all members of the Philadelphia Declare Peace 14.

- Jeff Vitelli

## Transforming September 11<sup>th</sup> & Ourselves

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*In Louisville, at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness...*

*Now I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all shining like the sun. ...There are no strangers! If only we could see each other that way all the time. There would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed...I suppose the big problem would be that we would fall down and worship each other. But this cannot be seen, only believed and 'understood' by a peculiar gift.*

- Thomas Merton,  
*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

It was amid the noisy bustle of downtown Louisville, Kentucky where Thomas Merton, Trappist monk and author, had his grand epiphany about the interconnectedness of all beings. It was there that he realized his 17 years as a monastic made him no more or less holy than anyone else and that living separate from the world did not free him from his responsibilities in the world. Merton's experience propelled him to become a prophetic voice in the social movements of his day.

In this spirit of transformation Executive Director of Interfaith Paths to Peace, Terry Taylor, and his spiritual advisor, Joe Grant, conceived the idea of the first Gandhi-Merton Pilgrimage for Peace and Nonviolence. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Abbey of Gethsemani, I along with 50 others from across North America began a 60-mile walk from Thomas Merton's hermitage to the corner of Fourth and Muhammad Ali (formerly Walnut, renamed to honor Louisville's most famous son). For four days we walked the Kentucky countryside, greeted by drivers, passersby, and even horses that ran the length of their fenced-in farms and whinnied as if to say, "Can we come too?" Their unbridled enthusiasm gave the walkers an emotional lift and spurred us on.

Local churches, schools, fire companies, meeting houses, and temples opened their doors to the walkers for food and shelter. In the evenings pilgrimage leaders Phil Cousineau (author, filmmaker, and close friend of Joseph Campbell and Huston Smith) and Father John Dear (Jesuit priest, author, and activist) gave talks in the communities hosting us. On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, both recalled their connection to New York City that day and how their lives were forever changed in the aftermath. John went on to remind us that the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2006 also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Mohandas K. Gandhi's first nonviolent campaign. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, "satyagraha" (pur-

suit of truth) was Gandhi's nonviolent response to the racial injustice of the culture he lived in. Phil spoke of the "art of pilgrimage" saying that, "All our journeys are rhapsodies on the theme of discovery." Not just this peace walk, but our entire lives can be sacred journeys of the soul.

The next day on the final rain-filled 16-mile leg of our journey we kept the examples of Merton and Gandhi in our hearts and meditated on how to incorporate their philosophies and practice into our own lives. As we went from a rural setting to an urban one I discovered myself swept into a quiet reflection on this symbolic journey that nourished the contemplative within and inspired the outside activist. It was a literal physical test that produced many blisters and sore muscles, but as Sister Pollard said with such profundity after the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott, "My feet is tired but my soul is rested."

For the last mile we were joined by 300 supporters who welcomed us to Louisville's Central Park with a standing ovation. Within view of the place of Merton's epiphany I recalled where I first received the "peculiar gift" Merton so eloquently wrote of. Amidst the crush of sweating bodies in the mosh pit of an Iggy Pop concert, I became conscious of my connection to all life. With deafening music churning the crowd, I found myself engaged in a struggle to simply stay standing. In the fight not to fall, I discovered that I wasn't alone; that we were all in this together, and that the only thing truly separating us from one another is the prison of this physical world. We are all pilgrims, we are all seekers. We all struggle, suffer, joy, and die.

Heavy revelations and light euphoria at a punk rock concert years ago. Perhaps an unlikely place for a "religious experience," perhaps not. In the shadow of a historic marker denoting the location where Thomas Merton's transforming vision revealed itself, some 350 individuals gathered and collectively took a vow of nonviolence. Our ambitious goal was to transform September 11<sup>th</sup> from a day of horror to a day of hope. In the process we found that we transformed ourselves. Pledging to continue the struggle towards a world of justice and peace, we pray that our long walk in Kentucky be a sure, steady step in that direction.

- Robert Daniels II

## Renewable Energy Festival

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(continued from page 4)

University ran a shuttle) and it is a pretty long bike ride from the Lehigh Valley. To make up for the automobile miles, the planners estimated the amount of people who would be coming, and took a portion of the admission fee for buying clean energy to offset the emissions.

- Peter Christine

Note: This article originally appeared in the *Bethlehem Regurgitator*. For more information about the festival you can go to [www.bethlehemregurgitator.bravehost.com](http://www.bethlehemregurgitator.bravehost.com) or [www.paenergyfest.com](http://www.paenergyfest.com)

# Bits & Pieces

☪ The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage will take place Sat., Dec. 9. Please see the enclosed flyer for more info.

☪ Angela Davis will speak at Lafayette College, in Colton Chapel, on Mon., Nov. 20, on the topic, "Reflecting on History: How Activism and Diversity Changed Higher Education." Free and open to the public. For more info. call 610-330-5233.

☪ First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Crest & Tilghman Sts., Allentown, is planning a discussion series on Latin America starting Sun., Nov. 19, and continuing for the three successive Sundays, each session starting at 9:45 am. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, missionaries will talk about Peru and the Heifer Project. On Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Joe DeRaymond and Janet Goloub will speak about Colombia. On Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, natives of Guatemala and El Salvador will talk about the SOA and living in Central America. On Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, Christopher Kovats-Bernat will talk about his work with street children in Haiti. For more info. call the church at 610-395-3781.

☪ The Unitarian Church, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, will hold a fair trade sale Sat. and Sun., Nov. 18 and 19. Included will be merchandise from Ten Thousand Villages and items from Haiti sold for the benefit of Partners in Health in Haiti.

☪ Hope Church, 1031 Flexor Ave., Allentown, will hold a Holiday Bazaar featuring fair trade items from A Greater Gift, formerly known as SERRV International, on Sun., Nov. 19, 11:30 am to 4 pm.

☪ Peace Action New Jersey will hold their annual conference Sun., Nov. 12, 1:30-5 pm, at the Friend Center for Engineering, Aud. 101, Princeton University. Featured

speakers include Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-California and primary sponsor of Smart Security Congressional Resolution; Dr. Randall Forsberg, director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies and initiator of the Nuclear Freeze Campaign in the 1980s; Ira Shorr, National Field Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility; Jeffrey Laurenti, Senior Fellow, Century Foundation; and Dr. Lisa Schirch, Professor of Peacebuilding, eastern Mennonite Univ. and expert on alternative security. To register call 609-924-5022.

☪ The play, "My Name is Rachel Corrie," currently playing at the off-Broadway Minetta Lane Theatre,

opened in early October and has had its run extended until the end of December. The play is based on the life of Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old activist from Olympia, Wash., who died when struck by an Israeli bulldozer in Gaza in March 2003 while trying to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian home. For more info. see [www.reachelswords.org](http://www.reachelswords.org).

## Step Up!

(continued from page 3)

over profits, and for a domestic and foreign policy built on mutual respect and compassion, rather than fear and loathing.

LEPOCO doesn't need tons of money, but it does need money. The annual phonathon, currently in progress and going to early December, is LEPOCO's biggest fundraiser. When you get the call, please donate or pledge as generously as possible. Whether you can afford one dollar or a thousand, you can be sure each dollar will be put to maximum good use, keeping our local voice for peace and justice heard, in the halls of power and the homes of the people.

- Mike Lawton

### Weekly Peace Vigils

Bethlehem: 4-5:30 pm,  
Thursdays, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte Sts.  
Vince Stravino 610-216-8103

Allentown: Noon-1 pm,  
Fridays, 5<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Sts,  
"Impeach Bush"  
"U.S. Out of Iraq Now!"  
Rev. John Clint Fowler, 610-746-5013

Allentown: 4-6 pm,  
Fridays, 15<sup>th</sup> & Allen Sts.  
Contact: Carol 610-262-4644

Easton: 10-11 am,  
Saturdays, Centre Square  
Contact: Reggie Regrut, 908-859-5632  
*Please attend as often as you are able!*

### MEETINGS...MEETINGS...MEETINGS...MEETINGS...

Sun., Nov. 12, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearse at home of Tim Hatcher-Morgan, Bethlehem.

Mon., Nov. 13, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at Peace Center. All members and friends welcome!

Tues., Nov. 28, 6 pm: Nuclear Abolition Sisters Meeting at Olive Branch Restaurant, south Bethlehem.

Wed., Nov. 29, 7 pm: Peace Camp Planning Meeting at Peace Center.

Thurs., Nov. 30, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sun., Dec. 3, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearse at home of Marcie Lightwood, Bethlehem.

Mon., Dec. 4, 8:30 am: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Mon., Dec. 4, 7 pm: LEPOCO Steering Committee Meeting at Peace Center.

Wed., Dec. 6, 7 pm: Youth & anti-Militarism Meeting, Lehigh University Humanities Center, 224 W. Packer Ave., south Bethlehem.

Thurs., Dec. 7, 7 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at Peace Center.



**LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

(610) 691-8730

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Bits & Pieces

**Perpetual War for Peace?**

**What Can We Do To End One War & Prevent Another?**

Tour for a Just Foreign Policy in Iraq & Iran

**Saturday, November 11**

**1:30 pm**

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley

424 Center St., Bethlehem

**Photo Exhibit opens at 1:00 pm**

See page 1 for more information

**Presente!**

**Close the SOA**

**&**

**Change**

**U.S. Foreign Policy**

**Converge on**

**Ft. Benning, Georgia**

**November 17-19**

See page 2 for more info.

**Resistance Unarmed**

Exhibition Lecture:

**Renata Rendon**

**Friday, November 10, 7 pm**

Room 303, University Center

Lehigh University, Bethlehem

See page 3 for more information

