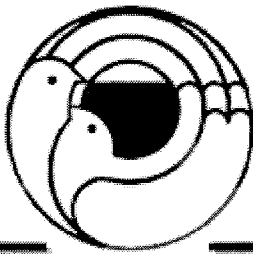


October-November
2008

Vol. 43 No. 6



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

Freddy Caicedo Speaking on Colombia "Free" Trade

As economic systems are in crisis in the U.S. and around the world, what better time to further examine the free trade agreements that are part of the globalization model benefiting multinational corporations at the expense of workers, farmers, the environment. Freddy Caicedo, a fair trade activist and leader from Valle de Cauca, Colombia, will help us do just that on Saturday, October 18th, at a potluck dinner (6 pm) and program (7 pm) at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse on Rt. 512 in Bethlehem, about 1/2 mile north of Rt. 22 (less than a 1/4 mile north of the turn to Wegman's). Freddy Caicedo is on a tour of the Mid-Atlantic states, October 6-25, speaking about the controversial U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. The tour theme says the agreement is "Not Free, Not Trade, Not an Agreement."

Caicedo will speak from his years of experience as a human rights investigator, educator, and organizer. He has exposed the extermination of Afro-Colombian and indigenous groups through the Association for Investigation and Social Action (NOMADESC), and has documented crimes against humanity with Colombia's "Never Again" project. Caicedo also runs the Tiberio Mafla Memory Gallery, a community center that commemorates the victims of Colombia's civil war. He has worked at great personal risk to build awareness of the trade agreement in Colombia's war zones. He has a degree in economics and is trained as an organizer with the Christian base communities.

The fate of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement remains unknown. In April, President Bush introduced the legislation to Congress. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi soon thereafter removed a deadline for a vote, delaying a decision indefinitely. Many representatives, Democrats especially, have opposed the agreement on the grounds that Colombia has not done enough to curb targeted assassinations of labor unionists.

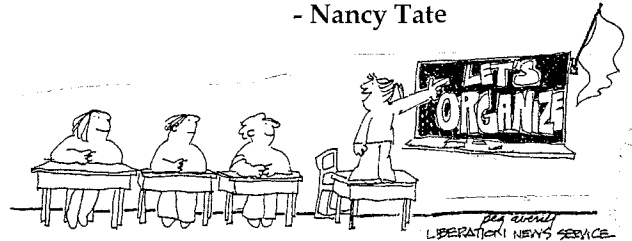
The Bethlehem talk has been organized by the Americas Solidarity Group of LEPOCO. Freddy Caicedo will also be in the area earlier on Saturday, October 18th, at 10 am, for a Breakfast Potluck & Talk at Peace Menno-nite Church, 104 Main St. (Rt. 29), East Greenville. Call 610-367-8786 for more information. For those who are unable to attend an evening talk that day and for those who live somewhat south of the Lehigh Valley this is another good opportunity to hear Freddy's presentation.

Witness for Peace, the national group sponsoring the tour began its work in Nicaragua in the 1980s. They

now have offices in Washington, DC, Colombia, Mexico and Nicaragua. WFP works to change U.S. policies and corporate practices that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin American and the Caribbean. LEPOCO members have joined many Witness For Peace delegations to Latin America since and including the founding delegation to Nicaragua. A WFP staffer will provide Spanish to English translation at the talk.

Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner and join in this important program on October 18.

- Nancy Tate



Build Your Own School

The Association of Students Advocating Peace (ASAP) will be presenting a new workshop this fall. A take-off on the five-year-old annual Youth Peacemaker Training, the Build Your Own School Workshop is geared towards teaching high-schoolers how to organize in their community and schools to create change. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th, between 9 am and 3 pm, at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse on Rt. 512 in Bethlehem, about 1/2 mile north of Rt. 22. Participants will get the opportunity to design their own schools, then, role-playing different community demographic groups, work out a plan that meets everyone's needs. The day will also include a community organizing exercise and a free vegan lunch. Karen Dolan, Bethlehem City Councilmember and Liberty High School teacher will speak about community organizing. Contact LEPOCO (610-691-8730 or lepoco@fast.net) for more information or to RSVP.

ASAP is a young organization, struggling to get established. Basically the group forms the Youth contingent of LEPOCO, but the relationship between the two groups is somewhat difficult to discern. So far busy schedules and a high turnover rate have made it difficult to form a cohesive group, but by holding more training events, as well as fun events (like the Pizza and Movie Night, featuring "Sir! No Sir!" at LEPOCO, September 18th) we hope to attract more high-schoolers and take on larger projects, like counter recruiting or protests. Check out the ASAP website: www.lepoco.pb.wiki.com.

- Peter Christine

Solidarity with the Americas—

Hurricanes Hit Cuba & Haiti, Also

Cuba is known for its successful care for people when hurricanes hit. While their efforts protected people again this year, there was still some very serious damage from this summer's hurricanes, especially Ike that hit the island September 7. *Reuters* reports that 200,000 homes were damaged, 30,000 destroyed, including older buildings that collapsed in Havana. Humanitarian aid for hurricane victims can be directed through Pastors For Peace, c/o Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), 418 W. 145th St., New York, NY 10031. Pastors for Peace organizes regular caravans of aid to Cuba, defying the U.S. embargo.

The Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti wrote on September 13th, "Haiti is a victim of geography and topography, where hurricanes often blow in over the mountains pushing dirt down from deforested hills to create the rivers of mud that have given us many sickening images in recent days." Four hurricanes/tropical storms (Fay, Gustave, Hannah, Ike) struck Haiti in a three week period. Hundreds were killed and perhaps a million people were left homeless. You can make a donation to assist Haitian hurricane refugees to Haiti Reborn, Hurricane 2008, PO Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782. Haiti Reborn is a program of the Quixote Center, an organization with which LEPOCO has worked over a number of years.

If you would like to join others in LEPOCO in sending a group donation for hurricane relief in Cuba and Haiti you can send a check to LEPOCO, before the end of October, and we will send half of the funds collected to each of the efforts listed above.

Seeking Human Rights for Immigrants

Members of the Americas Solidarity Group and others will carry their concern about human rights for immigrants to Bethlehem City Council during the "courtesy of the floor" period on Tuesday, October 21. Especially if you live in Bethlehem, your presence and/or your words of support would be welcomed. The "LEPOCO Statement on the Protection of the Rights of Immigrants and the Links to U.S. Economic and Military Policy: May 2008" was published in a recent issue of this newsletter. And is available on-line in Spanish and English at the LEPOCO website's media page.

Crisis In Bolivia

An open letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice coordinated by the Alliance for Responsible Trade (based at the Quixote Center) will appear in Bolivian newspapers in mid-October. It spells out well the current crisis in that country and the dangerous role the U.S. appears to have played so far. The letter reads in part:

...Following the August 10, 2008 Referendum, where more than 67% of the population reaffirmed support for the Morales government, dissident prefects in Bolivia's "media luna" provinces stepped up efforts to disrupt and destabilize the country. A campaign of violence against people and property in provinces controlled by these

prefects resulted in at least 16 dead, mostly poor indigenous and farmers, many wounded and millions of dollars in economic damage.

In response to these events, President Evo Morales expelled U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg, who has close ties with opposition groups and is suspected by many in Bolivia of helping to organize leadership and provide funding to them with the intent of undermining the government. His meetings with opposition prefects days before the recent outbreaks of violence only helped to solidify those suspicions.

Leaders of the Union of South American Nations called an emergency meeting in Chile (9/15/08) where they declared their full support for the Morales government and his call for a dialogue process with the opposition. Even President Uribe of Colombia, the United States' closest regional ally signed the joint statement. The leaders drew parallels between the current crisis in Bolivia and the U.S. orchestrated overthrow of democratically elected Salvador Allende in Chile.

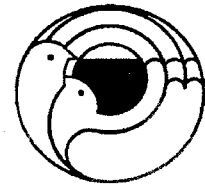
It is time for the U.S. State Department to respect the fact that democratic process in Bolivia has led to the election of a leader who has the well-being of the poor and indigenous majority as a first priority...

LEPOCO's Americas Solidarity Group sent a similar letter to Rep. Charles Dent asking him "to urge the State Department and the White House to reduce tensions and negotiate a diplomatic solution with the government and people of Bolivia, represented by Evo Morales."

In another related effort, Don MacRae of Bethlehem, will be joining the Witness For Peace delegation to
(continued on page 8)

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern
313 West Fourth Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
phone: 610-691-8730
fax: 610-691-8904
website: www.lepoco.org
e-mail: lepoco@fast.net



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

Annual dues are:

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

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

Newsletter Staff: robert Daniels II, Bob Riggs, Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Jeff Vitelli.

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

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Addison Bross, Peter Christine, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Nils Hovik, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Mimi Lang, Michelle Mecham, Janet Ney (co-treasurer), Sue Ravitz, Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

Popcorn & Politics

Friday, November 7th, 7 pm: Taxi to the Dark Side

Popcorn & Politics: A *First Friday Film* projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center. Director Alex Gibney (*Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*, *Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson*) presents an in-depth look at the torture practices of the United States in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantánamo Bay, focusing on an innocent taxi driver from Afghanistan who was tortured and killed in 2002. Academy Award winner for Best Documentary (Feature) in 2008. 106 minutes. 2007. Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, December 5th, 7 pm: Body of War

Popcorn & Politics: A *First Friday Film* projected on the big screen at the LEPOCO Peace Center. Set against the backdrop of the U.S. government's handling of the invasion of Iraq this acclaimed documentary tells the very personal story of Tomas Young, an injured Army veteran returning home from the war. Written and co-directed by Phil Donahue and Ellen Spiro, with original music by Eddie Vedder. 87 minutes. 2007. Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



Military Resister To Speak in Lehigh Valley

Camilo Mejia grew up in Nicaragua and Costa Rica before moving to the United States in 1994. He joined the military at age nineteen, serving as an infantryman in the active-duty Army for three years before transferring to the Florida National Guard.

Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia became the face of the antiwar movement in early 2004 when he applied for a discharge from the National Guard as a conscientious objector. After five months of frontline combat in Iraq, he became the first American soldier to refuse to fight, citing moral concerns about the war and occupation. His principled stand helped to rally the growing opposition to the war and embolden his fellow soldiers. Although his CO case remains open to this day, Mejia was charged with desertion and served almost nine months in jail after his conviction in a military trial.

From his upbringing in Central America and his experiences as a working-class immigrant, to his service in Iraq up to his imprisonment, Camilo tells his story in his recently published memoir, *Road from ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia*.

Camilo is currently the Board Chairman of Iraq Veterans Against the War. He is one of the authors currently participating in a national speaking tour, RESISTING EMPIRE, sponsored by Haymarket Books, and co-sponsored by AlterNet, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Nation Books.

You can hear Camilo Mejia speak on Monday evening, November 10th, at 7 pm, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem. The event is being co-hosted by: Lehigh Valley Veterans for Peace and Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern. There will be a free-will offering to help cover expenses. Contact LEPOCO or Louise Legun at 484-553-9476, for more information.

- Louise Legun

Raed Jarrar will speak locally again on Friday, October 24, at 1 pm, on "The Mutual Interests of Iraqi and American People," in the Atrium of the Penn State University, Lehigh Valley campus, 8380 Mohr Lane, Fogelsville. (Jarrar spoke at Lehigh University and the Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethlehem, in October 2007.)

Raed Jarrar is an Iraqi political analyst and consultant to American Friends Service Committee, currently based in Washington, DC. Born in Baghdad, he has spent most of his life in Iraq. After the invasion of Iraq in 2003, he was the country director for CIVIC Worldwide, the only door-to-door casualty survey group in post-war Iraq. He established Emaar, a grassroots organization that provided humanitarian and political aid to Iraqi internally displaced persons.

Jarrar moved to the U.S. in 2005 and has continued to work on a number of Iraq-related projects. He writes for *Foreign Policy in Focus* and *AlterNet* and maintains *Raed in the Middle*, a web-log with analysis of current Iraqi political conditions.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the University Relations Office at 610-285-5067.



Veterans For Peace Local Report

While the organization seems to have experienced a relative lull in its activities through the summer, all has not been quiescent. An ongoing effort has been "t-shirt embedding" where members and friends assemble at various public venues and walk among the people there gathered wearing white on black shirts with "Stop the War" printed on the front and "4000+ U.S. Military Deaths" on the back. (See photo in the June-July LEPOCO Newsletter.) On July 4th about twenty-five people participated in such an event at the Liberty Bell Shrine in Allentown. Further embeddings took place at the Promenade Shops July 26th and at the Philadelphia Eagles practice session August 4th.

August 8th several members were present in the free speech zone of Musikfest handing out 400 leaflets in 45 minutes and encountering a mostly favorable response.

Members of the group gathered at 7th & Hamilton Sts., Allentown, for Constitution Day, September 17th. They passed out leaflets and talked with passersby regarding current constitutional issues and concerns.

Veterans For Peace has also been involved in presenting a half-hour program on radio station, WDIY, a local NPR affiliate. At the end of July, Louise Legun interviewed Rev. George Harpel, a VFP member and Vietnam veteran. September 24th, Louise Legun and Bernie Berg held a telephone interview with Matthis Chiroux, an Army journalist from 2002 to 2008 and Iraq war veteran. A future program is planned for November after the election with, hopefully, more to follow.

- Paul Fichter

Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation") is located. Scott Ritter noted the U.S. has recently been violating Iranian air space with measures which include the use of drone aircraft. Should the Iranians do the equivalent, i.e. fly an aircraft into U.S. air space from Mexico, our government would immediately take military action. In addition to the speakers, various workshops were scheduled which covered such topics as Agent Orange, depleted uranium, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Most of the Iraq Veterans Against the War were put up in a motel about three blocks from the one where my wife, Ellen Bell, and I stayed. It was reported, to our dismay that many extra St. Paul "riot control" police paraded around their motel and through their hallways in blatant fashion to intimidate the Iraq war veterans. Most likely some of those same police were later on the scene when independent media people, including Amy Goodman of "Democracy Now," were arrested at the Republican National Convention. The corporate media in the twin cities area was mum about anything that suggested violations of civil liberties by the heavily armed police. Fox News, of course, gave a spin to everything to justify the heavy-handedness by the police.

- Philip Reiss, VP of Lehigh Valley VFP Chapter 152



Veterans Call for Citizens Arrest

Mounting a large banner that said, "Defend Our Constitution/Arrest Bush & Cheney: War Criminals," five Veterans for Peace activists including VFP president Elliott Adams of New York and Ellen Barfield of Baltimore (Ellen has spoken in the Lehigh Valley on at least two occasions about her travels in Iraq), occupied a high ledge at the National Archives in Washington, DC, early in the morning on September 23. They fasted and maintained their highly visible location on Constitution Ave. for 24 hours. They were not arrested and their supporters contacted the press and distributed a "Citizens' Warrant" which said in part that the oath they swore as former members of the military compels them to issue warrants for the arrest of George W. Bush and Richard Cheney for crimes including, "the illegal occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and other war crimes including torture and use of internationally prohibited weapons such as depleted uranium" that "violate the Geneva Conventions of 1949, thereby further violating the supreme law of our land." For more information on this creative action see www.veteransforpeace.org.



VFP Annual Convention 2008

Veterans For Peace held its annual convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, the week before the Republican Party gathered there for its convention. (In 2009 VFP will hold its convention in the Washington, DC, area.) Attendees included VFP members, at least 40 members of Iraq Veterans Against the War and people affiliated with Military Families Speak Out and Gold Star Families for Peace. The total attendance was 415. The three major VFP chapters in Minnesota did a fantastic job organizing the convention.

Speakers included Fr. Roy Bourgeois, founder of School of Americas Watch; Scott Ritter, former U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq (who spoke in the Lehigh Valley in 2006); James Yee, former U.S. Army Muslim chaplain who administered to the detainees at Guantánamo; and Kathy Kelly who now heads Voices for Creative Non-violence (who spoke at LEPOCO's dinner in 2007).

Father Roy expressed gratitude to all members of Veterans For Peace who participate every November in the demonstration outside Ft. Benning, Georgia, where the School of the Americas (in 2001 renamed the "Western

Check out the
LEPOCO website
at www.lepoco.org

for a regularly updated Calendar of Events,
Newsletter Archive, Videos, and More.

Close the SOA: Nov. 19-21

On the weekend of November 19-21 thousands of people will gather at the gates of Ft. Benning, in Columbus, Georgia, to protest and call to justice the Western Hemisphere Institute of Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), formerly the School of the Americas (SOA). This event has been held on this weekend every year since 1990 to commemorate the massacre committed by the Atlacatl Battalion at the University of Central America (UCA) in San Salvador that took the lives of eight Salvadoran civilians: six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her 16-year-old daughter, on November 16, 1989. Nineteen of the 26 Salvadoran army officers who were leading this battalion were trained at the SOA.

Last year, 25,000 people gathered at the gates to demand justice and accountability for this crime and for the thousands of assassinations and massacres that have been carried out by graduates of the SOA/WHINSEC. Further, we protest and resist the policies of assassination, torture and military repression that are facilitated by SOA/WHINSEC graduates.

The Bush/Cheney administration has pursued policies of torture, kidnapping, illegal detention and illegal wars of aggression. These are crimes against humanity that violate international and domestic law. At the gates of Ft. Benning, citizens call for accountability. We recognize that the crimes committed by SOA/WHINSEC graduates have facilitated the outrages that are occurring around the world.

You can join us for this productive and inspiring weekend. Besides the large gatherings of protest at the gates of Ft. Benning, there will be an impressive number of workshops, concerts and other cultural events throughout the weekend. Contact LEPOCO (610-691-8730 or lepoco@fast.net) if you want more information about getting to Ft. Benning, and check out the SOA Watch website at www.soaw.org for legislative action on closing the school and information about the events of the weekend. Our legislators, Representatives Dent and Murphy, and Senators Specter and Casey, have not been supportive of closing this school of terror and need to hear from us.

- Joe DeRaymond, who served three months in federal prison for "crossing the line" in protest at Ft. Benning in 2005.

Youth and Militarism Report

I never realized how difficult this job could be when I first took the position of Youth and Militarism Coordinator. A friend of mine once equated a difficult task with "herding cats" -- a cheerful, frustrating endeavor, virtually impossible. And so it goes with trying to pin down guidance counselors, assistant principals, and other school staff in pursuit of a precious date on which I can set up a table during high school students' lunch periods with literature on alternatives to military service, ASAP events, and the highly coveted neon LEPOCO pencils and peace sign stickers.

I got the job toward the end of the 2007-2008 school year and failed to get into one of the schools we'd been doing for years before the summer break. I'm happy to report that we're now back in all the schools we've regularly visited in the past (Easton Area, Freedom, Liberty, and Philipsburg High Schools), were enthusiastically received at the Salisbury High School open house, and are actively pursuing leads on other schools to visit.

Though largely ignored, I think our presence is vital. That we may be there to plant a few seeds of peace, and possibly steer a student or two away from compromised decisions makes the date chase worth it.

- robert Daniels II

John Dear Speaking at Lafayette

How does a "spoiled, wealthy frat boy" go from beer-chugging contests at Duke University to the priesthood, peace activism, and over 75 arrests in the name of nonviolent resistance? You'll have the opportunity to get that answer and more on November 17, at 7 pm, in Lafayette College's Oechsle Lecture Hall, Easton, when John Dear, S.J. makes a stop on his national tour promoting his recently released auto-biography, *A Persistent Peace: One Man's Struggle for a Nonviolent World*.

The talk is free and open to the public. Directions can be found on the enclosed postcard or by contacting LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 or lepoco@fast.net. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event or in advance through LEPOCO.

- robert Daniels II

A Lot of Work To Do

You can read another important analysis, "U.S. Militarism & Global Tensions Rise Together," by Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies, written on September 17th, on the United for Peace & Justice website, www.unitedforpeace.org. Just two paragraphs from that analysis follow:

"The conventions showed us something very important. They demonstrated, to any who still doubt it, why we need a powerful, independent peace and justice movement. Not because the two parties, or the four candidates are all the same. They're not. There are huge differences among them. None represent our views, but some are far more reckless and dangerous to our rights and to the lives of people around the world. And precisely to respond to those enormous differences we need a peace and justice movement strong enough to maintain its independence and flexible enough to answer the very diverse challenges each of them poses.

"We need to continue our focus on educating and deepening not only the activist anti-war movement, but our hard-won anti-war majority, all in the context of urging on-going electoral activism. We have to work now even as we prepare for the post-election and post inauguration periods - because we know, whoever wins, four more years of protest, mobilization, and political pressure will be required."

Pura Vida* in Costa Rica

... Support the efforts for peace in our region, instead of the forces of war. Send us not swords but ploughshares, not spears but pruning hooks. If for your own purposes, you cannot refrain from amassing the weapons of war, then, in the name of god, at least leave us in peace.

- Oscar Arias Sánchez, President of Costa Rica (1986-1990 & 2006-present), Acceptance Speech on the occasion of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, 12/10/87.

The first hint that i'd possibly reached the Promised Land came in the Juan Santamaría International Airport while waiting in the customs/immigration line. A television overhead displayed a rather cheerful video portraying the beautiful and diverse flora and fauna of the Republic of Costa Rica. It showed a series of birds: parrot, toucan, a few hummingbirds, and a quetzal (the national bird). On-screen came the words: "Air Force." Next came scenes of aquatic life: dolphins, sea turtles, a giant humpback whale. "Navy." The words dissolved away, slowly replaced by, "Costa Rica....a Peaceful Country."

"What strange place is this!?" Not only does Costa Rica not have a standing army (considered "a threat to democracy," the military was abolished in 1948 after a bloody 44-day civil war), but they're proud of the fact. This refreshing thinking would take some getting used to on my all-too-brief visit to this pacific nation.

Taken as a "get away from it all" vacation, this trip wasn't entirely without a peace and justice context. Traveling the diverse countryside i couldn't help but learn about the country's conservation efforts. Over 23% of the national territory is protected. This allows for the greatest density of species in the world.

The lush Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve was started by a group of Quakers who left the United States after a few had served time in prison for resisting the peacetime draft between WW II and the Korean War. To the north are waterfalls, lakes, and the active Arenal volcano. In a clever effort to limit development, town councils have voted against paving roads accessing the towns. This may make for a bumpier bus ride, but also a more visually pleasing journey free of fast food restaurants and strip malls.

That's not to say that development isn't taking place. All around are uneasy signs of the encroachment of outside influence. Coca-Cola is available wherever Pepsi isn't, and Century 21 will happily guide you to some soon-to-be cleared land upon which to retire. Tourism is the number one money-maker for Costa Rica and thus forces a tricky balance between catering to travelers and maintaining the land's integrity.

A quick jaunt through San Jose reveals that this capital city has all the problems of any modern metropolis. In spite of hosting the Museum of Peace, crimes can happen in this Otherwise Eden. Perhaps i was in denial when i fled the urban areas for more remote stretches, going so far as to travel to a coastal town acces-

sible only by canal boat -- clear Caribbean waters, clean beaches, and egg-laying turtles.

I guess it's necessary to occasionally forget about the cares of the world and soak up a bit of paradise to fortify oneself mentally and spiritually for the struggle upon return. For one's sanity an activist occasionally has to relax. But if one has found paradise, isn't it insane to leave?

-robert Daniels II

* "Pura Vida," literally "Pure Life," is a phrase commonly used by Costa Ricans to express a philosophy of strong community, perseverance, good spirits, enjoying life slowly, and celebrating good fortune, whether small or large.

P&P Held on Iran

LEPOCO was fortunate to have Faramarz Farbod, a Moravian College professor, as a speaker at a Potluck & Politics program on September 14th. He enlightened us on many aspects of the troubled U.S.-Iranian relations. Iran was his birthplace.

In 1980 the U.S. public wondered why the Iranians hated us during the hostage standoff at the U.S. embassy there. The U.S. public is largely unaware that in 1953 the U.S. and Britain overthrew the democratically elected President Mossadegh, because he had nationalized Iran's oil industry in order to use the profits to help alleviate poverty in his country. The western powers installed the Shah Pahlavi who ruled Iran for 25 years and who became a brutal dictator. The Shah stifled secular opposition groups thus paving the way for the Islamists. Press releases given to the U.S. media described the Shah as a modern, enlightened ruler masking the real truth. Ayatollah Khomeini, exiled to Paris, returned in triumph after the Shah's removal.

There have been three occasions for the Bush administration to improve U.S.-Iranian relations since 2001. First Iran supported the invasion of Afghanistan because they were opposed to the Taliban. Second was the arrest of Saddam Hussein who invaded Iran in 1980 and the third was the two-and-a-half year pause in the uranium enrichment program from 2003-2005. The Bush Administration maintained a hostile attitude throughout so Iran gave up trying to improve relations.

Other information the professor gave was that the purpose of Hezbollah and Hamas is to protect the Lebanese Shiites and the Palestinians. They are not linked to Al Qaeda. Also, Iran's government is divided, with the elected president and parliament sometimes at odds with the Islamic Council of Guardians. Outside threats enhance the power of the Islamists who cite the need for strength and discipline. The Bush Administration is not really interested in promoting democracy, only controlling events in Iran and its resources.

This talk was very interesting because the corporate media seldom give other sides to controversies.

- John R. Zachmann

Nuclear Nugget

The U.S. government is threatening to use Russia's military action against Georgia as an excuse to halt talks with Russia over nuclear weapons disarmament. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), a successor to Cold War era arms-reduction agreements, expires at the end of 2009. It restricts the number of long-range nuclear weapons allowed on either side, and talks on its renewal were scheduled to begin this month.

That renewal of this treaty is in anyway delayed is completely unacceptable. In fact, instead of coming together to work seriously towards nuclear disarmament, both the U.S. and Russia are ratcheting up tensions, nuclear and otherwise, with tough talk backed by plans to build "designer" nuclear weapons and modernize their current nuclear arsenals. In addition, the U.S. remains committed to placing a missile defense system in Eastern Europe despite the overwhelming opposition of citizens there.

U.S. citizens need to speak up to oppose U.S. nuclear weapons expansion and intrigue. We need to demand that the U.S. fully commit to nuclear disarmament. An immediate first mini-step would be to allow the START treaty process with Russia to go forward. Will we ever tire of allowing our elected leaders to wage war? Will we ever be brave enough to demand that they stop building and exporting weaponry that can only serve to bring us and this beautiful planet to the brink?

- Maria Weick

Small Victory on Iran Legislation

Falling from shoo-in status to widely rejected legislation within the space of four months, a resolution that would have opened the door for a naval blockade on Iraq was officially shelved at the end of September, after several of its cosponsors withdrew their support. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Howard Berman has promised not to bring the bill, House Concurrent Resolution 362, before the committee until concerns about the text are addressed.

Voter Purges Studied

On October 1 the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law released one of the first systematic examinations of voter purging. After a detailed study of the purge practices of 12 states, including Pennsylvania, "Voter Purges" reveals that election officials across the country are routinely striking millions of voters from rolls through a process that is shrouded in secrecy, prone to error, and vulnerable to manipulation. Upon the release of "Voter Purges," the Brennan Center and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law began filing public records requests with election officials in 12 states in order to expose the purges that happened this year.

"Voter Purges" finds four problematic practices that continue to threaten voters in 2008: purges rely on error-ridden lists; voters are purged secretly and without notice; bad "matching" criteria mean that thousands of eligible voters will be caught up in purges; and insufficient oversight leaves voters vulnerable to erroneous or manipulated purges. Wendy Weiser of the Brennan Center said, "Nearly every purge that has come to light has bumped eligible voters off the rolls." For more information see: www.brennancenter.org/purges.



How About a Surge in Diplomacy? —

Kelly Campbell of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows wrote on October 7th: "Seven years ago today we held a memorial service for my brother-in-law in his hometown of Anamosa, Iowa, four weeks after he was killed at the Pentagon on 9/11. As I walked out the door from the service, I glanced at the television and saw ominous green flashes on the dark screen. My heart sank. That day, I realized, the day we started bombing Afghanistan, was another family's 9/11, a day when something fell out of the sky and crushed their innocent loved ones whose only crime was to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. Only this time, it was my own government, not al-Qaeda, that had decided that the loss of these lives in Afghanistan was justified, in the name of a greater good."

She continues, "Seven years later, the violence has only increased... Civilian casualties by U.S. and NATO forces have sparked little-reported protests led by students, tribal leaders and ordinary people across the country. Polling data now indicates a majority of Afghans want U.S. troops to leave their country..."

"Instead of a surge in the war...how about a surge in diplomacy, humanitarian aid and support for grassroots democratic forces in Afghanistan... There is no military solution in Afghanistan... We should drastically revamp our humanitarian aid to assure that it goes to projects identified by Afghans as crucial and supports the local economy by employing local workers, not high-priced foreign contractors."

The use of air power in Afghanistan is growing, raising risks for civilians, University of New Hampshire professor Marc W. Herold says in research released on October 7. "Air strikes are 4-10 times as deadly for Afghan civilians as are ground attacks," he says.

Statistics compiled by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan indicate that nearly 1500 civilians were killed in the first eight months of 2008, a 30 percent increase over the same period in 2007.

United For Peace & Justice urges us to call the campaign offices of both Senator McCain and Senator Obama and tell them we want a surge in diplomacy, not an expansion of a deadly, costly war in Afghanistan: Obama Campaign 866-675-2008; McCain Campaign 703-418-2008.

Solidarity with the Americas —

Crisis In Bolivia

(continued from page 2)

Bolivia, November 11-21, "A New Beginning: Bolivia Returns to Indigenous Rule." There may still be room for others to join this delegation. For more information contact Ben Beachy of WFP at 202-403-1752.

Grassroots Leaders Face Violence in Colombia

While U.S. dollars flow to Colombian army officials who collaborate with groups on the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations; women, workers, indigenous communities, campesinos, youth, and human rights defenders in Colombia are being assassinated, threatened and targeted for the brave work they do.

The October 2nd Fellowship of Reconciliation Colombia Update (see www.forcolombia.org) mentioned several specific examples: Olga Marina Vergara, a feminist and peace leader in Peaceful Path of Women, was assassinated along with members of her family in Medellín; sugarcane workers have been victims of a violent crack down; a Nasa indigenous leader was killed; a member of a rural community that resists the expansion of palm oil plantations was threatened, abducted and held at gunpoint, and conscientious objectors in Barrancabermeja received a written death threat. In light of so many cases of paramilitary threat FOR urges us to oppose the State Department's July 29th certification of human rights conditions in Colombia by contacting congressional leaders urging them to maintain a freeze on the military aid funds for Colombia.

The final person FOR mentioned was Héctor Mondragón, a Colombian activist and economist, who spoke in the Lehigh Valley in 2001. On August 29th, *El Tiempo*, Colombia's national newspaper claimed that an e-mail to Héctor Mondragón was found on the laptop of FARC guerrilla leader Raul Reyes, who was killed by the Colombian government in March 2008. A statement from the Christian Mennonite Church of Colombia said in part, "...the Colombian Mennonite Church rejects any attempt to link one of our members - and in this particular case Héctor H. Mondragón - to any armed group or any violent practice or to slander his/her name, as we all know, also is extremely dangerous for the life and security of any person in this context." Héctor Mondragón, himself, closed a statement, "On My Choice for Civil Resistance," as follows:

Today, I still carry wounds from the torture that I suffered in 1977 and also from 20 years of being threatened with death, pursued by the paramilitaries. Sometimes I lose hope, especially when I know that some of my friends have been killed. I ask myself why continue in this struggle with indigenous people and peasants, why not give up. But then I am struck again with the passion for the people I love and the certainty that they deserve lives with dignity, and solidarity. They failed to kill my body but today they are threatening to kill my words, and

I feel it like a re-opening of my old wounds. But the word is a seed and it grows, whatever happens, in the peasant on the land, in an indigenous person in her territory. In Afro-Colombians returning to their communities, in those who live in the popular neighborhoods of the cities who eat better after the agrarian reform that we will win, in every working family that will get a just wage for work, there the word will live. They won't be able to kill it.

Ecuador Approves Rights of Nature

On September 28, 2008, by an overwhelming margin, the people of Ecuador voted for a new constitution that is the first in the world to recognize legally enforceable Rights of Nature, or ecosystem rights. Article 1 of the new "Rights for Nature" chapter of the Ecuador constitution reads: "Nature or Pachamama, where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution. Every person, people, community or nationality, will be able to demand the recognition of rights for nature before the public bodies."

Source: Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, a public interest law firm in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, that specializes in building a body of law focused on establishing Rights of Nature. See www.celdf.org.

NAFTA Debated in Local Newspaper

In *The Morning Call's* new "Pro-Con" commentary section, Mark Weisbrot of the Center for Economic & Policy Research in Washington, DC, argued on October 5, that NAFTA should be renegotiated.

"...NAFTA has helped perpetuate the downward pressure on wages that have made the United States a much more unequal society over the last three decades.

"...NAFTA does not appear to have helped Mexico either, where growth since it was implemented in 1994 has been sluggish, wages stagnant and hundreds of thousands of families displaced from farming as they were forced to compete with U.S. agriculture."

Accompany Elections in El Salvador

As Salvadorans see hope in a new presidential candidate, well-known independent television journalist, Mauricio Funes, CIS (Center for Exchange & Solidarity), an organization in El Salvador promoting people-to-people links to build democratic reforms and human rights, is sponsoring their 8th International Election Observer Mission to El Salvador for the 2009 elections. The delegation needs participants who can join in for one or both of the election periods - January 12-20 for legislative assembly and municipal elections, and March 9-17, for the presidential election. The cost to participate, beyond airfare, is less than \$1000. Joe DeRaymond, who has worked with CIS for many years, will be working with them on these delegations. Please contact him at 610-419-4656, if you would like more information or can consider joining one of these important delegations.

The Struggle Shared

*Sowing the seed, my hand is one with the earth.
Wanting the seed to grow, my mind is one with the light.
Hoeing the crop, my hands are one with the rain.
Having cared for the plants, my mind is one with the air.
Hungry and trusting, my mind is one with the earth.
Eating the fruit, my body is one with the earth.*

- Wendell Berry, *Prayers and Sayings of the Mad Farmer*

GROWING THE SOLUTIONS -

The 2008 Pennsylvania Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Festival was a glowing picture of a 21st Century village on the weekend of September 19-21. As in the past four years, the weekend was presented by the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association, at the Community Center, in Kempton, Pennsylvania, and featured 75 lectures, and over a hundred exhibitors on solar/wind/bio conversion, sustainable living, organic gardening, green building, and alternative transportation. There were an increased number of fest-goers over previous years: over 8000 visitors in the three days. They were attracted to the array of crafts booths demonstrating efficient production of utilitarian goods out of local materials, fashion shows of functional clothing made from organic and fair trade materials, a wealth of information about efficient home heating units, converting your car to electric, or planning a home funeral.

The Lehigh Valley Vegetarians, promoted the planetary benefits of plant-based eating, illustrating, for instance, that the production of one calorie of beef consumes 54 calories of feed, suggesting the single most significant step a consumer could take to reduce their carbon footprint would be to convert to a vegetarian diet. They signed on over 100 new members.

Perhaps the only blemish on the otherwise idyllic picture was the presence of PPL. Were they promoting their Berwick Nuclear Power Plant as safe, sustainable energy? I doubt that. Their ad, printed in the festival's program brochure, simply says "You can

save. Now's the time. Saving energy is important, but it doesn't have to mean big sacrifices. Simple steps can make a difference. Don't know where to start? Let us help."

Come to think of it, maybe PPL's promise to raise utility rates by as much as 30% in the next year is part of what drove 8000 people to seek out information about alternative energy at the Festival. So, maybe we should thank them for providing the incentive to learn?

JOIN THE FOOD COOP There is more good news for "locatarians." People committed to lowering their carbon imprint by consuming food that is grown close to home, organically and sustainably. There is a group of such souls forming a Lehigh Valley Food Coop.

Since early this year, they have incorporated as a cooperative, have been signing up members and investors, finding farmers with produce to market, and looking for a storefront or warehouse from which they can distribute to multiple sites in the valley on a weekly basis.

Currently there are 50 members who pay \$150 per family (can be paid in monthly installments) and contribute 2-4 work-hours per month in exchange for healthy dry goods, and a growing supply of fresh locally grown produce.

The Coop is holding a membership meeting on Thursday, October 16, at 6:30 pm, at the Rodale Office Bldg., 15 North 5th Street, Emmaus. There are a number of decisions which the board of directors would like to make with input from members. You are invited to come out to the meeting and join the Coop.

To learn more, visit [\[valleyfoodcoop.com\]\(http://valleyfoodcoop.com\), or call Sheri Kramer at 610-965-61998.](http://www.lehigh</p></div><div data-bbox=)

RETREATS FOR VETERANS -

With each passing month the horror stories of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and their struggles to get help impress on me the impact of the veritable tsunami of Post Traumatic Stress, with which the Veteran's Administration is apparently ill-equipped to deal. (See "The Struggle Shared" of March, 2007.)

Even as these young vets are coming home, I'm hearing vets from the Vietnam era speaking out about their unhealed wounds from 40 years ago.

The bucolic setting of Kirkridge, straddling the Appalachian Trail outside of Bangor, Pennsylvania, will be a safe haven for empowerment, camaraderie, mutual support, and community building for some of these veterans at two weekend retreats over the next few months, in a program called "Journey to Wholeness."

December 12-14, under the theme "War: Trauma or Transformation," Tracy Allysson, a clinical psychologist who works with veterans, will help participants move through the next steps in their healing, relating their stories from emotional and spiritual depths.

March 5-8, 2009, a "Creating a Culture of Peace" weekend will tap into the power of nonviolence and help participating vets become agents for personal and social change. This workshop will be led by Thomas Brinson and Tim Pluta, both veterans and national Creating a Culture of Peace facilitators.

There is a sliding scale charge for these weekends, based on income, starting at \$50 for those earning less than \$15,000 a year. Contributions from non-veterans are also welcome to help defray the costs for veterans who wish to attend the programs, but can't afford to pay. For more information, see www.kirkridge.org, or call Janet Chisholm at 610-599-4606.

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

☪ From one of the weekly vigils comes the report of a **faithful vigil**er who said that his "Bring Our Troops Home Now!" sign was met with a unique response. Standing on his usual corner he, who requests anonymity, heard repeated shouts of "thank you" until finally he turned around and faced the young man passing by in the pick-up truck, who repeated one last time "Thank you!!!", before adding "I'm home!!!"

☪ The McCain-Palin Campaign came to Lehigh's Stabler Arena Oct. 8. Unfortunately there were some pretty hateful statements made inside the arena, but there were **people outside** on street corners and in the "protest pen," some organized by Vince Stravino, with signs calling for an end to the war in Iraq.

Some local peace activists joined in the **Million Doors for Peace** Campaign on Sept. 20, joining thousands across the U.S. in a grassroots/netroots effort, knocking on 40 doors in their neighborhood to find and mobilize the neighbors against the war in Iraq.

☪ Thank you: to David Rose, Susie Ravitz and Peter Christine who staffed a LEPOCO information table at **Lehigh University's Community Fair** on August 25; to Lee & Ellen Buck, Art & Hilda Landis, Becky Felton, and Tom Stinnett who staffed a LEPOCO table at the **Quaker Peace Fair** on Sept. 20, in Buckingham at the Friends Meeting (what a beautiful fall day with good music, good food and good will); to Martin Boksenbaum who made sure LEPOCO literature was available at the Alliance for Sustainable Communities table at the Pennsylvania Renewable Energy Festival, Sept. 19-21; and to the LEPOCO Peace Singers who performed amidst street traffic at the beautiful community Maze Garden for south Bethlehem's First Friday, Oct. 3.

☪ The jury trial of **Tim Chadwick, Art Landis** and others who participated in the "Ghosts of the Iraq War" action in the U.S. Senate on March 12, has been postponed. A new date has not been set. Please see earlier issues of the newsletter for information on this courageous, creative action.

10 LEPOCO Newsletter/October-November 2008

☪ Over 50 LEPOCO members and friends made donations of goods and goodies, and volunteered for the **LEPOCO Yard Sale** on Sept. 27. Thank you to the Community Action Committee for the use of the Forte Bldg. Community Room and to the South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center for the use of their clothing racks. We grossed around \$980, a needed financial boost when funds are low, but we need new energy and new volunteers if this intense effort is to continue next year.

☪ About 50 people attended the **LEPOCO Peace Picnic** on Sept. 6, gathering in the shelter of the L.V. Friends Meetinghouse while remnants of Hurricane Hanna dropped buckets of rain outside. Games, music, good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all and over \$200 was raised for LEPOCO's work.

☪ Some of Judith Joy Ross's wonderful photographs in her **Living With War Portraits** were on display at the Pace/MacGill Gallery in New York City, Sept. 4-Oct. 11. Some local folks are among those photographed and some of the photographed and others from the Lehigh Valley attended the opening reception for the exhibit on Sept. 10. Judith Ross has also been busy traveling to Europe for programs during an exhibit of her works (including some from the "Protest the War" series) that is touring Germany. The little red book of her photographs, "Protest the War," is available from online bookstores.

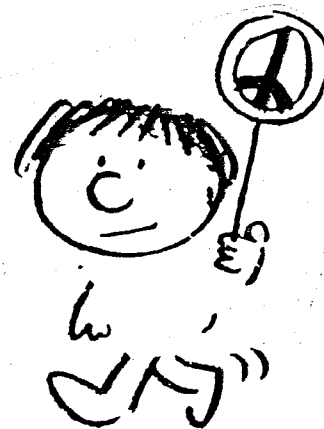
☪ Peter Crownfield, Calvin Smiley and Maria Weick attended a regional training for **anti-death penalty activists** on Oct. 4 in Reading. The training was organized by Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

☪ The Peace & Justice Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Allentown, held Prayer Vigil for Peace in observance of the **International Day of Peace** on Sept. 21. Thank you to Sheila Clever, who organized a variety of musicians and speakers on many peace topics for the three-hour vigil.

☪ Adrian Shanker, a Muhlenberg College student and recipient of a 2008 Allentown Human Relations Award, was the lead organizer for the **Rally Against Hate Crimes** on the 10th Anniversary of the Murder of Matthew Shepard, Oct. 12, at Muhlenberg's Egner Chapel. Political leaders, music groups and relatives of Matthew Shepard were all part of the program.

☪ *Health, Money & Fear* by Dr. Paul Hochfeld and *Collateral Damage: Bad Medicine in Tennessee* by Julie Winokur, are the films being shown by the **SouthSide Film Institute** on Thurs., Oct. 16, at the Deja Brew Coffee House, 101 W. 4th St., south Bethlehem. The first film is the story of an experienced emergency room physician and other medical professionals exposing the health care system that values profits above efficient, quality health care. The second film reveals the terrible results when a governor decided to "reform" Medicaid by terminating over 150,000 beneficiaries in 2005. Doors open at 6:45 pm, and film screening begins at 7:15 pm. Call 610-882-4300 for more info.

☪ Would like to help get **LEPOCO Newsletters** distributed at your favorite coffee shop, library, or other public location? Please call 610-691-8730 if you can help with this effort.



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.

Bits & Pieces

October 11-16, LaOnf (which means "nonviolence" in Arabic), a network of over 100 Iraqi organizations that are committed to using nonviolence to end the occupation, sectarian fighting and corruption that are destroying Iraq, is holding their third annual Week of Non-violence Action all across their country. You can sign a statement of support for LaOnf at www.peacefultomorrows.org.

You will find enclosed with this newsletter a flyer about the Annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage which will be held Sat., Dec. 13.

Dr. Manning Marable will speak on "The Politics of Race, Classism, and Racism," at Moravian College (Prosser Aud.), Bethlehem, on Mon., Oct. 20, at 7 pm. Marable is the professor of Public Affairs, Political Science, History and African-American Studies at Columbia University.

"Cuba: Camp Adentro," an exhibit featuring photographs of rural Cuban farm life will be on display at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown until Jan. 4, 2009. Susan S. Bank's black-and-white photographs depict tobacco farmers, their families and a rural landscape in the province of Pinar del Rio. For more info. call 215-340-9800 or see www.michenerartmuseum.org.

Coalition for Peace Action in Princeton, NJ, will hold their annual Conference for Peace, "Re-Imagining a Peaceful U.S. Foreign Policy," Sun., Nov. 16, 1:30 pm, at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. Speakers will include Phil Donahue, Cora Weiss of the Hague Appeal for Peace, Gillian Sorensen of the UN Foundation, and David Cortright of the Fourth Freedom Forum. Cost: \$40. For more info. see www.peacecoalition.org or call 609-924-5022.

Members of the United Steelworkers Local 2599 and friends held the first Labor Day Parade in Bethlehem in 50 years on Sept. 1, to tell the region that despite their smaller numbers, the steelworkers union is alive and well.

"By a nice coincidence...the financial rescue package of \$700 billion duplicates a number that was also in the news last week - the Pentagon budget. In the fiscal year just beginning, the Defense Department will spend \$607 billion on normal military costs, and an additional \$100 billion on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan..."

"Step back. All of last week's hand-wringing hoopla over the emergency bailout stands in stark contrast to the utter indifference with which politicians approved an equivalent layout for the military..."

The quote by James Carroll (*The Boston Globe*, 10/6/08) is just one way of noticing the relationship between the current financial crisis and our work for peace and justice. The ramifications are too many to address in this already very-full newsletter.

There have been many alternatives suggested by William Greider, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Ralph Nader, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Naomi Klein, Public Citizen, Chris Hedges, and American Friends Service Committee. Two excellent sources for information have been *The Nation* and www.commondreams.org.

If you would like to join with others in LEPOCO to study, to reflect, to lend support, to discuss and possibly plan for action regarding this crisis please contact the office at 610-691-8730. Some have requested a group discussion. Your suggestions and input would be welcome.

United for Peace & Justice will hold their 4th National Assembly, Dec. 12-14, at the Wyndham O'Hare Hotel outside Chicago. If you would be interested in attending for LEPOCO, please contact the office.

Special holiday bazaars: Hope UCC, 1031 Flexer Ave., Allentown, will hold their SERRV International Holiday Bazaar, selling fair trade crafts, on Sun., Nov. 23, 11:30 am-3 pm; and the Friends & Family Craft Fair featuring "green crafts," will be Sat., Nov. 8, 10 am-3 pm, at L.V. Friends Meeting.

Channel 39 will air an "Independent Lens" program about the Chicago Seven trial on Wed., Oct. 22, at 9 pm.

Chuck Fager, a counselor in North Carolina of soldiers about their rights and responsibilities toward resisting war, will be speaking locally Oct. 28-30. Please consult LEPOCO's website and e-mail updates for further news about when and where he will speak.

Kirkridge Retreat & Study Center will feature a weekend retreat, "Love Force: The Peacemaker's Way," with Richard Deats and Ralph and Christine Dull, Oct. 31-Nov. 2. Cost \$310. See www.kirkridge.org for more info.



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

Wed., October 15, 7 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sun., October 26, 4-6 pm: Peace Singers rehearse at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem.

Mon., October 27, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Monday, November 10: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting canceled due to Camilo Mejia talk (see page 3).

Tues., November 11, 10 am: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wed., November 12, 6 pm: Nuclear Abolition Sisters meeting at the Olive Branch Restaurant, south Bethlehem.

Thursdays, November 13 & December 11, 7 pm: Lehigh Valley Veterans for Peace meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sun., November 16 & Fri., December 5, 7 pm: Peace Singers rehearse at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem.

Monday, December 8, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the Peace Center. All members and friends are welcome.

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 want to know the next meeting of the Fundraising Committee, the Americas Solidarity Group or the Association of Students Advocating Peace (ASAP), please call the Peace Center at 610-691-8730.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

610-691-8730

lepoco@fast.net

Fax: 610-691-8904

www.lepoco.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 617
Bethlehem, PA

See Inside:

Page 1

Colombia Speaker
ASAP Workshop

Page 2

Americas Solidarity

Page 3

Popcorn & Politics
Camilo Mejia

Raed Jarrar

Page 4

Veterans For Peace

Page 5

Close the SOA
Youth & Militarism
Fr. John Dear

Page 6

Costa Rica

Iran

Page 7

Nuclear Nugget
The World in Crisis

Page 8

Americas Solidarity

Page 9

Struggle Shared

Page 10-11

Bits & Pieces

Weekly Peace Vigils

The fall election season: what better time to have a regular witness for peace on local street corners.

Will you be there?

Bethlehem: 4-5 pm, 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 Clint Fowler 610-746-5013

4-6 pm, Fridays

PA National Guard Armory, 15th & Allen Sts.

Contact: Allentown Armory Activists

Easton: 10-11 am, Saturdays

Centre Square

Contact: Reggie Regrut 908-859-5632

Please attend as often as you are able!

Camilo Mejia

Monday, November 10, 7 pm

Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem

(see page 3)

Build Your Own School Workshop

Saturday, October 18

9 am-3 pm

Sponsored by ASAP

(see page 1)

Freddy Caicedo

Colombia Free Trade Agreement:

**Not Free, Not Trade,
Not an Agreement**

Saturday, October 18

6 pm: Potluck Dinner

7 pm: Talk

L.V. Friends Meetinghouse

(see page 1)