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2012

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Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

Know Drones

The organization KnowDrones will be in our area September 20-22, to promote public action to stop the United States use of weaponized unmanned planes (drones). This technology has been increasingly used in recent years to kill suspected terrorists, but at the same time many innocent civilians have been killed. KnowDrones will offer information and educational material on the US drone program. They usually travel with a replica of a drone.

Most of the hundreds of drone strikes have been in Pakistan, without their O.K. The drones have also been used in other countries such as Yemen. Figures of innocent civilians killed are sketchy and hard to get, but they range into the thousands. All the statistics involved with the drones are mostly unavailable. Our government has been escalating the number of drone strikes and they have killed many alleged militant terrorists, but with a tool that is neither legal, moral or ethical. The "wardrones" do away with any thought for civil liberties or due process.

The selection of targets is a secret process that some claim extends to the White House. This shadowy group obviously believes they have the right to be judge, jury and executioner.

Some estimates put the number of drones in operation at 7000 and growing quickly. Other nations also have the drones and this would also be an effective weapon for terrorists. Some of these are used for valuable non-military purposes, but most are the "wardrones." The majority are the one-half ton Predator drone that fires a 100-pound hellfire missile. The newer Reaper drone is much bigger and faster, and carries larger missiles.

The air force is already switching some squadrons to the drone technology. The Hancock Air Base in Syracuse, NY, has now replaced all their planes with the MA9 Reaper unmanned combat aircraft.

The KnowDrone Tour will be in our area September 20-22. Plans for their visit are still being completed. The specifics that we know are in the box at the right.

- Terry Briscoe

Peace Caravan Crossing US

The Caravan for Peace with Justice & Dignity left San Diego, California, August 12. Led by victims of Mexico's US-backed drug war, the Caravan will have visited over 25 US cities as it travels to Washington, DC, for closing events on September 10-12.

The Caravan is organized by Javier Sicilia, the renowned Mexican poet whose son was murdered in Mexico's drug violence in 2011. Since the death of his son Sicilia has led two Caravans of Consolation inside Mexico and a 200,000 person march for an end to the drug war violence into Mexico City. He sees the US Caravan as alerting citizens of this country to the human suffering behind the statistics.

Among those statistics: more than 60,000 people have been killed in drug war violence in Mexico since 2006. The US government has poured over \$1.6 billion into bankrolling the 50,000 troops and federal police activated in that war. At the same time, criminal organizations in Mexico obtain many of their high-powered military arms in the US. The flow of drugs has not been stopped and innocent Mexicans are still dying.

Members of LEPOCO's Americas Solidarity Group will travel to Washington, DC, on Wednesday, September 12, to join the closing events for the Peace Caravan. (Please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 if you would like to join this day-long trip.)

For more information see www.caravanforpeace.org (this includes information on stops in New York City and Baltimore) and www.forusa.org (see the blog by John Lindsay-Poland). Also we have a new booklet from FOR on the drug war, "Blown Away - The War on Drugs: Feedback from the Front Line," available at LEPOCO for a \$2 donation.

- Nancy C. Tate

KnowDrones Tour - September 20-22

Public Invited: Please participate as much as you can.
(Please contact LEPOCO for more specifics as they are available.)

Thursday, September 20

1 - 3 pm - Public Outreach

4 pm - Presentation at Lehigh University

Friday, September 21

10 - 1 pm - Plans are underway for Public Outreach & a presentation at a local college

3 - 5:30 pm - Public Outreach, City Center Plaza Church St. (between Library & City Hall, Bethlehem)

6:30 pm - Presentation at LEPOCO Potluck & Politics L.V. Friends Meeting

Rt. 512 (1/2 mile north of Rt. 22), Bethlehem
Please bring food to share for potluck dinner at 6:30 pm, with presentation around 7:15 pm.

Saturday, September 22

10:30 am - 4 pm - Quaker Peace Fair
Buckingham Friends Meeting, Lahaska (near New Hope)

Peace Camp 2012: A Reflection —

Peace Camp this year was a lovely affair as usual. My time as a co-leader of Yellow Group with Chris Klump was soul-nourishing and heart-warming, as expected. Co-leading was a first for me, but "Mr. Klump," as the campers called him, was a fantastic mentor who showed me the ropes and smoothed my transition. It was incredible working with him. This year's kids were a real joy to be with, of course. Actually, I have followed this particular group of kids throughout the past few summers: I was co-leader for them this year, but also a teen helper for them for the past two years. It's been quite a blast to watch them grow and mature through the years. As their personalities are defined, as I see them more, I feel a deeper connection to these children. It makes leading them that much more meaningful.

This year's camp structure was also nicely set up, with a "theme word" each day. They were, in no particular order, Respect, Justice, Culture, Leadership, and (of course) Peace. The themes were a great help in organizing how each day would be scheduled. It was also nice to fit the specials in with each day's word — it made them more meaningful, I think, and more connected to the flow of the day, as opposed to simply a delightful change of pace.

I'd like to take a moment here to thank all of the wonderful people who lead the specials of Singing, Games, Nature, International Dance, Yoga, Bee Keeping: you keep camp alive, and I cannot thank you enough for lending your passion to the camp every year.

Peace Camp 2012 ended with love and laughter; now all there is to do is wait and plan for next year, and let the excitement grow. — Angela Root

Occupy News —

The one year anniversary of Occupy Wall Street (OWS) is on September 17th. Though the May Day marches in New York and the Occupy National Gathering in Philly failed to garner the headlines of last year, the events did provide reassurance that the movement is not dead yet.

As evidence, OWS invites you, the 99%, to New York's Financial District, September 15-17, for an extended weekend of actions against economic injustice. Visit www.s17nyc.org for a specific listing of events. Call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 if you are interested in carpooling to NYC.

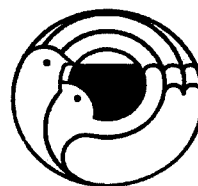
If you cannot make it to New York that weekend there is a local Occupy activity to participate in. September 16-17, there will be a march to Senator Pat Toomey's office in Allentown. Organized by Occupy Monsanto, an offshoot of OWS, the march will bring attention to Monsanto's poisoning of the planet with genetically modified foods and weed and insect killers. On Sunday, walkers will gather at 11 am, at the Bethlehem Public Library (on Church St.). The following day the march

will begin at Trout Creek Park (S. 8th St. & Park Rd.), Allentown, also at 11 am. Contact Xiomara Liceaga at 484-866-6304 for details.

Finally, Occupy Easton has been busy in the wake of the arrest of one of their own, David Gorczyński. "Nature Dave" was arrested on August 6th, when he took his regular protest of Wells Fargo and Bank of America off the sidewalks and into the bank lobbies. His two signs, "Give a man a gun, he can rob a bank. Give a man a bank, he can rob a country," and, "You're being robbed," caused muted hysteria. Silent alarms were tripped and bank managers gave Dave stern requests to vacate. He quietly obliged. Nonetheless Easton police took Dave into custody. He was charged with attempted bank robbery, terroristic threats, and disorderly conduct. The bank robbery charges were dropped, but the other charges stand for Dave's October court date.

The arrest was front page news locally and garnered attention worldwide, in stories on "Russia Today," a mention in "Rolling Stone," folk songs on YouTube and the apt headline on Phawker.com, "Plutocracy Now: Keystone Cops Arrest Easton Man For Pointing Out Banker Robbery In Progress." Occupy Easton has since organized several solidarity actions, including a protest outside Bank of America on August 25th which was joined by LEPOCO folk, and the Lehigh Valley chapter of the Industrial Workers of the World. Occupy Easton is co-planning an event for October which will, in part, be a fundraiser for Nature Dave's legal fees.

- robert Daniels II



Newsletter of LEPOCO

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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, Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Jeff Vitelli.

Thanks to all the people who collate and prepare the newsletter for mailing each month.

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Sarah Andrew, Terry Briscoe, Addison Bross, Sheila Clever, robert Daniels II (ex-officio), Janet Goloub, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Janet Ney, Kelly Quain, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio).

Popcorn/Potluck & Politics

Friday, September 7th, 2012, 7 pm

"Sing Your Song"

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

Hoping to inspire a new generation of activists, entertainer Harry Belafonte allows intimate access to his life to document his many decades as a performer and as a tireless advocate for human rights around the world. As a supporter of Martin Luther King Jr., and the victim of racism during his tours of the southern United States, Belafonte was deeply committed to social change in the U.S. and later worked to end apartheid in South Africa.

Directed by Susanne Rostock. 103 minutes. 2011.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, September 30th, 2012, 6 pm

Bud Courtney: "Heartbreak & Hope in Iraq"

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Bud Courtney lives at the Catholic Worker's Maryhouse in New York City. The mission of Catholic Worker Movement is to "live a simple lifestyle in community, serve the poor, and resist war and social injustice." For past three years he has also been a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), an organization of peace workers serving in conflict areas around the world. With CPT he has traveled to Palestine once and to Iraq twice, where he spent three months each visit.

He plans to return to Iraq in November. His talk will be accompanied by photographs.

Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6 pm.

The presentation and discussion should begin around 6:45 pm.

Friday, October 5th, 2012, 7pm

"Falsos Positivos"

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

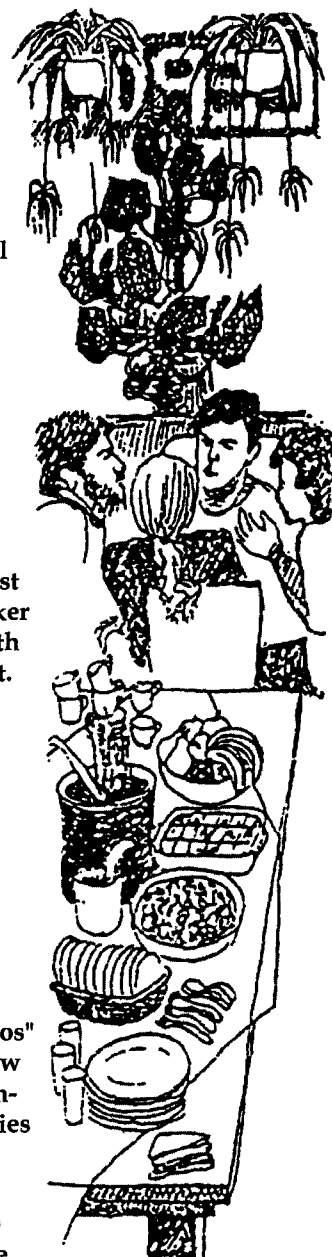
with Sarah Snider speaking on her trip to Colombia

Following the journey of two families to recover the remains of their loved ones, "Falsos Positivos" (False Positives) takes a close look at the scandal that exploded in Colombia in 2008, revealing how the Colombian Army started to kill innocent people. Lured by money prizes given by the then-President Uribe's policy called "Seguridad Democratica," the Colombian Army dressed the bodies in military fatigues to claim the rewards for the fight against the FARC guerrillas.

Directed by Simone Bruno and Dado Carillo. 55 minutes. 2009.

This special screening will be followed by a report from area activist Sarah Snider who traveled again to Colombia in July and August of this year. As on her previous trips she visited the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. (See related report on page 6.)

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



Book Group

The First Tuesday Book Group will meet next on October 2nd, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. The group will discuss *Scoop*, by Evelyn Waugh. One member of the group says this selection will leave the reader "amused instead of heart-broken." In the 1938 book, *Scoop*, surreptitiously dubbed "a newspaper adventure," Waugh flays Fleet Street and the social pastimes of its war correspondents as he tells how William Boot became the star of British super-journalism and how, leaving part of his shirt in the claws of the lovely Katchen, he returned from S\Ishmaelia to London as

the "Daily's Beast's" most accoladed overseas reporter. To learn more about the book group and learn about future reading selections, please call Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

"A Death Row Innocent - Executed"

a talk by Rev. Joseph B. Ingle

Wednesday, September 12, 4:10 pm

Sinclair Aud., Lehigh University

Ingle's new book, *Inferno: A Southern Morality Tale*, is about Philip Workman, a man who, after 26 years on Tennessee's death row, was executed despite overwhelming evidence that he did not murder the man he was convicted of killing.

Peace Camp 2012



1



3



2



5



1) Dan Hunter, a camp resource person, leads members of the Purple Group in a circle dance.
 2) Campers in the Yellow Group play with puppets they created during a craft activity.
 3) The Red Group share friendly time outdoors.
 4) Green Group campers enjoy morning snacks.
 5) Teen helpers are cheered on by Rose Group campers during a lively line dance.
 6) Teen helper, Omeed Farbod, and boys in the Blue Group pose for a photo.
 7) Carol Voorhees and Behnam Farbod helped prepare tasty snacks for the campers.



4



Photos by Susie Ravitz.



6



7



Remembering Tom Lloyd



Tom Lloyd a beloved member of LEPOCO, died on July 9, 2012. He was, in essence, a LEPOCO Grandfather for many of us. Just like any Grandfather, he reminded us of our purpose, chided us for our failings and generally tried to keep our focus on the incredibly difficult task of peacemaking to which he devoted his life, especially in his retirement years. There was no task too mundane for Tom's commitment. He set up the LEPOCO table at endless events, helped with packing and transporting, folded newsletters, cooked soup, chaired various LEPOCO interest groups, sat on the Steering Committee, took fundraising seriously, and he attended most LEPOCO discussions and programs.

He and his wife, Barbara, were members of the 150-person inaugural Witness For Peace Delegation to the war zone in Nicaragua in the 1980s and they "adopted" their Salvadoran son, Oscar Calix, as a family member, protecting him from that decade's wars. Tom's professional work as a chemist led him to educate lay-activists about the science of their environmental concerns. He was a member of the Lehigh Valley chapter of Veterans For Peace.

Tom was an unwavering and stalwart supporter of peace. In his 90th year he was honored for his work by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship ("How Blessed Are the Peacemaker Chemists") and by LEPOCO. At his 90th birthday party (August 2011), held as a LEPOCO fundraiser, people told touching stories of their memories of Tom. Those of us who were in attendance share the joyful knowledge that we had the opportunity to honor Tom while he was able to enjoy the honor. He sat at the party rather quietly with his half-cocked smile and twinkling eyes ever attentive to the testaments to his life's work. He continued to offer his presence and support to peace activities, in spite of his failing health.

Tom was feisty, sparkling, faithful, authentic, dedicated, opinionated, smart, funny, and brimming over with indignation at the constant affronts to justice in the world. His joy in life was founded in his faithfulness to his belief in God, to his wife of almost 60 years, Barbara, (who died in 2003), to his loving family, in his dedication to peace and justice and in recent years to the companionship of his kind friend, Fran Dreisbach.

One of Tom's greatest hopes was to establish a Department of Peace in the federal government. He worked for years in contacting congress people to influence them to usher the idea into life. Not surprisingly, the eagle of the federal government has not yet been able to befriend the dove of peace to establish a department dedicated to peace.

We are telling Tom stories at LEPOCO so his inspiration continues to guide our work. We miss our Grandfather and remember him with love.

A moving memorial service was held for Tom on August 25, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity,

attended by family, friends, corporate and academic colleagues, and many fellow peace and environmental activists.

- Mimi Lang

Veterans For Peace News —

VFP to Hold Special Dinner October 21st

The Lehigh Valley and the Berks County Chapters of Veterans For Peace (VFP) will be cosponsoring a fundraising dinner/speaker at the Tipton American Legion Hall, 133 Centre Ave., Tipton. This event, open to the public, is to be held Sunday, October 21st, with dinner commencing at 5 pm and the talk at 6:30 pm. Cost for the evening is \$20.00, with any net monies to be applied toward VFP activities and assistance to veterans in need.

Speaker for the occasion will be Thomas Drake; a decorated United States Air Force and Navy veteran, software expert, linguist, management and leadership specialist, and whistleblower. Following his military service he went to work for the National Security Agency (NSA) becoming a senior executive within the organization. With the passage of time Mr. Drake came to believe that the NSA had instituted a program which sacrificed Americans' security and privacy, and involved massive waste. He attempted to disclose his concerns through appropriate channels but was rewarded with government criminal prosecution. Prior to taking the case to trial the Department of Justice dropped all felony charges against him, substituting one misdemeanor count of "exceeding authorized use of a computer." Mr. Drake has since resigned from the NSA, continuing his advocacy of greater openness in governmental intelligence gathering practices, and more respect for citizens' right to privacy and constitutional guarantees of personal freedom including those espoused in the Fourth Amendment.

For further information, directions, or reservations contact Louise Legun or Judy Woodruff at 484-248-6113.

VFP Memorial Day Observance

On May 28th the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans For Peace held its third consecutive Memorial Day Observance at Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. As has been the case in previous years, the display consisted primarily of grave stone representations; each bearing the name of a Pennsylvania service person killed in Iraq or Afghanistan. While light, attendance was steady through the day including several Afghan and Iraq veterans, as well as a Gold Star family. Appreciation is expressed for the presence of numerous friends from LEPOCO who joined the gathering. At day's end "Taps" was sung by those present.

- Paul Fichter

Peace Community Turns 15

2012 marks a double anniversary for the peace community of San José de Apartadó, 15 years of the community itself, and 10 years of accompaniment by the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). 15 years ago a small group of people in the northern mountainous region of Urabá in Colombia decided to resist the armed forces surrounding and terrorizing them. For many years campesinos and indigenous people in Colombia had been forced off their lands, lands often protected by the Colombian constitution. The 40-year civil war in Colombia had displaced hundreds of thousands of people, driving them into unemployment and poverty in the cities, this, the context of the resistance.

Three armed factions, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC/guerrillas), paramilitaries, and the Colombian Army, all still participate in the mass displacement of Colombians within their own country. Urabá is a land rich in fertility and minerals, as well as being strategically important as the connection point between Central America and South America. Millions of acres in the region have been confiscated or bought up by the armed factions and private and corporate interests. A recent publication from FOR, "What's Land Got to Do with It,"* makes the connection between the land acquisitions and the global economy, which usually seems to ignore the needs and rights of local populations.

The people forming the Peace Community came from different places. Often they were themselves displaced. They realized they did not want to live in cities nor did they want their lands confiscated, and they did want to live back on the land. The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó was proposed by church activists, the Diocese of Apartadó holding workshops through which the peasants could declare themselves neutral, and in 1997 around 500 people signed a declaration.

The Community is governed by a series of principles: to not participate directly or indirectly in the hostilities, to not carry weapons or explosives, to not offer support to any of the sides in the conflict, to abstain from helping the armed factions solve internal, personal or family problems, and to promise to participate in community works. They also prohibit alcohol or drugs. A sign outside La Unión, one of the villages that make up the Community, states this to anyone approaching.

Threats and killings have increased or decreased over the years, but never ceased. The Government has been approached repeatedly by domestic and international human rights groups, and found guilty of not protecting its citizens by international courts. Over the years, over 200 people in the Community have been killed. The Community perseveres.

Some peace communities in Colombia have asked for international help, and San José is one. In addition to other international participation, since 2002 FOR has

sent four to six people each year, usually two or three at a time for six-month tours as accompaniers. Instead of residents going outside the community on their own, accompaniers go with them, and their presence has



successfully protected the people. The international concern for human rights seems to remind the armed factions that they are being watched.

LEPOCO's Joe DeRaymond went to Colombia twice as an accompanier in San José de Apartadó, and is the motivation for LEPOCO's special interest in the Peace Community. I went to Colombia in 2004 as part of an FOR delegation, and one of my hopes was to learn how the Community perseveres under the constant pressure of killings and death threats. From a Community statement made after a brutal massacre of eight in 2005, "In spite of all the acts of terror, lies, baseless prosecutions, deaths, violations, crop destruction and threats, we are full of hope. ...many people believe in our new humanity ...they walk with us every day." And in another statement, "As long as there is international solidarity, the Peace Community will continue."

- Janet Goloub

*The booklet, "What's Land Got To Do With It? Colombia: Answers to the Questions You've Always Wanted to Ask," is available at the LEPOCO Peace Center for a donation of \$2.

Editor's Note: You can learn more about the Peace Community at www.forusa.org. You can make a donation to FOR's accompaniment work with the Peace Community (always needed and much appreciated), on-line at www.imforfor.org or by mail to Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, with a memo note about the intent.

On Friday, October 5, you are invited to view a short film, "Falsos Positivos," about Colombia, and hear Sarah Snider speak about her participation in the July 21-August 4, FOR delegation to Colombia, that included a visit to the Peace Community. The film and talk starting at 7 pm, at LEPOCO, are part of the First Friday/Popcorn & Politics Series at the Peace Center. For more information see page 3 of this newsletter or call 610-691-8730.

The Struggle Shared

*"As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days.
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil while one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories -- bread and roses, bread and roses."*

- *Bread and Roses* by James Oppenheim

BREAD & ROSES CENTENNIAL - January 11, 1912, was the first pay-day after the state of Massachusetts enacted a law which decreased the maximum workweek from 56 to 54 hours. When millworkers in Lawrence, Massachusetts, discovered that their wages had been cut while the owners sped up production to make up the difference, a group of Polish women employed at the Everett Cotton Mill walked off the job. By the next morning, half of the city's 30,000 mill hands were on strike, launching one of the most important labor actions in U.S. history and the first large industrial strike in the U.S. It shut down every textile mill in the city for eight weeks in the dead of a New England winter. The Lawrence strike today, 100 years later, is a particularly luminous page of our revolutionary heritage. Its glow is a guiding light to Occupiers in the present in many shared philosophical and strategic parallels.

In 1912, Lawrence was the epicenter of the U.S. textile industry, with an immigrant workforce steeped in the militant working class traditions of their countries of origin. The strikers faced police beatings with nonviolence; arrest and imprisonment of their leaders with solidarity; injunctions against parades and outdoor rallies with creativity; and police patrols of their neighborhoods with community services, and daily strike meetings of representatives from a dozen ethnic groups, which were the spokes of an intricate communication network. The role of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in respecting, and empowering the rich diversity of the workers and in supporting the leadership of women, was instrumental to the ultimate success of the Lawrence Strike.

In the end, the mill owners gave in. Workers earned a 15% pay increase, and the owners agreed to meet with the grievance committees and modified the premium system, resulting in pay increases for 150,000 mill workers throughout New England. You can learn more at www.breadandrosescentennial.org, or in a good article in *The Catholic Worker*, (June-July 2012 issue).

RIO+20: SUSTAINABILITY MORPHS INTO SUSTAINED GROWTH - When world leaders met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, they endorsed a principle called "sustainability." Their document was intended to be a legally binding agreement to protect biodiversity and prevent catastrophic climate change. In June of this year, 20 years after the original Rio Summit, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development met again in Rio and produced another document. In the new text, endorsed by 190 nations, the word "sustainability" is used interchangeably with "sustained growth," a term that crops up 16 times. Isn't sustained growth on a finite planet the definition of unsustainability? The "green economy" proposed in Rio+20 also represents a bailout of a failing economic system, and is a code phrase for the commodification, financialization, privatization, and technologization of all of nature.

Vandana Shiva attended Rio+20 with 100,000 signatures from India supporting the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth which were delivered to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Shiva wrote of the conference, "This is the last contest between a life-destroying worldview of man's empire over earth, and a life-protecting

worldview of harmony with nature, and the rights of Mother Earth." The irrepressible presence of the global movement for economic and environmental justice was reflected in Article 39 of the Rio+20 document: "We recognize that the planet earth and its ecosystems are our home... We are convinced that in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations it is necessary to promote harmony with nature." Unfortunately the document does not spell out how nations are to do that.

Among participating nations, Ecuador stands out as the first to include the rights of nature in its constitution. The tiny nation of Bhutan, took another step, substituting the usual GDP as a measure of progress, with a gross national happiness index, adding that the best way to grow happiness is by growing organic food.

PERMANENT WAR ECONOMY AND JOBS - Without the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan or any national security reason for increasing the Pentagon budget, that budget is now set to grow only at the rate of inflation after a decade and a half of unprecedented growth. Military contractors have begun projecting doomsday for the U.S. workforce if the source of their profits is cut. Recently, Lockheed Martin announced plans to send notices before November's election to its 123,000 employees that they will be at risk of being laid off if the automatic cuts in defense spending called for under current law were to take effect.

The simple truth is that Pentagon contractors have done very well in recent years, making record profits. With cash reserves from years of record profits, most defense contractors are better suited than most companies to help their employees through tough economic times. Don't believe the hype. Get a LEPOCO bumpersticker that pronounces, "Cut Military Spending: Our Lives Depend On It!"

- Jeff Vitelli

Fundraising Update

With the economy still faltering, and so many people struggling financially over these past few years, LEPOCO has seen a dramatic decline in financial support. The lack of pledges and donations is severely limiting what LEPOCO can accomplish, and placing tremendous stress on our operating budget.

Perhaps you would like to give more, but don't feel financially secure enough to send a monetary donation. LEPOCO always welcomes volunteer support or in-kind donations, but there is another way to support the essential peace work that LEPOCO has focused on for over 45 years: consider adding LEPOCO to your will or estate plan.

Your estate plan may range from a simple will to a complex trust. Or perhaps you have thought about developing a plan for your estate, but haven't quite gotten around to it. Whatever your situation, including a gift to LEPOCO in your estate plan can be an easy and rewarding way to leave a legacy that reflects your personal commitment to Peace and Justice.

There are several ways that you could give to LEPOCO as part of your estate plan.

You could list LEPOCO as a beneficiary in your will or through a trust, giving specific property such as stocks or securities, or simply listing an amount to be gifted from the value of your estate.

You could also list LEPOCO as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy, investment fund, or retirement account such as an IRA or 401K plan.

There are many benefits to including a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization such as LEPOCO in your estate. Such donations are generally tax-deductible, so you may save on estate or inheritance taxes. You will also have the satisfaction during your life, of knowing that you have done something to support LEPOCO for years to come. Remember to check with a legal or financial advisor before drafting any estate plan documents or making changes to your current plan.

- Sarah Andrew

Shale Gas Outrage 2012

Last September the Fracking Industry held a conference in Philadelphia that was met with an impressive demonstration by people who oppose the environmental damage caused by this industry. The Fracking Industry (Marcellus Shale lobbyists, politicians and policy-makers) is returning to Philadelphia this month and so are the people opposing their plans.

On Thursday, September 20, from noon to 2 pm, there will be a rally outside the Convention Center where the Fracking Industry is gathered, at Broad & Arch Sts., with speakers including Bill McKibben, Josh Fox, and Sandra Steingraber. Following the rally participants will march through the streets of Philadelphia, until around 3 pm. The call says, "Join us to protect health, communities, air, water, farms, food and cli-

mate. Demand green jobs and justice." Contact LEPOCO for information on group transportation.

On Friday there will be a Conference on Health and Gas Drilling (8:30 am to noon), at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 S. 22nd St., and a Mini-Organizing Conference, "Freedom from Fracking 2012," 1:30-5:30 pm, at Friends Center, 1515 Cherry St. For more information on either event see www.shalegasoutrage.org or www.protectingourwaters.com.

In July several LEPOCO members joined the Lehigh Valley bus to Washington, DC, for the Stop the Frack Attack rally and march on one of those sweltering hot days. The crowd was estimated at over 4000. August 23-24, Gov. Corbett was met by anti-fracking protestors every few miles as he and other state officials kayaked the Delaware River. On a Monday, August 27th, about 2000 people rallied in Albany, NY, telling Gov. Cuomo to prevent the fracking of their state. Also on the 27th, Sean Lennon, wrote about his opposition to fracking in a *New York Times* op-ed, "...Don't be fooled. Fracking for shale gas is in truth dirty energy... Industry studies show that 5 percent of wells can leak immediately, and 60 percent over 30 years. There is no such thing as pipes and concrete that won't eventually break down. It releases a cocktail of chemicals from a menu of more than 600 toxic substances, climate-changing methane, radium and, of course, uranium..."

INTI-ILLIMANI in Concert Wednesday, October 3

5:30 pm: Pre-Concert Party

at home of David & Kim Rose, Easton

7 pm: Composer's Chat, Williams Center

8 pm: Concert

Williams Center for the Arts, Lafayette College, Easton

Donation for Pre-Concert Party and Concert:

whatever you can afford between \$20-\$35 per person.

(This is a fundraiser for LEPOCO. We must have at least 15 people to get a group rate. Please contact LEPOCO, 610-691-8730, to make a reservation asap.)

Inti-Illimani has performed at Lafayette College at least twice in the past and LEPOCO members have been there both times to hear this wonderful group. The *Los Angeles Times* says, "Few Latin American acts can rival the Chilean group in terms of the sheer beauty of sound. Much like a Zen affirmation, Inti-Illimani's music floats within your soul, filling it with calmness and hope." Lafayette College's brochure says, "Their performances are famous for their abundant musical pleasures, their celebrations of cultural identity, and their fervent invocations of humanity, pacifism, and triumph of freedom over oppression." Inti-Illimani's October tour of the US will celebrate their 45th anniversary as a group, some fifteen of their years together having been spent in exile during the Pinochet military dictatorship.

Bits & Pieces

☪ You can support the Trinity Soup Kitchen in Bethlehem, by attending their **"Big Bowl of Music," concert** on Sun., Sept. 9, at 4 pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 44 E. Market St., Bethlehem. The musicians will be John Beacher of New Hope and The Druckenmillers, known as the first family of L.V. traditional music. Tickets are \$25. All proceeds benefit the Soup Kitchen that has been serving meals to the homeless and poor in Bethlehem for over 30 years.

☪ LEPOCO will take our information table and peace boutique to the **Quaker Peace Fair** at the Buckingham Friends Meeting, near Lahaska, on Sat., Sept. 22, 10:30 am - 4 pm. We can still use some help with staffing the booth, but also encourage people to simply attend this festival that always has an interesting array of information and lively music and speakers. George Lakey will be the featured speaker this year and the KnowDrones people will be there with their display (see page 1). Call LEPOCO if you can help.

☪ Thank you to:

1) Bernie Berg, robert Daniels II and Nancy Tate for **leafleting at Musicfest** in favor of cutting military spending on August 10.

2) the people who helped with LEPOCO's booth at **Pride in the Park** (Allentown) on August 19 - Mimi Lang, Susie Ravitz, robert Daniels II, Jeff Vitelli, Tim Chadwick, Kathryn Hoffman, Kim Moyer, and Henry Moyer-Daniels.

3) Kelly Quain, Nancy Tate and robert Daniels II who took the LEPOCO information table to **Lehigh University's Community & Club Expo** on August 27 and to **Northampton Community College's Quadfest** on August 30.

4) the eight people who took the "jobs not war" message to the **Labor Day Parade** in Bethlehem on Sept. 2: Ellen Buck, John Zachmann, Peter Crownfield, Jeff Vitelli, Anna Maria Caldara, Tom Ulrich, Kathryn

Hoffman, and Nancy Tate. Thanks also to the United Steelworkers and other local unions that sponsor this event.

☪ We have lots of our original bumper sticker that says, "Cut Military Spending, Our Lives Depend on It!" We want to get them onto cars or other welcoming public spaces this fall. Can you help? A dollar donation would be appreciated, but a promise of getting this message out will also suffice. Call, write or visit LEPOCO to get you sticker(s).

Cut Military Spending Our Lives Depend On It!

☪ Pennsylvania's new voter I.D. requirements threaten the voting rights of some 31,000 registered voters in the Lehigh Valley alone, according to a story in *The Morning Call* on July 10th. The ACLU has produced a card, "Know Your Voting Rights" as part of their Let Me Vote efforts. The card contains the information that will help every voter know what they can do to try to assure their ability to vote this fall. LEPOCO has a few hundred of these cards. Please visit or call the office to get as many of these cards as you can use to circulate to friends or in public locations. This is urgent and quite important.

☪ On Aug. 5, the eve of **Hiroshima Day** over 30 people gathered in Bethlehem on the library porch for "Living in the Nuclear Age: Doing What Is Possible," as the rain fell on the adjoining Tondabayashi Serenity Garden where the program had been scheduled. The timing of the rain storm did not allow for moving to our designated rain site. But we read the poetry of Wendell Berry, sang "Furusato," and sent postcards to our senators calling for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (copies still available if you would like to sign them). We gathered strength from the writings of so many peace witnesses and pledged to reverse the upside-down thinking that justifies the existence of nuclear weapons.

On Aug. 6, Tim Chadwick and robert Daniels II were among seven people arrested for taking a disarmament message to the doors of Lockheed Martin (the world's largest war profiteer) in King of Prussia. For more info. on future demonstrations at Lockheed Martin see www.brandywinepeace.com.

Check out the LEPOCO website at www.lepoco.org for a Calendar of Events, Newsletter Archive, Videos, & More. Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail updates by calling 610-691-8730 or by writing to lepoco@fast.net.

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

Monday, September 10, Noon: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Mondays, September 10 & October 8, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

Thursdays, September 13 & October 11, 6 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wednesday, October 17, 3:30 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Monday, October 22, 6 pm: LEPOCO Annual Dinner Planning Committee Meeting at Peace Center.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able.

If you want more information about any of these meetings;

or if you want to know the next meeting of the LEPOCO Peace Singers, the Newsletter Planning Committee, the Nuclear Abolition Sisters, Peace Camp Planning Committee, or the Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings please see www.lepoco.org.



Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Meetings...

Know Drones Tour
visits the Lehigh Valley area
September 20-22
(See page 1 for more info.)

"A Death Row Innocent - Executed"
a talk by Rev. Joseph B. Ingle
Wednesday, September 12, 4:10 pm
Lehigh University
(see page 3)

Monthly Peace Vigil
Our wars continue. Please help witness for peace.
4:30-5:30 pm
Second Thursdays: September 13 & October 11
3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem
Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103 / Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136

Wed., October 9
Inti-Illimani Concert
& pre-Concert Party
Easton
(see page 8)

Shale Gas Outrage
Rally & March
Philadelphia
Thursday, September 20
(see page 8)

Americas Solidarity Group joins
Caravan for Peace
with Justice & Dignity
Washington, DC
Wednesday, September 12
(see page 1)