

June-July

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

Women's March

"Ban the Bomb"

We should be truly ashamed of the actions of Nikki Haley our Ambassador to the United Nations. On March 27 she led a "protest" at the United Nations. The "protesters" (some of the major nuclear powers) were standing in opposition to the UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading to their Total Elimination. Nikki Haley said she too wanted to rid the world of nuclear weapons, but "we have to be realistic." The majority of the world's countries have tired of the U.S. and other nuclear powers never taking the steps to get rid of their nuclear weapons. That action had been promised in the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) signed in 1968.

The UN General Assembly initiated this new effort and it is supported by Pope Francis, the U.N. Secretary General António Guterres, and dozens of humanitarian and peace groups. You can learn more about the Ban Treaty at www.icanw.org (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons).

We can lend our support to this significant development by joining in the Women's March to Ban the Bomb in New York City on Saturday, June 17, 12-4 pm.



The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is organizing this public witness that will celebrate the historic UN action and give support to an outcome that produces a "good treaty." For more information see www.womenbanthebomb.org.

The Stop the Wars Committee of LEPOCO is working to get a local delegation to this event via public transportation. We will take a regular bus to New York. We will offer fare assistance for those who do not qualify for the lower senior citizen rate. Please call LEPOCO 610-691-8730 if you would like to be part of the delegation. Also, please let us know if you plan to travel to this demonstration on your own.

Also, in NYC in Sunday, June 18, 1-6 pm, a conference, "No Nukes, No Wars, No Walls, No Warming: One Struggle, Many Fronts," will be held at the Brooklyn Friends Meeting, 110 Schermerhorn St., sponsored by the Peace & Planet International Network. Panels including many speakers from around the world will address the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, the movements against nuclear arms around the world, young people leading the nuclear disarmament effort, and the meaning of the UN Ban Treaty for now and the future. Again let LEPOCO know if you would like to be part of a delegation attending this conference. For more information see www.peaceandplanet.org.

- Nancy Tate

Peace Camp

...Needed now more than ever.

Members of the Peace Camp planning committee are getting excited for 2017's week of fun, learning and creativity, July 17th - 21st.

As of this writing, nearly 40 campers have enrolled, and we expect more. We seem to have attracted a large concentration of younger campers. Campers 11-14 years old, who have completed grades 5 to 8 will be heartily welcomed this summer, and are especially needed to round out the older groups, so please recommend Peace Camp to any young people in your life.

Some of the special activities that campers can look forward to are: dancing, led by Dan Hunter; nonviolent, non-competitive games led by Margot Hillman and Adrian Zaniesienko; Singing Peace Camp songs led by Roberta Meek and Chris Klump; and drumming, led by Karen Bedics.

We are always interested in new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please complete a volunteer interest form (available at LEPOCO or in recent mailings) and return it ASAP. The training for Peace Camp volunteers will be Tuesday, June 20, at 5 pm.

Peace Camp has been an important project of LEPOCO's since 1990! This is how we nurture tomorrow's activists and peacemakers. We are so proud of the accomplishments and directions many Peace Camp graduates have taken in their lives, and we believe their experiences at Peace Camp were important influences for them.

Book Club Report

The last two books read by members of the LEPOCO Book Group have given us new insights into how people living in war-torn areas make every effort to survive and lead their lives remembering their humanity and dignity under the most difficult circumstances. The heroic war correspondent Martha Gellhorn's book, "The Face of War," took us into countries living under siege from the Spanish Civil War through Vietnam and the Mideast in the 1970s to the civil wars in Central America and the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989. She lived in these countries, met their struggling people and told their stories with great understanding of their suffering.

We began our discussion of the novel, "The Cellist of Sarajevo," by Steven Galloway by listening to Albinoni's "Adagio," the music the cellist in the book and in reality, played in tribute to the 27 people he saw killed while they were waiting in line for bread. Our choice of this book proved to be a surprising link to Gellhorn's stories of living through war as we follow the stories of Arrow, the young woman sniper who questions killing, and Dragen, the baker who risks his life to cover a dying man because he does not want a film crew to show "that Sarajevo is not a city where dead bodies line up in the streets." Another protagonist, Kenan, sets forth every four days to fill water jugs for his family and his difficult neighbor with great fear of never returning.

Each of these books led us to note the costs of war to real people and the tragedies of war today in which we are presented with endless numbers of anonymous dead on a daily basis as an attempt to "normalize" war. We are determined to continue our resistance to this concept. Come read with us.

- Mimi Lang

The first Tuesday Book Club will meet next on July 5, Wednesday, at 6 pm, in the home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, Bethlehem, when they will discuss "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande.

The group will not meet in August, but will discuss "The Nordic Theory of Everything," by Anu Partanen, in September. New members are welcome. Contact Mimi Lang, 610-866-2407 or LEPOCO, 610-691-8730.

Fighting For Peace in London

There is an exhibit at the Imperial War Museum in London (March 23-August 28, 2017), that traces the British anti-war movement from the First World War to the present, "People Power: Fighting for Peace." LEPOCO member and former staffperson, Robert Daniels II, visited the exhibit in March and brought LEPOCO a copy of the beautiful book (250+ pages with 197 illustrations) by Lyn Smith, that accompanies the exhibit.

The Forward to the book by Sheila Hancock closes with a quote from E.M. Forster (from "Two Cheers for

Democracy"): *I believe in aristocracy...Not an aristocracy of power, based upon rank and influence, but an aristocracy of the sensitive, the considerate and the plucky. Its members are to be found in all nations and classes, and all through the ages, and there is a secret understanding between them when they meet. They represent the true human tradition, the one permanent victor of our queer race over cruelty and chaos.*

Robert wrote his own dedication to LEPOCO in the book: *My first trip to a foreign land was in November 2002, a week in London. I'd only just encountered LEPOCO the summer prior and was only minimally involved at the time of my journey to England. Sabres were rattling with regards to Iraq. Outside Parliament, I encountered Brian Haw (check out the index, he's in the book a plenty - including a section titled, "Brian Haw's Peace Camp in Parliament Square"). In 2002, Brian Haw engaged me in a brief, memorable, and rather influential conversation. Back in the States. Iraq II. I became involved in LEPOCO.*

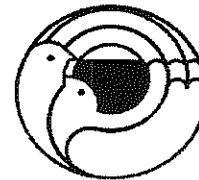
In 2017, it felt full circle when on a lark I was in London again and I went to the Imperial War Museum the day after the incident outside Parliament and on opening day for this lovely and surprising exhibit, "People Power."

Robert closes with love and respect for LEPOCO and with a note that Brian Haw is a fellow not unlike Robert's dear friend, Tim Chadwick, who died in 2016.

Please stop by LEPOCO to spend some time with this book (if you cannot get to London for the exhibit). The book is full of inspiring photos, graphics, poems, and stories.

Newsletter of LEPOCO

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Limited Income Member	\$10
Household Membership	\$45
Supporting Member	\$75

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

Newsletter Staff: Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Amanda Zaniesienko.

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

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Olivia Arena-Miller, Terry Briscoe, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Nancy Johnston, Dan Miller, Janet Ney, Jim Orben, Scott Slingerland, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), and Amanda Zaniesienko (ex-officio).

Potluck/Popcorn & Politics

Sunday, June 25th, 6 pm

Vince Mordillo & the film "Fix It"

A LEPOCO Potluck & Politics event at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse
4116 Bath Pike (Route 512), Bethlehem (18020), ½ mile north of Rt. 22.

Single payer, universal health care. Ted Kennedy tried to initiate such a program throughout his senate career. First Lady Hillary Clinton tried to push it through. Yet the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical industry were successful in convincing the poor and the middle class to reject what is in our own best interest.

Health care is a right, not a privilege. Once again there is a movement for single payer, universal health care or Medicare For All. The citizens of Canada have it. So does Australia, Cuba, Britain, France, Germany.

Why can't we benefit our citizens in the same way? Why do Users have to suffer great personal anxiety when they or a close family member falls victim to a catastrophic illness? Why do we have to worry about financial ruin - loss of our home and personal bankruptcy?

This documentary film, "Fix It," will convince you, if you still have any doubts of how important this issue is. Vince Mordillo, director of the film will be in attendance to discuss the film and answer questions.

- Dan Miller

Please bring food to share for the Potluck Dinner at 6 pm.

Discussion will start around 6:30 pm.

Friday, July 7th, 7 pm

"Dick"

A Popcorn & Politics Film projected on the big screen
at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., (south) Bethlehem.

This comedy is a parody retelling the events of the Watergate scandal which ended the presidency of Richard ("Tricky Dick") Nixon. Two 15-year-old girls become the legendary "Deep Throat" figure partly responsible for bringing down the presidency. Harry Shearer is one of the stars playing G. Gordon Liddy.

Written by Andrew Fleming & Sheryl Longin. Directed by Andrew Fleming. 94 minutes. 1999.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



Discussing: What Next?

There have been two discussions now about what LEPOCO should do to respond to the outrageous proposal to increase the Pentagon budget by \$54 billion with drastic cuts for everything that protects and serves people and the environment. By the time you read this a third meeting will probably have been held, June 19.

Three plans came from the second discussion on May 15: creative yard signs; leafleting at busy farmers' markets; and regular delegations to meet with elected officials. There were many more ideas for action, but these are the three that those in attendance wanted to work on now.

Obviously lots of help will be needed for each of these. Let us know if you want to help. Please respond kindly if you get a phone call requesting your assistance.

Also, let us know if you would like to be part of future discussions and meetings by this group. New participants are most welcome.

The Stop the Wars Committee has started planning for Hiroshima-Nagasaki events in August. It has been 72 years since the first nuclear weapons were used by the United States. As you can see on page 1 of this newsletter, this is the year when the non-nuclear countries in the world are saying "Enough!" -- the world needs to ban the bomb now.

On Sunday, August 6, Hiroshima Day, we will hold a commemorative program under the theme of "What Will It Take to Ban the Bomb?"

On Wednesday, August 9, Nagasaki Day, we will distribute leaflets to Musikfest crowds in the early evening.

The next planning meeting will be Friday, July 7, at 9 am. We will meet over breakfast at the Quadrant Café (& Book Mart) in Easton.

Please be in touch if you can help with any of this.

A Defense of Defenders Witness in
Remembrance of Berta Cáceres
March 3, Easton



Photo: Amanda Zaniesienko



Photo: Amanda Zaniesienko

Annual Dinner
Speaker: Michael McPhearson
March 18
(see page 6)



Photo: Lynn Donnelly



Photo: Lynn Donnelly

A week of tabling at Earth Day and
Peace events.
April 19-22



Photo: Olivia Arena-Miller



Photo: Susie Ravitz



Peace-A-Thon
for bikers and walkers
May 27, Bethlehem

Photo: Susie Ravitz

Concerns for the Earth

Bill McKibben in Lehigh Valley. Yay! Climate Problem Critical. Boo!

- Bill McKibben, a major voice of the climate movement, was here in the Lehigh Valley on April 19, and delivered Northampton Community College's Annual Humanities Keynote Lecture entitled, "Reflections on the Climate Fight." Yay!
- The Spartan Center gym where the meeting was held was a little more than half full instead of bursting at the seams. Boo!
- He told how he, with seven of his students at Middlebury College, had started 350.org, an organization which has become the preeminent face of the climate movement. Yay!
- They thought they needed to do something because, according to climate scientists like James Hansen, climate warming was threatening life on the planet. Boo!
- 350.org called for world-wide actions and found that people around the world were not at all apathetic, but cared and, as shown in slide after slide, took actions of all kinds. Yay!
- But, despite all the protests, the climate problem has not gone away -- indeed it has continued to worsen. Boo!
- McKibben noted that we have the tech solutions, the energy alternatives that could replace the fossil fuels that are so much of the problem -- indeed Denmark is showing that it can be done. Yay!
- But most governments and fossil fuel industries are not doing what needs to be done -- except for the amorphous climate movement. McKibben did not talk about how to make things happen. Boo!
- Still, it was nice to be among like-minded (there were some climate-deniers) people, the choir, as it were. Hooray for the choir!

- Martin Boksenbaum

A Day in the Life of a Senior Activist

The week before the Climate March brought great trepidation to Dan Miller, my husband. His concern was not about his ability to endure the march itself. Instead, he had heard rumors that the mode of transportation for this grueling trip would be: a big yellow school bus -- no foot room, no comfy seats, no access to a bathroom. It was a school bus. We were accompanied by four other seniors and 31 gregarious Lehigh University students. It quickly became apparent that although we were surrounded by engineers of all sorts, the skill of "counting off" was lacking. After several attempts at counting it was determined that there were 37 of us. We were finally ready to begin our adventure!

This group of Lehigh students, organized by Andrew Goldman and Connor Burbridge, came prepared with coffee and bagels for all. We were excited

about the coffee, but terrified by the lack of a facility. The organizers also brought along an ecology flag to wave and identify our group. After traveling for several hours, waiting and suffering from the intense heat (90+ degrees in D.C.), the march began. The walk was reminiscent of the Women's March earlier in the year -- numerous bodies squished together, only now in scorching temperatures. Fabulous floats and posters and banners covered Pennsylvania Avenue as we marched toward the White House.

Unfortunately, over a mile before reaching our destination, I was overcome by the heat and pulled from the march by my caring husband. As we exited the crowd we found a group of seniors gathered in what looked like a triage unit in front of the Trump Hotel. The irony of a group of wilted seniors in 90+ degree heat on April 29 at a climate march was not lost on us as the staff dressed in their black tuxedos gazed upon us from the steps of the hotel. Overcome by heat delirium, we managed to find our way to the Washington Metro and then back to our school bus where we witnessed some of the bedraggled 200,000+ marchers return.

At one point during the day while waiting for the march to begin I had a brief conversation with a lovely young man about the current political climate. While I lamented over the failures of my generation and the mess we had left our young, this man comforted me. He stated that he thought the election of Donald Trump was a good thing for his generation, "It was a wake-up call for us because it showed the importance of the vote. Now we have to get involved and take action." As we parted he hugged me and we wished each other well. This experience of seeing the power and promise of one young person -- of young people -- gives me hope and I know I will march again.

- Ronnie Arena

More: Climate & War / ...& Refugees / ...& France

There was a "Stop the Wars, Save the Planet Contingent" on April 29. Their invitation said, "The U.S. military is the single greatest institutional producer of greenhouse gases in the world... The vast expenditures now consumed by military machines are the very resources needed for a crash program to rapidly create a renewable energy infrastructure and put millions of people to work in green jobs."

Matthew Hauer, a demographer at the University of Georgia, estimates that by the end of the century as many as 13.1 million U.S. citizens could become climate refugees, finding themselves displaced due to rising sea levels.

One hour after Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris climate accord, France's president, Emmanuel Macron, offered refuge in France to U.S. climate scientists, "Come and work here with us. To work together on concrete solutions for our climate, our environment... Wherever we live, whoever we are, we all share the same responsibility: "Make Our Planet Great Again."

Rise to the Challenge from the Annual Dinner

LEPOCO's annual dinner in 2017 was a joyous celebration of 51 years of local work for peace and justice. Gathering on March 18, we enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful music.

Grace Adele Hochella's harp gave us a lovely background as we renewed acquaintances and enjoyed each other's company. The LEPOCO Chorus, as always, stirred us to remembrance and activism.

The dinner committee is grateful to all who contributed to this wonderful evening – the cooks, the servers, the clean-up crew, the raffle prize donors, and many more. We want to thank the diners who completed a survey about the dinner; your comments will be important as we plan for 2018. If you have any suggestions for the dinner or the speaker for next year, please call the LEPOCO office.

Following dinner, Michael McPhearson, the national executive director for Veterans for Peace, called us to organize, resist, and triumph.

Mr. McPhearson spoke of his own angry reaction to the 2016 elections but he also noted that the election produced a new resistance in the campaign of Sen. Bernie Sanders and the aftermath that has included significant resistance events starting with the Women's March.

He noted three main points about organizing: 1) to bring about the change we seek, we must build a movement across the spectrum of issues; 2) we must understand that organizing is not the same thing as mobilizing; and 3) we must build a movement that overwhelms political parties. For further information about these points, you can read the speech at the LEPOCO website (www.lepoco.org) on the Annual Dinner page. (There are some photos from the Annual Dinner on page 4 of this newsletter, but you can see even more on the website.)

Mr. McPhearson urged all of us to reach out to new people, people who are not involved in the peace movement, people we may not want to engage in conversation. We need to meet people where they are.

"We must help people see peace is possible both at home and abroad. We must spark a national conversation about peace and justice and we can do it. If we move outside our comfort zones, get uncomfortable and go places we have never been. I challenge you to take this step in the name of peacemaking and justice seeking."

We have been challenged; let us rise to meet that challenge.

- Janet Ney

The Solidarity of "Unyielding Hope"

On May 17, Mimi Lang and I traveled to New York City for a special program at The Church of the Village: "13 Colors of the Honduran Resistance." About 100 people were in attendance when Karla Lara, a Honduran jazz/folk protest singer, recited poems, told stories, answered questions and sang beautifully about women struggling amidst brutal repression in post-coup Honduras. The women's stories are told in a book, "Thirteen Colors of the Honduran Resistance: Trece colores de la Resistencia hondureña," written by afro-indigenous journalist, poet and feminist organizer, Melissa Cardoza.

New York was the fifteenth city on a nineteen-city U.S. tour for Melissa Cardoza and Karla Lara. Unfortunately, Melissa had to return to Honduras before the New York program due to an illness in her family. While we were sorry Cardoza was not present, the program was very full and moving with Karla Lara's presentation.

Both women were co-workers and close friends of Berta Cáceres whose picture is on the cover of "Thirteen Colors..." book. Banners decorated the church sanctuary – one declaring, "Berta Lives" – and Karla Lara took symbolic items from her backpack giving a further sense of the sacred – a picture of Berta, a candle, a flower. She recited a poem, "Berta of the Waters": "...They

don't know what to do with such beauty, strength, and grace. That is why they kill..."

In the discussion Karla Lara talked about how an extractive model of development – dams and mining – has flourished in Honduras since the 2009 coup. The coup has also given rise to much resistance. Berta Cáceres was leading opposition to some of the dam projects when she was murdered in March 2016. The program also pointed to the "unyielding hope" that has characterized the post-coup struggle in Honduras.

Karla called on U.S. activists to share solidarity and stop seeing ourselves as saviors of the global south. Elise Roberts of Witness for Peace, one of the groups sponsoring the "13 Colors" tour reported that 57 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are now co-sponsors of the Berta Cáceres Human Right in Honduras Act. Rep. Matt Cartwright is among the 57. Please urge Rep. Charlie Dent to sign on.

You can hear some of Karla Lara's beautiful performances on YouTube. The bilingual edition of "13 Colors of Honduran Resistance" is available online.

- Nancy Tate



We The (marginalized) People?

There are signs that it is becoming unacceptable for political participation to be treated as if it were a spectator sport. That it's becoming unacceptable for the vast majority of people in the United States to continue to be marginalized.

On the electoral front, several candidates for local office who value community, planet, and peace over developer and corporate profit-making are on the ballot. In addition to providing real choices, these candidates provide opportunities to bring community-centered matters into mainstream discussion. Because LEPOCO, as a 501(c)(3) organization, cannot single out particular candidates, I can merely suggest that voters for Northampton County Council, Longswamp Township Supervisors, Quakertown Community School District and Phillipsburg City Council, and for PA Superior Court Judge on the state level, should pay close attention to what the candidates are saying.

Post Trump's election, dismayed people and organizations have generated months of resistance, from the marches – Women's, for Science, People's Climate, the Tax and Truth Marches – and creative responses like Tuesdays With Toomey, to joining Our Revolution groups (in continuance of the work of Bernie Sanders), forming all manner of local activist groups (small to large), as well as checking out Green Party chapters.

Even before this recent election community empowerment efforts are creating organizational structures that can involve people in the political process:

- Transition Town Initiatives, grassroots programs, work to bring about a more localized and resilient future, thereby countering threats we face due to fossil fuel reliance, the roller coaster of economics for profit, and policies that ignore climate change. Transitions Lehigh Valley is working on a cooperative renewable energy project and on Transitions U, for producing an informed public via a variety of re-skilling and re-thinking programs.

- Community Bills of Rights, as per the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, can put communities on track to say "No" to unwanted sludge-spreading, pipelines, factory farms. Pittsburgh adopted a community bill of rights in 2010 that included a ban on fracking as a violation of those rights. Other communities in Pennsylvania, like Grant and Highland Townships, and elsewhere have made the difficult decision to go the community rights route.

- Community Exchange Time Dollar Network, a time-banking trading system, enables people and organizations to pay for services with services they provide.

- Mutual Aid Network of the Lehigh Valley aims to address the needs of vulnerable community members and focus on building an egalitarian economy from the ground up.

- Lehigh Valley Social Impact Center provides a setting for bringing together social entrepreneurs, non-

profits, and other community members seeking positive change.

There are many sustainability-minded organizations in the Lehigh Valley carrying out good work. *Just to name a few:*

- *Environmental centers:* Lehigh Gap Nature Center, Nurture Nature Center, Camel's Hump Farm on the Johnston Estate, and Stonehedge in Tamaqua.

- *Food conscious groups:* Buy Fresh Buy Local of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Kellyn Foundation, Weston A. Price-Lehigh Valley chapter -- and then there are all the sustainable agriculture farmers and farmers' markets in the area.

- *Specially-focused working groups:* the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council alone has nine working groups, like Food Access and Community Farms & Gardens; LEPOCO has several, like Americas Solidarity and Stop the Wars; and the Alliance for Sustainable Communities-Lehigh Valley has Natural Builders Guild and Beyond Capitalism, in addition to its Transitions Lehigh Valley and others.

- *and on Peace and Justice:* LEPOCO, which, in this publication, needs no further introduction.

These are some of the efforts that I find to be hopeful. There's a lot more I could have cited. A lot is percolating. The question is, how can all this good work become part of mainstream political consciousness, discussion, and decision-making?

For more information about organizations that do good work, see the listings in the *Sustainable Lehigh Valley's* Directory of Organizations (available free throughout the Lehigh Valley, including at the LEPOCO Peace Center) or in the online Directory at www.sustainlv.org. Or Google them.

It remains to be seen how many of these efforts will be able to create the organizational structures that can fully engage people and communities in addressing the urgent matters we are facing.

Your involvement helps.

- Martin Boksenbaum

Good Government Efforts in PA

In May over 70 people participated in the March on Harrisburg, a 100-mile walk that started in Philadelphia. They were supporting bills to end Gerrymandering, a ban on gifts to politicians and automated voter registration. On May 22, over 20 of them were arrested as they conducted a sit-in at the State Capitol demanding a vote on the gift ban. See marchonharrisburg.org.

Over 100 events have been held in Pennsylvania over the past year in support of nonpartisan redistricting reform in our state. Fair Districts PA is working to build support for SB22 and HB722 that call for an independent commission to set voting district lines. For more information see fairdistrictspa.com.

Bits & Pieces

☪ On the Tuesday morning after Memorial Day a contingent of several hundred Veterans For Peace members and friends gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, to demand a “stop to the endless war,” and a start to a genuine “peace-building movement.” Speakers raised their voices about the endless U.S.-related conflicts around the globe in Afghanistan, Iraq and in Syria. They put emphasis on the war drums beating daily for a conflict with North Korea, and also, thanks to the hawkish Neocons and our influential Military-Industrial Complex, a possible U.S. war, starting with Iran. For more information see www.veteransforpeace.org.

☪ Pipeline Fighters who were part of the alliances formed to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline in Nebraska and the Dakota Access pipeline at Standing Rock traveled to meet with landowners in Virginia and West Virginia, June 10-14. They planted sacred Ponca corn “Seeds of Resistance” on land that lies in the path of the proposed Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast fracked gas pipelines. The first “Seeds of Resistance” Ponca Tribe sacred red corn were planted in 2014 on a farm in Nebraska where both the proposed Keystone XL pipeline and the historic Ponca Trail of Tears cross. The “Cowboy & Indian Alliance” planting marked the return of Ponca corn to the tribe’s ancestral homeland in Nebraska for the first time in 137 years. The Seeds of Resistance Tour visited Roanoke, Bent Mountain, Giles County, and Buckingham County in Virginia, and Summers County in West Virginia. For more information see www.boldalliance.org.

☪ “... There are thousands upon thousands of passages in laws and programs within government that

are the result not of corporate dictates, but of pressure from below, pressure from racial justice and labor and human rights and women’s rights activists, consumer rights, environmental justice. There have been victories won over the years, very hard-fought. And lots of these are put into legislation. They’re put into the functions of departments. And what Trump and the Republican coalition are trying to do is rip them out systematically, dismantle them systematically. And that’s what’s underway now. And many, many thousands of extra people will die in the U.S. and overseas as a result.

– Allan Nairn speaking on Democracy Now! on April 12, 2017.

☪ Yale historian Timothy Snyder has written a book, “On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century,” to help U.S. citizens know how to react to their surprise, disorientation and shock after the November election. Talking on Democracy Now! on May 30, he shared suggestions that ranged from, “Do not obey in advance,” to “Make eye contact and small talk,” and “Take care of the face of the world.” You can read or hear the interview at www.democracynow.org.

☪ Robyn Dixon writing for the Los Angeles Times on March 19, said Pres. Trump’s proposed budget cuts to the United Nations have

sent chills through the international aid community because famine is reaching a crisis point in parts of Africa. Scott Paul of Oxfam said, “The message that it sends is that the U.S. is no longer interested in...being part of global efforts to mitigate suffering in the world.”

☪ The National Priorities Project is an excellent source of information about the federal budget. They wrote recently that “...if President Trump has shown us anything with this budget, it’s that he will seek to increase military spending, even if he doesn’t know why he’s doing it.”

Check out the LEPOCO website at
www.lepoco.org
for a Calendar of Events,
Newsletter Archive, & More.

Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail weekly
updates by calling
610-691-8730, or by writing to
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often.

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____ Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$_____
(\$35 individual; \$45 household; \$75 supporter; \$10 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 interested in the following issues: _____.

Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Return to: LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, or
Donate through PayPal by going to the “membership” page at www.lepoco.org

Bits & Pieces

☮ On April 28, activists and dignitaries gathered in Allentown to celebrate the third and final year of a national awareness campaign, "**Stories That Shaped a Nation.**" The campaign's purpose was to keep alive the memory of the civil rights era and to draw attention to how much remains to be done to reach the goals laid down in that era. Honored at the gathering was Esther Lee, a local civil rights stalwart and longtime head of the Bethlehem chapter of the NAACP, along with national luminaries like Zora Neale Hurston and Gwen Ifill. The project was launched in Allentown in April 2015 to mark Coretta Scott King's 88th birthday, with support from the Library of Congress and Women Leaders of the Congressional Black Caucus.

☮ On May 26, **Witness Against Torture** began a 41-day **Campaign to Close Guantanamo** that will last through July 5. The campaign includes a "rolling fast," phone calls and letters to government and military officials, vigils and creative direct action. Some of the activities will take place in Washington, DC, but many people will join this effort from where they live. See www.witness-torture.org, to sign-up for the Rolling Fast and for more information.

☮ The **Lehigh Valley Alliance for Sustainable Communities** will hold their Annual Meeting on Friday, June 23, 5-7:30 pm, at the Lehigh Valley Social Impact Center (above Cantelmi's Hardware at 521 E. 4th St.). The theme for the evening will be "A Time for Looking Ahead: Focusing on Collaborative Efforts for 2017-2018." Refreshments will be served.

☮ "A group of young black students in Harlem, just a few days ago, asked me what, at this point in my life, was I looking for. And I said, 'What I've always been looking for: Where resides the rebel heart?'"

Without the rebellious heart, without people who understand that there's no sacrifice we can make that is too great to retrieve that which we've lost, we will forever be distracted with possessions and trinkets and title." - Harry Belafonte, quoted by Democracy Now! on the occasion of his 90th birthday (March 1, 2017) from a program held in December 2016.

☮ Lehigh Valley For All will hold a Melting Pot-Luck in association with the ACLU's **Cooking with a Hyphen** program on Wednesday, June 28, at 6:30 pm, at Iglesia Jesus Cristo, 625 W. Chew St., Allentown. People are encouraged to bring a dish to share that celebrates their roots.

☮ On Saturday, July 8, 9:30 am to 3 pm, the Citizen's Immigration & Refugee Action Committee will host a "**Sanctuary Training for Faith Leaders,**" at the Hafer Center, Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 W. James St., Lancaster. The training will be led by Sanctuary Philadel-

phia, part of the New Sanctuary Movement, and is free. Reservations are required (search online by event name & date). Donations welcomed.

☮ On March 29, El Salvador became the **first country in the world to ban all metals mining!** The National Roundtable Against Metallic Mining first proposed the legislation ten years ago. Sixty-nine of the country's 84 legislators supported the measure which makes "tiny" El Salvador the hero in a global movement to put the brakes on the modern day "gold rush." For more information see www.cispes.org.

☮ *It was a great relief to have Mr. Twitter out of the country for nine whole days, and the entire country felt it, like when your neighbor with the busted muffler goes away for a while and takes his yappy dog with him, and you realize what a beautiful thing common civility can be.*
- Garrison Keilor, *The Wahsington Post*, May 31, 2017.

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

Sunday, June 18, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at the home of Marcie Lightwood & Rick Weaver, Bethlehem.

Monday, June 19, 6:30 pm: **LEPOCO What Next?** meeting continues at the Peace Center. (see page 3 for more info.)

Tuesday, June 20, 6-8 pm: **Training for Peace Camp Volunteers**, First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Crest Blvd. & Tilghman St., Allentown (Rm. 118). If you are signed up as a volunteer please attend. If you are not signed up, but would like to volunteer or if you want more info., call 610-691-8730.

Tuesday, June 27, 6 pm: **Peace Camp Planning Committee** meeting, LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Wednesday, July 5, 6 pm: **LEPOCO Book Group** meets at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem (see page 2 for more details).

Thursday, July 6, 12:30 pm: **Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Friday, July 7, 9 am: **Stop the Wars Committee** meeting at the Quadrant Book Mart & Coffee House, 20 N. 3rd St., Easton.

Mondays, July 10, & August 14, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Monthly Action Meetings** at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this business meeting where the organization's activities are discussed.

Tuesday, September 12, 3 pm: **LEPOCO Annual Dinner Planning Committee Meeting** at the Peace Center.

Wednesday, September 13, 3:30 pm: **L.V. Committee Against State Killing (LV-CASK) Meeting** at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 3:30 pm: **LEPOCO Peace-A-Thon Planning Committee** meeting at the Peace Center.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information about any other committees or about any of the meetings listed above, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings, see www.lepoco.org.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Bits & Pieces

Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

July 13 & August 10
4:30-5:30 pm

*Our wars & bombings continue &
expand. Help witness for peace.*

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103 or
LEPOCO 610-691-8730

Stand Up & Speak Out!

Saturdays

June 24 & July 29
12 Noon - 2 pm

Protest Horsham

Drone Command Center

10:45 am: Carpool from Lehigh Valley
(From Hellertown Park & Ride, Silvēx Rd, near
intersection of Rt. 412 & I-78)
Call 610-691-8730 for more info.

Women's March in NYC to

Ban the Bomb

Saturday, June 17, noon

Join a LEPOCO contingent.

See Page 1 & call 610-691-8730 to sign up.

Young People

Making Peace

Summer Day Camp

July 17-21, 2017

For children ages 5-14 who have
completed kindergarten to 8th grade.

(See page 1 for more info.)