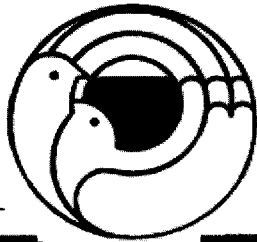


April
2012

Vol. 47 No. 3



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

Ray McGovern: "Keep the Pressure On"

At this year's LEPOCO Annual Dinner, retired CIA analyst Ray McGovern, a founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS), bore out his reputation as a calm, irreverent, and irrepressible fighter for peace and justice, a graduate of that school of hard knocks attended by anyone who confronts arrogant authority. His encounter last year with "security" guards at a lecture by Hillary Clinton -- where he had stood and turned his back to the speaker, showing her the Veterans for Peace logo on his shirt -- left his arms bruised, wrenched, and bleeding, but his relish for the struggle seems in no way diminished.

He gave us first some indispensable information about the government agency he served till retirement, then some advice for confronting the horrors and indignities wreaked upon the world by that agency's lethal, secretive branch -- the CIA "operatives."

McGovern dispelled the common misconception of a single CIA by reviewing the agency's double history. Created in 1947 as a group of analysts charged with producing intelligence reports for the president, the CIA had as its motto a promise lifted from Christian scripture (!): "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free," which suggests, unsurprisingly, the power available from a sound understanding of things.

However, a second CIA, an "operative" version, emerged from the shadows with little notice. It took on its own contrary mission -- to assassinate and destabilize -- eventually becoming "the president's private Gestapo." The CIA's analysts would thereafter run afoul of their own operative branch, the military, and the White House. In the 1970s, for example, when analysts reported one truth that could have set us free -- that a war against Nicaragua was "a fool's errand" -- CIA chief William Casey's operatives nevertheless gladly pursued it. In the Vietnam war, General William Westmoreland took issue with the CIA's National Intelligence Estimate of Viet Cong forces (far higher than the army had claimed): "We can't let the real numbers be known," explained Westmoreland's spokesman, "because we're projecting success. The press could draw a gloomy conclusion." George W. Bush, fretting that a 2007 NIE showed Iran had dropped its nuclear-weapons program in 2003, blithely explained to Israeli PM Ehud Olmert that the NIE's

(factual) conclusions simply "didn't reflect his own views."

So nowadays, when a "faith-based" assessment of Iran's nuclear program counts more with many lawmakers than accurate NIEs, and when a bill severely restricting areas open for protest (HR-347) has won Obama's signature, what advice does Ray McGovern offer for peace advocates?

In a word, keep the pressure on. HR-347 will prove powerless before Gandhian civil disobedience, for "if we make them take all of us," the jails will run out of space. Thomas Aquinas -- McGovern recalled from his Catholic schooling -- "railed against unreasoned patience" and warned that to repress justified anger is sinful. Sticking your neck out may be necessary, but "don't make your neck your idol." Believe, with Alice Walker, that "Activism is the rent we pay for living on the planet." Get rid of "the American need for assurance of success" before trying an action. Recall that Daniel Berrigan, planning with his brother Philip to napalm a collection of draft-board files in Catonsville, found that putting aside thoughts of their chances for "success" left him "free to concentrate on the act itself," to dwell on "the integrity and discipline" it required of him.

What prompted his strident witness at Hillary Clinton's lecture, McGovern said, was not "what I expected to achieve. I simply had to be there." As his grandmother once told him, remember that "the upper crust" are really "just a bunch of crumbs" who got where they are by means of "a lot of dough." We must always keep our sense of humor, he insisted, for -- in the words of his fellow Irishman W. B. Yeats' "The Fiddler of Dooney" -- "the good are always the merry!"

- Addison Bross

Tax Day 2012
Tuesday, April 17

Help distribute
"Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes"
(produced by the War Resisters League)
at local post offices.

Contact LEPOCO (610-691-8730 or lepoco@fast.net)
to sign up for a time at a post office of your choice.
We'll make sure you have a partner to help at that time.

LEPOCO Book Group

The First Tuesday Book Group will meet on May 1st, at 6 pm, at the Panera Bread Café, 3301 Bath Pike (Center St.), Bethlehem. They will discuss *An Unbroken Agony: Haiti, from Revolution to the Kidnapping of a President*, by Randall Robinson (2007). Robinson, a bestselling author and social justice advocate, explores the heroic and tragic history of Haiti. He traces the history of a people forced across the Atlantic in chains; recounting their spectacularly successful slave revolt against France and the two-hundred years of reprisals that would follow. The fate of Aristide's presidency is tied to this people's quest for self-determination and his removal from power exposes the apartheid-like forces that frustrate these aspirations even today.

On June 5, the group will discuss *Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830-1970*, by Lynne Olson. This book is the first comprehensive history of the vital role women - both black and white - played in the civil rights movement. The book puts a human face on the civil rights struggle and shows that face was often female.

To learn more about the book group, please call Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

Other News from the Annual Dinner

Winners of Art Raffle Prizes

Marcie Lightwood won the Batik Fabric Quilt made by Ellen Buck. Terri Rudnicki of Wilkes-Barre won the Hand-Crocheted Afghan made by Anna Reczek. Ian Erlandsen won the Gift Certificate to Flow Restaurant in Jim Thorpe. Marilou Greboval of Rhode Island won the Hand-Turned Wooden Bowl made by Lee Buck. David Charles Smith won the Four tickets to Frank Banko Alehouse Cinema donated by Robert Daniels II. Sylvia Briscoe won the Wheel-Thrown Pottery from Somerville Pottery made by Monica and Ray Sommerville, now of New York State, formerly from Allentown. Sarah Snider won the Oil Painting by William DeRaymond.

Thank you to all who donated the prizes and to everyone who bought raffle tickets, and congratulations to all the winners.

Check On-Line

See photographs from the dinner on page 5 and check at www.lepoco.org, for more photographs and for a video recording of the talk by Ray McGovern.

Steering Committee Changes

A deep "Thank You" to those retiring from the Steering Committee: Mimi Lang, Ruth Karpinski, Becky Irwin, and Ruth Walden. We will miss all of them at Steering Committee meetings, but look forward to their future contributions to peace work.

Please see the box on this page for a listing of the returning and new members of the Steering Committee for March 2012- March 2013.

Excerpts from "A Tribute to LEPOCO and Dr. Seuss," revised from 2011 for Annual Dinner March 3, 2012

Peace, Peace, Peace
Said the Cat in the Hat
Speak truth to power
What's the matter with that? ...

They'll use our tax dollars
For war and avenging
While corporate folks
Enjoy comforts unending...

We peacemakers believe
That each effort we're making
Gives the earth a reprieve
From hate and war-making...

A touch here of beauty,
A Community grows.
Occupy with intent
The glint of Hope glows.

We love celebration And join in with Ray
For 47 years, Of Peace-making hay! ...

- Mimi Lang

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

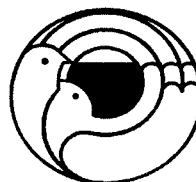
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The *LEPOCO Newsletter* is published 8 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a nonviolent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

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, 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, April 6th, 2012, 7 pm:

"Death and Taxes" with special guest **John K. Stoner**

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

This tightly paced film features twenty-eight people who offer their motivations for and methods of resisting the war machine with their tax money while redirecting tax dollars to peace work.

The post-film discussion will feature John K. Stoner, one of the initiators of 1040forPeace.org, that was started in Lancaster County, in 2010. He is retired and focuses on life-enhancing work for justice and peace. A Mennonite, he lives with his family in Akron, Pennsylvania.

"Death & Taxes" was produced by the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. 30 minutes. 2010.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, April 15th, 2012, 6 pm

Faramarz Farbod: ***"Understanding the Iran-U.S. Stand Off: What's Behind the Headlines"***

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Faramarz Farbod will return as a P&P speaker to discuss the continuing tensions between the U.S. and Iran. Faramarz Farbod came to the United States from Iran in the 1970s. He graduated from Moravian Academy and Moravian College, and got a masters degree from Lehigh University. In the 1990s he spent several years teaching politics in his native Iran. Since 1998 he has been teaching politics at Moravian College. He is an avid soccer player and the single parent of two lovely boys.

*Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6 pm.
The presentation and discussion should begin around 6:45 pm.*

Sunday, April 22nd, 2012, 6 pm

Sarah Snider: ***"Report on March 2012 Election Observer Delegation to El Salvador"***

Potluck & Politics at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sarah Snider traveled to El Salvador in early March as part of the International Election Observer Mission organized by CIS (Centro Intercambio & Solidaridad). The delegation accompanied the mayoral and legislative assembly elections in that country. Her delegation was also able to visit La Loma, the community that Joe DeRaymond visited on several occasions. A fund established by CIS in Joe's memory has helped with the building of a school and other humanitarian projects in the small rural village. Sarah will report on the delegation's experiences. This was her sixth visit to the country.

*Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6 pm.
The presentation and discussion should begin around 6:45 pm.*

Friday, May 4th, 2012, 7 pm:

"The Interrupters"

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

This documentary tells the moving and surprising story of three members of CeaseFire who work as "violence interrupters" in Chicago. With bravado, humility and humor they courageously try to protect their communities from the violence they once employed.

Directed by Steve James, whose previous films include *Hoop Dreams* and *At the Death House Door*. 125 minutes. 2011.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



24 Hours in Tioga County —

As reported in the last newsletter LEPOCO members and friends concerned about the impact of natural gas hydraulic fracturing have been invited by the Wellsboro Friends Meeting to visit their community and see some of the difficult changes being faced as this industry has come into their area. The tour will be Saturday and Sunday, May 5th and 6th. With travel time from and back to the Lehigh Valley, one should plan for a commitment of both days. We will share meals with members of the Meeting and they will host us in their homes overnight. We want to have 12 to 18 people participating. Please contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 asap if you are interested in participating. This is a truly special opportunity and we are grateful to Bryn Hammarstrom and the Wellsboro Friends Meeting for the invitation.

Finding Ways to Occupy Peace

Nine years after United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) led U.S. anti-war activists in the historic demonstration in New York City against the Iraq War that was part of the biggest worldwide protest in history, peace activists from national, local and regional groups gathered in Philadelphia, February 24-26, for Occupy Peace, an opportunity for sharing and strategizing. UFPJ has come through the rough period of the economic downturn to now be out of debt under the leadership of Michael McPherson (of Veterans For Peace) and others. Currently, UFPJ activities are being initiated by an Afghanistan Working Group, a working group on nuclear disarmament, and others. Discussion led to clear support for UFPJ continuing their special mobilizing work - conferences, legislative action, nonviolent action, etc., because our economy and all the things we care about are being asked to suffer so war-making can continue. A challenge is helping people who oppose the cuts at the local and state level to see the connection those cuts have to military spending. One big effort that came out of the weekend is an Iran Pledge of Resistance described in the next article. To learn more about UFPJ go to www.unitedforpeace.org.

You Are Invited to Sign the Iran Pledge of Resistance!

As noted above, at the United For Peace & Justice "Occupy Peace" Summit in Philadelphia, a campaign was conceived to build an effective and rapid response to preempt a U.S. war with Iran. Modeled after the Central America Pledge of Resistance, that successfully prevented a U.S. invasion in Nicaragua, the Iran Pledge of Resistance was created to build an emergency response network and a campaign capable of preventing another war. While the Pledge itself is online, www.iranpledge.org,

the hope is to connect people to form affinity groups and coordinate local actions. Working together, we can be a powerful force that can change the course of history.

Please read the pledge carefully and fill out the form at www.iranpledge.org. Also, contact the LEPOCO Peace Center to let us know you've signed the pledge so we can help coordinate local efforts. This is not a petition, but a pledge to take action.

"If the United States applies increased sanctions, invades, bombs, sends combat troops or drones, or otherwise significantly escalates its intervention in Iran or the region directly or through support of its allies, *I pledge to join with others to engage in acts of legal protest and/or nonviolent civil disobedience* to prevent or halt the death and destruction which U.S. military actions would cause to the people of Iran, the Middle East, our communities at home, and the planet itself."

March: A Month of Inspiration

Starting with Ray McGovern's talk (see page 1 of this newsletter) at our Annual Dinner on the 3rd, there were many opportunities to be inspired for further action for peace or to participate in such action locally in March.

On the 11th we marveled at the insightful humor of Ted Swartz in his "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy," performed at the Souderton Mennonite Church to benefit Christian Peacemaker Teams (in part with the selling of homemade pies) -- "Peace, Pies & Prophets."

On March 17th we heard Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, at the Marcellus Shale Exposed conference at Northampton Community College. While gas wells really need to last forever to protect the environment, they will all fail eventually - 6% will fail in their first year of operation.

People rallied for Trayvon Martin in Allentown and Bethlehem, on the 26th and 30th, respectively.

On the 29th, Frances Moore Lappé spoke at a Lehigh University conference calling for "bold humility" as we confront the world's problems, rethinking fear and power, expecting surprises with an "EcoMind" (the title of her latest book), flexible for continuous change.

Also on the 29th Congressman John Lewis, the civil rights leader, spoke at Moravian College and Wendell Potter spoke about health care issues for the Congregations United for Neighborhood Action in Allentown. And on the 30th, a Peace Conference at Northampton Community College dealt with "Justice or Just Us? Activism in the Age of Inequality."

On the 29th and 30th we were inspired by the calm and hopeful courage of Father Roy Bourgeois as he spoke of the persistence of the movement to Close the U.S. Army School of the Americas and about his work for the ordination of women in the Catholic Church, both at LEPOCO and at Moravian Academy.

Finally, on the 31st Occupy Easton did a Foreclosure, Blighted and Abandoned Building walk.



Peace Pies



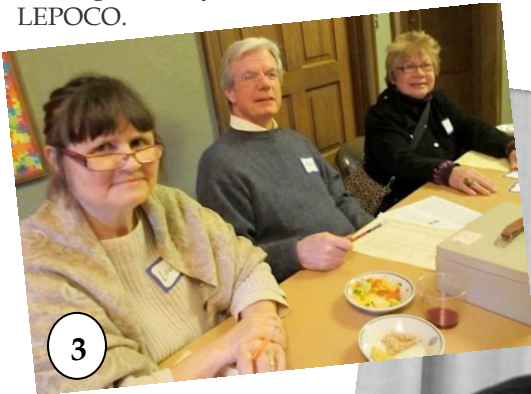
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1) On February 11th, the "Bring Troops and War Dollars Home From Around the World" march was held to honor the peace witness of Martin Luther King Jr. The event was organized by the Nuclear Abolition Sisters of LEPOCO.



2

Photos by Robert Daniels II and Susie Ravitz.



3

2) Jeff Vitelli and Ginny Booth prepare a delicious Annual Dinner dish on March 3rd...

3) ... as Laurie Spalholz, Mike Lawton, and Juanita Gomez-Reyes mind the door.



4

4) Emcee Mimi Lang cheerfully poses with Steering Committee member Kelly Quain at the LEPOCO Annual Dinner.



7



7) The LEPOCO Peace Singers performed five rousing songs for the eager crowd at LEPOCO's Annual Dinner.



5

5) Former C.I.A. intelligence analyst Ray McGovern speaks on "The Moral Imperative of Activism"...



6

6) ...while newly appointed Steering Committee member Sarah Andrew listens intently.

LEPOCO Financial Report 2011

Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance	2011
Membership Dues, Fund Appeals, Phonathon, Pledges	\$39,154.87
Investment Income	\$40.05
SERRV & Boutique Sales (net)	\$1413.08
Annual Dinner (net)	\$2442.02
Art Raffle (net)	\$684.93
Bike/Walk-A-Thon (net)	\$1100.95
Yard Sale & Craig's List Sale	\$958.95
Week at the Beach	\$1001.01
Theater Parties (Laramie Project play & Phil Ochs film) (net)	\$409.56
Tom Lloyd 90 th Birthday Party	\$1177.56
Donations for LEPOCO Talks	\$420.00
Misc. Fundraising: (P&Ps, End Afghan War Program, etc.)	\$260.90
Copier Use	\$46.22
Total Revenue	\$49,110.10
Salaries, Taxes & Benefits for Employees	\$30,293.91
Rent, Electric, Telephone	\$6451.12
Insurance (Fire, Liability & Worker's Comp)	\$1249.00
Internet Service Provider	\$504.00
Other Computer Expenses (Programs, E-Mail Server, Virus Protection, Web Site Hosting)	\$449.16
Printing & Postage (Newsletter, Bulk Mail Fee, Letterhead, etc.)	\$2498.92
Fairs & Festivals (Pridefest, Earth Day, Renewable Energy, Buckingham Peace Fair)	\$202.90
Fund Appeals	\$691.52
Other Programs & Events (ML King, H-N, Tax Day, GDAM Walk, Peace Singers, etc.)	\$349.51
Supplies (Office, Copier, Printer, Paper)	\$1975.30
Repairs (Office, Copier, Risograph, Computer)	\$1066.99
Misc. Office Expenses	\$226.44
Miscellaneous	\$5.69
Total Expenses	\$45,964.46
Excess or (Loss) for Year	\$3145.64
Fund Balances at the Beginning of the Year	\$8225.05
Change in Investment Value	(\$26.45)
Fund Balance at the End of the Year	\$11,344.20

2011 Fund Balances	Beginning of Year	End of Year
Cash, Savings and Investments	\$15,450.10	\$17,178.32
Liabilities	\$7,225.09	\$5,835.12
Net Assets and Fund Balances	\$8,225.01	\$11,344.20

The Struggle Shared

In an ecology no creature creates waste another species cannot use -- hence the maxim "Waste is Food." No other species creates growing amounts of substances that are toxic to the rest of life, such as dioxins, PCB's, and radioactive waste. Our linear/exponential growth economy manifestly violates nature's law of return, the cycling of resources... A sacred economy is an extension of the ecology, and obeys all its rules, among them the law of return... It means that there is no such thing as industrial waste. Everything cycles back to its source. As in the rest of nature, our waste becomes another's food."

- from "Sacred Economics," by Charles Eisenstein

FUKUSHIMA/CHERNOBYL/TMI: THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY ON THE ANNIVERSARIES

- On March 11th, first anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan, the island nation fell silent in homage to those who died. Then there were massive demonstrations in Japan, and around the world to remember the resultant disaster at the Fukushima nuclear reactors. The toll of human life from the radiation of Fukushima is still inestimable. Mingled with memories of the nuclear holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 67 years ago this August, the suddenly inescapable connections between nuclear weapons and power, and the distrust in the institutions that should have protected people from the dangers, has led to the near shutdown of Japan's nuclear industry.

One by one, local officials have used their authority under Japanese law to refuse to restart plants shut down for routine maintenance until they can be convinced of the safety of atomic energy. Only one of Japan's 54 nuclear plants are currently in operation. Where nuclear generation once accounted for a third of its energy production, the Japanese people have adopted extensive energy conservation measures which so far have avoided energy shortages.

April 26th marks the 26th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl. Today the town of Pripyat, once home to 50,000 workers, and dozens of villages within the exclusion zones are ghost towns littered with remnants of hasty abandonment. The sarcophagus is a crumbling, leaking concrete tower, threatening to topple, unleashing radiation to cause a disaster of a magnitude equal to the first. While the official UN report estimates that 4,000

cancer deaths will result from Chernobyl's radiation, environmentalists put the toll at 100,000 already dead.

Meanwhile, heightened risk factors of a severe nuclear accident abound in the United States. Currently 23 U.S. boiling water reactors, similar to those in the Fukushima disaster, are operating near major U.S. cities. Nearly all of the 104 nuclear reactors operating here were designed and built 30 to 40 years ago. Most are licensed beyond their original expiration dates, and have had their operating power increased beyond their designed capacity.

In spite of the risks the nuclear industry is bullheadedly bullish on further development. In the global markets, the price of uranium has been steadily rising, in anticipation of increased demand. In Canada, a long-standing moratorium on uranium mining was recently lifted, and drilling is expected to begin this year for 15.1 million pounds of uranium on Labrador-Inuit lands previously protected. In the US, there are several applications pending for new licenses, as the Obama administration continues to tout nuclear power as a weapon in our arsenal against dependence on foreign oil.

There is resistance to this insanity, the Nuclear Information Resource Service lists hundreds of actions in this country, and around the world, from teach-ins, to flash-mob die-ins, rallies in almost every state, and a mock evacuation of Vermont Yankee.

As these Anniversaries intersect with the saber-rattling over Iran, and the energy of the Occupy movement we can hope to see a new blossoming of nuclear resistance.

TRASH TO ENERGY: BAD IDEA -
What goes in your trash? Anything

that's not recyclable, compostable, or reusable? Occasional flashlight batteries, paint cans, stuff that's turned away from the recycling centers, but is accepted by your trash haulers? Do you want your trash to be mingled, "steam-cleaned," dried, and then incinerated to generate electricity? That is essentially the proposal that the City of Allentown has accepted.

Delta Thermo Energy is the company that has presented a plan to convert Allentown's trash and sewage sludge into a substance with the energy composition of decompressed coal, which would then be burned to steam generate electricity. The attorney for the company said, "It will make Allentown the green capital of the country in terms of dealing with waste, and turning it into energy."

However, the technology has never been used on the proposed scale. It was presented to city council as a contract, with no open bid process for alternative proposals. The contract will lock the city into a 35-year agreement to supply Delta Thermo with the trash they need.

There are dozens of financial liability, environmental justice, and public health reasons why this plan is a bad idea for Allentown. Al Wurth, addressed Council as chair of the Solid Waste Committee of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club, saying, in part, "A careful review of the terms of the project changes it from nonsense to nonsense-on-stilts. The short summary is that the deal will legally bind the city to a more expensive and risky waste disposal system than the current system, with the potential to irreversibly damage city finances, and it will prevent potentially safer and cheaper alternatives from being pursued."

In February Allentown City Council defeated the proposal after hearing public comment from environmentalists. Then, in response to intense pressure from building trades unions and the city administration, Council reopened discussion on March 7th, and voted to authorize the mayor to sign the contract.

To ensure the future health and safety of life in our Lehigh Valley, the Delta Thermo Energy Project must be stopped. To find more information, go to www.sustianlv.org.

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

Ⓟ The LEPOCO Steering Committee has acted to endorse two recent national statements:

1) A United for Peace & Justice Statement **"No War on Iran"** calling for diplomacy and negotiations rather than the use of force. The full statement and list of signers can be read at www.unitedforpeace.org.

2) A letter circulated by the **East Timor Action Network** urging Congress and the U.S. government not to allow the sale of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters to the Indonesian military. 90 organizations signed. The statement says the sale of this weapons system would increase the suffering of the Papuan population. See www.etan.org for more info.

Also, LEPOCO's Nuclear Abolition Sisters signed a letter to Korean officials calling for an end to construction of the navy base on **Jeju Island**, a place known for its natural beauty, and named the Peace Island. The base is designed to accommodate U.S. Navy Aegis missile destroyers and aircraft carriers and will only serve to escalate tensions between China and the U.S. in the South China Sea. For more info. see www.space4peace.org.

Ⓟ Nobel Peace Prize nominee **Bradley Manning** will be in court again April 24-26, in Ft. Meade, MD. Several events are planned to show solidarity with the accused WikiLeaks whistle-blower, some in Washington, DC, and others at Fort Meade. For more information see www.bradleymanning.org.

Ⓟ A large contingent of the 99% are expected in Charlotte, NC, May 9, to **protest Bank of America policies** at the company's annual shareholder meeting. This protest will focus on BofA policies that are bankrupting our economy and destroying the environment. Rainforest Action Network is one of the main organizing groups. More information can be found at www.ran.org.

Ⓟ Many thanks to the LEPOCO **Financial Stabilization & Development Ad Hoc Group** that met regularly in 2010 and 2011. They researched and presented new fundraising concepts and suggestions to the monthly Action Meeting on several occasions. Becky Irwin convened the group and David Rose, Vince Stravino, Julius Iwantsch, Addison Bross, Karen Hicks, Ron Clever, Bruce Irwin and Tom Ulrich were among the participants. Thank you for all the productive work.

Ⓟ The number of U.S. households living on less than \$2 per person per day - which the study terms "extreme poverty" - more than doubled between 1996 and 2011, from 636,000 to 1.46 million, the study finds... The number of children in extremely poor households also doubled, from 1.4 million to 2.8 million.

Source: Michelle Chen of "In These Times," published at www.commondreams.org on 3/16/12, from an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Ⓟ On Fri., April 13, at 1 pm, there will be a Legislative Forum on the Impact of Gov. Corbett's 2012-13 Proposed Budget. The event will be held at the Fowler Family Southside Center, Bethlehem. The program will feature a panel of legislators hearing testimony from people who will be directly impacted by state budget cuts, and is sponsored by the L.V. Fair Budget Coalition. For more info. contact Community Action Committee of L.V.



Ⓟ In March a Berkeley economist reported that in 2010, the first full year since the "end" of the Great Recession, **virtually all of the income growth** in the U.S. took place among the country's very wealthiest people. That year, the top 1% of earners took in a full 93% of all the income gains, leaving the other 7% of gains to be sprinkled among the vast majority of society.

Source: "The Occupied Wall Street Journal," 3/12/12.

Ⓟ Rick Daugherty and Jackson Easton, both Democratic challengers in the U.S. Congress' 15th District, will debate at 7 pm, Tues., April 10, in the Great Rm., Seegers Union, Muhlenberg College, Allentown.

Ⓟ *"Let us march on poverty until wrinkled stomachs in Mississippi are filled, and the idle industries of Appalachia are realized and revitalized, and broken lives in sweltering ghettos are mended and remolded."*

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "How Long, Not Long," Montgomery, Alabama, 3/25/65.

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.

Support LEPOCO!

___ Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$_____.
(\$35 individual; \$45 hh; \$75 supporter; \$5 lim. 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

☪ **Peace Camp 2012** now has co-conveners: Sarah Andrew and Chris Klump. Planning will be in full swing following a meeting that is happening the same week that this newsletter is being prepared. Look for more information soon. If you can help with the planning process or as a volunteer at camp, please contact LEPOCO. **Peace Camp will be July 23-27.**

☪ **Earth Day 2012** will have many local observances. Among them will be the following. On Sun., April 15, 11 am - 5 pm, there will be a Delaware Water Gap Eco-Film Festival and Earth Fair, at the Dutot Museum, 24 Main St.

LEPOCO will have information tables at two fairs. On Fri., April 20, 11 am to 2 pm, we will be at Lehigh University's Earth Day Fair. And Sat. and Sun., April 21-22, we will be at Jim Thorpe's Earth Day. Volunteers are needed to help staff the Jim Thorpe booth, especially on Sunday. Contact LEPOCO if you can help.

☪ **April 14-17, the School of the Americas Watch** will hold their **Days of Action** in Washington, DC. A conference on Sat., April 14, will focus on "International (In)Security," from 9 am to 5 pm, at the Metropolitan Community Church of DC. On Sun. there will be a strategy session and a concert; on Mon. and Tues., lobbying; and on Mon., at noon, nonviolent direct action. For more info. see www.soaw.org.

In a letter calling for participation in these events Fr. Roy Bourgeois writes, "Militarization in the Americas has increased during the Obama administration, as evidenced by the military coup and the ongoing violence in Honduras, the ever-expanding 'War on Drugs,' the continuing murders of unionists in Colombia and the construction of new U.S. military bases throughout the hemisphere."

☪ "Expanding the Circle of Protection" will be the theme for a conference at First Presbyterian Church, Allentown, Sat., April 21, 8:30 am to 3 pm. The conference will discuss both

local and national food and hunger issues and is sponsored by the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, Bread for the World and Second Harvest. For more info. see www.bread.pprj.org or call 610-433-6421. Suggested donation: \$5. (Students and Low-Income: Free).

☪ On Sat., April 28, there will be a "Drone Summit: Killing & Spying by Remote Control," in Washington, DC. The conference is intended to bring together drone-strike victims, human rights advocates, robotics technology experts, journalists and activists in order to inform the public about the widespread and rapidly expanding deployment of both killer and surveillance drones. You can register at www.codepink.org. For more info. contact Ramah Kudaimi at rkudaimi@gmail.com.

Related to this, the **KNOW Drones Tour** will be visiting Philadelphia, April 25-27, with a large model bomber and surveillance drone replicas, interactive displays, and forums on the expanding role and impact of these remote-controlled killing and spying machines.

☪ "The situation in Afghanistan is a nightmare." So began the Action Alert of United for Peace & Justice (3/13/12) that followed the murder of 16 civilians, including children, by a

U.S. soldier in the middle of the night in Kandahar province, Afghanistan. John LaForge wrote at www.commondreams.org (3/16/12), to remind us of earlier U.S. atrocities in Afghanistan starting with one in November 2001 when hundreds of captured Afghani fighters were packed into sealed metal shipping containers. Many died of asphyxiation and others of machine gun fire as U.S. Special Forces watched.

The Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers wrote of a grieving mother holding her dead baby in her arms, "*We.. join her in grieving and questioning. We call for all to stop killing, to be calm, nonviolent, brave and kind to one another, as we discuss how to end the Afghan war. ... We wish for non-military, diplomatic strategies, not military strategies that have destroyed our land over the past four decades. We believe that non-violent international relations are what all of humanity yearns for, and we look for a world in which violent acts like the Kandahar killing spree are resolved in peaceful ways.*"

CREDO Action wrote (also on 3/13/12) that "there are no good outcomes after a decade of occupation -- only bad choices that limit future damages." Urge Congress to support Rep. Barbara Lee's H-780 that limits funding for the war to providing for a safe and orderly withdrawal.

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

Thursday, April 5, 11:30 am: Americas Solidarity Group meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Friday, April 6, 1 pm: Newsletter Planning Committee meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Mondays, April 9 & May 14, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the Peace Center. All members and friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed.

Wednesday, April 11, 3:30 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thursdays, April 12 & May 10, 6 pm: Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans for Peace meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Thursday, April 19, 3:30 pm: Bike/Walkathon Planning Committee meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Sunday, April 29, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearsal at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, Bethlehem.

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 Nuclear Abolition Sisters, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings please see www.lepoco.org.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Bits & Pieces
Meetings...

Tuesday, April 17
Tax Day 2012
Help leaflet at local post offices.
(See page 1 for more info.)

Monthly Peace Vigil
Our wars continue. Please help witness for peace.
4:30-5:30 pm
Second Thursdays (April 12 & May10)
3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem
Contact:
Vince Stravino 610-216-8103 / Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136

Potluck/Popcorn & Politics
Fri., April 6, 7 pm
Film: "Death & Taxes
with speaker John Stoner
Sun., April 15, 6 pm
Faramarz Farbod
"Understanding Iran-U.S. Stand Off"
Sun., April 22, 6 pm
Sarah Snider
"Report on March Election Observer
Delegation to El Salvador"
Fri., May 4, 7 pm
Film: "The Interrupters"
(See page 3 for more details.)

LEPOCO's Annual Bike/Walk-a-thon:
Saturday, June 2, 2012 (see insert)