



## "Picture a World Without Violence"

Over 125 students, grades 6-12, from 16 area schools submitted entries to LEPOCO's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster Contest. They created posters on three themes: "War is Not the Answer"; "Peace Takes Courage, Too"; and, "The Lehigh Valley Is No Place for Hate."

On Saturday, November 14, in addition to all the winners' works, at least one representative piece of art from each school that had entries was on display at Northampton Community College's Fowler Family Southside Center. Lisa Penyak played a meditative steel tongue drum as more than 70 students, family members and friends gathered at NCC for the Poster Contest Awards Ceremony.

Welcomed by Mimi Lang, and introduced by Ronnie Arena, a teacher at her school, student Frances Hendricks read her poem, "The Pen Is Mightier than the Sword." Awards were presented by Martha Christine, teacher and LEPOCO Poster Committee convener, Berrisford Boothe, artist and Lehigh University Professor, and Jackie Lima, artist and Gallery Director at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Boothe mentioned the late great musician Gil Scott-Heron and his rap poem/song, "Work for Peace," and with fellow judge Jackie Lima, warmly presented winning students with a certificate, words of praise, a "Make Art Not War," button, and encouragement for their art. Six top winners received cash awards totaling \$1000, and 20 students received honorable mention certificates. Afterwards, the crowd enjoyed light refreshments, browsed and discussed the gallery of posters.

Cash awards were presented to: Anna La, from South Mountain Middle School - Grand Prize; Dasani Blount, from Nitschmann Middle School - Second Place, Middle School; Skylar DeLabar, from Palisades High School - Second Place, High School; Daniel Strauss, from Brandywine High School - Third Place, "War Is Not the Answer"; Hailey Wills, from Eyer Middle School - Third Place, "The Lehigh Valley Is No Place For Hate"; and Zachary Ryan, from Eyer Middle School - Third Place, "Peace Takes Courage, Too."

Judges for the contest were Pennsylvania State Representative Steve Samuelson, Jackie Lima, Berrisford Boothe, Martha Christine, and Amanda Zaniesienko. The posters were on exhibit at NCC for one month. They will be at the Bethlehem Public Library December 14 - January 10. Please visit. The LEPOCO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is planning to exhibit the posters in public locations throughout much

of 2016. If you have suggestions for possible display locations please contact LEPOCO. Exhibit locations will be announced in this newsletter and in LEPOCO's weekly email calendar as they are set.

- Monica McAgnon

(Members of LEPOCO'S 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee not mentioned in the article: Steve Kraft, Kathryn Hoffman, Susie Ravitz, Tom Stinnett, Bob & Carmen Riggs, Nancy Tate.)

(Please see the photo report from the Awards Ceremony on page 4 of this newsletter.)

## Excerpts from "Art for Peace"

In the summer of 2014, a very ill, but wise older man, named Peter Cohen, came to LEPOCO to share his parting words with us. He was one of the founders of LEPOCO and, 49 years later, he was still working on expressing peace through his writing and painting skills. His advice to LEPOCO on that special day was: "Continue to be a messenger of peace... we are still needed... There are forces at work for good in the universe... Do what we do because it is the right thing to do... Sponsor a valley-wide poster contest."

Peter's advice was one of the inspirations for the "Picture a World Without Violence" poster contest.

Besides the excitement of the awards at the ceremony on November 14, the event was notable because most of the people who came may have never heard of LEPOCO. Now they have some awareness that there is a Peace Center in the Lehigh Valley and they know a little of what we do.

- From an article by Mimi Lang published in the newsletter of the L.V. Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

"Finding Light in a Time of Darkness:

The Peace Witness of  
the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Friday, January 15, 2016

7:00 pm

Town Hall Rotunda, Bethlehem City Hall  
10 E. Church St., Bethlehem

A reading and discussion of King's "Beyond Vietnam"  
speech delivered at Riverside Church, NYC,  
in April 1967, one year before his assassination.

Planned by the Stop the Wars Committee of LEPOCO.

## "Death On Hold" Talk at L.U.

Rob Dunham, the Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, DC, gave a presentation at Lehigh University on November 9<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by members of LV-CASK (Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing). The talk, "Death On Hold: The Pennsylvania Moratorium on Executions," focused on some of the issues that are still under consideration by the current Pennsylvania Death Penalty Study Commission (a special committee of the Pennsylvania Legislature). The reason given by Governor Wolfe for the moratorium on executions he imposed early in his term, is that this commission has still not released their long overdue findings and recommendations. Mr. Dunham provided those present with the facts and statistics that the commission has received regarding the current issues with the death penalty which should make any reasonable person, and some legislators, conclude, regardless of their moral position on state-sponsored killing, that the current death penalty in Pennsylvania is a stunningly arbitrary, wastefully expensive and embarrassingly ineffective system of punishment.

While the presentation provided a lot of information and facts about problems with the death penalty in our state, it also provided an example of the difficulty in having an informed discussion about the issue of the death penalty with those who have no exposure to the Criminal Justice system, such as the average Lehigh student. An understanding of criminal court procedures and our adversarial system of justice, legal definitions of common terms, the structure of the Pennsylvania and Federal court system; all these provide an important framework to help understand why the death penalty system is such a miserable failure in determining truth and providing reasonable outcomes. District Attorneys, in Pennsylvania, the strongest supporters of the current death penalty system, depend on this lack of knowledge about the criminal justice system to convince people that any problems with the death penalty would be solved if those opposed to it would just mind their own business. Any reasonable person informed by facts provided from Rob Dunham's presentation would know otherwise, the problems are inherent in the system itself.

- David Rose

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## A Day to Think About Peace & Thank Those Who Served by Working to End War\*\*

World War I ended on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month (November) in 1918 which became "Armistice Day" for "the War to end all wars."

Because we have been involved in so many wars since then, the day is now called Veterans Day to remember all our military -- including draftees like me. Our members locally in the Thomas Paine Chapter 152

of Veterans For Peace again this year displayed 250+ mock tombstones, labeled with the names of Pennsylvania state soldiers who fell in Iraq and Afghanistan since hostilities began there. This event took place in the Bethlehem Rose Garden Park, at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Union Blvd., on this historic day in world history, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Commanding officer and lead organizer that day was Patrick Roxberry, assisted by Jeff Brightbill, John Zachmann, Victor Madeson, Phil Reiss and Ellen Bell. Louise Legun and Judy Woodruff drove all the way from Blandon to participate! Others stopped by too, and I apologize if I forgot names.

It was uneventful with only peace signs, smiles and honks from passing motorists -- no expletives or middle fingers. Some pedestrians shared comments and one Iraq War veteran told us how he made night raids because "it had to be done." It was an important day of remembrance and fellowship for all attending.

- Vince Stravino, U.S. Army Medical Corps. 1961-63

\*\*This phrase is from a quote ("Today I join with Veterans For Peace in a call to Reclaim November 11<sup>th</sup> as Armistice Day -- a day to think about peace and thank those who served by working to end war.") by Michael McPhearson in his article published at [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org) on 11/10/15. Michael McPhearson is the executive director of Veterans For Peace.

Check out the LEPOCO website at [www.lepoco.org](http://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 [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net). You can also sign up to receive the newsletter by email.



Newsletter of LEPOCO  
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The LEPOCO Newsletter is published eight 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 one of the addresses above for consideration for the next issue of the newsletter.

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

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

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Terry Briscoe, Bridger Buller, Martha Christine, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Dan Miller, Janet Ney, Mary Kay O'Donnell, Jim Orben, Susie Ravitz, Scott Slingerland, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), and Amanda Zaniesienko (ex-officio).

# Potluck/Popcorn & Politics

Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

## Paddington

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

This film is a charming look at serious issues like immigration and tolerance. It is a British/French live action/computer animated family comedy film. Hopefully it sets just the right tone for the end of the holiday season and the beginning of a new year. It is the story of a young English-speaking bear from Peru finding his way in a sometimes kind, sometimes hostile London. Directed by Paul King. 95 minutes. 2014.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm

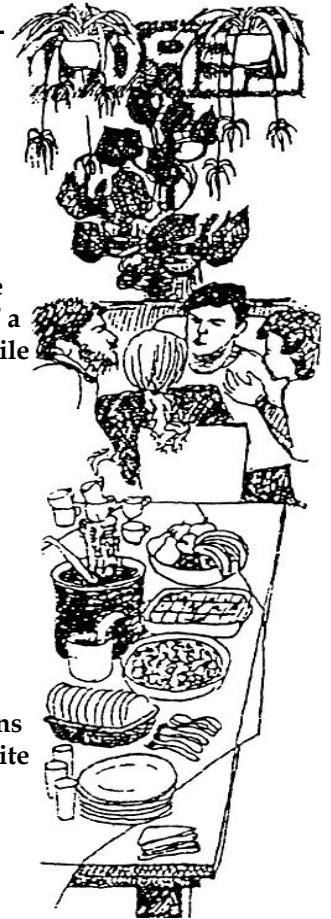
## Sheila Clever

### *"Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour : A Report"*

A Potluck & Politics event at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., (south) Bethlehem.

In September 2015 Sheila Clever was one of 16 participants who spent six days visiting prisons and prison-related facilities in Pennsylvania. This inaugural effort was organized by Mennonite Central Committee. Sheila will report on what she learned about the impact of mass incarceration in our state.

*Please bring some food to share for the potluck dinner at 6:00 pm.  
The presentation and discussion should begin shortly after 6:30 pm.*



## Save the Date & More

Saturday, March 12, 2016  
LEPOCO Annual Dinner

1) Plan now to join LEPOCO members and friends in celebrating 50 years of local work for peace and justice - honoring the work and persistence of so many.

Featured Speaker: Ann Wright

Peace Activist, Diplomat, Retired U.S. Army Colonel

2) Are you an out-of-area supporter/former Lehigh Valley activist? Are you able to join us for this special event? Please let us know if you can be here a.s.a.p. -- so we can save you a seat. We are also considering an informal time that weekend for visiting (besides the dinner) if there is interest. Please contact us by email, postal mail, or phone, to let us know of your interest by January 15, if at all possible.

3) Everyone -- we are collecting "*Memories of LEPOCO.*" Please write your humorous or serious memory/story in 50 words or less (more than one memory/story submission is welcomed). This collection of stories will be an important part of the March gathering. You can submit your piece(s) by email or postal mail.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter and in other email and regular mail notices.

## Keeping Track of U.S. Policy toward Latin America -- Especially toward Cuba

The Americas Solidarity Group (ASG) of LEPOCO recently sponsored two events to help the Lehigh Valley keep its eyes on Cuba, in particular, and Latin America, generally.

The first, "Signs of Hope in Cuba-U.S. Relations", was a November 8<sup>th</sup>, Potluck & Politics event held at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse. Organized by the ASG to help us think about Cuba and the on-going changes in Cuba-U.S. relations, it attracted 22 people who came to break bread and to hear a panel made up of Ricardo Viera, David Sommers, and Faramarz Farbod.

Ricardo Viera, a Cuban-American Professor of Art at Lehigh University and Director/Chief Curator of the University's Art Gallery, presented slides introducing us to the visual arts of Cuba and Latin America. David Sommers, who has visited Cuba twice recently as an adult leader with a delegation of Moravian Church young people meeting with their Moravian counterparts in Cuba, brought us information about the religious dimension in Cuban society. And Faramarz Farbod, a professor of political science at Moravian College, placed current developments in the context of globalization and U.S. foreign policy toward the global south.

(continued on page 6)



Grand Prize - Anna La - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
South Mountain Middle School

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Skylar DeLabar  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Palisades High School

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Dasani Blount  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Nitschmann Middle School



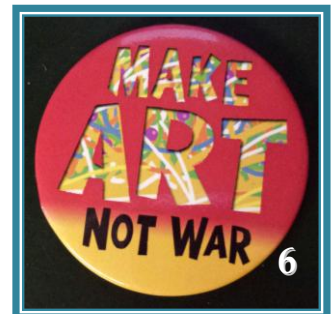
LEPOCO's  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Poster Contest  
Awards Ceremony  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

NCC's Fowler Family  
Southside Center



Photographs by Will Christine  
and  
Monica McAgnon.

1. Guests perusing the artwork.
2. Martha Christine, Berrisford Boothe and Jackie Lima presenting an award to a cash award winner.
3. An intense art discussion.
4. Jackie Lima and Berrisford Boothe presenting a certificate and button to an Honorable Mention recipient - Margot Hillman, assisting.
5. Mimi Lang, facilitator at the Awards Ceremony, with the Grand Prize winning poster.
6. "Make Art Not War" buttons were presented to all honorable mentions and prize winners.



## Embracing Lives Ruined by War

On a beautiful fall Sunday, ten LEPOCO activists (Monica McAgdon, Mimi Lang, Susie Ravitz, Judith Ross, Kathryn Hoffman, Ellen Buck, Dan Miller, Ronnie Arena, Renate Brosky, Nancy Tate) gathered on Main St., Emmaus, outside the weekly Farmers' Market, with the beautiful banner created by Monica and Mimi -- "We Embrace Lives Ruined by War: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Israel-Palestine, Pakistan. The gathering was planned to mark the sad passing of one month since the U.S. bombed the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, Doctors Without Borders) Hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan.

The presence was well-received by shoppers at the Farmers' Market -- we felt a remarkably supportive spirit as we stood with signs and distributed a small leaflet. Looking back, that small demonstration seems even more poignant and meaningful.

**Kunduz** - Unfortunately the independent, international investigation sought by MSF into the Kunduz bombing has not been undertaken. On December 9, MSF staff and supporters delivered thousands of pages of print-outs listing the names of the more than half-a-million people who signed their petition calling on President Obama to consent to that independent investigation by the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC.org). His assent is necessary for the probe to go forward. The death toll from the October 3<sup>rd</sup> attack on the hospital has now risen to 42 people.

Medical facilities continue to be hit by the bombs falling in the ongoing wars -- some examples; 10/26/15 - U.S.-backed, Saudi-led military forces bombed a MSF hospital in Yemen; Russia bombed 10 medical facilities in Syria in October; the barrel bombing of a MSF hospital in Homs, Syria, on December 1; a MSF mobile clinic was bombed in Taiz, Yemen, on December 4.

The Geneva Conventions provide for the protection of medical facilities in war zones -- as MSF says, "Even Wars Have Rules." The destruction of medical facilities noted above meant the loss of lives, but also the loss of lifesaving medical services at the frontlines of conflict -- maybe the only such services in remote, troubled areas.

One antidote to these tragedies took place on October 29, when hundreds of medical workers staged a die-in near the United Nations building, NYC, to protest the targeting of healthcare workers. 700 medical professionals have been killed in Syria since the war began there.

**Refugees** - On November 1, our presence also called attention to the 60 million people living as refugees, displaced by war and conflict. In mid-December it was reported that 2000 refugees continue arriving daily on the Greek island of Lesbos, having traveled through cold ocean waters. Spanish volunteers help with the rescue of children and adults when their weak boats fail.

It has been heartening to see the humanitarian response of so many in Europe (like the Spanish rescuers) even if that has not been universal. Likewise, locally there has been much heartening action for the refugees. Pennsylvania's governor and Allentown's mayor have

spoken out for providing welcome to Syrian refugees even as many in the U.S. Congress reacted from a place of fear and intolerance. There have been excellent op-eds, letters in newspapers and to elected representatives.

The Lehigh Conference of Churches held an "Inter-faith Event to Welcome the Syrian Refugees," at the Dubbs Memorial Community Center, Allentown, in November. The atmosphere of fear that some promote kept the very refugees being welcomed from attending, but they certainly heard about the compassion that led over 500 people to come out on a Sunday afternoon, remember the over 30 countries that have been "victimized by terrorism in 2015," and then state in unison, "we desperately need our community...to help us combat fear, defeat hatred, and keep hope alive... We reach out to our Syrian brothers and sisters to welcome them."

Lutheran Children & Family Services (LCFS) handles Refugee Resettlement in Eastern Pennsylvania including that of the Syrian refugees coming to the Lehigh Valley. They suggest a number of possibilities for people to assist their efforts: 1) material assistance like "Welcome Boxes"; 2) volunteering as mentors, drivers, ESL teachers, etc.; 3) co-sponsorship of a family by large groups like churches; 4) foster parenting for unaccompanied minors; 5) donations to the Refugee Emergency Housing Fund (checks to Lutheran Congregational Services -- memo "Refugees Allentown," mailed to their office, 1923 Hanover Ave., Allentown PA 18109, attention: Marla.) LCFS can be contacted at 610-770-9205 or get more information at [www.lcfsinpa.org/resourcecenter](http://www.lcfsinpa.org/resourcecenter).

**Paris & San Bernardino** - The following are some responses to the terrorist attacks of recent weeks.

*"(H)ow can France ever take a convincing stand against ISIL while claiming to be the main ally, and provider of fighter planes, to the Gulf monarchies whose ideological leanings to ISIL are a matter of public knowledge? ...This is not the time to intensify strikes, for more strikes will only fire up a dangerous escalation and more attacks; this is the time to seize the opportunity to change gear and give diplomacy pride of place."*

- from "Win the War? No, Put an End To It" by Jean-Pierre Piérot, 11/17/15, published by Portside.org.

*"Terrorism survives wars; people don't.... (Y)ou can't bomb terrorism -- you can only bomb people. You can bomb cities. Sometimes you might kill a terrorist -- but that doesn't end terrorism; it only encourages more of it."*

- from "After the Paris Attacks, a Call for Justice- Not Vengeance," by Phyllis Bennis, 11/14/15, published at thenation.com.

In a public letter to Donald Trump on 12/17/15, Michael Moore wrote: "We are all Muslim. Just as we are all Mexican, we are all Catholic and Jewish and white and black and every shade in between. We are all children of God (or nature or whatever you believe in), part of the human family, and nothing you say or do can change that fact one iota."

You can join Michael Moore's campaign at [www.michaelmoore.com/weareallmuslim](http://www.michaelmoore.com/weareallmuslim).

- Nancy Tate

## 22 Years of Painful Lessons: Stop TPP

Over 70 people representing numerous local organizations gathered beside a busy Hamilton Blvd., outside Rep. Charlie Dent's 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Office as the sun was setting on December 8. It had been 22 years since then-President Clinton signed NAFTA and started the long trail of job, environmental, health, regulatory, human rights losses that have resulted from our many "free trade" agreements.

At Dent's office people were holding signs to "Stop the TPP" (Trans-Pacific Partnership) our latest manifestation of "free trade" -- which is really a "corporate empowerment scam" according to Jim Hightower. A "Zombie" and a "Santa" were among the protestors and rolls of toilet paper were lettered to "Flush the TPP." Speakers at the gathering included George Piasecki from the United Steelworkers who called for investment in infrastructure jobs in the U.S. rather than giving U.S. jobs to the lowest paid workers in Vietnam and Malaysia (two of the TPP nations); Maya van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper, pointed to pollution, illness, environmental devastation, and eminent domain land grabs that will result if TPP passes and brings more drilling, fracking, LNG exports, and fracked gas pipelines; and Karen Berry, local Amnesty International leader, pointed to the working condition abuses and human trafficking rampant in some TPP countries.

**ACTION:** - We are all urged to call Rep. Dent and/or your own representative, asking for "No" votes on the TPP (Congressional switchboard 202-224-3121; Local offices: Dent 610-770-3490; Matt Cartwright 484-546-0776; Mike Fitzpatrick 215-579-8102; Scott Garrett 201-444-5454; Leonard Lance 908-518-7733.)

For the second time this year LEPOCO has joined with hundreds of local and national organizations supporting an anti-TPP statement circulated by the Citizens Trade Campaign ([www.citizenstrade.org](http://www.citizenstrade.org)). The letter calls on Congress to reject the TPP because of several broad problems: it would offshore U.S. jobs and drive down wages; it would undermine environmental protections; it would jeopardize the safety of our food; it would roll back access to life-saving medications; it would elevate investor rights over human rights and democracy. You can also learn more from Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch ([citizen.org/trade](http://citizen.org/trade)).  
- Nancy Tate

## Witnessing for Workers Rights

Pheobe Home hourly workers in Allentown are being asked to take pay cuts of 12% (\$2 to \$4 an hour for some workers), pay more for their health insurance, and give back some of their days off. This, while the CEO of Pheobe Ministries is being paid \$800,000 a year.

Some of these workers were among the speakers at a rally in the circle at 7<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Sts., in Allentown on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The workers said they fear losing their homes and becoming dependent on public assis-

tance if these pay cuts go into effect. Many of them have been employed at Pheobe for 10 years or more. They also expressed concern about how care for Pheobe residents and patients will be negatively impacted if Pheobe workers suffer the proposed wage and benefit cuts. Such diminished care would be likely if worker turnover increases and experienced staff leave. The workers are represented by SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania.

The rally on November 10 was part of the nationwide campaign on that day to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Nursing home workers rallied in 13 cities across Pennsylvania, including Allentown, Philadelphia, Erie, Johnstown, and Reading.

The Keystone Research Center issued a report days before the rally that said 15,000 nursing home workers in Pennsylvania rely on public assistance now because their wages are so low. This costs taxpayers \$118 million per year. Nursing homes are turning a profit (\$400 million in FY2014). The longer-term Pheobe workers, unlike many nursing home employees, have been paid a "living wage," but they are being asked now to accept a poverty wage.

**Sources:** Mimi Lang & Rick Dow, participants in the November rally, and SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania ([www.seiuhcpa.org](http://www.seiuhcpa.org)).

## Keeping Track of U.S. Policy toward Latin America

(continued from page 3)

Bob Riggs observed that, "The three panelists were eloquent spokespeople for more congenial and interactive relations between Cuba and the U.S., to which their listeners responded with similar enthusiasm."

The second event, a November 22<sup>nd</sup> tour of, "Of the Americas - Contemporary Latin American Art," at the Lower Gallery at Lehigh University's Zoellner Arts Center, led by Ricardo Viera and Pat McAndrew, attracted fifteen people interested in getting insights into Latin America as seen through the eyes of its artists. Lehigh University students had prepared an interactive approach that had us getting fairly deeply into the artists' worlds. The exhibit continues through June 4, 2016, and is open to the public.

The ASG meets next at 11 am, Friday, January 8, 2016, at the LEPOCO Peace Center. (Most meetings are on the first Friday of the month at 11 am.) Please join us.

- Martin Boksenbaum

(with minor assistance from Bob Riggs and Nancy Tate)

## Acting Against Impunity & Corruption in Honduras

Rep. Matt Cartwright (17-PA) was one of the 54 members of the House of Representatives who joined in sending a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry on December 4, urging Sec. Kerry's support for the creation of a UN-sponsored commission to reduce impunity and corruption in Honduras. Representatives Dent and Fitzpatrick failed to respond to requests that they also sign this letter that was circulated by Rep. Jose Serano.



# Bits & Pieces

☪ Data revealed by the United Nations refugee agency shows that since 2008, 22.5 million people have been displaced every year by floods, storms and other climate-related weather events -- the equivalent of a person per second over the last eight years. This is one of the significant truths revealed at the recent **UN climate conference**.

As the conference ended, Greenpeace Executive Director Kumi Naidoo said, *"This is neither a moment for triumphalism or for despair. We cannot be triumphalistic of the deal that is done here when tens of thousands of lives have been lost already as a result of climate impacts and where, furthermore, tens of thousands of lives are on the precipice of survival... Neither should it be a message of despair for us in the climate movement. We have won the core argument that the climate crisis is serious, it requires urgent action. And we will continue to mobilize... to make sure that the end of the fossil fuel era starts today..."*

☪ The **First Tuesday LEPOCO Book Club** will not meet in January. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, they will discuss *"American Catch: The Fight for Local Seafood,"* by Paul Greenburg. This book uncovers the tragic unraveling of the nation's seafood supply -- telling the story of why people have stopped eating from their own waters.

The group meets at the Bethlehem Wegmans. The meeting starts at 6 pm. For more info., contact Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

☪ LEPOCO very much needs leaders and participants for a **Fundraising Committee**. We have been limping along with the Steering Committee piecing together fundraising plans at the monthly Action Meetings. We need a committee to deliberate and suggest/plan a few more fundraising efforts than are currently happening. Interested in helping? Please contact the Peace Center 610-691-8730.

☪ Feb. 12-14, the Peace & Justice Committee of Eastern District & Fran-

conia Mennonite Conferences, will hold their **Winter Peace Retreat** at Spruce Lake Retreat, Canadensis, PA. Andrew Bush, an active worker in international service for more than 25 years, who has served since 1998 with a Christian organization in the Palestinian West Bank, will lead the retreat on the theme, "Learning from the Least: Reflections on a Peace Journey with Palestinian Christians." For more info. or to register see [efpjc.ppjr.org/retreat/efp162.htm](http://efpjc.ppjr.org/retreat/efp162.htm) or call Carolyn Boyd at 610-489-9084.

☪ Would you be interested in serving on **LEPOCO's Steering Committee**? The group meets for the regular business meeting of the organization on the second Monday each month (aka the Action Meeting) at the Peace Center. There are shared note-taking and facilitating responsibilities, and email or phone consultation is sometimes sought between the monthly meetings. The slate for the next two-year terms will be selected at the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you are interested or want more info., please contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

☪ The Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding is holding "Journeys to Justice: A Smorgasbord of Learning & Doing Opportunities" on Wed., January 20, at Muhlenberg College. With

speakers and displays by several local organizations (including LEPOCO), the program will present how Jewish and Christian traditions have been called by scripture and tradition to work toward justice. Mimi Lang will be a panel participant for LEPOCO. For more info. contact the Institute at 484-664-3470.

☪ On Mon., February 15, Lehigh Valley Quakers, PA Interfaith Power & Light, and several other organizations are sponsoring an **Interfaith Climate Advocacy Training**, 9 am to 4 pm, at the Lutheran Center, Grove Rd., Allentown. The purpose of the gathering is to prepare people of faith to proactively initiate meetings with policy makers, electoral candidates and other religious leaders to lift up the moral dimensions of the climate crisis. For more info. contact Mary Lou Hatcher at 610-866-7527.

☪ Phyllis Bennis' latest primer is **"Understanding ISIS & the New Global War on Terror."** It was published recently and LEPOCO has copies for sale. **Would you be interested in joining a two or three session study group to discuss the book?** Contact the Peace Center to indicate your interest, 610-691-8730.

## MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... MEETINGS... ETC.

**Tuesday, December 22, 11:30 am: Stop the Wars Committee** meeting at Anatolian Kitchen, 3016 Linden St., Bethlehem.

**Monday, January 4, 4:30 pm: LEPOCO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Fridays, January 8 & February 5, 11 am: Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

**Mondays, January 11 & February 8, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at his business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed and set.

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

**Monday, January 25, 7 pm: LEPOCO Annual Dinner Planning Committee** meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

**Wednesday, January 27, 3:30 pm: LEPOCO Peaceathon Planning Committee** meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center. (The Peaceathon will be held Sat., May 28.)

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

*If you want more information about the meetings of the Peace Camp Planning Committee, LEPOCO Peace Singers, Newsletter Planning Group, L.V. Veterans For Peace, or more information about any of the meetings listed above, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.*

*For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings, please see [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).*



# LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Lehigh Valley, PA

## See Inside:

Pages 1  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster  
Award Ceremony

Page 2  
Death on Hold  
Armistice Day

Page 3  
P & Ps  
Annual Dinner  
Cuba Panel

Page 4  
Photos from Poster  
Award Ceremony

Page 5  
Embracing Lives  
Ruined by War

Page 6  
Stop TPP  
Workers at Pheobe

Pages 7  
Bits & Pieces

## Stand Up & Speak Out!

Saturday  
December 26  
12 Noon

Protest Horsham Drone Command Center  
(Outside Horsham Air National Guard Station,  
Easton & County Line Roads, Horsham, PA)

10:45 am: Carpool from Lehigh Valley  
(From Hellertown Park & Ride, Silvex Rd.  
near intersection of Rt. 412 & I-78)

Call 610-691-8730.

## "Finding Light in a Time of Darkness:

The Peace Witness of  
the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Friday, January 15, 2016

7:00 pm

Town Hall Rotunda, Bethlehem City Hall  
10 E. Church St., Bethlehem

Planned by the Stop the Wars Committee of  
LEPOCO.

See pages 1 for more info.

## Monthly Peace Vigil

4 - 5 pm; Second Thursdays  
January 14<sup>th</sup>  
& February 11<sup>th</sup>

*Our wars continue and expand.  
Please help witness for peace.*

3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem  
Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103

## Save the Date

Saturday, March 12, 2016  
LEPOCO Annual Dinner

Featured Speaker:

**Ann Wright**

Peace Activist, Diplomat, Retired U.S. Army Colonel

See page 3 for more info.