



The Power in Silence

In the week preceding the People's Climate March I learned of the plan for all of us to go silent at 12:58 pm, for two minutes to commemorate the terrible suffering already inflicted around the globe by climate change. Then, at 1:00 pm, we were all to raise our arms and make as much noise as possible. This seemed like a cool idea, but when I was actually in the March, trying to grasp the immensity of the crowd, I thought it wouldn't work -- the gathering was about two miles long, filling the avenue, spilling over onto the sidewalks and down the side streets. It just seemed way too big a crowd to coordinate such an action.

When the announcement came round that it was 12:55 and we were all to go silent in three minutes, I looked at my watch. It said 12:53. My watch receives a radio signal from Colorado every day that corrects it to 1/1000 of a second. I thought damn, how's this going to work? But in a few minutes, right on cue, a vast hush fell over the gathering. All I heard was a siren somewhere in the distance, police or fire, which seemed to underline the urgency of our cause. After a couple minutes of silence arms went up in a great wave, and a tsunami of thunderous noise rolled down the avenue. Shouting, whistles, cowbells, drums, horns, conches, you name it, a prolonged cry from the gut fueled by decades of frustration, rage, unanswered prayers, and transcendent hope. It went on for several minutes. It rolled over and through me and shook me to the ground. In the ensuing quiet my hearing was muffled and I was hoarse. Looking around at friends and many thousands of beautiful strangers, I felt a profound affirmation. This intense energy, uncoiling all around, could well knock down all barriers between us and a more humane future.

- Mike Lawton

Marching to Change Everything

About 400,000 people in Manhattan. Three full buses from the Lehigh Valley. More than a dozen LEPOCO members. All raising their voices to draw attention to the need for world leaders to take action to address climate change.

The organizers of the People's Climate March said, "to change everything it takes everyone." We marched with vegetarians and vegans, teachers and health workers, young farmers, riverkeepers, scientists and environmentalists, college students, high school students,

grannies and babies, anti-frackers and anti-pipeliner, peace activists and faith leaders, renewable energy advocates and the LGBTQ community, indigenous people and coastal dwellers, artists and musicians and puppeteers. Clearly climate change affects everyone and it certainly seemed like everyone was in NYC for the Climate March!

On our bus from the Lehigh Valley we had people representing LEPOCO, the Sierra Club, Citizens Climate Lobby, Food and Water Watch, Gas Truth Out, Interfaith Power and Light. Our bus leader facilitated introductions and the opportunity for each participant to share why they were attending the March. Kathryn Hoffman circulated a thoughtful and thorough letter for signatures to our members of congress, outlining our request for specific actions. It was truly inspiring to walk and talk with all these people who came together to voice their concerns about the future of our Earth!

- Martha Christine

PennEast Pipeline: Coming to a Watershed Near You?

The PennEast high pressure natural gas pipeline is planned to follow a 105-mile route beginning in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, and continuing through Carbon, Northampton, and Bucks Counties. The pipeline is planned to cross the Lehigh Canal and the Lehigh River in Northampton County and the Delaware River and Delaware Canal at Riegelsville, Pennsylvania, in Bucks County. The route extends on into Hunterdon County, New Jersey, to end at Transco's Trenton-Woodbury interconnection in Mercer County. The alignment of the proposed pipeline would decimate a 100-foot to 125-foot wide swath through farmland, open space and forested lands in Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton, Bucks, Hunterdon and Mercer counties, bringing threats to the safety and environment of all the communities in or near its path. In an effort to shun villages, towns and cities the PennEast engineers have chosen an alignment that cuts through many environmentally sensitive ecosystems and much open-space that has been preserved from development with monies raised through local tax increases. Each mile of pipeline will disturb over fifteen acres of land, for a grand total of 1590.9 acres along the 105-mile length of the project. Many tracts of privately owned land will be crossed by this pipeline and onsite surveys by PennEast engineers will have to be done. If

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Thanking robert

Nineteen LEPOCO activists took our friend and LEPOCO staffperson, robert Daniels II, to lunch at an Indian restaurant on October 2nd. As announced in the last newsletter robert has decided to take his full-time work effort to his grandfather clock repair position. His last regular work day at the Peace Center was October 3rd. Of course, his presence is missed, but he promises he will stay in touch with his LEPOCO friends. The following are two brief thank-you's shared at the luncheon.

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For robert 10/2/14

Reed-like robert

Is taking his tall, quiet self and his small r

From that little office

On Fourth Street

He has given us his peaceful presence

In the moving prose

On the printed page

And in his non-violent protests

Against war and injustice

r's time with us will be remembered

No one else could reach quite what he could.

We offer thanks.

- Minni Lang

Robert, we thank you for all you have done for LEPOCO and as a "witness for peace." We've watched and learned from you as you "fell in love" with Gandhian nonviolence. You have traveled near and far exploring this beautiful concept that many of us honor.

You have helped LEPOCO in many ways: you took counter-recruitment information to high schools; created and maintained the weekly email calendar of local peace and justice events; set up the infrastructure and format for the First Friday Film/Popcorn & Politics series and kept this going; made important additions to the LEPOCO website, including an up-to-date calendar; links to film reports on peace events; scanning years worth of the LEPOCO Newsletters onto the site. You have attended more LEPOCO meetings than you probably want to remember. You've helped produce the LEPOCO Newsletter -- from planning, to writing, to printing, to collating. You've created a neat corner of sanity amidst a much-cluttered office. Deeply inspired by "Occupy," you've shared that inspiration with others. You've tried to infuse the organization with "hipness and cool," tolerating and compensating for the shortness and elderly-ness of all too many of us. You've been a special friend to Eleanor Hay, Art & Hilda Landis, Vince Stravino, Bob Smith, and other peace saints.

You will now be a "witness for peace in the larger world and we look forward to your continued joining with this community, as you are able, to strengthen our efforts to publicly "witness for peace."

- Nancy Tate

Position Opening at LEPOCO

LEPOCO needs to replace Robert as soon as possible and we hope someone who receives this Newsletter will be interested. The position needs someone who is committed to nonviolence and is enthusiastic about promoting LEPOCO's peace and justice efforts. The person would coordinate with and aid the various committees and working groups (CASK, NAS/Stop the Wars, ASG, Peace Camp, etc.) plus participate in the Steering Committee and assist in office activities (newsletter, flyers, website, financial records, etc.). The coordinator would also interface with other peace and justice groups and represent LEPOCO at various peace and justice events.

In addition to great enthusiasm, it is desirable for the person to have knowledge of peace and justice issues, experience/training with group leadership, capable of working with people from diverse backgrounds, speaking/writing abilities. The position will provide "room to grow."

The position has flexible working hours usually requiring about 30 to 35 hours per week. The position includes some benefits and hourly wage.

If interested, please send a letter of interest and a resume to lepoco@fast.net or to the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, before November 15, 2014. If you have questions please call the Peace Center at 610-691-8730.

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

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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.

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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: Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Jeff Vitelli.

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

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

Popcorn & Politics

Friday, November 7th, 7:00 pm

"MILK"

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

Sean Penn stars in this film based on the inspiring true story of the first openly gay man elected to major public office in California in 1977 -- he was popularly known as the mayor of Castro Street. This film presents Harvey Milk's courage and the impact he had on history as he inspired hope for equal rights during an intolerant time.

Directed by Gus Van Sant. 129 minutes. 2008.

Adrian Shanker, outstanding leader in the LGBT community, and now Founding Director of the LGBT Community Center in Allentown, will join us to discuss the impact of Harvey Milk's life on the movement for LGBT rights.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, December 5th, 7:00 pm

"The Milagro Beanfield War"

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

This delightful comedy tells the story of one man's struggle to defend his small beanfield and his community in the Milagro Valley against developers and their political friends.

It has been described as one of the first U.S. films to fall into the Latin American tradition of magical realism.

Directed by Robert Redford. 118 minutes. 1988.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



Book Group

The First Tuesday LEPOCO Book Club will meet on November 4th, after everyone goes to vote. The book for discussion will be *"The Last Train to Zona Verde: My Ultimate African Safari,"* by Paul Theroux. This is a travel book about the author's journey up Africa's southwest coast.

The book for the December 2nd discussion will be *"Imagine: Living in a Socialist USA,"* edited by Frances Goldin, Debby Smith and Michael Steven Smith. This is an anthology featuring essays by revolutionary thinkers, activists and artists like Michael Moore, Angela Davis, and Frances Fox Piven.

The group meets at the Bethlehem Wegmans (off Rt. 512, north of Rt. 22). The meeting starts at 6 pm. You can get some food and/or drink and join the group in the upstairs dining area. For more information contact Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407.

A Peace Pole Update

It's a wonderful thing to have a Peace Pole in our community. Over the past twenty years the Peace Pole in the Bethlehem Rose Garden has provided a focus point for many LEPOCO sponsored gatherings.

Recently, LEPOCO members had noticed that the plantings around the pole had become untidy and weedy. They enlisted the help of Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW). BBFW member Ilse Stoll donated

several native plants for planting around the Peace Pole. LEPOCO members and BBFW members worked together to clear out weeds and plant these native pollinators: black-eyed Susans, Maryland asters, and butterfly weed.

During the planting it was discovered that the twenty-year-old pole has rotted at the base and was in danger of toppling. After debating the merits of repairing or replacing, the "Peace Pole planters" have recommended purchasing a new pole. If the Steering Committee approves, a new Peace Pole will be purchased and installed soon.

- Martha Christine

A Memorial for Peter Cohen

Peter Cohen, one of the principle founders of LEPOCO died on September 7th, 2014. A memorial service will be held for Peter on Sunday, November 30th. Peter's family requests that you call them at: 570-992-6393, if you are interested in attending. They will provide further information about the time and location of the memorial. Stories and remembrances about Peter are encouraged. Please see the article in the September 2014 LEPOCO newsletter for more information about Peter's life-long activism for peace and justice. He never stopped believing that a safer, more peaceful world was possible.

- Susie Ravitz

Messing with Memory / Re-Writing History

58,000 U.S. dead, 2-3 million Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodians dead...

Hell no, we won't go! Hey, Hey, LBJ -- How Many Kids Have You Killed Today?

A hill of bodies in a village called My Lai, blood on draft files, The Pentagon Papers, GI's throwing their medals back, two gigantic End the War Moratoriums, Mayor Daley spitting mad at the 1968 Chicago Convention 'Police Riot', blood on the campuses of Kent and Jackson State... 'The War at Home'

Most everyone alive and conscious, watching/reading media in the 60s and 70s, remembers the above. Many of us devoted some small-to-large part of our lives then to ending the Vietnam War. We had friends or classmates or workmates or family who went, or left to escape the draft, came home or not.

That war moved and changed us all. We wanted peace and justice for Vietnam and all the besieged of the world -- apparently not the leaders at the current Pentagon.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the start of our war on Vietnam. What better time for the Pentagon to begin a forgetting project: the naming of the infamous invasion, intervention, and occupation of Vietnam as an honorable endeavor; the description of the death and dying that served no good purpose, and left a toxic legacy of mental and physical anguish for so many of its victims, as noble sacrifice?

George Orwell would be right at home with our Pentagon's new \$30 million dollar program (replete with an interactive website, www.vietnamwar50th.com) to, as Marjorie Cohn at www.Truthout.org stated "re-write and sanitize the War's history." A recent New York Times article said of the Pentagon program: "Leading Vietnam historians complain that it focuses on dozens of medal-winning soldiers while giving scant mention to mistakes by generals and the years of violent protests and anguished debate at home." (On the original Pentagon website, My Lai was called an "incident.")

500,000 soldiers deserted that war, and more Vietnam vets have committed suicide than were killed in the war, but hey, let's celebrate our (re-remembered) past and get ready for more of the same all over the world.

But we won't forget. We won't forget the slaughter at My Lai, or the toxic effects of Agent Orange -- from which an estimated three million Vietnamese still suffer with cancer and birth defects. We won't forget Kissinger's Christmas bombing of Hanoi hospitals and civilians, or Tricky Dick's broken promise to pay \$3 billion in post-war aid to Vietnam.

And our veterans and veteran anti-war activists won't let the Pentagon get away with it. 500 veterans of the U.S. peace movement during that era recently sent a

petition to the Pentagon general in charge of this project-to-forget. It asks that the official program include "viewpoints, speakers and materials that represent a full and fair reflection of the issues which divided our country during the war in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia." The petition was signed by Tom Hayden, Daniel Ellsberg, many historians, among many others. Veterans for Peace (VFP) is organizing a very different commemoration of the Vietnam War. Their Director, Michael McPhearson, told the NY Times that they are concerned that, "If a full narrative is not remembered, the government will use the narrative it creates to continue to conduct wars around the world -- as a propaganda tool." See www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org.

Hey, Hey, O-Ba-MA: How many drones have you sent today?

- Kathryn Hoffman

Speaking About War on 9/11

Moravian College recently held its convocation ceremony this past September Eleventh. The InFocus, or educational theme, at Moravian College this year is "Why War?" It was no coincidence that the school brought in Jodie Williams, a Nobel Peace Prize winner to speak about the "Glorification of War in American Culture" on 9/11. Williams received her peace prize in 1997 for her involvement in the banning and removal of anti-personnel mines.

She mainly discussed her theories on the military entertainment complex: when violence is so prolifically glorified in the media, it desensitizes the citizens from the cold hard realities of war. She pointed out that video games are even created by the United States Government, to introduce the concepts of war to children at an impressionable age, to make them willing soldiers later. She even went so far, as to say that not all soldiers are heroes, a comment which created quite the stir amongst some of the members of the audience.

Williams also spoke about the use of drones in the Middle East, comparing the pilots of these drones to video gamers, who kill without thought or feeling. The reaction amongst the student body towards Williams was perhaps the most mixed I have seen towards a convocation speaker in my three years at Moravian College. Some loved what she had to say, others believed she was somehow "Un-American" for not fully supporting the military, and for her comments about soldiers. There was much debate among students whether or not it was appropriate to talk about the horrors of war on the anniversary of 9/11, an event which propelled the United States military into the Middle East, yet again. Although the day chosen was controversial, I personally think there couldn't have been a better day for it.

- Dylan Grubb

"Enough for everyone to share," Michael Zoughbi Speaks on Palestine —

On September 18th, Michael Zoughbi gave his impressions of life in the Palestinian territories under Israeli military occupation, for a LEPOCO Potluck & Politics program. Michael Zoughbi is a Palestinian Christian living and working as a baker in the holy city of Bethlehem. His visit to the United States was undertaken to help make us aware of facts about Palestine not reported in our media. He spoke to a crowd of about 40 in the Friends Meeting House in Bethlehem with a diverse attendance including Veterans for Peace, LEPOCO members, Quakers, members of the Muslim community, and others. Vince Stravino arranged for the visit to the Lehigh Valley by Michael and his wife, Carmen, after spending time with Michael in the West Bank. His visit here also included talks for a class at Moravian College and for a peace group in Reading. Michael and Carmen's visit to the U.S. included stops in several cities.

The audience at the Friends Meeting learned of the difficulties of travel in the West Bank due to checkpoints, barriers, searches, and restrictions. Michael Zoughbi told us that for seven years, he was not allowed to live with his wife in her family home in Jerusalem six miles away and his limited visits with her required special approval from Israeli authorities. At one time his children were hospitalized in Jerusalem, but he was not granted permission to visit them. His wife's papers are different than his because of the Jerusalem property and he is forced to exit Bethlehem through a different checkpoint alone while she may drive out of the main gate.

Water is scarce especially in the summer and it is common for Palestinians to have their municipal water supply stopped for weeks despite the fact that they pay more for water than the adjacent Israeli settlers who have abundant water all year long. All his neighbors store water in rooftop cisterns for emergency use, but often end up buying additional water from Israeli suppliers.

When questioned, he reported that Christians are oppressed equally as Muslims and others in the West Bank by the Israeli government. He stated that, "Israel does not have a gun to our heads but they try to drive us away so that they can become a 100% Jewish state." He doubted that a two-state solution was possible today because of the fragmented Palestinian villages surrounded by ever-increasing Israeli settlements.

He was saddened by the fact that his son was hired as a certified occupational therapist in Jerusalem, but then denied the position when he produced his Palestinian ID papers. This led to his son leaving Palestine as others do to find work in Europe and eventually more schooling here in the U.S. He has concern for the disadvantaged youth in Palestine who are angry at their plight and may become violent in their desperation. Michael did not seem bitter and his hopes were for a

lasting peace in a one-state solution since he thought that there is "enough for everyone to share."

- Vince Stravino

Where Should the Birds Fly? _____

Fida Qishta presented her film, "Where Should the Birds Fly?" and spoke about life in Gaza, occupied Palestine, for a LEPOCO Popcorn & Politics / First Friday Film program, on October 3rd, at the Peace Center. The office was packed (that means 27 people in attendance) which made for a lively discussion following the screening. Over \$300 was donated by those present toward Fida's efforts to continue presenting her film to U.S. audiences. The film is a humane presentation of life in Gaza and includes footage of the deeply tragic attack on Gaza by Israel in 2008. The film is available on loan from LEPOCO.

Fida Qishta will return to the Lehigh Valley on Wednesday, November 19. She will present the film and talk at 4 pm, at Lehigh University, Rm. 102, Maginnes (enter at the north side of the building). (There is a possibility she will speak at other venues as well on that date. Call LEPOCO (610-691-8730) for an update. She already made a presentation at Lafayette College, also on October 3rd.)

..... LEPOCO Potluck & Politics

Friday, November 14

6:30 pm: Potluck Dinner

7:00 pm: Presentation

Jim & Debbie Fine

Aid workers with Mennonite Central Committee recently returned after four years living near Erbil, Iraq. In their last month there they witnessed the arrival of thousands of refugees fleeing the attacks of ISIS.

"Missing From the War Narrative:
Why It Will Be Hard for the U.S.
to Contain & Weaken, Let Alone
Degrade & Destroy, the Islamic State."

at

Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse
4116 Bath Pike, Bethlehem, 18017 (Hanover Township)
Rt. 512, 1/2 mile north of Rt. 22

Veteran's Day Vigil: November 11 _____

On Tuesday, November 11th, the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans For Peace will hold their annual Veteran's Day Vigil at Bethlehem's Rose Garden Park, at the corner of Eighth Ave. and Union Blvd. The presence will last from 8:30 am to 3 pm. Representations of tombstones bearing the names and information of Pennsylvania veterans killed in the Afghan and Iraq conflicts will be displayed. The veterans say they especially enjoy the opportunity to talk with students arriving at and leaving Nitschmann Middle School (across the street from the park). You are invited to join them for any part or all of the vigil. Contact Phil Reiss (610-282-8077) for more information.

Thank You to Fran Dreisbach & to Her Many Friends! _____

September was a very busy month at LEPOCO, but right in the middle of the month we had a celebration that brought a nice pause. Fran Dreisbach celebrated her 90th birthday and invited dozens of friends to join her for a party at her lovely country home near Easton. Mimi Lang wrote eloquently of Fran's special contributions to life in the September LEPOCO Newsletter: "There is no better guide to the wonderment of aging with dignity and grace than Fran Dreisbach."

As many of you know Fran followed a tradition started by Mimi Lang, and Fran's companion of several years, Tom Lloyd, making her birthday celebration an occasion of support for LEPOCO. So with the help of friends from far and near over \$3000 was donated to LEPOCO in honor of Fran Dreisbach's 90th. We say thank you Fran and thank you to all the generous donors!

PennEast Pipeline: Coming...Near You?

(continued from page 1)

a property owner does not wish to have his/her property crossed the engineers should be turned away. Just say no!

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has imposed a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing of shale for natural gas extraction that extends over the entire Delaware River Watershed. This moratorium is in place due to the possible environmental consequences involved in the extraction of the natural gas carried in the PennEast pipeline. It is well within the DRBC's mandate to assume control over the portion of this pipeline project that falls within the Delaware River Watershed and it is the writer's opinion that they should do so. The Delaware River Watershed is made up of many smaller local watersheds that could be highly compromised by the land clearing and excavation demanded by the installation of a pipeline. This may be just a coincidence, but the Pennsylvania Legislature has just passed a bill that would strip the 150-foot buffer zone from high quality and exceptional

value streams in the entire Commonwealth. This bill (HB1565) awaits the Governor's signature. The removal of these buffers would make it much easier to route and construct a pipeline through the pristine forests and protected lands of Pennsylvania. Call the governor's office (717-787-2500) and ask him not to sign.

The PennEast thirty-six inch pipeline will carry 360 billion cubic feet of fracking-derived Pennsylvania gas under the Delaware River each year. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that the entire state of New Jersey uses less than 700 billion cubic feet of gas in an entire year. Making this much more gas available in the Northeast Gas Market would surely cause prices to fall and more than likely reduce profits for those selling gas in this market now. It must be that UGI and its New Jersey partners intend to drum up a whole lot more business in the next two years. It would seem that this project could be a foolish investment unless there are other items on the agenda that have not yet been shared, or perhaps, have even been disavowed. This may be just another coincidence, but a ten-million cubic feet per day natural gas liquefaction facility will be added to the New Jersey Natural Gas Howell works and placed into service for Spring 2016. Asian markets pay almost four times as much for natural gas as U.S. markets do. Another project that has already received the Federal "go ahead" will create a liquefied natural gas export terminal at Cove Point, Maryland, that will begin shipping to countries worldwide in 2017.

PennEast has officially "prefiled" with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The pre-filing, which is voluntary on the part of PennEast, also moves the project into a round of public input opportunities including open houses and scoping meetings. The project's application number with FERC is PF 15-1-000. To file a comment with FERC visit their site at: www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp. This is the best way to have your opinion and ideas heard by the people who will make the final decision. Anyone can comment, including local governments and conservation organizations as well as individual citizens. The more comments the better. To learn more about the pipeline visit these sites: www.stoppenneast.org, www.penneastpipeline.com, www.delawareriverkeeper.org, and find "stoppenneast" on Facebook.

- James Orben, Member,
Cooks Creek Watershed Association, Bucks County, PA

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 or to receive your copy of the newsletter by e-mail, by calling 610-691-8730, or by writing to lepoco@fast.net.

The Struggle Shared —

"Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within."

- James Baldwin

U.S. ROLE IN MEXICAN DISAPPEARANCES - The world is appalled at the news from Guerrero, Mexico, that in late September, police in Iguala killed six students from Ayotzinapa Teacher's College, injured 20, and abducted 43 others who are still disappeared. Everyone from the U.S. State Department to Mexico's President, Enrique Peña Nieto, has called for a full investigation, and punishment for those responsible.

Our media would have us believe that the responsibility lies solely with the drug cartels, and a few officials who are on their payroll. A truly thorough investigation will reveal that the present incident is also a state crime, just the latest chapter in a very long history of violent intimidation, human rights abuses, and the militarization of the Mexican State, funded in significant part in recent years by U.S. taxpayers under the 2008 Merida Initiative.

Since the War on Drugs was declared in 2006, 26,000 Mexicans have disappeared, 60,000 have been killed, and 150,000 have been displaced.

On October 2nd, 1968, then Mexican President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz ordered the Mexican Army to open fire on student organizers gathered in Mexico City's Tlatelolco Plaza. This massacre of hundreds of students was the linchpin of the government's plan to destroy a powerful movement growing beyond college campuses. In the aftermath the government's efforts to squash the resistance centered in Guerrero, hunting down students who continued to resist. Despite a massive cover-up, over the decades since 1968, students and their allies have vowed, "El dos de octubre no se olvida." (October 2nd will never be forgotten.)

Azotzinapa College has a strong tradition of organizing resistance to the violent repressive policies of the

state. On September 26th of this year, three busloads of students had gone into the community to raise funds to send a delegation to the commemoration of the 46th anniversary of the Tlatelolco massacre in Mexico City. At the end of the day their bus was ambushed by police firing automatic weapons.

Since 2008, the U.S. Congress has appropriated \$2.1 billion of our tax dollars for military aid to Mexico. Ultimately, that is where the investigation into the disappearance of 43 unarmed nonviolent students should lead. Contact your representatives, and the U.S. State Department now, to demand truth, justice, and an end to the militarization policies that have contributed to this, and so many other tragedies.

(Sources: www.WitnessForPeace.org and www.GlobalExchange.org.)

REQUIEM FOR MICHAEL BROWN

- On the evening of October 4, music lovers in St. Louis were treated to a special performance they hadn't anticipated. Following intermission, the conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Markus Stenz, raised his baton to direct the second part of Brahms' Requiem, when a single African-American man stood up and began singing, "What side are you on, friend, what side are you on?" A second female voice, in full operatic resonance, joined him, adding, "Justice for Mike Brown is justice for us all." About 50 people in different parts of the theater joined in response, while in the balcony banners were unfurled: "Requiem for Mike Brown, 1996-2014," "Racism lives here," with a photo of the St. Louis Arch, and a third, "Rise up and join the movement." Stenz stood silently, listening to the performance which lasted for about two minutes, at which time the demonstrators walked out together chanting, "Black lives matter," to a round of applause

from most of the audience and the musicians on stage.

Sarah Greisbach, a 42-year-old white woman, orchestrator of the protest, said that the killing of Michael Brown had opened her eyes to the inequalities that exist in St. Louis, and, "It is my duty and desire to try to reach out and raise awareness peacefully, but also to disrupt the blind state of white St. Louis, particularly among the people who are secure in their blindness."

(Source: www.CommonDreams.org, 10/5/14.)

HOMELESS IN SALT LAKE CITY

- In 2005, Salt Lake City, like many major U.S. cities, had a growing population of people living on the streets. City officials pooled their collective intelligence, crunched some numbers and came up with a 10-year plan. Since then the numbers have declined from 3000 in 2005 to about 400 today. San Francisco, by contrast, which developed a 10-year plan around the same time, had 3000 people on the street in 2005, and still has 2000 today. San Francisco's budget for the homeless is \$165 million today. Salt Lake City's is \$20 million now, down from \$40 million in 2005, when their metropolitan area had 1 million residents. In 2005 the cost per homeless person to the city was \$20,000 annually. Now it is \$7,800.

What is Salt Lake's secret? "What we've done is doable everywhere," said Lloyd Pendleton, director of Utah's Homeless Initiatives. "Homeless people need housing. Give it to them. And give them counseling."

Through Salt Lake's Housing First Program homeless people are provided an apartment and case management services to support them in overcoming the many barriers that accompany and are often at the root of homelessness: drug and alcohol dependence, mental illness, and poverty. While other cities continue to criminalize these problems, and pay for the prosecutions and incarceration and attempts at rehabilitation, Salt Lake City, has reduced their homelessness problem by 72%.

(Source: www.Alternet.org, 10/8/14.)

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

☮ **"The Heart of Justice: Jesus in Prison,"** is the theme for the Lehigh Conference of Churches' Justice & Advocacy Fall Gathering on **Sat., Nov. 8, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm**, at St. John's UCC, 36 S. 6th St., Allentown. The conference will focus on ways to begin remaking our criminal justice system to provide healing, hope, restoration, and reconciliation, to both offenders and victims of crime. Plenary speakers are the Rev. Neftali (Charles) Olmeda of the local 3rd Day Worship Center, and Andrea James, of Families for Justice as Healing, a criminal justice reform organization advocating for community wellness initiatives to replace the "War on Drugs" and incarceration. Donation: \$10. Pre-register by calling 610-433-6421. See www.justice.pprj.org.

☮ **Decarcerate PA** will hold their first Statewide Gathering on **Sat., Nov. 8, 10 am to 4 pm**, in Philadelphia, hoping to bring together members and partners from across the state to build the campaign to end mass incarceration. For more info. call 267-217-DEPA.

☮ **Holly Near**, the noted singer who has performed topical music for peace and justice around the world since the 1970s will perform at Godfrey Daniels Coffeehouse, south Bethlehem, on **Sun., Nov. 9, at 3 pm**. Call Godfrey's at 610-867-2390 for more info. or reservations.

☮ The Coalition for Peace Action, based in Princeton, NJ, will hold their annual conference on **Sun., Nov. 9, 1:30-5 pm**, at the Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau St., Princeton, focusing on the topic: **"Seal the Deal on the Iran Nuclear Issue."** Speakers include: Amy Goodman, of Democracy Now!, Jamal Abdi, of the National Iranian American Council, Ariane Tabatabai, a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at Harvard University, and Nontombi Naomi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. If you

can attend this conference and would be willing to write a report for the LEPOCO Newsletter please contact the office (610-691-8730). Cost: \$30. See www.peacecoalition.org for more info.

☮ **"Why Citizens Sometimes Need to Break the Law: Exposing Government Surveillance in the 1960s and Today,"** will be explored at a program at Lehigh University, south Bethlehem, on **Tues., Nov. 11, at 7 pm**, in Packard Aud. The film, "1971," about the Media, Pennsylvania, break-in to the FBI office, where files were stolen that were used to expose the COINTELPRO campaign of the FBI, will be shown, followed by a discussion of surveillance then and now involving John and Bonnie Raines, recently revealed participants in the 1971 break-in; Betty Medsger, who wrote the 2014 book, "The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI;" and Johanna Hamilton, who made the film, "1971."

☮ **The War Resisters League** will hold a **"Training for Trainers"** for people who want to develop training skills focusing on strategy development to build nonviolent grassroots campaigns and for creative and powerful nonviolent direct action, **Fri. to Sun., Nov. 14-16**, at the Voluntown Peace Trust, Voluntown, Connecticut. The fee of \$75 to \$125 (sliding scale) will cover housing and food. Participation will be limited to 24. For more info. see www.warresisters.org.

☮ **November 21-23**, thousands of peace activists from across the U.S. will converge for the **25th annual vigil at**

the gates of Ft. Benning, in Georgia, calling for the closing of the School of the Americas and for an end to the racist system of violence and domination. This will mark the 25th anniversary of the University of Central America massacre in El Salvador where Elba Ramos and her daughter Celina Ramos, along with six Jesuit priests were brutally murdered. Those responsible were trained at the SOA. Please let LEPOCO know if you plan to attend this important witness. For more info. see www.soaw.org.

☮ Witness for Peace is sponsoring a **delegation to Honduras, January 9-19, 2015**, "Honduran Families & Communities Under Threat: Learning from Indigenous Groups, Campesinos, and Human Rights Defenders." LEPOCO's Americas Solidarity Group would love to support a local peace activist who wants to join this delegation. WFP also sponsors delegations to Cuba and Colombia. Such delegations are a wonderful time to learn from and stand in solidarity with people struggling against poverty, violence, and other difficult issues. See www.witnessforpeace.org for more info.

☮ LEPOCO's Steering Committee is pleased to announce that LEPOCO is the recipient of a **generous anonymous bequest** that will allow the organization to have a buffer through difficult financial times. We say thank you so much to the anonymous donor!

☮ **The National Priorities Project says taxpayers in the U.S. are paying \$312,500 every hour for the cost of the military action against ISIS.**

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

☮ Thank you to Janet Goloub, Sheila Clever, Monica McAghon, Martha Christine, Susie Ravitz, and Nancy Tate for staffing LEPOCO's afternoon **Community Shopping Event at the Ten Thousand Villages** (TTV) shop at the Lehigh Valley Mall, on September 14. Thank you also to all our supporters and friends who visited the shop and purchased some of the fair trade crafts sold there. The local TTV was pleased with our response and LEPOCO received a nice donation.

☮ The Nazareth-to-Bethlehem **Peace Pilgrimage** will hold their **Community Shopping Event at the Ten Thousand Villages** shop (Outdoor Shops, Suite 904, Lehigh Valley Mall, Whitehall) on **Thurs., Nov. 13, 5-9 pm**. This is another good opportunity to shop fair trade and support local peace work at the same time.

☮ Thank you to Ellen & Lee Buck and Tom Stinnett & Nancy Tate for staffing LEPOCO's booth at the 15th Annual **Peace Fair** at Buckingham Friends Meeting & School in Lahaska. It was a lovely day with a lot of sharing among organizations working to build a better world.

☮ On Sun., Sept. 21, while many of our friends marched to save the climate in NYC, the **LEPOCO Peace Singers** had a great time singing to support the Trinity Soup Kitchen in Bethlehem. "Love, Peace, Brunch, & Closer," was the theme, with food, a three-person band called Closer, and the Peace Singers. Thank you to all the LEPOCO folks who were able to attend. The event raised over \$1000 (much needed dollars) for the Soup Kitchen.

If you like to sing topical music please consider joining the Peace Singers. You can see our rehearsal times on the "Meetings" calendar. We are now preparing for the Peace Pilgrimage. Talk to any of the Singers if you have questions.

☮ It rained but we still had a steady flow of people for the **LEPOCO Garage Sale** on Oct. 4, in Mimi Lang's ample garage. We sold over \$600 worth of donated items, moving a good percentage of what was donated. (The take-away items were mostly able to fit in one van.) Thank you to Mimi Lang, Susie Ravitz, Diane Dilendik, Joe & Pat Judge, Terry Briscoe, Ellen Buck, Tom Stinnett, Janet Goloub, Martha Christine, Ginny Schimmel, Dan Miller, Monica McAghon, Max Cole, Amanda Zaniesienko, Bill Rosebrock, Bob & Carmen Riggs, Susan Meyers, Tom Ulrich & Janice Lovegrove, Judith Ross, Joan Stone, Marion Thorne, Jeff Vitelli, Fran Dreisbach, Julius & Pat Iwantsch, and apologies if we missed you in this listing.

☮ Phila Back of the **Pennsylvania Fair Trade Coalition** is organizing a rally for the national Stop Fast Track Week of Action on Thurs., Nov. 13, at Noon, outside the office of Rep. Charlie Dent, 3900 Hamilton Blvd., Allentown. President Obama and Asian heads of state are trying to push forward the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which threatens good-paying jobs, a clean environment, affordable

medicine, internet freedom, food safety, indigenous rights, common-sense banking regulations, and more. See www.citizenstrade.org.

☮ **LEPOCO needs your help.** Can you help with planning or working on: the Newsletter; First Friday Film nights; the Holiday Open House; office window plant care; or any of the other efforts described in this newsletter? Call 610-691-8730.

☮ The Nuclear Abolition Sisters used to be the Disarmament Working Group, and they are now becoming the **Stop the Wars (STWs)** committee. (Although they are not completely satisfied with that name.) The goal will be to plan more work in opposition to the ongoing and new wars of the U.S.

At Steering Committee initiation we did hold a special peace vigil right after the U.S. began bombing Syria on September 25. Plans for the talk scheduled for Nov. 14 (see page 5) came from the discussions of the STWs committee. We welcome and need ideas and new input. See the next meeting time in the "Meetings" list below.

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

Sunday, November 9, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at LEPOCO Peace Center, south Bethlehem.

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

Wednesday, November 12, 12:30 pm: **Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Sunday, November 16, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at Barbara Wurth's home, Bethlehem.

Monday, November 17, 6:30 pm: **Peace Camp Planning Committee** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Tuesday, December 2, 3:30 pm: **L.V. Committee Against State Killing** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Wednesday, December 3, 11:30 am: **Stop the Wars Committee** (formerly Nuclear Abolition Sisters) meeting at Anatolian Kitchen, 3016 Linden St., Bethlehem.

Sunday, December 7, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at the home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, Bethlehem.

Thursday, December 11, 6:15 pm: **L.V. Veterans For Peace Meeting** upstairs at Wegmans, Bethlehem. Call Phil Reiss 610-282-8077 for more info. (Due to their Veterans Day Vigil the VFP group is not meeting in November.)

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

If you want more information about the Newsletter Planning Group meetings or 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.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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Bits & Pieces

Monthly Peace Vigil

4 - 5 pm; Second Thursdays
November 13th
& December 11th

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

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103 /
Tom Ulrich 610-882-1136

Saturday, December 13

**55th Annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem
Christmas Peace Pilgrimage**

(See inserted brochure.)

Veterans Day Vigil

Tuesday, November 11, 8:30 am-3 pm
Rose Garden Park, Bethlehem

(see page 6)

Holiday Open House

Sat., Dec. 6, 12-4 pm & Sun., Dec. 7, 1-4 pm

LEPOCO Peace Center

Potluck & Politics

Friday, November 14th: Jim & Debbie Fine

"Missing From the War Narrative:

**Why It Will Be Hard for the U.S. to Contain & Weaken,
Let Alone Degrade & Destroy, the Islamic State."**

(see Page 5)

Stand Up & Speak Out!

**Saturdays, November 29
& December 27
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, Silvēx Rd.
near intersection of Rt. 412 & I-78)

Call 610-691-8730.