



LEPOCO Dinner: 50 Years of Peace Conversions

You might not think that the LEPOCO Peace Center would invite a retired army colonel to be the speaker for the very special annual dinner celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. But our speaker for the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 12, is no ordinary army colonel. Ret. Col. Ann Wright served 30 years in the U.S. Army and 16 years working as a State Department diplomat. She was involved in US affairs in Nicaragua, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan. In March 2003 her life changed dramatically when she decided to resign from the State Department.

Ann Wright loved working for her country but she was unable to support the presidential decision to invade Iraq. Her resignation said the following:

"I have served my country for almost thirty years in some of the most isolated and dangerous parts of the world. I want to continue to serve America. However, I do not believe in the policies of this Administration and cannot -- morally and professionally -- defend or implement them. It is with a heavy heart that I must end my service to America and therefore resign."

Ret. Col. Wright specified four reasons for her resignation: 1) The decision to invade Iraq without the blessing of the U.N. Security Council; 2) The "lack of effort" in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process; 3) The "lack of policy" in regard to North Korea; and, 4) The curtailment of civil liberties within the United States.

Ret. Col Wright has become an outspoken critic of U.S. military actions in the Middle East. She helped Cindy Sheehan to set up Camp Casey, and has been arrested numerous times while protesting drone strikes, U.S. policies and nuclear weapons development. She was on a flotilla to Gaza that was turned back by the Israeli military. She is an active member of Veterans for Peace and Code Pink. There is almost no egregious activity of the U.S. military against which she has not raised her powerful voice of protest. She has proudly disrupted Senate hearings with a previous LEPOCO dinner speaker, Medea Benjamin (2013). In 2007, Ann Wright was one of the recipients of the first annual Truthout Freedom and Democracy Award.

There is no more appropriate speaker than Ann Wright for our fiftieth celebration. She has championed the interests held close to the hearts of our LEPOCO membership. She will share her current activities and visions for the future to inspire us "to keep on moving forward." The title of her talk,

"Peace Conversions: From Lies to Truth; From War to Peace; From Understanding to Action."

The crew of LEPOCO chefs will prepare the perennial vegetarian feast (that includes vegan options), including Pasta Rafael, Green Beans with Pistachio Dust and Aniseed Carrots. The Peace Singers will be in fine form and Sam Steffen will perform pre-dinner music. Generous local artists and art organizations have donated nine! prizes for the annual Art Raffle.

No dinner tickets will be sold at the door; program-only tickets will be available at the door. Dinner reservations made by Tuesday, March 8, will be most helpful with planning. Call LEPOCO or use the coupon on the enclosed flyer to make your reservation. A reservation can be made online at www.lepoco.org.

Don't delay in making your reservation for the exciting evening of Saturday, March 12, our golden anniversary.

- Mimi Lang

Help Out with Annual Dinner:

- 1) Recruit friends to join you in attendance.
- 2) Sell Art Raffle tickets (call LEPOCO for more tickets).
- 3) Post the dinner flyer in a public space (call for copies).
- 4) Place an ad in the dinner program booklet.
(Call LEPOCO to reserve a space.)
- 5) Sign up to help cook, serve, set-up, clean up, etc.

Join Tax Day Actions 2016

A sign at the Peace Pilgrimage in December read "Are You Praying for Peace and Paying for War?" What is your statement of frustration about the all the money we pay to feed the war profiteers and to enable the dropping of bombs in many countries each year? It is a gruesome reality we have created with little consistent presence in our dialogue about national priorities.

One small, but significant effort by LEPOCO activists to correct this disconnect is the distribution of the informative War Resisters League flyer, "Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes," outside local post offices each Tax Day, April 15 -- this year a Friday.

Can you help with this project on April 15? We organize in teams of two to cover post offices at a convenient time and location for those handing out the leaflets -- usually for about two hours. You are guaranteed to meet friendly and interested people among the post office patrons. Call or email LEPOCO to sign up for a time and place.

Spring Activism

Besides much regular local activity for peace and justice, for people and the planet, there will be many opportunities for action on a national level in coming months. In this challenging election year such activity is especially important. Besides which, participating in national actions can inspire and rejuvenate the participant and encourage other local activists to even more witnessing for peace. Consider joining some of these activities and make sure you tell others of your plans and report to others (including LEPOCO) about your experiences. If it is helpful, LEPOCO will assist in coordinating transportation.

March 5-6: A Summit on Saudi Arabia, Washington, DC.

Speakers will include: Vijay Prashad, Raed Jarrar, William Hartung, Medea Benjamin, Chris Hedges, and many others, collectively addressing human rights, Saudi internal and foreign policy, and prospects for change inside the Kingdom and in U.S.-Saudi relations. The summit will be held at David A. Clarke School of Law, 4340 Connecticut Ave. NW, 20008. Cost: \$20-\$100 on a sliding scale, which covers lunch. Sponsored by CODEPINK, The Nation Magazine, Institute for Policy Studies, Peace Action and others. Sign up at www.codepink.org/2016SaudiSummit.

March 4-April 27: 15th Annual "Walk for a New Spring"

Monks of the New England Peace Pagoda, are walking from Leverett, MA, to Washington, DC -- a 56-day journey that passes through New Jersey and southeast Pennsylvania. They will carry the "somber reflection that over 1,000,000 people from Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, have died because of the 'War on Terror' started September 11, 2001. And, they will carry the Quaker working paper, "Share Security, Re-Imagining U.S. Foreign Policy." You can learn more about this walk at www.popularresistance.org or by calling Tim Bullock at 413-485-8469.

March 27-April 2: Mobilization to Stop the Drone Wars - Shut Down Creech

The mobilization will be outside Creech Air Force Base, Indian Springs, Nevada. This is the second national gathering of nonviolent resistance to end killer drone operations in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia...everywhere. Last year 150 activists from 20 states participated. Illegal, remotely controlled assassinations using drones have been directed from Creech AFB since 2005. Daily vigils will be held March 28-April 1, but the concentration of activity will be March 30 to April 1, with teach-ins and symposiums, nonviolence training, concerts, drumming circles, and affinity group-based civil disobedience. Sponsored by

CODEPINK - Women for Peace, Veterans For Peace, Nevada Desert Experience, Voices for Creative Non-violence, and others. Many more details are available at www.shutdowncreech.blogspot.com.

April 2-18: Democracy Spring Action, Philadelphia to Washington, D.C.

A nine-day march to get money out of politics and ensure free and fair elections for all citizens will get underway on April 2. Some local folks are considering participating in a segment of this march. April 11-16, a powerful, peaceful, massive sit-in is planned at the U.S. Capitol. Over 1500 people have pledged to participate. April 16 will also be a day of teach-ins and workshops hosted by Democracy Awakening. On April 17 there will be a March & Rally for Democracy at the U.S. Capitol, followed by a Congress of Conscience Action on April 18. Over 70 organizations are supporting some part of this effort including CODEPINK, Public Citizen, Friends of the Earth, Food & Water Watch. The most comprehensive information is available at www.codepink.org.

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

Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail weekly updates by calling 610-691-8730, or by writing to lepoco@fast.net. You can also sign up to receive the newsletter by email.



Newsletter of LEPOCO
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern
313 West Fourth Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
phone: 610-691-8730
fax: 610-691-8904
website: www.lepoco.org
e-mail: lepoco@fast.net

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	\$50
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, March 4th, 7 pm

Testament of Youth

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

In 1914, an independent young woman, Vera Brittain, abandoned her Oxford studies to become a war nurse after her brother, her fiancé and their friends are sent to the front lines of the war. One manifestation of witnessing for peace that followed the First World War was the highly acclaimed memoir, "Testament of Youth," by Vera Brittain. This "well-acted and beautifully filmed" British biographical drama presentation of Vera Brittain's story helps us understand her lifelong commitment to peace.

Directed by James Kent. 129 minutes. 2014.

Post-film discussion led by Addison Bross.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, March 20th, 6 pm

Sheila Clever

"Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour : A Report"

A Potluck & Politics event at the
LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th 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. (This P&P, originally set for January 24, was postponed due to snow.)

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.

Friday, April 1st, 7 pm

Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America

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

Based on the book of the same title by Juan González (co-host of Democracy Now!), this powerful documentary film examines the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis in the U.S. The film features present day immigrant stories, rarely seen archival material, as well as interviews with such respected figures as Rigoberta Menchú, Maria Hinojosa and Martin Espada.

Directed by Peter Getzels & Eduardo Lopez. Narrated by Juan González. 90 minutes. 2012.

Post-film discussion led by Pastor John Eric Lamb.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, April 10th, 6 pm

Fritz Walker & Barbara Diamond

"Gun Violence in the U.S. & How You Can Help Reduce It"

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

Fritz Walker and Barbara Diamond will speak about the shocking level of gun violence in the U.S., a problem unique to our country. They will focus on how it affects children and women, as well as the special problem of gun suicide.

They will address what we can do to close the loopholes in gun background checks, including plans for a rally in Harrisburg on May 16. Both Fritz and Barbara are long-time local activists on progressive issues. They were deeply affected by the horrific murder of 20 innocent children and six of their teachers at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. They are active in the local affiliate of CeaseFirePA -- Fritz is on the Pennsylvania Board of Directors.

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.



Remembering Tim Chadwick: June 4, 1953 - January 11, 2016

In the 1953 outlaw biker classic *The Wild One* a leather-jacketed Marlon Brando defined an era of cool when, in response to the question, "Hey Johnny, what are you rebelling against?" he replied, without missing a beat, "Whaddaya got?" That all-encompassing, chip-on-the-shoulder sneer towards authority was a mantra for Timothy Dale Chadwick, fellow activist, anarchist, and friend, who died in early January at the age of 62.

Tim was born in Brazil to affluent parents. His grandfather was an executive for Allied Chemical. He came into this world a "trust fund baby," but like the fabled Charles Foster Kane, found himself gagging on that silver spoon. A cornerstone of Tim's activism could be traced back to the realization that the dollars he inherited were tainted with the environmental destruction and death of the James River in Virginia. Tim would spend the remainder of his life trying to extract the bitter taste of that poisoned utensil from his gob.

I first encountered Tim when he came into the LEPOCO office as an enthusiastic "Deaniac" prior to the 2004 U.S. presidential election. I noted with suspicion on that first meeting how he hid the grey of his goatee with hair dye. As the years went by and our friendship and understanding grew Tim shunned electoral politics and superficial vanity. He railed against the injustices of "the united snakes of amnesia," trying, in his alternately angry and tender ways, to educate the "bewildered herd" on their complicity with the "filthy, rotten system." At the same time Tim stopped with the dye jobs and let his genuine, grey beard grow into something apropos to the wise sage he became.

However, Tim was not content to live in seclusion with the wisdom he'd acquired. He believed in people power, walking the talk, and turning to face the strange. He marched, rallied, and resisted. Arrests numbered in the double digits. Locations of defiant trespass included Congressperson Dent's Bethlehem office, Senator Santorum's office in Philadelphia, outside the White House and inside the gallery of the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C., and multiple times at Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. On the eve of being arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge in the early days of Occupy Wall Street, Tim and I attended a concert by L.A. punk band X and then slept uneasily on the rain-soaked pavement of Liberty Plaza Park.

Tim loved music, especially the music of Frank Zappa. He had a record collection to rival most well-stocked radio stations. He appreciated world cuisine, particularly favoring Indian buffets. Travel was important to Tim as well. A trip to Venezuela to witness the reelection of Hugo Chavez had a profound impact on him. Most of all Tim was fond of his furry friends. Numerous cats and dogs would surround him as he laid down to sleep. He loved his animals and cited them as a major reason to go on fighting the good fight.

Tim housed the homeless, advocated for the exploited, spoke for the voiceless, and roused the rabble.

He was an ally and supporter of Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance, Witness Against Torture, Veterans For Peace, United for Peace and Justice, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, and Brandywine Peace Community, among others. Though his connections were wide and varied, during the time I knew him he would only claim one membership. He belonged to humanity. As such, he was one of the finest humans I've ever known, and the best friend and closest comrade I've ever had. I owe him my life and miss him dearly.

Tim Chadwick. *Presenté!*

- robert Daniels II

Some friends of Tim Chadwick gathered for an informal celebration of Tim's life on, February 8, at Café: The Lodge, in Bethlehem. The gathering was organized by the Beyond Capitalism Working Group of the Alliance for Sustainable Communities. Tim had participated in the group as "a vibrant and outspoken member." Besides Alliance friends, people attended who knew Tim during local Occupy actions, from his Lehigh University fraternity days, from the local Amnesty International group and from LEPOCO.

On a very cold Martin Luther King Holiday the Brandywine Peace Community gathered at Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia as they have every January since 1977 to carry "Dr. King's message of nonviolent action and resistance for justice and peace" to the front door of "the world's chief war profiteer." Tim Chadwick had joined this gathering in earlier years and some joined this year to honor Tim's memory. Among the nine who were arrested on January 18, were robert Daniels, II of Freemansburg, Louise Legun of Blandon, Sylvia Mertzler and Robert Smith of Philadelphia. "Make War No More. Ignite Peace."

Remembering Concepcion Picciotto

Concepcion Picciotto was the protester who maintained a peace vigil outside the White House for more than three decades. She died on January 25 at age 80. Known as "Connie" or "Conchita," many Lehigh Valley peace activists will remember talking with her when they were in Washington, DC. Connie was the main guardian of the anti-nuclear-proliferation vigil known for its longevity. In 2013 The Washington Post quoted her as saying she had spent more than 30 years of her life outside the White House "to stop the world from being destroyed." From their encampment on a walkway in Lafayette Park, the vigil was a demonstration against wars and military conflicts and became a recognized feature of the city's landscape -- a stop on D.C. tours, a topic of discussion in local college classrooms, and a cameo in "Fahrenheit 9/11." Her full obituary can be read in the Washington Post, January 25, 2016.

Steering Committee Nominations

LEPOCO's Steering Committee plans and provides leadership for the Action Meetings each second Monday (these meetings are open to all members and friends of the organization). The Committee makes decisions between monthly meetings and handles finances, personnel, and other organizational issues. The election for the Steering Committee is completed at the Annual Dinner. (See balloting instructions below).

Martha Christine, Dan Miller, Susie Ravitz, Scott Slingerland, and Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer) will continue serving their two-year Steering Committee terms that began in 2015. Thank you to Mary Kay O'Donnell and Bridger Buller for their work on the Steering Committee these past two years.

We are grateful to all the LEPOCO members who serve on this Committee for, as Sheila Clever once wrote, they are the "best people on the planet" convening once a month at the Peace Center to "strategize how to nonviolently build a sane and just world."

The nominees for 2016 are below. (Please note the line on the ballot below where you can indicate your interest or suggest others to serve in this capacity. We still need one more participant on the Steering Committee to have our full complement of ten at-large members. Please help us find that person by volunteering or by making suggestions.)

Olivia Arena-Miller of Cooperburg has been involved in LEPOCO activities for over 15 years -- having participated in demonstrations against the Iraq War as a high school student. Olivia has participated in Peace Camp as a camper, helper and treasured group leader. She attended United Friends School and at age eighteen lived in Brasil for a year as an exchange student. She has lived in Spain and Portugal working in hostels and tourism. She works as a child care provider, animal and house sitter, and leader of foreign exchange student tours in the U.S. Olivia is an animal rights activist and proud vegan for over six years.

Terry Briscoe of Bethlehem is coordinator of Pax Christi Lehigh Valley, part of the international Catholic peace organization. He is a long-time member of LEPOCO and was a leader in the L.V. Peace Coalition when it was active, 2002 to 2010. Retired from Bethlehem Steel, he and Sylvia have four children and nine grandchildren. In his

two terms on the Steering Committee he has been active in dealing with staff issues and in organizing delegations to meet with local elected representatives.

Nancy Johnston of Easton arrived in the Lehigh Valley from West Virginia in the 1970s. She is a Quaker and has been involved in Peace Camp for 25 years. She is known for teaching children how to hug trees and love the environment -- her own home having been certified as a National Wildlife Backyard Habitat. She participates in the Peace Pilgrimage and has been with the Peace Singers for five years. She has been an Associate Professor in the Nursing Department at Cedar Crest College for 20 years.

Janet Ney of Allentown has served as an at-large Steering Committee member for over ten years. She has been facilitating the Annual Dinner for many years, and is sometimes able to sing with the LEPOCO Peace Singers. She previously served on the National Committee of the War Resisters League for several years. Janet is employed by the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, having worked for the organization for over 30 years. She is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown and volunteers for the Presbytery of Lehigh.

Jim Orben of Springtown has been a LEPOCO member since the Vietnam era. He is retired from his work in the environmental field on pollution control and testing facilities for various companies. A Quaker, he has been active with the Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting for three decades. He has been active with the Cooks Creek Watershed Association for almost 40 years. He and his wife Debbie live on a rural homestead (with garden and orchard) near Springtown. He is an avid biker, skier, runner, hiker, golfer. In his first term on the Steering Committee he has been especially helpful in LEPOCO's opposition to the PennEast Pipeline. He is a regular helper at Peace Camp and with the Annual Dinner.

Tom Stinnett of Riegelsville will continue serving as co-treasurer, a role he has filled recently since 2009, and which he also filled as solo treasurer from 1974-1983. A mechanical engineer he is mostly retired from his work in the biotechnology equipment field. He has served as president of Riegelsville Borough Council for many years and is married to LEPOCO staff-person, Nancy Tate. He has been active in many aspects of LEPOCO's work since

Election Ballot

At-Large Steering Committee Members (vote for five):

Olivia Arena-Miller ____
(2-year term)

Terry Briscoe ____
(2-year term)

Nancy Johnston ____
(2-year term)

Janet Ney ____
(2-year term)

Jim Orben ____
(2-year term)

Co-Treasurer (vote for one):

Tom Stinnett ____
(2-year term)

*Please note here if you or anyone you know would be interested in serving on the Steering Committee:

This ballot can be cast at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 12, 2016, by 6:15 pm, or by mail to arrive at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, by Thursday, March 10, 2016.

Showing Up for Local Activism

The following are brief reports on some of the local activism for peace and justice since the last newsletter.

◆◆ In late January Terry Briscoe, Dan Miller, Kathryn Hoffman and Nancy Tate conveyed LEPOCO concerns about the TPP, Endless War, supporting the Iran Deal, and the horrors from the war in Syria to aides of Senator Pat Toomey, Senator Bob Casey and Representative Charlie Dent. Efforts are still underway to get a meeting with Representative Matt Cartwright's staff.

◆◆ As the last newsletter was being prepared the annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Peace Pilgrimage took place on an extremely mild December 12th. There were 125 walkers covering the 10-mile route carrying peace stars and signs like, "Are You Praying for Peace and Paying for War?" At the closing program and dinner at Christ UCC in Bethlehem, guest speaker Shane Claiborne, talked about his Philadelphia faith-based peace and justice activism around issues like homelessness, gun violence, prisons and Palestinian rights.

◆◆ On January 13, a dedicated group of over 40 people gathered outside the office of Representative Charlie Dent in Allentown, calling on Rep. Dent to oppose the TPP. There were speakers and a delegation from the group carried the opposition to the TPP inside, speaking with Rep. Dent's staff. Relief was expressed that President Obama had not pushed as hard as expected in support of the TPP in his State of the Union address the previous evening, but other efforts of the President supporting the TPP have not slowed.

Letters and calls to Congress (and the White House) are very much needed because as Citizen's Global Trade Watch says, the TPP "is a dangerous corporate boondoggle negotiated in secret for seven years with 500 corporate advisers that will offshore more U.S. jobs, push down wages, raise medicine prices and flood us with unsafe imported food -- while empowering a new wave of corporate attacks on our public interest safeguards."

Joseph Stiglitz, the highly acclaimed economist, wrote several months ago, "Huge multinational corporations complain that inconsistent regulations make business costly. But most regulations, even if they are imperfect, are there for a reason: to protect workers, consumers, the economy and the environment... Trade agreements' new boosters euphemistically claim that they are simply after regulatory harmonization, a clean-sounding phrase that implies an innocent plan to promote efficiency. One could, of course, get regulatory harmonization by strengthening regulations to the highest standards everywhere. But when corporations call for harmonization what they really mean is a race to the bottom."

◆◆ Over 60 people gathered in Bethlehem's beautiful Town Hall Rotunda on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth-
6 LEPOCO Newsletter / Winter 2016

day, January 15th, for a reading of his "Beyond Vietnam" speech. LEPOCO events have visited this speech every year since 2000. We always gain new insight and inspiration from the prophetic and powerful words that Dr. King gave the world. This year we brought in "Voices from Today" to remind us of the speech's timeless relevance and the challenging work yet to be done for peace and justice. We listened to Cornell West, Ta Nehisi Coates, former military drone pilots protesting U.S. war policy, Doctors Without Borders, and others. Five readers, Roberta Meek, Todd Carpien, Annette Carpien, Dan Miller, and Grace Spruiell Hochella delivered the King speech and Monica McAgnon, Ted Morgan, Juanita Gomez-Reyes, and Amy Frey read the voices of today. The entire audience read important phrases of the King speech in unison, including his "five concrete things that our government should do immediately to begin the long and difficult process of extricating ourselves from this nightmare" (then, Vietnam; now, Endless War): "End all bombing...; Declare a unilateral cease-fire...; Take immediate steps to curtail our military buildup...; Realistically accept the fact that (all parties) must...play a role in any meaningful negotiations...; Set a date that we will remove all foreign troops..."

On January 13 and January 15, The Morning Call carried a photograph each day with their calendar of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events. The two photos were taken at a community event in Allentown, on January 17, 2015, organized by LEPOCO. On January 15 the photo featured the Coretta Scott King and Martin Luther King, Jr. statue; and on January 13, the photo was of members of LEPOCO carrying the "Honor M.L. King: End Poverty, Racism & War" banner along the streets of the city.

◆◆ Since January 17, the walls of the Allentown Art Museum have been graced with wonderful black and white photographs from the civil rights era. This Light of Ours: Activist Photographs of the Civil Rights Movement will be on display at the Museum through May 15. The photographs are by eight men and one woman who lived at the epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement, 1963-1968. Their insider roles helped them capture well the energy, the lives, the beauty, of the local people and activists involved in the work of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee).

You can check with the museum for details on hours and admission to the exhibit. (There are some times when admission is free.) Call 610-432-433 or see www.AllentownArtMuseum.org.

◆◆ Mimi Lang, Dan Miller, and Scott Slingerland represented LEPOCO at the Journeys To Justice program at Muhlenberg College on January 20. The evening gathering was an effort to involve members of the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding in working actively with other local justice organizations.

◆◆◆◆

Book Club

The First Tuesday LEPOCO Book Club will meet on March 1, to discuss Phyllis Bennis' "Understanding ISIS and the New Global War on Terror: A Primer." This is one of several primers written by Phyllis Bennis to help peace activists better understand issues and be able to act for meaningful change in U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The book group meets at the Bethlehem Wegmans, just off Route 512, about 1/2 mile north of Route 22. Those joining the discussion can get food or drink on the first floor and join the meeting at a second floor table.

On April 5, the Book Club will discuss "The Places in Between," by Rory Stewart. The book is about his solo walk across north-central Afghanistan in 2002.

On May 3, the group will discuss the new book by Andrew Cockburn, "Kill Chain: Drones and the Rise of High Tech Assassins."

Poster Contest Gets Around

Thirty-three of the entries, including the six winners, from LEPOCO's 50th Anniversary Poster Contest, "Picture a World Without Violence," have been on display at several locations since the awards ceremony in November. As this newsletter is being prepared they are finishing a stay at the Allentown Public Library. The posters, created by junior and senior high school students, address one of three themes -- "War Is Not the Answer," "Peace Takes Courage Too," "The Lehigh Valley Is No Place for Hate." The posters have also been displayed at First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Northeast Middle School, Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Public Library; and Northampton Community College, south Bethlehem.

More exhibits are planned. Watch the weekly LEPOCO email updates for the current location. If you have not seen a display of the posters please know that they are interesting and inspiring, as young people present a hopeful vision through their art.

New Peace Pole Planted

The new Peace Pole has been planted at the Rose Garden Park in Bethlehem. LEPOCO planted the first peace pole there in 1993. Its health deteriorated. The new pole has more languages (eight) -- English, Spanish, Leni Lenape, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, and Japanese. Flower plantings around the peace pole will be added as the weather permits and a dedication ceremony is being planned for later this year. In the meantime you are invited to visit the pole that lives in the park near the corner of 8th Ave. and Union Blvd. You can contemplate your next steps to help move the world toward the Peace Pole message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth." If you would like to help plan the dedication or

participate in the maintenance of the pole and its plantings contact Scott Slingerland or the LEPOCO Office.

Activists Arrested at Drone Bases

On January 28, twelve nonviolent drone resisters joined the Jerry Berrigan Memorial Blockade. They were arrested for blocking the main entrance to the Hancock Air National Guard Base, near Syracuse, NY, for over an hour. Hancock Air Base deploys hunter/killer Reaper drones 24/7 over Afghanistan (and probably elsewhere). The twelve resisters accompanied 30 life-sized cutouts of Syracuse peacemaker Jerry Berrigan who died on July 26, 2015. Jerry Berrigan, brother of Phil and Dan, protested regularly at Hancock prior to his death. For more info. see www.upstatedroneaction.org.

On February 23, Brian Terrell and Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, were arrested when they attempted to deliver a loaf of bread and a letter to drone operators at Volk Field, an Air National Guard Base in Wisconsin. Pilots at Volk Field are trained to operate Shadow Drones over other countries. Kelly and Terrell carried the loaf of bread to signify the worth of relying on words rather than weapons. Their arraignment was scheduled in late February.

Protests Resume at Horsham

The monthly protests at the Horsham Drone Command Center resume each fourth Saturday, starting again on March 26, noon to 2 pm. The protest takes place outside the Horsham Air National Guard Station at the intersection of Easton Road (Route 611) and County Line Road in Horsham. There will be a car pool for Lehigh Valley folks leaving from the Hellertown Park & Ride near the intersection of Rt. 412 and I-78, on Silvex Rd., behind the Wendy's and Turkey Hill businesses. To help with planning please call LEPOCO if you plan to join the car pool.

Stand Up & Speak Out!

Saturdays

March 26 & April 23

12 Noon - 2 pm

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.

Bits & Pieces

⊕ Kathryn Hoffman sent us the following message, "Recently, a colleague of mine came to me worried about his 17-year-old son. The son had announced to the family that he planned to enter the military upon graduation from high school in the spring. The son told them he was unsure about his career choice, and wanted to "see the world." His dad talked with him, but was unable to succeed in turning the son's attention to options other than signing on for years to a military contract. I called the LEPOCO office, and asked them to send some of our **literature on military recruitment**, and a realistic take on what life and careers in the military can involve.

"They did, and my colleague told me his son read the information, discussed it with his parents, and came to them later to say he had changed his mind. He wanted to take some classes at the local community college upon graduation, and explore careers there, first. I was so happy that we had this resource, as a complement and contrast to the sometimes overly promising, rosy description of military life given by recruiters to young people of high school age."

⊕ Save the Date! LEPOCO's **Peace-a-thon, the annual biking and walking event**, will be held Saturday, May 28th (Memorial Day week-end), starting at the Christmas City Fairgrounds, for a ride and walk that includes time on the Lehigh Canal Towpath, the streets of Allentown, and Bethlehem's Greenway. Watch for a pledge sheet in the next newsletter.

⊕ **Governor Wolf's 48-member Pipeline Task Force** issued their 200 recommendations on February 18. The main problem was that the most important recommendation was absent: Pennsylvania does not need more pipelines and the people and environment of this state will suffer great harm if the proposed plan to build 3500 miles! of pipeline is allowed to go 8 LEPOCO Newsletter / Winter 2016

forward. (We should also consider the destruction Pennsylvania natural gas is unleashing on neighboring states as they face the gas pipeline invasion.) Fortunately, many residents of our state and others are stepping forward to question what the Pipeline Task Force could not.

The **Lehigh Gap Nature Center** and the **Carbon County Environmental Education Center** rejected \$5000 grants from PennEast/UGI. After considering the message that accepting the grants would send re: the PennEast pipeline, they rejected the grants even though nonprofits always struggle to raise funds... Upwards of 200 people took part in a three-day walk (11-12 miles each day), January 16-18, through sub-freezing, wintry weather in rural western Massachusetts to show their **opposition to the Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct pipeline**... On January 20, **seven gas pipeline opponents disrupted** the final meeting of Gov. Wolf's Pipeline Task Force, which they saw as gas-industry stacked to promote more pipeline and fracking in our state... On January 21, the monthly FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) meeting in Washington, DC, was disrupted by **Beyond Extreme Energy** for the 15th consecutive month... January 22, 62 people in Hunterdon and Mercer counties in New Jersey, announced the formation of **HALT (Homeowners Against Land Taking)**. They have engaged a Washington, D.C. law firm to help them oppose the PennEast pipeline. They intend to prove that "there is no valid justification for taking our homes, farms and properties, and endangering our liveli-

hoods and families well-being for a pipeline that is not needed, not wanted and harmful."... On January 25, New Jersey **environmental groups** were joined by **two U.S. representatives, a state senator and a New Jersey assemblywoman**, in calling on FERC to halt their review of the PennEast pipeline application until PennEast provides FERC with all the information that FERC has requested... On February 9, community members shut down an eminent domain proceeding in Montpelier, Vermont. The proceeding was to pave the way for Vermont Gas to **seize the land of 77-year-old Claire Broughton**. The hearing was adjourned as protesters kept singing, "Officer, my dear, all the people here are telling you to leave these folks alone. There's no need to take their land and home."... On February 10 landowners and friends gathered on a Lower Nazareth Township farm to **defy PennEast offers** to buy land easements across their property for the PennEast 118-mile gas pipeline... In early February over 100 people traveled to the remote **Zeffer-Holleran farm** near New Milford, Pennsylvania, to protect the farm's five acres of old-growth trees that live in the proposed path of the 125-mile-long Constitution Pipeline heading from Susquehanna County, PA, into New York state and New Hampshire. The old-growth trees include 150 maples that are tappable -- and are ready for this year's syrup harvest. Loggers had begun clearing trees on the proposed pipeline route even though the pipeline project (owned by Cabot Oil & Gas and Williams Partners) faces challenges in the Second District Court.

Support LEPOCO!

- ___ Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$ _____
(\$35 individual; \$45 hh; \$75 supporter; \$10 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

Ⓟ In December Amy Goodman, of Democracy Now! visited the **Calais refugee camp**, the largest refugee camp in France, where six to seven thousand people live, camped in make-shift tents. The camp is along the highway to the Channel Tunnel. The refugees hope to catch a ride to Britain.

One of the refugees interviewed by Amy Goodman was Majd, from Syria. Besides answering questions about conditions at the camp he answered some larger questions. She asked him whether the Russian, Syrian, French, British bombing of Syria will save Syria. His reply, "No, no, no, it's not a solution. You can't protect someone by killing someone else... They can't stop the bombs here when they bomb in Syria. Yes, it's not a solution." Then she asked him, "What is the solution?" His answer: "The solution is not giving the weapons to everyone. They're giving the weapons to the Free Army, to the Assad regime, to ISIS. They just give weapons and money, and...let them fight in my country. Just stop the weapons."

Ⓟ Phyllis Bennis' latest primer is "Understanding ISIS & the New Global War on Terror." It was published recently and LEPOCO has copies for sale. The LEPOCO Book Group is discussing it at their meeting on March 1. (See page 7.) There has also been talk of setting up a group to focus on this book for three or four sessions. **Would you be interested in joining such a study group?** Please contact the Peace Center to indicate your interest, 610-691-8730.

Ⓟ Congressman **Matt Cartwright**, representing Easton and further north, wrote about FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) in a September letter to the Department of Energy Inspector General. The letter led to an audit of the FERC, currently underway.

Ⓟ We are collecting "Memories of LEPOCO" that will be part of the

Annual Dinner gathering March 12. If you have a humorous or serious memory/story to share in 50 words or less (more than one memory/story submission is welcomed) **please submit your piece(s) by email or postal mail.**

Ⓟ Anna Maria Caldara reports that **Genesis Farm** in New Jersey has researched Native prairie grasses and their importance as carbon removers. They have planted five acres of prairie grasses at Genesis. The Genesis staff envision the planting of these grasses as a way to offset greenhouse gas effects, restore wildlife, give farmers a renewable crop (you plant, mow once, and each spring the roots yield another crop), and create carbonless fuel (these grasses are being made into pellets for that purpose). Because the roots draw the carbon underground, the grasses do not contain it.

Ⓟ In Rhode Island, hundreds of **protesters flooded an anti-refugee news conference** at the state House on February 22nd. Speakers at the event included a former member of Congress, Pete Hoekstra, a candidate for congress in Rhode Island, Russell

Taub, and the president of a group called "Americans for Peace and Tolerance," Charles Jacobs. Charles Jacobs was shouted down by protesters as he described the supposed "dangers" posed by Syrian refugees. The protesters carried "Refugees Welcome" signs and chanted "Say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here." (Source: Democracy Now! 2/24/16.)

Monthly Peace Vigil

Second Thursdays

March 10th: 4-5 pm

&

April 14th: 4:30-5:30 pm

Our wars continue.

Please help witness for peace.

Third & Wyandotte Sts.,
at the south end of Hill-to-Hill Bridge,
south Bethlehem

Contact: Vince Stravino 610-216-8103 or
LEPOCO 610-691-8730 for more info.

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

Sundays, February 28 & March 6, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Peace Singers** rehearse at homes of Nancy Johnston, Easton, and Marcie Lightwood & Rick Weaver, Bethlehem, respectively.

Wednesday, March 2, 4:30 pm: **LEPOCO 50th Anniversary Planning Committee** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Fridays, March 4 & April 1, 11 am: **Americas Solidarity Group** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Mondays, March 14 & April 11, 7 pm: **LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting** at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this business meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed and set.

Wednesday, March 16, 11:30 am: **Stop the Wars Committee** meeting at Olive Branch Restaurant, 355 Broadway, south Bethlehem.

Wednesday, March 16, 7 pm: **Peace Camp 2016 Planning** meeting at LEPOCO Peace Center.

Tuesday, April 12, 3:30 pm: **L.V. Committee Against State Killing (LV-CASK) Meeting** at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

Tuesday, May 10, 5-8 pm: **LEPOCO Peaceathon Planning Committee** meeting and calling night, at the LEPOCO Peace Center. This is annual biking and walking event that will take place on Saturday, 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 Newsletter Planning Group, L.V. Veterans For Peace, Annual Dinner Planning Committee 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.



Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015
610-691-8730 lepoco@fast.net
Fax: 610-691-8904 www.lepoco.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 617
Lehigh Valley, PA

See Inside:

Pages 1

Annual Dinner
Tax Day

Page 2

Spring Activism

Page 3

Potluck/Popcorn
& Politics

Page 4

Remembering
Tim Chadwick

Page 5

Steering Comm.
Ballot

Page 6

Showing Up

Page 7

Book Group &
Other Updates

Pages 8 & 9

Bits & Pieces
Meetings...

40 Years Ago on January 23, 1976, The Continental Walk for Disarmament & Social Justice began in California heading for Washington, DC, with the purpose of raising the issues of disarmament through unilateral action...of educating about nonviolent resistance as a means superior to armament...and of demonstrating how global and domestic and economic problems are interconnected with militarism..." A feeder walk from the Lehigh Valley joined walkers from the northeast as they passed through Philadelphia en route to D.C. (Source: www.peacebuttons.info.)

25 Years Ago on January 16, 1991, Operation Desert Storm was launched with bombing attacks on Iraq. The majority of Iraqis today weren't born when that war started. They live now in a time when 15 countries in their region remain engaged in military action. Many have family members who were killed or displaced, and they witness the chaos of the Syrian war and the rise of ISIS.

A generation of U.S. citizens has witnessed the impact of our country's militarized foreign policy -- we spend more than \$1 trillion each year to sustain our military might and send powerful weapons to our allies in the Middle East. Ominously, young U.S. citizens have experienced U.S. military involvement as constant, distant and normalized.

It is easy to forget that only two years before 1991, in 1989, after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, there was an opportunity to move away from a militarized foreign policy, to actively reduce the terrifying threat of nuclear war, and to transfer spending from the Pentagon to meeting human needs. There was talk of a peace dividend.

We can't turn back the clock. But we can take concrete steps now to help create the conditions for reconciliation and repair. (Source: Peter Lems & Mary Zerkel of American Friends Service Committee writing in The Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/19/16.)

One Year Ago this quote from Sandra Steingraber appeared in the "Women Artists" Datebook: "We are all members of a great human orchestra and it is now time to play the Save the World Symphony. You do not have to play a solo, but you do have to know what instrument you hold and find your place in the score."