

## FERC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for PennEast

On July 22, 2016, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Penn East Pipeline. After months of on-site data gathering by PennEast with and without permission of landowners and with input from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, FERC staff determined that construction and operation of the Project would result in some adverse environmental impacts, but impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of PennEast's proposed and FERC staff's recommended mitigation measures.

While this finding is not unexpected, the large gaps in field data leave much to be filled in later. Because of the size of the pipe and the required cover of that pipe, the trench will have to be at least seven feet deep. This means bedrock will have to be blasted in over 400 places along the route, more than forty in Northampton County alone. PennEast's proposed construction work areas would be located within 50 feet of 462 structures, with 298 structures within 25 feet of PennEast's proposed construction work area. A total of 66 of these structures within 25 feet of PennEast's proposed construction work area are residential buildings.

Much more information is made public in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The entire DEIS can be found on the FERC website at: <https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis/2016/07-22-16-eis.asp>. Or search for "PennEast DEIS"

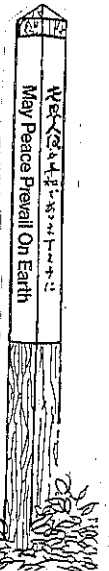
There are nearly 1200 pages of text, tables and maps included in the DEIS document so a thorough reading by one person will take great effort. FERC has limited the comment period to 45 days from the time the DEIS was released on July 22. This means that those of us who wish to analyze at least part of the DEIS and make a meaningful comment must work quickly to file with FERC by September 12, 2016. Comments may be filed with FERC at the [ferc.gov](http://ferc.gov) website under Documents and Filings/e-comments. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has issued a statement on the DEIS that can be found by

searching "Delaware Riverkeeper PennEast DEIS." More information on the PennEast Pipeline is available on the Delaware Riverkeeper website and facebook page. See the "StopPennEast.org" website for information and links.

With your help we will continue to oppose the PennEast Pipeline project until it is stopped. Make comments online since the public comment meetings scheduled for August 15, 16, 17, 2016, have already passed. Remember, every bit of fossil carbon burned in modern times adds to the problem.

- Jim Orben

## Peace Pole Walk & Dedication: Connecting Our Community & Our World



Celebrate LEPOCO's 50 years of working for peace by joining us in the Bethlehem Rose Garden as we dedicate the new peace pole donated by LEPOCO and installed by the City of Bethlehem Parks Department. After the dedication ceremony those who are able will be walking for peace to the Peace Pole on the Moravian College campus, and then on to the Peace Pole at the Channel 39 offices near the Steel Stacks. This takes place at the start of an international week of walks/marches for peace: Campaign Nonviolence Week, September 18-25. September 21<sup>st</sup> is the United Nations International Day of Peace.

We'll gather at the Peace Pole in the Rose Garden Park at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Union Blvd., at 1 pm, on Sunday, September 18. The Bethlehem-based Balinese Gamelan, Mekar Sari, will set the tone by gathering us for the event. Once gathered, we will begin with a Lenni Lenapi Four Directions Opening. We've invited many voices from the Lehigh Valley to

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# Peace Pole Walk & Dedication

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represent all the languages on the Peace Pole: Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Hebrew, Spanish, English, Arabic, and Lenni Lenapi. The Peace Singers will provide additional music. There might even be a surprise historical puppet appearance.

Following the dedication ceremony we'll be led by lively music through the streets of Bethlehem, carrying our banners and signs to bring attention to the need to work towards ending violence in our communities, and ending war in our world. We'll walk to the Peace Pole at Moravian College (just under one mile), arriving at about 2:30 pm, where we'll take a short rest and participate in a brief program. From there we'll continue the walk to the Peace Pole located on the south side at Channel 39 (about 2.5 miles), arriving at about 4 pm, where we'll participate in another brief program. At this point walkers have the option of catching a LANTA bus to return to Broad & Guetter, and walking back to the Rose Garden (about another 2 miles total) or hitching a ride with our support vehicles. Peace activists who are unable to walk the whole route are welcome to drive or bike in order to join us as we arrive at each Peace Pole. We will also have a support vehicle to assist those who need to take a break any time along the route.

- Martha Christine

## Browne & Gray on Brazil

Currently living in Brazil, Greta Browne and Guy Gray were back visiting the Lehigh Valley in June when they accepted an invitation from LEPOCO's Americas Solidarity Group to do a presentation on Brazil. Some political turmoil was afoot there and we hoped they could bring some clarification. What was going on? Coup? Popular uprising? Legal process?

They gave their presentation on "*The Current Situation in Brazil*," the evening of June 22, at the Peace Center, 18 people in attendance.

Greta & Guy have been living in Brazil for the past several years, homesteading, and therefore not necessarily in the know about what the national government was up to. It's not so strange that preparing for their presentation actually allowed them to wrap their own minds around what was going on there.

Their presentation was packed with information. Guy opened with a brief history of Brazil, starting from when they were a colony of Portugal. Their presentation touched on slavery, independence from Portugal, disparity between rich and poor, racism, white privilege, coups, governmental corruption, Dilma Rousseff, Lula, impeachment efforts, the Olympics, and more. This was clearly an introduction to a complicated story.

Guy and Greta did bring their political perspective to bear in their discussion. Before moving to Brazil, they had been politically active in Bethlehem, involved with LEPOCO, the Green Party, and the Alliance for

Sustainable Communities-Lehigh Valley. They started the Green Café on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and ran it for several years. Why did they go to Brazil? Greta was going home, having spent a significant part of her early life in Brazil. As retirees, Guy and Greta are continuing their green lifestyle on the family farm near Brasilia.

Held as a "Transitions U: LEPOCO presentation on Latin America," this was the second of what will be an irregularly held Transitions U series of LEPOCO presentations on Latin America. It is hoped that increased understanding will arise via the cumulative impact of the series.

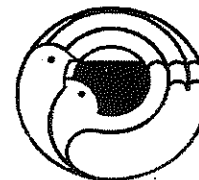
- Martin Boksenbaum

## Acting to Honor Berta Cáceres

At the March for a Clean Energy Revolution on July 24 in Philadelphia a large puppet rose above the crowd. It was a beautiful likeness of Berta Cáceres, the Honduran environmental, indigenous, human rights leader murdered on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The puppet helped marchers remember the importance of the work to save the planet.

We are invited to remember Berta Cáceres by convincing our members of Congress to co-sponsor the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act (HR-5474). Introduced by Hank Johnson in June, this legislation would suspend all U.S. military aid to Honduras until the country addresses its gross human rights violations. Can you be part of this effort by calling your member of Congress? In early July another environmental activist was murdered in Honduras - Lesbia Yaneth Urquía. Our calls are important.

- Nancy C. Tate



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

### Annual dues are:

Regular Member .....	\$35
Limited Income Member .....	\$ 5
Household Membership .....	\$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, Jasmin Mauer.

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

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

# Popcorn/Salsa & Politics

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Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

## "In Our Son's Name"

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

Shortly after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, some family members of people killed on that day came together saying their grief was not a call for war. They formed the group September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. This film follows one of those families, Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez, as they search for meaning and cope with grief after their son, Greg, was killed in the World Trade Center. They choose reconciliation and nonviolence over vengeance and begin a transformative journey that both confirms and challenges their convictions.

Directed by Gayla Jamison. 65 minutes. 2015.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm

## Mimi Lang

### "Salsa, Salsa & Slides: Report from a Cuba Delegation"

A LEPOCO Potluck & Politics event at the  
Home of Mimi Lang, 1526 Oakland St., Bethlehem (18017)

Mimi Lang traveled to Cuba with a Witness for Peace delegation in late May 2016. The delegation focused on music, culture and the changes in Cuba-U.S. relations. Mimi will show some slides from the trip, talk about her experiences and share some of the salsa music that was ever-present.

*Please bring some finger food or a beverage to share.*

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

## "Where to Invade Next"

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

This documentary is an expansive, hilarious, and subversive comedy confronting some of the most pressing issues facing the U.S. today and finding solutions in unexpected places.

Written & Directed by Michael Moore. 110 minutes. 2016.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*



## Book Club

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The first Tuesday LEPOCO Book Club will meet on September 6, at 6 pm, to plan their reading list for the next year. The meeting will be in the Laros Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bethlehem Public Library, 11 W. Church St. All members of the group are asked to bring three book suggestions for that reading list. The group will choose ten (or more) from the collective list for 2017.

The selections for the rest of 2016 are: "The Most Good You Can Do," by Peter Singer, for October 4; "This Is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," by Mark Engler & Paul Engler, for November 1; and "TransAtlantic," by Colum McCann, for December 6.

The group has several steady members, but more and new members are always welcome. For more information contact Mimi Lang at 610-866-2407 or LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

## Fairs & Parades

As this newsletter is being prepared we are getting ready for Bethlehem's VegFest and Allentown's Pride in the Park, August 20 & 21. Now we are looking for people to help staff a LEPOCO booth at the Peace Fair in Buckingham, September 17. And, we need people to walk with the peace contingent in the Labor Day Parade in Bethlehem on Sunday, September 4. Please call LEPOCO (610-691-8730) or email ([lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)) if you can help.

## Conference on Drone Warfare & Peacemaking

On July 24 and 25, folks from around southeastern Pennsylvania converged at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School to talk about drone warfare. The conference, "Faithful Witness in a Time of Endless War: Drone Warfare and God's Call to Peacemaking," sought to give space for church groups and people of faith to examine and speak out against the violence of drones.

The event brought together a stellar list of speakers on the issue. From Code Pink's Medea Benjamin, to former CIA employee, Christopher Aaron, who worked on the predator drone program, the conference offered insight into and hope for addressing the United States' policy of using drones in warfare.

Aaron, who chose to resign from his CIA position due to his objections with how drones were used, also brought a different perspective. Although not anti-war, his experience from having been deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as working within the CIA, has made him question the use of drones in battle and speak out against them.

Benjamin spoke on continuing to call on our legislators, hold them accountable, and urge them to take action. Robert Smith, coordinator for the Brandywine Peace Community gave an especially moving testimony for the need to continue to speak out against the U.S. drone program.

Other speakers for the weekend included Shane Claiborne, a Christian activist from Philly; the Rev. Kelly Denton-Borhaug, from Moravian College; Muhammed Malik, co-founder of Muslims for Ferguson and former executive director of CAIR; and many others.

LEPOCO was one of many co-sponsors for the event, which was truly an effort of many. Other sponsors included: 1040forpeace; American Friends Service Committee; Brandywine Peace Community; Center on Conscience & War (CCW); Franconia Mennonite Conference; Germantown Friends Meeting; Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare; Mennonite Central Committee East Coast; Mennonite Church USA Peace and Justice Network; National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee; Peace Action Education Fund (PAEF); PA Council of Churches; Pennsylvania Interfaith Network against Drone Warfare; Philadelphia Area Anti-Drone Network; Plains Mennonite Church; Salford Mennonite Church and the Justice & Peace Ministry of Salford; The Simple Way.

The conference ended with a public witness that Saturday at the Horsham, PA, Air Guard Station, in conjunction with Brandywine Peace Community's monthly protest of the now fully operational Drone Command Center there. The protests make an appeal to the drone operators to walk away and help end the violence.

- Jasmin Maurer

## A New Group at Peace Camp

I have been a part of Peace Camp for many, many years. I was not a group leader or helper, but bringing the supplies from the office to First Presbyterian Church, hauling it in, up the elevator, down the hall into the Supplies Room and then doing the reverse after five days of Peace Camp. It was an annual rite. Last year, I was also asked to help with the training session, and this year I took on co-leadership of a new group -- the Green Group.

The camp planning group had been wondering how they could help keep the older campers involved in Camp and create a bridge to helper status. The answer was to set up a group for those who had finished seventh or eighth grade that would offer the camp experience, but with a focus on learning and practicing leadership skills for helping with camp. I also saw that it could be a chance to work with them on peacemaking skills that they could use in their own lives -- at school or in the community. To this end, I thought that I could extend the role playing scenarios that have been used in Peace Camp training for leaders and helpers to include situations that teens might encounter elsewhere.

Fortunately, I was able to enlist the help of Laura Riker, an experienced actor, middle school English teacher and improv coach, to get the campers willing to do some role playing of conflict resolution in tense situations. The teens responded very well and enjoyed the action.

I wanted to add a theme of social action to the group. Martha Christine led us in some letter writing to PA's Congressional delegates, we fabric painted peace themed T-shirts, made posters, and then "peace marched" through several other groups on our way to demonstrate for peace at the corner of Tilghman St. and Cedar Crest Blvd. The campers were excited to count 23 positive reactions in 25 minutes of demonstrating.

Of course, the Green Group also participated in regular activities, including international dance, drumming, music, and the all important cooperative games. Ronnie Arena, Alex Schmidt, and Jasmin Maurer were the other leaders who contributed to the success of the new Green Group.

At the Peace Camp Evaluation, held a week after Peace Camp ended, we learned that each group, in its own way, felt similarly successful. Children of a newly welcomed Syrian family joined us, in three different groups. Amazingly, one of our regular teen helpers speaks fluent Arabic, so she was able to help the children participate more fully. Friendships were forged and seeds of peaceful living were planted in a multitude of creative ways. Without a sudden ceasing of all violent conflict, it is often difficult to measure the success of any peaceful effort. However, over the 27 years since the creation of LEPOCO's Peace Camp, we have seen many of our young participants go on to peaceful careers and adult lives. And that's not to men-

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# LEPOCO Statement on Violence, Policing and the Black Lives Matter Movement

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LEPOCO grieves with the rest of the nation following recent shootings that have shattered so many families and communities. As an organization dedicated to building a just and peaceful world through nonviolent action, we feel compelled to speak out about the ongoing and escalating violence that has taken the lives of our fellow citizens, especially African-Americans, as well as members of law enforcement.

We recognize these tragic events to be rooted in a longstanding and well-documented history of racial disparity in the criminal justice system that disproportionately impacts people of color, as recently acknowledged by FBI Director, James B. Comey.\* Institutional racism and structural problems such as poverty, a country awash in drugs and guns, plus a host of law enforcement practices, customs and institutions have fueled mass incarceration with the result that people of color, especially African-Americans, are overrepresented in arrests, incarceration, and killings by police. While problems of excessive force are repeatedly documented, accountability by police officers is most often lacking or invisible.

The Black Lives Matter movement has given voice to people's justified anger at a criminal justice system that targets them disproportionately with profoundly adverse effects on individuals, families, communities, and our nation as a whole. We support their nonviolent effort to bring attention to this widespread and long-standing problem. We stand with them as they seek racial justice.

We call upon our local political leaders, police, and fellow citizens to recognize and address the fact that racial bias in policing breeds distrust. We support the policy proposals championed by Campaign Zero ([www.joincampaignzero.org](http://www.joincampaignzero.org)) to reduce police violence which include: ending broken windows policing; increasing community oversight and representation; limiting use of force; independently investigating and prosecuting police misconduct; mandating body cameras; improving police training; ending for-profit policing; demilitarizing police departments; and negotiating fair police union contracts.

As an organization committed to demilitarization on a national level, we especially hold that military weapons and tactics should not be making their way into the hands of our police officers or into our communities. When police enter communities as though they are an invading force and not members of that same community, we cannot build a more peaceful world. Just as we've seen in countries abroad, aggression and more weapons do not make our communities safer. These practices create a battle zone where anyone can be considered an enemy, and everyone is in the line of fire.

We recognize that policing is a dangerous business that puts individuals at risk on a daily basis as they accomplish their duty to protect and serve. We urge our local police chiefs to work in partnership with community stakeholders, to review practices and policies that are discriminatory in their effect, and to find ways to redress and prevent discrimination. Working together, we can ensure effective unbiased law enforcement so that our hearts will not be broken by another tragedy like Dallas, Baton Rouge, Minneapolis, Baltimore, and so many others.

We are not helpless in the face of this violence. We must come together to address the problems that contribute to it: ongoing systemic racism; racial bias in policing; economic inequality; militarism; and easy access to highly lethal weapons that threaten the public including the police. LEPOCO will continue to stand with others in the Lehigh Valley to address these problems and work for a more just and peaceful world.

\*FBI Director acknowledges "hard truths" about racial bias in policing, Sari Horwitz, *Washington Post*, 2/12/15.

# SHOWING UP... FOR LOCAL ACTIVISM

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

◆◆◆ The Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, July 25-28, was quite a production all by itself, but the street marches, vigils, speak-outs and many indoor conferences and programs also filled the city with progressive slogans and discussion to surround those attending the convention.

The Sunday, July 24, March for a Clean Energy Revolution, was the largest single event with thousands marching down Market Street on a very hot day. Several dozen eastern Pennsylvania activists boarded a bus to the March that picked up passengers in Stroudsburg and at the Rt. 33/William Penn Hwy. Park & Ride. Some of us on that bus carried LEPOCO banners in the March, including one made by Amanda Zaniesienko for the occasion: "Clean Energy! No Wars! Another World Is Possible."

Another activity that week that is of special interest to peace activists was the Anti-War Truth Display outside the Arch Street United Methodist Church, near Philadelphia City Hall. The Display lasted four days and featured military drone replicas, banners, masks representing the child victims of drone attacks, and the all-important leafleting. The Brandywine Peace Community was the primary local organizer.

Bernie Sanders' Peace Warriors were all over the city, some of them distributing a flyer filled with peace wisdom quotes from people like Gandhi and Arundhati Roy. The final quote on the page was from Rebecca Adamson, an American Cherokee activist, "It takes four generations to recover from every act of violence."

◆◆◆ The Stop the Wars Committee of LEPOCO organized three activities calling for "Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki by spending "No More Tax Dollars for Nuclear Weapons." On August 5, a small group gathered at LEPOCO to watch, "I was Her Age," a short film about *Hibakusha*, now elderly, who were children at the time of the atomic bombings. Eight of the *Hibakusha* joined the Peace Boat in 2015 for a three-month journey around the world, stopping at cities to meet with Mayors for Peace, other community leaders, children, and adults. It is a simple, but touching story as they talk about their experiences in August 1945 and call for an end to nuclear weapons. You can watch the film online by searching for the title.

On Hiroshima Day, August 6, and Nagasaki Day, August 9, we took the message to Musikfest (north and south respectively) holding our banner (Remember Hiroshima-Nagasaki: No More Tax \$s for Nukes) and distributing a small leaflet that, among other points, called for an end to the plan to spend \$1 trillion to

overhaul and rebuild the nuclear weapons arsenal and infrastructure of the U.S.

Thank you to Terry and Sylvia Briscoe, Bob Riggs, Peter Crownfield, Mimi Lang, Susie Ravitz, Monica McAgnon, Tom Stinnett and Nancy Tate, who held the banner and distributed the leaflets.

You can sign the online petitions mentioned in the flyer: "A Path Toward Abolishing Nuclear Weapons," at [www.rootsaction.org](http://www.rootsaction.org), and the "Nuclear Zero Petition" at [www.nuclearzero.org](http://www.nuclearzero.org).

◆◆◆ August 15-17, anti-PennEast Pipeliners activists struggled mightily to bring some public exposure to FERC's so-called public hearings with press conferences featuring citizens impacted by the pipeline and the video-taping of citizen comments. The "hearings" were for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the 118-mile pipeline. FERC only conducted private interviews - to which the public (media or individuals) will only have access online, leaving concerned citizens less informed, less inspired, more isolated. Apparently FERC desperately wants to end the flood of citizen opposition to this and other pipelines. Please see the article by Jim Orben on page 1 about how you can join the flood of opposition.

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## A New Group at Peace Camp

(continued from page 4)

tion how adult participants grow each year in their understanding of peace!

Change is in the wind and Peace Camp is part of it. Consider being involved in Peace Camp 2017: you can help with planning, take part in Peace Camp during the third week in July or, most importantly, spread the word so more young people can enjoy the benefits of a carefree week focused on living peacefully in our world.

- Rick Dow

### Support LEPOCO!

Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (S\$5 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 these 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 [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).

# Bits & Pieces

☪ October 7-10, 2016, SOA Watch is taking their yearly convergence to the U.S./Mexico border at Nogales, Mexico and Nogales, Arizona. This change from Ft. Benning, Georgia, comes because refugees fleeing violence, especially in Central America, are being branded as criminals when the violence they flee is all-too-often the result of militaristic U.S. policies in the region. At the same time anti-immigrant rhetoric poisons too much of our public discourse. As SOA Watch says, "As politicians build walls, we must build bridges."

As with the November demonstrations in Georgia, this convergence will include workshops and events featuring art, music, and resistance. Here activities will occur on both sides of the border. LEPOCO has endorsed this important gathering and we hope some activists from the Lehigh Valley will be able to participate. Contact LEPOCO, if you are considering going to the border gathering. See [www.soa-watch.org](http://www.soa-watch.org) for more information.

☪ The Quakers of the Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting are offering three Sunday evening workshops this fall: "Constructive Conversations in Difficult Situations; Navigating Differences - Preserving Relationships," on Sundays, September 18 and 25, and October 2, 6:30-8:30 pm, each evening at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse, 4116 Bath Pike, Bethlehem. The workshops are planned for these turbulent times when anger, suspicion and negativity seem to dominate public conversations and seep into our private conversations within families, communities of faith, friendships, workplaces and neighborhoods. The goal of the evenings is to help people find positive ways to stay in relationship even as we discuss differences in beliefs.

Those attending are welcome to attend all the sessions or just one or two of them. They are free, but it is necessary to register by contacting

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Mary Lou Hatcher at [mlhatcher55@hotmail.com](mailto:mlhatcher55@hotmail.com) to register or for more information.

☪ Tavis Smiley will speak at Lehigh University (Zoellner Arts Center), on Friday, September 30, at 7:30 pm. Tavis Smiley is a noted broadcaster, author, publisher, advocate and philanthropist. He currently hosts the late-night talk show "Tavis Smiley" on PBS.

☪ The Allentown Art Museum is presenting "Our America, Nuestra America," an exhibit celebrating the creativity of Latino artists, now through October 2. The exhibit is a major collection of modern and contemporary Latino art on loan from the Smithsonian. It presents 89 works by 71 artists who have participated in various artistic styles and movements, including abstract expressionism, activist, conceptual, and performance art; and classic American genres such as landscape, portraiture and scenes of everyday life. There is much free programming with the exhibit including a Gallery walk through with Ricardo Viera of Lehigh University and Alejandro Anreus of William Patterson University, on Thursday, September 8, at 6 pm. For more information see [www.allentownartmuseum.org](http://www.allentownartmuseum.org).

☪ On July 12, Democracy Now! reported that Russell "Maroon" Shoatz, a former Black Panther held for more than two decades in solitary confinement has won a permanent reprieve from solitary and nearly \$100,000 in a settlement with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Shoatz was convicted in 1970 of first-degree murder for an attack on a Philadelphia police station that left one officer killed and another wounded. In the 1980s he became active with the Pennsylvania Association of Lifers and worked to abolish sentences of life without parole. His supporters say his more than two decades in solitary confinement was retaliation for his activism. Matt Meyer of the War Resisters League spoke about Russell "Maroon" Shoatz at a LEPOCO Potluck & Politics in 2014.

☪ October 24-November 1, 2016, the SOA Watch is sponsoring a Delega-

tion to Venezuela: Seeds of Solidarity. The delegation will focus on efforts in Venezuela to deal with the difficult economic times by growing food for families and communities. They are attempting to build an alternative economy to the half-century model of fossil fuel export for food imports. The delegation will visit urban and rural *conucos* (traditional food gardens) and meet with leaders of the new Urban Agriculture Ministry and agronomists and campesino leaders involved in the local food-growing movement. The delegation fee of \$1150 covers in-country expenses, but not international travel to and from Caracas. If you are interested contact the delegation leader, Lisa Sullivan, who lives in Venezuela, at [conucocolibri@gmail.com](mailto:conucocolibri@gmail.com).

☪ The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is hosting a "Shalom Conference," September 24-25, at the Hartman Center, a UCC camp, conference and retreat facility in Milroy, Pennsylvania. They hope to launch a statewide network of peacemakers that promote communication and sharing to make peacemaking less lonely. The theme will be "Creating a Culture of Peace," and the program will include panel discussions, large group gatherings, speakers and numerous opportunities for people to network. Organizations and peacemakers focusing on a range of issues, including, but not limited to, domestic violence, systemic racism, drone warfare, environmental justice, torture, gun violence, and interfaith understanding are invited to participate. To learn more and register see [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org).





# Bits & Pieces

A program to celebrate the efforts of volunteers in Bethlehem's 100 Trees for 100 Years Project, will be held on Saturday, September 17, at 9 am, at the Ice House on Sand Island, Bethlehem. The project was made possible by TD Green Streets, a grant program from TDBank and the Arbor Day Foundation supporting innovation in urban forestry. The \$20,000 grant funded projects throughout Bethlehem including a bare root tree planting of 100 trees in neighborhood parks, tree education programs, neighborhood tree walks and library programs. The final project event will be a community forum on Bethlehem's urban forest and its future, featuring a presentation by Daniell Crumrine, Executive

Director of Tree Pittsburgh. Ms. Crumrine is nationally known as an inspiring leader for community tree projects. The Public is invited to at-

tend. To register (not required) or for more information, please call Christy Roysdon at 610-867-8208.

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

- Fridays, August 26 & October 7, 11 am:** Americas Solidarity Group meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.
- Friday, August 26, 1 pm:** LEPOCO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee planning meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.
- Sundays, August 28 & September 11, 7 pm:** LEPOCO Peace Singers rehearsals at the home of Carmen & Bob Riggs in August. The location for the September rehearsal has not been set.
- Mondays, September 12 & October 10, 7 pm:** LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this meeting where the organization's activities are reviewed and set.
- Thursday, October 6, 3:30 pm:** L.V. Committee Against State Killing (LV-CASK) Meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center.
- Wednesday, September 14, 11:30 am:** Stop the Wars Committee meeting at Easton Public Market.

*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, Peace Camp Planning Committee and Peaceathon 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, see [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).*

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The form below is for high-school-age young people and their parents. Follow the instructions to avoid military recruiter harassment.

### Act to Protect Your Privacy from Military Recruiters

You may be harassed at home by military recruiters because your name, address and phone number will be given to them by your school — unless you tell your school to not give out the information. To exercise your legal right to have this information kept private, you should notify your school office as soon as possible. Some school districts may provide their own forms for this, but they must obey your request no matter how you submit it. You can write your own letter or use the one below. Use a letter or form for each individual student and keep a copy. If you are under the age of 18, you must have a parent or guardian sign:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear administrator of \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of high school)

I am exercising my right under the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015*\* to hereby request that the name, address, and telephone listing of:

(Print name of student) \_\_\_\_\_

who is a current student at your school, **not** be released to military recruiters without prior written parental consent. I do, however, consent to the disclosure of such information to colleges and universities other than military schools.

Signature of student if age 18 or older \_\_\_\_\_

If Student is under age 18, print name of parent or legal guardian above \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian if student is under age 18 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note to school administrators: Once this request is given to you, it is a violation of federal law to disregard it and release the student's name and contact information to any military recruiter "without prior written consent." The law also grants students the right to opt out themselves if they are age 18 or older. *Title 20 U.S. Code, section 7908.*  
Once the opt-out request is made, it is permanent and ongoing. The law does NOT allow schools to require an annual re-statement of the opt-out request.

This flier was produced by the Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities, 760-634-3604, [www.projectyano.org](http://www.projectyano.org). For more information on military recruiting and student lists, contact Project YANO or the local organization below:





# LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015  
610-691-8730 [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)  
Fax: 610-691-8904 [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org)

Address Service Requested

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

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Bits & Pieces  
Meetings...

## Monthly Peace Vigil

4:30 - 5:30 pm

(Second Thursdays)

September 15 & October 13

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

3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

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

## Stand Up & Speak Out!

Saturdays

September 24 & October 29

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, Silvēx Rd.  
near intersection of Rt. 412 & I-78)

## Peace Pole Walk & Dedication: Connecting Our Community & Our World

Sunday  
September 18

1 pm: Dedication Ceremony  
2 pm: Walk, Beginning  
& Ending at Rose Garden Park,  
Bethlehem (with stops at other  
Bethlehem Peace Poles)

(See Page 1 for further details.)

