

## Hiroshima-Nagasaki

# Thoughts for August

How special is the month of August? Before I became an active member of LEPOCO, I thought August meant lush peaches, sweet summer corn and tomatoes, days at the beach, reading books for hours on the porch, Musikfest. But early August has another meaning since my initiation into peace awareness. For many years I have been meeting with my LEPOCO women friends, formerly called the Nuclear Abolition Sisters, to talk about and plan how to help our community remember the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Each year we ask ourselves how to creatively remind others that August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> are not just ordinary summer days, but special days of terror when the US chose to use nuclear weapons to bomb these two cities in Japan.

We search for articles, poetry, music and stories to bring the somber thoughts of the on-going threats of nuclear weapons to the awareness of our friends and neighbors. We are often moved by the actions and information we receive from people involved with groups working on changing policies related to nuclear topics.

This year two things stand out among those that have inspired us: First, Freida Berrigan's article, "What will it take to ban the bomb?" published in the bulletin from Waging Nonviolence (search online with her name and the article title). She writes of her experiences as the daughter of no-nuke advocates and Ploughshares resistance founders, Philip Berrigan and Liz McAllister. She tells of her father often warning her about the Doomsday Clock from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. That famous clock is still with us and is now ticking closer than ever to midnight or Doomsday because of the lethal combination of Trump urging Japan and South Korea to acquire nuclear weapons and provoking Iran, along with the multiple flashpoints between the U.S. and Russia (Syria, Ukraine, cyber-space), and hot proxy wars, along with the existential threat of climate change. The Clock is now at 2½ minutes to midnight.

Secondly, in early July the UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prevent Nuclear Weapons achieved its goal, one-hundred-thirty non-nuclear nations signed onto the treaty even as they faced the opposition of the nuclear-armed nations, including the US. In spite of signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, these armed nations have not kept their commitments to take the steps necessary to eliminate nuclear weapons.

- Mimi Lang

Editor's Note: Please see related story on page 2 of this Newsletter and page 1 of the June LEPOCO Newsletter.

To help us all mark the dates of August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, this summer LEPOCO is planning the following events:

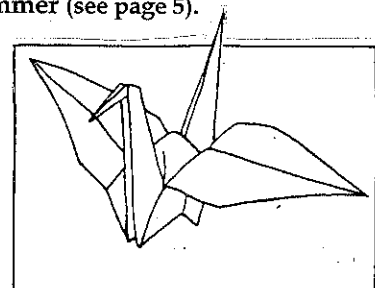
**Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm:** We will screen the film, "Children of Hiroshima," as part of the First Friday/ Popcorn & Politics film series at the LEPOCO Peace Center. (See page 3 of this newsletter for details.)

**Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm (Hiroshima Day):**  
**Hiroshima-Nagasaki Program of Remembrance:**  
**"What Will It Take To Ban the Bomb?"** We will gather at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (424 Center St., Bethlehem) for the opening of our program. Weather permitting we will process to the Tondabayashi Serenity Garden, on Church St., (next to the Bethlehem Public Library about a three block walk) for most of the program. (In the event of inclement weather we will complete the program at the church.)

The program will feature readings, poetry, and music by the LEPOCO Peace Singers. If you would like to participate as a reader please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

August 6<sup>th</sup> is during the opening weekend of Musikfest so you may want to use their shuttle-buses to get to center city Bethlehem or you can look for street parking or Musikfest parking. In any case we hope you can participate.

**Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 pm**  
**(Nagasaki Day):** We will be leafleting people attending Musikfest concerts on the Southside of Bethlehem. If you can join this effort please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 or arrive at 6:15 pm at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., south Bethlehem. We will walk or ride from the Peace Center to our leafleting location. We will use the "What Could We Do With \$54 Billion?" leaflet that we have been distributing at Farmers' Markets this summer (see page 5).



## Women's March to Ban the Bomb

"No Nukes! Another World is Possible!" LEPOCO's Committee to Stop the Wars banner was unfurled before passersby in Bryant Park in New York City shortly before the Women's March to Ban the Bomb began in the rain at noon, June 17. The Granny Peace Brigade, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Massachusetts Peace Action, various religious groups, local and international folks showed up.

Sponsored by the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom, the June 17<sup>th</sup> Day of Action had people from 170 countries supporting the Nuclear Weapons Ban and Prohibition Treaty now being negotiated at the United Nations, primarily by men. "We are here because radioactive violence disproportionately affects women's health," said Lucy Stewart of Peace Foundation in New Zealand.

Led by women but inclusive of everyone, the march included hundreds walking under umbrellas for about an hour to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, carrying signs and intermittently chanting, "What do we want? Ban the Bomb! When do we want it? Now!" Buddhists chanted and marked time on drums covered in plastic bags. People from Japan gave out folded paper origami peace cranes and small watercolor postcards with the message: "No War, No Nuclear Weapons, From Japan," and "No more Hibakusha."

The message from speakers at the podium, from what we could hear above the rain and the traffic, urged us: Each one tell at least three people. Take the message to other groups, link it to climate change and economic issues. We need to join other groups under a progressive agenda.

Julius Iwantsch, Susie Ravitz, Brenda Havens, Nancy Tate, Amanda Zaniesienko and I bussed to New York for the event. For a description of the negotiations on the nuclear weapons ban, see [www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org) (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons).

- Monica McAghon

The First Tuesday Book Club will meet next on September 5, at 6 pm, in the home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, Bethlehem. The group will discuss, "The Nordic Theory of Everything: In Search of a Better Life," by Anu Partanen. Partanen, a Finnish journalist, now a naturalized U.S. citizen, asks the reader to draw on elements of the Nordic way of life to nurture a fairer, happier, more secure and less stressful society.

The more ambitious reader may want to also look into George Lakey's, "Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right-And We Can, Too."

The Book Club welcomes new members. Contact Mimi Lang, 610-866-2407 or LEPOCO, 610-691-8730 for more information.

## Remembering the Power of Protest

This fall The Vietnam War will return to the national discussion with a PBS series on the war that has been produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. The series will premier September 17-28, with eighteen hours shown in daily episodes. It will re-air in ten weekly installments, October 3-November 28.

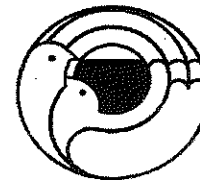
As most readers know LEPOCO was founded in 1965 as part of the local efforts opposing the Vietnam War. This series raises opportunities and challenges for us as we consider how to respond.

The group that organized the 2015 national conference, "Vietnam: The Power of Protest," is calling for a national and local response to the PBS series. Here is a little of what they wrote in a recent letter.

"This will be a major cultural and political event, perhaps the last public hurrah of the Vietnam generation. Our children and grandchildren may be intrigued at how much we were shaped by the events portrayed, as well as gain perspective on their generations' wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria...

"The most common narrative will be among and about veterans. Done well, it will reflect the range of their experience, including organized and covert, sometimes violent, opposition within the military and after returning home. Tales of personal courage and loss should not be divorced from recollections of harm done to innocent civilians and to the forces of the other side..."

If you would like to help shape LEPOCO's response please contact the Peace Center 610-691-8730.



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 .....	\$10
Household Membership .....	\$45
Supporting Member .....	\$75

Articles/news should be submitted to one of the addresses above for consideration for the next issue of the newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Martin Boksenbaum, Amanda Zaniesienko.

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

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

# Potluck/Popcorn & Politics

Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm

## "Children of Hiroshima"

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

This Japanese docudrama from 1952 is about a teacher who goes back to Hiroshima to visit the graves of her parents and younger sister killed in the bombing. The film is concerned with the sorrow and puzzlement that shadow the lives of those who managed to live through the cataclysm of the atomic bomb. "Children of Hiroshima" was among the first films to address the subject of the atomic bombings, a subject that would preoccupy much of postwar Japanese cinema. Written & directed by Kaneto Shindo. 97 minutes.

Originally released on August 6, 1952. Reissued in 2006.

Post-Film Discussion led by Phil Reiss.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm

## "No God, No Master"

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

This film presents a fascinating and infamous episode from our country's past in a compelling historical drama about the events that led up to "Palmer Raids" - in which hundreds of immigrants were deported immediately following WW I. It is described as having an undeniably uncomfortable resonance with present day treatment of immigrants in the U.S.

Written & directed by Terry Green. Staring David Strathairn. 94 minutes. 2013.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm

## Sait Onal

### "Political Turmoil & the Future of Democracy in Turkey"

A LEPOCO Potluck & Politics event at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse  
4116 Bath Pike (Route 512), Bethlehem (18020), ½ mile north of Rt. 22.

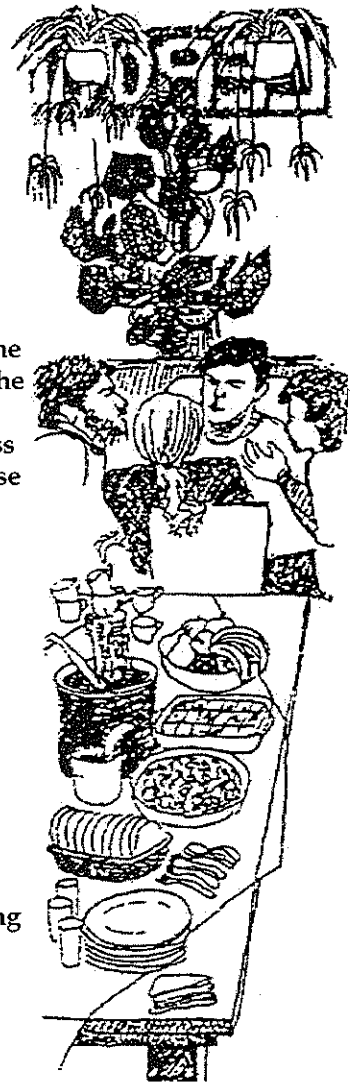
Sait Onal was born in Turkey. He moved to the United States in 1994 for higher education and holds degrees in Management and Business Administration and related fields. He lives in Lancaster and is Managing Director for Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company in Camp Hill.

Sait Onal is President of the Turkish Cultural Center of Pennsylvania. The TCC works to introduce, promote and inform people in the U.S. of Turkish history and culture by bringing people together in open dialog.

He will speak about developments in Turkey, especially since the failed coup of July 15, 2016. In the past year over 50,000 people have been arrested; over 150,000 people have been dismissed or suspended from their jobs; over 200 journalists have been jailed. Human rights advocates have been targeted by the government of Turkey. On July 5, the Director of Amnesty International Turkey and other human rights activists were detained.

There are many reasons for U.S. citizens to be deeply concerned about these developments. This will be a special opportunity for us to learn more.

Please bring food to share for the Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm.  
Discussion will start around 6:30 pm.



## Fairs & Festivals & a Parade

LEPOCO participates in several fairs and festivals (and a parade) in August and September. All of these need lots of assistance from volunteers like you. Please let us know if you can help at any of these important events.

In the parade you would be walking with a banner or sign (maybe "Jobs Not War") with the LEPOCO contingent. At the fairs and festivals you would invite people to sign up for LEPOCO mailings, share literature, and in some cases help sell buttons, stickers and cards with many of our favorite slogans. Again, let us know if you can help (610-691-8730 or lepoco@fast.net).

Here is a list of the events with their respective dates.

**Sunday, August 20:** "Pride in the Park," Cedar Beach Park, Allentown.

**Thursday, August 24:** Northampton Community College's "Community Partners Fair."

**Saturday, August 26:** "VegFest" on Bethlehem's southside Greenway.

**Monday, August 28:** Lehigh University's "Community/Club Expo."

**Sunday, September 3:** "Labor Day Parade," downtown Bethlehem.

**Saturday, September 23:** "Peace Fair," Buckingham Friends Meeting, next to Peddler's Village, Lahaska.

## Community Rights & People Power

Editor's Note: Martin Boksenbaum is a long-time supporter of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). He has organized many local programs featuring their work. Here he writes about some of CELDF's recent efforts. CELDF is based in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. For more information see [www.celdf.org](http://www.celdf.org).

The June 1<sup>st</sup> issue of *Rolling Stone* featured a piece about a Pennsylvania township using a community rights strategy to protect itself from becoming a dump for toxic fracking wastewater. The article, "How a Small Town is Standing Up to Fracking," tells how the residents of Grant Township have been working with the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) to advance their community's right to protect itself from Pennsylvania General Energy's attempts to force a fracking wastewater injection well down their throats. Grant Township together with CELDF has come up with a series of creative legal and political maneuvers that support the power of the people.

After township residents found that the EPA was not listening to their well-argued presentations, but instead, had approved the injection well, the residents decided they would not accept the EPA ruling and embarked on a new path. That path led to CELDF.

Their partnering with CELDF has had them passing an ordinance granting them the right to local self-government as well as the legal rights to nature, forming a local environmental organization that went door-to-door in the community explaining why their efforts were needed to stop the injection well, adoption of a home-rule charter, electing new people to be township supervisors, and passing an ordinance legalizing civil disobedience.

Grant Township is not backing down. If push comes to shove, they'll face off to any tanker truck try-

ing to enter the township. Says resident Stacy Long, at the end of the article, that if the driver ignores their warning that injecting their payload would be breaking Grant Township law, "I am going to put my body in front of a truck. Change happens because people stand up to fight."

CELDF has also been working with many other community partners. In Lafayette, Colorado, where citizens spent years trying to block fracking, their City Council enacted a CELDF-drafted *Climate Bill of Rights*, a new law that bans all fossil fuel extraction as a violation of the right to a healthy climate.

In Spokane, Washington, CELDF filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of community members asserting that their constitutional right to a healthy climate is being violated by the federal government's preemption of community control over fossil fuel shipments. Spokane is a major shipment point for the rail transport of oil fracked from the Alberta tar sands and Bakken oil fields. The Spokane lawsuit builds on a recent federal judge's ruling in Oregon. The judge wrote, "I have no doubt that the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society."

- Martin Boksenbaum

Check out the LEPOCO website at [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org) for a Calendar of Events, Newsletter Archive, & More.

Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail weekly updates by calling 610-691-8730, or by writing to [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net).

Follow LEPOCO on Facebook and Twitter.

Please "like" and "share," often.

## Teaching Peace by What We Do & What We Say

Peace Camp 2017 was a great success! With an increased number of campers (over 60!), compared to recent years, we faced a few new challenges. But, we still reaped all of the expected rewards that Peace Camp always offers. The children were highly spirited and eager to learn how to be effective peacemakers in their communities! Although we had a higher number of campers, we found we didn't have as many volunteers, especially young people, as we have in the past. We really felt that difference, but still managed to have a beautiful week. If you have ideas, especially for getting more involvement from teens, please call the office.

Singing songs of peace, making peace-themed art, dancing, drumming, playing non-competitive games and eating healthful snacks, always leaves campers and leaders feeling bright and optimistic. It helps us to feel like we have at least some of the tools we need, to navigate forward in a sometimes topsy-turvy world.

At one of the planning meetings for Peace Camp, with the suggestion of a Peace Camp Reunion, I received confirmation that I am not the only person who feels that we need more opportunities to share the bright light that Peace Camp stokes. A date has been set for a Peace Camp Reunion on Saturday, October 21. Keep an eye out for postcards and emails, notifying of the specifics for the Reunion which will welcome previous campers and those who are newly interested. It will be a great way to reconnect and keep the Peace Camp experience strong for more days of the year.

Please contact the office, if you'd like to get involved in planning for the Peace Camp Reunion or Peace Camp 2018.

- Amanda Zaniesienko

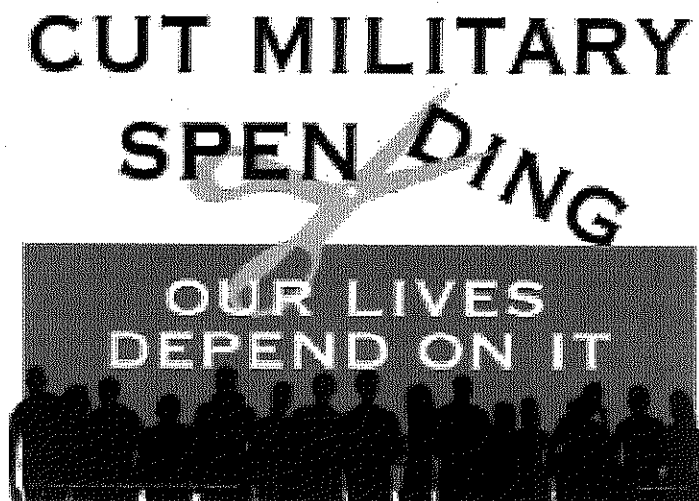
## Leafletting at Farmers' Markets

Since early July LEPOCO activists have been distributing a new flyer designed by the strategy group that has been meeting at LEPOCO. "What Could We Do With \$54 Billion?" is the title. It talks about the proposal to pull \$54 billion from human needs programs to give even more to the Pentagon. It points to four examples of how we could better use those tax dollars - we could send 1.6 million students to college for four years or we could fund the entire Environmental Protection Agency for 6.6 years. It also presents a chart showing how the U.S. spends more on the military than the next eight countries combined. It urges calls to Congress to oppose an increase in military spending and includes the famous quote from President Eisenhower: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

So far we have been to the Saucon Valley Farmers' Market twice, Easton once and Emmaus once. We will return to both Easton and Emmaus in the next two weeks. Let LEPOCO know if you can help with this effort. Also, call the office if you would like to see a copy of the flyer or if you would like a few copies to share with people you know.

## Sharing a Message with Your Neighbors

We have a new yard sign designed by Amanda Zaniesienko with assistance from the strategy group -- "Cut Military Spending; Our Lives Depend on It." It has purple lettering and graphics on a white



background and should garner attention. To cover the cost of printing we are requesting a \$15 donation from each sign. We hope many of you will want a sign to display visibly in your yard. Please call LEPOCO (610-691-8730 to reserve your sign or stop by to pick one up (313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., south Bethlehem).

## Stand Up & Speak Out!

Saturdays

August 26 & September 30

12 Noon - 2 pm

*Protest Horsham*

*Drone Command Center*

Call 610-691-8730 for information about car pooling and other details.

# Bits & Pieces

Ⓢ For the first time in a 21-year-long effort to oust the remaining U.S. "B61" nuclear weapons from Germany, a delegation of U.S. peace activists joined in protests at the Büchel Air Base in Germany, July 12 to 18. Seven of the eleven-person delegation have served a combined total of 36 years in U.S. jails and prisons for protests against nuclear weapons and the war system.

The delegation was organized by *Nukewatch*, based in Wisconsin, a group that publishes a quarterly newspaper advocating the abolition of nuclear weapons and power. A coalition of 50 German peace groups and organizations issued the invitation to the U.S. activists. They were joined in an "International Week" of protests by like-minded activists from Belgium, France, The Netherlands, China, Russia, and Mexico.

They were very bold and creative in their actions entering the base several times to leave loaves of "bread not bombs" and talk with U.S. military personnel.

You can read more are [www.nukewatchinfo.org](http://www.nukewatchinfo.org).

Ⓢ In August Al Gore's new film, "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power," will arrive at theaters. The former Vice President says the most important message of his new film is that "the ultimate power still lies with the people!"

Ⓢ There is still time to contact you state representative and urge them to oppose the State Senate budget deal that protects oil and gas industry profits and strips the PA Department of Environmental Protection of its ability to regulate that very industry. What a deal - if you like fracking and all its destructive infrastructure. This budget deal also eases regulations for coal-related manganese discharges

within five miles of drinking water supplies. These discharges are toxic to humans.

You are urged to oppose the severance tax on natural gas that will only further entrench this horrible industry. You can also urge stiffer enforcement of DEP regulations on these industries - and certainly oppose any relaxation of existing regulations.

(Source: [www.pennfuture.org](http://www.pennfuture.org).)

Ⓢ Recently, "Friends of Franz and Ben" gathered a small group of people at the grave site of Ben Salmon, a conscientious objector during World War I who endured beatings, solitary confinement, forced feeding and public humiliation because he refused to enlist in the U.S. military. Salmon is buried in an unmarked grave in Mount Carmel Cemetery, on the outskirts of Chicago. Had his wisdom and that of numerous war resisters in the U.S. prevailed, the U.S. would not have entered WWI...

The U.S. did enter WWI, and since that time each U.S. war has caused a rise in taxpayer contributions to maintain the Military-Industrial Complex with its vise-like grip on educating the U.S. public and marketing U.S. wars. If we could share Laurie's (a Chicago mother who wants to silence the guns of her city's war zone) revulsion in the face of weapons and inequality, imagine

the possible results. We would never tolerate U.S. shipment of weapons to opulent Saudi royals who use these weapons to devastate the infrastructure and civilians of Yemen. On the brink of famine and afflicted by an alarming spread of cholera, Yemenis also endure Saudi airstrikes that have wrecked roadways, hospitals and crucial sewage and sanitation infrastructure. 20 million people... would not be expected to die this year from conflict-driven famine, in near-total media silence. Just four countries, Somaliland, Southern Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen, are set to lose one third as many people as died in WW II. None of that would be a normal occurrence in our world. Instead, perhaps religious leaders would vigorously remind us about Ben Salmon's sacrifice; rather than attend the annual Air and Water show (a theatrical display of U.S. military might which turns out a million "fans"), Chicagoans would make pilgrimages to the cemetery where Ben is buried instead.

- Kathy Kelly and others from Voices for Creative Nonviolence writing in their August newsletter.

## Support LEPOCO!

\_\_\_ Enclosed are my yearly LEPOCO dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
(\$35 individual; \$45 household; \$75 supporter; \$10 limited 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](http://www.lepoco.org)

# Bits & Pieces

⊕ The pressure that military recruiters place on schools and students is likely to intensify this year. The enlistment quotas they must meet by October 1 were recently increased by 16,000, and the Trump administration is seeking a further increase of 42,800 for 2018. The difficult challenge recruiters will be facing is reflected in the fact that the maximum enlistment/reenlistment "bonus" has been temporarily boosted to up to \$90,000 for certain military jobs!

Young people everywhere will be experiencing more pressure from aggressive recruiters. The extra money to pay for these additional military personnel will be financed with cuts in spending for education, social services and the environment. The constant pursuit of war does lead to unmet human needs.

Limited resources for education, healthcare, housing, etc., coerce young people into joining the military and fighting the wars that are responsible for reducing those resources.

(Source: Letter from Rick Jahnkow of Project on Youth & Non-Military Opportunities, Encinitas, CA.)

⊕ While the chaos seems to escalate in Washington, DC, we all know there are many detrimental actions by the current administration that are not receiving the full light of day or public scrutiny - happening under the radar. We had hoped to present a brief note of some of these, but that will not happen in this newsletter. We will point to *The Washington Post* and its ongoing report on Potus' destruction of existing government programs. You can read it at [www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-rolling-back-obama-rules/?utm\\_term=.ff5360fc56f9](http://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-rolling-back-obama-rules/?utm_term=.ff5360fc56f9). Bill Moyers also publishes a series about rolled-back regulations and staff and budget

cuts which you can find by searching for Bill Moyers, "While He Was Tweeting."

⊕ Last September LEPOCO capped its celebration of 50 years of peace work by dedicating a new Peace Pole in Bethlehem's Rose Garden Park. Our event became part of the Campaign Nonviolence Week of Actions. There were 758 actions across the U.S. last September.

This year's Campaign Nonviolence mobilization will take place September 16-24. They are hoping for at least 1000 actions across the U.S. during that week where a commitment is made to a "culture of nonviolence - free from war, poverty, racism and environmental destruction." Do you have suggestions for how we might observe this week locally?

⊕ Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies wrote in a June issue of *The Nation*: *Recent news reports describe a massive increase in civilian casualties at the hands of the U.S. military or U.S. allies. In Mosul, Iraq, hundreds of residents have been killed as U.S. forces join Iraqi troops in the last stage of their assault on the ISIS-held city. In Yemen, the United States is increasing its direct involvement in the Saudi-led air war being waged*

*against the poorest country in the Arab world, as the UN and other aid workers struggle against mass famine and a looming cholera epidemic on top of the thousands already killed and millions displaced. And in Raqqa, Syria, U.S. air strikes and white-phosphorus munitions have led to what the UN calls "a staggering loss of life," as Washington provides backup to Kurdish and Arab forces now besieging the ISIS stronghold.*

*These attacks, and the skyrocketing civilian casualties that result from them, have two things in common: direct U.S. involvement, a result of the recent escalation in Washington's direct role in the 16-year-old Global War on Terror, and an absolute disdain for the civilian lives being destroyed in these wars...*

*The global war on terror has failed, is still failing, and will continue to fail. There is no military solution to terrorism. All the tactical shifts, from "showing" to "annihilation" of ISIS, are not going to work. More troops and bigger bombs and white phosphorus are not going to work. There are only political, diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian solutions. The military ones just keep killing more civilians, while allowing terrorists to flourish.*

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

Thursdays, August 3 & September 7, 12:30 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Monday, August 14, 6 pm: LEPOCO What Next? Strategy Meeting at the Peace Center.

Mondays, August 14 & September 11, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this business meeting where the organization's activities are discussed.

Tuesday, September 5, 6 pm: LEPOCO Book Group meets at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem (see page 2 for more details).

Tuesday, September 12, 3 pm: LEPOCO Annual Dinner Planning Committee Meeting at the Peace Center.

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

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 3:30 pm: LEPOCO Peace-A-Thon Planning Committee meeting at the Peace Center.

*Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information about the LEPOCO Peace Singers, the Peace Camp Planning Committee, the Stop the Wars Committee, any other committees or 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).*



# LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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## Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

August 10 & September 14  
4:30-5:30 pm

*Our wars & bombings continue &  
expand. Help witness for peace.*

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

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

### Help Needed:

**Fairs, Festivals, & a Parade**

(see page 4)

**Sunday, September 10**

Important

**Potluck & Politics on Turkey**

(see page 3)

## Hiroshima-Nagasaki 2017

◇ **Friday, August 4, 7 pm**

First Friday Film

**"Children of Hiroshima"**

LEPOCO Peace Center

(see page 3)

◇ **Sunday, August 6, 6 pm**

*Hiroshima Day*

Hiroshima-Nagasaki

Program of Remembrance

**"What Will It Take**

**to Ban the Bomb?"**

Unitarian Universalist Church of the L.V. &

Tondabayashi Serenity Garden

(see page 1)

◇ **Wednesday, August 9, 6:30 pm**

*Nagasaki Day*

Leafletting for Peace at Musikfest

(see page 1)