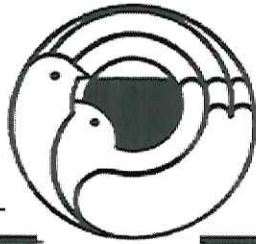


October  
2017

Vol. 52 No. 6



Newsletter of **LEPOCO**  
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

## Can We Live As Survivors?

On Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> a moderate group of nuclear-concerned people gathered in the Tondabayashi Garden at the edge of Musikfest to remember the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Our event was dedicated to the theme, "What Will It Take to Ban the Bomb?" The idea resulted from an inspiring article by the same name written by Frida Berrigan who carries on the dedication of her parents, Philip Berrigan and Liz McAlister, to ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

We began by reading a statement from those brave and aging survivors of the bombings, the *hibakusha*. Attendees had the opportunity to sign the petition of the *hibakusha* asking the UN to ban nuclear weapons. Another signing option was a postcard to the U.S.'s UN representative, Nikki Haley, encouraging her to have the U.S. join the 130 nations who signed the historic Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty in July. None of the nine nations with nuclear weapons signed the treaty.

Since the day of the event and with the deteriorating relationship with North Korea, I have been thinking more about the *hibakusha*. With several changes in history, geography, genetics, etc., I and several other people at the event, could be *hibakusha*. Many of us were six years or older in 1945. Some may remember knowing about the bombing. I do not, but I am thinking; about the children blasted away and/or turned into ghost figures on the sides of buildings and those like Sadako, dying years later from radiation-caused illnesses; about the agony of their young parents as they suffered in their knowledge that they could not protect their children; about the U.S. arrogance in never apologizing or repenting for Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iraq, Afghanistan; about our continued pursuit of nuclear dominance. We cannot insult the *hibakusha* by saying we too are *hibakusha*,

(continued on page 3)

the country as minors and had either entered or remained in the country illegally, to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and to be eligible for a work permit. Now these young adults are fighting for the only life they know, in the only home they know, and we must help them.

So on September 17, my husband, Dan Miller, and I woke early to join a group of mostly young Latinos and Latinas to travel to Washington, D.C., in support of a program we believe in. The sponsoring group for the trip, Make the Road Pennsylvania, organizes low-income and working class Latino/a immigrants in Lehigh and Berks Counties to fight for change in their communities. They are young, well-organized and extremely impressive traveling partners. As a senior citizen I have come to appreciate coffee in the morning, a bus with a bathroom and air conditioning, and food. This group provided all this plus lots of chanting and singing -- in Spanish -- and wonderful signs and posters.

One of the most impressive aspects to me was that the organizers spoke in Spanish, then in English. As a former teacher of many Spanish speaking students, I have always appreciated situations where I felt like the outsider. I was the one who was clueless as to what was being said around me and to me. It is a humbling thing and one we should all experience. So often as

(continued on page 4)

## Watching "The Vietnam War"

Many of us spent hours, September 16-28, watching the PBS series, "The Vietnam War" directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick.

There has been much praise of the series, but many have raised questions about it, especially about the presentation of the anti-war movement.

Maurice Isserman concluded in an article published in *Dissent* that, "They (Burns and Novick) chose to paint the antiwar movement of the 1960s and 1970s in an unflattering light, when in fact this movement, veterans and non-veterans alike, was the only truly redemptive story to come out of the Vietnam War."

Bernie Berg wrote in a letter to the editor in *The Morning Call* (10-3-17), that the Burns-Novick documentary was a good effort, but he had two complaints. First, it "glossed over President Eisenhower ignoring the 1954 call of the Geneva Accord for elections to unite North and South Vietnam." Intelligence sources had predicted that "Ho Chi Minh would win by an 80 per-

(continued on page 2)

## Marching for DACA

DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the program for Dreamers, as we have come to know them, is in trouble. This program, like so many programs we have taken for granted, has come under fire from the Trump Administration. During the Obama years, these children and young adults were encouraged to come out of hiding when U.S. immigration policy was changed to allow some individuals who entered



# Veterans For Peace 2017 Convention in Chicago

Jack Gilroy and I traveled by AMTRAK from Syracuse, New York, to Chicago, for the annual Veterans For Peace (VFP) convention in Chicago in early August. Jack is the Broome County (Binghamton) VFP chapter president. He has protested the drone center at Hancock Field in upstate New York many times and was recently arrested for trespass and given a 60-day sentence. He was released for good behavior after serving 17 days. He knew and was good friends with the three Berrigan brothers. No surprise, Jack is more familiar than I am about how conscientious objectors were treated in WW I and WW II.

I talked with some Native American veterans who protested at Standing Rock last year. They had a reunion workshop which was held before Jack and I arrived. Phyllis Bennis (of Institute for Policy Studies) gave a talk that was impressive because of her insight on foreign affairs issues.

We talked with Will Griffin, a VFP member, who is current on issues regarding the Korean peninsula. We later learned part of his ancestry is Korean and he has visited Korea a number of times. No wonder he majored in Far East Studies at San Diego State University.

Michael McPhearson (LEPOCO's featured speaker at the March banquet) was on target about what people working for peace were facing regarding the Trump presidency.

Bill Perry and his wife, Terry, were present and Bill took many photos of our mass vigil with the Trump Tower in the background. One of Bill's photos showed Jack and I carrying a banner which read, "Education Not Militarization," which was the theme of this year's convention. We learned that Chicago's public schools have ten thousand high school students enrolled in Jr. ROTC. If you want to talk about creeping militarism's indoctrination, well Chicago schools are right there participating in the indoctrination.

We learned about what had transpired in Charlottesville, Virginia. Our response was to parade five blocks along State Street, about 9 pm, that Saturday (August 12), just as movie goers were leaving theaters. They heard our chant, "No Nukes, No KKK, No Fascism in the USA!" Again we turned around after coming into proximity with Trump Tower.

Next year's VFP convention will be in Minneapolis, MN.

- Philip 'Phil' Reiss, Life Member of Veterans For Peace

## Watching "The Vietnam War"

(continued from page 1)

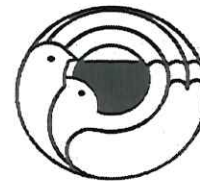
cent plurality." Bernie's second complaint was: "Why was the Berrigan-led raid on the Catonsville, MD, draft board (1968) ignored? ... They preferred to burn paper instead of children."

The Vietnam Peace Commemoration Committee (VPCC) (the group that organized the excellent 2015 conference, "Vietnam: The Power of Protest") wrote in September, "Anti-war activists and academic experts...reach different conclusions about its (the Burns-Novick series) treatment of the war and of the peace movement... Everyone agrees the series is very well done and emotionally engaging... Viewers can be challenged to consider current human costs in all four countries, as well as lessons for today's and tomorrow's military conflicts."

The VPCC is holding events in Washington, DC, October 20-21, "From Protest to Resistance - On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the October 1967 March on the Pentagon to End the Vietnam War: The Impact of the Peace Movement; Lessons Learned and Strategies for Today." There will be a commemorative vigil, panels and discussion and a commemorative walk. For more information and to register see [www.vietnampeace.org](http://www.vietnampeace.org). You will also find links to commentaries about the PBS series at this website.

Finally, Channel 39, WLVT, will be airing "The Vietnam War" series on Sundays in October and November, at 7 pm. They have interviewed local veterans of the war and the peace movement. These interviews are available at [www.wlvt.org/thewar](http://www.wlvt.org/thewar). Photographs from some of the same sources will be featured in The Community Gallery, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Center Valley through October 28. The following are some of the people who participated in this project: Paul Fichter, Brynn Hammarstrom, Jr., Fran Dreisbach, Susie Ravitz, Esther Lee, and Ted Morgan.

- Nancy 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 .....	\$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).



# Popcorn & Politics

Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm

## *"The Occupation of the American Mind: Israel's Public Relations War in the United States"*

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

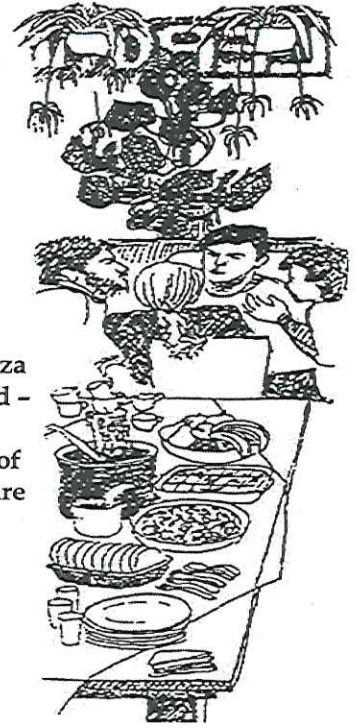
Israel's ongoing military occupation of Palestinian territory and repeated invasions of the Gaza strip have triggered a fierce backlash against Israeli policies virtually everywhere in the world - except the United States. This documentary film provides a sweeping analysis of Israel's decades-long battle for the hearts, minds and tax dollars of the people of the U.S. in the face of widening international condemnation of Israel's increasingly right-wing policies. Featured are interviews with Phyllis Bennis, Norman Solomon, Noam Chomsky and many others.

Written & directed by Jeremy Earp & Loretta Alper.

Narrated by Roger Waters. 82 minutes. 2016.

Post-Film Discussion led by Annette & Todd Carpien.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



## Some More Peace Camp News

Peace Camp 2017 has passed and we all hold onto the great feelings and memories of our experiences there. (Please see the great photographs on page 5.) To revisit the energy of Peace Camp, we are still planning a one-day version, "A Taste of Peace Camp," but it will now be in February (the original plans for October did not work). We think it'll be the perfect time to remember summer fun, reconnect with friends and start looking toward July 2018! Watch for the announcement in future emails and newsletters, as we get closer.

The following, are a few short paragraphs written by peace campers and teen helpers stating what they like about Peace Camp. (Please also see the piece written by a younger camper, Scootaloo Laudenslager, on page 5.)

◆◆ *This was my third year at peace camp as a camper. I can't wait to be a leader. I liked making new friends every year and I liked the people this year. I liked making the peace flag and my mom hung it up. I hope we have the reunion.*

~ Kevin Smith - Green Group

◆◆ *I have been going to Peace Camp since I was 2 1/2 years old and I have come every year since, as a camper or as a volunteer. Donna's stories of kids making a difference in their communities makes me think about how we all can be Peacemakers and that it doesn't take too much extra effort to really do something good. Also, I really like working with Margot in Games because I know the kids are learning how to play together without anyone losing or being "out." It's a nice feeling to be a part of Peace Camp.*

~ Adrian Zaniesienko - Teen helper - Games

◆◆ *I think Peace Camp is awesome because it teaches kids at a young age to be kind. We learn songs for*

*protest, culture and just fun. My class wrote letters to government officials or our school telling them issues that we thought needed to be addressed like school dress codes, bathrooms according to gender identity, and animal cruelty, to name a few. Peace Camp made me feel good about being able to help the world, even though I'm just a kid.*

~ Bea Baron - Green Group

- Amanda Zaniesienko

## Can We Live As Survivors?

(continued from page 1)

but we are very sad survivors of the event that changed their lives and ours forever. Each year we will remember their lives.

Our remembrance included the song "Hiroshima Child," with music by Pete Seeger and words by Nazim Hikmet:

*I'm only seven though I died, In Hiroshima long ago  
I'm seven now as I was then, When children die they  
do not grow.*

*All I need is that for peace, You work today, you work  
today*

*So that the children of this world, Can live and grow  
and laugh and play.*

If you would like to hear wonderful songs and poetry of remembrance and listen with the ears of a survivor, join us next year.

- Mimi Lang

Editor's Note: Thank you to the Bethlehem Parks Department and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley for their assistance with this event. Please see the photos from Hiroshima Day on page 6.



## Some Anti-Fossil Fuel Actions: A Report

Here is some of what's happening on the anti-fossil fuel extraction and pipeline fronts.

### PennEast Pipeline

Water crossing permits are being sought from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the PennEast Pipeline, the dangerous and controversial 120-mile natural gas pipeline that would run from northeast Pennsylvania to Trenton. One water crossing would send the pipeline beneath the Delaware River and Canal at Riegelsville/Durham. On September 14, the Army Corps said it had received PennEast's application and a preliminary review determined the pipeline would not affect endangered species (never mind the cave of endangered bats within a mile of the crossing), and that existing wetlands would be replaced with new wetlands. The public comment period runs through October 14. (Source: Stop the PennEast Pipeline, 9/20/17)

### Delaware River Watershed

Cheers erupted at the Delaware River Basin Commission meeting on September 13, after commissioners from Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware, approved a resolution that could lead to a fracking ban in the Delaware River watershed. New Jersey abstained and the Army Corps of Engineers representative voted no.

A DRBC staff proposal, due November 30, will be subject to public comment and hearings.

While industry attacked the language of the resolution as a clear intent to ban fracking, environmentalists were wary of the resolution. They called for stronger wording that would explicitly ban fracking as well as wastewater transport, treatment, storage and disposal. (Source: "State Impact," WHYY & NPR, 9/13/17)

### FERC

Anti-pipeline protesters on September 20 interrupted the first meeting that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has held since January. More than 100 organizations endorsed (including LEPOCO) the protests that began outside the headquarters and then continued into FERC's open public meeting.

The FERC, which approves and regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and crude oil, has become a target in recent years for environmental groups that think its decisions don't account for the effects of climate change and favor pipelines that drive shale energy development. More than 40 pipelines are currently set to be considered by the FERC.

Demonstrators sang, "We Shall Overcome," and shouted, "You should be ashamed!" during the meeting. (Source: Josh Siegel, 9/20/17, "The Washington Examiner.")

### Scotland Bans Fracking!

After overwhelming public opposition, Scotland announced a fracking ban stating, "We have so much wind and wave power that it is retrograde in the extreme to lend any support to the fracking industry." (Source: [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org), 10/3/17)

4 LEPOCO Newsletter / October 2017

## International: Bank Financing

You can sign a petition telling big banks: Stop financing climate disasters and respect Indigenous rights at [www.EquatorBanksAct.org](http://www.EquatorBanksAct.org).

On October 24, 2017, more than 90 of the world's largest banks will meet in São Paulo, Brazil to recommit to the Equator Principles, a set of rules guiding which big infrastructure projects they will and won't finance. The petition asks them to act on their supposed principles: stop financing climate change and respect Indigenous peoples' rights. (Source: Equator Banks, Act!)

## New York: Constitution Pipeline

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the Department of Environmental Conservation's right to deny the 401 water quality certification, effectively blocking construction of the Constitution Pipeline for natural gas in the Southern Tier of New York on August 18, 2017. (Source: Stop The Pipeline)

- Martin Boksenbaum

## Marching for DACA

(continued from page 1)

English speakers we get too comfortable in our skin. It is good to feel like an outsider, small, lost and oblivious. It helps to put us in touch with our humanity.

Once we reached our destination, we joined Make the Road New Jersey and New York. Although not nearly as large as other recent marches in D.C., what Make the Road lacked in numbers, they made up in spirit and feistiness. They kept an eye on us seniors lest we get lost in the crowd. We marched up Pennsylvania Ave., stopping and sitting at intersections where we sang and chanted. We stopped and sat at the Immigration and Border Enforcement Office.

It was here that I realized the DC employees who were there to keep us from walking on government property, included some recent immigrants. I found this out as I thanked one of the workers who told me that she had come from Mexico to find work about 10 years ago. How ironic that a worker whose job it was to protect government property from DACA marchers was herself a recent immigrant, among those who our president refers to as murderers and rapists.

Once our march was complete, our bus met us, no walking for miles to try to locate a bus among hundreds of other busses. On the way home we enjoyed packaged lunches provided by Make the Road. Although this may sound self-serving and trivial, this was an extremely comfortable march for those of us who have the time and desire to protest. As we drove back to the Lehigh Valley I reflected on why I march (in addition to coffee, clean bathrooms, air conditioning, songs and good food). I march because with each experience I get to talk to and mingle with the future leaders of our country. These young adults give me the hope that I desperately need to survive these dark times.

- Ronnie Arena





# Peace Camp 2017

Photos: Susie Ravitz



1. A Peace Camper from the Rose Group is proud of his Peace Crane!

2. Blue Group – Peacing Out!

3. The Rose Group dancing with Dan Hunter.

4. Painting in the Yellow Group!

5. Bernice Cao: a good friend for the Purple Group.

6. It's 'Drip Drip Drop' time, for the Purple Group with Margot Hillman.

7. Delicious Snacks for the Blue Group!

8. The Green Group just finished Games!

9. Scootaloo: "I liked Peace Camp because we played fun games and silly songs. My most favorite thing was the celebration at the end because of all the food!"

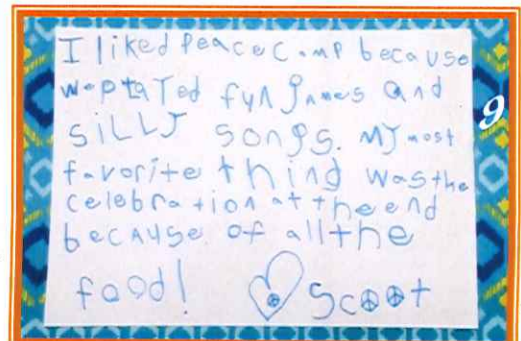


Photo: Samantha Laudenslager



Photos: Susie Ravitz

# Hiroshima Nagasaki Day of Remembrance, Reflection & Hope August 6, 2017, Bethlehem



Janneke Bos and Bette Phelps carried the banner from the UU Church to the Serenity Garden.



Beverly Thomas, Rick Dow, Christine Loch & Donna Hartmann were part of the walk down Church St.



Nancy Johnston, Amanda Zaniesienko, Donna Harmann & Nina LaPorta are among the Peace Singers at the Tondabayashi Garden Program.



Bill Thomas, Monica McAgnon, Sheila Clever are among the several readers who participated in the program.

# Labor Day Parade Sunday, September 3

Nancy Tate and Monica McAgnon were part of the peace contingent and had some fun with one of the parade mascots.



Photo: Christine Loch



Photos: Jim Orben

# Buckingham Peace Fair Saturday, September 23

Debbie Orben staffs the LEPOCO booth at the Buckingham Peace Fair.



Photos: Amanda Zaniesienko

# Tuesdays With Toomey



Lynn Van Dyke, in the photo on the left, and Dan Miller, in the photo on the right, are among the many LEPOCO folks who regularly join Tuesdays w/Toomey, Noon-1 pm, every week, in Allentown.



# Yard Sign

We still have some yard signs available!

\$15 suggested donation, to cover the cost of printing.

Photo: Max Cole



## A Report from September's P&P on Turkey

In September, Turkish authorities announced Darwin's theory and other science-based studies would be removed from future curriculums, along with other changes to the Turkish high school programs. One more nail in the freedom-of-thought coffin! This very sad act is consistent with Sait Onal's views of the abusively dictatorial and revisionist leadership of Pres. Recep Erdogan, which Sait shared at the September 10, Potluck and Politics night: "Political Turmoil and the Future of Democracy in Turkey."

Sait, who lives in central Pennsylvania, is the managing director of Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company & president of the Turkish Cultural Center (Pennsylvania) in Harrisburg. He said roughly 145,000 persons have been jailed and another 124,000 were detained following the 2016 failed coup in Turkey. The coup has been blamed on followers of religious leader Fethulla Gulen, living in a Saylorsburg (Pennsylvania) compound.

Gulen heads an international Islamic transnational, religious and social movement with thousands of schools world-wide that emphasize the importance of education and science. Turkey's leadership blames the coup on Gulen and is working to have him extradited on treason charges. Defending Gulen, Sait said, that in the 1960s, Gulen dedicated himself to children's education because he was bent on reducing poverty, ignorance and conflict by opening educational institutions with strong science programs, in response to a 20<sup>th</sup> Century that had become irreligious. Sait called the failure of the July 2016 coup, "a coup against democracy." The irony is that Erdogan's own daughters and son-in-law attended high schools founded within Gulen's movement, Sait added.

Twenty years ago, Erdogan and Gulen were both part of a group of Turkish "movers and shakers" who thought they could build up Turkey's status in the world while at the same time making Turkey less secular and more Muslim. What happened, says Sait, is that "piece-by-piece" Erdogan eliminated the team, including Gulen.

Sait described Erdogan's efforts to wipe out Gulen's followers by imprisonment, by disenfranchisement from employment and community, and by denial of passports and egress from Turkey. In that regard, brainwashing of the public with constant publicity against Gulen and his followers is "24-7" making life unbearable for those targeted, he said.

Prospects for regaining freedoms are remote at this time, so those scapegoated as Gulenists face hardship and oppression until the tide changes, which might not happen for years, Sait conceded. LEPOCO members were joined by roughly a dozen members of the local Turkish cultural group, the Lehigh Dialogue Center, which also sponsors The Respect Graduate School for Islamic Studies. One young member of this group said his father is one of those jailed.

- Karen Norvig Berry

## Searching for a Better Life

The September selection for the LEPOCO book discussion group was "The Nordic Theory of Everything: In Search of a Better Life," by Anu Partanen. As someone who had worked for many years for single payer universal health care in Massachusetts (without success) I was looking forward to reading this book to see how other countries do it. The author is in an especially good position to make the comparison. She grew up in Finland and later moved to the U.S.

As we know in the U.S., the health care system is complex, expensive, anxiety producing and has relatively poor outcomes when compared to other developed countries. Many here are not covered if they can't afford insurance premiums or don't work for an employer that provides good health benefits.

In contrast, most other developed countries see health care as a basic human right. In Finland, it is provided to all and paid for by the government through taxes as a public service.

Still other countries such as Canada have a single payer system where health care is provided privately, but paid for by the government through taxes.

Education is also discussed at some length in Partanen's book. Finns place a high value on educa-

tion. Their teachers are highly educated and well paid. All students regardless of family wealth and status are provided the opportunity of a free and equal education. Education is free even for college. Their success is seen in international testing where Finland ranks in the top 2 or 3 while the U.S. ranks 21 out of 34 developed countries. In our educational system, such things as the move to privatize and the financing of schools primarily through local property taxes, result in great disparities, putting many at an early disadvantage.

Other aspects of life that she covered in the book include the parental leave and early child care provided in her country. These allow and encourage both parents to have quality time with their children and still remain in the work force.

Some will criticize the Nordic "way of love" as the "nanny state" or "socialism" saying it promotes dependency. The author makes the case for the opposite; it encourages autonomy and allows one the opportunity to love, learn and live fully.

Others may claim it's too costly and taxes are too high. But the people in the Nordic countries are clearly getting a lot for their money. And when all the additional costs we pay in the U.S. are added in, there is really very little difference.

(continued on page 8)

7 LEPOCO Newsletter / October 2017



# Bits & Pieces

☯ We are grateful to the Selkie Theatre for putting together the challenging weekend, "#Resist: A Politically-Charged Play Reading Festival," Sept. 15-17. The programs at the Ice House in Bethlehem featured the reading of plays like Sinclair Lewis' "It Can't Happen Here," and "Building the Wall," a contemporary play by Robert Schenkkan.

☯ Medea Benjamin wrote, "10 Reasons the U.S. Should Stick With the Iran Nuclear Deal," at [www.CommonDreams.org](http://www.CommonDreams.org) on Oct. 10. She closed the piece with a call to action, "Toying with a serious nuclear agreement to influence Iran in other areas is simply irresponsible and dangerous. That is precisely what defines President Trump: irrational and dangerous. Before he destroys the best global foreign policy achievement in the last decade, the world community - from the UN, to the U.S. Congress, to the public - has to stop him."

☯ "Unpacking Mass Incarceration: A Conversation on Trauma, Healing & Reform," is the theme of a program to be held at Resurrected Life Community Church, Sun., Oct. 22, at 3 pm. Organized by Power Northeast, the program will feature, Reggie Shuford of the Pennsylvania ACLU, Dr. Hasshan Batts of the Allentown Promise Neighborhood, Brittany White of Faith in Texas, Mark Walters of the Micah Project, and Rev. Dr. Greg Edwards of the Resurrected Life Church. For more info. contact John Paul Marosy at 484-226-5930.

☯ As this newsletter is being prepared, the U.S. House of Representatives may soon vote on cutting off U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition's war in Yemen. We can urge support for the H.Con.Res.81 introduced by Representatives Khanna, Massie, Pocan, and Jones. The U.S. is providing bombs, intelligence, and jet fuel that Saudi Arabia is using to kill thousands of civilians in Yemen. Saudi Arabia's war on and blockade

of Yemen have pushed the country to the brink of famine and caused the worse cholera outbreak on record, with a million malnourished children at risk. When UNICEF's director was asked how to end Yemen's humanitarian catastrophe, he said: "Stop the war."

☯ While U.S. officials are working hard at undoing the opening of Cuban-U.S. relations initiated by President Obama (withdrawing U.S. diplomatic staff from Havana and forcing the departure of 15 officials from the Cuban Embassy in Washington), we have the opportunity to celebrate one of the benefits of that opening. Lehigh University is hosting, "The Drawings of Wifredo Lam: 1940-1955," in the Main Gallery, Zoellner Arts Center. Lam was born in Cuba and lived many years in Europe. This is the first exhibit in the U.S. from the private family collection of Lam's great nephew (from Havana, Cuba) and is among the first cultural exchanges with Cuba in the period of renewed diplomatic relations. The exhibit will be at Zoellner until December 10.

☯ The local observances of Campaign for Nonviolence Week of Actions (Sept. 16-24) and the International Day of Peace (Sept. 21), were many. Donna Hartmann held a dedication of her "Be Kind Today" garden. The Bethlehem Public Library showed a film about Cameroon, held a concert and hosted a panel on "Thinking Globally and Locally about Refugees." The St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, organized an Interfaith Prayer Service and LEPOCO Peace Singers participated. Lehigh Valley Veterans for Peace held a midday Peace Walk in Allentown with readings reflecting on nonviolence. Christ Lutheran

Church, Allentown, gathered in prayer for the "Healing of the Nation."

☯ If you want to read a really refreshing response to the horrible tragedy in Las Vegas, see Michael Moore's, "My Proposal to Repeal and Replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment," published on Oct. 17, online at the Reader Supported Network.

☯ "The North Koreans made a statement a few days ago..., 'We are looking for a military equilibrium to avoid a military option,' meaning, 'We don't want to be overthrown by the United States.' The U.S. ... is a serial regime changer. ... our foreign policy is based on covert and overt wars of overthrow of other countries: Saddam Hussein, Muammar Gaddafi, Bashar al-Assad - a disaster that has created absolute chaos, indeed in all three of them... We should have diplomacy politics, not a nuclear exchange."

- Jeffrey Sachs, Democracy Now!  
9/21/17.

## Searching for a Better Life

(continued from page 7)

The author acknowledges that no system is perfect, but I believe we should be willing to look at other countries and see what we might learn from them. We need to realize we are not the best at everything and all too often our policies seem to perpetuate problems, such as inequality, rather than solve them. - Ginny Schimmel

Editor's Note: The First Tuesday Book Group will meet next on November 7, at the home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, Bethlehem, to discuss, "The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks about Race," by Jesmyn Ward. Call 610-866-2407 or 610-691-8730 for more information.

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.



# Bits & Pieces

☪ Thank you to all the summer volunteers who helped staff LEPOCO booths and tables, leafleted at Farmers' Markets, and walked in parades. Here is a list of those people that we hope is close to complete.

Farmers' Market Leafletters (July & August): Dan Miller, Carol & Mick Baylor, Ellen Buck, Monica McAgnon, Nancy Tate, Kathryn Hoffman, Tom Stinnett, Vince Stravino, Susie Ravitz, Patrick Roxberry, John Zachmann, Phil Reiss, Jeff Brightbill, Barbara Diamond, Donna Hartmann, Mimi Lang, Beth Riggs.

Pride In the Park Staffers (8/20/17): Dan Miller, Ronnie Arena, Renate Brosky, Diane Dilendik, Nancy Tate, Tom Stinnett, Ginny Schimmel, Susie Ravitz, Monica McAgnon, Sheila Clever.

NCC QuadFest (8/21/17): Dan Miller.

Lehigh University Club & Community Expo (8/24/17): Amanda Zaniesienko, Mimi Lang.

VegFest (8/26/17): Amanda Zaniesienko, Kathryn Hoffman, Rick Dow, My Lien Nguyen, Terry & Sylvia Briscoe, Martha Christine, Renate Brosky, Chris Klump, Sheila Clever, Susie Ravitz, Monica McAgnon, Kathy Fox, Scott Slingerland, Jim & Debbie Orben.

Labor Day Parade (9/3/17): Christine Loch, Monica McAgnon, Nancy Tate, Kathy Fox, Kathryn Hoffman.

Peace Fair at Buckingham (9/23/17): Dalton Youtng, Christine Loch, Debbie & Jim Orben, Nancy Tate, Tom Stinnett.

☪ November 10-12, human rights activists, torture survivors, anti-war veterans, students, families, union workers, artists and educators will converge in Eloy-Tucson-Ambos Nogales at the U.S.-Mexico Border for the SOA Watch Border Encuentro. There will be three days of vigils, workshops, rallies (including at the Mexico-US border), and music, all in collaboration to deepen the resistance to US-led militarism and other harmful policies throughout the Western Hemisphere.

☪ Immigration & Sanctuary: A Workshop for People of Faith, will be held Sun., Nov. 12, 1:30-5 pm, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Allentown. Among the topics for discussion will be U.S. immigration policies, sanctuary cities, sanctuary congregations and street sanctuary. Sponsored by the Lehigh Conference of Churches/ Justice & Advocacy you can find more details at [www.sanctuary.ppj.org](http://www.sanctuary.ppj.org).

☪ The Morning Call of Sept. 10, carried a moving story ("Valley Immigrants Face Unsure Future") about three courageous local young people facing all the concerns and fears around Trump Administration attacks on DACA. You can support the clean Dream Act legislation by contacting your Representative and Senators to cosponsor H.R.3440 and S.1615, respectively. A simple message is: I support a clean Dream Act 2017 - one that protects the 800,000 Dreamers. I oppose funding any expansion of detention, deportation agents, or border militarization.

☪ Tony de Brum, the man who some say, "stood up to Armageddon," died in late August of cancer at age 72. Tony de Brum, former foreign minister of the Marshall Islands, grew up in the South Pacific island chain where the U.S. conducted 67

nuclear weapons tests between 1946 and 1958. In 2014, Foreign Minister de Brum was the driving force behind the lawsuit filed by the Marshall Islands in the International Court of Justice and U.S. federal court, against the nine nations that possess nuclear weapons, demanding that they start living up to the terms of the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and begin the process of nuclear disarmament. The lawsuits did not succeed, but some speculate that de Brum's audacity in bringing the lawsuits may have contributed to the courage of the nations who adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations in July. *Presente*: Tony de Brum. (source: [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org), 8/31/17)

☪ The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on October 6, for their work on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, popularly called the Ban the Bomb treaty. In giving the award the Nobel Committee reaffirmed that prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons is the most urgent security priority of our time. ICAN and others acknowledged the witness of the *Hibakusha* and the victims of nuclear testing, as being pivotal in building support for the new Treaty.

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

Tuesday, October 24, 3 pm: LEPOCO Annual Dinner Planning Committee Meeting at the Peace Center.

Sunday, October 29, 7 pm: LEPOCO Peace Singers Rehearsal at home of Barbara & Al Wurth, Bethlehem. They will also rehearse on November 12 and December 3.

Thursday, November 2, 12:30 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Tuesday, November 7, 6 pm: LEPOCO Book Group meets at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem, discussing "The Fire This Time," by Jesmyn Ward (see page 7 & 8 for more information).

Monday, November 13, 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, December 12, 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 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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## See Inside:

Page 1

Reports on  
Hiroshima-Nagasaki,  
DACA March, &  
PBS's "Vietnam War"

Page 2

Veterans For Peace

Page 3

P & Ps  
Peace Camp Reviews

Page 4

Stop Fossil Fuels

Pages 5

Peace Camp Photos

Page 6

Peace Activists Photos

Page 7

Report: Turkey P&P  
Book Review

Page 8

Bits & Pieces

Page 9

Bits & Pieces/Calendar

## Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

November 9 & December 14  
4:00-5:00 pm

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

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

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

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace & Justice Conference

## Talking Peace

Lipkin Theatre, Northampton Community  
College, Bethlehem

Thursday, October 19, 9 am-2 pm  
11 am

Keynote Speaker: Rinku Sen  
Executive Director of Race Forward – The  
Center for Racial Justice Innovation & author of  
"The Accidental American: Immigration &  
Citizenship in the Age of Globalization"

## Stand Up & Speak Out!

Saturdays

October 28 & November 25  
12 Noon - 2 pm

**Protest:**

*Horsham Drone Command Center*  
(Rt. 611, Horsham)

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

Plan Ahead

Saturday, December 9

58<sup>th</sup> Annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem  
Christmas Peace Pilgrimage

Featured Speaker: Roberta Meek  
"We Who Believe in Freedom Cannot Rest:  
Racism in the Current Era"