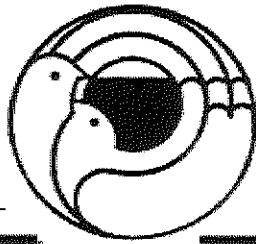


November
2018
Vol. 53 No. 6



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

Two Docudramas: One Message of Action

Two worthwhile recent presentations and subsequent discussions addressed the extraordinary times in which we live and the crisis confronting our democracy. The two were different in form and setting. On September 21st, former Lehigh Valley resident Bob Weick performed the one-person play *Marx in Soho*, written by the historian and activist Howard Zinn, at Bethlehem's Ice House to an audience of well over one hundred people. Weick's performance was followed by an animated question and answer period. At the same time, Steel Stacks began showing Michael Moore's new documentary film, *Fahrenheit 11/9*, the title coming from the official date of Trump's Electoral College victory. At the showing on September 24th a group of about twenty LEPOCO members attended the film and held a brief discussion about it in the theater afterward.

Marx in Soho combined an introduction to some of Marx's key ideas with a depiction of his personal and scholarly life in London. Zinn's play emphasizes the relevance of Marx's thinking to our own society and the links between Marx's scholarship and his commitment to revolutionary social change. Following the performance, a lively discussion took up such issues as Marx's theory of economic exploitation, the grotesque disparities in wealth that capitalism has led to in our own times, and the best strategy for making our society a more equitable one.

Using Moore's characteristic combination of comedy and provocation, *Fahrenheit 11/9* dealt with a variety of more recent events and issues -- Donald Trump's shocking but ultimately successful campaign for the presidency, his efforts to discriminate against immigrants and minorities, the Flint, Michigan water system scandal -- and important efforts to combat the depressing rightward drift of American politics, including the victorious teachers' strikes in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona. Covering a variety of issues, the film's overriding message was to avoid either depression or complacency in the face of the ongoing threat to our democracy.

The discussion after the film centered on the importance of our solidarity with all progressive movements and the need to transform our emotional outrage into effective action. Regardless of the outcome of elections, we need to remain alert, informed and politically active.

- Mick Baylor

Peace Pilgrimage: Almost Sixty!



Have you seen Christmas activity in the stores? Have you received catalogs in the mail? Have you shifted from Halloween right past Thanksgiving in planning your activities? Have you circled December 8, on your calendar? I hope you have, because Saturday, December 8, is the 59th Annual Peace Pilgrimage -- the 10-mile walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem. LEPOCO has been supporting this witness for peace since the 1960s.

Volunteers have been arranging permits and police escorts, contacting a speaker, planning for food and relief drivers, renting busses, securing use of the churches for respite, printing flyers and programs, and getting out banners and publicity. Over the years about ten people have steered a planning committee, drawing its members from the L.V. Friends Meeting, Pax Christi, local Mennonites and Mennonites from the York area, and LEPOCO. Other people who walked, and then felt led, have joined in. Some committee members have been doing this almost all of the 59 years; others for over 25 or 30 years. It is a point of pride for me to have been part of this.

However, I have a concern that mirrors a concern that many in my "Vietnam Era" cohort may have. How do we pass on our style and experience of peace activism to a following group? And how much expectation that they will continue as before is appropriate? Who is going to take over to provide the enthusiasm and energy to keep the Pilgrimage going as we "grey hairs" tire? Frankly, it is getting harder to walk that far. So as we walk this year and as we talk to our fellow pilgrims please think about what might "be down the road" as we look toward a 60th walk in 2019 -- and beyond. Will we be walking a 75th time?

- Rick Dow

Editor's Note: Please see enclosed copy of the 59th Annual Nazareth-to-Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage brochure for December 8, 2018, for all the logistical details to help you participate in this important and historic walk.

Life After Hate

On Tuesday, October 2, Northampton Community College sponsored its yearly Peace and Social Justice Conference. This year's focus was on the organization, Life After Hate, a nonprofit whose mission is to help people leave hate groups, particularly white supremacy groups. Founded by Christian Picciolini, a former neo-Nazi, Life After Hate began in Chicago in 2011.

Sammy Rangel told the story of his life. As a child he experienced sexual and physical abuse at the hands of his family. By the time he was 11 he turned to violence that resulted in him being placed in a series of foster homes, detention centers and finally prison when he was 17. During the 15 years he spent in prison, he became a member of a Puerto Rican gang that battled against a white supremacy gang.

Eventually he was placed in a segregation hole where he made contact with a prison worker who he believes saved his life. George, the prison worker who befriended him, helped him get into an intensive drug rehab program. There he realized that he needed to seek forgiveness from the son and daughter he had neglected. He also forgave his mother and family members who had abused him years before. Through these acts he found redemption.

Rangel's presentation was powerful. His story of salvation demonstrated that a person can restore their faith in humanity and resist evil. Listening to how Sammy Rangel turned his life around was inspirational in these dark times that seem to engulf our present-day society. Currently we have leaders who traffic in hate and prejudice, and we need to know that there are people dedicating their lives to love, concern, and making the world a better place for all people.

The Peace & Social Justice Conference planners invited community groups who were tabling at the event to give a short presentation about their work. Dan Miller and Mimi Lang spoke for LEPOCO. Ronnie Arena and Amanda Zaniesienko assisted with the tabling.

- Dan Miller

Private Peaceful

Knowing practically nothing about the play, *Private Peaceful*, but intrigued by the title, I went to see it at Lafayette College's Williams Center for the Arts on October 10. Based on a book by Michael Morpurgo and adapted for the theatre by Simon Reade I found it to be profoundly moving and strongly insightful about the horrors and cruelty of war. The story takes place in 1916 in Ypres, Belgium, in a prison cell, where *Private Tommo Peaceful* will face a British firing squad at dawn after being convicted of cowardice in the face of the enemy.

The construct of the play could not be simpler. There is only one actor, Shane O'Regan who plays 24 characters using masterful voice skills and physical

mannerisms so that it is easy to believe he is each person. The bare set is equally simple and creatively used.

As the night passes Tommo uses his last hours to remember and poignantly reflect on his life. He painfully revisits his father's tragic death, his working class upbringing, his first crush, and his loving and happy bond, with his older brother, Charlie. At age 16 Tommo enlists and goes into the Great War with his brother. O'Regan's acting is such that his words and intensity alone allow one to feel the almost unreal and incredibly ugly and painful activities he is forced to endure in battle. Despite the devastation of war on the human psyche in some ways the play celebrates the joyfulness of life, while illuminating the injustices of war.

I regret not knowing much about it before seeing it. It is a play that I believe many at LEPOCO would have found very meaningful.

- Susie Ravitz

Summit on Peace with Iran

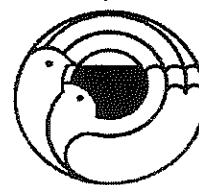
Saturday, December 1, 9 am-5 pm

First Congregational United Church of Christ
945 "G" St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Among the speakers: Jamal Abdi, Phyllis Bennis,
Medea Benjamin, Col. Lawrence Wilkerson.

Fee: \$10-\$100 on a sliding scale.

To register or for more information
see codepink.org/iransummit.



Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 West Fourth Street

Bethlehem, PA 18015

phone: 610-691-8730

fax: 610-691-8904

website: www.lepoco.org

e-mail: lepoco@fast.net

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

Annual dues are:

Regular Member	\$35
Limited Income Member	\$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, Carol Baylor.

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

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Carol Baylor, Mick Baylor, Terry Briscoe, Sharlee DiMenichi, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Nancy Johnston, Christine Loch, Dan Miller, Janet Ney, Jim Orben, Stefan Rogers, Scott Slingerland, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), and Amanda Zaniesienko (ex-officio).

Popcorn & Politics

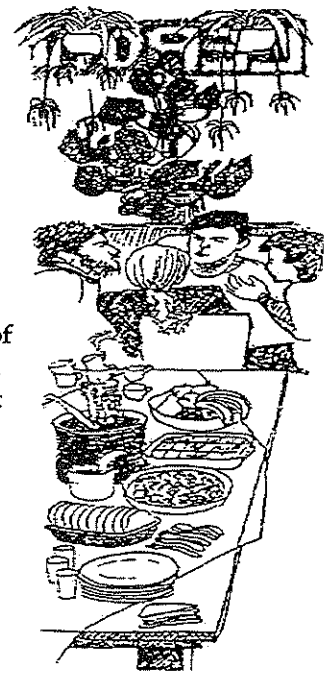
Friday, January 4th, 7 pm
"Tomorrow"

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

After a special briefing for the journal "Nature" announced the possible extinction of a part of mankind before the end of the 21st century, Cyril Dion and Mélanie Laurent, together with a team of four people, carried out an investigation in ten different countries to figure out what may lead to this disaster and above all, how to avoid it. This documentary shares how individuals and communities are finding practical solutions to the economic, ecological and social crises facing many countries.

Directed by Cyril Dion and Mélanie Laurent. 120 minutes. 2017.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.



FOR Peace Presence in Colombia Needs Our Support

The FOR Peace Presence has continued the accompaniment work that FOR USA started in Colombia in the early 2000s. LEPOCO as an organization and many members and friends have supported this work. Joe DeRaymond and Janet Goloub were local leaders in this effort. FOR Peace Presence needs our support again. Some local groups and individuals have sent support in recent months. You can donate to the FOR Peace Presence in Colombia at peacepresence.org or by mailing a check to the organization at 3911 Maybelle Ave., Oakland CA 94619.

In a recent letter Peace Presence folks said their financial support from institutional donors has decreased because of a false perception that peace has arrived in Colombia following the signing of the peace accords. Peace Presence is struggling to protect and stand in solidarity with the community leaders trying to protect their families and their homes. In May, FOR Peace Presence accompanied a humanitarian mission to the Choco region after four community leaders there had been kidnapped and murdered in April.

Kati, a Peace Presence accompanier from Connecticut, wrote of their May trip: *The Naya River, in a remote part of Western Colombia, serves as the public road for the 64 communities living in wooden houses on stilts along the riverbanks... This area doesn't have reliable cell service, so word also travels by boat. While we rode along the four-hour route from the mouth of the river to the community we stayed in, the leader traveling with us would often ask to pause for a minute to share the details of their upcoming assembly with people on the riverbank. We'd wait until they shouted back "sounds good!" and then continue on our way. Most people work as farmers and fishermen, but the recent attacks have left civilians fearful of continuing the work that sustains them and their families...*

Many families were displaced from the Rio Naya community, after armed men came to the settlement looking for Iver, the brother of one of the leaders who had been kidnapped. In May, the armed group followed through on their threats, taking Iver hostage in the presence of representatives from the Colombian government's Human Rights Ombudsmen office, an incredibly bold and threatening move.

Since the start of 2018 over 100 Human Rights defenders have been killed in Colombia - 24 in the one-month period between June and early July. Last year was the deadliest year on record for human rights defenders and community leaders in Colombia. But residents of the Humanitarian Zones remain resolute about resisting armed actors inside their communities. Just last month, they requested permanent accompaniment from FOR Peace Presence in this region.

For more information see www.peacepresence.org.

Holiday Open House Set

This year's LEPOCO Holiday Open House will be held Saturday & Sunday, December 1 & 2, 1-4 pm each day. We will have fair trade crafts including coffee, chocolates, jewelry, decorative and practical items, and more. We will have Carol Baylor's handmade one-of-a-kind slogan t-shirt bags. We will have holiday cards and 2019 calendars. And, we will have a wide selection of bumper stickers, buttons, small stickers, postcards, note cards, and more -- addressing current struggles, long-term struggles, and historic struggles.

There will be refreshments and friendly LEPOCO activists to visit with while you browse.

The items will remain available throughout December during regular office hours or by appointment.

Community & Ecosystem Protection: Two Films, Two Approaches

Audiences made up of community activists and college students were recently treated to showings of two important new documentaries: *Invisible Hand* (10/21/18) at Lehigh University and *Unfractured* (10/23/18) at Northampton Community College. Both films focused on significant examples of efforts to protect communities and ecosystems from industrial intrusions using strategies that were aggressive and smart, strategies that avoided the usual regulatory channels that often waylay citizens. Filmmakers and the films' major protagonists were present for post-screening Q&As.

For the *Invisible Hand* screening, present were filmmaker Melissa Troutman and Chad Nicholson, of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). CELDF is spearheading a democracy movement, one whose goal is to establish rights for people and nature over the systems that control them, helping communities, states, countries, rivers, lakes, coral reefs, create supporting legal frameworks for those rights.

Invisible Hand shows rural Grant Township in Pennsylvania using a rights-based approach to fight against Pennsylvania General Electric's attempt to put a fracking wastewater injection well within the township. The tiny township created a Community Bill of Rights containing Rights of Nature provisions, used Home Rule to work around the federal judge's ruling, and created an ordinance that legalized nonviolent civil disobedience.

Sixty-five people attended this program, coordinated by the Alliance for Sustainable Communities-L.V. and welcomed to the campus by the Green Action Club at Lehigh University, one of thirteen co-sponsors.

For the *Unfractured* screening, present were filmmaker Chanda Chevannes and Sandra Steingraber, a major leader in the fight against fracking in New York State. The film was an intimate portrait of Steingraber's total commitment to the anti-fracking fight while being mother to two children and wife to a husband dealing with the disabling consequences of a stroke.

The film's anti-fracking efforts ended on a positive note with Governor Cuomo's ban of fracking in the state as a health menace. Steingraber described a campaign that was strong in its leadership, organizational discipline, and focus.

The entire campaign was solely about stopping fracking, first with the goal of continuing the moratorium a previous governor had declared, then as a ban on fracking. Their well thought out, creative, and community-engaging, single-minded campaign was incisive: they publicized their efforts with events featuring high profile allies and judicious use of nonviolent civil disobedience; they used the bureaucratic regulatory process against itself so as to paralyze it; they marshaled the science growing out of the disastrous health consequences of fracking in neighboring Pennsylvania; they found ways to engage and empower the

community. All of these came together in a thirty-day Advent 2012 assault on a draft of the latest proposed New York State fracking regulations.

The plan: every day for thirty days, Steingraber would write a critique of some aspect of the proposed regulations, send them out to 100 people as a basis for their comments. They would send them back to her so she could, at the end of the thirty days, deliver 3,000 letters on the last day for submitting public comment, thereby overloading the bureaucracy that would need to copy all of these comments. The idea snowballed, with her critiques being passed along to all kinds of community groups. By the end of the thirty days, she had amassed over 200,000 written comments, the first box of which was carried into the state capitol in Albany by Yoko Ono and the *New York Daily News* (1/13/13) headlined: "Fracking kills' - Yoko Ono joins star-studded cast fighting against hydraulic natural gas drilling in upstate New York." Steingraber's 16-hour days during that intense thirty-day period paid off!

Thirty-five people attended the *Unfractured* program, part of a six-city Pennsylvania tour organized by the Better Path Coalition.

Community and ecosystem protection: two films, two approaches to consider as we organize.

- Martin Boksenbaum



Paddling the *Lenape Sipu* for Reconciliation

Paddlers gathered in early August at the headwaters of *Lenape Sipu* (River of Human Beings), in Hancock, New York. By calling the Delaware River these ancient names, they honored the first inhabitants who strove to live peacefully with the settlers. The group's destination was Cape May, New Jersey, where *Lenape Sipu* melds with the ocean. Their purpose? To renew the Treaty of Friendship with people of good will; to promote preservation of the natural resources we share; and to keep Lenape culture and history intact.

The Rising Nation River Journey occurs every four years. This summer's event marked the fifth excursion. The first was held in 2002 at William Penn's manor house in Bucks County. At that time, members of churches, environmental and historical societies, and concerned individuals, signed a treaty of renewal with the Lenape that provided methods of protecting our region for the seventh generation.

This year local stops were made in Blirstown, NJ, and Easton. I participated in a gathering organized by Tom Drake and Sister Miriam MacGillis OP of Genesis Farm Ecological Learning Center in Blirstown. A potluck supper for the paddlers was held in the barn at the Ramsayburg Historic Homestead in Knowlton. (We were humbled to learn that the earth under the barn had been x-rayed by an archaeologist, and Native artifacts were lodged beneath our feet.)

(continued on page 7)

Allentown Coalition for Economic Dignity

The Allentown Coalition for Economic Dignity (ACED), a working group of POWER Lehigh Valley, has produced a memo containing six policy recommendations that are seen as having the potential to improve the quality of life for all residents in the city of Allentown. The recommendations are a response to a community dialogue held this year regarding development in Allentown where affordable housing, living wages, and thriving schools were highlighted as community priorities.

The Neighborhood Improvement Zone (NIZ) legislation (passed in 2009) is slated to be an over \$1 Billion subsidy meant to revitalize the city, and yet the city has seen scarce wage growth overshadowed by soaring housing costs. It has gotten so bad that the Allentown Metro Area now has the highest rent-income ratio in the nation. These six proposals address some of these community concerns. They are not a comprehensive list of policies that would bring ultimate racial and economic justice to Allentown, but they are tangible steps that the city can implement with relative ease.

They include creating an inclusionary zoning ordinance, raising the minimum wage for all city employees and contractors to \$15/hour, making the sale of all city and school properties contingent upon affordability standards, creating a position at the Human Relations Commission (HRC) to investigate housing and employment discrimination, requiring development impact statements, and supporting resolutions to Harrisburg for state action on these issues.

ACED has met with the Mayor's Office multiple times and has made presentations before City Council. The Mayor has committed to putting the position on the HRC in his budget and two council members have agreed to support resolutions to Harrisburg. ACED is putting a great deal of effort into getting the inclusionary zoning ordinance passed. To learn more and support ACED efforts see the Allentown Coalition for Economic Dignity page on their Facebook.

- Chris Woods

Can There Be "Smart Justice"?

Smart Justice is a newly launched campaign by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to address the problem of mass incarceration in the United States. Although our "land of the free" accounts for only 5% of the world's population, it houses almost a quarter of the world's prisoners. That's because our country has increasingly used the criminal justice system to confront social ills caused by mental illness, drug addiction, and poverty -- to the point of inducing a crisis that impacts families and communities at great financial cost with no positive outlook in sight. The ACLU's Smart Justice campaign aims to reform the criminal justice system nationwide through a new vision of safety and justice that would halve the incarcerated population while also confronting racial disparities.

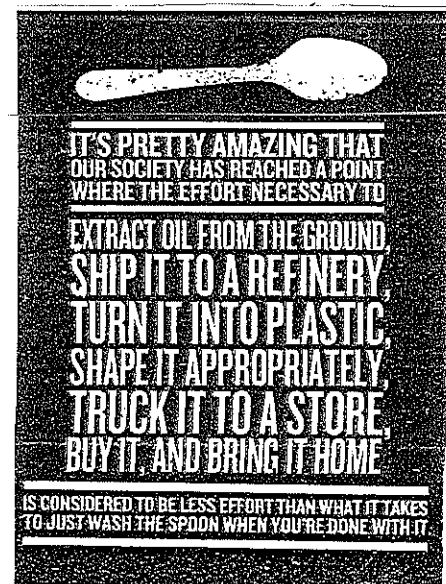
In Pennsylvania, Blacks account for 47% of the prison population despite representing only 10% of the general population. Close to 60% of new prison admissions are for nonviolent crimes, often drug-related. In recent years, Pennsylvania had the third highest per capita rate in the country for people on parole, probation, or other community supervision; the second largest population of people serving life without parole; and 28% of its prisoners had minimum sentences of 10 years or more. Such disconcerting findings call for a fundamental shift in drug policy, probation and parole reform and new solutions to prevent and react to violence. In practicality, cash bail reform, reducing high maximum sentences, implementing alternatives to incarceration, and setting up supportive reentry services have proven effective in holding people accountable and in reducing recidivism.

Of particular note is the power of the District Attorneys, who function differently from one county to another and whose practice tends to be less accountable and transparent than expected in a public position. In preliminary research, the ACLU surveyed police departments on diversity and the new campaign has followed with surveys to District Attorneys' offices seeking region-specific data.

Last month, Nick Pressley, director of the Smart Justice campaign in Pennsylvania, visited the Lehigh Valley -- one of several kick-off events. He outlined the issues and proposed solutions as above. Most distinctively, he advocated for the involvement of former convicts like himself in devising the solutions. He reported that DA John Morganelli of Northampton County was the first to return his survey. Before a packed audience at Resurrected Life Church in Allentown, where many might have learned about mass incarceration for the first time in such detail, he traced a hopeful road forward for community involvement.

(For details on the campaign, see 50stateblueprint.aclu.org.)

- My Lien Nguyen



We Too: A Cultural Legacy _____

There is much in the news regarding, acknowledging and confronting cultural change. We are hoping a much greater acknowledgement of sexual harassment and sexual assault as part of the Me Too movement and the Kavanaugh hearings has called overdue attention to the stories of too many women who have suffered without accounting. We hope this will lead to positive change.

Recently, I shared in a quite different "me too" kind of experience. The Middletown Friends Quaker Meeting hosted a memorial service for enslaved people who had been buried on the Meetinghouse grounds. Many people, myself included, have learned to associate Quakers with the Abolition Movement of the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries. What I learned at the memorial program was that there were thousands of slaves in and around Philadelphia who worked farms and serviced households. Quakers owned a large percentage. It was not until about 1776 that the Philadelphia Quaker Meeting banned the ownership of human beings by its members. This ban was part of a major cultural shift that had started at the close of the 1600s, but many Quakers held tight to ownership of their enslaved human laborers. Me too, We Quakers too.

The memorial service was planned to bring members of the African American community together with Quakers to make some amends for the failure to recognize the people of this part of a common history. Prayers, music, a briefing about slavery in Philadelphia, the dedication of the memorial plaque, and a meal were included.

In addition, there was a reading of several manumissions – the legal document that freed a slave. This was the most emotional and significant part for me. Various people read from the documents that gave details about the slaves, but often used only first names and approximate ages, demonstrating the lack of even this kind of human recognition.

All and all, it was a sobering experience to recognize that the comfort I have felt by being a member of the abolitionist Quakers is not as justified as I believed. The legacy of slavery touches so many of us. We Too.

- Rick Dow

Achieving Peace in Liberia _____

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former president of Liberia, spoke at Lafayette College on October 23, before an audience of more than 400 people. She spoke about her two presidential terms, 2006-2018, of fostering peace in a post-conflict democracy. Her administration had inherited a collapsed economy, paralyzed state institutions, 100,000 ex-combatants, 80% unemployment, and decades of desperation and violence.

Johnson Sirleaf studied economics and public administration, and worked in Liberia's Ministry of Finance from 1972-1985. She was imprisoned and

exiled two different times for protesting the military government and Charles Taylor during Liberia's civil war. When Taylor went into exile, Johnson returned to chair the Commission on Good Governance, and in 2005, ran for president.

Why? Someone in the audience asked. The first elected woman president of any country in Africa, Johnson Sirleaf replied, "My country deserved better, our people wanted a better life, and I knew I had the confidence, I could do it. But it took hard work, collective cooperative action, setting goals, everyone's responsibility, and accountability."

With international partners, she worked out agreements on national debt, fiscal discipline, and foreign investment. She claimed a 90% successful economy by 2014, when an epidemic of the Ebola virus led to an exodus and an economic drop to 0% growth. Johnson Sirleaf's administration staged a two-year recovery, led by Liberians, and supported by international aid workers. Her administration focused on increased security, rule of law, social services, roads, regional cooperation, electricity for most hospitals, and trained first responders in infection control.

Johnson Sirleaf concluded her address by naming her three priorities of governance:

The first was ensuring basic services to youth and families. She supported economic life skills, education, jobs, and entrepreneurship training for youth. Effective support for transforming gender roles and norms led to 160 women seeking elective seats in the legislature.

A second priority was civil service and institution building. Johnson Sirleaf placed qualified professional personnel in Liberian economic development and finance, and other key positions of Liberian civil services, to serve untouched by the spoils of office, or succeeding administrations. Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, and Rwanda, are now following Liberia's example.

Reforming the security forces through training for humanitarian and human rights assistance was a third priority. She opened the security forces to women with the first women's peacekeeping force.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, and Tawakkol Karman of Yemen, jointly won the 2011 Nobel Prize for their nonviolent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights in full participation in peace-building work.

- Monica McAgnon

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

Sign up for LEPOCO e-mail weekly updates by calling 610-691-8730, or by writing to lepoco@fast.net.

Follow LEPOCO on Facebook and Twitter. Please "like" and "share," often.

Bits & Pieces

☪ Copies of two publications are now available at the LEPOCO office. Please stop by and pick up a copy.

1. *Nukewatch Quarterly*, Fall 2018 issue. Articles cover Resistance to H-bombs in Germany, Fukushima, Kings Bay Plowshares 7, and more.

2. *Peace in Our Times* (a Veterans for Peace publication), Fall 2018 issue. Among the articles: Climate Is a Casualty of War, The NRA & the Safari Club Are Gunning for Grizzlies, Why I Choose to Take a Stand - By Taking a Knee, and many more.

☪ On September 20, the first anniversary of Hurricane Maria hitting Puerto Rico, people gathered for a silent march in Allentown to show solidarity with the people still suffering the devastating results of the hurricane and the inadequate aid response. The march and subsequent rally were organized by Make the Road PA.

☪ On October 24 the Nuns on the Bus national tour made a stop at the Middletown office of Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick. The 30 Catholic sisters on the bus were holding 54 events in 21 states over 27 days. They were visiting the offices of incumbent representatives who had supported the tax overhaul legislation. They called for tax justice. The tour was to end outside Mar-A-Lago in Florida, with a "Fiesta for the Common Good."

☪ The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, from Repairers of the Breach, and Phyllis Bennis, of Jewish Voice for Peace, issued a statement on October 28, "In Response to Pittsburgh." It ended: *We stand against any politicians' words that demean and diminish the humanity of whomever they deem "the other," because in so doing they legitimize more violence.*

More than half a century ago, when four young girls were killed in a Birmingham church by a racist's bomb, Dr. King told us that those little girls "have something to say to every politician who has fed his constituents with the stale bread of hatred and the spoiled meat of racism... They say to

us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered them, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderer."

We stand with the victims of the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, we stand with the African-American victims of the Kroger shooting in Kentucky..., we stand with the victims of the white-supremacist shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, with the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting, and beyond. We stand with the victims of every white-supremacist and racist and anti-Semitic assault back through history, and we stand as one with the communities who have come together to fight back and reclaim our unity, our lives, and our humanity every time.

paddling the Lenape Sipu for Reconciliation

(continued from page 4)

Sister Miriam spoke of "healing and reconciliation with the descendants of the original inhabitants of

this region" and she gave Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania Chief Chuck Gentle Moon a basket of gifts that included a vial of water from three area streams; organic bread from wheat seeds cultivated in Warren County, tobacco from heirloom Native seeds, and a copy of my book, "Lenape Culture in Stone and Wood."

Attendees signed the Treaty of Renewed Friendship, an agreement of "heart, mind, and spirit" to support the Lenape in their struggles, including the pipeline invasion of sacred lands, federal recognition for the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, and acknowledgement of their historical presence here.

As conversations between paddlers and visitors ensued, drumming throbbed in the next room -- voices of the drummers climbing above the din of the rain. We were just a few steps from *Lenape Sipu*... the old Lenape tongue poised over the water, linking us with ancestors whose throats may have sung these same sounds from these same banks, long ago. {See lenape-nation.org for ways you can help.}

- Anna Maria Caldara

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

Tuesday, November 13, 3:30 pm: Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Thursday, November 15, 2:30 pm: LEPOCO Annual Dinner Planning Committee meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Thursday, November 15, 4 pm: Peace Camp 2019 Planning Meeting focused on possible Peace Camp Party planning for February, LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Sundays, November 18 & December 2, 7 pm: Peace Singers rehearse at the homes of Nancy Johnston in Easton, and Barbara Wurth in Bethlehem, respectively.

Tuesdays, December 4 & February 5, 6 pm: LEPOCO Book Group meets at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem. The group does not meet in January.

Thursdays, December 6 & January 3, 12:30 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Mondays, December 10 & January 14, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are discussed & planned.

Thursday, January 24, 2019, 3:30 pm: Peaceathon Planning Committee meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information about these meetings or the meetings of the Newsletter Planning Group, the Stop the Wars Committee, Popcorn/Potluck & Politics Planning Committee, or any other committees, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings, see www.lepoco.org.



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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

Address Service Requested

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



See Inside:

Page 1

- Marx In Soho & Fahrenheit 11/9
- Peace Pilgrimage

Page 2

- NCC Peace Conference
- Private Peaceful

Page 3

- P&P Films
- Holiday Open House
- FOR Peace Presence

Page 4

- Two Films on Community & Ecosystem Protection
- Renewing Friendship

Page 5

- Working for Economic Dignity
- Seeking Smart Justice

Page 6

- The Legacy of Slavery
- Nobel Laureate Speaks

Page 7

- Bits & Pieces
- Calendar

Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

December 13 & January 10

4:00-5:00 pm

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

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

Call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 for more info.

Stand Up & Speak Out!

(Last Saturdays of month)

November 24 & December 29

12 - 2 pm

Protest:

Horsham Drone Command Center

(Rt. 611, Horsham)

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

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Dec. 1st 1-4PM
& Sunday, Dec. 2nd 1-4PM

at LEPOCO Peace Center
313 West 4th St., south Bethlehem

Fair-trade crafts & food from around the world through
SERRV;

Buttons, Stickers, Cards, Holiday Cards and 2019 Calendars