

April-May  
2018

Vol. 53 No. 3



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

## “Live Life Singing”: Karla Lara & José Antonio to perform locally

Karla Lara and José Antonio Velásquez, from Honduras, will visit the Lehigh Valley for a “Live Life Singing: The Joyful Resistance from Honduras,” concert at Godfrey Daniels, on Thursday, May 17, at 7 pm. Lara and Antonio are on tour in the U.S. under the auspices of Witness for Peace (the national group that began doing solidarity peace work in the Americas in the 1980s). Their music will be about “how we are advancing our demands, our forms of territorial struggle for autonomy and against the extractive model. We will sing out our cry to free those who have been unjustly incarcerated and denied their right to protest. We will sing about our world and about this powerful time where women continue to be present and commit to live life singing.”

Karla Lara is a singer, a feminist organizer, a member of the Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia (Broad Movement for Justice & Dignity), and a columnist for the Honduran Newspaper “El Libertador.” Since 2004, Karla has produced four albums and has created an extensive unedited musical repertoire that reflects the identity of her people and of hope; with the faces and testimony of women, from a feminist political perspective.

José Antonio Velásquez is a virtuoso jazz musician, pianist, and composer. He has accompanied Karla’s musical works since 2007. Through the Jazz Trio HN, he is also a member of the group Cien años.

Many of us have learned of the struggles of the people of Honduras as we have learned about the assassination of Berta Cáceres on March 3, 2016. This year hundreds gathered in La Esperanza, Honduras, to demand justice for Berta’s assassination and to bear witness that, “Berta did not die, she multiplied in the children, the youth, the adults, and the elderly.”

COPINH (Civic Council of Popular & Indigenous Organizations of Honduras) has continued the work that Berta and others began in 1993. The Lenca territory in western Honduras where Berta Cáceres worked has become ground zero for the expansion of megaprojects since the 2009 coup d’état that ousted President Manuel Zelaya.

Karla Lara and José Antonio will share news of how people are working for change in Honduras since

that 2009 coup and since the November 2017 election that returned Juan Orlando Hernandez to power, with little international support, other than from the U.S. The election results were questioned internationally (especially by the Organization of America States) and street protests also questioned those results. Over 30 people were killed and hundreds were injured or jailed, at the hands of the U.S.-funded security forces.

Admission for the concert is \$15-regular, \$5-limited income, and \$30-special supporter. You can make a reservation by calling LEPOCO (610-691-8730), sending a check to LEPOCO, or via PayPal at [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).

Please don’t miss this opportunity to support these courageous, insightful, and inspiring musician activists.

- Nancy C. Tate

## Bike/Walk For Peace, Immigrants & Refugees: May 26<sup>th</sup>

Do you support refugee resettlement in the U.S.? Do you stand against the deportation of immigrants who have been here for years and have not committed violent crimes?

Do you enjoy a bicycle ride or a walk along the river on a weekend morning, with old friends and new?

LEPOCO’s annual Peace-A-Thon fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, starting near Sand Island in downtown Bethlehem – embarking at 9 am, after a light breakfast, body warm-up and bike checks beginning at 8:15 am.

The 10km walk and the 26km bicycle ride will both have interesting scenery along the D&L trail and local streets.

This year’s event will be a fundraiser supporting the Refugee Community Center at Church of the Mediator (25%), Grupo Apoyo e Integración Hispanoamericano (25%), and LEPOCO (50%).

Participants are asked to gather pledges from friends & family at least \$1/kilometer or by flat donation. For those not able to gather pledges, a self-donation of \$10 (or more) is suggested. Those with the highest sponsorship totals (dollars and number of supporters) will be awarded gift certificates from local organizations and businesses.

The event will be held in light or intermittent rain. In case of steady rain, gather at the LEPOCO Peace Center at 8:30 am, to plan a rain date.

- Scott Slingerland



## A Sad, But Important Commemoration

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 4:45 pm, we gathered in Payrow Plaza, to honor the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his assassination. Many assembled inside the Public Library, but some of us stood outside, with our signs ready, bundled for the cold. When Esther Lee, long-time leader of the Bethlehem Branch of the NAACP, the main sponsoring group for the gathering, and the others emerged from the library at 5 pm, it was time to march. We gathered our signs and banners and about 100 people started to walk, led by young people who carried the banner, "Honor M. L. King. End Poverty, Racism and War." This banner created by Monica McAghon, has accompanied many LEPOCO marches, and it was especially meaningful to have it accompany this march.

Surrounding us, guiding us and documenting us, were police on motorcycles and on horses, and members of the press. We walked over the Fahy Bridge, against blustery winds that threatened to destroy our messages of peace and equality, but we held on tightly and kept moving forward. Our final destination was Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park on Carlton Ave., in south Bethlehem. We arrived, singing, "We Shall Overcome," with which we also ended the event.

The speeches and songs at the park reminded us that we haven't come terribly far, since Dr. King's life was taken; that we need to continue toward his goals of freedom from injustice, war and poverty; and there's still so much more work to do. Church bells chimed, bagpipes sang a solemn "Amazing Grace," and we ended the gathering in a circle, holding hands, in song.

- Amanda Zaniesienko

## Waves of Marchers

March 24<sup>th</sup> was so far the largest of the growing protests since 17 students and teachers were murdered at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14. There have been so many inspiring and meaningful actions in the 10 weeks since that tragedy.

### Students gathered in Zuccotti Park in New York City, on March 14, as students across the U.S. walked out of their classes demanding an end to gun violence. One student's sign read, "One child is worth more than ALL the guns on earth."

### The 225 students who walked out of their classes at Pennridge High School in Perkasio, on March 14, were supported by their parents, but the school administration assigned them to Saturday detention. The first 45 served their detention on March 17. They spent their two hour in silence, setting in a circle, arms linked, with flowers in the middle of their circle. Each student taped a list of the 17 victims from Parkland to themselves and one student read those 17 names to close their detention.

### The March for Our Lives found a thousand or more marching in Allentown, led by Lehigh Valley For 2 LEPOCO Newsletter / April-May 2018

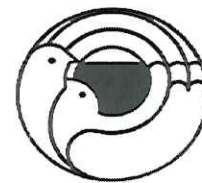
All; in Easton over 200 rallied led by Lafayette College students with support from students from Easton and Phillipsburg High Schools. In Doylestown reports said 2000 marched. Local people were among the thousand and thousands who marched in Washington, DC.

### One of the speakers in Washington, DC, on March 24 was D'Angelo McDade, a high school student from Chicago and a member of a student nonviolence group, The Peace Warriors. He said, "When will we as a nation understand that nonviolence is the way of life for a courageous people? When will we as a nation understand that we are not here to fight against one another and we are here to fight for life and peace?" He continued, "Dr. King once said, 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.' Which leads me to say that violence cannot drive out violence, only peace can do that." He closed, "As I stand before you, ...an 18-year-old from the West Side of Chicago... I come from a place where minorities are controlled by both violence and poverty...But today we say, 'No more!'"

### On Wednesday, May 16, people will march to Demand the Ban on semi-automatic assault weapons, starting at 10 am. The March to Senator Toomey's office will be in Philadelphia. For more information see DemandtheBan.org.

### One of the links between gun violence and the culture of militarism is the presence of JROTC marksmanship programs in our high schools. The young shooter at Parkland High School was taught how to shoot a lethal weapon in that high school's JROTC marksmanship program.

- compiled by Nancy Tate



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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, 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).



# Potluck/Popcorn & Politics

Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

## *"A Bold Peace: Costa Rica's Path of Demilitarization"*

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

"The money other countries spend on arms, here it's spent on roads, on running water, on electricity, on hospitals, on schools," so says Oscar Arias, former president of Costa Rica. This film is about how in a country with no military another way to live beckons to the world. Over 60 years ago Costa Rica became one of the only nations to disband their military and redirect national resources to human needs. This has earned them a number one spot on the Happy Planet Index. "A Bold Peace," is an attempt to give some well-deserved attention to the Costa Rican example.

Produced & directed by Matthew Eddy & Michael Dreiling. 89 minutes. 2016.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

*A donation of \$5 is requested (not required) since this film is expensive by P&P standards, but we felt it was important to show and discuss.*

Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm

## *"I.F. Stone's Weekly"*

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

This is a delightful short biography of a true journalism legend. He worked during another era of repression directed at the press and creatively responded to that repression by publishing his own Weekly. The film includes footage of "Izzy" speeches, often full of humor. Those who made this film available write, "Please help keep Izzy's memory alive!"

Directed by Jerry Bruck, Jr. Narrated by Tom Wicker. 59 minutes. 1973.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm

## Olga Negrón & Susie Ravitz

### *"Puerto Rico Since the Hurricane"*

A LEPOCO Potluck & Politics event at the Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse  
4116 Bath Pike (Route 512), Bethlehem (18020), 1/2 mile north of Rt. 22.

Olga Negrón is member of the Bethlehem City Council. She has been a community leader in the Lehigh Valley since the 1990s. She grew up in Puerto Rico, left when she was 21 year old, but has maintained many close ties with her family members that still live on the Island. Since Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017, Olga has been involved in organizing aid to go to the Island and in opening doors for the people who needed to find safe haven here in the Lehigh Valley. Later in June she will make her first visit to the Island since the hurricane.

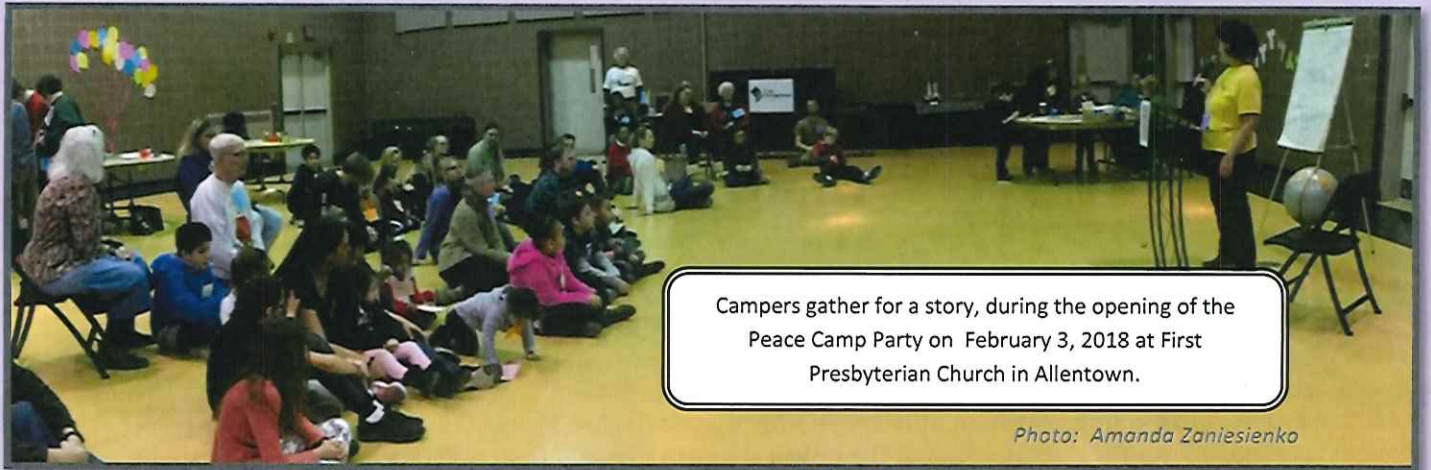
Susie Ravitz, a founding member of LEPOCO, has been visiting Vieques, Puerto Rico, regularly since the 1990s. She was involved in the successful protests against the U.S. Navy bombing of the beautiful island. She visited Vieques in late March for two weeks.

Both Olga and Susie will share what they know about the ongoing need for assistance in Puerto Rico (and here) and how people can help with that assistance.

*Please bring food to share for the Potluck Dinner at 6:30 pm.  
Discussion will start around 7 pm.*







Campers gather for a story, during the opening of the Peace Camp Party on February 3, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown.

*Photo: Amanda Zaniesienko*



Malakhi Holmes (13) and Lysis Nickens (11) holding LEPOCO's now famous banner at the end of the March to Commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - April 4, 2018  
*Organized by the Bethlehem NAACP, the march began at Payrow Plaza and proceeded to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. on Carlton Ave. Bethlehem. Photo: Susie Ravitz*



Vigil to "Extend the Olympic Truce - February 9, 2018 Ellen Buck, Monica McAgthon and Mimi Lang, holding signs outside the PPL Center, Allentown as people were arriving for a hockey game.  
*Organized by the LEPOCO Stop the Wars Committee. Photo: Susie Ravitz*



Kathy Kelly speaking on the topic "Unshackling Ourselves: Lessons from War Zones," for LEPOCO's Annual Dinner on March 17, 2018, at Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem.  
 Grace Adele Spruiell played the Celtic Harp, creating a peaceful atmosphere as guests gathered for the evening.  
 Monica McAgthon & Debbie Orben served green beans and Mexican lasagna to Joris Rosse, Susie Hall and the rest of us.  
*Photos: Susie Ravitz*



## Kathy Kelly Talks of "Acting too Big for Our Britches"

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Kathy Kelly, longtime peace activist, spoke at LEPOCO's Annual Dinner, on March 17. About 150 friends celebrated LEPOCO's 52 years of local peace and justice work. Grace Adele Spruiell entertained with Celtic harp music and Janet Ney convened the evening's proceedings. LEPOCO's Peace Singers sang several pieces, and Terry Briscoe gave a Steering Committee report.

After moving to the sanctuary, guests listened to Ted Morgan's remembrance of My Lai, Vietnam, where 502 civilians, mostly children, women, and old people, were murdered by U.S. Army troops. Ted asks for a reckoning on the moral injury that resulted from My Lai and continues with the ongoing US wars. (Read Ted's reflection, "My Lai Massacre Still Casts Shadow Over U.S. Military Operations," published at mcall.com on March 15 and as "50 Years Later, What Can We Learn from the My Lai Massacre?" at commondreams.org, on March 16.)

While introducing the song "Bread & Roses," Elizabeth Griner, a member of the Peace Singers, spoke in defense of women, especially those disrespected by powerful men. She gave special mention to U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY), who had served in Congress since 1987, notably advocating for health care reform. Rep. Slaughter died March 16.

Bob Riggs introduced Kathy Kelly. Janet Ney referenced the fact that the Annual Dinner Planning Committee had followed Bob's suggestion that we invite Kathy Kelly to speak for the dinner again (she spoke for the dinner in 2007). Janet urged others to suggest speakers for upcoming dinners.

Kelly's message of "Unshackling Ourselves: Lessons from War Zones," was heavy with stories of the heartless U.S. militarism in countries such as Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and hopeful with stories of creative nonviolent resistance. Opening her talk, Kelly imitated the Irish brogue of her mom once telling Kathy she was "acting too big for her britches" -- which turns out to be a good thing!

Exceptionalism, the idea that we are somehow different and above the moral corruption of other nations, flaws our national character, according to Kelly, who pointed to the example of Pres. Trump, in his speech before Congress, Feb. 28, 2017. The president praised Navy SEAL Ryan Owens as a hero in the fight against terrorism. Owens died in a helicopter fight in Yemen. However, nothing exceptional was mentioned about the 26 Yemeni civilians, including 10 children under the age of 13, who also died in the fight.

Kelly talked about crossings -- the perilous crossings of refugees across borders from Africa to Yemen, and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman of Saudi Arabia appropriating the title of "Arab Spring" for his own questionable ideas, crossing the globe to soon meet with Pres. Trump in Washington. Referring to the

suffering, starved, and imprisoned people of Yemen that are blockaded and regularly bombed by U.S.-backed Saudi war planes, Kelly said, "The U.S. should exceptionally listen to their cries and respond appropriately." Instead, she said Raytheon and Boeing get billions in profits as the U.S. sells more weapons to Bahrain, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

After more court and prison stories, Kelly urged us to speak out against war. Quoting the Irish barrister Noonan who successfully defended the Irish Shannon Airport anti-war activists, she said: "What's our excuse not to stop it? What will rise ya?" She said, "Listen hard for the child too hungry to cry, and be too big for your britches!" In other words, let's assume our position is slightly larger than the actual position others may think we belong in, avoid exceptionalism, and listen to the oppressed. In closing, Kelly quoted Barbara Deming: "Locked in winter, summer lies; Gather your bones together, rise!"

Following a question from Fran Dreisbach: "What keeps you going?" Kelly replied that it is young people who have invited her into their lives: Afghan young people who survey the needs of people living marginally, and who work for peace.

At a Sunday morning brunch hosted by Nancy Johnston, we heard more about the Street Kids School in Kabul, started by the Afghan Peace Volunteers.

Kelly said that in Kabul, an estimated 50,000 kids roam the city shining shoes, selling tissue or balloons, weaving rugs, going to market to scrounge scrap vegetables for their families living in mud huts with tarps. Voices for Creative Nonviolence (Kelly's organization based in Chicago) supports the Street Kids School, which gives cooking oil and rice to mothers so their kids can go to school. Other Voices' funds are used for school supplies and winter clothing. The program's annual budget is \$53,000. It only takes \$534 to fund one child's participation for a year. Without the chance for schooling, kids are prey to drug and prostitution traffickers, not to mention malnutrition, hypothermia, or early death from preventable diseases. Voices also supports the Women's Duvet Sewing Project, where 50 women sew and stuff coverlets to distribute to the needy.

You can learn more about the work of Voices for Creative Nonviolence (and make a donation through PayPal) at [www.vcnv.org](http://www.vcnv.org). You can sign up for their newsletter, order a Blue Scarf with "Border Free" embroidered in English and Dari (\$15), or make a donation by sending a check to: Voices for Creative Nonviolence, 1249 West Argyle St., #2, Chicago, IL 60640.

Many thanks to all who made LEPOCO's Annual Dinner a success -- the Peace Singers, the preparers and servers of the delicious vegetarian dinner, the supportive people who set up the banners, prepped and cleared plates and tables, tended to tickets and literature and items for sale. Many thanks to those who stayed to clean up and package leftover food! Many hands make light work.

- Monica McAgnon



## Teaching Peace – all the World Around

Last night the television news featured a “protest-er” holding a sign declaring that, “Hate is not born – It is taught!” Well, the same goes for Peace – It is taught!

This is why there is, and why we need, Peace Camp.

It is a place to learn kinder ways of living with each other; a place to teach alternatives to bullying, aggression, hate speech and intolerance; a place for children to be safe, make new friends, and have fun; a place for children to learn cooperative songs, games, art, dance, stories and ideas; a place to practice some new skills for peace. There are healthy snacks too.

Come bring your kids, your grandkids, your neighbor’s kids, ALL kids, and yourself, to Peace Camp. It’s our 29<sup>th</sup> year – we’re getting good at it!

There’s PEACE to be learned and practiced!

Peace Camp 2018 will be July 23-27, at the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, 9 am to 12 noon, each day. Adult (over 18) volunteers need child abuse clearances, but they’re easy to get and we’ll help you. Don’t miss out on this very interactive week of learning and fun for children, ages 5-14, who have at least completed kindergarten, to kids who volunteer – even into their 80’s.

A registration form for camp is enclosed (let us know if you can use more copies). Also enclosed is a volunteer interest form to complete and return to the LEPOCO office. There will be a training session for volunteers before Peace Camp.

- Maggie Brown

## Earth Day 2018

Earth Day events took place on or about April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Lehigh Valley again this year. While it’s good that such Earth Day celebrations continue, there was a fragmented feel to it all. Pockets of connection to the planet and sustainability, yes, but no sense of the assertiveness and action that one might expect of an event created by an environmental movement to focus attention, to mobilize the public, to place demands on politicians, all to protect Mother Earth.

Earth Day was, in places, stream clean-ups, craft fairs, food events, a series of band performances, screenings of films, arrays of tables and booths. The event that was most in keeping with an Earth Day mobilization of the community and with raising sustainability awareness was not even billed as an Earth Day event. That was the second annual Sustainable Living Expo at Palisades High School in Kintnersville on April 13<sup>th</sup>. People attended eager to find out more about sustainable living. Good work Palisades High School Key Club, Partnering with Youth And Community (PYC), and Peace-Youth!

6 LEPOCO Newsletter / April-May 2018

The Alliance for Sustainable Communities-Lehigh Valley published its *Sustainable Lehigh Valley (SLV)* booklet on Earth Day for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and held its Release Party in conjunction with the re-opening of the Lehigh Valley Social Impact Center at its new space at the Touchstone Café in Bethlehem. This year, local college students and recent graduates were invited to share their perspectives in the “Voices of the Valley” section of the SLV booklet. Their concerns were many and deeply felt.

The updated “Directory of Organizations That Promote Sustainable Communities” in the SLV booklet helps keep channels open between the people of the Lehigh Valley, its communities, and nonprofit organizations, all working in their own ways to change the system. (Copies of the SLV booklet are available at LEPOCO and at many other locations throughout the Lehigh Valley.)

- Martin Boksenbaum

## Leafleting on Tax Day

On Tax Day, Tuesday, April 17, twenty LEPOCO members handed out leaflets at post offices in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton. The weather was unseasonably chilly, with intermittent snow flurries. Our leaflet (from the War Resisters League) pointed out how much of our tax money goes for military spending and called for the government to fund instead non-military human needs. As expected the public’s reception was mixed, but a large number of people took the leaflet and expressed agreement with its message.

You will find your very own copy of the Tax Day flyer enclosed with this newsletter mailing. Please read it, use it to compose letters to Congress or to the editor, and share it with friends and neighbors.

- Mick Baylor

## First Tuesday Book Group

As this newsletter is being prepared the First Tuesday Book Group will be discussing, “The Devil’s Highway: A True Story,” by Luis Alberto Urrea, on May 1. The group will meet next after that on June 5, to discuss, “We Kill Because We Can: From Soldiering to Assassination in the Drone Age,” by Laurie Calhoun. This book discusses the moral, psychological, and cultural impact that drone killings are having on modern society.

The Book Group meets at the home of Carmen and Bob Riggs in Bethlehem. Call Mimi Lang (group convener) at 610-866-2407 or LEPOCO (610-691-8730) for directions or more information.





# Bits & Pieces

Tuesday, May 15, is the **Primary Election** in Pennsylvania. We will all have important positions to vote for, including our representatives in the U.S. Congress. Please do your research and vote.

On Saturday, May 5, there will be a **Conference to Commemorate the Action of the Catonsville Nine** in 1968, at the Catonsville Presbyterian Church, 1400 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, Maryland (21228). The program will include speakers and panels (with Amy Goodman, Ann Wright, Kathy Kelly, Frida Berrigan, and more), a dedication of the Catonsville Nine Historical Marker, and a dramatic reading of "The Trial of the Catonsville Nine." May 17 is the actual 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catonsville Nine action where nine Catholic activists burned draft files with home-made napalm to protest the Vietnam War. For more information about the conference contact the church at 410-747-6180. Advance registration is not required.

Seven Catholic plowshares activists were detained early the morning of April 5, at the Kings Bay Naval Station, in Georgia. They had entered the base the night of April 4, calling themselves **Kings Bay Plowshares**, the seven chose to act on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Carrying hammers and baby bottles of their own blood, the seven attempted to convert weapons of mass destruction. The Kings Bay base is the largest nuclear submarine based in the world. Those detained were: Elizabeth McAlister, Steve Kelly SJ, Carmen Trotta, Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Mark Colville, Patrick O'Neill. This is the latest of 100 similar actions around the world beginning in 1980 at King of Prussia PA. For more information see [www.nuclearresister.org](http://www.nuclearresister.org).

**Kathy Kelly**, the speaker at LEPOCO's dinner in March was interviewed recently by John Pearce of WDIY. The interview will air on Thursday, May 31, 6-7 pm, on Lehigh Valley Discourse, at 88.1 FM and at [www.wdiy.org](http://www.wdiy.org).

June 11-12, there will be **Korea Peace Network DC Advocacy Days**. It will be an opportunity to strategize with and learn from others advocating peace on the Korean peninsula, and also carry a pro-peace and diplomacy message to Congress. For more information or to register see [www.peaceaction.org/korea-peace](http://www.peaceaction.org/korea-peace).

**Thank you** to all the folks who helped staff LEPOCO tables at Earth Day events in the Lehigh Valley: Amanda Zaniesienko, Dalton Young, Mary Kay O'Donnell, Tom Stinnett, Carol & Mick Baylor, Nancy Tate, Terry Briscoe, and Diane Dilendik.

At the **Annual Dinner** in March, **Elizabeth Griner** gave a lovely introduction for two LEPOCO Peace Singer songs.

*Our songs tonight are of movement, courage, and motivation. They focus on women because people with disbelief saw that proofs of misconduct and a disre-*

*spect of women made no difference in the November 2016 election of the president. Women around the world live in war zones. They continue to be molested, put down, ignored, mistreated, etc., because they do not count in this society. That November election was a wake-up call for many. People realized that if there is to be the "perfect union" that Rep. Louise Slaughter, who died yesterday, was striving for; there must be a change. And each woman must be the one to take action and make that change.*

*So, 2017 has seen women spotlighting men who have used their power to disrespect women. Women mobilized, began to not only speak up, but shout out about injustices. The swell of commitment to this cause enabled many to say, "Never again," and to migrate from quiet acquiescence to speaking out, calling for justice and legislation, and running for offices all over the country.*

*The Bread & Roses song which sprang from labor disputes between 1910 and 1912, asks for wages that provide not only for basic needs, but also for spiritual needs.*

*Our next song is a prayer for a land where hearts are opened, there are no lies, people do not live in fear, and money is used to uplift all. It gives us a glimpse of what women and LEPOCO members are working toward - a Higher Ground...*

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

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

**Thursday, May 3, 4 pm:** **LEPOCO Peace-A-Thon Planning Committee** working/calling meeting at the Peace Center.

**Mondays, May 14 & June 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.

**Monday, May 21, 10 am:** **Peace Camp Work Meeting** at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

**Thursday, May 31, 10 am:** **Peace Camp Planning Meeting** at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

**Tuesdays, June 5 & July 3, 6 pm:** **LEPOCO Book Group** meets at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem. For details see the complete reading list for 2018 published in the January-February newsletter.

**Tuesday, August 7, 11 am:** **Lehigh Valley Committee Against State Killing 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 LEPOCO Peace Singers, the Stop the Wars Committee, the Newsletter Planning Meetings, or any other committees, 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

Karla Lara Concert  
Peaceathon

### Page 2

Remembering  
MLK

March 4 Our Lives

### Page 3

P & Ps

### Page 4

Photos! Photos!

### Pages 5

Annual Dinner  
Report

### Page 6

Peace Camp  
Earth Day  
Tax Day  
Book Group

### Page 7

Bits & Pieces  
Calendar

## Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

May 10 & June 14

4:30-5:30 pm

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

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

Call LEPOCO 610-691-8730 for more  
information.

Saturday, May 26

## LEPOCO Peaceathon

Join the Annual Walk & Ride for  
Peace and Justice

For more information see page 1.

## Stand Up & Speak Out!

May 26 & June 30 / 12-2 pm

*Protest:*

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

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

Thursday, May 17

7:00 pm

*"Live Life Singing:*

*The Joyful Resistance from Honduras"*

Karla Lara & José Antonio

in concert at

Godfrey Daniels, Bethlehem

See page 1 for more information.