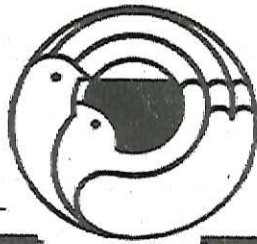


April-May
2019
Vol. 54 No. 3



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

*Notes: March 21, ASG Meeting with
Rep. Susan Wild*

*Attended by Martin Boksenbaum, Consilia Karli,
Bob Riggs, Susie Ravitz, Nancy Tate, & Kathryn Hoffman.
Organized by the Americas Solidarity Group of LEPOCO.
Notes prepared by Kathryn Hoffman.*

Rep. Wild was running late and our meeting had to be abbreviated, as others were waiting to meet the Congresswoman. We did get to the items on the agenda and left information on those items with Rep. Wild.

Nancy congratulated Rep. Wild on her winning the seat in Congress, and invited her to our Annual Dinner. (She had other obligations on the weekend.)

On House Joint Resolution 37, removing U.S. forces from Yemen, which Susan supported, without support for a hostile amendment, she stated that it will come back to the House after the Senate vote, and it is uncertain whether Trump will veto it. (Ultimately the House passed the resolution on a second vote, but POTUS vetoed it on April 16. The effort now is to override the veto.)

Rep. Wild was asked (as it was in the news that week) about the reports on 'black sites' where immigrant children are being held, without knowledge of their families or lawyers. She responded that she has contacts at KidsPeace locally, and will investigate whether KidsPeace is one of those sites.

Consilia asked about the money Trump wants to use for "The Wall." Susan believes it will be tied up legally, if he persists on his own with it. Consilia also introduced Rep. Wild to Berta Cáceres, murdered in Honduras for her environmental and human rights advocacy. (Rep. Hank Johnson again introduced the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, HR-1945, on March 28. Rep. Wild can be urged to join the 53 other representatives signed on as co-sponsors.)

On Venezuela and more possible U.S. interference, even military intervention: Rep. Wild was urged to support the legislation introduced by Rep. Cicilline (HR-1004). She was glad to receive information from the group on Venezuela and positions that, while not supporting Maduro, also criticize the current U.S. interventionist positions. Martin spoke about the disastrous history of intervention by our country in Central and South America. Susan responded that the "downlow" briefings she has gotten with Elliot Abrams have not "been helpful."

Bob addressed the last agenda item of nuclear weapons and HR-1249, the Tulsi Gabbard legislation opposing the resumption of our making weapons banned by the INF Treaty. He asked Rep. Wild to

become a co-sponsor. He also sought her support for Sen. Warren's NO First Strike legislation. Bob referred to the upgrading of our nuclear arsenal, begun under Obama, at a cost of \$1.7 trillion and the danger of leaving the START Treaty. He asked that she assist in finding ways to support the UN nuclear ban treaty.

Susie, raised several issues around Vieques, Puerto Rico, including information about poor conditions on the island post Hurricane Maria. Susan responded that she will inquire about this with her colleague, Rep. Nydia Velasquez.

We thanked her, as she prepared to greet her next visitors.



Join us on Saturday, May 25, near Sand Island in Bethlehem for the annual Peace-A-Thon walk and bike ride.

New routes this year! For the walkers, we have a new 8 km (5 mile) route that includes urban streets, bridges, and nature trails. For the cyclists, we have a new, challenging, and fun 29 km (18 mile) route that follows the D&L trail east to Freemansburg, takes to the road for the hills of Lower Saucon Township, and returns along the extension of the South Bethlehem Greenway. Road bikes are reasonable, but hybrid or gravel bikes may be the most comfortable.

New co-beneficiary this year: CeaseFirePA! Your pledges support both LEPOCO and CeaseFirePA! This year, we'll be stepping and pedaling to support two great organizations. You probably know about LEPOCO, but CeaseFirePA is a statewide organization working with mayors, police chiefs, faith leaders, community organizations, and individual Pennsylvanians to take a stand against gun violence.

More about the day! The walk/bike ride will depart at 9 am, but arrive as early as 8:15 for delicious snacks, a group body warm-up/stretch, and to get your bike safety check.

Use the enclosed pledge sheet to gather support for your participation and join us to move our bodies for health and to share some peace. I hope to see you there.

- Scott Slingerland

TMI +40 & the Efforts to Resurrect Nuclear Power

"It's no worse than a chest X-ray." That was the soothing mantra the nuclear industry urged us to keep in mind forty years ago last month in the wake of the release of radiation from the "incident" at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. After spokespeople for the nuclear industry and the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission repeatedly attempted to downplay the seriousness of the meltdown, while issuing conflicting reports about the amount of radiation released, the state's governor finally ordered a voluntary evacuation of pregnant women and pre-school age children living within a five-mile radius of the Three Mile Island facility, a zone that he soon extended to 20 miles. Fear was palpable and many in the Lehigh Valley evacuated.

Now, in the age of global warming and climate breakdown, we are urged to re-embrace nuclear power as the "carbon free" solution to our energy needs. Across the country, indeed across the world, the nuclear power industry and its lobbyists are promoting nuclear energy as a "green" solution to our energy needs. The Pennsylvania legislature is currently taking up House Bill 11, the "Keep Powering Pennsylvania Act," which offers the commercial nuclear industry up to half a billion dollars per year in the form of a "rescue" package, paid for by consumers, to keep Pennsylvania's five nuclear plants operating. The bill would allow Pennsylvania's three nuclear power companies to join the state's Alternative Energy tier (together with wind and solar) as "zero-emissions" energy suppliers and require utilities and other retail sellers of electricity to buy half their power from this source.

This hand-out comes after taxpayers have previously paid billions to subsidize the nuclear power industry for construction cost overruns and, more recently, to keep nuclear power competitive in the "deregulated" energy market. Since TMI, there have been much more severe accidents at Chernobyl (1986) and at Fukushima Daiichi (2011). The long-term disposal of nuclear waste and the decommissioning of the plants remain unsolved problems. Wouldn't it make much more sense to invest in renewable forms of non-carbon energy, such as solar and wind, rather than nuclear power with all its costs, risks and long-term consequences?

- Mick Baylor

A Review - Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment

Reading Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's book about our gun culture and the Second Amendment is like opening a Pandora's Box. The Second Amendment, adopted in 1791, provided for, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of people

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to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." James Madison's original proposal included some 20 amendments (many of which were rejected by Congress), but then went on to become the Bill of Rights. One Madison addition to the second amendment, had stipulated that persons religiously opposed to bearing arms would not be required to serve in the military.

Dunbar-Ortiz begins by relating her early experience with, and adoption of, guns as part of her indigenous life in Louisiana. She went on to acknowledge the extent to which the Second Amendment "codified a culture of violence that continues to undergird our country's complicated racial history and militarism."

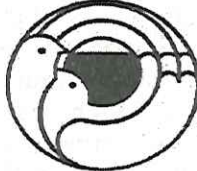
She makes connections between the settlers who destroyed indigenous communities and the rise of the alt-right, as well as slave patrols that terrorized black people, and contemporary police shootings of unarmed people.

The author points out that, "The kind of militias and gun rights of the Second Amendment had long existed in the colonies and were expected to continue fulfilling two primary roles in the United States: destroying Native communities in the armed march to possess the continent, and brutally subjugating the enslaved African population." She demonstrates that the violence sanctioned by the Second Amendment was a key factor in transforming America into a "militaristic-capitalist" powerhouse.

Instead of obsessing over the National Rifle Association's use of fear and lies as fundraising tools, Dunbar-Ortiz suggests that gun control advocates

(continued on page 7)

Newsletter of LEPOCO
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern
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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, Margot Hillman, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Nancy Johnston, Christine Loch, Dan Miller, Janet Ney, Jim Orben, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), and Amanda Zaniesienko (ex-officio).

Popcorn & Politics

Friday, May 3rd, 7 pm
"The Garden"

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

The documentary, "The Garden," tells the story of a large urban farm, backroom deals, land developers, green politics, money, poverty, power, and racial discord. It raises crucial and challenging questions about liberty, equality and justice for the poorest and most vulnerable among us.

Directed by Scott Hamilton Kennedy. 80 minutes. 2008.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, June 7th, 7 pm
"Carla's Song"

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

Carla's Song is a British film set in 1987, that tells the story of love in a time of war – the Contra War in Nicaragua. The plot follows the relationship between a Scottish bus driver, and Carla, a Nicaraguan refugee living in Glasgow. The film won the Coral Award for Best Work of a Non-Latin American Director on a Latin America Subject at the 1996 Havana Film Festival.

Directed by Ken Loach. Written by Paul Laverty. 126 minutes. 1997.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

More Upcoming films in P&P/First Friday Film series: July 5 - "The Visitor";
August 2 - "The Man Who Saved the World"; September 6 - "Okinawa: The Afterburn."



Teaching Peace; Making a Difference

*Teaching peace, all the world around,
You and me, every city, every town,
One by one in our work and in our play,*

We are teaching peace by what we do and what we say.

Teaching Peace, a song by Red Grammar, describes what we do at Peace Camp. Each year, in our planning meetings, training workshop, and especially at camp itself, we try to build the community we wish for the world. It's a community of respect, inclusion, and fun!

*If you think you're too small to make a difference,
You've never been in bed with a mosquito.*

These lines introduce a song by Donna Hartmann. Our campers may think they are small, but at Peace Camp they can learn how they can and do make a difference and they help teach us how we can make a difference. I often think the volunteers at camp, both adult and youth, learn as much as the campers!

Young People Making Peace Summer Day Camp 2019, will be held Monday to Friday, July 22 through July 26, 9 am to noon, each day, at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. We are looking for campers (children who have finished kindergarten through seventh grade) and for volunteers (youth who have finished eighth grade or above and adults). We also need you to help spread the word to children, youth, parents

and other adults who might be interested in being involved. For camper registration forms, volunteer interest forms, or more information, please contact LEPOCO.

- Margot Hillman

Protesting on Tax Day

Monday, April 15th - Tax Day - was a chilly, blustery day in the Lehigh Valley. The weather did not hinder LEPOCO members from protesting the extent to which our taxes fund the military rather than the needs of the community. LEPOCO established a presence at four area post offices – Allentown, Bethlehem, Palmer Township and Easton – where members held up banners and distributed leaflets as patrons entered to pay their taxes. Our locally produced leaflet stressed that when the militarized Department of Homeland Security is included, 62 cents out of every tax dollar is spent for the military (not counting the care of veterans). The banner displayed at the Bethlehem post office summed up our message: "Taxes for the Community Not for the War Machine." Those engaged in the action received many favorable responses from taxpayers. Even taxpayers who offered no support were made aware that some members of the community disagree with the militarized priorities of the government and want to see human needs funded.

- Mick Baylor



Photos: Susie Ravitz



LEPOCO Annual Dinner

March 23, 2019
Cathedral Church
of the Nativity,
Bethlehem



Photo: Susie Ravitz



Photo: Janet Ney



Photo: Scott Slingerland

1. Martha Christine resting before facilitating the dinner.
2. Marcie Lightwood introducing the Peace Singers.
3. Jeff Vitelli singing with the Peace Singers.
4. Diane Dilendik drying cilantro for the corn.
5. Debbie & Jim Orben with Rick Dow in the kitchen preparing the food.
6. Scott Slingerland announcing the raffle.
7. Grace Spruiell playing Celtic Harp.
8. Gwen Pease, Alice Rader, and Ron Brown being served dinner by Monica McAghon and Rita Corriel.
9. Birdseye view of the room.
10. Frida Berrigan - "Nuclear Weapons Ruined My Life: They're Probably Ruining Yours Too."

We Worked So Hard for Nuclear Abolition

Author and activist Frida Berrigan recounted growing up as the daughter of frequently-incarcerated anti-nuclear demonstrators during her humorous and sobering talk at the LEPOCO Annual Dinner on March 23, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Berrigan's parents, Philip Berrigan and Elizabeth McAlister, working with the Plowshares movement, entered U.S. military installations to symbolically destroy nuclear weapons by bashing them with hammers and dousing them with blood.

The religious obligation to protest omnicide motivated Berrigan's parents, an excommunicated Catholic priest and nun, to commit civil disobedience that resulted in long prison sentences despite the toll separation took on their children.

"We love our children and all children and this is why we are in resistance," Berrigan, a mother of three, said her parents explained.

Berrigan, then six years old, and her brother visited their father in prison just before Christmas in 1980. She recalled that her brother told her father his anti-nuclear action was the best Christmas present he could have given the children because he was attempting to bring peace to the world, as Jesus had.

For Phil Berrigan's last Plowshares action in 1999, he served a thirty-month term, including three weeks in solitary confinement starting after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. His family learned that he was in solitary confinement when McAlister stopped receiving letters from her husband.

"Political prisoners all over the country were moved into solitary confinement," the day of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Berrigan said.

Liz McAlister sought to prepare her elementary-aged children for her to hammer and bloody a B-52 bomber at Griffith Air Force Base in Rome, NY, by having them watch the televised film, *The Day After*. Berrigan recalled this as a power play by her mother and noted that it was the only television movie they were allowed to watch. McAlister spent two years incarcerated in West Virginia. The family visited her for a long weekend each month.

Liz McAlister, now 79 years old, is currently serving what could be a 25-year prison sentence after being charged with three federal felonies and one misdemeanor for symbolically converting nuclear submarines at the Kings Bay Naval Base in Georgia. McAlister awaits a trial date. Her defense attorney hopes to use arguments from the controversial Religious Freedom Restoration Act in court. McAlister may receive weekly fifteen-minute phone calls and postcards from supporters.

Reflecting on her family's sacrifices, Berrigan noted that nuclear weapons remain a hazard to life on earth. She said she sees hope in the 2017 Nobel Peace

Prize being awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. However, she pointed out that the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has advanced from twelve minutes to midnight on the date of her birth in 1974 to its present position at 11:58 p.m.

"We all worked so hard for nuclear abolition and here we still are," Berrigan said.

- Sharlee DiMenichi

Frida Berrigan writes the "Little Insurrections" blog at WagingNonviolence.org and is the author of *It Runs in the Family: On Being Raised by Radicals and Growing into Rebellious Motherhood*, published by OR Books.

On April 4, Berrigan published a column at [Waging Nonviolence.org](http://WagingNonviolence.org) that is basically the talk she gave at the LEPOCO dinner, "Nuclear weapons ruined my life, and I wouldn't have it any other way." It is an inspiring read for those who were unable to attend the dinner and for those who did attend - with lots of wonderful photos.

To support Liz McAlister, write a note in blue or black ink on a pre-stamped 4-inch-by-five-inch postcard. Include your full name and return address and send to: Elizabeth McAlister #015633 Glynn County Detention Center, 100 Sulphur Springs Road, Brunswick, GA 31520.

You can read updates about the Kings Bay Plowshares at kingsbayplowshares7.org.

The winners of the LEPOCO Art Raffle prizes were drawn at the Annual Dinner. They were: Abebe Hailye of Allentown, won the Turned Wooden Salad Bowl by Lee Buck;

Maggie Golden of Bethlehem, won the Hand-Crocheted Afghan by Michelle Sheehan;

Martha Christine of Bethlehem won the Quilt by Ellen Buck & Romaine Laury;

Steve Kraft of Bethlehem, won the Lidded Coffee/Tea Jar with Scoop & Four Matching Mugs from Sommerville Pottery, created by Monica Sommerville;

Joyce & Ian Erlandsen of Emmaus, won the Gift Certificate from Jumbar's Restaurant & Bakery;

Ronnie Arena of Coopersburg, won the Gift Certificate toward Admission to the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival;

Patrick Roxberry of Albrightsville, won the Silk Tie Braided Mat by Ronnie Arena.

Thank you all those who provided prizes and to everyone who supported the Art Raffle by buying tickets.

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.

Our Visit to the Museum of Lynching in Alabama

This past holiday season, my brother, husband, and I went to Montgomery, Alabama, to experience the Civil Rights trail. We had decided to make this trip on the spur of the moment, having just recently read Bryan Stevenson's, "Just Mercy." Then coincidentally, I saw a news report on the "museum of lynching," where Stevenson was serving as a guide to NBC News anchor Lester Holt, when they unexpectedly found out that one of Holt's ancestors had been among the named victims. The camera captured an emotional moment that could have become rancorous, Stevenson instead messaged that there was a story to be told here and that America had to own up to this part of its history. The rave reviews of the new museum cinched our decision to visit sooner rather than later.

We had come of age in Vietnam during the war. At that time, U.S. intervention with its troop buildup, bombings, and battles lost and won, virtually obliterated news of the growing civil rights movement in the U.S. There were only brief allusions to things not being all well because of racial issues. As a result, we missed civil rights as an important part of President Lyndon Johnson's legacy and of U.S. history. As Americans now, we wanted to understand more.

The "museum of lynching" actually has two components: the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The Museum immerses you in the experience of slavery and its tragic repercussions over generations, while the Memorial leads you into a solemn time and space to imagine a truth never told, to acknowledge and reflect upon the cruel racial terror that cries out for atonement and rehabilitation.

The setup for visiting was well organized, with a shuttle running frequently between the two sites and a proud and helpful staff. We ended up visiting each place twice as the first time turned out to be like an introduction that warranted a return to get a more in-depth feel for what lay beyond the first impression.

The Legacy museum is located on a block of old warehouses. Its dark narrow entrance conveys an atmosphere of suffocation and anguish, probably similar to how an enslaved person would feel when first forced onto a crowded ship headed for a miserable unknown. "I'm scared, I'm scared," said a little voice behind me. Then the floor opens to an overstimulation of educational choices to cover the breadth and depth of the legacy of slavery.

What impressed me most was a station in the middle of the floor, where faces of prison inmates are displayed on computer screens, looking as if they've been waiting for you. Next to each is a telephone -- the same communication setup as in a prison visit. You lift the phone, and the inmate on the screen starts telling you his story in a matter-of-fact way. Each story is dif-

ferent and personal despite an underlying pattern that binds the narrative together.

I also decided to check out the story on Stone Mountain because of the recent debate on removing Confederate monuments. I learned that it was the site of the KKK's rebirth in 1915 and that it is still being protected by the Georgia constitution. I also dropped by the rooms showing video recordings of civil rights events. It was a lot to digest, so I took a break at the museum's cafe and gift shop (with an impressive book collection) in the adjacent building. When I went back to the museum, the video display by the ticket line caught my eye. It described the dynamics and growth of the slave trade, a red amoebic mass spreading like a disease. How could I have missed that?

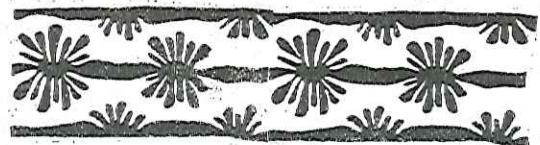
Just a few miles away, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice was a calm contrast on a soberly landscaped mound overlooking Montgomery. We were cautioned from the beginning to be respectful of the place and of the "history of slavery." Upon entering the memorial grounds, I was attracted by a circle of life-size half-naked human sculptures posing like a modern ballet ensemble. It was only when I came closer that I saw the chains that linked them, the message of inescapability all the more poignant from their crying, but voiceless mouths.

Rows upon rows of coffins, all the same except for the names inscribed on each one, hang vertically above you in a stark hallway as you descend a slight slope towards an opening. Around you, just muffled comments, sighs and whispers. Then the walkway opens up. On one side is a wall with terse descriptions of lynching events, so many that you may feel unable to take it all in. On the other side is a wall with a curtain of water gently rustling down over sayings of wisdom.

Towards the exit of the memorial stood another set of life-size human sculptures, this time in more formal attire, looking tired but determined, perhaps symbols of obstinate resilience in righting a wrong. Our visit ended with a message of hope. In a quiet area lie many coffins, stacked as if waiting to be taken away. They are for other counties or states to take when they arrive at acceptance of what has happened in their territories, and to continue the healing...

This trip was very impactful for all three of us. And not only us, but also other visitors we encountered and interacted with, including people from other countries like France, Canada, India, the Middle East, and Asia. Our conversations revolved continuously about what we had just seen, heard or discovered. Our thoughts acquired another dimension. And we all agreed that this sense of place was priceless, you just had to be here.

- My Lien Nguyen



Bits & Pieces

☯ Thank you to the people who have helped with LEPOCO events, including the monthly second Thursday Peace Vigil, Earth Day fairs, and Tax Day leafletting: Ellen Buck, Carol Baylor, Amanda Zaniesienko, Phil Reiss, Nancy Tate, Monica McAgdon, Susie Ravitz, Bernie Berg, Tom Stinnett, Stefan Rogers, Margot Hillman, Mick Baylor, Jeff Vitelli, Dan Miller, Kate Rezelman, Barbara Diamond, Terry Briscoe, Dustin Smith, Christine Loch.

☯ Tuesdays with Toomey continues every week, noon-1pm, outside the office of one of our Pennsylvania senators, Pat Toomey, at 1150 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown (18103). This weekly vigil/demonstration is a powerful witness confronting the senator. New and experienced participants are welcome. Most weeks a speaker addresses a national issue that needs the senator's attention.

☯ The Easton NAACP and others continue their series of panels on Criminal Justice Reform in the Prison System with a program on "Incarceration," featuring John Wetzel, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Joe Welsh, attorney, and Bonita Crowe, former employee of Northampton County. This program will be held on Thursday, May 16, at 7 pm, at Northampton Community College, Bethlehem (18020).

☯ "Sakura: Requiem for Hiroshima & Nagasaki," was presented at Moravian College and at Touchstone Theatre in early April. Through dance, poetry, and visual images, the performance by Keiin Yoshimura asks the world to hand down the event (the destruction by the atomic bombs) and conveys the meaninglessness of war. The program was a beautiful requiem and a call for peace. (The symbol of the suffering and grief of the people is the cherry blossom sakura.) We can be grateful to the college and the theatre for bringing Keiin Yoshimura to Bethlehem for her premier U.S. performance.

☯ Joe Cirincione, of the Ploughshares Fund, was interviewed on DemocracyNow.org, on April 5th. "All the arrows are pointing in the wrong direction, so nuclear storm clouds are gathering.

"For example, John Bolton, the national security adviser, has been very successful in sabotaging talks with North Korea. The one benefit of the Trump presidency might be that he could negotiate a solid deal with Kim Jong-un... He (Bolton) has killed the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty..."

After describing more about both of these developments, Cirincione says, "This is the kind of Cold War policy that we thought was behind us. We thought the arms race was over. It's not over. We are in a new arms race. Every single nuclear-armed country is building new nuclear weapons and heading towards a confrontation point. You've got to be a real optimist to think that you can keep thousands of nuclear weapons in fallible human hands indefinitely and something terrible is not going to happen. I am very worried about the direction of the arms race, the direction of our policies.



A Review: *Loaded*

(continued from page 2)

would be well-served to spend more time on constitutional questions. "Perhaps reverence for the Second Amendment and the privileging of individual rights over collective rights, not the NRA, are the source of the problems with enacting firearms regulations."

Dunbar-Ortiz's unhealthy relationship with guns ended after two years. America's has lasted a lot longer; but the powerful movement begun by the youthful survivors of the Stoneman Douglas high school shooting has provided a reason for cautious optimism.

James Tracy, co-author of "Hillbilly Nationalists, Urban Race Rebels, & Black Power," said: "Just what did the founding fathers intend the Second Amendment to do? Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's answer to that question will unsettle liberal gun control advocates and open-carry aficionados alike. She follows the blood-stains of today's mass shootings back to the slave patrols and Indian Wars. There are no easy answers here, just the tough reckoning with history needed to navigate ourselves away from a future filled with more tragedies."

- Bob Riggs

Editor's Note: "Loaded" was discussed by the LEPOCO's First Tuesday Book Group at their April meeting. Min Jin Lee's "Pachinko," will be discussed at the group's May 7th meeting. A complete listing of the 2019 reading list for the group was included with the Jan.-Feb. issue of this newsletter, or you can contact LEPOCO for a copy of the list and more information.

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

- Monday, May 6, 11 am: Stop the Wars Committee meets at the Anatolian Kitchen, 3016 Linden St., Bethlehem.
- Tuesdays, May 7 & June 4, 6 pm: LEPOCO Book Group meets at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem.
- Monday, May 13, 3:30 pm: Peace Camp 2019 Planning Meeting, LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.
- Mondays, May 13 & June 10, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meetings at the Peace Center. All members & friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are discussed & planned.
- Tuesday, May 14, 4-6 pm: Peaceathon Planning Committee work/calling night/meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.
- Thursday, June 6, 12:30 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meetings 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 Peace Singers, Annual Dinner Planning Committee, Newsletter Planning Group, the 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

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Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

May 9 & June 13

4:30-5:30 pm

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

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

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

Sat., May 25

LEPOCO's Annual Peace-A-Thon

Walking & Biking for nonviolence
at home & abroad to benefit:

LEPOCO Peace Center
& CeaseFire PA

See page 1 & enclosed pledge sheet.

Peace Camp 2019:

Young People Making Peace Summer Day Camp July 22-26

First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

For children ages 5-13 who have completed
kindergarten through 7th grade.

(See page 1 or contact LEPOCO,
610-691-8730, for a registration form.)

Stand Up & Speak Out!

(Last Saturdays of month)

May 25 & June 29: 12 - 2 pm

Protest:

Horsham Drone Command Center
(Rt. 611, Horsham)

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