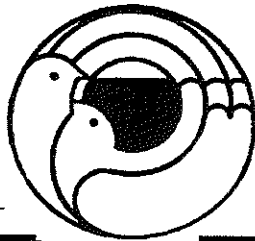


September  
2021  
Vol. 56 No. 4



# Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

## Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

### The IPCC's "Red Flag" Warning

In early August, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its sixth report. The first three words of the report, eight years in the making, approved by 195 governments, and based on the work of leading climate scientists, are: "It is unequivocal." That is, there can be no doubt that climate change is here now; it is affecting every part of the globe's land, sea and air; it is certainly caused by human behavior; and it is happening faster than scientists previously predicted. The report also makes clear that unless we take immediate action far worse is coming.

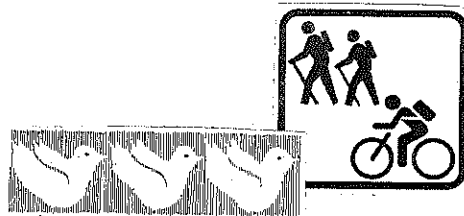
For most LEPOCO members and friends, the report confirms the recent evidence before our eyes: "more intense and more frequent" weather extremes - heat waves, drought and wildfires in the West and the Mediterranean basin, hurricanes and torrential rains producing floods in the South and in Europe and Asia. We also know that sea levels are rising (20 cm. so far); oceans are more acidic and oxygen-depleted, suffocating the seas.

The rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels since the onset of the Industrial Revolution has been massive. The report finds that since 1850 humanity has emitted about 2,400 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Greenhouse gas emissions produced by burning fossil fuels (not least by our gigantic military establishment) as well as deforestation has already brought about one degree Celsius of global heating. We are quickly closing in on the 1.5C goal agreed to in the Paris Climate Agreement. The IPCC report finds that, whatever reductions are made, we will certainly reach the 1.5C mark in the next two decades. However unlikely, the report's scientists cannot exclude major "tipping points" that might make life worse very quickly - the collapse of polar ice caps, the Amazon rain forest, or Atlantic Ocean currents. If nothing substantial is done to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, things get very bad. The report's projections consider what might happen with 2C, 3C, even 4C or 5C of warming. The latter hypotheticals can be described as apocalyptic.

The positive message of the report is that there is still a slim chance to limit global warming to 1.5C. But, the report cautions, this will require "immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions" in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. So far and despite lots of green rhetoric, there is little evidence that the world community has the political will to tackle climate change. Most governments equivocate or delay adopting the changes necessary to save the planet from more severe damage. Individuals can change their personal behavior and must begin now to

plan how they will adapt to the worsening climate. Above all, however, we need immediate collective action to get to net-zero emissions as soon as possible. The Pew Research Center reports that one in 10 Americans has contacted an elected official to urge them to act on climate change. We need to step up the pressure in a massive way.

- Mick Baylor



### Autumn Bike/Walk-A-Thon

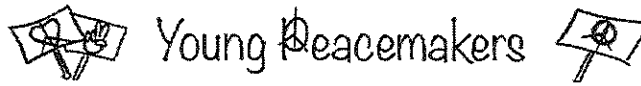
LEPOCO's Bike/Walk-a-Thon will take place this year on Saturday, October 9, in hopes of better walking/biking weather. (In recent years the Bike/Walk-a-Thon has been held in late May.) As in the past, flyers for the event are included in this newsletter so **PLAN AHEAD**. Talk to co-workers/friends/family members who can sponsor you - let's go outside of LEPOCO members for sponsorship. Don't be shy - most people you know want to support peace and justice work.

Scott Slingerland has planned a new bike route, taking rail-trails and back roads for a 23-mile route with **NO** big hills! Walkers will start at our new office at Rosemont Lutheran Church and walk through lovely West Side neighborhoods to the Lehigh River Canal Towpath and back on the South Bethlehem Greenway. A shuttle back to the church will be available from the parking lot near the tennis courts on Sand Island. If walkers take the shuttle, the route will be 4.5 miles (6.5 miles if you walk back to the church).

The Church's pastor, Jack Steltzer, is planning to get sponsors and bike with us - let's turn out with friends and family for a lovely walk or ride in crisp fall weather. It will be **HEALTHY** and **INVIGORATING!** Save October 9<sup>th</sup>.

We go off from the LEPOCO Office, on the campus of Rosemont Lutheran Church, 1705 W. Broad St., Bethlehem, at 9 am, but please be there by 8:30 am, for registration, stretching and safety checks. There is free parking on both sides of West Broad St. and on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, beside the Church. All participants should have been vaccinated (and bring a mask for restroom stops, etc.)

- Diane Dilendik



Young Peacemakers

Peace Camp At Home, 2021, reached 96 "campers" this summer. Unfortunately, the live-stream part of Peace Camp 2021 had to be canceled due to low registration. But, each "camper" received a packet that included daily activities for five days. (The camper list included Peace Camp At Home 2020 and 2021 registrants, and peace campers from recent years.) The focus of the activities was on using our senses to help understand peace. There were crafts, songs and daily yoga (has everyone been an armadillo?). There were also daily opportunities to explore the meaning of peace.

In addition to the activity packets there were a series of videos, which were made available on the LEPOCO website. Video activities in which you can participate include origami instruction, practicing mindfulness, singing Peace Camp songs and movement activities. Some of these videos will remain available online indefinitely -- see [lepoco.org/peace\\_camp\\_at\\_home](http://lepoco.org/peace_camp_at_home).

We are looking (hopefully) forward to experiencing Peace Camp in person for 2022. Coming back together for singing, games, crafts and having fun is something we all anticipate. Planning for Peace Camp 2022 will begin in January, 2022. We will keep everyone informed as we move forward.

We want to share an activity from the Peace Camp at Home packet. It is **CREATING A PEACE CORNER AT HOME**. This is something that may appeal to everyone (younger & older). One thing to keep in mind when creating your peace corner is to include things that appeal to your senses.

- Bill Thomas



## Creating a Peace Corner at Home

A peace corner is a designated space in your home, a sanctuary where you can be alone to spend quality time -- a place where you are able to "take a break" from stress or frustrations.

Five or ten minutes of quiet time when things become hectic or stressful can be helpful for each of us.

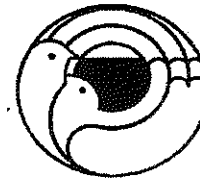
The first step is to locate a quiet area in your home where you can devote space to your Peace Corner. Furnish the space with items that will help this area be a special place.

A Peace Corner can be furnished with a variety of items and some might be used on a rotating basis to provide variety.

Some suggested materials to include in making your Peace Corner comfortable and a safe space could be:

1. A sand timer or egg timer - Being in the Peace Corner is a break, so setting a time with a realistic limit of 5 to 10 minutes for your break, may be helpful.
2. A soft pillow, blanket or cushion.
3. Nature items in a basket (shells, stones, pine cones, feathers, etc.).
4. Stress ball, playdough.
5. Books, coloring book.
6. Low or soft light.
7. Small unbreakable mirror (for looking at yourself or self-talk).

8. Paper, pens, crayons (for journaling, drawing, writing, coloring).
9. A plant.
10. Soft music, chimes, etc.
11. Small tabletop Sand Garden (a dish of sand where you can draw in the sand with a toothpick or pencil).



Newsletter of LEPOCO  
 Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern  
 1705 West Broad Street  
 Bethlehem, PA 18018  
 phone: 610-691-8730  
 fax: 610-691-8904  
 website: [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org)  
 e-mail: [lepoco@fast.net](mailto: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, Amanda Zaniesienko, Carol Baylor, Janet Ney, Rick Dow, Jeff Vitelli.

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

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Diane Dilendik, Sharlee DiMenichi, Margot Hillman, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Nancy Johnston, Mary Lang, Monica McAghon, Dan Miller, Janet Ney, Tom Pietrzak, Susie Ravitz, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), Jeff Vitelli, and Amanda Zaniesienko (ex-officio).

## Climate Crisis & Militarism —

This November 1-12, COP26 is set to take place in Glasgow, Scotland. COP (the Conference of the Parties) is the decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Conferences typically take place once a year and consist of meetings wherein all 197 member states draw up treaties aimed at addressing global warming. Previous years' conferences have resulted in the Kyoto Protocol (in 1997) and the Paris Agreement (in 2016).

One critique of these treaties is that they have not set legally binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions or held countries accountable for failing to adhere to them. A more recent critique of the treaties, however, is that, to date, they have completely ignored the role militarism has played in contributing to the climate crisis.

In his book, *Green Zone: The Environmental Costs of Militarism*, academic Barry Sanders lays this role bare. He writes: "Here's the awful truth: even if every person, every automobile, and every factory suddenly emitted zero emissions, the earth would still be headed, headfirst and at full speed, towards total disaster for one major reason. The military produces enough greenhouse gases, by itself, to place the entire globe, with all of its inhabitants large and small, in the most imminent danger of extinction." Unless we significantly decrease the carbon footprint of our military - from its fuel emissions and defoliation exercises to its radioactive waste and nuclear proliferation - the likelihood of averting the worst of the climate crisis is nil.

But people are organizing, and actions are being planned over the next few months. During Climate Week NYC, scheduled for September 20-26, the Stop the Money Pipeline coalition will be putting pressure on the financial sector to stop funding and investment in the fossil fuel industry and deforestation. On September 21, CODEPINK is hosting a walk from the headquarters of BlackRock to the UN, with stops planned along the way to "award" a star of shame to corporations tied to the war machine. And on November 4, peace organizations in Scotland and around the world will be organizing actions to draw attention to the links between militarism and climate change.

- Tom Pietrzak

## Grandparents Walk for the Earth —

On June 20, "Elder Activists" began an epic journey of walking, camping, singing, and visiting devastated places including a landfill where radioactive fracking waste is being used as cover resulting in the poisoning of land and water. This is near the Scranton, Pennsylvania, birthplace of President Biden.

The goal of these grandparents and great grandparents was to raise awareness with those they encountered as well as with our President to stop fossil fuel investment and to protect Mother Earth.

On June 22, as the Walk for Our Grandchildren & Mother Earth group headed south to the Lehigh Valley,

they stopped overnight to camp in Nancy Johnston's yard. (Nancy is a member of the LEPOCO Steering Committee.) After drying out from rain at the previous campsite and taking hikes beginning at the Farmersville Trail Head of the Lehigh Canal Towpath to witness the pristine beauty in this section of the Lehigh & Delaware Rivers National Historic Corridor, the 30 earth protectors from 11 different states (CT, NC, VA, NJ, PA, to name a few) had conversations and ate a delicious potato soup prepared in the group's cook wagon.

They heard a talk from Tara Zrinski, Northampton County Councilwoman, about the emergence of the green economy and the fading away of the fossil fuel era. She spoke about the impact of the proposed Penn-East pipeline that would carry the fracked natural gas and bring damage to Bethlehem Township property and wild areas such as the Lehigh River. This pipeline (if not stopped) would travel 200 yards east of Interstate 33 and then tunnel under the Lehigh River at the I-78 interchange, before heading south into Bucks County and under the Delaware River into New Jersey.

Nancy taught the group about original First Nation's peoples of the area once known as Lenapehoking, specifically the Lenni Lenape whose name for Easton was Lekaweekink, "Place at the Forks." The walkers were applauded for carrying on the stewardship and protection of the region as did those early tribes. She called in the four directions to orient the walkers and to remind them of the teachings that any decision to change Mother Earth should address how the change would affect "seven times seven generations."

The group learned about LEPOCO and were given LEPOCO buttons, Peace Camp flyers for their grandchildren, and milkweed seeds from Nancy's gardens to sprinkle along their walk to spread habitat for monarch butterflies as the group traveled down the Delaware River Canal Towpath, heading toward Philadelphia.

The evening ended in a rousing folk song sing-along with George Lakey at the 1929 baby grand Steinway that belonged to Nancy's Aunt Lorene. "This Land Is Your Land" never sounded so great!!!

These passionate "earth protectors" included retired college professors, artists, farmers, and authors. They ranged in age from 65 to 83 with one exception being a 29-year-old man who served as the first aid medic of the group.

The walkers left the next morning heading to Tinicum State Park in Bucks County. They stopped in Philadelphia at Independence Hall and then on to Wilmington (President Biden's home), where on June 28, people occupying a line of 15 rocking chairs blocked the street in front of Chase Bank, funders of fossil fuel companies. The elder activists were rocking away singing, "We Shall Not Be Moved"!!!! as they were arrested.

- Nancy Johnston

Editor's Note: You can watch a short, informative, inspiring film about the walk at [beyondextremeenergy.org](http://beyondextremeenergy.org).

# Bits & Pieces

Ⓞ Bethany Christian Services will be resettling 30 Afghans in our area. They need assistance to complete this task after the previous administration made it so difficult for refugee resettlement organizations to maintain their staff. The assistance needed includes transportation, storage, gift cards, office assistance. The best way to offer assistance is through another organization, the Refugee Center at Church of the Mediator. (Both of these offices are in Allentown.) You can contact Meg Fox, coordinator at the Refugee Community Center at [episcopalmediator.org/refugee-center](http://episcopalmediator.org/refugee-center).

Ⓞ The Pennsylvania House State Government Committee will hold their Regional Congressional Redistricting Hearings in the eastern part of the state as follows: Northeast - Mon., Oct. 18, 1-5 pm, Sidney & Pauline Friedman Jewish Community Center, Kingston; Southeast - Tues., Oct. 19,

1-5 pm, Spinnerstown Hotel, near Quakertown; Philadelphia - Wed., Oct. 20, 9 am-1 pm, American Heritage Federal Credit Union. You can learn more at [www.fairdistrictspa.com](http://www.fairdistrictspa.com).

Ⓞ On September 7, Susie Ravitz attended a webinar about Afghanistan sponsored by CODEPINK. She gathered some suggestions for what we can ask our congressperson, our senators, and Pres. Biden to do to improve the situation for the people of Afghanistan - phone calls, emails, letters are all useful.

Ask the President to unfreeze \$15 billion in Afghan's assets in U.S. banks.

Contribute to the UN and other international efforts to address the immediate humanitarian crisis.

Stop preventing the IMF from providing the \$450 million for COVID vaccines and treatment that Afghanistan is supposed to get under the Special Drawing Rights Act.

Stop drone assassinations that violate international law, kill innocent people and escalate the cycle of violence.



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

Saturday, September 18, 10:30 am-4 pm: LEPOCO Booth at the 21st Annual Peace Fair, Buckingham Friends Meetinghouse & School, 5684 York Rd. (Routes. 202 & 263), Lahaska.

Thursdays, October 14, 4:30-5:30 pm & November 11, 4-5 pm: Monthly Peace Vigils, on the corners at Third & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem (see page 8).

Mondays, October 11, & November 8, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meetings, in the LEPOCO office or a larger meeting room at the church (all Steering Committee members have been vaccinated and will wear masks), downstairs at Rosemont Lutheran Church, 1705 West Broad St., Bethlehem. Call 610-691-8730 for more information. All members & friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are discussed & planned. These meetings are on the second Monday of the month.

Tuesdays, October 5, & November 2, 6 pm: First Tuesday LEPOCO Book Group Meetings. In October the group will discuss, "Revolt Among the Sharecroppers," by Howard Kester; and in November, "Humankind: A Hopeful History," by Rutger Bregman. Call 610-691-8730 to get the location of the meetings. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month, skipping January and August. The group welcomes new members.

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 Annual Dinner Planning Committee, Newsletter Planning Group, Peace Camp Planning Committee, or any other committees, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events, see [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org).

Support Barbara Lee's efforts to cut military spending by 10%.

Improve the Access for Afghan Refugees Act to provide priority status for Afghan refugees. (Others have suggested raising the general cap on the number of refugees that can be admitted to the U.S. since there are so many refugees that need to flee war zones, natural disasters and more.)

Ⓞ Maybe this is a good time to revisit the statement issued by LEPOCO members on September 18, 2001, in response to the tragedy of September 11, now that we have arrived at the 20th anniversary of that day, and we have withdrawn from Afghanistan.

*Our hearts remain broken with sadness following the acts of terror that took so many precious lives a week ago today...*

*We are deeply sorry that the world's failure to achieve more equality of safety for the entire human family may have contributed to a new common ground of insecurity and fear for all.*

*We hope the circles of compassion, so beautifully displayed in New York City and in our community since last Tuesday, can expand to ever greater circles of compassion for all those that suffer pain and injustice in our world. We are especially heartened that these circles have often included and embraced our Arab and Muslim brothers and sisters.*

*We are also heartened by the serious discussion in so many forums about why this horrific terror happened. Only in such complex searching for causes are we likely to find solutions that will stop the cycles of terror, the cycles of violence.*

*We urge our leaders to seek justice not war. We join the many voices calling for thoughtfulness, wisdom and patience, not vengeance. Sending our young people to kill more innocent people will not honor the lives of the over 5000 missing or dead.*

*Only with the help of our global neighbors can we plan an effective and appropriate response. The United Nations and standing international agreements against terrorism should be respected and brought to bear...*

*While the men who rained terror from the clear blue skies on September 11 have stolen irreplaceable lives, valuable structures, and our sense of security, we can choose a rational response. We can pledge to break the cycles of violence and victims.*

The complete statement is available at LEPOCO.

## The End of the Costly War in Afghanistan

"America's longest war," the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, which began in late 2001, has finally ended – although air strikes and drone attacks remain as options. Many imperial-minded commentators decry the evacuation of U.S. troops and citizens and Afghan collaborators as a scandalous and humiliating defeat, a tragic failure that will long haunt Washington. A few see the fall of the country to the Taliban as an unavoidable but still shocking and chaotic outcome. Fewer still have recalled what led to the end of the war in Vietnam.

If the Taliban capture of Kabul was not as dramatic as the fall of Saigon in 1975, it came close. The basics were identical: As in Vietnam, a corrupt client regime, which the United States propped up militarily and financially for years, blew away like a house of cards in a windstorm. It took the Taliban just eleven days to move from the countryside and the provincial capitals to the conquest of Kabul. More than anything else, events laid bare the appalling failure of U.S. policy in Afghanistan – and, equally, the lies that four administrations, two Democratic and two Republican, told the people about the conflict.

The cost of the war has been enormous in both treasure and blood. The best estimate of direct U.S. expense for the war is two and a quarter trillion dollars of taxpayer money. That is, roughly \$300 million per day, every day, for twenty years. The AP's tally of those killed in the conflict through April is sobering: 6,294 U.S. service members and contractors; 1,144 service members of our allies; 66,000 Afghan national military and police; 47,245 Afghan civilians; 51,191 Taliban and other opposition fighters, 444 aid workers, and 72 journalists. These figures do not reflect the much larger numbers of those wounded (more than 20,000 U.S. service personnel alone), the displaced, and those whose lives have been otherwise devastated by the war.

In the long term, the war achieved little or nothing, except to ensure the steady growth of the military budget and to enormously enrich the vast crowd of military contractors who feast on taxpayer largesse. There are many reasons for the political and military failure – pervasive corruption among the Afghan political leaders and warlords allied to the U.S., trying to build an Afghan army modeled on that of the U.S., but one that lacked loyalty to the central government, an inability to gain popular support because of the murder of civilians by death squads and drone attacks. Perhaps above all, the U.S. failed to understand basic social and cultural features of a deeply religious society based on family, clan, and tribe.

After the 1975 fall of Saigon, hawks in the U.S. foreign policy establishment bemoaned a "Vietnam syndrome," which tempered imperial impulses for more than a decade. Perhaps an "Afghanistan syndrome" would not be such a bad thing, especially if

it led to a sharp reduction in military spending and curtailed U.S. ambitions to dominate other nations.

- Mick Baylor

## Drone Whistleblower Sentenced

Daniel Hale, who leaked documents about the U.S. government's secretive drone warfare program, was sentenced on July 27, to 45 months in prison. He was convicted under the Espionage Act, a draconian law from the WWI era that is used to convict whistleblowers who talk to reporters.

*The Intercept* reported that Hale's "conviction marked another victory for the U.S. government in an ongoing crackdown on national security leaks that has spanned multiple presidential administrations."

In a statement to the judge, Hale wrote: "It was necessary to dispel the lie that drone warfare keeps us safe, that our lives are worth more than theirs. I am here because I stole something that was never mine to take – precious human life. ...I couldn't keep living in a world in which people pretend that things weren't happening that were. Please, your honor, forgive me for taking papers instead of human lives... With drone warfare, sometimes nine out of 10 people killed are innocent." Hale said. "You have to kill part of your conscience to do your job."

While in his 20s, Hale joined the Air Force, was deployed to Afghanistan and engaged in drone warfare from Bagram Air Force Base. If the stated mission in Afghanistan was to prevent more terrorist attacks on the U.S. after 9.11.01, over the years, it had gone very wrong, according to Daniel Hale. He tracked the cell phones of people on a U.S. list of suspected terrorists, and witnessed innocent bystanders and children being killed by drone attacks.

After his release from the Air Force, Hale attended anti-war conferences, but later chose to work under lucrative contract as an employee with security clearance at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. While there, Hale took documents that were eventually published as "The Drone Papers" by *The Intercept*.

Hale participated in Code Pink's Drone Summit in 2013 and apologized publicly to a Yemeni citizen whose family member was killed by a U.S. drone attack. Code Pink and others have called on President Biden to pardon Nathan Hale, for he acted out of conscience, and provided a public service in releasing the top secret documents that revealed the truth and unintended, but lethal consequences of the government's drone warfare program.

For more information and to sign a pardon petition for Daniel Hale, please visit [www.codepink.org/daniel\\_hale](http://www.codepink.org/daniel_hale). To read the Drone Papers see [theintercept.com/drone-papers/](http://theintercept.com/drone-papers/). "The Struggle Shared" in the June LEPOCO Newsletter also had a story about Daniel Hale.

- Monica McAgthon

# Bits & Pieces

☪ On Saturday, September 18, 10:30 am to 4 pm, LEPOCO will participate in the 21st Annual Peace Fair at Buckingham Friends Meetinghouse & School in Lahaska, near New Hope. We will have our usual display of timely literature, postcards for cutting military spending, peace and justice buttons, stickers, and cards. The fair usually has a wide array of displays by activist groups, crafters' wares, music, food, and children's activities – a lot of meaningful fun. If you cannot make it this year plan to attend on the third Saturday next year.

☪ The Syracuse Cultural Workers calendars for 2022 have arrived at LEPOCO. The Peace Calendar has beautiful cover art by Jess X. Snow, "One Earth One Future," and is \$15.95. The Women Artists Datebook is full of artwork, poetry, and memorable quotes all by women, and is \$17.95.

Contact LEPOCO to reserve your copies and make arrangements to get them.

☪ LEPOCO has ventured back to fairs and festivals this summer.

On Saturday, July 25, we were at the Easton Farmers' Market, a lively event that happens every week. We got lots of signatures on postcards calling for cuts in the military budget. Thank you to Tom Pietrzak, Monica McAghon, Susie Ravitz, Diane Dilendik, Nancy Tate and Tom Stinnett, the folks that staffed the booth on one of our hot summer days.

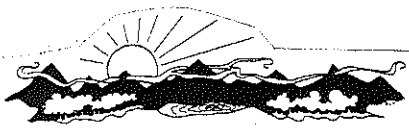
On Sunday, August 15, sixteen people staffed the LEPOCO booth at Lehigh Valley PRIDE in Allentown. It was a lovely day and the always lively festival brought lots of folks to our booth. Thank you to Monica McAghon, Renate Brosky, Elizabeth Griner, My Lien Nguyen, Amanda Zaniesienko, Penny Kornet, Susie Ravitz, Tom Pietrzak, Carol Baylor, Diane Dilendik, Amy Frey, Ella Frey, Rick Dow, Margot Hillman, Dan Miller, Tom Stinnett, and Nancy Tate.

On a the drizzly Saturday morning, August 28, Diane Dilendik and Amanda Zaniesienko set up the LEPOCO tent at the Bethlehem Rose Garden Farmers' Market. The threat of weather seemed to keep many people away, but we were still able to connect with a good number of community members. With the help of Carol Baylor and Bill Thomas, we were able to get postcards signed, sold a few buttons, spoke with a few potential volunteers. We look forward to having the opportunity to set up at the Rose Garden Farmers' Market again.

☪ The folks who were arrested for sitting in rocking chairs in the street in front of Chase Bank credit card headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware, in late June, will have their trial on Wednesday, September 29, in Wilmington. The Rocking Chair Rebels will argue that their nonviolent actions were intended to stop Chase's financing of the destruction of the Earth's ecosystems. (See page 3 of this newsletter for more information on the Walk for Our Grandchildren & Mother Earth that led to the action outside Chase Bank credit card headquarters.)

You can support them On Tuesday, September 28 during a six-mile walk from Chase Bank credit card headquarters to Pres. Biden's residence and the 29th, before the trial, at an early morning rally.

For more information contact Steven Norris, one of the Rocking Chair Rebels, at earthsun2@gmail.com.



## The Struggle Shared : SUSQUEHANNA BITCOIN MINE

(continued from page 7)

Power Plant in Luzerne County. The Nautilus Cryptomine, if not blocked, could be in operation by mid-2022, powered by "cheap" electricity from the Susquehanna Nuke.

Susquehanna has struggled to remain competitive with cheaper natural gas plants. The proposed bitcoin mine could use 12% of Susquehanna's generating capacity. As more pressure has been applied to producers of electricity to convert from fossil fuels to renewable sources, business models are going back to the drawing board. Talen claims that their electricity will produce zero-carbon emissions. They suggest that nuclear power is a safe and renewable source of power generation.

We know that it is not. We remember Three Mile Island. We remember Chernobyl. We remember Fukushima. Nuclear energy is dangerous and expensive, and leaves waste that poisons the earth for millennia. We must close the Susquehanna Nuke, not ensure its financial survival with a Bitcoin mine. Get informed, stay tuned, and stand up against the Nautilus Plant.

Source: "Original Message" from Andrea at Alliance for Green Economy, in New York, June 3, 2021, & *The Morning Call*, 8/5/21, "Bitcoin firms pop up near power plants," by Jon Harris.

- Jeff Vitelli

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

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

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

# The Struggle Shared

*So we've got to take a stand  
For our waters and our land  
With a vision of our future that ensures  
That our children's children's children,  
And their children's children's children  
Can still get a drink  
From the Delaware River's shore.*

- "The Dam Song" by J.B. Vitelli

(For complete lyrics see <https://jeffersongcom.wordpress.com/2020/08/>)

**LINE 3 RESISTANCE** - The Indigenous Peoples of the Midwest, and their allies have been fighting to protect their water for years. We remember the Standing Rock Occupation where militarized police forces sprayed tear gas, rubber bullets, military-grade beanbags, and ice cold water cannons in the dead of winter, against those who stood against the Dakota Access Pipeline. The pipeline was completed, and today is sending millions of gallons of crude oil through the sacred lands,

In 2014, Enbridge, a Canadian corporation, proposed replacing, rerouting, and increasing capacity for their Line 3 pipeline, which runs 1000 miles from Hardisty, Alberta, Canada, to Superior, Wisconsin. Since Line 3 originally opened in 1968, there have been numerous spills and leaks, including the worst in U.S. history in 1991 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

If completed, at a cost of \$7.5 billion, significantly more than the Dakota Access Pipeline, the new Line 3 pipeline would create more pollution than 50 coal-fired power plants, threaten hundreds of waterways with leaks and spills, and violate the treaty rights of the Anishinaabe and other tribes. To build a tar sands pipeline in 2021 is an act of aggression against us all, but especially against the Indigenous Peoples who have been stewards of the land for centuries.

Although the permit has not been approved, Enbridge, and the Governor of Minnesota, are pushing ahead with construction. As of March of 2021, bulldozers and drilling equipment were onsite. Since construction began, a broad coalition of activists have organized

to delay construction with nonviolent direct action. Hundreds have been arrested. Thousands have signed a Pledge of Resistance. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, at the White Earth Indian Reservation, 2500 people, attended a Gathering. Water Defenders occupied the Enbridge Pumping Station and barricaded access until police in riot gear arrested 247 people.

Now is the critical time to pressure the Biden Administration to reverse the policy decisions of his predecessor and reject the Line 3 pipeline. You can learn more and take action at [www.stopline3.org](http://www.stopline3.org).

**RED ROAD TO DC** - In July, a team of Indigenous people travelled 20,000 miles in a flatbed trailer transporting a 25-foot, 5000-pound totem pole back and forth across the U.S. Along the route, it was hosted by seven Native Nations, seventeen blessing ceremonies -- each stop highlighting an ongoing struggle to protect a sacred place and Native sovereignty. The beautiful totem carved by House of Tears artists of the Lummi Nation, was presented to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, at a ceremony on the National Mall, along with a petition with 80,000 signatures appealing to the Biden-Harris Administration to uphold the treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Deb Haaland summed up the impact of the totem's journey: "Your journey like the wind, the birds, the water, carried the prayers of everyone who laid hands on this totem pole. It is a heavy load to carry because we know that all our actions inform our future." The totem pole is on public display at Rawlins Park, in front of the Department of the

Interior building, until a permanent home can be found.

The next time you are in the U.S. capital, be sure to visit, and add your hands to the collective prayers for healing Mother Earth and transforming the relationship between the U.S. Government and Native Nations.

## **SUSQUEHANNA BITCOIN MINE** -

Bitcoin mining is a process which assigns complex computational puzzles to numerous computers in order to validate a cryptocurrency. While, thankfully, it doesn't dig into the earth, poisoning the soil, and depleting valuable resources, it does consume so much electricity, that according to the Alliance for a Green Economy, which has been fighting bitcoin development in New York State, "This one industry could singlehandedly push us over the 2-degree Celsius tipping point." Because their energy needs are so high, bitcoin operators locate their facilities adjacent to cheap power plants.

In New York State, the Greenbridge facility on the shores of Seneca Lake, is a "test case" for bitcoin development in the state and the country. It took over a mothballed coal-fired generating plant that had been repurposed and converted to burn natural gas. The Greenbridge plant, one of the largest cryptocurrency mines in the country, houses 7900 Bitcoin machines, and increases the plant's greenhouse emissions tenfold. The Alliance for a Green Economy and allied groups held a rally in June urging the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to oppose bitcoin mining development.

Now, we in Pennsylvania have the opportunity to oppose the bitcoin mining industry. In August, Talen Energy Corporation, a spin-off of PPL based in Allentown, announced a partnership with Maryland based Tera Wulf Inc. to develop a 300-megawatt bitcoin mining facility adjacent to the Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant in Luzerne County. The Nautilus Cryptomine, if not blocked, could be in operation by mid-2022,

(continued on page 6)





Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

1705 W. Broad St., Bethlehem, PA 18018  
610-691-8730 [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)  
Fax: 610-691-8904 [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org)

Address Service Requested

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### Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

October 14, 4:30-5:30 pm

&

November 11, 4-5 pm

*The wars & preparations for war continue.*

*Help witness for peace.*

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

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

### National Dates of Note

**September 12:** "Cut the Pentagon for People, Peace, & Planet" kicked off 100 days of action in Washington, DC, and around the U.S. ([www.cutthepentagon.org](http://www.cutthepentagon.org))

**September 21:** U.N. International Day of Peace

**September 26:** U.N. International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

**October 2 - 9:** Keep Space for Peace Week  
([www.spaceforpeace.org](http://www.spaceforpeace.org))

**October 11-15:** Build Back Fossil Free -- week of nonviolent direct action in Washington, DC, calling for President Biden to end the fossil fuel era.  
([www.peolevsfossilfuels.org](http://www.peolevsfossilfuels.org))

### LEPOCO Bike/Walk-A-Thon

Saturday, October 9, 2021

8:30 am - Registration; 9 am - Walk & Ride begin

(See page 1 for more information.)