

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

## Two Ways to Help Save the Climate & the Planet

### I. *Save Bull Run National Heritage Area*

Who among the readers of this newsletter has heard of Bull Run National Heritage Area? I have been a resident of the Lehigh Valley for most of my life, but this designation was new to me. Now I realize that I rode my bike up the steep hills near the Area when I was exploring as a kid. The coveted area near the present landfill is 275 beautiful acres of undeveloped land. The Bull Run Area is a well-kept secret of the land, trees, streams, underground aquifers, and other underground water sources that make the area precious. (The landfill known as the Bethlehem Landfill, sits in Lower Saucon Township, and is entered from Applebutter Road.)

Perhaps you have seen the controversy discussed in the newspaper about the complaints of how the 275 acres of the forest overlooking the Lehigh River will be converted into landfill sites by the owner, Waste Connections of The Woodlands, Texas. They have purchased properties on both sides of Applebutter Road and are preparing for several future expansions. Furious residents, several municipalities, environmental groups, and local researchers are appealing the decision to move forward with the plan.

We are saying NO.

The Bull Run Natural Heritage Area is rich in natural resources. All opponents object to increases in truck traffic, groundwater and stream pollution from landfill gases, and odors from rotting waste. The greatest loss, however, is the irreversible loss of the Bull Run natural habitat.

We join with those opposed to the destruction of this beautiful site and say NO.

For more information on the efforts to stop this environmental destruction see [www.lstlandfillexpansion.org](http://www.lstlandfillexpansion.org). They have "Dump the Dump" yard signs.

### II. *Join THE THIRD ACT*

*THE THIRD ACT* is the idea of Bill McKibben, the well-known environmentalist, who started the movement 350.org. He has written several books with titles encouraging us to become active in helping the U.S. control fossil fuel investments. His latest foray is called, *THE THIRD ACT*. It is a national movement to encourage older people (the third act) to become active in asking the five banks that contribute the most money

to fossil fuel production to CUT IT OUT. People are asked to cut-up their credit cards or divest funds from these banks. The actions have begun at banks throughout the U.S. Visit the website, [TheThirdAct.org](http://TheThirdAct.org) to learn more.

The banks that are being targeted are: JPMorgan Chase, CitiBank, Bank of America and Wells Fargo. In Bethlehem an effort began on Friday, May 12, at 4 pm, to let Wells Fargo know about the Third Act. Five brave elders stood outside the bank with posters, one rocking chair, and a few other chairs. We spoke to passersby, bank users, and bank employees. There was a generous supply of cars going by that gave us a thumbs up. As this newsletter goes to press we will be at Wells Fargo again on May 26, and Fridays after that.

Please consider joining us. Please check with Mimi Lang or LEPOCO to confirm the location for a given Friday. Ask yourself the question: What am I doing to stop fossil fuels funding?

- Mimi Lang

## Help Spread the News: Peace Camp - July 24-28, 2023!

Young People Making Peace Summer Day Camp (Peace Camp), in its fourth decade, offers whole-child fun and activities centered around the topic of peace. Playing and running under a full-sized, rainbow-colored parachute in a cooperative manner, singing songs in Zulu, Spanish and Yiddish, writing letters to legislators seeking support for the earth, drumming, creating crafts artistically from recycled items, and team building to avoid a make-believe "swamp," are just a few of the exciting activities led by talented community volunteers.

Wouldn't you want to send your child(ren) or grandchild to such a wonderful program? Can you share a registration flyer with others?

Peace Camp was founded in 1990 and now more than 1000 young people have been peace campers making up three generations from different racial, ethnic, and neighborhood backgrounds. Peace Camp alumni provide leadership in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Peace Camp makes a difference in our world.

The enclosed flyer can be used to register campers. Contact LEPOCO to request more copies. Please do what you can to recruit peace campers and teen/adult volunteers for this summer's camp.

# Roots of LEPOCO \_\_\_\_\_

Published twenty years ago, the April-May 2003, issue of the LEPOCO Newsletter provides for us, today, a fascinating look at what was, and what has been. The 16-page chronicle, the longest ever, is full of reports of vigils and demonstrations against the invasion of Iraq and the war that, as we know, killed more than 200,000 Iraqi civilians and 4,599 U.S. military personnel.

How might the world, especially the Middle East, be different today had the Bush administration and Congress heeded the calls for peace that multiplied across the United States and the world? The debate this spring in Congress about ending the Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) in Iraq pointed to the ongoing costs of using the AUMF to justify war; subsequent administrations have used this harmful device to enter into other conflicts.

Continuing our review of the 2003 news (started in the April LEPOCO Newsletter), Joe DeRaymond, fondly remembered by many of us, was given a send-off as he went with the Fellowship of Reconciliation Accompaniment of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Colombia, and, in the same issue, Joe reported on his experiences as an Election Observer in El Salvador. The Americas Solidarity Group represented a strong effort by LEPOCO to raise awareness of issues in Central and South America.

Ellen Barfield, peace activist from Baltimore, was in the Lehigh Valley in March that year. She spoke at numerous venues, including two colleges and two universities as well as a high school as she raised awareness and money for Voices in the Wilderness to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Iraq.

Barbara Ehrenreich visited Lafayette College and Jim Hightower spoke at Muhlenberg College.

The newsletter also told the story of Rachel Corrie's death after being run over by an Israeli bulldozer as she tried to prevent the destruction of a Palestinian home. She wrote to her parents, "Many people...want their voices to be heard, and I think we need to use some of our privilege as internationals to get those voices heard directly in the U.S.... I am just beginning to learn... about the ability of people to organize against all odds, and to resist against all odds." What might have been accomplished for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine in twenty years had Rachel Corrie's resistance been heeded?

LEPOCO members did their part in dozens of ways including the annual Tax Day distribution of flyers that "pointed to alternatives to 51% of federal discretionary spending going to the military. That's \$399 billion for the military in Fiscal Year 2004." According to the War Resisters League pie chart for FY2024, the military budget will cost \$2,297 billion representing 43% of the total federal budget. What might have been?

- Janet Ney

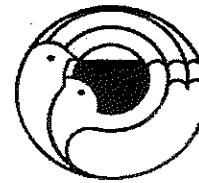
# Ban Those Nuclear Weapons! -----

On April 19 you may have received a call from the Stop the Wars Committee urging you to call your Congressperson. As part of a National Call-In Day, you were asked to urge support for House Resolution 77. It says the U.S. should embrace the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and take concrete steps to prevent nuclear war. The Resolution, introduced by Rep. James McGovern, currently has 22 cosponsors and is a tool for getting Congress talking about nuclear disarmament.

LEPOCO was one of 150 U.S. organizations that endorsed Back From the Brink's work supporting the TPNW earlier this year. Back from the Brink initiated the Call-In Day. Thank you to everyone who made calls. Calls can still be made to your Representative urging support for House Resolution 77. Call the Capitol Switchboard, 202-224-3121, and ask for your Representative by name.

# Cut That Military Budget! -----

Seven LEPOCO members leafletted in support of cutting military spending at the Easton Farmers' Market on April 22. On a warm, sunny Saturday two leaflets were given out. The simple one noted that taxpayers in 2022, each paid an average of \$1087 to Pentagon contractors. The fancier flyer pointed to the fact that the U.S. spends more on the military than the next eleven countries with the highest military budgets combined. Both flyers asked recipients to support Rep. Barbara Lee's proposal to cut U.S. military spending by \$100 Billion.



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

#### Annual dues are:

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Regular Member .....        | \$35 |
| Limited Income Member ..... | \$10 |
| Household Membership .....  | \$45 |
| Supporting Member .....     | \$75 |

Articles/news should be submitted to one of the addresses above for consideration for the next issue of the newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Amanda Zaniesienko, Carol Baylor, Janet Ney, Rick Dow.

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

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Pam Brubaker, Margot Hillman, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Mohammed Khaku (ex-officio), Monica McAgnon, Martricia McLaughlin, Janet Ney, Susie Ravitz, Stefan Rogers, Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer), Nancy Tate (ex-officio), and Amanda Zaniesienko.

## Underground Reels & Spiels

Friday, June 16, 7:00 pm

Screening of

### "Boycott"

The movie, "Boycott" explores free speech in the United States in response to efforts to suppress the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) movement. LEPOCO's Underground Reels and Spiels will present the movie and offer time for viewers to share their reactions on June 16.

Thirty-seven state governments have laws that require anyone with a public contract to pledge that they will not support BDS. "Boycott" is a documentary which tells the story of a publisher, an attorney, and a pediatric speech pathologist who lost their jobs because they would not sign an anti-BDS pledge. The three of them sued their state governments for violating their free speech rights as citizens. The movie explores the anti-BDS laws while it points out freedom of speech challenges and the effect of the citizens' contracts on their ability to make a living.

Jewish Voice for Peace says the Palestinian-led BDS movement (initiated in 2005) asks international civil society groups and individuals to use boycott, divestment, and sanction tactics until Israel meets its obligations under international law.

The film was directed by Julia Bacha; it premiered in 2021. "Boycott" runs 70 minutes.

The program at the LEPOCO Peace Center will begin at 7:00 pm, on Friday, June 16, and conclude with a time for comments and discussion.

### Recent Reels & Spiels Programs

On April 17 over 20 people filled LEPOCO's space to view the film, "Breaking Boundaries," narrated by David Attenborough, covering climate heating, threats to biodiversity, and other pressing environmental issues. A spirited discussion followed the film screening, led by Karen Tuerk, who teaches Environmental Science at Muhlenberg College.

On May 19, the program at LEPOCO featured stories and songs with Paul Baker Hernández, on tour in the U.S. from his home in Nicaragua. He was hosted in the Lehigh Valley by Whitney Howarth. An elder activist, Paul Baker's work for justice began in Scotland in the 1960s. He has lived in Nicaragua since 1990. He is concerned that the people who suffer the severe consequences of climate change like those in Nicaragua have often done little to cause the problem. He talked about his hand-made "garbage" guitar made from a mahogany toilet seat saying it "shows just how beautiful are the things - and the peoples - we throw away, without a second thought." He sang songs he wrote and songs by Victor Jara, Malvina Reynolds, and Carlos Mejía Godoy. Those in attendance donated over \$100 to Paul's work toward "One World, One People."

## Welcome Aboard Mohammed Khaku

LEPOCO welcomes Mohammed Khaku, now on board as our second part-time Coordinator, a position last held by Amanda Zaniesienko. Mohammed's experience and enthusiasm for giving back to the community got the nod of approval from the Steering Committee. Moe says he loves to be part of LEPOCO, a peace and social justice organization, because our mission and goals align with his passion and desire.

Mohammed retired last year after 32 years at Phoenix Tube Company, a manufacturer of stainless ornamental and structural tubing. There he worked in several departments: office manager, payroll, human resources, safety and worker's compensation. Moe serves on the Board of Directors for the Lehigh Valley Justice Institute and is former President of the Al Ahad Islamic Center, Allentown. He also engages with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Lehigh Valley Chapter, and Imamia Medics International.

With Margot Hillman, Moe has begun helping with the planning of Peace Camp. He's attended meetings and helped collate the newsletter. He's taking up the many challenges of the office computer.

For the month of May, Mohammed and his wife Farida have been on holiday, visiting family and enjoying a spiritual pilgrimage to Islamic holy sites in Iraq. He will soon return to LEPOCO and help us navigate the issues of peace and justice. Mohammed has written a book titled Inspirational Insights and he maintains a blog at [moekhaku.substack.com](http://moekhaku.substack.com). His brief history of LEPOCO was posted May 5.

- Monica McAgghon

## Help Wanted - Assistance Needed

*LEPOCO is seeking talented volunteers to conduct important activities by serving on a fundraising committee. We are looking for creative, hard-working individuals dedicated to the goals and mission of this peace organization. Do you have the interest and the skills? For more information or to apply contact the LEPOCO Peace Center, 610-691-8730 or [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net).*

*"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."*

- President Dwight David Eisenhower

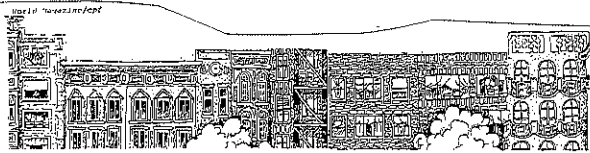
Quote used on flyer distributed in Easton on April 22 -- see page 2.

# Advocating in Harrisburg for Home Repairs & More

May 1<sup>st</sup> is International Workers' Day in many places around the world. Here in PA, a number of groups organized a rally and lobbying day in Harrisburg, to highlight the need for full funding for the Whole Home Repairs Act (passed last session with only about 28% of the needed funding). We were also there to advocate for (finally) the legislature to raise our pitiful \$7.25/hr. minimum wage to at least \$15/hour. Other asks included fair funding for our public schools, and issuing driver's licenses for all, not just PA workers who are citizens (other states have done this, so immigrant family workers can drive to their jobs, and feel secure).

The sponsoring groups included PA Stands Up, (with Ashleigh, Ronald and Maria, of PA Stands Up, on board the bus I rode). Stefan Rogers joined the Make the Road PA bus that also departed from Allentown led by Armando Jimenez. Buses from these organizations came from other cities across the state along with members of SEIU (Service Employees International Union) and Habitat for Humanity.

Something I noted: We were very diverse, and our Capitol steps chants included many in Spanish. As we rallied on those Capitol steps in the raw rainy wind, group spokespeople, several state senators, (including Sen. Nikil Saval, (D-1), author of Whole Home Repairs Act), and representatives spoke to us.



Then we entered the Capitol to visit offices on the Senate and House sides, to secure support for full funding for Whole Home Repairs, as well as getting it a permanent place in the budget. The less than adequate funding for this act has already been disbursed to almost all our PA counties. It will enable homeowners and some landlords to secure grants of up to \$50,000 to fix homes badly in need of repair for things like furnaces, roofs, and foundations. This will address 'blight' in neighborhoods with older housing stock, and enable folks to stay in their homes, rather than being forced to sell and then to find rental housing in this high rent housing crisis environment.

Landlords must promise to not raise rent for a certain time period to secure their grant. The program needs full funding to start the other part of its mission: Training young people in the skills needed to fix homes, e.g., plumbing, roofing, and masonry. For that part to be successful, it would need the original full funding of \$500 million.

My group visited the offices of Sen. Nick Miller and Sen. Lisa Boscola. We were able to speak directly

to Sen. Miller, and to Lisa Boscola's Chief of Staff. Both indicated they would support the \$300 million for Whole Home Repairs in this coming year's budget, as well as the minimum wage increase, and more fair funding for our schools, should that come up for a vote.

After an exhausting day traipsing up and down the labyrinthine building complex that is our Capitol, we headed home on our bus.

- Kathryn Hoffman

## Golden Rule Bans Nuclear Weapons

In 1958 four Quaker peace activists sailed the *Golden Rule* toward the Marshall Islands in an attempt to halt then U.S. atmospheric nuclear weapons testing taking place in the Pacific. The crew was ultimately arrested near Honolulu but the sailing of the *Golden Rule*, the arrest of the crew, and a subsequent sailing of the *Pheonix*, led to a global outcry about atmospheric nuclear weapons testing. The nuclear fallout was causing damage around the world, but especially in the Marshall Islands. The public demands for an end to nuclear testing led to the 1963 Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

In 2010 some Veterans for Peace (VFP) discovered a much-damaged *Golden Rule* sailboat in Humbolt Bay, California, and took up the task of restoring the boat for another anti-nuclear weapons adventure. In 2015 the boat sailed to the VFP Convention in San Diego. It has since sailed up and down the West Coast, down the Mississippi and to Cuba. A trip to the Marshall Islands was halted by the pandemic.

It is now on a 15-month voyage around the eastern United States building support for the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons).

Three activists for the Stop the Wars Committee of LEPOCO (Pam Brubaker, Monica McAgdon, and Nancy Tate) joined the Brandywine Peace Community in their support vigil for and walk to the *Golden Rule* on May 13, while the sailboat was docked in Philadelphia at Penns Landing.

This smallish boat with a crew of four was a striking presence with its reddish-brown sails one proclaiming ☺ and Veterans for Peace on the other. It was impressive to witness the massive organizational effort by VFP to spread the demand to abolish nuclear weapons -- planning a safe and well-timed sailing schedule and arranging strong public activities at each port-of-call.

The *Golden Rule* will be sailing on the coast of New England in June. For a detailed history of this sailing peace witness see an article by Arnie Alpert, "The First Boat to Protest Nuclear Weapons...", at [wagingnonviolence.org](http://wagingnonviolence.org). To learn the schedule for and how you can support the Golden Rule Project see [vfgoldenruleproject.org](http://vfgoldenruleproject.org).

- Nancy Tate

# The UN's Climate Warning & the Need for Immediate Action

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Two months ago, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Control (IPCC) issued its "Summary Report" on the prospects for a livable future. The UN established the IPCC in 1988 and it began issuing periodic reports in 1992. The 2023 report was its sixth and may be the last in this decade. The report, based on the collaborative work of thousands of the planet's leading climate scientists, is our most authoritative statement on global warming. Like the documentary "Breaking Boundaries," which LEPOCO recently screened, the IPCC report makes clear that climate breakdown is already well underway, and we are dangerously close to several tipping points beyond which irreversible and catastrophic damage will occur.

The language of the report, agreed to by all the world's governments, is stark: "There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all." Much of what the IPCC tells us is already well known but nevertheless frightening. Every region of the globe is now the scene of "widespread adverse impacts" – melting polar ice caps, the retreat of glaciers, rising sea levels, more prolonged droughts, and more violent storms. Nearly half the world's population is already "highly vulnerable" to the effects of climate breakdown.

The report also insisted that if governments rapidly and decisively shifted their climate policies, the worse effects of the collapse can still be avoided. In urging the need for immediate and comprehensive action by national governments, António Guterres, the UN's General Secretary, used the language of Hollywood and said what needed to be done is "everything, everywhere, all at once." To take a single small example, governments should immediately curtail the release of methane gas from fossil fuel installations; it's 80 times more harmful than carbon dioxide but decays into CO<sub>2</sub> after twenty years.

Yet, for all the report's urgency, most media outlets paid it only passing attention. For all the evidence of militant public protests and powerful Green parties elsewhere, the U.S. still lacks a mass movement of its citizenry – something like the Civil Rights and Anti-war movements of the 1960s – seeking to forestall the collapse of the climate. There are no doubt important reasons for this. One of our major parties is in denial and the other equivocates about climate change. The major media ignore or downplay the importance of the issue because they are owned by large corporations or billionaires with little desire to see things change. It is easy to ignore an issue that many people still believe will only confront us at an indefinite time in the future.

Private citizens, acting on their own and as members of groups like LEPOCO, can pressure political

leaders to do the right thing. Above all, we must ensure that candidates for political office make their position on climate change clear, and then vote for those who promise decisive action before it is too late.

- Mick Baylor



## Some of the Current Crises We Face

**Crisis:** a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger (Oxford Languages Dictionary). We live in constant crises; peacemaking is challenged on a weekly – daily – hourly? basis. Here are some hot spots in the world along with the efforts to resolve them.

Women Cross DMZ (WCDMZ) is working for the restoration of peace to Korea. Seventy years ago, at the end of the Korean "conflict," an armistice was signed but no peace agreement has ever been executed. In 2015, Women Cross DMZ ([womenscrossdmz.org](http://womenscrossdmz.org)) organized a group of women (10,000 Korean women and 30 international representatives) to walk together on both sides of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The group included two Nobel Peace laureates, feminist icon Gloria Steinem, and Col. Ann Wright (LEPOCO Dinner speaker in 2016). WCDMZ called for an end to the Korean War, the reunification of separated families, and women's involvement in peacemaking.

This year, WCDMZ and others are calling peace advocates from across the U.S. to gather in Washington, DC, on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean Armistice, July 27-28, to call on leaders to officially end the Korean War and replace the armistice with a peace agreement. Contact LEPOCO if you would like to be part of a local delegation to this gathering.

The timing is critical as tensions between North and South Korea, along with the United States, are high. North Korea has overwhelmingly dangerous ICBMs, the U.S. and South Korea provoke North Korea with military exercises and threats of nuclear armament, and on April 26, President Biden announced plans to deploy nuclear-armed submarines to South Korea for the first time in 40 years.

Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) has re-introduced a bill that calls for a formal end to the Korean War. The legislation, HR-1369, has 27 cosponsors, none of them from Pennsylvania. We are encouraged to ask our members of Congress to support the bill.

Across the world from Korea, the war in Ukraine continues to kill and maim civilians and soldiers alike – neither side seems capable of "winning." The International Peace Bureau and other peace organizations are convening an International Summit for Peace in Ukraine, in Vienna, Austria, June 10-11. Their intent is "to publish an Urgent Global Appeal, called the Vienna Declaration for Peace, calling on political leaders to act

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## ◇◇◇ LEPOCO Constitution & Bylaws Need an Update ◇◇◇

The Constitution and Bylaws of LEPOCO require that any proposed amendments be published in this Newsletter and, subsequently, be approved at two successive Monthly Action Meetings (held each month on the second Monday). The amendment must be proposed by at least seven members. At the May 8<sup>th</sup> Action Meeting, amendments were proposed for publication by the seven members present.

### ARTICLE I - Name

Amend the first sentence by adding the words, "also known as LE-PO-CO and" [this spelling noted in the Articles of Incorporation dated December 1971]. Add to the first paragraph, "LEPOCO is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is designated by the federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

### ARTICLE III - Membership

Delete a portion of the sentence, "the amount of which shall be set by the process in Article VII of this constitution." [ARTICLE IV.A.4.b. to be amended as noted below]

### ARTICLE IV.A. - Officers

"4.b. Set Annual dues." added

4.c. "Designate one or more members with authority to act as head of LEPOCO for legal purposes, such as the execution of legal documents." to replace "Designate one of their number to act as head of LEPOCO for legal purposes."

4.d. Entire first paragraph to be deleted [laws on liability have changed]. The new paragraph is as follows: "In accordance with and to the fullest extent permitted by Pennsylvania Law governing the conduct and personal liability of Directors of Nonprofit Corporations and Unincorporated Associations, 15 Pa.C.S.A. Section 5712, 5713, no person who is or was a non-paid steering committee member shall be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken, or any failure to take action as a steering committee member unless the member has breached or failed to perform the duties of office as defined in the above-referenced statutes."

### ARTICLE V. - Process

Section D. Annual Meetings:

"An Annual Meeting shall be held during March, April, or May..." replaces "An Annual Meeting shall be held during the first three months... In the second sentence, the words, "set dues" are deleted.

Discussion of the amendments will be on the agendas of the June 12<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup> Action Meetings with the final approval anticipated at the July meeting. Copies of the Constitution and Bylaws may be requested from the LEPOCO Peace Center. Interested members are encouraged to attend the June and/or July Action Meetings.

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## Some of the Current Crises We Face

(continued from page 5)

in support of a ceasefire and negotiations in Ukraine." It would be wonderful to have an in-person delegate to the Summit from LEPOCO. Parts of the Summit will be available virtually (see [peacevienna.org](http://peacevienna.org)).

Defuse Nuclear War is circulating a petition asking Presidents Biden, Putin and Zelensky to stop the killing, agree to a ceasefire and begin negotiations! Sign the petition at the organization's website.

Some good news may be coming as tentative steps toward peace in Yemen move forward, Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) and 37 of their colleagues, including a local official, Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA), sent a letter to President Biden urging attention to critical issues in the besieged country.

First, the letter asks that the administration state publicly that "the United States will not provide any further support in any form to any faction party to the conflict" and that Yemen belongs to the Yemeni people. In addition, President Biden is asked to support lifting the Saudi blockade of Yemen's ports, to pause all weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and the

United Arab Emirates, and to maintain U.S. support for the United Nations arms embargo on the Houthis, one of the warring parties in Yemen's civil war. Finally, the letter calls for increased humanitarian aid and support for the international efforts for reconstruction in Yemen.

- Janet Ney

## G7 Barely Acknowledge Their Location

The G7 Summit (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA) in Hiroshima, May 19-21, was a disappointment. One anti-nuclear protester said, "I...cannot accept the fact that they are in Hiroshima, a place where an atomic bomb was dropped, trying to hold a meeting to start a nuclear war."

Pres. Biden was the second U.S. president to visit Hiroshima where the U.S. nuclear bomb killed about 140,000 people. Biden joined a wreath-laying ceremony but issued no apology for our attack. Unfold Zero said G7 countries did not to commit to any new measures to reduce nuclear threats and even backtracked from a G20 Bali Declaration (11/22) that said, "The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible."

(See a [commondreams.org](http://commondreams.org) analysis (5/23/23), "On Nuclear Weapons, G7 Leaders Not Good Enough," for more info.)

# Bits & Pieces

☪ Kathy Kelly is giving us another chance to make a little dent in addressing the crimes of our government in Afghanistan. She has been working to enable young Afghans (40 so far) to find safe refuge in countries like Germany, Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands. Portugal has welcomed 25 young Afghans. Now she is working with **groups in Spain who plan to enable 29 Afghans** to reach the province of Galicia. Airfare and financial support for several months is needed -- \$13,000 per person. Checks can be made payable to: Alliance of Community Trainers, with the note: Afghan Relief, and mailed to David Kast, 311 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wausau, WI 54401.

☪ Reading the stories written about **Harry Belafonte** after he died was inspiring. Phyllis Bennis of the IPS New Internationalism Project wrote, "Harry Belafonte was one of the greats of a generation of extraordinary heroes and artists, organizers, and agitators... He was known around the world for his solidarity with Africa, his support for decolonization, and his work as a global ambassador for UNICEF. He was a giant of internationalism."

"Working with Harry Belafonte was a gift -- and every time I had the chance to meet with him, there was always something more to learn. Things like how to balance principle and strategy, and how to bring international solidarity to mobilizations for labor and civil rights.

"In 2010 a huge DC rally brought together the main organizations linking those two struggles. It was just over a year into Obama's first term, and the president was already moving to dramatically escalate the war in Afghanistan. The rally leadership was reluctant to criticize Obama and his war, so our efforts to add a speaker from the anti-war movement went nowhere.

"But Harry Belafonte was the lead speaker at the rally. And at the last minute, he immediately agreed to a private request to include a few lines

calling for peace instead of escalation. His call for peace resulted in a huge ovation that swept the crowd to their feet..."

☪ Seventy years ago on June 19<sup>th</sup>, **Ethel and Julius Rosenberg** were denied clemency for the last time, and their executions were allowed to go forward. They lost their lives to the anti-communist hysteria of that time. This June the Rosenberg Fund for Children (RFC), founded by their younger son, Robert Meeropol, over 30 years ago, will present a virtual program honoring the legacy of Ethel and Julius and the stories about the work of the RFC against fascism. You can learn more about the program at [www.rfc.org/70th](http://www.rfc.org/70th).

☪ On May 16<sup>th</sup>, The New York Times published a full-page advertisement signed by 15 U.S. national security experts headed, "**The U.S. Should Be a Force for Peace in the World.**" It was drafted by the Eisenhower Media Network. It includes a timeline from 1990 to 2022 noting important markers between U.S., Russia and NATO over the years. The statement calls the war an "unmitigated disaster," and urges President Biden and Congress "to end the war speedily through diplomacy,

especially given the dangers of military escalation that could spiral out of control." You can read the statement at [www.eisenhowermedianetwork.org](http://www.eisenhowermedianetwork.org).

☪ **Frida Berrigan** recently wrote "**Tik Tok-ing at the Domsday Clock: I'm Too Old to Be Hip on Social Media, But I Understand Growing Up While Thinking Daily About the Threat of Nuclear Armageddon.**" You can read it at [commondreams.org](http://commondreams.org). It was published on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

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

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

**Thursday, June 1, 5:30 pm: Peace Camp 2023 Planning Committee Meeting** at LEPOCO. LEPOCO Peace Center, 1705 W. Broad St., Bethlehem (18018). Call 610-691-8730 for more info.

**Monday, June 5, 2 pm: Stop the Wars Committee Meeting** on zoom. Call 610-691-8730 for the zoom link or more info.

**Tuesday, June 6, 6 pm: First Tuesday LEPOCO Book Group Meeting**, LEPOCO Peace Center, 1705 W. Broad St., Bethlehem (18018). The group will discuss, "The Colony," by Audrey Magee. Contact LEPOCO (610-691-8730) for more info.

**Thursday, June 8, 4:30-5:30 pm: Monthly Peace Vigil**, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte Sts., (south) Bethlehem. End the Wars. Witness for Peace. Contact LEPOCO (610-691-8730) for more information.

**Mondays, June 12 & July 10, 7 pm: LEPOCO Monthly Action Meetings**, LEPOCO Peace Center, 1705 W. Broad St., Bethlehem (18018). All members & friends are welcome at this monthly business meeting where the organization's activities are discussed. Call 610-691-8730 for more information.

*Please join in the work of these groups as you are able. If you want information about the meetings of Peace Singers, Newsletter Planning Group, Films & Talks Planning Group, or any other committees, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.*

*For other event information, see [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org) or read LEPOCO Email Updates.*





Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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### Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

June 8 & July 13

4:30-5:30 pm

*End the wars.*

*Witness for peace.*

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

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

### Underground Reels & Spiels

Friday, June 16, 7:00 pm

Screening of

**"Boycott"**

Join us for the screening & discussion.

LEPOCO Peace Center  
1705 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

(See page 3 for more info.)

### Peace Camp 2023

July 24-28

Time to Register & Volunteer!

(see page 1 & inserts.)

War is the certain  
use of horrible means  
for uncertain ends.

- Howard Zinn  
(1922-2010)