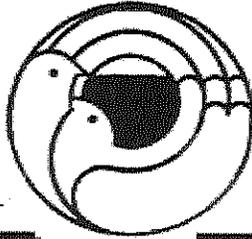


March  
2019  
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Newsletter of **LEPOCO**  
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

## LEPOCO Annual Dinner

Frida Berrigan will bring an intriguing message to LEPOCO's annual dinner, "How Nuclear Weapons Ruined My Life: They're Probably Ruining Yours Too." Frida Berrigan is the author of *It Runs in the Family: On Being Raised by Radicals and Growing into Rebellious Motherhood* (OR Books, 2015). She is a TomDispatch.com regular, writes the "Little Insurrections" column for WagingNonviolence.org, serves on the board of the War Resisters League and is active with Witness Against Torture. She is the office manager for FRESH New London (Connecticut), an organization dedicated to transforming the food system, and she has worked at the World Policy Institute.

While we will have to wait until March 23 to learn the exact intent of the title for Frida's talk we know that her mother, Elizabeth McAlister, has been in jail in Brunswick, Georgia, for almost a year, following her arrest, along with six others, for entering the King's Bay Naval Base in Georgia, with banners, statements, hammers and blood, last April 4. Their mission was to convert weapons of mass destruction and call attention to the ways nuclear weapons kill every day, by their mere existence and maintenance. This is only one of many disarmament actions by members of Frida Berrigan's family, and, Frida, herself, has been protesting war since she was very young.

LEPOCO is taking reservations now for the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 23, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wyandotte Sts., south Bethlehem. (Please note the return to our old venue.) The evening will begin at 6 pm, with a brief social time prior to dinner being served at 6:30 pm. (Also, note the later start time this year.) A delicious meal that includes a vegan/vegetarian entrée and other fresh options will be offered.

LEPOCO's annual raffle will be a feature again this year. Raffle prizes include a turned wooden salad bowl by Lee Buck, a hand-crocheted afghan by Michelle Sheehan, a quilt by Ellen Buck and Romaine Laury, a lidded coffee/tea jar and matching mugs from Sommerville Pottery, a silk-tie-braided mat by Ronnie Arena, a gift certificate from Jumbar, and a gift certificate toward admission to the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. A set of raffle tickets is enclosed with this mailing.

The election of nominees for the Steering Committee will be conducted and, as always, the LEPOCO Peace Singers will bring an entertaining selection of peace-related music.

A reservation coupon on the flyer enclosed with this newsletter can be used to make your reservation or contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 or lepoco@fast.net.

We look forward to an evening visiting with activist friends, reflecting on the challenges to peace and justice, and learning from our speaker and from each other.

- Janet Ney

## Join LEPOCO on Tax Day

On April 15, LEPOCO members will again distribute leaflets at Lehigh Valley post offices. We will join groups across the U.S. in conducting a public witness on Tax Day to call the attention of taxpayers to the ruinous and wasteful costs of military spending.

Taxpayers in the U.S. need to know that more than half of all discretionary spending in the federal government's budget goes to military spending. This share does not include the costs of Veteran's Affairs. The Defense Department's allocation this fiscal year is well over \$700 billion. Given the government's ever-increasing allocation of our money for war, the unavoidable temptation of those concerned with fiscal responsibility is to cut needed social programs like Medicare and Medicaid. It doesn't take much to imagine how much could be done to improve people's everyday lives and how much the environment could benefit if we reallocated money from defense spending to other (non-"wall") purposes. President Dwight Eisenhower made precisely this point in a speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, just after Tax Day, 1953, when he said, "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."

This year's tax day, Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, is also a date on which the realities of the Trump administration's recent tax plan, with its so-called "cuts," will be impressed on the minds of the citizenry.

LEPOCO members are urged to help pass out leaflets outside post offices on April 15<sup>th</sup>. It's a great opportunity to engage our fellow citizens in a discussion of spending priorities. Please contact the LEPOCO office (610-691-8730) to commit to a specific post office and time or for further information.

- Mick & Carol Baylor

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# What are you willing to put your efforts into?\_\_\_\_\_

Earth Day 2019 is coming up. April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's time to think again what each of us is willing to put our efforts into. It's tough to do given the tension between doing things the way we've been trained to do things, because that's how things are done, the TINA way (Margaret Thatcher's "There Is No Alternative" way), on the one hand, and, on the other hand, things we need to do because we recognize that TINA is fatally flawed, that we indeed need to develop alternatives (The GOBABY way, GOTTA Be A Better way).

Yes, the first way is easier. We're not rocking the boat. There's no blowback, no getting in trouble because we would not be challenging the status quo, getting in their faces, being whistle-blowers, obstructionists, uppity, shrill. Upsetting our personal lives.

But it has gotten easier these days to go the second way. Seems like people have been re-visiting the IMAHAINGTIA statement of resistance given voice in the recent staging of Paddy Chayefsky's *Network*, "I'm Mad As Hell And I'm Not Going To Take It Anymore!"

All kinds of people have been getting angry. And active. Black Lives Matter, Me Too, Sunrise, Green New Deal. Young people, feisty old people, black people, women, immigrants, indigenous people, socialists. Did you see *The New York Times* (2/24/19) article about "The Making of a Young Socialist in Britain," and the play the young activist, Ash Sarkar, received for calling out Piers Morgan, moderator on Good Morning Britain, "I'm Literally a Communist, You Idiot" (the slogan has made it onto T-shirts being sold on Amazon Fashion)?

Even the Transition Town movement, which has kept out of trouble by being "explicitly non-political" and working "under the radar," has been talking about coming out more into the open.

And people who find the little indulgences carried out in pursuit of consumers to be grating on the soul and devastating to the planet, have been getting mad and getting public. Witness the battles against and banning of plastic straws, single-use plastic wraps, plastic bottles.

There are though a lot of ways of walking the walk without the wear and tear of confrontation. Some mainstream columnists have published opinion pieces in *The New York Times* about people and communities who are not confrontational, but who work on addressing problems of existence with trust and compassion among all stakeholders. In his February 19, 2019, opinion piece, "Is America Becoming a Four-Party State?" Thomas L. Friedman refers readers back to his July 3, 2018, "Where American Politics Can Still Work: From the Bottom Up." And David Brooks too talks

about the non-confrontational approach in his February 18, 2019, "A Nation of Weavers."

Whether you do confrontation or not, GOBABY.

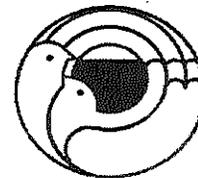
- Martin Boksenbaum

## Peace Camp: The Party & the Summer Day Camp

On Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, campers, their families, friends, and a group of dedicated LEPOCO folk gathered at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Peace Camp Party. The morning began with crafts, singing and visiting with old and new friends. Three groups then separated and went to their planned activities; Music & Social Change, Games, and Peacemaking/Peacebreaking. We ended the day with more singing and party food!

This experience definitely has us looking forward to Peace Camp Party 2020, but more immediately toward Peace Camp 2019, July 22-26! With this newsletter, you'll find a Peace Camp flyer for children to register for this year's camp. Call the office, 610-691-8730, if you want more flyers to share. Also, you will find a volunteer form to be completed by teens and adults who would like to have the great experience of being a volunteer at Peace Camp.

- Amanda Zaniesienko



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, Martin Boksenbaum, Amanda Zaniesienko, Carol Baylor.

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

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

# Popcorn & Politics

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Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

## *"Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives: The Environmental Footprint of War"*

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

The environmental damage occasioned by war and preparation for war is routinely underestimated, underreported, even ignored. In this documentary we discover that the environment remains war's silent casualty.

Directed by Alice Day & Lincoln Day. 68 minutes. 2008.

*Please bring a snack or beverage to share.*

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm

## *"The Garden"*

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

More Upcoming films in P&P/First Friday Film series: June 7 - "Carla's Song"; July 5 - "The Visitor"; August 2 - "The Man Who Saved the World"; September 6 - "Okinawa: The Afterburn."

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## Book Group Report

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On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the First Tuesday Book Group will discuss, "Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment," by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. On May 7, the group will discuss, "Pachinko," by Min Jin Lee. A complete list of books to be discussed in 2019 was included with the January-February issue of this newsletter (page 6). The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the welcoming home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, in Bethlehem. For more information call LEPOCO, 610-691-8730.

## Biking & Walking on May 25<sup>th</sup>

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Take your mind off the ice and cold and start to think about the start of summer, specifically, the annual LEPOCO start-of-summer event, the LEPOCO Peace-a-Thon for bikers and walkers, to be held on Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Plan to join us as we gather near Sand Island in Bethlehem at around 8:30 am for light refreshments, fellowship and stretching, and leave on foot or wheels around 9 am. Both walkers and bikers should be done by 1 pm. The walking and biking routes will be different this year to improve the biking and walking experience, especially for repeat participants.

LEPOCO will be sharing the monies raised with CeaseFire PA to help with their effort to reduce the level of gun violence in our state and bring some common sense to our gun laws. Further information regarding the Peace-a-Thon, including Pledge Sheets, will be contained in future newsletters and mailings. Meanwhile, SAVE THE DATE!!!

- David Rose

## Monthly Peace Vigils Return to Horsham

The monthly peace vigil to "Ignite Peace! Stop Endless War; Close the Drone War Command Center" will return to Horsham on Saturday, March 30, noon-2 pm, under the leadership of the Brandywine Peace Community. The monthly vigils (except January and February) have been held since April 2013. From Horsham, U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper drones are piloted by remote control to launch deadly Hellfire missiles. We do not know which countries are attacked from Horsham, but we do know that civilians have been killed in U.S. drone attacks in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and Libya. If you want to join a car pool from the Lehigh Valley to the Horsham vigil, contact LEPOCO, 610-691-8730.

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## Ban Nuclear Weapons! \_\_\_\_\_

After an invigorating walk from Hotel Bethlehem on a cold day, Steve and Elizabeth Leeper, and Emiko Okada, visiting peace scholars at Moravian College, joined about a dozen LEPOCO members for a luncheon on Tuesday, January 29. This was their first full day in Bethlehem, having made the long journey from Japan. The energetic Emiko Okada had wanted to visit a local peace center, and looking at the peace posters around LEPOCO, said she felt right at home.

As a Hibakusha, or survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Okada San presented a brief summary of her family's experiences and the scope of the 1945 Hiroshima bombing. She further explained the Hibakusha Appeal, a campaign to gather 100 million signatures to ban nuclear weapons, to be sent to the United Nations. Steve Leeper talked about his peace work in Hiroshima, Japan, specifically helping the Mayors for Peace Campaign and now working with the Hibakusha Appeal Campaign.

The Hibakusha Appeal Campaign is the last great effort of the politically diverse survivors of the atomic bombs in Japan. They have worked on this issue for over 70 years. Steve Leeper's wife Elizabeth did an excellent job of translating for Okada San. Attentive LEPOCO folks introduced discussion about the dangers of the planet's 440 nuclear power plants. Nancy Tate presented the Leepers and Okada San with peace pins, calendars, the latest issue of Nukewatch, and LEPOCO newsletters. Okada San concluded that the point is to change the world's consciousness and ban nuclear weapons. This would be similar to the way countries signed treaties against biological and chemical weapons, and land mines. For more information see [peacinstitute.org](http://peacinstitute.org). You can add your name to the Hibakusha Appeal there and encourage others to do so.

On January 30 (another snowy day), Emiko Okada and Steve Leeper presented a lecture, "Life Under the Mushroom Cloud: Peacebuilding and Activism" to students and staff at Moravian College. The difficult weather kept the public attendance low. The visitors also engaged with students and staff at other events during their Peace and Justice Scholars residency at Moravian College, January 28-31.

Kelly Denton-Borhaug heads the Peace and Justice Studies program at Moravian College and leads yearly student study delegations to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. It is encouraging that young people may have an insightful perspective about nuclear weapons as a result of the visit of the Leepers and Emiko Okada, and other important peace programming at the college.

- Monica McAghon



## Learning from the Peace Witnesses of WW I \_\_\_\_\_

What to do on a bitter cold Saturday morning in early February? Why not carpool down to Harleysville to see the "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War," exhibit at the Mennonite Heritage Center! Seven LEPOCO-ites did just that, enjoying the company of other peacemakers while finding out about the multitude of peace activities that occurred from 1914 - 1917, here in the United States.

The Center was well organized, not only offering an artistically arranged and informative exhibit, but also providing each participant with a page of questions to consider while viewing the exhibit. The exhibit "lifts up the prophetic insights and personal courage of World War I peace protesters." We saw photographs and quotes from these protesters including men and women, religious believers and secular humanitarians, political protesters and sectarian separatists.

After an hour or so with the exhibit we then all gathered and, led by a volunteer from the Center, discussed the questions they had given us. The questions ranged from "Who speaks for peace in times of war? / What kinds of people continued to speak for peace after the U.S. entered the war? / What religious backgrounds influenced people who chose pacifism?" to "Is paying for war participating in war? / What were Liberty Bonds and what relation did they have to war? / What reasons did people give for not buying Liberty Bonds?"

We learned more about each other as we answered these and other questions. Our sharing included personal experiences of dealing with the military draft and with acts of violence. Several overlying questions were, "What are you willing to fight for? What are you willing to die for?" We all agreed that another important question would be, "What are you willing to kill for?" The military doesn't always seem to understand that the possibility of killing can be more terrifying than the thought of dying.

This 'LEPOCO Field Trip' was a wonderful opportunity both for the company and the information. When other opportunities like this arise, if you have the time and interest, give it a try!

The "Voices of Conscience" exhibit has now moved on from Harleysville to Bluffton University in Ohio. There are several more venues for the exhibit planned in 2019, but others are still sought by the Kauffman Museum in Kansas, where the exhibit was created. For more information see [kauffman@bethelks.edu](mailto:kauffman@bethelks.edu).

- Donna Hartmann

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 at [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net).

Follow LEPOCO on Facebook / Twitter. Please "like" & "share."

# Steering Committee Nominations & Ballot

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LEPOCO's Steering Committee plans and provides leadership for the Action Meetings, held the second Monday of the month (these meetings are open to all members and friends of the organization). The Committee makes decisions between monthly meetings and handles finances, personnel, and other organizational issues. The election for this year's Steering Committee will be completed at the Annual Dinner. (See balloting instructions below.)

Terry Brixcoe, Sharlee DeMenichi & Stefan Rogers, Nancy Johnston, Janet Ney, Jim Orben, and Tom Stinnett (co-treasurer) will continue serving their two-year Steering Committee terms that began in 2018. Thank you to Scott Slingerland who is retiring from the Committee this year. He served two terms.

We are grateful to all these LEPOCO members who, as Sheila Clever once said, are the "best people on the planet" convening once a month at the Peace Center to "strategize how to nonviolently build a sane and just world." The nominees for 2019 appear below.

Please note that we can have from six to ten at-large Steering Committee members. These nominees will set our number at nine (two couples are choosing to serve as a team filling one position on the committee). We are seeking one person (or a team) to fill that tenth slot on the committee. Please call LEPOCO, drop a note by mail or email, or speak with someone on the Steering Committee if you are interested in serving in this capacity or if you have a suggestion for someone to be considered for a Steering Committee position.

Carol Baylor of Bethlehem, hails from Dallas, Texas, and is a progressive leftist who loves music, tennis, nature and art. She is a dedicated scissors worker with a political bent. She became involved in LEPOCO in the late 1970s. She is sharing a seat on the Steering Committee with her husband, Mick Baylor.

Mick Baylor of Bethlehem, was raised in the mystic Midwest, and has been involved with LEPOCO since the nuclear crisis at Three Mile Island. He is a retired professor of European history at Lehigh University. He is a

secular-minded agnostic who is interested in the political and social impact of radical religious movements and in promoting a just, humane and sustainable future. He is sharing a seat on the Steering Committee with his wife, Carol Baylor.

Margot Hillman of Bethlehem, has been involved with LEPOCO since she moved to the Lehigh Valley in 1982. She has worn many hats in the organization - printer, treasurer, representative to the Mobilization for Survival -- and has been a dedicated leader at Peace Camp since the beginning. She recently retired from her job as a computer expert. She previously served multiple terms on the Steering Committee.

Julius Iwantsch of Bethlehem has been a LEPOCO member since the mid-1970s. He works as a design draftsman, working mainly with municipal clients. His interests include questioning U.S. military involvement around the world, military service alternatives for young people, and bringing this country's reputation up to what it should be -- through change. He enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, and home renovations. He has served as co-treasurer for over a decade.

Christine Loch of Coopersburg, has been serving on the Steering Committee for almost two years, having joined LEPOCO after the 2016 election. She is a Registered Nurse and Registered Respiratory Therapist, having worked in many areas of the health care field, including in rural clinics in Kenya. She has been an enthusiastic volunteer at many LEPOCO events. She is completing a doctorate program at Northeastern University.

Dan Miller of Coopersburg has been a member of LEPOCO for over 25 years. Dan and his family (five people total) have been mainstays of Peace Camp since the 1990s. In 1977, Dan co-founded the Perkiomen Valley Academy, a private day treatment program servicing Montgomery County young people. He worked at this alternative school for disadvantaged and emotionally disturbed teenagers for 35 years. Dan is a beekeeper and has coached youth sports for many years. This will be his fourth term on the Steering Committee.

## Election Ballot

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### At-Large Steering Committee Members (vote for four people/positions):

Carol & Mick Baylor \_\_\_\_  
(2-year term)

Margot Hillman \_\_\_\_  
(2-year term)

Co-Treasurer (vote for one):  
Julius Iwantsch  
(2-year term)

Christine Loch \_\_\_\_  
(2-year term)

Dan Miller \_\_\_\_  
(2-year term)

\*\*Please note it here if you or anyone you know would be interested in serving on the Steering Committee:

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This ballot can be cast at the Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 23, 2019, by 7 pm, or by mail to arrive at the LEPOCO Peace Center, 313 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bethlehem, PA 18015, by Thursday, March 21, 2019.

## Dancing in the Great Darkness

### Some Pennsylvania activists are focusing on Harrisburg. The Pennsylvania Poor People's Campaign will deliver their "Moral Agenda for Pennsylvania" to the State Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday, March 19, at 2:30 pm. They will present demands around voting rights, social welfare programs, First Nations people, ecological devastation, mass incarceration, poverty, wages and workers' rights, health care, immigration, housing, and LGBTQIA people.

March On Harrisburg is marching 105 miles from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, April 27-May 5, to demand a vote on pro-democracy, anti-corruption legislation. If the bills they support have not been voted on by the time they reach Harrisburg, they will organize a day of nonviolent direct action on Monday, May 6. People are invited to join the walk for 10 minutes, 10 miles, or for the entire 105 mile distance. Support volunteers and vehicles are needed as well as walkers. For more information or to sign up, see [marchonharrisburg.org](http://marchonharrisburg.org).

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### The monks and nuns of the New England Peace Pagoda are initiating their 18<sup>th</sup> annual Walk for a New Spring, a three-week walk from the Leverett Peace Pagoda to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, March 20 to April 9. Their walk program includes nightly gatherings around the idea of global security through shared security. Their theme is "Share Security; Fearlessly Facing the Future; Building Peace & Community, Locally, Nationally & Globally. The walkers will be supporting the Hibakusha Appeal (see page 4) and the United Nations Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons. The walk will pass through New Jersey and a corner of southeast Pennsylvania. You can learn more at [newenglandpeacepagoda.org](http://newenglandpeacepagoda.org).

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### NATO turns 70 this year and is celebrating this anniversary in Washington, DC, on April 4. It is especially troubling that the celebration will take place on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1968) and the anniversary of his "Beyond Vietnam" speech (1967) where he called us to overcome the giant triplets of militarism, racism and materialism. There will be a series of events in Washington, DC, to present an alternative peaceful vision for the world. One of those events will be a No to NATO; Yes to Peace & Disarmament Counter-Summit: International Peace Movement Conference, on Tuesday, April 2, 9 am-5 pm, at St. Stephen & the Incarnation Episcopal Church. Phyllis Bennis, Medea Benjamin, Ann Wright and others from the U.S. will speak along with leaders from the European peace movement. For more information see [no-to-nato.org](http://no-to-nato.org).

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### Palestinian nonviolent activist and journalist Ahmed Abu Artema is touring the U.S. on a speaking tour titled, Hashtag to Headlines: How the Gaza Great

March of Return Challenged the World. American Friends Service Committee is organizing the tour of eight cities and says the tour "comes at a critical time, as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza due to the blockade continues to intensify." Abu Artema will speak at the Brooklyn Friends Meeting on Thursday, March 14, at 7 pm. This program will be broadcast live on Facebook. For more information see [afsc.org](http://afsc.org).

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### Following international developments can be baffling. It is often difficult to hear the voices speaking for peace. Here are some sources that may be helpful.

Regarding developments in Venezuela:

- "Yes, conditions in Venezuela are bad. No, we shouldn't intervene." by Stephen Kinzer, 2/8/19, The Boston Globe.
- "US Media Erase Years of Chavismo's Gains," by Gregory Shupak, 2/20/19, [fair.org](http://fair.org).
- "This Is Not Humanitarian Aid: A Maduro Critic in Venezuela Slams U.S. Plan to Push Regime Change," DemocracyNow.org interview with Edgardo Lander, Venezuelan sociologist and member of the Citizen's Platform in Defense of the Constitution, 2/22/19.
- "Trump's Other 'National Emergency': Sanctions That Kill Venezuelans. The humanitarian crisis will get rapidly worse if the most recent sanctions continue," by Mark Weisbrot, 2/28/19, The Nation.
- Urge your representative to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 1004 that seeks to prohibit the introduction of U.S. Armed Forces into hostilities with respect to Venezuela, introduced by Rep. David Cicilline, in the U.S. Congress on February 6.

Regarding developments in Korea:

- "Why Are Democrats Trying to Torpedo the Korea Peace Talks? There is a growing split between liberal US politicians and South Korean progressives on the peace process," by Tim Shirrock, 2/22/19, The Nation.
- "Women marched for Korean reconciliation. Washington is in our way," by Gloria Steinem & Christine Ahn, 2/24/19, The Washington Post.
- "Negotiate for Real Peace in Korea," by Susie Ravitz & Monica McAghon, 2/24/19, letter to the editor in both The Morning Call & The Express Times.
- "Begun Is Half Done: Prospects for US-North Korea Nuclear Diplomacy," by Catherine Killough, an in-depth report from the Ploughshares Fund, February 2019.
- "The Korean People Want Peace," interview with Christine Ahn on "Trump Walking Away from N. Korea Nuclear Talks," DemocracyNow.org, 2/28/19.
- "Despite Collapse of Trump-Kim Summit, Diplomacy Is Still the Only Path," by Simone Chun & Kevin Martin, 3/1/19, [truthout.org](http://truthout.org).
- "Address by President Moon Jae-in on 100<sup>th</sup> March First Independence Movement Day."
- Urge your representative to become a co-sponsor of H.Res. 152 calling for a formal end of the Korean war, introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna, in the U.S. Congress on February 26.

- gathered by Nancy Tate

# Bits & Pieces

⊕ The day after Easter, April 22, is Earth Day 2019. LEPOCO will be tabling at several fairs and festivals around that time. If you can help with staffing for an hour or two, please call the office (610-691-8730) to claim a time.

⊕ Lost & Found: 1) someone left a dark grey cardigan sweater at LEPOCO after one of our First Friday Films; 2) someone left a video camera bag at the closing program for Peace Camp last July. If either of these items belongs to you please claim them at 610-691-8730.

⊕ 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 has been a powerful witness confronting our so far mostly hard-headed senator. New and experienced participants are welcome. Most weeks someone speaks to the group about a pressing national issue (that Senator Toomey should be addressing).

⊕ Michael Lighty, a Sanders Institute Fellow, will speak at a Medicare for All Town Hall, on Friday, March 15, at 6 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. The event is organized by DSA of the Lehigh Valley and Lehigh Valley For All.

⊕ The many issues around prisons are finally getting some of the attention they deserve. • Now through April 7, the Banana Factory (25 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Bethlehem) is hosting "Hope in Hard Times: Prison-Art for Social Justice" (open for viewing during regular Banana Factory hours). For more info. see [artforjustice.org](http://artforjustice.org). The exhibit is sponsored by the Moravian Church. • On Sunday, March 17, at 1:30 pm, the Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Edwards, pastor of Resurrected Life Community Church, Allentown, will speak on Mass Incarceration, touching on statistics and history, eliminating cash bail, and the school to prison pipe-

line, for a meeting of the East Penn Democratic Club, at the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main St., Macungie (18062). • Tyrone Werts, a Soros Fellow (2013), will speak about the role of education and the arts in prison and the concepts of hope, justice, legacy, and change, on Tuesday, March 19 at Moravian College, Prosser Aud., at 7 pm. • On Sunday, March 24, at 2 pm, Chester Hollman, Jr., will speak about the wrongful conviction of his son who is now serving life without parole. This talk will be at the Banana Factory (see exhibit address above). • On Wednesday, April 3, at 7 pm, there will be a panel discussion on Bail Reform, at Northampton Community College, David Reed Community Rm. (#220), 3835 Green Pond Rd., Bethlehem (18020). This program is organized by the Easton NAACP and is the first of a three-part series on "Criminal Justice Reform in the Prison System."

⊕ On Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 pm, the Bethlehem Area School District and BASD Proud Parents are presenting a screening of the film, Backpack Full of Cash. The film explores the real cost of privatizing our public schools. The film is narrated by Matt Damon, and the author,

Jonathan Kozol, describes it as, "A beautiful film... Everyone who values democratic education needs to see this."

⊕ The Bethlehem Public Library (11 W. Church St.) is hosting Dr. Shannon Frystak of E. Stroudsburg University, to speak about This is My War! Female Leaders in the Civil Rights Movement, on Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 pm. While traditional literature of the modern civil rights movement has highlighted the leadership of men, Dr. Frystak will explore the leadership of women in the struggle for racial justice from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century through the 1960s.

⊕ "Sakura: Requiem for Hiroshima & Nagasaki, will be presented by Moravian College Theatre in Prosser Auditorium on Saturday, April 6, at 8 pm. The dance performance by Kelin Yoshimura appeals to the world to hand down the event (the destruction by the atomic bombs) and convey the meaninglessness of war. Her dance is a requiem and a call for peace. This event is free. (The symbol of the suffering and grief of the people is the cherry blossom sakura.)

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

Sundays, March 10 & March 17, 7 pm: Peace Singers rehearse at the homes of Nancy Johnston in Easton, and Marcie Lightwood & Rick Weaver in Bethlehem, respectively.

Mondays, March 11 & April 8, 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, March 12, 3 pm: LEPOCO Annual Dinner Planning Committee meeting at the Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Wednesday, March 13, 3:30 pm: Peace Camp 2019 Planning Meeting, LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Thursdays, March 14 & April 4, 12:30 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Monday, April 1, 11 am: Stop the Wars Committee meets at the Anatolian Kitchen, 3016 Linden St., Bethlehem.

April 2 & May 7, 6 pm: LEPOCO Book Group meets at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem.

Tuesday, May 14, 4-6 pm: Peaceathon Planning Committee work/calling night/meeting at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

*Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information about these meetings or the meetings of the Newsletter Planning Group, the 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](http://www.lepoco.org).*



Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

313 W. Fourth St., Bethlehem, PA 18015  
610-691-8730 [lepoco@fast.net](mailto:lepoco@fast.net)  
Fax: 610-691-8904 [www.lepoco.org](http://www.lepoco.org)

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Lehigh Valley, PA

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### Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

March 14 & April 11

4:30-5:30 pm

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

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

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

### Help Leaflet

at Post Offices

Monday, April 15

Taxes for Peace

Not War

Call 610-691-8730  
to claim a location & time.  
See page 1 for more information.



## LEPOCO

# Annual Dinner

## Saturday, March 23

Featured Speaker:

## Frida Berrigan

Topic:

### How Nuclear Weapons Ruined My Life:

*They're Probably Ruining Yours Too*

Episcopal Cathedral Church of the Nativity  
Third & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

(See page 1 & the enclosed flyer for more  
information. For reservations call 610-691-8730.)