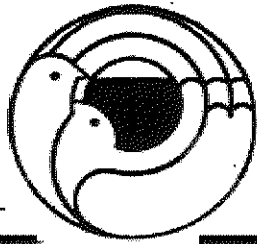


June-July
2019

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

Pick a Crisis, Spin the Wheel

Are you like me? Do you find yourself stunned and bewildered by a rapidly changing political world, above all by the slide into regression and chaos? Crisis builds on crisis.

The news cycle seems like a squirrel in a forest of nut trees, scarcely knowing where to focus next -- mounting confrontation between the president and congress; an all-out assault on women's health rights; family separations and children's deaths at the southern border; spiraling defense spending facilitating militaristic threats against Venezuela, Iran and North Korea; trade war with China. The list could easily be

WHAT WE CAN'T
DO ALONE
WE CAN DO
TOGETHER



PEACE CAMP LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

extended -- from inaction on climate degradation, health care reform and police brutality, to school shootings, the polarization of wealth, and the growth of fascist white nationalism. What's a person to do?

Some may remain inactive because they've been shocked into numbness by an administration that thrives on chaos, confusion and diversion. Some may be so depressed by all the issues that they've given up on the idea of improving things. Many would like to do something but are at a loss to know what to do and where specifically to take action.

At this time of terrible political reaction and social unraveling, maybe the key thing is not to lose heart, not to fall into depressed cynicism or numbed passivity. After all, there are also some encouraging signs -- from the results of the 2018 midterms or the #MeToo movement to campaigns against gerrymandering and in favor of health care for all.

Maybe what is vitally important is simply to get involved in some specific issue that speaks to a person's heart. Political activism can salve the psyche by establishing contact with others who are like-minded and working to overcome their own inertia. Activism builds community and, in a dark time, offers the chance to make a tangible difference.

The only way the darkness will end is through the light that each can contribute to the coming of a different day.

- Mick Baylor

Oh! What A Week! ...

Monday we played games!
With hula hoops entwined,
we said our names and danced a dance
and silly-walked in one long line.

Tuesday we sang songs!
Songs of a moose, a mosquito, but especially of Peace.
We talked of peacemakers, then and now...
while we ate grapes, pretzels, watermelon and cheese.

Wednesday we played drums!
...with cicada casings on our shirts.
We made SO MUCH NOISE!
Then, we painted and laughed until our cheeks kinda hurt.

Thursday we went outside!
We felt the warm breeze on our skin and the sun on our faces.

Drip drip drip cooled us off...
just enough...to then explore more outdoor spaces.

Friday we heard stories
of children who were so, SO smart!
They helped us see incredible ways to better the world,
just by acting from our hearts.

Peace Camp goes by so quickly
and it's always so much fun!
Though sad for that week's end, WE knew....
THIS year...
THERE'D BE ANOTHER ONE!

- Amanda Zaniesienko

LEPOCO is still accepting camper registrations for Peace Camp 2019. Camp will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Allentown. The dates and times for

(continued on page 2)

Dancing in the Great Darkness

Sam Benchehib, then a Lehigh University student, spoke for a LEPOCO P&P in April of 2018, about his project to help clean up the plastic from the rivers of his home country, Indonesia. He and his brother made a kayak from plastic bottles and floated it down "the most polluted river in the world" to help teach lessons about plastic pollution. Now a Lehigh University graduate he is running across the U.S. this summer (#ocean2oceanrun) to raise awareness about how plastic is polluting our oceans. He and his siblings are undertaking this effort through their Make a Change World organization. He plans to cover about 20 miles a day and engage with people and communities en route over the next five months.

♦♦♦

Sometimes speaking out is a form of dancing. Before Memorial Day the U.S. Army posted a positive video of a young private speaking about how the Army had afforded him the opportunity to better himself. Then the Army asked others to respond about how military service had impacted their lives. The 10,000 responses, including many from older veterans, mostly described "a complete catalog of suffering from military service and its ripple effects." This story was reported on NPR's Morning Edition on May 27, "Army Surprised by Answers to Its Question: How Has Serving Impacted You?"

♦♦♦

Amidst the stories of a deep political crisis in Haiti with demonstrations calling for the president's removal for corruption and mismanagement, comes a report from the Quixote Center about their support for the planting of trees in Gros Morne, Haiti. Over 20 years 2 million trees have brought changes to a once barren mountain. It is now a thriving forest that serves as a gathering place and a training ground for Haitian farmers to learn about sustainable agricultural techniques. You can learn more at Quixote.org.

♦♦♦

The horrible stories about the mistreatment of immigrant children and adults by our government at the U.S.'s southern border are difficult to bear, but people are dancing back. The trial against a humanitarian aid volunteer in Arizona, Dr. Scott Warren, ended in a hung jury on June 11. Scott Warren had provided food, water and shelter to undocumented migrants and the charges against him could have resulted in 20 years in prison. Amnesty International said, "As long as the USA and Mexico fail to protect the lives of migrants and asylum seekers between the two countries, human rights defenders like Scott Warren must be allowed to continue their necessary and life-saving work...."

On June 22, Japanese-American activists and survivors of U.S. internment camps engaged in civil disobedience outside the Fort Sill Army post in Oklahoma where the U.S. government plans to detain 1400 immigrant and refugee children soon. Fort Sill was an

internment camp for Japanese Americans in 1942... On Memorial Day a thousand letters of support and caring written by children from across the U.S. were delivered to the Homestead detention center in Florida where 2000 child migrants are being held... On June 17 teenagers stood in a metal cage outside the UN's European headquarters in Geneva wearing T-shirts that read #ClassroomsNotCages to protest the immigration policies in the U.S... Juntos of Philadelphia has published a report on how local governments in Pennsylvania are using their resources to assist ICE. You can learn more at vamosjuntos.org. Lehigh Valley governments are very much involved.

♦♦♦

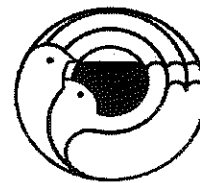
The examples above are only a few from a long list of dancing activism. Can we find see our way out of the great darkness? Another chance for you to join the dancing comes on Monday, July 15, when Kathryn Hoffman has set up a meeting with Senator Casey's staff to discuss U.S. threats against Iran. If you would like to participate, call Kathryn at 610-770-1252.

Oh! What A Week! ...

(continued from page 1)

Peace Camp are July 22-26, 9 am to noon. Camp is open to children, ages 5-13, who have completed Kindergarten through 7th grade.

We hope to receive all registrations by July 1st. After that date please call to see if there is space available, 610-691-8730. Call the same number for camper registration forms, volunteer interest forms, or more information.



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.

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

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

Newsletter Staff: Tom Stinnett, Nancy Tate, Martin Boksenbaum, Amanda Zaniesienko, Carol Baylor.

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

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

Popcorn & Politics

Friday, July 5th, 7 pm

"The Visitor"

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

"The Visitor" is a drama about a lonely economics professor whose life changes following a chance encounter with an immigrant couple. The encounter leads him to face issues of identity, immigration and cross-cultural communication in post-9/11 New York City. One of the stars, Richard Jenkins, was nominated for Best Actor at the 2009 Academy Awards.

Written & directed by Tom McCarthy. 103 minutes. 2007.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

Friday, August 2nd, 7 pm

"The Man Who Saved the World"

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

This is a Danish documentary about Stanislav Petrov, a former lieutenant colonel of the Soviet Air Defense Forces, and his role in preventing a 1983 Soviet nuclear false alarm incident from leading to nuclear holocaust. It is said that few people know of him - yet billions of people are alive because of him.

Written & directed by Peter Anthony. 110 minutes. 2014.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

More Upcoming films in P&P/First Friday Film series: September 6 - "Okinawa: The Afterburn."



25 Join LEPOCO Peace-A-Thon

On May 25, LEPOCO held its annual Peace-a-thon. Eight riders, 17 walkers, and six volunteers enjoyed very pleasant weather. Sections of the D&L Canal Towpath and the south Bethlehem Greenway were covered by both groups. The riders also took a challenging tour of hills and valleys outside Bethlehem and walkers covered some streets in the historic part of the city. Over \$2000 was raised and after expenses, LEPOCO and CeaseFirePA (our co-beneficiary this year) received \$900 each.

CeaseFire, a statewide organization with an active local group, stands against gun violence. On June 22, they organized a gathering in Allentown calling for a comprehensive approach to ending gun violence after 10 people were wounded in a June 20th shooting in Allentown where AR-15 assault rifles were used.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Peace-a-thon and to the supportive organizations: Aardvark Sports Shop, Bethlehem; Book & Puppet Store, Easton; CAT-Coalition for Appropriate Transportation, Bethlehem; Genesis Bicycles, Easton; Nature's Way Market, Easton; Southside Film Festival, Bethlehem; and Tom Ardizzone Tai Chi. Some riders and walkers received gifts from these supportive groups, based on their hard work collecting pledges: Jim Orben, Fritz Walker, Diane Dilendik, Ed Gallagher, Martha Christine, and Melanie Sattler. Plan now to join this fun event May 23, 2020.

Summer Fairs & Festivals

LEPOCO will need numerous volunteers to staff booths at upcoming fairs and festivals. Please call the Peace Center (610-691-8730) if you can help at any of these.

VegFest: Bethlehem's Street & Food Festival

Saturday, July 13, 11 am-6 pm
Daniel Rice Field, 100 W. Lehigh St.

Lehigh Valley Pride 2019

Sunday, August 18, 12 noon-6 pm
Jewish Community Center
702 N. 22nd St., Allentown

Peace Fair

Saturday, September 21, 10:30 am-4 pm
Buckingham Friends Meetinghouse
5684 York Rd. (Rt. 202/263), Lahaska, 18931

Book Group

As this newsletter is being prepared the LEPOCO Book Group will meet to discuss *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family & Culture in Crisis*, by J.D. Vance. The group will not meet in August. In September they will discuss *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* by Jon Meacham.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the home of Bob & Carmen Riggs in Bethlehem. Please call LEPOCO (610-691-8730) for more information.

Report: Medicine Wheel Program Honoring 10th Anniversary of Thomas Berry's Death, June 1, 2019, Genesis Farm, Blairstown, NJ—

Thomas Berry held hope for humanity's relationship with Mother Earth, despite our culpability in today's ecological crisis. He reminded us that the Universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects. Unless we realize the earth as a living system, we will continue to treat land and resources as exploitable real estate. The ultimate consequence? Air, water, and soil unable to support life.

Seventeen people attended this event, including one who had worked with the Catonsville 9, another who had spent several summers with Sun Bear, and Eileen Francis, who along with fellow members of the Women's Pentagon Action, had woven yarn around the Pentagon one night to prevent employees from entering the next morning. Local teachers, clergy, and gardeners listened as Sr. Miriam Therese MacGillis, OP, described the medicine wheel's ability to reshape our destructive world view.

Medicine wheels have been fabricated throughout the globe over centuries. They reflect a time when people viewed themselves within a circle of Life that included mineral, plant, animal, and spirit. They reveal both our personal connections to the Universe via our birth dates, and the planet's present and future during our lifetimes. Using the wheel is a way to align our energy, actions, and growth with the seasonal changes keeping the planet in balance. Thus, we move forward in an earth-conscious manner, rather than as superficial consumers.

Each of the 36 stones in a medicine wheel represents a quality that will directly affect us, individually, in our evolutions. Some rocks symbolize purity, clarity, trust, and strength, for example. Depending on one's birth moon, spirit animals of raven, snake, elk, etc. bring characteristics that will assist us in challenges we face. The central stone, meaning the Creator or Creation, pervades the others and radiates the energy inherent in the rest of the wheel.

Sr. Miriam asked us to locate our particular stone, dependent on the moon in place at the time of our births. Then, we placed tobacco near the stones that bore the qualities we wished to increase in our lives. The "frog" rock, #6 in alignment, stands for "water." Because of fracking's assault upon our water, this is where I chose to leave all of my tobacco.

Our region is being bombarded with large-scale, environmentally disastrous proposals. These include metal-fencing the Delaware Water Gap, warehouses all over our valleys, tree-cutting, and pipelines for fracked gas. Protection of our air, water, and soil is the only guarantee that future species, including our children, will be healthy enough to live, let alone procreate.

The medicine wheel is an ancient tool for acquiring insight as climate change and political turmoil jolt our complacency. Through participation in Sr.

Miriam's four-hour workshop, my gratefulness for Thomas Berry's message was re-kindled: *"Indigenous people know their region. They must know where the food is, where water is available, where firewood is found, where the medicinal plants are, where the trees grow that furnish the poles for their tents or the wood for their fires. Our studies in what we call ecology must lead to such intimacy with our natural surroundings. Only intimacy can save us from our present commitment to a plundering industrial economy."* - from *The Great Work: Our Way Into The Future*, by Thomas Berry

- Anna Maria Caldara

Impressions from Muslim Fun Day —

Learning about another culture is always mind-opening, and observing a culture transplanted in a new environment is fascinating. On June 18th, the Muslim community of the Lehigh Valley celebrated Eid with the public to mark the end of the holy month Ramadan.

Blessed with gorgeous weather, "Muslim Fun Day" offered an exciting "something for everybody" festival: 31 teams competing in soccer, basketball, and cricket; 18 rides for children; and a bazaar with artwork, literature, sporting goods, jewelry, oils and beauty products, clothing and accessories.

One stall was abuzz with women happily chatting among the abundant supply of tunics, kaftans, hijabs, and sunhats they were picking through and trying on.

The food lines were long, the food court overcrowded, and the food received unanimous praise. The two ice cream trucks were swarmed by expectant little customers.

Nonprofit organizations had their tables for the socially-minded to stop by and converse over a cause. It was heartening to see the small table of a Muslim environmental group advocating against single-use of plastics. From the public address system streamed Islamic religious songs in English that sounded evangelical, with a noticeable one delivered in hip-hop. Accommodations were made for prayer time.

Occasionally, the loudspeaker would blare: "Parents, please volunteer for an hour at the rides! We need you so the children may enjoy Eid!"— a reminder that this was truly a family event.

The crowd, which included many visitors from out-of-state, swelled in the afternoon to a sea of shimmering colors, reflecting a diaspora that ranges from the very conservative to the very Westernized, its looks and attitudes defying stereotype. The sounds were those of community happiness, the smell of good food served as universal language, and the atmosphere was unmistakably that of peace. Witnessing this, one comes to understand the blessing of the American melting pot and the vibrant society the Muslim community and other immigrant communities like it have helped build.

Muslim Fun Day 2020, will be on May 30th!

- My Lien Nguyen

U.S. Military Options Should Not Include Starting a Nuclear War —

"The greater the problem, the less we talk about it," said 96-year-old Robert Jay Lifton. "We need courage to approach discussion and bear witness to the normality of nuclearism, the spiritual disease of our time, as Robert Oppenheimer called it. We need to challenge that with professional climate and nuclear truths," said Lifton, who also quoted poet Theodore Roethke: "In a dark time, the eye begins to see." And, now is the time!

With long-time concern about nuclear weapons and nuclear power, we three—Susie Ravitz, Monica McAghon, and Nancy Tate, attended *Steps to a Nuclear Weapons-Free World*, a day-long conference, at New Jersey Institute of Technology on April 14. We heard from about a dozen speakers and panelists that included Zia Mian, Daniel Ellsberg, and Robert Jay Lifton. The latter two addressed the conference via Skype. We heard about the apocalyptic twins of nuclear and climate threats, the proliferation and dangers of nuclear weapons, the need to reduce nuclear weapon stockpiles in all nations, and deal with nuclear waste. By accident or intention, human fallibility, false warnings, computer glitch or malware, disasters can/will happen, devastating the environment and thousands, potentially millions of living beings.

Russia and the U.S. have about 900 missile launched weapons on high alert, with Britain and France at lower alert levels. China, India, Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan store weapons separately from their delivery systems, according to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. "All nuclear weapons are created equal," said Zia Mian, who co-directs Princeton University's Program on Science and Global Security. "Only 9 countries have nuclear weapons. Disarmament is doable! Don't wait for the leaders to initiate further action against proliferation."

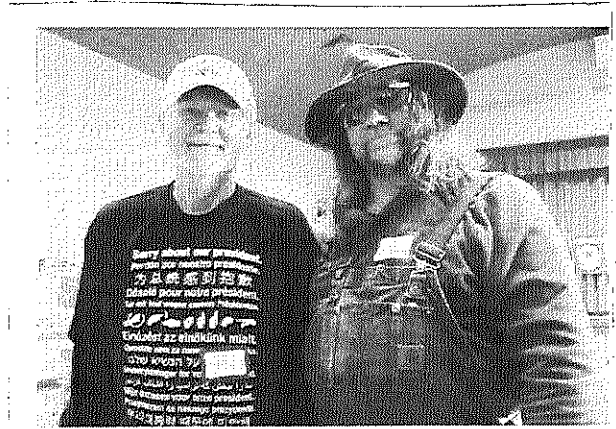
Keynote speakers were Daniel Ellsberg, Pentagon Papers whistleblower and author of several books including, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner* (2001), and Robert Jay Lifton, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Psychology at The City University of New York. Both talked about climate change and the use of nuclear weapons that would lead to fires, radioactive smoke and clouds blocking the sun, resultant famine and starvation, refugee crises, and nuclear winter.

Professor Vincent Intondi, Director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement at Montgomery College, Maryland, spoke of Bayard Rustin, Paul Robeson, and Martin Luther King, who all strongly opposed nuclear weapons. Intondi is the author of *African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement* (2015).

What to do? We should take important positions and publicize them to citizens and legislators. (1) We should strengthen the checks and balances on heads of

state to unleash nuclear weapons within minutes wherein millions could die. (2) Take nuclear weapons off of hair trigger alert. (3) Develop policy for interpreting signals of attack and response. (4) Guarantee no first-use nuclear strike. Russia and the U.S. must get their acts together and sign The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as adopted by 122 states at the United Nations in July 2017. For more information you can see ICAN.org; and the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, information on nuclear weapons and nuclear power. And, please come to our Stop the Wars meetings. We welcome your ideas and energy.

- Monica McAghon & Susie Ravitz



This photo of Naed Smith (right) and Gerald Schultz (left) was taken at the LEPOCO Dinner in March. Naed had several special friends in the Lehigh Valley, often participating with them in national peace gatherings. He touched base with other local peace groups and regularly attended LEPOCO's Annual Dinner.

Photo by Susie Ravitz.

Remembering Naed Smith —

Our good friend, fellow peace activist and long-time Catholic Worker, Naed Smith took his own life on May 10, following a lengthy struggle with depression. His remarkable life was celebrated at a Mass of Christian Burial on May 16, attended by more than 500 of his friends and family. Naed was known in Harrisburg and Wilkes-Barre for his deep commitment to peace and to building strong local communities - and for his sense of humor.

After his graduation from Kings' College in 1989 he served as a campus minister at Wilkes College. He worked at the Catholic Worker House in Harrisburg for more than 25 years, participated in countless demonstrations and acts to help his neighborhood. He will be missed.

- Gerald Schultz



Anti-Fossil Fuel Actions: Grassroots Activism & the Law

Does public testimony in the regulatory process work? Can the law be used to stifle protest? Can the law be used to protect environmental defenders and the environment? A few recent examples, with emphasis added.

1) *From:* 350 NY Campaigner Cata Elisabeth Romo, 5/16/19: *Victory in NY: Williams Pipeline*

Our friends and allies in New York just won a tremendous victory. After over two years of grassroots resistance, the Williams NESE fracked gas pipeline has been *temporarily* blocked by New York's environmental regulatory body, the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Williams pipeline is a \$1 billion, 24-mile fracked gas pipeline proposed for the waters of New York Harbor. Construction would churn up deadly toxins from the seafloor and increase New York's reliance on fossil fuels for decades.

Recently, Trump took it upon himself to intervene on behalf of the Williams pipeline and the fracked gas industry's bigger plans for New York. As he signed two executive orders last month to diminish the power of states to stop oil and gas pipelines, Trump specifically cited the grassroots resistance in New York as a problem he wanted to address on behalf of his fracked gas cronies.

This victory is a huge step forward towards shutting down fracked gas infrastructure in the Northeast, and building a Green New Deal.

2) *From:* Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 5/16/19: *Victory in the Delaware River Watershed - Your calls worked - HB-827 stalled!*

As of May 15, HB-827, the Pennsylvania House bill aimed at stifling the DRBC's ability to enact a ban on fracking in the Delaware River Watershed by bankrupting the DRBC *has been stalled!* The bill was debated on the floor of the House for final passage, but the bill was not voted on, presumably because there were not enough votes to pass it. The bill is not dead, but it has been held up for now.

Persistent calls to the legislators for a "NO" vote on HB-827 made the difference needed to stop the bill's trajectory. The Pennsylvania legislature cannot dictate the interstate DRBC's practices and a ban on fracking is a protection of peoples' rights and the environment, not a "taking."

3) *From:* Associated Press article, 5/4/19: *Court tie-up blocks Keystone XL pipeline construction in 2019*

An executive for the company proposing the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada's oil sands into the U.S. says it has *missed the 2019 construction season due to court delays*. Plans to begin construction of the long-delayed pipeline were blocked last November when a

federal judge in Montana ordered additional environmental reviews of the project.

The \$8 billion line would carry up to 830,000 barrels of crude daily, along a route stretching from Canada to Nebraska. The Nebraska Supreme Court is expected to rule later this year on Keystone XL's proposed route through the state.

4) *From:* article by Eoin Higgins, *Common Dreams*, 5/17/19: *Criminalizing protest - Texas State Bill Would Make Protesting Pipelines a Felony*

A bill making its way through the Texas legislature would make protesting pipelines a third-degree felony, the same as attempted murder.

HB-3557, which is under consideration in the state Senate after passing the state House earlier this month, ups penalties for interfering in energy infrastructure construction by making the protests a felony. Sentences would range from two to 10 years.

"It's an anti-protest bill, favoring the fossil fuel industry, favoring corporations over people," Frankie Orona, executive director of the Society of Native Nations, told *The Austin American-Statesman*.

A hearing on the law in the state Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development drew opponents of the measure to speak out against the law, but it's unclear if their testimony will make a difference. The Texas bill is just the latest piece of legislation at the state level to target pipeline protests.

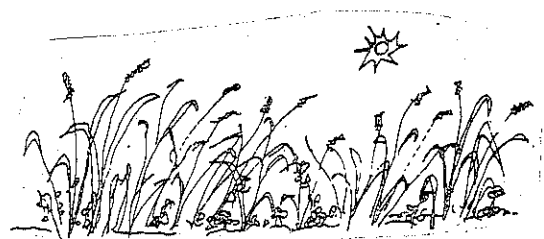
5) *From:* Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), 5/16/19: *Rights of Lake Erie Recognized in Historic Vote*

Toledo, Ohio, voters made history on February 26, by adopting a charter amendment that recognizes the rights of Lake Erie! This is the first rights-based law in the United States that specifically acknowledges the rights of a distinct ecosystem, securing the Lake's rights to exist, flourish, and naturally evolve. Local residents now have standing in court to sue corporate polluters on behalf of the lake.

The *Lake Erie Bill of Rights* was made possible by the people of Toledo – in the face of corporate polluters degrading their community, threatening their drinking water, and harming the Lake Erie ecosystem, they took action.

Efforts to overturn the *Lake Erie Bill of Rights* and stop Rights of Nature are ongoing. So is the fight to defend and protect those rights.

- Martin Boksenbaum



Bits & Pieces

☺ In the last Newsletter we reported that Frida Berrigan had published a column at WagingNonviolence.org that is basically the talk she gave at the LEPOCO Annual Dinner in March, *Nuclear weapons ruined my life, and I wouldn't have it any other way.*

Now you can link to the actual talk on YouTube at lepoco.org. Go to recurring events and the annual dinner. You can also link to the article described above and view 30 photographs from the dinner at the website.

On video or written, it is an inspiring talk/read.

☺ Also, in the last Newsletter we let you know how to support Frida's mother, Liz McAlister, one of the *Kings Bay Plowshares*, by writing a note to her in blue or black ink on a pre-stamped 4-inch-by-five-inch post office post-card. Include your full name and return address and send to: Elizabeth McAlister #015633 Glynn County Detention Center, 100 Sulphur Springs Road, Brunswick, GA 31520.

Now, we are invited to join A Fast for Peace in Defense of Life & Against Nuclear Weapons, August 6-9 (Hiroshima-Nagasaki Days), in Georgia. On August 7, the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 will appear in court for oral arguments in their case. You can learn more about these plans at kingsbayplowshares7.org.

☺ Thank you to Martin Boksenbaum, Ron Yoshida, Urszula Abolik, and all the Cuba travelers who shared their travel experiences for the Potluck & Politics program at LEPOCO on June 2nd: *Our Week in Havana*. Those in attendance learned about their enjoyable January 2019 trip to Cuba that featured close encounters with art, music, dance, good food and people in the country only 90 miles from U.S. shores. Exchanges like those experienced by this delegation led by Urszula Abolik are so important to both countries.

Unfortunately, only two days later POTUS and his advisors decided to punish Cuba for their solidarity with

Venezuela (doctors for oil, among other exchanges), by re-imposing restrictions on people-to-people travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens. Among other restrictions, there will be no more U.S. cruise ships visiting Cuba. Cruise ship visits are one of the biggest reasons for the 250,000 U.S. visitors to Cuba, January to April of this year, 93% more than visited during the same four months last year.

Hopefully Urszula Abolik, will be able to find a way to continue taking groups to Cuba. The newly restructured Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective hopes to continue their long-standing delegations to Cuba, building solidarity and opposing the 60-year U.S. blockade against the island and her people. We need to get back on the path to normalization of Cuba-U.S. relations started by the last POTUS.

☺ On June 18th several LEPOCO members and friends attended a *Bethlehem City Council* meeting, joining other community members, including a number of Tea Party members, to speak against a new permit ordinance proposed to regulate all gatherings on city property, even on public sidewalks. Most people learned of the proposed ordinance in a news-

paper story on June 15th. After learning of the opposition to the ordinance Bethlehem's Mayor Donchez and Council pulled the ordinance from consideration that evening. But speakers still used the "courtesy of the floor" period to express their many concerns.

In an attempt to protect Musikfest patrons from rude persons the proposed ordinance ends up with overreach and minutiae. There were many concerns about the ordinance, but several people spoke of how we should be encouraging people to speak out on the important issues facing our country and our community - not setting up barriers to such public speech.

If you would like copies of statements and stories about this issue please contact LEPOCO.

☺ It is widely understood that *monarch butterflies* are threatened: pesticides, severe weather, climate change, loss of milkweed habitat. In his *Future Hope* column of June 11, Ted Glick writes an inspiring story of his efforts to assist monarchs: "It's Monarch Season Again!" Read it online to find the joy of his exciting efforts.

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

Monday, July 1, 6 pm: Stop the Wars Committee meets at the Anatolian Kitchen, 3016 Linden St., Bethlehem.

Tuesday, July 2, 3 pm: Peace Camp 2019 Planning Meeting, LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Tuesdays, July 2 & September 3, 6 pm: LEPOCO Book Group meets at home of Bob & Carmen Riggs, 1113 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem. The group will not meet in August.

Mondays, July 8 & August 12, 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, July 9, 5:45 pm: Peace Camp 2019 Training, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown. If you have not signed up, but want to help at Peace Camp, please call LEPOCO, 610-691-8730.

Thursday, August 1, 12:30 pm: Americas Solidarity Group meetings at the LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Tuesday, August 13, 4 pm: Annual Dinner 2020 Planning Meeting, LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 4 pm: Peaceathon 2020 Planning Committee Meeting, LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem.

Please join in the meetings and work of these groups as you are able. If you want more information about these meetings or the meetings of the Peace Singers, Newsletter Planning Group, the Popcorn/Potluck & Politics Planning Committee, or any other committees, please call LEPOCO at 610-691-8730. For a regularly updated calendar of events and meetings, see www.lepoco.org.



LEPOCO

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Monthly Peace Vigil

(Second Thursdays)

July 11 & August 8

4:30-5:30 pm

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

3rd & Wyandotte Sts., Bethlehem

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

Stand Up & Speak Out!

(Last Saturdays of month)

July 27 & August 31:

12 - 2 pm

Protest

Horsham Drone Command Center

(Rt. 611, Horsham)

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

Peace Camp 2019:

Young People Making Peace

Summer Day Camp

July 22-26

First Presbyterian Church,
Allentown

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

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