

## JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - THE "ONE WILPF" – ALL MEMBER CALL – 1<sup>st</sup> call in the series.

### I WHO WAS ON THE CALL?

Over 60 members pre-registered for this first call. Only about 40 participated. When we inquired of InterOCCUPY facilitators, they said that a 50% rate is typical. "People forget, get distracted or recognize competing interests for the same time period". One member told me directly she was too tired that night to be on the call. Some members claim they never received any of our many emails or the formal EAlert about this call. Others said they experienced problems getting on the call. We will endeavor to make the call-in instructions even clearer next time. Some callers dropped off as the call progressed, either by accident or deliberately. There were less at the end than at the beginning.

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Ann Henny  
Peggy Olsen  
Jan Corderman  
Jean Hays  
Lauretta Freeman  
Eileen Kurkoski  
Edith Bell  
Barbara Taft (ME)  
Judy Karas  
Marcia Bandes  
Mary Bricker Jenkins  
Leah Bolger  
Tomi and Jim Allison  
Candace Perry+  
Ellen Schwartz  
Robin Lloyd  
Terry Futvoy-Micus  
Nancy Price (ED)  
Randa Solick  
Annie Boddum  
Marcia Heath  
Ruth Zalph  
Patricia Schroeder  
Joan Brannigan  
Jenna Cooper  
Lynn Furay  
Grace Aaron  
Brandy Robinson  
Laura Dewey+  
Natasha Beck  
Carol Urner (DIS)  
Joan Bazar  
Marybeth Gardam+(CvD)  
Miriam Thompson  
Susan Freiss  
Ellen Thomas (DIS)  
Maureen Walsh  
Mary Dooley  
Josephine Sbrocca

Berkeley CA Branch  
Monterey CA Branch  
Des Moines IA Branch  
Fresno CA Branch  
Essex Co NJ Branch  
Boston MA Branch  
Pittsburgh PA Branch  
Greater Phoenix AZ Branch  
Monterey CA Branch  
Pittsburgh PA Branch  
**AL Member, Chattanooga TN**  
Corvallis OR Branch  
Bloomington IN Branch  
Cape Cod MA Branch  
Sacramento CA Branch  
Burlington VT Branch  
Detroit MI Branch  
**AL Member, Davis CA**  
Santa Cruz CA Branch  
East Bay CA Branch  
Santa Cruz CA Branch  
Triangle NC Branch  
Santa Cruz CA Branch  
St. Louis MO Branch  
Houston TX Branch  
Houston TX Branch  
Los Angeles CA Branch  
Portland OR Branch  
Detroit MI Branch  
Portland OR Branch  
Portland OR Branch  
San Jose CA Branch  
**AL Member, Winter Haven, FL**  
Triangle Branch, NC  
Madison WI Branch  
**AL Member, Tryon NC**  
FRESNO CA Branch  
**AL Member?** City?  
**AL Member?** City?

+ = Board Member

(ISSUE COMMITTEE CHAIRS) – ED= Earth Democracy, DIS=Disarm/End Wars, CvD=Corp v Democracy.

5 folks identified themselves as At-Large Members

## II BRANCH TO BRANCH REPORT DURING CALL: What They Said –

In an early segment of the call we had branch representatives identify themselves and talk briefly about the structure and activities of their branches, including challenges they face or successes they've had. **There was not enough time for everyone to share.** These folks were among those who reported.

We requested that members share information about their work ahead of time, but only a few branches did so. We are including those reports at the end of these notes, for reference. If others wish to submit reports we will forward them before the next call. Send them to [mbgardam@gmail.com](mailto:mbgardam@gmail.com).

[thompiriam@gmail.com](mailto:thompiriam@gmail.com)

**Miriam Thompson**

Triangle NC Branch

Extensive collaboration work on peace & justice and workers rights... rabid conservative administration in NC. Erodes democracy. Working with NAACP to do voter registration, get out the vote, and they will be opening up a \$1000 a year trust fund for young people working on progressive issues to apply for seed money grant...

[jancorderman@msn.com](mailto:jancorderman@msn.com);

**Jan Corderman**

Des Moines IA Branch

**Food Sovereignty Award** and **Strong Feisty Woman Award** Dinner. Climate Change in broad way, including **food security, water quality**. Using the Infographic Cards from WILPF's Earth Democracy and CvD Issue Committee's **CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE Project**.

[edith.bell4@verizon.net](mailto:edith.bell4@verizon.net);

**Edith Bell**

Pittsburgh PA Branch

Small branch... 5 active members, 8 or so inactive. Focused narrowly on CEDAW in order to get new members and younger women. Reached out to different local groups including a group working on reproductive rights for people of color... got endorsements from 30 other groups and interacting with the City Council. CEDAW Coalition. WILPF has gotten lost in the coalition, so many of the new members have gone to the other organizations. How to address that? July 9<sup>th</sup> parade for Pittsburgh Founding Anniversary. Promoting women of peace in the past... and combining with CEDAW interests. Have an exhibit by Japanese Artist who took ordinary items after Fukushima and photographed them, showing the radiation of them. Have produced Most Dangerous Women and produced a video of the program. Copy available \$5 postage.

[skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net);

**Jean Hays**

Fresno CA Branch

**Maureen Walsh**

Fresno CA Branch

Fresno has a wonderful INTERNSHIP Program.... they could do a whole call on just explaining how that works for them.

[candaceperry@earthlink.net](mailto:candaceperry@earthlink.net);

**Candace Perry+**

Cape Cod MA Branch

Many issues, including Racial Justice Committee. Offered an exciting program on issue of DISPOSSESSION comparing Native American dispossession with Palestinian dispossession. Very thought-provoking program. (was it videotaped?) Graphic that showed comparison of land loss in US and Palestine. Meet regularly at same day of the month. Pot luck precedes the meeting. Meeting goes from 6-8. They have a DECISION BOOK instead of a Secretary. They plan a planning retreat to plan upcoming schedules and work plan. Working to shut down a nuclear power plant.

[Ellen@nicetechnology.com](mailto:Ellen@nicetechnology.com); **Ellen Schwartz** Sacramento CA Branch  
Awaiting the **STUDY GUIDE** for the **CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE**  
Active on climate projects, co-sponsor Hiroshima/Nagasaki event, new branch  
Forming north of Sacramento collaborating on a kid's PEACE CAMP. Would  
like someone to come speak about climate change.

[leahbolger@comcast.net](mailto:leahbolger@comcast.net); **Leah Bolger** Corvallis OR Branch  
Large Hiroshima/Nagasaki Event each August.  
Wants Most Dangerous Woman play info from B Taft. Facing reduced  
interest in WILPF. Needs ideas.

[marcia2435@gmail.com](mailto:marcia2435@gmail.com); **Marcia Heath** Santa Cruz CA Branch  
Three from the branch... Randa Solick heads Earth Democracy team, Pat  
Schroeder on DISARM Issue Committee. Marcia has been chair for 3 years  
and hoping to mentor a co-chair next year. Very active last year with the  
Centennial. Many activities that celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WILPF.  
Collaborating a lot. Branch Council meeting monthly from 9:30 till noon every  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. PROGRAM meeting every 6 weeks. Manifesting Peace with  
attendees at The Hague. World Beyond War. Linking Climate Change and  
Militarism. Large member list, only about 20 active. 14 are regulars. Earth  
Democracy has a lot of people involved and work hard on environmental  
issues. Liaison to 2 groups in town working on middle east issues. Pat is  
trying to set up a team to work with DISARM. Active Raging Grannies group.  
Will honor their Raging Granny Leader. Sandy Silver work on closing Diablo  
Nuclear Power Plant, Economic Justice Alliance, lots we're doing... including  
work opposing the TPP, lobbying actively with elected officials.

[nbeckpdx@yahoo.com](mailto:nbeckpdx@yahoo.com) **Natasha Beck** Portland OR Branch  
Dealing with internal restructuring and outreach to progressive and feminist groups.  
Showing of inde film called **SISTA IN THE BROTHERHOOD**, a woman in a trade union  
engaged both women's groups and labor groups. Engaged with the local JUNETEENTH  
event and the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary dinner of Jobs With Justice group. Sponsorships,  
including money to sponsor the Golden Rule Boat, a peace ship sailing around California  
on a 1950s sailboat. Hiroshima/Nagasaki Celebration in August. Networking with other  
groups that serve women and people of color. Annual meeting in July. Starting to get  
job descriptions for branch positions. Working on member retention.

### III DECISIONS made on this call (about the next call).

**1-POLL:** on date for the next meeting.

**Decision was Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Most people seemed to feel it was a good idea to plan to **meet also on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**, thus reserving the  
additional date with OCCUPY facilitators/engineers.

**2-POLL:** on topic that is the highest priority for your branch to discuss and work on at the next meeting.

Call attendees raised their hands to signify which of the topics they prioritized from 1-5 order (1 = least interest, 5=  
most interest).

## RESULTS:

	<u>TOPICS SUGGESTED</u>	<u># OF SUPPORTERS IN FAVOR</u>
1-	RECRUITING STRATEGIES	9
2-	SHARING RESOURCES, MATERIALS & STRATEGIES BETWEEN BRANCHES	5
3-	CREATING REGIONAL MEETINGS	3
4-	ENHANCING MEMBERSHIP WITH TRAINING	2
5-	CREATING 1-2 SOLIDARITY EVENTS EACH YEAR	11

### 3- POLL:

We took this last poll after the next section, so that people had a chance to experience Break Out Rooms before they chose the format for the next call.

	<u>THE CHOICES</u>	<u># OF SUPPORTERS IN FAVOR</u>
	ONE CALL/ONE TOPIC	2
	SEVERAL TOPICS IN BREAK OUT ROOMS	23

## IV EXPERIENCING BREAK OUT ROOMS:

We entered separate break out rooms, according to preferences of which topic held the most interest, or highest priority. The topics were those most frequently suggested by members during the 2015 Branch Survey.

The call attendees raised their hands to indicate which break out room they wished to enter and were put into that room by topic preference. They were urged to nominate a note-taker/reporter who would report back on what was discussed or proposed during the break out session. In retrospect, we should have also identified a facilitator for the rooms and made clearer the text pad instructions. **But even so this was the most popular part of the call, devoting 25 minutes to lively discussions about these topic with open mics and lots of great ideas being circulated.**

The ideas/suggestions which emerged from these Break Out Rooms were notable:

### 1- RECRUITING STRATEGIES - Edith Bell reported.

Cooperate with/reach out to other groups. Attend THEIR events, be visible and speak up for WILPF. Create an atmosphere where we offer members comraderie and social interaction in addition to activism, so that they will WANT to come. Include food or music or art at gatherings. Recruit newly retired people. Hold Pot Lucks and have social events where like-minded people can build friendship and support networks, as well as activist buddies.

There was some suggestion of money available to advertise to younger people. Triangle Branch is setting aside \$1000 a year to provide small seed money grants to young high school girl activists, and create a relationship with them and the high schools. Fresno's Internship program also utilized students... with mixed long term recruiting results but to good advantage to making the branch more visible in the community currently. We should be sharing successful ideas between branches. Project our issues more broadly, to the public, not just to members. Use MEETUPS and social media. Build relationships with online newspapers and publish articles from WILPF. Build a relationship NOW with Bernie Sanders progressives through social media pages, before they begin to dissemble.

**2- SHARING RESOURCES, MATERIALS & STRATEGY BETWEEN BRANCHES – Randa Solick reporting.**

Share materials instead of recreating them. A list of all the branches with what they are working on with a contact once a year published in P&F. How to contact with the Bernie campaign folks.

Work together within states to lobby together local Congress people. Link branches across the US with national partner organizations. Use Google Docs to share the materials that are most successful from branch to branch. Some branches have annual planning days or planning retreats to decide on the direction for next year, then they meet again to set strategies and work plans for moving those projects forward. Programs could be shared and exchanged to make it easier to plan programs and promote them.

**3- CREATING REGIONAL MEETINGS** There were only 3 people on this, so they joined a different break out group.

**4- ENHANCING MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE & SKILLS WITH TRAINING - Mary Bricker Jenkins reported.**

There was agreement that an important orientation training program to offer would be on called **KNOW YOUR WILPF**, where members (especially new members) could learn more about the structure of WILPF and how US Section connects to the UNO office, the Practicum, RCW, and International. The document “Principles & Policies” was cited as being of use in this way. Suggestion for learning to share leadership – moving from control to mentoring, reflecting where many of us are in life. Detroit said they learned 6 things tonight that could each become Training Program to train about skills, analysis, etc. Terry said the video on Most Dangerous Women would be useful. The Raging Grannies are now writing music for each issue and they could be good. Linking FEISTY WOMEN to the idea of women who have been active on Climate Change. Awarding prizes HS girls who did social justice. CEDAW. Hiroshima/Nagasaki on nuclear abolition. DISPOSITION comparing Native Americans and Palestinians.

**5- CREATING 1-2 SOLIDARITY EVENTS EACH YEAR – Barbara Taft reported.**

National Events could be posted on a calendar and linked to those branches which DO something to celebrate those events, with links to the materials and strategies they use, so that branches who are successful can share their strategies... so many can do the same things on the same days.... Useful for solidarity and visibility and recruiting. Stronger branches can mentor weaker ones on this kind of planning and material preparation. There needs to be a decision made about how many of these solidarity events we do to start with, and how we decide on which ones to do together. Most felt we should choose one or two, not make it optional, in order to demonstrate solidarity and impact. Vet the dates against other major events (Raging Grannies convention, etc.) that would rob energy and resources. Include issues and education pieces along with the chosen events. Multi-layered. Get savvy about promoting the events across the US. Invest in media and social media to gain impact. Measure turnout in each city. Choose events that set WILPF apart from other organizations. Possibly choose to build on the most successful events Choose 1-2 events (possibly 3 if we want to add an International component).

## VI RE-CAP

### Attendees were reminded of what we accomplished on the call.

We learned a lot about how to make use of the MAESTRO Conferencing System. Seems we will have to be clearer with instructions. A sort of ‘cheat sheet’ was suggested to help participants get on the call easily, and understand that it is both a phone call and a social webinar (using their computer too) and use the tools provided (raised hands, text pad, etc).

**REMINDERS:** Attendees were frequently reminded during the call to promote the NEXT call to fellow WILPF members. We also reminded members to make sure they were current on their dues and that they were renewing at the current dues level of \$35 a year. Questions should be directed to the Boston office, which is staffed till 2pm eastern Monday-Friday.

## VII CALL END/ SOAP BOX BEGUN

Participants were informed they were welcome to remain on the call during the SOAP BOX portion of the call, in order to continue the dialogue, ask questions or clarify points.

A few did so.

The formal part of the call was ended, with everyone wishing each other farewell greetings.

### **In the Soap Box portion of the call the issues dealt with included:**

Several people had questions and requests for additional help with technical instructions

Grace Aaron (LA CA Branch) asking for folks to volunteer to be Board Members on the Pacifica Radio Board in order to ensure that Pacifica remained true to its peace and justice mission.

Theresa Futvoye-Micus (Detroit MI Branch) exploring her suggestions about WILPF US including a service or charitable component, specifically towards Palestine, but in general too.

### **NOTE: You can listen to the audio recording of this call at this link.**

<http://mcrecordings.s3.amazonaws.com/QL63DLA8XTPNBC343Y8LCH67C16CZCLH.mp3>

It is a little boring, especially the technical explanations.

Hopefully future calls will be less technology instruction-heavy.

**If you want to listen to the meatiest part of the call**, move the cursor to the 1hr.30 mark where we begin the instructions for the Break Out Rooms. The REPORTS from the rooms start at 2hr.10.

Listening in these shorter bursts of more focused information may make it easier to take in the essence of the call.

**NOTE: Promotion of the Call.** Despite our efforts to send out SEVERAL emails to our FULL LIST and BRANCH LIST, including at least ONE INDIVIDUAL E-ALERT about this Call.... Several people are telling us they never received notice of the call. PLEASE FORWARD TO MARYBETH ANY NAME AND EMAIL FOR PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THIS BEFORE, and she will make sure they get separate announcements for the next call.  
mbgardam@gmail.com

### **NEXT CALL: Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>... 6pm pacific, 7pm mountain, 8pm central, 9pm eastern**

**Pre-Registration will again be necessary. We will continue to promote this call to our best ability. We encourage you to SHARE the information broadly within WILPF email lists.**

## WHAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING ABOUT THE CALL:

### **Lauretta Freeman, Essex Co NJ Branch – [freemanlauretta@gmail.com](mailto:freemanlauretta@gmail.com) :**

Thanks for your enticing invitation. I'm glad that I attended the meeting. I learned a lot; was inspired to do more and enjoyed the breakout with the other WILPFers. I'm eager to invite our new membership chair and Publicity chair to get involved.

I'll probably need more help with the computer part; but the telephone conference aspect was very helpful.

Hearing what other groups are doing made me really feel part of a larger organization. I would like to follow through on the suggestion of breakout group 4.. study of Principles and Policies and greater awareness of activities of study and action committees. **I am planning to attend on July 13!** Thanks for your positive work for our special organization.

### **Miriam Thompson, Triangle NC Branch -- [thompiriam@gmail.com](mailto:thompiriam@gmail.com):**

I participated in the breakout group on recruitment. I shared information on Outreach & Recruitment in our Branch. I was also interested in others suggestions of reaching out to retired teachers and social workers who would have more time to participate in WILPF. Boston, St. Louis, Detroit were among the Branches that were interested in getting our Trust Fund seed grant material once Lucy Lewis and I develop the proposal in more detail.

**Jim and Tomi Allison, Bloomington IN Branch – [jimtomi@earthlink.net](mailto:jimtomi@earthlink.net)**  
“Encouraging!”

**Eileen Kurkoski, Boston MA Branch -- [eileenfoto@verizon.net](mailto:eileenfoto@verizon.net)**

I can't tell you how grateful I am to you for pulling the tele conference together. THANK YOU!  
From info provided in the introductions and the break out session ideas on recruiting, today I contacted our local cableTV station and found they are willing to put on “These Dangerous Women”. We will list our branch and a member.

I contacted the ‘board’ members of our Boston WILPF branch asking them to view the U-tube version of the film, which I proposed we talk about using as a recruiting tool. I explained I got the idea from the Tele Conference and will send my notes and talk about it at our meeting next Saturday. Your notes will clarify mine.

The ideas stemming from the call will stimulate more action around here. :-)

**Ruth Zalph, Triangle NC Branch -- [ragingrannieruth@gmail.com](mailto:ragingrannieruth@gmail.com)**

Thanks for the encouragement. With dozens of issues, plus personal things, time spent on a call must have value, & I hope to be on the July 13 call. NO NUKES, Ruth

**Ann Henny, Berkeley CA Branch -- [anneth16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anneth16@sbcglobal.net)**

I thought it was a very good start and hopeful step. Thank you for helping make it happen!

**Randa Solick, Santa Cruz CA Branch – [rsolick@gmail.com](mailto:rsolick@gmail.com)**

Good job with the call tonight!!! Lots of participation :)

## **NOTES SENT ON BRANCH ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO THE CALL:**

If you would like to share a similar report with other branches and members, send it to [mbgardam@gmail.com](mailto:mbgardam@gmail.com) and we will send it out prior to the July 13<sup>th</sup> call. **Please use: BRANCH DETAILS in the Subject Line.**

### **Miriam Thompson from TRIANGLE BRANCH, NC.**

Edited summary of WILPF Triangle Branch activities, sent by email to Conference Call convener, Marybeth Gardem to share with other WILPF Branches.

1. **Triangle Branch operations.** The Triangle NC Branch's mostly elder membership, remains visible in peace and justice solidarity struggles. We meet monthly on Saturday mornings. Last year, our Branch celebrated its 80th birthday with over 70 friends and allies.
2. **My role.** I am the Labor Chair and connect the Branch to Middle East work, specifically around Palestine liberation (see #8 below)
3. **Intersecting Campaigns.** WILPF Triangle Branch tries to intersect campaigns including: Worker Justice, Raise Up for \$15, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, opposition campaigns to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), Health, Environmental and Climate justice, International solidarity - specifically focusing on Palestine liberation.
4. **Collaboration with NAACP to challenge mounting discriminatory State legislation.** WILPF is also a key member of the local NAACP Branch, and the NC NAACP led Moral Monday movement that is focusing on Voter suppression in NC, and the horrific House Bill 2, a piece of legislation that discriminates against workers, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, the LGBTQ community, women and others. HB2 also focuses on our right wing legislature's effort to curtail the power of our local government bodies to enact anti-discriminatory legislation. The legislation further prohibits workers from suing in State Court against discriminatory workplace practices, forcing workers to go to Federal Court that is a more arduous legal redress remedy. As part of the Moral Monday Movement, WILPF members and partners have challenged the Legislature's attack on workers by refusing to raise the minimum wage, its defunding and privatizing public education and our public university system, its refusal to participate in the

Medicaid Advantage program that effectively denies health care to 500,000 North Carolinians, its promotion of anti-immigrant policies, and its erosion of women's reproductive health care.

5. **More Partnerships:** We are members of and collaborate with NC Women United, the Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia as well as the NAACP and others mentioned above.

6. **Voter Mobilization.** WILPF Branch is helping develop strong Voter Registration, Education, Mobilization and GOTV drives - "Our Time, Our Voice," and will lead a VR effort at its annual tabling at the local July 4th celebration.

7. **Peace Actions.** Our local Branch members remain key leaders in our local Peace Coalition and its anti-war events throughout the year, including Memorial Day, Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations and Veterans Day.

8. **Middle East.** Our Branch has also co-sponsored an Abrahamic Initiative on the Middle East's "Linking Liberation Struggles" Forum on the UNC Campus in 2014 ([www.aimeproject.org](http://www.aimeproject.org)), with a Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbi, and Palestinian, Latino and African American organizers. The panel addressed Palestine solidarity through the lens of their struggles. Our next Forum will take place at NC Central University, a predominantly African American higher education institution (HBCU).

The panel will include Native, Palestinian, and African American organizers. The school's Political Science Dept. and Student organizations are also co-sponsors of the Forum together with Jewish Voice for Peace.

10. **Congressional actions.** In addition to our Branch's 12 member delegation to our local Congress member to urge his opposition to the TPP, our Branch has also participated in Congressional meetings that have centered on Palestine, continued U.S. military aid to support the Israeli Occupation, and our government's violation of U.S. law, specifically the Leahy Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act, that precludes military aid to countries that violate human rights. We are also working with the U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation and tracing Israeli munitions and training of U.S. Police Departments.

9. **Outreach and Recruitment.** As a Branch of predominantly elder members, we are committed to continue WILPF'S 81 year legacy in the Triangle, and 101 year history internationally. In that effort, the Branch approved the establishment of an initial \$1000 Trust Fund to engage young people by using our treasury to set up small seed grants in an effort to identify, engage and support young people who are involved in social justice struggles.

### **Barbara Taft of Greater Phoenix AZ Branch**

Email received prior to the ALL MEMBER CALL.

As a relatively new branch, which is inching its way up in terms of membership and participation, here is a summary of how we got started and the things we have been doing to keep up interest, which is difficult at this time of year, when the temperature is hovering between 115 and 120 degrees in our Greater Phoenix WILPF branch area:

We really got rolling when we decided to put on the historical musical, "Most Dangerous Women". Every woman we could think of who is active locally in the cause of peace and justice, or who is involved in theatre or music, was contacted. We got a lot of our core membership from the cast and the audience for the production. To maintain interest, we began to have meetings, and to keep it interesting, we started with part of the "Women, War, and Peace" film series by Abigail Disney. Simultaneously, we agreed to table at the Mesa, AZ, Martin Luther King Day event, and then at the annual Local to Global Justice Teach-in at ASU. We added to our mailing list at these events.

Our local partner organization, Arizona Alliance for Peace and Justice, which began as a response to 9/11 and the subsequent Gulf Wars, was beginning to fade. One of their activities fell to us, and we were all too happy to take it on. We staffed the PeaceKids booth at the Scottsdale Arts Festival, teaching kids to make origami peace cranes and telling the story of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. We also began a newsletter, in which we give our local news, as well as national news and updates. We run a column on WILPF women in history, and we usually run something about our sister branch in Tucson.

We are looking at ways we can attend their activities and they attend ours, and we're hoping to have a get-together at a cafe/coffee shop mid-way between our cities, hopefully before the end of summer.

On Memorial Day, we had a special pot-luck meeting to memorialize people who had lived and died for peace, rather than just people who died in war. That was followed last week by a reading by Jeanmarie Bishop of her one-woman play, "The Joy," about Quaker martyr Mary Dyer, attended by several members. It was so good, we are thinking of how we can bring it to a larger group in a more public setting. In addition to that, we are looking for a venue to have a Hiroshima Day commemoration at which we can have speakers, possibly music and poetry, and then set some candles afloat in a body of water. We can't afford to rent the Japanese Garden in Phoenix, and getting a permit to light the candles is also beyond our current means, but we'll do something. Our summer schedule is greatly reduced due to the heat, but we will resume meetings, films, etc., in the fall, and we're also looking at how to do some sort of "Fun(d)-Raiser" so that we can afford to do even more.

**Randa Solick of Santa Cruz CA Branch.**

Emailed Program Summary.

**WILPF Santa Cruz Programs: 2015-2016 Program Year**

Date	Topic	Collaborators &/or Presenters
Sept 15, 2015	Manifesting Peace & The Golden Rule Boat Visit & Fundraiser	Mathilde Rand, Joy Hinz, Patricia Schroeder, Jane Doyle  Veterans for Peace
Nov. 1, 2015	What the U.S. Can Learn from El Salvador & Cuba: Putting People over Profits	Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan members/Paula LeRoy, Randa Solick, Carol Severson, Nancy A., Judy Geer
Dec. 12, 2015	Holiday Party	Peace Chorale & the Raging Grannies
Jan. 31, 2016	World Beyond War/Hope for Nuclear Weapons Abolition	WILPF U.S. DISARM Comm. Co- Chairs Ellen Thomas and Carol Urner
March 13, 2016	Linking Climate Change, Trade, & Militarism	Nick Buxton, author of <u>The Secure &amp; the Dispossessed</u> , referred to us by Nancy Price,
May 5, 2016	Decolonizing our Minds	SCCAN & 350.org/ speaker: Fernando Leiva
April 9, 2016	New Member Gathering	Six council members and six new members
May 24, 2016	Candidate Forum for US House of Reps (Farr's )	PIAC, League of Women Voters
June 4, 2016	Meet WILPF President Mary Hanson-Harrison	Part of a tour of five branches organized by Randa
June 25, 2016	Annual Meeting	Bringing it all together.



## WILPF, Des Moines Branch

- Meetings: Sept thru May, 6:00pm business, 7:00 break for refreshments & conversation, 7:15 Program (Holiday party in December; picnic/planning meeting in June)
- Dues: Individual \$40; Household \$45; Student \$15; Scholarships Available. Branch keeps \$5 and sends the remainder to WILPF US, but not less than \$15. Collected on a calendar year basis. Our Branch is considering a review based on new dues by WILPF US.
- Members: 68 dues payers in 2015, snail mail list of 89; e-news list of approximately 150.
- Leadership team: 5 people; responsibilities shared except one person acts as Treasurer.

### Jan Corderman from the Des Moines IA Branch sent this Newsletter!

"The following recaps our activities in 2015, as expressed in our renewal letter, sent in January, 2016."

*"Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics," Jane Addams.*

Jane was WILPF's first International President, the founder of Hull House in Chicago and the first U.S. woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

### Take a look at what we did together in 2015.

Dressed in black and donning our black veils and hats we formed a funeral procession around the Rotunda in the State Capitol in January on the 5th Anniversary of the Supreme Court's Decision in Citizen's United.

That decision made corporations 'people', and money 'free speech'---adding up to the 'passing away' of our right to equal participation by each citizen in our democracy.

On Tax Day we made the case, thanks to help from Raging Grannies, that while we've been paying our fair share, it's time for Mega-Corporations to do the same. April 15 is not tax day for many giant corporations. Exxon Mobil made \$19 billion in profits, and not only paid no income taxes but actually received a \$156 million

rebate from the IRS that same tax year! The fact is that the richest 1% only pays about 5% of their income to taxes. Low wage earners, who are 20% of all Americans, pay 11% of their income in taxes!

On one of the coldest days of the year, our Raging Grannies led us in song to "**Say NO! to drones**" at a Candlelight Vigil at the Iowa Air National Guard Base and gave us another opportunity to work with Vets for Peace. Many additional bases in the US have become piloting centers for weaponized drones which have killed thousands of people in countries with whom we are not at war. The Air National Guard, 132<sup>nd</sup> attach wing is one of those bases.

In March we celebrated an important victory for democracy at the Des Moines City Council

meeting. Our Branch, through our MoveToAmendDesMoines Committee took the lead in asking the city council to pass a resolution stating that they support the Iowa grassroots movement calling on our federal government to approve an amendment to abolish corporate personhood and make it clear that money is not free speech. The resolution passed with a vote of 5 yesses!

Our first 'April Fools Day' protest took place in 2015. We staged a Fools Day Clowns and Jesters parade through the Capitol to protest the Supreme Court's Decision in the McCutcheon Case. Our goal was to pointing out how these cases have reduced our individual role as citizens to role in our government and elections 'fake and clownish'. Just when we learned what "Citizens United" and "super PACs" were all about, the U.S. Supreme Court again roiled the world of campaign finance, voting 5-4 to allow even more money into a political process. In essence, the court said that the government cannot prevent citizens from giving campaign contributions to as many different candidates and political parties as they want.

Thanks to live broadcasts by Amy Goodman we were all able to watch WILPF Turn 100! The April Conference returned to The Hague, the site of WILPF's founding meetings. Goodman broadcasted her daily *Democracy Now!* show from the anniversary headquarters. We had a chance to see and hear Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee; WILPF Secretary-General Madeleine Rees; Under Secretary General of the UN, Radhika Coomaraswamy; feminist writer and professor Cynthia Enloe and others.

Did we "see you at the movies" last year? WILPFer Jan Burns hosted two showings of *Extreme Ice*, by National Geographic Photographer James Balog. The movie vividly illustrates the message our vanishing glaciers is sending to us all. The biggest showing was at the Varsity Theater with Mayor Cownie and our own David Coruard-Hauri leading the discussion following the movie. Jan also showed the movie at a Next Gen gathering.

In August we joined other peace organizations in remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the Japanese Bell on the Capitol grounds. Marking the 70th Anniversary of the USA atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki the theme for the P Program was: "Hiroshima/Nagasaki: 70 Years Later: The Fate of the Earth."

We marched with Veterans For Peace #163, the Bill Basinger Chapter, at the Iowa State Fair.

September saw us and KeepinKidsFirst! at the Multicultural Fall Festival at Evelyn Davis Park.

Our Branch was again honored to host the Food Sovereignty Prize Award Ceremony at the beautiful Trinity Methodist Church in October. The Food Sovereignty Prize was first awarded in 2009 as an alternate to the World Food Prize and honors those who are most impacted by the injustices of our global food system. The two winners for 2015 were: The Federation of Southern Cooperatives who works to keep land in the hands of African American family farmers and The Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras whose objective is to protect the economic and cultural rights of 46 Garifin communities along the Atlantic coast of Honduras. The Raging Grannies had a closing

performance and we served refreshments following the ceremony.

We were also pleased to welcome seventeen of the WILPF US Issue Committee Chairs, Branch Representatives, and Board Members to our City. The meetings were held at Chet's firehouse (Thank you Chet!). Kudos to the many other WILPFers who provided housing and transportation and took care of all the other details necessary to give these WILPF US

leaders the opportunity to get together other than by conference calls and email. The goals set Engaging Branches & Members; and Advancing Peace, Justice and Human Rights. The group tasked themselves with fleshing out the "HOW", "WHO" and "WHEN" of those goals.

The Jane Addams Award Winning Children's Books Committee. Chaired by Evelyn

Glazebrook, continued its work. The six enthusiastic members met to brain storm ways of presenting the books to children in our community and also developed a new and beautiful book plate. Because of their work hundreds of children in nine different schools

Our exciting programming at our monthly meetings focused on issues our members identified as priority issues for us and of our communities. Matt Ohloff, regional director of Food and Water Watch, helped us kick off the year by pointing to pollution trading right here in Iowa, and why we Iowans need to fight these policies that are corporate friendly policies.

A month later, Carolyn Uhlenhake Walker moderated a panel on the Climate Crisis and Our Local Government. We found out what Des Moines is doing about sustainability and the environment right now and what some of the possibilities are over the next 5-10 years. The panel included Mayor Cownie, Councilman Skip Moore, Sustainability Staffers Laura Graham and Amanda Romer and City Arborist David Jahn.

In March a stellar panel of women: Kyla Cox, a certified permaculture teacher, Ciji Mitrisin, Chief Recycling Officer of RecycleMe Iowa, and Lavon Griffieon, co-founder of 1000 Friends of Iowa and a local food producer spoke "How Climate Change Affects my Life and Livelihood".

In May Al Anderson let us know why amphibians are the "canaries in the coal mine" that warn us of the possibility of an imminent crisis! For over forty years Al has studied the amphibians in Polk and the surrounding counties.

Mary Hanson Harrison presented on the WILPF 2015 Conference in The Hague: 'Women's Power to Stop War', and Jan showed a slide show on 'Building Bridges: My recent trip to Russia' in September.

In October and November we heard from Sherrie Taha and Carolyn Uhlenhake Walker about Climate



Realty--the science of climate change and the direct cost impacts are having on communities around the world. They shared what they learned about best practices we can implement for positive impact on addressing the issue at a recent Leadership Corps training with Al Gore.

In December we invited everyone to meet this year's local Strong Feisty Woman, Sherry Hutchison, and heard from members about the work they're doing in addition to their work with WILFP.

In between meetings and events, we were pleased to be able to support the hard work of two of our members who take the lead on important community efforts. We support the efforts of the Jane

Foundation and its Director Jane Majors, and the Juvenile Justice Consortium, led by Branch member Jean Basinger. Jean was this year's recipient of the

Louise Noun Award given by the Iowa Civil Liberties Union.

Our Book Club, led by Carolyn Ulenhake Walker, read "**Cracking the Code**"

and libraries in were exposed to these the beautiful books that engage children in thinking about peace, justice, world community and equality of the sexes and all races". Alex sent the committee a note: "Thank you for coming. I loved the part where they fought for their rights. We Shall Overcome was a great book." With lively illustrations and moving prose, this book that we read to Alex and his classmates explores the power of community through the story of one song.



by Thom Hartman and  
showed the Oliver Stone  
series, Untold History of the  
United States.

What a great year! Help us make 2016 even better!



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