

ONE WILPF All Member Call -- February 9th, 2017 4pm pacific/7pm eastern

32 WILPF members from 19 branches, and 4 At Large Members attended the 8th ONE WILPF Call on Thursday February 9th (list appears at the end of these notes).

The featured speaker was **Cindy Domingo** from **WILPF US's Cuba & Bolivarian Alliance Committee** spoke about the history of WILPF partnerships with women in Cuba and the formation of the Cuba & Bolivarian Alliance Committee. Cindy also spoke about WILPF delegations to Cuba, the travel ban and upcoming events on Cuba. Following this, Leni Villagomez Reeves spoke briefly about Pastors for Peace work in Cuba and an upcoming coalition to Cuba in July.

The two major sections of this call focused on

- Learning about the history of WILPF involvement with Cuba and current events and organizing around Cuba and how WILPF members can get involved.
- Break Out Rooms addressed 4 subjects:
 - Continuing planning for the April 2017 SOLIDARITY EVENT
 - Continue discussion on shared resources website and potential information to be shared there
 - Most Dangerous Women book discussion on Mark and Paul Engler's book *This Is an Uprising*
 - Continue discussion on Cuba

HERE IS THE AUDIO LINK if you want to listen to the call again, or if you didn't get to be on the call.

<http://mcrecordings.s3.amazonaws.com/V6T6Y91J3U0ZHPFFHB6DYGCKXKL1EAES.mp3>

CALL SUMMARY IN BRIEF:

1. **Our special featured guest CINDY DOMINGO of the WILPF US CUBA & BOLVARIAN ALLIANCE COMMITTEE**, spoke about the history of WILPF in Cuba and the formation of the issues committee and shared upcoming opportunities and events for WILPF members to get involved in the committee.
2. **BREAK OUT ROOMS & REPORTS BACK**
 - **SOLIDARITY EVENT** – Updates were shared on branches' progress on promoting the event via social media and media sources and sharing this list with Cheryl Spencer. Nancy Price shared an e-alert that listed activist events being planned between now and April and the UN General Assembly Nuclear Ban Treaty was also discussed. The tool kit was highlighted and a list of potential partners for the event was shared.
 - **BRANCH RESOURCES** - This breakout room focused on the development of an auxiliary website that would contain copies of videos, member brochures, infographics, branch flyers as well as how to guides (ex. how to set up a branch bank account) and an event calendar. *We are attaching a list of some of the possible resources that could be listed on this website and invite your input on the next call.*

- **DANGEROUS WOMEN BOOK DISCUSSION** - Members shared their opinions on *This Is an Uprising* and a common sentiment was that the story was powerful and also strategic. The book offered helpful tools for organizing, what you should and should not do, and also felt very relevant.
 - **CUBA** – Members shared their travel experiences in Cuba and their work around Cuba and resources and upcoming trips to Cuba were also shared. The group also discussed possible changes under the Trump administration and the need to publicize the issues committee’s work more greatly.
3. Goodnight/**Adjournment**
 4. **Soapbox**

NOTES IN DETAIL:

WELCOME: Introduction of Call Team, Review of Agenda, Review of Call Norms and Call Instructions.

Update about the Shared Resources Website. Information was sent out before the call, and folks were asked to weigh in the information being prioritized for the new website. The decision was made to use a wordpress site that we developed for the Centennial events, www.GrowingWILPF.com. Changes will be made to that site to include resources to share, frequently asked questions, and event listings for inspiration and instruction with the ability for branches and members to share materials. *Preliminary changes to the website should be made and viewable before the March 9th call. Check it out.*

Solidarity Event Update: We sent out a lot of information since our last call, including banner designs, Toolkit, Flyer templates and Correspondence Letterhead. We’ll be asking folks for feedback in the break out rooms.

NANCY PRICE: Announcement – Nancy is serving with Robin Lloyd as Co-Chair of our upcoming CONGRESS PROGRAM Committee.

She asked for input from members in terms of what they would like to see at Congress, what they would like to take away from Congress.

Please contact Nancy at nancyprice39@gmail.com with suggestions and comments.

SPRING ORGANIZING OPPORTUNITIES. There is a LOT of organizing and actions being planned this Spring in response to the announcements and policies being pursued by the Trump Administration. Nancy authored a recent E-Alert with **an important list of events** planned between Feb. and April for folks to connect with. **(The list is attached at the end of the notes)**

MICHAEL IPPOLITO of Maestro, our engineer **asked that call participants register individually rather than sharing PIN Numbers.** Pre-Registration is very simple. When you share PIN numbers we can not accurately track who is on the call, and it is difficult to identify you when you raise your hand to get on a stack or ask a question.

Marybeth introduced **Cindy Domingo, chair of the WILPF National Cuba & Bolivarian Alliance Issue Committee.** Many branches engage with Cindy’s committee and they do important work, but we don’t often hear about it. We are all looking forward to hearing about their work. Cindy presented her information, starting with a history of the Cuba Issue Committee and WILPF’s long standing work ‘crossing borders’ and supporting women in Cuba in their activism. Their most recent work was

described and Cindy made a plea for more members of the committee. She answered questions and also presided over a Break Out Room for folks who wanted to continue the dialogue.

The text of the presentation and the Q&A follows these notes.

NEXT CALL: Marybeth announced that the speaker for our next ONE WILPF Call on **Thursday March 9th** would be [Ray Acheson from the Reaching Critical Will](#) program of International WILPF, part of our UNO programs in NY. 4pm pacific/7pm eastern.

There were 4 Break Out Rooms for this call:

- The Shared Resources BOR
- The Solidarity Event BOR
- The **'Most Dangerous Women' Book Discussion** of the non-fiction THIS IS AN UPRISING, which was written by Paul and Mark Engler (sons of a Des Moines WILPF member).
- Continuation of the Dialogue with Cindy Domingo and members of the Cuba & Bolivarian Alliance Issue Committee.

We separated into BORs and worked for about 40 minutes.

REPORTS FROM BREAK OUT ROOMS:

SHARED RESOURCES - Ellen Schwartz (Sacramento CA) reported that they plan to develop an auxiliary website and link it to the main WILPF US website. We want to begin by listing resources that are available NOW to use or order, that you don't necessarily have to adapt to your own branch but can provide inspiration, guidance and materials.

Then there will also be resources that CAN be adapted by your branch, so you don't have to re-invent the wheel each time you plan an event or program. We hope to have a "How Do I?" section with frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers.

Eventually we may have a Calendar feature, but for right now we are going to focus on a LIST of possible TYPES of events that members and branches work on or have worked on. When you click on an event it will take you to the list of branches which have worked on this type of event. When you click on the branch it will take you to a description of the event, a contact person for more information and a link to any collateral (printed) materials they used to distribute or promote the event.

The success or failure of this website will depend on gaining the cooperation of branches to provide descriptions of their events and pdf copies of their materials.

If anyone has ideas about what needs to be included in this website of resources, please send them to Ellen at ellen@nicetechnology.com.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SHARED RESOURCES BOR INCLUDED: (Their contact info is listed below)

Betty Traynor	Ellen Schwartz
Robin Lloyd	Edith Bell
Judy Karas	

SOLIDARITY EVENT – Joan Goddard (San Jose CA) reported that we had discussed the myriad tools and resources that have been provided to branches and members in order to get them working together on April 22nd. There are 2 alternative banner designs, lists of new allies, suggestions of the kinds of actions and activities to include, instructions for making or ordering a banner, templates of flyers and suggestions for a media approach.

MEDIA - Cherrill Spencer has volunteered to collect MEDIA LISTS from branches. She set a preliminary deadline of Feb. 10th to get the media lists from branches. **If you have not provided a list of local media to Cherrill yet, please send it along to her asap at: Cherrill@slac.stanford.edu.**

FACEBOOK USERS PLEASE: We've also asked branches to supply a LIST of their members who are on Facebook. Please pass that list along to 1wilpfcalls@gmail.com as soon as possible. This is how we will push out the photos of banners and branches for April 22nd on Social Media. If few of your members use FB, consider using that as a good reason to contact the AT LARGE MEMBERS on the lists Marybeth sent out to you.

LEARN HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA: There is a SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING being planned in preparation for the April 22nd Solidarity Event. More details to come. **(It has been scheduled for Saturday, March 11th at 11am pacific/2pm eastern. The Pre-Registration link for it is <http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/J31TEBBIG5CLV63>)**

AT-LARGE LISTS - Marybeth sent out lists of all members in each state where we have participating branches. If you did not receive one for your state, contact her. mbgardam@gmail.com. Contact members who are not in your branch to make sure they know what you are doing and are willing to help, stand with you with the banner, or attend/work with you on an event.

New Jersey WILPF noted that they have formed an alliance with NJ Peace Action to help them celebrate their 60th Anniversary and together they will be making 10,000 peace cranes. They will offer that activity at their Earth Day event too. Marybeth suggested that they also read the children's book about the cranes.

Other branches are ordering banners and getting organized for April.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOLIDARITY EVENT BOR INCLUDED: (their contact info is listed below)

Blanca Gerard	Nancy Price
Marybeth Gardam	Carol Urner
Julie Durgin	Nancy Wrenn
Nancy Graham	Joan Goddard

BOOK DISCUSSION - THIS IS AN UPRISING by Mark and Paul Engler

Dr. Joy Martinez (At-Large NC) reported on the book discussion.

The book offered informative stories of what makes the difference between effective and not so effective demonstrations, protests and actions. It gave examples of what you should and should not do to be strategic. Some of the things that work are to ground your event in an established group within the community you are engaging, for instance churches. Examples of what NOT to do would be to underestimate your opposition or lack structure, discipline and training. Timing in the life of an organization is critical. The book talked about slow-approaches and fast moving mass movements. They cited the Ann Brady film **SOUTHERN PATRIOT**.

They talked about the need for persistence and patience. Gandhi and MLK stayed with it, even when their efforts were not showing results. There is a tipping point you must reach, and it means doing the work without the assurance of success. It's easy to get discouraged. They also discussed the quote that we can not stop war until we stop war within ourselves. They underscored the need to challenge ideas, not people. They discussed the books of Frances Fox Piven, including **POOR PEOPLES MOVEMENTS, HOW THEY SUCCEED AND HOW THEY FAIL**, and **REGULATING THE POOR**. They also discussed the book **INTO THE BUZZSAW** by Kristina Borjesson about the myth of a free press.

And they reminded us that this is difficult work and it is important to take care of ourselves along the way.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE BOOK DISCUSSION BOR: (their contact info is listed below)

Margaret Pecoraro Mary Hanson Harrison
Joy Martinez Nuri Roneghy
Jan Corderman Eileen Kurkoski

THE CUBA DIALOGUE CONTINUED - Cindy Domingo reported back that their group included some women who are interested in Cuba work and have even travelled to Cuba but who have not yet joined Cindy's committee. She reminded people that their Committee meets the 1st Monday of each month.

For more information contact cindydomingo@gmail.com.

Cindy said they also talked about experiences people had had and the resource of the film Maestra, by Catherine Murphy. Maestra is a 33-minute documentary film directed by Catherine Murphy, about the youngest women teachers of the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign. In 1961, Cuba aimed to eradicate illiteracy in one year. You can find out more about it at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maestra_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maestra_(film))

Cindy reminded folks that they continue to do travel opportunities to Cuba and that the RESPECT Coalition which prioritizes the responsibilities of travelers to Cuba to bring back information and work for efforts to lift the blockade and travel restrictions.

Cindy admitted that her committee needs to get better at publicizing their work, because there are many ways that branches and members could be more engaged and be helpful in this work by connecting with the committee.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CUBA BOR: (their contact info is listed below)

Veronica Domingue Moon (because Moon used Cindy's PIN we could not capture her name.)
Natasha Beck Leni Reeves
Cynthia Roberts Marga Dusedau
Cindy Domingo Floris Freshman

The call ended with a short SOAP BOX which invites people to stay on who have more to say or ask.

BOOKS DISCUSSED ON THIS CALL: Mark and Paul Engler's *This Is an Uprising*, Frances Fox Piven's **POOR PEOPLES MOVEMENTS, HOW THEY SUCCEED AND HOW THEY FAIL**, and **REGULATING THE POOR. INTO THE BUZZSAW** by Kristina Borjesson about the myth of a free press.

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CINDY DOMINGO's PRESENTATION: THE CUBA & BOLIVARIAN ALLIANCE ISSUE COMMITTEE.

WILPF has been crossing borders and boundaries since 1915 in the name of creating peace. There have been US & Cuban exchanges of women activists for much of that time. The Cuba Committee has been working with the Federation of Cuban Women which represents about 75% of all Cuban women since about 1990. In 1991 at the height of the economic crisis in Cuba what was caused by the US Embargo/Blockade and loss of trade and sanctions WILPF became very involved advocating for an end to the trade and travel blockades. WILPF women have hosted delegations from Cuba and traveled to Cuba. In 1995 we proposed the Women & Cuba Committee which has evolved into the Cuba and Bolivarian Alliance Issue Committee. Between 1996 and 1999 we sponsored and attended International Conferences on Cuba. In 1998 we organized the largest Cuba conference, right after the Peace Conference in Beijing.

Since then the work has continued continuously but rather sporadically. The Portland Branch advocated for us to add the Bolivarian Alliance to the committee because Bolivia and the global south was experimenting with innovative forms of democracy that we could learn from and honor. During that time we were using mostly printed materials to educate about the US intervention and interference in the political environment of Latin America.

Women from Seattle, Bozeman MT, Baltimore and Bloomington IN have been involved with the committee. Also Mary Bricker Jenkins who has been an at-large member in Pennsylvania and Tennessee. And Fresno and Santa Cruz CA branches have also been active, especially with the Pastor's for Peace tours. Over the years many of our women have visited Cuba. Under Obama's administration diplomatic relations were reestablished with Cuba and the travel limitations were expanded somewhat. Under Trump it's really not clear yet what will be their position on Cuba, though we know that they have recently threatened to deny federal funding to any Florida ports that accept Cuban trade shipments, in contradiction to the policies of Obama. Probably Trump will roll back any gains made under Obama. There is now little chance of the Embargo

being lifted and we are hoping that they will not tighten the travel openings once again. It is still fairly easy to go to Cuba but you need a Visa.

Between 2002-3 WILPF had one of the last licenses through the Office of Foreign Asset Control to bring delegations to Cuba. But during the Bush years it became much more difficult and we stopped. In 2001 we partnered with Women & Cuba organization to continue bringing small delegations under their auspices. Next month (March) we will be bringing another delegation to Cuba through WILPF and we are pleased that one of our newest branches will see the Ojai founding member joining us on that trip. We hope to do more delegations in the future. But travel costs to Cuba skyrocketed after the normalization of diplomatic relations. A new Coalition that we are working with is the RESPECT COALITION, which brings people whose core values include a respect for the people of Cuba. They stress that your responsibility when you return from visiting Cuba is to continue to advocate for a normalization of trade and travel and a lifting of the embargo.

The Travel Ban also affects Cubans coming to the US. It loosened somewhat under Obama but is still hard. WILPF is often asked to write letters of support, letters of invitation to traveling scholars and to host tours of speakers.

During the 1960s Cuba created an extremely effective literacy teaching course which they brought to many nations. The film *Maestra* by Catherine Murphy documents that period very well. WILPF works on *Maestra* tours. We have invited many Cuban women scholars and activists to come to the US and we support them and host them. When we have these speakers, branches and members are asked to help with tour stops and promoting the appearances. We've recently been bringing LGBT activists from Cuba from the Lesbian Alliance Project. LGBT is a big issue in Cuba and they have created quite a large movement. Their example helps inspire us to organize here around this issue too.

We partner each year with Pastors for Peace and do visiting exchanges and speaker tours. In the Fall 2017 there will be a National Tour by the director of the Literacy Museum, Luisa Comos. The Museum documents the number of countries where Cuba has sent literacy workers. In 2016 this speaker toured 20 cities in the US, some of which WILPF helped with. This year she will be again looking for invitations to speak and promotions for her speaking engagements. If you are interested in helping, or if you want information about traveling to Cuba, contact Cindy at cindydomingo@gmail.com. For years we attended the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) when it was held (the last 4 years) in the US. This year it will be in Peru, so we will not be attending.

Cindy introduced Leni Reeves who described her work with Pastors for Peace which has caravans that bring speakers to the US from Cuba and bring medical supplies and hard-to-get items to Cuba each year. They also engage in a

grassroots struggle against the blockade and deliberately enter Cuba illegally each year to underscore the unfairness and hardship of the trade embargo and travel blockade. There will be a Pastors For Peace Caravan going to Cuba in April.

You can find out more about these caravans at friendshipmentcaravan@ifconews.org. Leni is also able to provide more information about Pastors for Peace Caravans and traveling to Cuba illegally.

Q&A:

Nancy Graham (Madison WI) asked for the information about the Respect Coalition. Cindy said she would provide it if Nancy emails her at cindydomingo@gmail.com.

Mary H Harrison (Des Moines IA) asked if Cindy would provide more information about the speakers tours in the Fall.

Joan Goddard (San Jose CA) noted that we are very interested to continue to learn about the work of the Cuba Committee. Joan has been asking for a long time for information about it. Cindy noted that is why Marybeth invited her to the call. She said that they will have to get better about sharing information about the Committee's work. She stressed that they need more people on the Committee and that would help them be able to get more information out into ENews, Peace & Freedom and through the Branches and Program Committee.

Robin Lloyd (Burlington VT) said it was good to hear about the Committee's work and the difficulties of getting visas. She pointed out that International WILPF withdrew from the CSW this year in objection to Trump's travel ban. It's sad how that ban is affecting travel for so many people. Cindy noted that Washington State challenged the travel ban and their complaints were upheld by the 9th Circuit Court, so the travel ban has been lifted for now.

Cindy said WILPF women could launch a campaign of writing letters of invitation to Cuban citizens. These would be important opportunities for women activists from the 2 countries to talk and strategize together.

Marybeth Gardam (At-Large FL) brought up the Florida federal threats to cancel funding to ports that receive trade shipments from Cuba. Cindy said that this was a good reminder that the committee also does citizen advocacy with Congress and legislatures and that it is important that we get congress to act to stop that illegal threat and reinstate legal trade with Cuba, under the conditions Obama put in place. She said that in this effort collaborating with the business community would make sense. The Administration is doing illegal things and it will take federal and local efforts to challenge him.

Judy Karas (Monterey CA) said that their Earth Day event will include information about Cuba's significant contribution to the field of organic farming

and gardening. Cindy noted that Cuba has provided some very innovative eco-gardening processes.

That concluded the presentation and Q&A section.

EARTH DEMOCRACY E-ALERT with list of calendar event organizing opportunities:

Spring Calendar for Actions, Marches and more...

Rise up and Resist. A New World is Possible.

Keep your eyes open for alerts. Plan local coalition events.

February 17: Nationwide strike is tentatively planned the Friday before President's Day against Trump planned by Strike4Democracy.

[Here's the website f17strike.com](#) and Click on "**Find an Event**" or plan an event and get it on the map and visit the Facebook page with over 16,000 people declared as participating.

March 8: International Woman's Day: Theme this year is: "**Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50:50 by 2030.**"

Organizers of January Women's March say the January 21 Women's March showed that a new feminist movement may be in the making. It's important not to lose momentum.

Here's the call to organize: Let us join together on 8 March to strike, walk out, march and demonstrate. Let us use the occasion of this international day of action to be done with lean-in feminism and to build in its place feminism for the 99%, a grassroots, anti-capitalist feminism - feminism in solidarity with working women, their families and their allies throughout the world.

March 10: Standing Rock Water Protectors and Indigenous Coalition at Standing Rock are calling for an international day of emergency actions to disrupt business as usual and unleash a global intersectional resistance to fossil fuels and fascism. The Army Corps of Engineers Plans to Approve and Build DAPL.

[Check: EveryDayOfAction.org](#) action hub as central place of information for on-going solidarity actions. March 10 maybe organized as a specific mass action in Washington, D.C and elsewhere.

March 22: World Water Day: Say "NO" to bottled water, stop water shut-offs and privatization of public drinking water and sanitation services. End water contamination and get lead out of drinking water.

April 4: Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr's Riverside Church speech: "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" in which he moves from civil right to a critique of the corporate/capitalist/imperial system, calling for a "revolution of values" and an end to militarism, materialism, and racism and to move from a "thing-oriented society" to a "people-oriented society."

[Here are suggestions for a community reading of this speech.](#)

<http://www.unitedforpeace.org/2012/01/12/organize-a-public-reading-of-dr-king%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%9Cbeyond-vietnam%E2%80%9D-speech-in-your-community/> and

<http://www.unitedforpeace.org/resources/martin-luther-king-jr-resources/martin-luther-kingresources-beyond-vietnam-a-time-to-break-silence/>

Also read **Martin Luther King, Jr.: An Inconvenient Hero** by King's longtime friend Vincent Harding, who wrote the "Beyond Vietnam" speech.

April 15: Tax Day. "Move your Money"

April 22: Earth Day and ONE WILPF Solidarity events

April 29: People's Climate Mobilization

<https://peoplesclimate.org/> just before the 100th day of Trump presidency. Call for a new clean energy economy that stops climate change and creates good jobs for all