

# PEACE



# FREEDOM

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*Our Communities  
Our Story*

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The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has been working since 1915 to unite women worldwide who oppose oppression and exploitation. WILPF stands for equality of all people in a world free of racism, sexism, and homophobia; the building of a constructive peace through world disarmament; and the changing of government priorities to meet human needs.

### WILPF US Section

President: Mary Hanson Harrison  
Managing Director: Lamia Sadek

11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116  
phone: 617-266-0999; fax: 617-266-1688  
e-mail: info@wilpfus.org; website: wilpfus.org  
To contact the National Board as a whole, please email:  
president@wilpfus.org

### WILPF International

President: Kozue Akibayashi  
Secretary General: Madeleine Rees

1 rue de Varembe, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland  
phone: 41-22-919-7080; fax: 41-22-919-7081  
e-mail: secretariat@wilpf.ch website: wilpf.org

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Submissions welcome; please query first.  
Contact the editor at editor@wilpfus.org

Editor: Kathryn Dodgson  
Art Director: Glenn Ruga  
Editorial Assistance: Joan Bazar, Candace Perry, and Communications Intern Krystal Kilhart

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# Taking *OURSTORY* into the Future

By Mary Hanson Harrison

President, WILPF US Section

“**H**istoric” seemed to define 2016. President Obama labeled the Paris Climate Accord as “historic,” although it does not satisfactorily address the warming of our climate. As a result of dragging out any real action on climate change, we’ve had historic floods, fires, and melting of ice caps. And, by the time you read this, a historic election will have taken place. Whatever that may bring, we know our work will be even more important.

## First, *OURSTORY*, 2016

Though WILPF US’s own recent history may not have seen quite such historic changes, much progress has brought us together in all sorts of ways:

- This year, we’ve reached out to branches in California, Vermont, Milwaukee, DC, Maine, and Boston with visits from board members, continuing our efforts to invigorate and inspire our members. We’ve added or started the process of adding new branches in Ojai, CA; Worcester, MA; Rochester, NY; Iowa City, IA; and Gainesville, FL.
- We were honored with the visit of our International President, Kozue Akibayashi, to Detroit/Ann Arbor and San Jose/Santa Cruz branches and other California branches, while she was here to speak at the World Beyond War conference in Washington, DC. Twenty-three WILPF women attended the conference.
- Many of our branches have been connecting with civil rights and human rights partners to demand an end to the racial violence and oppression and to the increasingly militarized and racially provocative police departments.
- The monthly ONE WILPF CALL emerged from the 2015 branch survey, and members are finding it an increasingly powerful tool for connecting branches, new members, and at-large members and for exchanging ideas, collaborating on strategy, and strengthening ties to each other.
- The Development Committee worked to build an infrastructure for fundraising that is both exciting and chal-



WILPF International President Kozue Akibayashi, WILPF US President Mary Hanson Harrison, Clare Hanrahan, Dianna Carlson, and Ellen Thomas say farewells at Reagan National Airport. Photo: Ellen Thomas

lenging, instituting a Sustainer Program that asks as little as \$5 a month—just the price of a cup of coffee.

- The CSW and the Practicum/Local2Global remain stalwart projects that attract new members and share experiences that enhance WILPF leadership.
- Our branches led the way on issues and activism to protest fracking, oppose the TPP, stand with water protectors to reject pipeline invasions and corporate land grabs, and offer sustainable alternatives to Monsanto and Big Ag.
- Our intrepid DISARM/End War chairs toured the US, reinvigorating our branches to demand the abolition of nuclear weapons, an end to subsidizing toxic nuclear power, and a movement for a sustainable economy built on human services, green jobs, and renewable energy.

## Making *OURSTORY*, 2017: CONGRESS

**WILPF US is going to Chicago for Congress 2017!** The University of Illinois at Chicago, right next to Hull House, will be our host, July 27–30, 2017. By now, you will have received the promotional pieces about this fabulous opportunity to meet face-to-face. Here, I just want to reinforce the CALL TO COMMIT to help with this new adventure—a journey that will take our best efforts to reach out to members all over the US to hold regional meetings and conference-call gatherings, including connecting members-at-large, all in preparation for Congress 2017.

One of the main challenges in 2017 will be to continue the process of rebuilding and reconnecting, and Congress 2017 will highlight the work necessary both to stabilize WILPF US internally and to effectively address the urgent issues that threaten peace, the environment, and human rights. Please join us on this journey!

# Opportunities & Obstacles for Nuclear Disarmament

By Alice Slater

**A**fter a series of three meetings since 2013 to discuss the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear war, in Norway, Mexico, and Austria, more than 120 governments signed a pledge, spearheaded by Austria and civil society's International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), to fill the legal gap for nuclear disarmament with a nuclear weapons ban. As a result, last fall the General Assembly established a UN Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for nuclear disarmament to explore new legal pathways to break the nuclear disarmament impasse. We are seeing unprecedented movement for a major new initiative to prohibit and ban nuclear weapons. Despite a boycott of the OEWG meeting by the five nuclear weapons states, and an attempt to block progress at the meeting by the NATO states and other members of the US nuclear alliance in Asia—Australia, South Korea, and Japan of all countries—a majority of the nations at the OEWG voted in the summer of 2016 to move forward in the General Assembly in the fall to begin negotiations by 2017 on a treaty to ban the bomb!

**The world has banned chemical and biological weapons, as well as landmines and cluster bombs, but nuclear weapons have never been banned.**

In the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the nuclear weapons states at the time—US, UK, France, Russia, China—pledged only to make “good faith efforts” to eliminate their nuclear weapons, while all the other countries of the world pledged not to acquire them. Only India, Pakistan, and Israel refused to sign, and they went ahead and developed their own nuclear arsenals. North Korea, empowered by the Faustian bargain of the NPT to give “peaceful” nuclear power to all the countries who promised not to acquire nuclear weapons, turned its “peaceful” reactor into a bomb factory and left the treaty to make



UN working group on nuclear disarmament, May 2016.

Photo: ICAN-Australia/Wikimedia Commons

its own nuclear bombs. So today there are nine nuclear weapons states with about 16,000 nuclear weapons on the planet, 15,000 of which are in the US and Russia. All the other seven nuclear weapons states have only 1,000 bombs in their arsenals combined, so it's clear that nuclear disarmament has to start with the US and Russia if we are to finally eliminate all nuclear weapons.

The nonnuclear weapons states have driven the movement for the ban treaty forward. Progress for the NPT's promised “good faith” efforts for nuclear disarmament has been abysmal. When the 1970 NPT treaty was reviewed and extended beyond its 25-year expiration date, new pledges were given to convince the nonnuclear weapons states to renew the treaty, including the negotiation of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a Nuclear and Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East, and regular NPT five-year review conferences, with preparatory meetings in between. The last review conference in 2015 broke up without consensus, with nonnuclear weapons states now determined to move forward on the ban treaty. In an eloquent speech, South Africa compared the NPT regime to nuclear apartheid with nuclear haves and have-nots, and this set the tone for moving forward to establish the OEWG that fall. This determination was reinforced by the whole string of broken promises given at prior NPT review conferences, coupled with the ongoing development of new nuclear technology, with the nuclear weapons states refurbishing their arsenals and building new bombs. The US, for example, has announced a

projected budget of one trillion dollars to be spent over the next 30 years for two new nuclear bomb factories, new nuclear weapons, and new airplanes, missiles, and submarines to deliver their lethal payloads. This flagrant violation of their NPT promises delivered the impetus for establishing the OEWG and moving ahead so swiftly with the mandate to ban the bomb.

Civil society has its work cut out for it. We have to continue our successful efforts to support the nonnuclear weapons states in swiftly completing negotiations on a ban treaty that would prohibit the manufacture, sharing, and possession of nuclear weapons. We have to bring organized citizen pressure to bear in the “weasel” states, which profess to support nuclear disarmament while sheltering under the US nuclear umbrella. This includes Japan, surprisingly, since it actually suffered the consequences of the only two nuclear weapons ever used, together with Australia and South Korea in Asia, as well as the NATO alliance which permits US nuclear weapons to be parked in five European countries—Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Turkey—and actually relies on nuclear “deterrence” in its policy documents for all its member states. Many of these states argued and voted against moving forward on a ban treaty in the OEWG, which fortunately doesn’t operate by consensus, so the nuclear-haves and their umbrella allies couldn’t block the majority’s efforts to bring it to a vote. One hundred and thirty nations agreed to propose to the General Assembly this fall that negotiations begin on a ban treaty this year!

**It is expected that the ban treaty will help civil society create pressure on the umbrella states to give up their reliance on US nuclear weapons, and perhaps break up those unholy alliances.**

Although the US never signed the cluster bomb ban treaty, it stopped using them with the impunity it had shown in the past, and, only this September, the major cluster bomb manufacturer in the US closed down its operations.

In order to get Russia and the US to sit down and negotiate for nuclear abolition, we have to understand the



**Peace cranes on the GPO steps, Melbourne vigil for Japan. The candlelight vigil, organized by Australia’s Medical Association for the Prevention of War, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and Japanese for Peace, was to honor the victims of the 2011 magnitude 9.0 earth quake and tsunami, and to show concern for the safety of those exposed to radioactivity from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.**

Photo: John Englart (Takver)/Creative Commons

blocks to progress. When the wall came down in Europe and Gorbachev let go of all of Eastern Europe without a shot, Reagan met with him and they talked about total nuclear disarmament. Gorbachev proposed that the US give up Star Wars and its mission to dominate and control the military use of space. Reagan refused, and we lost that opportunity to rid ourselves of the nuclear nightmare. Russia and China have been proposing a space weapons ban at the UN since 2008, and the US blocks any discussion of it in the consensus-bound Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. The US also refused to discuss a Russian proposal for a Cyberwar Ban Treaty. This is particularly ironic because the US keeps accusing Russia and China of organizing cyber attacks. The US also condemns North Korea’s missile tests, while putting in new US missile bases in South Korea and Japan and regularly testing nuclear-capable long-range missiles from the US mainland over the Pacific.

Further, Putin offered Clinton a deal to cut our thousands of bombs to 1,000 each and call all the countries to the table to negotiate for nuclear disarmament. But he told Clinton the offer would only be good if the US halted its move to put missiles in Eastern Europe. Clinton refused, and Putin pulled his offer off the table. George W. Bush actually walked out of the 1972 Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty with the USSR, and we now have new missile bases in Poland and Romania. Despite promises

*Continued on page 7.*

# Working toward a Weapons of Mass Destruction

By Odile Hugonot Haber

**“Today the danger of some sort of nuclear catastrophe is greater than it was during the Cold War and most people are blissfully unaware of this danger.”**

—William J. Perry, US Secretary of Defense, 1994–1997<sup>1</sup>

**T**he continuous production and proliferation of nuclear weapons on our small planet is terrifying for many of us, due to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that a possible accident or war would unleash. So we are looking to the development of nuclear-free zones as a positive development that must continue to spread worldwide.

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability released a report in April 2016 indicating that “The United States plans to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to ‘modernize’ all aspects of its nuclear arsenal: the bombs, the warheads, the production facilities, the delivery systems, and command and control systems.”<sup>2</sup>

The US leads the world in military expenditures and spurs on other nations to advance their military technology and spending, engulfing us in even more possibilities for war and destruction, all at a terrific cost that is not just financial. This money could instead be used to benefit the world by making it a safer place, with a more sustainable way of life, feeding and sheltering the many, and also nurturing progress and creativity in our communities.

In the last few years, Israel has also built and accumulated huge nuclear arsenals. Jeff Halper reports that “*Jane’s Defense Weekly* and the International Institute for Strategic Studies estimate that Israel currently possesses between 100 and 300 nuclear warheads, making it the world’s sixth nuclear power.” Israel possesses sophisticated long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that can deploy these nuclear warheads by land, air, or sea. So, “Israel has a nuclear strike capability covering the entire Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia and almost all parts of North America, as well as large parts of South America and Oceania.” Israel not only has nuclear weapons but also sells missiles to many countries around the world.<sup>3</sup>

So far, no other countries in the Middle East possess any nuclear weapons. All the Arab states are parties to



A popular slogan graffitied on one of the sections of the East Side Gallery, the Berlin Wall. Photo: Dr. Santa/Wikimedia Commons

the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and they wish that Israel also had been. In 1963, at the 17th Congress of the United Nations General Assembly, Egypt suggested nine conditions for establishing a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, and then, in 1974, a resolution to this effect presented at the 29th session by Iran and seconded by Egypt was adopted, with the abstention of Israel and Burma. Since 1980, this resolution has regularly been reiterated and passed unanimously, with no country, including Israel, abstaining. Israel has closely linked any discussion of the establishment of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMD-FZ) with the existence of durable peace and compliance with nuclear obligations by all states in the region.

In 1990 President Mubarak proposed the establishment of a WMD-FZ in the Middle East, and in 1995 the United Nations created a proposal that gave it practical steps for the establishment of an effective, verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, and biological. A facilitator was named to advance the process, and Helsinki was designated as the location for a conference in 2012. Then, in 2012, the US and Israel cancelled the conference just a month before it was supposed to happen.

A conference in Haifa, Israel, was then convened on December 5–6, 2013, by Israeli citizens and former Knesset members, as well as by international activists, under the slogan “If Israel does not come to Helsinki, Helsinki will come to Israel.” They issued a declaration.

The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

# Free Zone in the Middle East

(NPT) failed to reach consensus on a nuclear/WMD Free Zone in the Middle East. The final UN document did state a continuous commitment to establish such a zone and reaffirmed its support for the resolution adopted in the 1995 review and extension conference and urged nations to “redouble” their efforts and preparations to make such a zone happen. It presented 11 points to detail the support it needed.<sup>4</sup>

Nuclear and Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zones are growing in number around the world. They now represent six land zones and cover 56 percent of the earth: Antarctica, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific, South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Mongolia. These zones are defined by treaties which are agreements created by a group of states that ban the use and development of nuclear weapons in a given area, that have mechanisms of verification and control to enforce its obligations, and that are recognized as such by the General Assembly of the United Nations (United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs [UNODA] and General Assembly resolution 3475 B 1975).

With the war raging in Syria and Libya and Iraq still in turmoil, the establishment of a WMD-FZ in the Middle East may be uncertain. However, since the success of the Iran deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was negotiated with the Nuclear Weapons States plus Germany (P5 +1), it may be time to revive the process for a Middle East WMD-FZ.

What are some of the conditions that need to be in place for the process to be able to develop an infrastructure that would address this issue?

The first and perhaps most important need is for a conscious grassroots movement in Israel and in the Middle East countries to advance a peace agenda, even in the midst of wars.

Israel must abandon its “ambiguity policy,” act responsibly for its own future security, and join the NPT or a similar agreement. Otherwise, other nations will develop their own nuclear weapons. The regional states will need to identify credible steps toward establishing both a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and chemical and biological



**US WILPFers gathered near the Pentagon on September 26, 2016.** Photo: Paula Leroy

agreements—taking steps as well to assure all that they will arrive at some nuclear agreement in the end.

By all accounts, the way to proceed is to implement confidence- and security-building measures that address regional concerns and are worked on by regional teams. Emily B. Landau, senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies, has suggested that the “severity of perceived common threats” might be a place to start that would “provide . . . a strong common interest” and “once again activate a much-needed regional dialogue framework.” She also reminds the facilitators of such future dialogues that sufficient attention needs to be given to “the impact of the pre-existing regional context of inter-states relations in the Middle East.”<sup>5</sup>

Creating an infrastructure that will enforce the requirements for safeguards and verification will require many meetings and consultations, given the critical imbalance that is in effect today.

In the context of the geopolitical development of uncontrollable wars raging over civil populations, bombings by many nations and terrorist non-state actors, and a confused and lethargic peace movement, it may be that this undertaking has very little credibility. But what do we have in this doomsday culture if we do not consider stepping-stones to a peaceful world?

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# From Paris to Istanbul

## More 'War on Terror' Means More Terrorist Attacks

By Phyllis Bennis

**As ISIS loses territory, it returns to mass-casualty attacks against civilians. That's why military-first approaches to terrorism are doomed to failure.**

**A**t least 41 people were killed in the recent bombing of Istanbul's Ataturk Airport.

The day before, suicide bombers killed five people in Qaa, a small village in Lebanon. And while the Saudi-led and US-backed war in Yemen continues to rage, an ISIS affiliate claimed responsibility for attacks in the Yemeni port city of Mukalla that killed at least 12.

As of June 29, ISIS affiliates had claimed responsibility only for the Yemen attacks. But just a few hours after the Istanbul airport attack, Turkish authorities were already blaming ISIS. Since Ankara (unlike the US, where many officials blame ISIS for every act of violence) has been eager to blame every attack against Turkish targets on its Kurdish opponents—especially the Kurdish Workers Party, or PKK—the government's early willingness to blame ISIS implies the likely existence of some convincing evidence.

Importantly, all three attacks took place following a significant defeat of ISIS on the ground.

The Iraqi military, backed by US forces, had been moving against the extremist forces in the symbolically and politically important city of Fallujah since early February, when it imposed a full siege on the city. The closure, which denied civilian residents access to food, medicine, and other life-saving supplies, devastated living conditions for the ordinary Iraqis caught between ISIS brutality and the extreme deprivation caused by the siege. On June 26—just days before the bombings in Istanbul, Lebanon, and Yemen—Baghdad proclaimed the city “liberated” from ISIS. Two days later, the Istanbul airport was attacked.

The timing was similar to other terrorist attacks that occurred as ISIS was losing ground. In the fall of 2015, the US-led coalition, including many European countries, escalated its bombing attacks on the ISIS-held city of Ramadi. As ISIS faced the likely loss of the Iraqi town, it pivoted away from its emphasis on holding territory to return to its earlier focus on terror attacks against civilians. The Paris bombing—apparently carried out by ISIS-affiliated terrorists—shook the world on November 13. Two weeks later, on December 2, a California couple allegedly

inspired by ISIS carried out the mass shooting in San Bernardino that killed 14 people and injured 22 more.

On December 28, the Iraqi military would declare Ramadi “liberated” from ISIS. (This celebratory announcement didn't mention the inconvenient fact that US bombing had largely pulverized what was left of the town. The 350,000 residents who'd fled ISIS brutality had no city to return to.)

The correlation between ISIS losing territory in its so-called “caliphate” in Syria and Iraq and the rise of terror attacks often much farther afield is one more indication of the failure of the US “war on terror.”

Once again, it demonstrates the futility of attempting to bomb or shoot terrorism out of existence. When bombing and shooting are the methods of choice the targets are not “terrorism,” but cities and people. Air strikes and drone attacks—on people in a car, in the desert, in a hospital, or at a wedding party—may sometimes kill individual terrorists (and always other people), but do nothing to stop terrorism. Leaders are soon replaced, and the most adept bomb-makers soon turn out to have trained a successor.

Military engagement may have worked in some areas to oust ISIS forces from territory they controlled, but the cost of such campaigns is extraordinarily high for the people and nations where they occur. People face, as in Ramadi, the absolute destruction of their homes and city. They may become refugees or internally displaced people for a generation or more. In Fallujah, thousands of desperate civilians fleeing the fighting in mid-June found that no preparations had been made to care for them—with clean water, food, shelter from the searing heat, and medical care all lacking.

A big problem Iraqi forces and their US backers face is the lack of support from some residents for their “liberators.” In a recent poll in Mosul, the second-largest city in Iraq, a full 74 percent of Sunni residents said they didn't want to be liberated by the Iraqi military. ISIS has held the city since June 2014.

This harkens back to the original reason ISIS became so powerful in Iraq. It's not because ordinary Iraqis supported the group's brutal, extremist definition of Islam,



**“Wallpaper World Peace” by Kamil Mikaloj Urban, Toruń, Poland. Art Finalist, Sister Cities International Young Artists and Authors Showcase 2016.**

but because the sectarian Shi'a-dominated government in Baghdad—and the often even more brutal and sectarian Shi'a militias allied to that government—made ISIS appear a lesser evil. Of course not all Sunnis, or even a majority, turned to ISIS. But a not-insignificant number did, and some continue to accept the group, however reluctantly.

US-led military campaigns “against terror” continue to set the stage for more terror attacks, and to create more

## **Nuclear Disarmament**

*Continued from page 3.*

made to Gorbachev at the time the wall fell that we would not expand NATO beyond East Germany, it now goes up to the Russian border. How would the US feel if Russia had troops and missiles in Canada and Mexico? We know what happened when the Soviet Union put missiles in Cuba. We almost started World War III! And part of the deal that Kennedy made with Khrushchev to get the Russian missiles out of Cuba was that we would take US missiles out of Turkey. Well they're back!

For citizen activists in the nuclear states, dismantling NATO, pressing for a space weapons and a cyberwar ban, and reinstating the ABM Treaty are essential steps to prepare the way for negotiations on a treaty for the

terrorists, as anger turns to rage—and rage, for some, turns brutally violent. The military-first US strategy is exacting a huge price—especially for the people in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan, and beyond—but also on us here at home, and on civilians throughout the world.

If we're serious about ending terror attacks, there are a host of non-military approaches that hold far more promise than bomb-drone-kill. Diplomacy, humanitarian support, arms embargos, economic

assistance, more diplomacy—we need to use them all instead of military action, not alongside it. Step one means acknowledging that the current strategy is failing.

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*Phyllis Bennis directs the New Internationalism Project at the Institute for Policy Studies. Her most recent book is Understanding ISIS and the New Global War on Terror.*

total elimination of nuclear weapons. We will have lots of help by using the ban treaty to put pressure on US allies to change their nuclear policy and give up the US nuclear umbrella. One surprising opportunity on the road to abolition is a recent statement by Zbigniew Brzezinski, of all people. It was he who promoted the policy to make the US the sole superpower ruling the world, yet he has recently recanted, saying that the US is no longer capable of calling the shots for the whole world and has to shift course and learn to cooperate with Russia and China. We know the way forward. Time to seize the opportunity!

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*Alice Slater serves on the Coordinating Committees of World Beyond War and Abolition 2000 and is the New York representative of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.*

# My Burning City

By LaShawndra Vernon



**M**y city, my hometown, is burning. This weekend [August 13–15, 2016], Milwaukee saw a riot on Sherman Blvd. Police and race relations in Milwaukee are fragile. The public is outraged and placing blame. With fingers pointed, the outcome is still the same. Families in Milwaukee who've felt victimized by the police haven't gained resolution. In communities where there is no justice, the outcome is often no peace. People revolt when they feel they've run out of options; when people feel like they have nothing to lose, they don't mind destroying what others have.

Instead of being outraged with the city, we should take a closer look at the root causes of violence and work together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. We should be building towards the same goal, that all of our community members are afforded the same opportunities and success as any other person in any zip code across the city.

Poverty, systemic racism, and oppression contribute significantly to community violence. When we address the poor outcomes for people in neighborhoods plagued with poverty, we can prevent a significant amount of violence and create pathways towards prosperity.

Housing security impacts community violence. By examining the data on foreclosure we know that home ownership around Sherman Park plays a part in the events this past weekend. The national foreclosure rate is down 4.9 percent. Foreclosure in Wisconsin is down

**"Caring Neighbors Make Good Communities" mural behind the Walnut Way Conservation Corporation.** Photo: Lucia Lozano/Walnut Conservation Corporation

22.7 percent. Although there is a decline in foreclosure, Milwaukee Black households had the lowest homeownership rate, at 32 percent.

Communities of color are negatively impacted by the foreclosure crisis. This contributes to the rising racial wealth gap. Historically, Sherman Blvd. was a destination for Black home ownership. Today Sherman Blvd. is in the zip code with the highest foreclosure rate: 53216. Sixty-seven percent of the homes in 53216 are bank-owned. Today Sherman Blvd. is struggling to recover.

Employment and educational opportunities available in Milwaukee impact community violence. Twenty-six percent of Milwaukee residents are living in poverty, and 38 percent are Black. Seventeen percent of 16- to 24-year-olds are not working or in school, 24 percent are Black. Sherman Blvd. and the surrounding area have a high percentage of Black youth that are unemployed. During summer vacation this leaves young people with nothing to do. When I was a teen there were so many opportunities to engage in healthy social activities.

Today, the funding for quality youth programs and jobs is slim. Our teens spent most of their summer with idle time. The intersection where the riot occurred has been an area of concern the entire summer. Countless youth workers and activist groups have organized activities

for the teens to prevent potential violence. And although those efforts contributed positively to the area, the lack of resources to continue the engagement finally took its toll.

It's easy to place blame, accuse parents of not doing their job, blame elected officials for the conditions we are in, and avoid neighborhoods where this is happening. However, there are several more contributing factors that led to the riot. Multiple barriers to success stand in the way of young people in my city, and when you complicate those factors with an overall lack of dignity and respect, you get self-destructive behavior.

Many people believe that they've run out of options. The most dangerous person in a community is the one that has nothing to lose. Yet, the most dangerous action or inaction is not doing anything to change the current conditions. Stepping up to do something to change the world we see today takes hard work and courage.

We are committed to restoring this city to a thriving global center and staying in the fight for justice. Yes, the cards are stacked against us, but we fight to change the community conditions that contribute to moments like this. We are breaking the cycle of poverty and scarcity mindset. Although the conditions have been bad, we are seeing a community transition. Although the media is showing us in the worst light, there are many people that have been at ground zero of this situation for months. The conditions on Sherman Blvd. today are temporary. People in Milwaukee are change agents—we got this.

As we work to sustain economically diverse and abundant communities at Walnut Way Conservation Corporation, we will serve as a participant in resolving

community violence. Over the last few months our staff have launched the Peace Project, and are working to build a culture of restorative justice, community mediation, and peacekeeping in our neighborhoods. Now more than ever we resolve to pull together and embrace our young people in an effort to identify their talents and activate their assets.

Albert Einstein said, "A large part of history is replete with the struggle for human rights, an eternal struggle in which a final victory can never be won. But to tire in that struggle would mean the ruin of society."

We commit to stay in the struggle for human rights no matter how tense the environment becomes. We look forward to working collaboratively with community members, stakeholders, and partners in peace to nurture civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and creating venues for prosperity.

We invite you too to make the personal commitment to invest in the long-haul struggle, create change, eliminate systems of oppression, and invest in new systems of elevation. This is our city.

This article appeared originally in the "Voices" section of the *Huffington Post*, August 16, 2016, [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com). Reprinted by permission.

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*LaShawndra Vernon is the Executive Director of Walnut Way Conservation Corporation. She is a member of the WILPF US Milwaukee Branch and has been interim treasurer/finance committee chair on the WILPF US board.*

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## **Middle East WMD Free Zone**

*Continued from page 5.*

We Women in Black and members of WILPF have to create these bridges of understanding, even if they rest only on virtual thoughts and hopes of a better world to come, shaped in the culture of peace and nonviolence of which we dream. People link their efforts across the world to give birth to peace and to see it develop in support of life and human rights for all. We need to continue our efforts to inform and to act on our principled beliefs and to continue promoting sisterhood around the world.

What can you do? WILPF members should call their congressional representatives and demand that the process for a Middle East WMD-FZ be restarted and that an international conference be convened so the UN General Assembly can take action on this issue.

1. William J. Perry, "A National Security Walk around the World," 2016 Drell Lecture, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, February 10, 2016.
2. Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, *Trillion Dollar Train Wreck: Out-of-Control U.S. Nuclear Weapons Programs Accelerate Spending, Proliferation, Health and Safety Risks. A Report from the Weapons Communities of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability*, April 2016, 1. This report can be downloaded at [bit.ly/trilliondollartainwreck](http://bit.ly/trilliondollartainwreck).
3. Jeff Halper, *War against the People: Israel, the Palestinians and Global Pacification* (London: Pluto Press, 2015), 113, 114.
4. The declaration can be read on the US Peace Council website, [uspeacecouncil.org/?p=2497](http://uspeacecouncil.org/?p=2497).
5. Emily B. Landau, "ACRS: What Worked, What Didn't, and What Could Be Relevant for the Region Today," *Disarmament Forum* (UNIDIR), 2008, no. 2: 13, 17.

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*Odile Hugonot Haber is a WILPF US program chair and a member of Women in Black, a protest movement against militarism and for peace. She may be reached at [Odilehh@gmail.com](mailto:Odilehh@gmail.com).*

# Perspective on the Philippines

## The War on Drugs: A Step toward Fascism?

By Cindy Domingo

**O**n September 22, 1972, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines, resulting in the dismantling of the Philippine Congress, suspension of a free press, freedom of speech, and right to due process, and an overall violation of peoples' human rights. Over 75,000 human rights cases have been filed under a law passed by the Philippine Congress for people seeking compensation for torture and death under the Marcos dictatorship.

Forty-four years later, many are concerned that the specter of martial law may be on the horizon under newly elected President Rodrigo Duterte, wiping out the democratic gains of the "People Power" movement that overthrew Marcos in 1986.

Duterte won the Philippine elections last May in a race of five candidates. Running on a platform of implementing law and order and ridding the country of drugs, Duterte has made good on his promise. However, human rights activists and lawyers and sectors of the international community, including President Barack Obama and UN General-Secretary Ban Ki-moon, have raised concerns over the extrajudicial killings, numbering over 3,500 (as of September 22), under Duterte's "War on Drugs." According to a report from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, just from July 1 to September 8 of this year, 1,445 people have been killed in police operations, 15,762 have been arrested, and 704,074 have "surrendered."<sup>1</sup>

In long-drawn-out press conferences, Duterte has repeatedly given power to the police and vigilantes to kill drug dealers and users with impunity. Shortly after his election, Duterte said he would kill 100,000 criminals during his first six months in office. In a response to the United Nations' experts urging President Duterte to stop the extrajudicial killings, he responded that at least half of the Filipino population is involved in drug-related trades and, given that, he was not going to stop the killings until the population is reduced by half.

In response to these extrajudicial killings, a Senate hearing in the Philippine Congress's Justice and Human Rights Committee, chaired by Senator Leila de Lima, was convened. De Lima, former Chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Human Rights and Secretary of the

Department of Justice, was recently ousted as chair of the committee in a coup. Her colleagues removed her after charging her with spreading disinformation and revealing a self-confessed hitman who accused Duterte of ordering killings in Davao, where he had served as mayor. An outspoken critic of Duterte even when he was mayor, De Lima has stated that Duterte's placement of the Philippines under a "state of lawlessness" after a recent bombing in Davao is martial law without a declaration. The "state of lawlessness" will ensure coordinated efforts between the police and the military in the government's fight against terrorism and illegal drugs. Human rights advocates claim this is one step toward officially declaring martial law.

Duterte, however, remains highly popular amongst the Philippine population, with a positive rating of 91 percent. This popularity, similar to that of Donald Trump in the US, reflects the disgruntlement of both populations with ongoing contradictions in our societies. In the Philippines, people face ongoing problems with corruption in the government, especially highly publicized cases of politicians from the traditional political parties, including some of the 2016 presidential candidates; persistent poverty and lack of health care; a large overseas workforce due to limited economic opportunities within the country; high crime rates; and, in the largest cities, huge traffic and public transportation issues. Duterte has been able to build a cross-class popular movement, because he is not from the traditional political circles that people have become disillusioned with. He became well known for his "successful" war against crime in Davao, although it is rumored that over 1,000 extrajudicial killings took place during his mayoralty.

**While the drug situation, especially around a synthetic drug called shabu, is a real issue throughout the Philippines, it may not be as extensive as it is here in the US.**

In a September 18 article on Philstar.com, based on a national survey, drug use in the Philippines could range from 1.8 to 4.74 percent, which falls below the global average of 5.2 percent. Free or government-run drug treatment centers are nonexistent, and so the war on drugs is targeted at the poor. For those who surrender, jail and prison is the protocol, where overcrowding and violence were at an extreme before Duterte's drug war.



Members of progressive Filipinx groups speak at a San Francisco July 2016 rally against police violence in the US. Photo: Pax Ahimsa Gethen/Wikimedia Commons

The extrajudicial killings have reignited activists from the former anti-Marcos movement, both in the Philippines and the US—especially the victims of torture and detention and the families of those who died under the dictatorship. In response to Duterte’s intention of giving Ferdinand Marcos a hero’s burial in the Philippine national cemetery Libingan Ng Mga Bayani (LNB)—comparable to Arlington National Cemetery in the US—protests were held in the Philippines and in front of the US consulates in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York. These coalitions have expanded their call for a halt to the extrajudicial killings to include “No burial for Marcos at LNB!” and “No to dictatorship.” But in the years since the Marcos dictatorship, the lack of education about the repression and acts of corruption the Marcoses and their cronies committed, including robbing the national treasury of billions of dollars, has left a generation ignorant about that period. Over 50 percent of the Philippine population has been born since the People Power Revolution led by Cory Aquino that overthrew the Marcoses. Now, the country is feeling the impact of a generation of Filipinos that knows nothing of the dictatorship, and is open to the idea that drugs are to blame for the ills of Philippine society and that some must be sacrificed so that others can live better lives.

Duterte’s war on drugs is his main initiative. Without sufficient attention, economic development, antipoverty

initiatives, land redistribution, closure of the largest foreign-owned mines, and reproductive health have fallen by the wayside. Duterte has had some success with his peace initiative with the Communist Party and the New Peoples’ Army, garnering a cease-fire, and, it is hoped, moving toward negotiations. He also appointed three members from the left to key positions in his cabinet.

The international community plays an important role in bringing attention to the human rights violations in the Philippines. As the situation in the Philippines worsens, and fear takes hold of its society in the midst of vigilante and police extrajudicial killings, it may be up to us in the US to lobby Congress and make our voices heard that we will not allow fascism to take hold in the Philippines again. As the slogan in the Philippines says, “NEVER FORGET! NEVER AGAIN!”

1. Malou Mangahas et al., “War on Drugs: No EO Signed by DU30, a Chaos of Numbers,” September 19, 2016, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, <http://pcij.org/stories/war-on-drugs-no-eo-signed-by-du30-a-chaos-of-numbers>.

*Cindy Domingo has been doing Philippine support work for over four decades. Her brother, Silme Domingo, and fellow trade unionist Gene Viernes were murdered in the US by the Marcos regime in 1981. In 1989, their families won a landmark civil suit in federal court against the Marcoses, winning a \$23 million judgment, the first of its kind in the US.*

# UN Forum on Sustainable Development

By Dawn Nelson

**T**his past July, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, I had the opportunity to participate in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. This forum, referred to as HLPF, is a two-week-long conference for UN member states and civil society to engage in a voluntary process of reviewing national progress and setting new goals for the coming years.

While the name of the forum seems very general, it's a framework that covers a lot of ground. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) fit within a broader framework called the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs are the synthesis and transformation of the previous MDGs, the millennium development goals. In many ways, the outcomes from the MDG process were difficult to achieve; goals were identified, but there was not a clear roadmap for how to achieve them or measure success. To address these shortcomings, the UN Secretary-General called for task forces to review and evaluate the MDG process, and to offer recommendations by 2015 to improve the capacity of states to make progress going forward. From this, we now have the sustainable development goals, with a vision for the year 2030. The member states volunteer to convene and report annually at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, scheduled for two weeks in July at the UN headquarters in New York City every year. What is significantly notable about this new platform is that it more seamlessly integrates environmental, social, and economic spheres in the intellectual framework and definition of the goals. While national reports are voluntary, it represents an opportunity to discuss goals and best practices and further the global conversation on the most pressing issues facing the world today.

Furthermore, the SDGs are but one of the components under the 2030 Agenda; when you look at it as a whole piece, it's pretty impressive. The 2030 Agenda is an umbrella for four components: the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework



**United Nations Headquarters, New York.** Photo: Dawn Nelson

on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (which is focused on financial mechanisms to get all of this work done). Of these, only the Paris Agreement is legally binding. The four components lend mutual support to the overarching framework of the 2030 Agenda. It's important to note that the annual conference of the parties that resulted in the Paris Agreement is a process that takes place separately under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, distinguishable from the auspices under which the HLPF takes place. The HLPF is a forum held under the joint auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly and, by design, is a separate process with a voluntary reporting structure.

**A remark made at the beginning of the conference was quite notable: We need to reconsider how we think about sustainability and no longer assume economic growth as essential to sustainability.**

Rather, we should focus on improving the quality of life and in staying carefully within planetary boundaries. This can be accomplished if we think differently about our global approach and concept of economic growth. Only a paragraph to say this, but a massive undertaking, conceptually and in practice. Or is it?

For HLPF 2016, there were 22 reporting nations. I participated in the Women's Major Group, and joined

a work group to review the initial national reports to provide preliminary analysis in the first few days: Sierra Leone, Egypt, Qatar, and Uganda. Specifically, we were looking for any mention of women's rights, and as per SDG 5: equal opportunity and empowerment for girls and women across the globe. I also evaluated the reports for mentions of improving maternal health and health access, access to education, women's participation in peacebuilding, inclusivity in strong institutions, and several other SDGs highlighting needs of women and girls. Even when the reports make mention of these things, it's important to read between the lines and determine whether statements are substantiated with evidence to back up the claims. From this work group's analyses, the Women's Major Group was then able to synthesize the information into a statement that could be formally stated on record in the conference proceedings, as time and opportunity would allow in each conference session. Known in the process as an "intervention," this same opportunity was afforded each of the Major Groups and other stakeholders. This made for a more inclusive process of civil society, which is something that the High-level Political Forum has made a high priority in the process of achieving the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.

WILPF clearly had a powerful presence within the Women's Major Group; while I was only newly acquainted with the HLPF and UN process, participating as a WILPF affiliate was regarded highly within the women's advocacy group. Several of the initial key messages for me from this year's forum felt like encouraging steps forward in a fifteen-year process. First and foremost, I am impressed with the importance of the role that WILPF has in fostering sustainable development and achieving critical goals by 2030. WILPF is one of the strongest international voices advocating for women in the peacemaking process and global leadership to end war; to have any real chance of sustainable development, we must persevere in improving mechanisms for global and regional conflict resolution and women's participation in the political process. WILPF is at the forefront of this effort, with its advocacy for a more feminist institution and UN Secretary-General. Throughout



**Arnaldo Pomodoro's "Sphere within Sphere" sculpture at the UN Headquarters.** Photo: Dawn Nelson

the forum, I gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for WILPF as an organization that has had consultative status with the UN since 1948, an amazing capacity that continues to provide powerful opportunity to engage in the global discussion and agenda setting. Given the emphasis on civil society participation in the HLPF, I think this is an excellent framework and avenue for engaging in the global conversation. I am already looking forward to next year's forum in 2017.

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*Dawn Nelson is an environmental specialist and a member of the Ann Arbor chapter of WILPF. She holds an M.S. in natural resources and environment and a B.A. in sociology from the University of Michigan. She lives in Ann Arbor with her two children, and is increasingly embracing the joy and art of the photographic essay.*

*AUTHOR'S NOTE: Realizing it was all I could do to keep up with the twelve-hour days at the UN, I decided I had best just be as diligent as possible in my observations and note-taking (and I have a lot of notes). If this short report has made you curious to know more, please feel free to contact me by email at [anadawn@umich.edu](mailto:anadawn@umich.edu).*

# Water Is Life

## WILPF US Stands with Water Defenders against the Pipeline

**T**he United State Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF US) and its Earth Democracy and Advancing Human Rights national issue committees stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the many First Nations and other groups and supporters gathered to oppose construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) that would carry dangerous crude oil from the North Dakota Bakken oil fields under the Missouri River and across four states to Illinois.

Pipeline transport of the volatile Bakken crude oil is far from safe. To date, hundreds of oil and gas spills from pipeline ruptures have contaminated local and regional environments, seriously impacted surrounding communities and harmed public health.

All pipeline projects overland, close to and under water sources pose an ongoing threat to people and their communities from the point of extraction to transport to the refinery and beyond to points of distribution, consumption in the United State and to ports for export.

### **WILPF US and the Earth Democracy and Advancing Human Rights issues committees:**

- Call for the Federal Government to permanently halt this controversial project.
- Agree that fossil fuels must be left in the ground to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curtail global warming. The United States is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases behind China. Our government must develop the policy framework and financing to rapidly transition to clean, renewable solar and wind power.
- Recognize that continued development of Bakken crude or other sources of oil and gas in the United States will not contribute to national energy independence as claimed.
- Oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and a vote on the TPP in the Lame Duck Congress. Should the TPP be approved, export of fracked oil and gas to Pacific Rim countries will accelerate.

Additionally, the TPP "docking" provision will allow countries within and beyond the Pacific Rim to join the TPP and expand the export market and increase fossil fuel development in the United States along with pipelines, oil trains and port facilities with the risk of accidents and increased environmental and health impacts.

- Understand that increased export will increase greenhouse gases, global warming and extreme weather events and that shipping emissions from super-sized tankers and containerized cargo transport are set to quadruple by 2050.<sup>1</sup>
- Recognize that global warming threatens hundreds of millions of people who depend on rapidly shrinking glaciers for their drinking water and crop irrigation, and agree with the Standing Rock Sioux and with all tribal and Indigenous People worldwide that WATER IS LIFE and that ALL LIFE is dependent on water.
- Recognize that destruction and death from extreme weather events tragically impacts people of color, tribal and Indigenous, poor communities, island nations and impoverished coastal populations who have the fewest resources and least ability to rebuild their lives.
- Emphasize that conflict and migrations are expected to increase because of the range of impacts from extreme weather events that disproportionately affect women and children.
- Recognize that the Standing Rock Sioux uprising calls attention to the historic struggles over centuries of native tribes, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities worldwide for recognition of their human rights, land rights and sacred sites.
- Recognize that this uprising is an historic moment when a diverse national and global movement of movements is coalescing based on human rights and protection of Mother Earth to achieve environmental, climate, economic and racial justice and gender equity for all people.

*For the full statement released September 19, 2016, and for more information on supporting the Standing Rock Sioux and actions to take, please visit Earth Democracy at <http://wilpfus.org/our-work/earth-democracy-0>.*

1. Oscar Reyes, "Seven Wrinkles in the Paris Climate Deal," *Foreign Policy in Focus*, December 14, 2015, <http://fpif.org/seven-wrinkles-paris-climate-deal>.

# Earth Democracy

Plan for a 'Revolution of Values' with Earth Democracy's 'Spring Forward' Tool Kit

## By Nancy Price

Chair, WILPF US Earth Democracy Issue Committee

**H**ow do we move from a culture of war and conflict to a culture of peace and freedom? This is today's most pressing challenge. How do we change the narrative that war is not the path to peace and freedom, when throughout history, and at this very moment, the exact opposite is true? How do we dismantle patriarchy and raise up the feminine, the principle of guardianship of present and future generations, protection of the commons, and respect and love for Mother Earth?

Can we embrace the "revolution of values" that Martin Luther King, Jr. so eloquently called for in his 1967 Riverside Church address, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence."<sup>1</sup> At that time, King moved from civil rights to a critique of war and capitalism, saying: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

King questioned US foreign interventions designed to defeat opposition to the corporate capitalist system of imperialism and to protect corporate interests, wealth, and power. "When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people," he said, "the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered." King called for a "revolution of values," a "shift from a 'thing-oriented' society to a 'person-oriented' society."

April 2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of King's great speech. Is it possible that we are at a historic moment, a tipping point, when a movement of movements is coming together? Is it possible we can work cooperatively with mutual respect, regardless of sexual orientation, race, and religious beliefs, for a peaceful transition to economic, social, climate, and environmental justice in our communities, nationally and globally?

Not only do we have to believe this is possible, but we must show, in our own lives and through our community work, that we practice what we preach.

The challenge is to be engaged in the work and programs that we have a passion for, that suit our talents, at a level we are comfortable with—whether local, national,



or international—where we and WILPF US know we can be most effective.

The challenge is to know and to care about history and then to bring that understanding into our work in the present, with concrete analysis, salient facts (maybe not too many!) and a substantive program of demands and actions linked to the inspired vision of a "revolution in values," leading us toward peace and freedom.

## New Tools for Education and Organizing

The components of our Earth Democracy Tool Kit—our banner, infographic cards, DVD (see page 17), and more—are offered for your use as you plan "Spring Forward" events for 2017. Visit Earth Democracy, at [wilpfus.org/our-work/earth-democracy-0](http://wilpfus.org/our-work/earth-democracy-0). We know many members and branches already plan specific spring events; we hope the tool kit materials will be useful and also inspire others to plan events as well.

1. King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech can be found online at <http://stanford.io/1LvKWjG>.

## WILPF National Board Meetings

WILPF US board meetings are open to all members. Meetings are usually held by teleconference, every other month. The 2017 schedule will be posted on the website, [wilpfus.org](http://wilpfus.org). To receive the agenda and board reports, or for any questions, please contact the secretary of the board, Candace Perry, at [secretary@wilpfus.org](mailto:secretary@wilpfus.org).

# Frackopoly

## A Book Review

By H. Patricia Hynes

### ***Frackopoly: The Battle for the Future of Energy and the Environment***

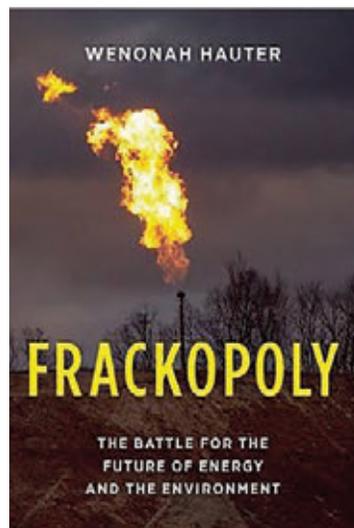
by Wenonah Hauter.  
The New Press, 2016

**B**randing fracked natural gas as a bridge fuel to renewable energy is one of the great fossil fuel ruses of our times. The natural gas “bridge” has been tagged a “bridge to nowhere,” a “bridge over a crumbling highway,” and “a bridge to climate disaster,” given that new natural gas plants and infrastructure being built for fracked gas have a 40-year lifespan. But the world, with an annual average of 22.5 million African, Asian, Pacific Island, and indigenous Alaskan climate refugees, does not have 40 years to spare.

In her book *Frackopoly: The Battle for the Future of Energy and the Environment*, Wenonah Hauter gives readers a bracing critique of the practice, finance schemes, and politics of fracking, as well as a thorough, up-to-the minute account of grassroots mobilizing to oppose fracking, new oil and gas pipelines, and liquid natural gas (LNG) export terminals.

Among these are a detailed case study of the uphill victory to ban fracking in New York State and an overview from coast to coast of the ban movement, grounded in the environmental and health harms of fracking for oil and gas. As Hauter documents, these harms include immense potable water use even in regions of water scarcity; contaminated aquifers and wells; earthquakes induced by deep well injection of wastewater; methane leaks at all points of production, transportation, storage, and use; and respiratory, neurological, and reproductive health impacts on nearby residents.

What’s especially significant in *Frackopoly*—and rare in much fracking literature—is that the author foregrounds the plague of social harms emanating from, what she calls, “man camps,” code for oil and gas worker settlements. In the small town of Williston, North Dakota, for example, traffic accidents, crime, social disturbances from drunkenness and drug use, and rape have all increased significantly. Since 2000, when the town doubled in size



with oil and gas fracking workers, a woman in Williston is more than twice as likely to be raped as in the rest of North Dakota.

With 2.5 million miles of oil and gas pipelines currently crisscrossing the country, east to west, north to south, and 19 now-pending pipeline projects planned for the whole Appalachian Basin on the East Coast, why

does Hauter envisage the hundreds of steadfast actions nationwide to stop new pipelines as a titanic challenge to both the industry and government policy? The answer is perhaps best parsed by Mark Trahan of the Standing Rock Sioux fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline of 1,172 miles being constructed from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to oil refineries in Illinois.

Trahan points to the power of people using social media to mobilize thousands of Native and grassroots protesters, which by September 2016 included the historic support of 189 tribal governments. Protectors (as those gathered prefer to be known) have the moral high ground, he says, in their campaigns to protect their water, ancestral territories, and sacred sites. And, further, this is “The Moment” to stop pipelines and keep fossil fuels in the ground. Why now? A rising chorus of investment companies, among them the prominent global stock market index company MSCI, are warning investors to get out of fossil fuels before they become “stranded assets,” due to price volatility and competition from renewables. Moreover, portfolios that have divested from fossil fuels over the past five years are outperforming those that haven’t.

Sobering analysis from the Post Carbon Institute, though, counterbalances the “moment is now” surety. For example, “oil is essential to the modern world” because local, national, and global transport of goods by heavy trucks, airplanes, and container ships (carrying food, raw materials, and manufactured goods, including

solar panels and wind turbine parts) relies on oil. Moreover, these means of industrial cargo transport have no current energy substitute (unlike cars and trains, which can be solar powered). The revolution in solar and wind energy has focused largely on renewably generated electricity for domestic and commercial light, heat, and appliances, while transportation consumes an estimated 30 percent of fossil fuels used in the United States. Transitioning to renewable, non-oil fuels will take two or more decades and has been “woefully insufficient,” while we are rapidly running out of time to keep rising temperatures below the critical threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Institute urges that while building a renewable future, we must rapidly transition to local economies, creating resilience and capacity to produce and transport goods locally and regionally. But the transition to local, renewably powered towns and cities must be a *just transition* for all, guided by “principles of social justice and environmental justice,” adds Dallas Goldtooth, organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network. A society powered by solar, wind, and water will not necessarily be a just society that

works to rid itself of gender, racial, and economic injustice unless it consciously seeks to do so.

Reading *Frackopoly* is something of a roller coaster ride—generating visceral disgust with reckless corporate maneuvers and weak, enabling state and federal regulators in tandem with exultation over the grassroots victories, numbering more than 500 in communities that have passed measures to stop fracking. It should be read side-by-side with the ominous analysis of the Post Carbon Institute and also with Gretchen Bakke’s new book, *The Grid*, where she contends that the national electrical grid is the “weakest link” in reaching our goal of 100 percent renewable power.

A longer version of this review was published in *Truthdig*, November 11, 2016. Reprinted by permission.

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*H. Patricia Hynes, a WILPF member, directs Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in Greenfield, Massachusetts. A retired environmental engineer and Professor of Environmental Health, she writes and speaks on feminism, the environment, and militarism.*

## Crude Beyond Belief

The Fresno Branch of WILPF US is offering DVD copies of the video of a fracking tour led by Kern County water and air expert Tom Frantz. There is nothing like a visual resource to emphasize the importance of keeping 80 percent of fossil fuels in the ground to avoid runaway global warming and its impacts on people and the planet.

Plan to show *Crude Beyond Belief* at a House Party or local public event. Educate your community about the harm caused by fracking and its associated infrastructure.

Approximately 75 percent of the oil extracted in California comes from Kern County, and 95 percent of California’s fracking occurs in Kern County.



**Kern River Oil Field, from Panorama Park, Bakersfield, California.** Photo: Antandrus/Creative Commons

### **Order your copy of the DVD now!**

The cost of the DVD + mailing is \$15.

Send payment and your mailing information to:  
WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA, 93755

# What Now for Venezuela and the Bolivarian Process?

By Cindy Domingo

Chair, WILPF US Cuba and Bolivarian Alliance  
Issue Committee

**T**he two-decades-long strategy of US imperialism to destabilize the left and center-left governments in Latin America has finally paid off. In Argentina, a right-wing government led by Mauricio Macri was elected into office in 2015; leftist Brazilian President Dilma Rouseff was unable to defeat a “parliamentary coup” after a corrupt parliament voted to have her removed on trumped-up charges; and Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro is fighting US-supported right-wing movements to maintain control of the Bolivarian process. A conflation of US support for counterrevolutionary movements, corruption within these governments, and the world economic crisis has resulted in setbacks for the peoples’ movements in those countries. At the same time, the poor and working-class peoples who benefited from the radical redistribution of resources are mobilizing to regain control over their countries. US peace and solidarity movements must study these complex conditions closely. We must examine our role today in challenging US government policies that have contributed to the destabilization of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Destabilization of Venezuela has been a key component in US Latin American and Caribbean foreign policies, especially since the election of Hugo Chavez in 1998. While the Middle East contains the largest source of oil in the world, Venezuela has the largest source in one country. Chavez successfully nationalized the Venezuelan oil companies and used the profits and oil to improve the lives of his own peoples and of others throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, and even in the US. It was Chavez who coined the term “Bolivarian process” and who in 2004, with Cuba’s Fidel Castro, forged the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA). Through ALBA, political, social, and economic alliances were built to protect the independence and self-determination of those countries. (The Bolivarian process was similar to Simón Bolívar’s attempts in the late 1700s–early 1800s to forge a united Latin American continent against the Spanish colonialists.) Chavez’s untimely death from cancer in 2013 provided the opening for the resurgence of right-wing movements supported by US imperialism



**Bolivarian mural against imperialism and the United States.**

Photo: Andreas Lehner/Wikimedia Commons

and attempts to overthrow the Bolivarian process. The current Venezuelan president, Nicolás Maduro, was elected in 2013 in a special election, after serving as Chavez’s vice president. It was under these difficult circumstances that Maduro stepped into the international spotlight.

In the last national elections, in late 2015, the Bolivarian forces suffered their largest setback, when they lost majority control of the Parliament—the first time since 1999. Anti-Maduro forces in the Parliament thus set into action a presidential recall campaign to take place this year, in the hopes that Maduro’s vice president would not be able to be seated as president, should Maduro lose. But election officials ruled in late September that the recall referendum would not take place until 2017, leaving Maduro’s socialist party in control until the presidential elections in 2018.

Recently, the right’s continued actions and call for “regime change” have been met by massive mobilization of those in support of the Bolivarian revolution. But in the US, media coverage of Maduro’s support among the beneficiaries of the Bolivarian revolution has been nonexistent. If anything, the Western media continues to give preference to the actions and voices of the anti-Maduro forces.

It is time that the peace and solidarity movements in the US move to defend the Bolivarian revolution and ALBA. There is much at stake for the Venezuelan people and for all the progressive peoples around the world. In particular, we must end the US sanctions against Venezuela that were renewed in April 2016 and respect Venezuela’s right to self-determination and sovereignty.

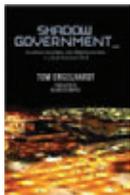
For continued update information, please visit [www.venezuelanalysis.com](http://www.venezuelanalysis.com).

# Dangerous Women Book Group

A new endeavor brought to WILPF by Eileen Kurkoski

**A**ll WILPF US members are invited to read and discuss some interesting nonfiction books that will expand our thinking and energize us. Understanding the major issues our world is facing requires keeping up with leading thinkers and writers. We know that reading makes you smarter, improves your imagination, and helps you focus. Let's get this nation-wide book group started!

First, from the list of suggested titles, select the two books that most interest you, and send your choices by January 5, 2017, to Eileen Kurkoski at eileenfoto@verizon.net. She will notify everyone which book elicited the most interest and got the most votes. Then, that book will be discussed during one of the workshops of the February 9 ONE WILPF all member call. Dangerous Women Book Group participants will share a four-minute summary of what they thought of the book with everyone on the call.



**A. Shadow Government: Surveillance, Secret Wars, and a Global Security State in a Single-Superpower World**, by Tom Engelhardt, with a foreword by Glenn Greenwald. Haymarket Books, 2014.



**B. 21 Stories of Transition**, collected by Rob Hopkins, cop21.transitionnetwork.org.

"These 21 Stories are an inspiring celebration of what the Transition movement has become and were compiled in the hope that this powerful and heady taste of what is

bubbling up from the ground will enthuse decision-makers with new courage, new ideas and new possibilities."

—www.transitionsrq.org

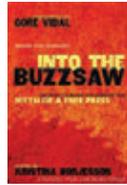


**C. No More Throw-Away People: The Co-Production Imperative**, by Edgar S. Cahn. Second ed., Essential Books, 2004.

"Why can't we create a new kind of money to put people and problems together?" Why not bank time spent helping others—like a

blood bank? Help somebody. Earn a Time Dollar. Bank it. One hour = One Time Dollar. Use the banked Time

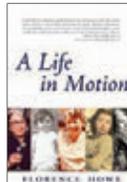
Dollars to "purchase" help from another member. This would need a computerized system to keep track, and a coordinator.



**D. Into the Buzzsaw: Leading Journalists Expose the Myth of a Free Press**, by Kristina Borjesson. Second ed., Prometheus Books, 2004.

"To the uninitiated reader, the accounts of what goes on behind the scenes at major news organizations are shocking. Executives regularly squelch legitimate stories that will lower their ratings, upset their advertisers or miff their investors."

—*Publishers Weekly*



**E. A Life in Motion**, by Florence Howe. Jewish Women Writers series. The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2011.

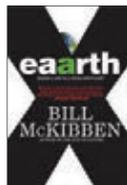
Florence Howe's memoir is of her audacious life: she created a freedom school during the civil rights movement, refused to bow to academic heavyweights who were opposed to sharing power with women, and founded a feminist publishing house at a time when books for and about women were few.



**F. This Is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping the Twenty-first Century**, by Mark Engler and Paul Engler.

Nation Books, 2016.

There is a craft to uprising—and this craft can change the world. The Englers describe a powerful method for making real change, fast.



**G. Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet**, by Bill McKibben. Times Books, Henry Holt & Co., 2010.

Climate change is already here, but Bill McKibben doesn't stop with the bad news. He tours the best responses that are also already here, and these visions of a practical scientific solution are also sketches of a better, richer, more democratic civil society and everyday life.



**H. Caught: The Prison State and the Lockdown of American Politics**, by Marie Gottschalk. Princeton University Press, 2014, revised ed. 2016.

In this bracing appraisal of the politics of penal reform, Gottschalk exposes the broader pathologies in American politics that are preventing the country from solving its most pressing problems. She concludes with a promising alternative way to dismantle the carceral state.

# ONE WILPF Calls

## A new way to connect, share resources, and plan strategically across the US

In June 2016, we initiated the monthly ONE WILPF Call for all members, using a powerful new conferencing system available to us through InterOccupy. The calls have been well received, providing branches and members with a new way to connect on a regular basis.

The Maestro Conferencing and Social Webinar system offers dynamic interactive potential and is remarkably easy to use, even for non-tech-savvy members. A response to longstanding requests from members for increased communication opportunities, these calls provide that, and more. Member-driven, they address issues and concerns that came out of the 2015 Branch Survey and the 2016 All Member Survey, as well as ideas for collaborative projects that have been raised during the monthly calls.

The ONE WILPF Call has almost unlimited potential for creating more communication and solidarity across

the country. The calls are planned so as to focus on forward-thinking, results-oriented planning and collaborative problem solving that stresses solutions, sharing, and positive outcomes.

Preregistration is required, and a computer link is provided to all members via an invitational eAlert. Members can choose to call in using only their phone, or, for a richer communication experience, they can opt to use their phone and a computer screen to be part of the Social Webinar portion of the call, which allows members to “see” who else is on the call and to view the notes on the text pad displayed during the call.

During the general part of the meeting, all mics are muted, but you can “raise your hand” to ask a question or to get on the “stack”—the queue to speak (by pressing “1” on your phone keypad), or you can notify the engineer that you are having technical difficulties (“5” on your phone keypad).

The first ONE WILPF call, in June, was mostly experimental, with a focus on learning the technology. A “cheat

### What Participants Are Saying about the ONE WILPF Calls

“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. Hearing what other groups are doing made me really feel part of a larger organization. Thanks for your positive work for our special organization.”

—Lauretta Freeman, Essex County, NJ Branch

“With dozens of issues, plus personal things, time spent on a call must have value! Thank you for organizing these calls. They have a lot of potential.”

—Ruth Zalph, Triangle, NC Branch

“Encouraging!”

—Jim and Tomi Allison, Bloomington, IN Branch

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

—Randa Solick, Santa Cruz, CA Branch

“I participated in the breakout group on recruitment. I shared information on outreach and 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.”

—Miriam Thompson, Triangle, NC Branch

“I can’t tell you how grateful I am to you for pulling the teleconference together. THANK YOU! From info provided in the introductions and the breakout session ideas on recruiting, today I contacted our local cable TV station and found they are willing to put on “These Dangerous Women.” We will list our branch and a member as contact person. . . . I got the idea from the teleconference. . . . The ideas stemming from the call will stimulate more action around here.”

—Eileen Kurkoski, Boston, MA Branch

sheet” is now sent monthly to all who preregister, with reminders on how to get on a stack to speak, how to raise hands to vote in polls, and how to use the “Breakout Rooms” effectively. August featured Nancy Price speaking about the Earth Democracy Issue Committee work on environmental justice. September’s call featured International WILPF President Kozue Akibayashi, who answered questions from members. October featured reports from the World Beyond War Conference in Washington, DC. (For future call dates, see the ONE WILPF call schedule accompanying this article. The most popular component of each call has been the small group sessions—the Breakout Rooms—which build capacity by enabling efficient planning across members and branches via smaller groups, which brainstorm or discuss next steps for strategies. Each group appoints a facilitator, and a reporter takes notes. When the Breakout Room segments close, everyone rejoins the general meeting, and those designated to do so report back to all the call participants on what progress was made, what next steps remain, and how everyone can be involved.

During the calls held so far, Breakout Room topics have included:

- Sharing resources and materials between branches
- Planning one or two “Solidarity Events” across all of WILPF
- Creating leadership training opportunities to enhance the membership experience
- Addressing racial profiling and militarized police departments
- Solutions for membership recruiting problems

In the future, Breakout Rooms could be used to move many kinds of projects forward collaboratively.

At least one session during the February 2017 call (February 9) will be devoted to the Dangerous Women Book Group, with discussion of a book members have chosen. Eileen Kurkoski (Boston MA Branch) created the group to increase solidarity, alleviate isolation, especially for at-large members, and stimulate conversation and sharing nationwide. (See the article about the book group in this issue.)

The ONE WILPF Call team works together to plan and execute the calls, with extensive follow-up between calls. It consists of Anne Henny and Sandy Thacker of the East

## Add Upcoming ONE WILPF Calls to Your Calendar Now!

Dates are subject to change. Check with us at [1wilpfcalls@gmail.com](mailto:1wilpfcalls@gmail.com).

### December 8, 2016

Featuring activist Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink: Women for Peace and of the advocacy group Global Exchange

### January 12, 2017

Featuring Reaching Critical Will Program Director Ray Acheson

### February 9

Dangerous Women Book Group discussion session

### March 9

### April 13

### May 11

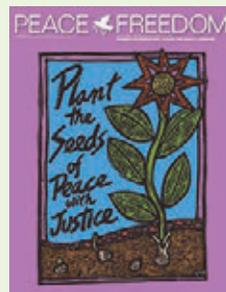
### June 8

### July 13

### August 10

Bay CA Branch; Marybeth Gardam, from Winter Haven FL, board member at-large; and InterOccupy “engineer” Michael Ippolito. Members who wish to register for the calls, who want more information, or who would like to be part of the team, may email [1wilpfcalls@gmail.com](mailto:1wilpfcalls@gmail.com) or call Marybeth Gardam at 863-651-4888.

## Peace & Freedom Index



A new, cumulative index of articles published in *Peace & Freedom* from 2000 through Fall/Winter 2015 is available on the WILPF US website. Visit the *Peace & Freedom* webpage, [wilpfus.org/resources/publications](http://wilpfus.org/resources/publications), to refer to a downloadable PDF

of the index. Our thanks go to Krystal Kilhart, communications intern in 2016, who created this new, updated version.

# “I support WILPF with my dues. Why do I need to contribute more?”



“Together as One” by Samuel Antwi, Kumasi, Ghana. International Grand Prize Winner, Sister Cities International Young Artists and Authors Showcase 2016.

**R**ecently, members voted to increase our dues back to the former level of \$35 a year. That’s just 67 cents a week! For members who simply cannot afford the \$35 dues, policies on scholarships will be announced soon. But, paying dues at the \$35 level must be a priority for most members so that WILPF US remains viable.

## **Let’s look at how annual dues, paid at the new \$35 level, are allocated.**

The first \$15 of each member’s dues goes immediately to International WILPF, leaving WILPF US with just \$20 a year, per member, for administrative and operating expenses. When members pay the reduced dues of \$15 a year or less, we have to cover their member assessment for WILPF International and thus retain no funding for our own work. That is not sustainable.

Even if all 1,400 US members paid \$35 a year, with the WILPF US portion of \$20 per member, that still is just \$28,000 a year. And our WILPF US Section’s annual operating budget runs more like \$300,000 a year, when we are on target to accomplish all we plan to do.

That amount supports our **Mini-Grant Program** that strengthens our branch activism, **Issue Committee funding**, and the **Local2Global** and **UN Practicum for Advocacy Programs** that engage emerging leaders. It pays for insurance we are required to carry; bookkeeping to stay in IRS compliance; the website, eNews, eAlerts; and the cost of designing, editing, printing, and mailing two issues of *Peace & Freedom* each year. It also funds the administrative office expenses that are central to a national organization. Added up across WILPF, our additional contributions will be critical to our sustainability and will also allow us to support our members and branches with new materials and resources.

Clearly, our dues alone will not be enough to fund our activism. We depend on donors to make up the difference. The Development Committee is tirelessly pursuing outside donations, but the ongoing contributions of WILPF members is essential to support the world WILPF envisions, for our children and grandchildren.

***A world at peace, where people matter more than power and profits.***

# In Memoriam

## Margaret Dawson Stein



Margaret Dawson Stein, beloved Peninsula/Palo Alto WILPF Branch member, died in her sleep on Sunday, September 18, 2016, in Fremont, California. She was a youthful 95. We remember and cherish her unique mix of modern and old-fashioned values.

Margaret was born at "Cool Springs," a family farm in Esmont, Virginia, in Albemarle County. At James Madison College, Margaret studied mathematics and science. Although women's career choices were severely limited, her classmates celebrated her love of learning and her scholarly potential.

After the war she attended the University of California, Berkeley for graduate work in statistics. There she met her future husband, Charles Stein, a professor of statistics at Stanford University. They raised three children together, Sara, Anne, and Charles Jr.

Margaret had a life-long commitment to peace and social justice. During the Vietnam War she was President of the Palo Alto Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and a member of the national board. She worked with the Stanford University faculty and students who opposed the war and with young men facing the draft. Later she helped to pass legislation prohibiting the construction of new nuclear power plants in California and she helped to improve services for the poor in San Mateo County. She was an early proponent of solar power and an early opponent of war toys. She was involved in countless voter registration drives. Margaret sang with the Raging Grannies into her nineties at post offices, street fairs, and demonstrations. Margaret lived life with great joy, energy, and commitment. She is survived by

her husband of 62 years, their three children, and their grandson Max.

Donations may be made in her name to the Peninsula/Palo Alto branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: P.O. Box 60851 Palo Alto CA 94306; or the Gallery House: 320 S. California Avenue Palo Alto CA 94306.

## Ellen B. Blosser

WILPF US life member Ellen B. Blosser, who died in December 2015, continued her commitment to peace and freedom through a bequest to the Jane Addams Peace Association, WILPF US, and WILPF International, which was received this year. Her husband, Lloyd G. Blosser, and her son predeceased her. She is survived by her three daughters, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren (with another on the way), and two great-great-grandchildren.

Her daughter Aimee wrote: "I was lucky to have such a strong woman as a mother. Here are a few examples: When she was in college she swam as a training partner for an Olympian hopeful. At 49 she not only took me to get my Life Saving course but took the course with me, and passed of course. I frequently said she was born at age 60, since that was when she fully bloomed. She took a sabbatical from work and toured the world on her own for a year. When she retired she spent a year in Geneva donating her time to the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom. Later she did another world tour, going to places she didn't visit the first time, including climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. She started teaching yoga when she was in her 70s."

Her daughters also remember her involvement in the play "Growing Up Female," a TOVA Theater Production. She actively participated in the development of the production and played her part.

Her daughter Rhoda noted: "From an early experience, she decided to live in peace and fight for it. Mom was always seeking advice from the Sages of All Religions, and taking notes. Her journals were always full of good advice, and self-encouragement that she could make a difference. She once labeled her roles as: Mother and housewife; Teacher, Scout leader, Committee chair; Gardener; Swimmer, Yoga teacher; Helper of others, family and others; Theater Goer /Participant; Traveler-a loner; Peacemaker."

# Branch Activities

**W**ILPF US branches continue to engage in actions that inspire, educate, and enlighten all of us. We want to hear more about what you are doing in your local communities and nationally to share the work of peace and freedom. Here are just a few highlights. More news of branch actions may be found on the website, [wilpfus.org](http://wilpfus.org), or on WILPF US Facebook and Twitter.

## Branches Welcome Kozue Akibayashi



The Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capitol Region hosted WILPF International President Kozue Akibayashi and eight WILPF visitors from around the US on September 25 at the lovely home of Shizumi Manale. Photo: Ellen Thomas

WILPF US had the pleasure of hosting International WILPF President Kozue Akibayashi in September, both before and after the World Beyond War conference in Washington, DC, where she was one of the presenters.

On September 20, the Ann Arbor Branch hosted her at the home of longtime WILPF members Alan and Odile Hugonot Haber, where a small group of local members enjoyed dinner and conversation in celebration of the International Day of Peace. Kozue Akibayashi remarked that she was very happy to have a chance to visit a part of the US she doesn't usually have the opportunity to see, as she is so often on the West and East Coasts when visiting the States. While in Ann Arbor, she also gave a guest lecture at the University of Michigan International Institute.

On Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at noon, the Santa Cruz Branch hosted Kozue Akibayashi for lunch, and that evening she spoke at the Peace and Justice Center in downtown San Jose. She also spoke on September 21 at Wayne State University in Detroit, courtesy

of the WSU Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

In spite of her busy speaking schedule, on September 19, Kozue Akibayashi took time to join the monthly ONE WILPF Call. She spoke briefly and informally to all the members on the call and then took questions and engaged in dialogue with participants.

## Branches Support Standing Rock

WILPF Branches have reported on their participation in community efforts in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other First Nations who oppose construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Elaine Schmidt, chair of the Greeley, Colorado Branch, reports that in September WILPF in Greeley joined with several groups—from the UU church, Presbyterian church, and a Chicano center—to help fill a truck with goods, blankets, clothes, water and juices, and more to go to Standing Rock in North Dakota.

Millee Livingston, life member-at-large, reported on the action in Auburn, California, involving some WILPF members, some Unitarian Universalist members, and a large number from the community who collected warm clothing, medical supplies, art materials, and dried food items.

## Greater Philadelphia

The Greater Philadelphia Branch's Earth Justice committee organized a day of action in honor of Earth Day, gathering at a local hardware store to hand out the WILPF infographic cards about glyphosates. A local artist joined the effort by helping with posters to spread the word about neonicotinoids and their harmful effects on pollinators. Sylvia Metzler, co-chair of the branch and devoted environmentalist, donned a bee costume and face makeup for the occasion. Later, as a direct result of the Earth Day action, she attended a children's camp in the summer to spread the word about the importance of pollinators.

The Philadelphia Branch also gathered for their May Luncheon and presentation of the Peace and Justice Dove Award, which this year was presented to WILPF member Elisabeth Leonard for her decades of staunch peace activism, feminism, and dedication to disarmament. With friends and family in the room, she received the award with salutes and stories of her under-the-radar support for other peace activists.



**Women and children from Rwanda and Burundi and graduate social work students, with Karen Clark-Hoey (seated middle, far left), celebrating World Refugee Day.** Photo: Springfield College School of Social Work

## Central and Western Massachusetts

In celebration of World Refugee Day 2016, Karen Clark-Hoey, chair of the Central and Western MA Branch (one of the newest branches, established in January 2016), and several graduate social work students from Springfield College's Worcester MSW Program brought a group of refugee women and children to the Appalachian Mountain Club's Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, Massachusetts, for an overnight outing.

The women, displaced nationals from Rwanda and Burundi, had lived in refugee camps in Tanzania and Zambia for as long as 15 years before the United Nations referred them to the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for resettlement. The women were resettled in Springfield, Massachusetts, within the past year and have been participating in a weekly support group for refugee women at Catholic Charities, which Karen co-facilitates. The outing was a rich and meaningful cross-cultural exchange that will become an annual tradition in celebration of the strength, hope, and resilience of refugee women and children.

## Brunswick, Maine

The 12th annual Peace Fair in Brunswick attracted both local residents and summer vacationers from all along the eastern coastal communities of Maine. WILPF's Maine Branch, under the guidance of chair Christine DeTroy and many of her fellow members, has always been a pivotal part of the planning, working in coalition with many other organizations. This year the fair was dedicated to Christine's son, who died suddenly last year. He had performed music at the Peace Fair for many years. It was a successful and active day with many visitors, young and old, participating in activities presented by peace and justice groups and by representatives from the environmental, health, child nutrition, restorative justice, voting rights, and Native American sectors.

## Burlington, Vermont

The 15th annual Vermont WILPF Gathering was held August 27-31 at Wing Farm, in Rochester, with 22 WILPF women from Vermont, Boston, Philadelphia, New Jersey, and Iowa attending. Host and organizer Robin Lloyd had recently attended the World Social Forum in Montreal and learned about the Kilimanjaro Initiative from her longtime friend Njoki Njehu, who runs a women's empowerment center, Daughters of Mumbai, in rural Kenya. The initiative is a project of women across Africa who plan to gather together in October at Mount Kilimanjaro to proclaim the importance of women's land rights.

## Santa Barbara, California

In a special celebration on Sunday, September 18, the Santa Barbara WILPF group honored three longtime members for their many years of dedication to WILPF. Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider presented the awards from WILPF's national office to Dorothy Holland (96), Deborah Winant (97), and Judith Evered (89). The event, which had an attendance of 75, also featured the Baile de California and dancers from the Santa Barbara Festival Ballet in a performance of three of Isadora Duncan's dances. Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, current Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara, was the MC.

## Monterey County, California

The Monterey County chapter has worked for years to bring attention to the danger of using electronic voting machines. Votes can be, and are, flipped without any trace. Election results have been unreliable since the inception of these machines. Following the California primary in June, Peggy Olsen of the Monterey County Branch presented a talk and discussion on electronic voting, with emphasis on the many irregularities of the primary in California. This was reported to have been one of the most biased elections yet in the United States, and in California, the Election Integrity Project reported significant altering of the voter rolls, with large number of voters disenfranchised and with excessive numbers of voters forced into using provisional ballots, which are often not counted.

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## Buy WILPF a Cup of Coffee . . . and help us create the peace we all envision.



This fall, we launched our new **Sustainer Program**, which allows members to become sustainers by making a personal investment in peace and supporting WILPF US with **small, regular monthly contributions**. Starting in January, we'll be aiming for broader member participation in this caffeine-themed Sustainer Program.

"This is the same model many of our members already subscribe to as donors to their local public television or public radio station," notes Development Chair Marybeth Gardam. "And it's a pretty easy and painless way of contributing."

For as little as **\$5 a month**, or about the cost of a fancy cappuccino at your local gourmet roaster, charged, with your permission, once a month to your credit or debit card, WILPF US sustainer members can make an important contribution that WILPF urgently needs to support its program and mission and to amplify the work of members and branches.

Though your monthly donation may be small, it means a lot for WILPF US to be able to count on those

donations coming in regularly throughout the year. It means we can plan more strategically and be more agile and flexible going forward.

These monthly donations will provide important support for **Mini-Grants** that strengthen our Branch activism, **Issue Committee** funding, and the important **Local2Global** and **UN Practicum for Advocacy Programs**. Added up across WILPF, these contributions will be critical to our sustainability and will also allow us to support our members and branches with new materials and resources.

For members who believe so fervently in WILPF's mission and manifesto, who draw strength from one another, who benefit from the national and international history and the institution that is WILPF, is it too much to ask to buy WILPF a cup of coffee once a month? After all, if we as WILPF members aren't putting our money behind our ideals, how can we ask others to do so?

When a Development Committee volunteer calls on you to become part of our Sustainer Program, **please consider buying WILPF a cup of coffee**. Or, sign up now at [www.wilpfus.org](http://www.wilpfus.org).

Just imagine . . . if half (700) of our total membership contributed:	WILPF would receive:
\$5 a month (\$60 a year)	\$42,000 a year
\$5 a week (\$20 a month/\$240 a year)	\$168,000 a year
\$10 a month (\$120 a year)	\$84,000 a year
\$10 a week (\$40 a month/\$480 a year)	\$336,000 a year