



# PEACE & FREEDOM

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR  
**PEACE & FREEDOM**



**Cover Photos:** TOP: Jane Addams, et al., on board ship crossing the Atlantic to first conference at The Hague, Netherlands in 1915. Courtesy of U.S. Library of Congress. BELOW LEFT: WILPF protests Detroit water shutoffs in August 2014. Credit: Heather Wellman. BELOW RIGHT: WILPFers Epi Bodhi and Randa Solick join over 400,000 at New York City Climate March in September 2014. Credit: Earth Democracy Issue Committee.

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.

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# A New Look at “Women’s Power to Stop War”



Every fall, as school children, we’d collect leaves and press them between the pages of old heavy-duty books. Picking just the right ones took a good part of a day or two. My kindergarten class, all 12 of us, thought we were

particularly accomplished at this passion of selecting and collecting. It was the first time I felt the tangible, yet sometimes brittle, beauty of autumn.

Since then, I have moved all over the United States, but kept coming back to Iowa. It has been 16 years and I am still here. But my farm community is not.

There are no harvest dinners, no farm women canning those ruby-jeweled succulent peaches. No Saturday nights on the town square with farmers decked out in their fresh OshKosh B’gosh bib overalls. No waiting on the corner of Main and Main for the popcorn lady to pour the butter on. Nope, not here. But there are still hogs, shut in a hellhole of muck and mire, shot up with antibiotics – like the turkeys, like the chickens...and on and on.

Ah, yes, memories. We loved our DDT. We sprayed it everywhere. Then came even more potent pesticides. Just about then my dad died of cancer, lymphoma, at the age of 54. Twenty-seven years later, my older sister died of breast cancer at the age of 60. And beginning around that same time, my brother was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, from which he suffers to this day.

There was an advertising slogan on TV when I was growing up: *better living through chemistry*. Now mind you, I am all for chemistry; many of us would not be alive without it. But its dark side, the Janus-faced threat it holds, was never so clear to me than when, last year, WILPF’s Des Moines Branch hosted an international symposium – “Working for a More Democratic Food System.” The event featured Food Sovereignty Prize winners,\* the Haitian Group of 4, Dessalines Brigade/Via Campesina ([foodsovereigntyprize.org/about-fs/](http://foodsovereigntyprize.org/about-fs/)).

After the 2010 earthquake disaster in Haiti, Monsanto generously shipped over GMO seeds. For the Haitians there was not only environmental devastation, but also

the looming possibility of a Monsanto disaster, and so, refused the seeds.

I listened to their tales of BIG AG corporate invasion of their country and the continuing eradication of their farming culture and the feeling of thunder ran through me. In the United States and in Iowa, we are participating in a different kind of warfare – a new chemical warfare...in our soil, in our bodies and on our plates. And we are exporting it.

We, the United States, the warrior culture of progress, of better living through chemistry, is what the Haitians do not want to become. Never was it so clear to me that we are suffering, the whole saturated world. We are in the same boat built of greed and the steely determination of corporate indifference.

I heard it. I felt it. I have lived it. But that day I heard others from around the globe who felt the same way. It became a transformative moment that I have brought to my leadership of WILPF US. We are indeed a sisterhood – internationally bound to each other: We carry the water, we till the soil, we plant the seeds. Seventy to eighty percent of the world’s food production is in the hands of women.

We have the same aspirations as every farmer who loves her land and her family. To join WILPF and support WILPF means to participate in a worldwide movement covering many issues and actions, all interconnecting to form an eco-system of sisterhood. **Perseverance**, hard work and faith in each other will set in motion the turning over of a new leaf. Join in the movement, join Issue Committees and get involved with forming our Programs. Join today and let’s build peace together.

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**Mary Hanson Harrison** is president of the WILPF US Section and co-coordinator for WILPF DSM International Symposium “Working for a Democratic Food System.” She and Marybeth Gardam initiated the Strong Feisty Woman Award. Mary lives in Des Moines, Iowa.



**\*In memoriam:** Charity Hicks died July 2014. An ardent activist of the People’s Right to Water, she worked with the Detroit Food Justice Task Force [detroitfoodjustice.org](http://detroitfoodjustice.org), a coalition of community organizations who join in celebrating the Food Sovereignty Prize.

# Celebration of the Century - WILPF's 100th Year of Building Peace

By Heather Wellman

Think back 100 years to a time before women voted, had careers or educations, or even wore pants. During that time, when

some women were literally on the streets attempting to gain rights despite a lack of political power or money, a group of 1,200 women journeyed to The Hague, Netherlands to advocate for an end to war. That was on April 28, 1915.

During the 100 years since that historic meeting, women in many parts of the world including the United States have gained the right to vote, earn educational degrees, and wear whatever they fancy. As for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the original peace effort spearheaded by Jane Addams gave rise to two Nobel Peace Prize winners, influencing policy, raising awareness, and bringing women to the peace table.

But the reality is there is much more to do. To that end, the theme of the 100 year anniversary of WILPF is Women's Power to Stop War with the aim of strengthening, connecting, and celebrating 100 years of peace building from a gender perspective. This is going to be the celebration of the century.

On the international level, there will be a congress at The Hague, Netherlands from April 22-25, followed by a conference. Delegates for the congress are being chosen from each section and will then be open to other WILPF members. The conference will be held from April 27-29 and everyone is invited! It will be a spectacular affair with panels, amazing keynote speakers, exhibits, entertainment, movement building, demonstrations, and much more. Every WILPF member is encouraged to attend.

Around the world and in the United States, sections are individually planning celebrations of the anniversary. Some are showcasing archived materials at their local



library or university. Others are hosting events honoring their foremothers, planning peace walks, teas,

demonstrations, and much more. You can visit the world atlas at [www.womenstopwar.org](http://www.womenstopwar.org) to see what is going on around the world. If you or your section are planning something special, please let the centennial coordinator know at [centennialcoordinator@wilpfus.org](mailto:centennialcoordinator@wilpfus.org).

As part of the centennial celebration, WILPF US has embarked on a new capacity building campaign. Raising funds is an important component of that—we are helping to support the centennial celebration in addition to growing WILPF US. See the item in this edition to learn more about the Growing WILPF! campaign.

There are times when something happens that is a once in a lifetime event. WILPF's 100 year anniversary is one of those once-in-a-lifetime events. Only this once will we have the opportunity to shape the next 100 years of an organization that is so important to all of us and to the world. Join your sisters and fellow peace activists at The Hague and start the celebration of this event in your own community.

**Already planned:** In Chicago, Hull House in partnership with the Nobel Women's Initiative and WILPF US will be hosting an event at the Hull House on March 16, 2015 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of WILPF. Please let [centennialcoordinator@wilpfus.org](mailto:centennialcoordinator@wilpfus.org) know if you are in the Chicago area and would like to be part of the event.

A Centennial celebration at New York City's main Public Library will feature a panel discussion with Madeleine Rees, WILPF International Secretary General, on March 12. The event, taking place during the UN meeting on the Commission on the Status of Women, will also include a performance of Speaking With Our Grandmothers: WW I and the Women's Peace Movement. Contact Robin Lloyd closer to the date [robinlloyd8@gmail.com](mailto:robinlloyd8@gmail.com) for further details.



Tura Campanella Cook, president of the Jane Addams Peace Association, with Libby Frank, honored for her years of work with WILPF's Middle East Issue Committee. *Heather Wellman*

## 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Start planning your trip to The Hague. Check out [womenstopwar.org/congress-home](http://womenstopwar.org/congress-home).
- Start your own crowd funding page or help your branch start one.
- Visit [womenstopwardonateus.causevox.com](http://womenstopwardonateus.causevox.com) to start your page!
- Plan an event celebrating the centennial in your area. Let us know what you already have planned. If you need support getting your event rolling, please contact [centennialcoordinator@wilpfus.org](mailto:centennialcoordinator@wilpfus.org).

# Manifesto for WILPF 2015, A Work in Progress

By Regina Birchem

One goal for WILPF's 100th commemoration year is to have a written declaration of the political consensus of WILPF members on our vision of peace and freedom for the past, present, and future. The declaration or manifesto will be a public statement of our political stance and direction for the future.

**WILPF embraces many cultures, languages, histories, philosophies, ages and economic statuses. Our members hold "different political beliefs and philosophies . . . (but) are united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and legitimization of war" (WILPF Constitution).**

The Manifesto Project, drafted by Edith Ballantyne, former Geneva President and Secretary General, was endorsed at the 2007 Congress in Bolivia. The French Section began discussions and drafted a vision statement presented at the International Board (IB) meeting in India. It was not until the IB meeting in Costa Rica that serious work began when Cynthia Cockburn, WILPF UK professor and author, accepted the challenge to draft a Manifesto for the 2015 Congress.

Draft I was reviewed by the Executive Committee and a small advisory group. Draft II was circulated to sections. Comments from the 14 Sections who responded, from individuals, as well as results of regional meetings were sent to the Anniversary Working Group on Political Content (WGPC) and are available for WILPF members at a Dropbox site. For info contact WGPC coordinator, Regina Birchem at [regbirchem@earthlink.net](mailto:regbirchem@earthlink.net).

Draft III will be presented in a short and long form at the April 2015 Congress in The Hague. Draft III and information is posted at the WILPF International web site [wilpfinternational.org](http://wilpfinternational.org).

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*Heather Wellman is the Centennial Coordinator for WILPF US. She is currently finishing her PhD in conflict analysis and resolution and has more than 15 years experience in international philanthropy and peace building.*

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*Regina Birchem, of Minnesota, is the convener of the International Working Group on Political Content and a past WILPF International president.*

# When Women Get Fed Up

By Ann E. Fleischli



Jane Addams, 1906 by George de Forest Brush

## **Jane Addams and World War I—One hundred years ago, early December 1914**

By 1914, it had been almost 70 years since U.S. women had begun demanding the right to vote. Famed Jane Addams had discovered how important the denial of that right was in Chicago. She had been appointed by the city's new reform mayor to monitor garbage collection in

the slum around Hull House, the first U.S. settlement house. Addams established Hull House to support Chicago's desperately poor, including its immigrants. The contractor was paid to pick up garbage three times a week, yet Addams observed only several pick ups a MONTH. The garbage, filth and rats made her neighborhood unhealthy, to say the least. She challenged the alderman responsible for the corrupt contractor, yet watched helplessly along with other women as men reelected that same alderman.

Then, the entire world started coming apart as empires clashed in Europe at the beginning of World War I. Using the practiced suffragette movement as a base, Addams began applying provisions contained in The Hague 1907 Conventions that had just gone into effect in 1910. Under that international agreement, any neutral nation, including the United States, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and the Netherlands could convene a conference calling for a cease-fire and mediation of the conflict. The plan was to pressure a neutral country to convene such a conference. Addams saw a way out of war, which she had called national suicide.

Already European cities were seeing women organizing by pushing for a Hague 1907 Conventions conference, inspiring Addams to raise the ante in Chicago. Invitations were sent out from Hull House to 21 organizations, with the idea to convince President Wilson to begin the Hague Conventions. According to Louise W. Knight in her book *Jane Addams: Spirit in Action*, (W.W. Norton and Company, NY, 2010), one thousand people showed up in early

December 1914 to form the Chicago Emergency Federation (CEF) with Addams as its president (p. 193).

The CEF adopted a platform that included international arbitration treaties, international courts, a league of nations and arms control, plus a demand for suffrage. It passed a resolution that called for a conference of neutral nations to be convened by Wilson. Wilson had offered himself and the United States as a mediator; the CEF were going to push him to act and to act with other nations.

## **A horror war begins building—early January 1915:**

As Jane Addams used the tools in the 1907 Hague conventions to build U.S. and European public support to stop the war, war munitions began piling up. It was no accident that 115 states had ratified those 1907 provisions; that the next war would be a horror was foreseeable. Provisions in the treaties required humane treatment of prisoners of war and the wounded. They ominously prohibited the use of projectiles to deliver poisonous gases.

Meanwhile, the new war industries were already cranking. Britain and Germany were engaged in an arms race. Expenditures increased 50% between 1908 and 1913. Germany's war engineers designed a lethal mine specifically meant to destroy trenches and the barbed wire protecting them. A lightweight mortar, it was meant to be lobbed efficiently into trenches. Moreover, it was cheap and the 160 of these minenwerfers ready in the summer of 1914 when the war began surged to over 16,000 by 1918.

Then came Big Bertha, Germany's huge cannons that weighed hundreds of tons each, mounted on railway cars from which they could destroy a city 62 miles away.

Jane Addams rightly felt a strong sense of urgency. If President Wilson would not quickly convene a neutral nation conference to secure an armistice, Addams' CEF proposed another route under the 1907 Hague conventions: "An unofficial conference made up of private citizens with expertise in international law and peace terms would be convened." This was not a wild idea. Wilson had proposed something similar earlier in

his administration to head off war (p. 194).

Addams and suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt called for a national meeting of "social workers, the Women's Trade Union League, other labor unions, farm women's and mothers' congresses, the enormous and effective Woman's Christian Temperance Unions, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the radical National Socialist Women's Committee" (p. 195). Thousands converged in Washington, D.C. at the Willard Hotel on January 10, 1915 to watch the 70 delegates create the Woman's Peace Party (WPP). Addams was elected president of the WPP and said, "I do not assert that women are better than men ... but we would admit that ... women are more sensitive than men [when it comes to] ... the treasuring of life," (p. 196). She was now president of both the Chicago CEF and the WPP, two hefty peace organizations in the U.S. She was going for broke, with the goal of stopping World War I.

### **The women's international effort - late April 1915:**

By spring of 1915, women from Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, and the Netherlands reached out to urge her to come with a U.S. delegation to a women's peace conference at The Hague in the Netherlands.

According to Knight, when Addams left New York by ship with the 47-member U.S. delegation bound for The Hague she said, "We do not think we can settle the war. We do not think that by raising our hands we can make the armies cease slaughter. We do think it is valuable to state a new point of view. We do think it is fitting that women should meet and take counsel to see what may be done," (p. 199).

At The Hague, there were about 1100 delegates from twelve European countries and the United States. Another thousand members of the European public showed up to observe the extraordinary event. Six days before the event's April 28th beginning, German soldiers emptied 171 tons of chlorine gas from cylinders at the second battle of Ypres in Western Belgium. The gas rolled, liquefied by the cold, into the French trenches and 6000 immediately died a ghastly death. More were gassed as the battle raged on and the women's conference began.

Addams chaired the three-day meeting. The platform adopted by the newly formed International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace was, by and large,

the platform of the Woman's Peace Party. It called for continuous mediation by neutrals, whether in an official or unofficial conference. It also called for the right to vote, also missing for most European women. The International Committee decided to send delegations to fourteen nations, both neutral and warring, to present their resolutions in person.

Addams, elected president of the International Committee, agreed to be on a delegation, but had no illusions. She remarked, "I have not lost my head. There is just one chance in ten thousand. ... You can never understand unless you were here, how you would be willing to do anything," (p. 201).

Addams' delegation visited six warring nations, plus two neutral nations. She found warring nations open to neutrals offering to mediate. She left Europe convinced an unofficial conference might work. But Germany had just sunk the passenger ship Lusitania and Addams soon found herself vilified and war fever rampant in the United States.

President Wilson was now only interested in taking charge of the war's aftermath. Despite running as the peace president in 1916, he led the United States into war. In all, nine million combatants died in WWI. The structure of the League of Nations that Wilson proposed after the Armistice was based on much of what Addams had advocated.

That first world war and its devastation led to economic and political chaos, as well as World War II and much subsequent warring. From 1900 to 2000, one hundred million combatants died. Adding to the toll are the wounded, civilian deaths and suffering both from war and from diversion of resources for military instead of civilian use.

Today, women continue to see what war brings to their loved ones and are again fed up. Now, though, women all have the vote; many have their own financial means; they are more educated than many men and they have communications capabilities undreamed of by Jane Addams.

We will see what they can do.

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*Ann E. Fleischli has practiced law for nearly 50 years in Wisconsin. She recently obtained her master's degree in environmental journalism from the University of Montana. She is a member of WILPF, the organization founded by Jane Addams in 1915.*

# The Wars Come Home: Police Militarization in the United States of America

By Helen Jaccard

The heavily-armed police reaction to protests after Michael Brown, Jr.'s killing in Ferguson, Missouri brought new awareness of increasing militarization of local U.S. police forces.

Instead of the familiar blue uniform with a pistol strapped to his side, today's police respond to the war on drugs, domestic violence calls and peaceful protests as if it were on military sorties while fighting in foreign wars. In fact, the new police officer on the block is likely to have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There are huge incentives for police departments to hire veterans. But one must ask if military veterans are being given adequate counseling, treatment, and time to heal from the PTSD that many suffer from before being given weapons of war and put on the streets of America.

Michael McPhearson, Interim Executive Director of Veterans For Peace explains the problem with this model, "When local police departments have access to armored personnel carriers, mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles, M-4 rifles, camouflage uniforms and assault rifles - we're clearly seeing the militarization of local law enforcement. But police officers are not at war with American citizens - they are here to serve and protect us. But it only makes sense that if we arm them like soldiers going into battle, they will act like soldiers."

SWAT raids carried out each year in America jumped dramatically over the last generation or so, from just a few thousand in the 1980s to around 50,000 by the mid-2000s and as many as 80,000 last year, according to Peter B. Kraska, of Eastern Kentucky University. The ACLU says that nearly 80% of the SWAT raids they studied were conducted to serve search warrants, usually in drug cases. "With public support for the War on Drugs at an all-time low, police are using hyper-aggressive, wartime tools and tactics to fight a war that has lost its public mandate."

According to pundit Glenn Reynolds, "Soldiers and police are supposed to be different. Soldiers are aimed at enemies from outside the country. They are trained to kill those enemies. In fact, 'killing people and breaking things' are their main reasons for existence. Police look inward. They're supposed to protect their

fellow citizens from criminals, and to maintain order with a minimum of force."

In addition to militarizing the police, governors or the federal government can call on the National Guard or even U.S. armed forces in case of an emergency, such as a large protest or a natural disaster. In 2011, Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey, Jr. stated that "Every Guard brigade has deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, and over 300,000 Guardsmen have deployed in this war."

Can the military itself be used against the people? Title 18 › Part I › Chapter 67 › § 1385 of the U.S. Code says, "Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or the Air Force as a posse comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both." However, the Washington Post reported on December 1, 2008, "The U.S. military expects to have 20,000 uniformed troops inside the United States by 2011 trained to help state and local officials respond to a nuclear terrorist attack or other domestic catastrophe, according to Pentagon officials."

## **Clothes and Equipment**

Through federal programs, police are purchasing or being given mine resistant armor protected (MRAP) vehicles with gun turrets on top, battle fatigues and body armor, night vision, military-style assault rifles with 100-round magazines, stun guns, rubber bullets, sound cannons, tear gas, grenade launchers, smoke grenades, flash-bang grenades, pepper pellets, beanbag rounds, batons, paintball pellets, helicopters and even airplanes and drones.

In Indianapolis suburbs, officers said they needed a mine-resistant vehicle to protect against a possible attack by veterans returning from war. "You have a lot of people who are coming out of the military that have the ability and knowledge to build I.E.D.'s (improvised explosive devices) and to defeat law enforcement techniques," Sgt. Dan Downing of the Morgan County Sheriff's Department told the local Fox affiliate, referring to homemade bombs.

Some extreme examples - Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio operates his own air armada of private pilots to monitor illegal border crossings, and has a full-sized surplus Army tank. New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly has the capability to shoot down an airplane. Ogden, Utah police department has a 54-foot, remote-controlled "crime-fighting blimp" with a powerful surveillance camera.



The Salinas, California Police Department SWAT Team with its Armored Rescue Vehicle, a \$650,000 armored transport vehicle given to the city by the Army for no cost. Source: Salinas PD Facebook page.

In Richland County, South Carolina, Sheriff Leon Lott procured an M113A1 armored personnel carrier. The vehicle moves on tank-like tracks, and features a belt-fed, turreted machine gun that fires .50-caliber rounds, a type of ammunition so powerful that even the military has restrictions on how it's used on the battlefield. The Pentagon reports giving to state and local police, through the 1033 Weapons Transfer Program, \$5.1 billion in gear since 1990. This includes \$449 million in 2013. Here's a breakdown from 2006 through April 23, 2014, as reported by National Public Radio, from the Pentagon database:

- 617 MRAP vehicles
- 79,288 assault rifles and machine guns with nearly 200,000 ammunition magazines
- 205 grenade launchers
- 11,959 bayonets
- 3,972 combat knives
- \$124 million worth of night-vision equipment, including night-vision sniper scopes
- 479 bomb detonator robots
- 50 airplanes, including 27 cargo transport airplanes
- 422 helicopters
- More than \$3.6 million worth of camouflage gear and other "deception equipment"

Public outcry against this huge give-away of military gear to our police has finally gotten the attention of Congress. On September 10, the U.S. Senate held a hearing to discuss whether to discontinue or modify this program. According to the NY Times, "Terrorism in the United States is extremely rare now — well below the numbers seen in the 1960s and '70s. Under

questioning from Senator Tom Coburn, Republican of Oklahoma, representatives of the Department of Homeland Security and the Pentagon struggled to identify examples, other than Boston, when the gear was used for counterterrorism.

"'We've stepped across the line and actually have created some problems that wouldn't have been there otherwise,' said Mr. Coburn, a longtime critic of the grant programs

who, in his final two years in office, has new allies in Congress."

In addition to the 1033 program, since 2001 more than \$35 billion in federal grants has been given to state and local police. The 2012 allocation for the Urban Areas Security Initiative of the Homeland Security grant program was \$830 million. The 2014 amount was \$587 million.

The Homeland Security market for state and local agencies is projected to reach \$19.2 billion by 2014, up from an estimated \$15.8 billion in fiscal 2009, according to the Homeland Security Research Corp. Some of this is paid for by the Homeland Security Grant Program.

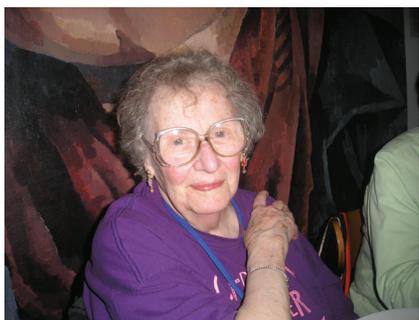
One further source of funding and motivation for police militarization is asset forfeiture. According to a Washington Post analysis, under the federal Equitable Sharing Program, police have seized \$2.5 billion since 2001 from people who were not charged with a crime and without a warrant being issued.

### **Surveillance**

Many local and state police now have drones they mostly do not use, with a warrant to spy on people. According to the ACLU report on drones, "In the 1980s the Supreme Court ruled that the Fourth Amendment does not categorically prohibit the government from carrying out warrantless aerial surveillance of private property... drone manufacturers are also considering offering police the option of arming these remote controlled aircraft with non-lethal (for now) weapons like rubber bullets, Tasers and tear gas."

Continued on pg. 23

# Longtime Members Remember Decades of Contribution to WILPF



**Libby Frank**, WILPF member since 1950s INTERNATIONAL, WOMEN, PEACE AND FREEDOM, wow, what a combination! I was so excited to see the Columbus, Ohio

Dispatch announcement, "Around the World in Art and Song," an international interracial children's program sponsored by WILPF. That was in the 1950s and I was hooked. I chaired and enhanced the program for several years.

I then chaired the national Childhood Education Committee. We opposed war toys and developed the "Dove of Good Practices," challenging Xerox Corp., which produced the widely circulated children's newsletter, "My Weekly Reader." It did not acknowledge children of color in our schools and echoed the State Department on the Vietnam War.

I joined WILPF in my 30s having already had a variety of activist experiences. I realized that Jews anywhere would not be safe if everyone was not safe. My reasoning led me to become an activist for peace and justice in the Middle East, and in the 70s, develop a cutting edge national WILPF Middle East Committee.

I posited that the main issue in the Middle East was not Jews vs. Arabs, but imperialism, colonialism and even racism, with good and bad in all states and nations. Our Middle East Committee worked to examine and change U.S. policy, a position I initiated and still maintain today.

I brought all of these experiences to my position as U.S. Section Executive Director in 1981.

What I saw in WILPF long ago is what I still hope and work for—to find the roots of U.S. domestic and foreign policies and figure out how various issues are connected and how we can act on them. Sometimes our separate issue committees make this a challenge. The heart of WILPF is its programs and actions, not its structure.

In 1986, I resigned as Executive Director. I believed the Board, not the staff, should decide on program priorities. I quit the Middle East Committee for a time after accusations of my being pro-Israel because I reported on poverty in Israel. I almost quit WILPF in recent years when members' voices were silenced and our ideas sneered at by some Board members.

Why do I stay in WILPF? Because no other international women's organization offers an opportunity to work for my passionate beliefs in the integrity of peace and justice and the possibility of progress. For me, the priority is to change the world. Let's figure out how.

**Edith Bell**, WILPF member since 1960 I first encountered WILPF around 1956 in Madison, Wisconsin. After becoming a U.S. citizen in 1960, I joined WILPF and have stayed ever since:



first in the Jane Addams Branch, when living in Racine, Wis., then from 1963 in Athens, West Virginia, a small college town in the beautiful Appalachian mountains.

I felt isolated there and the monthly *Peace & Freedom* magazine always provided helpful information. I wrote letters to the local newspaper, spoke on television community comment periods, and collected signatures on petitions. When homesteaders came into the area, we started Nuclear Freeze actions, but soon felt the need to speak on other issues. So, we joined with WILPF.

In 1985, I went to my first National Congress in Asheville, NC, which left me with two vivid memories. The first involved emotional discussions about Lesbians coming out. Many older members reacted vehemently saying, "Keep sex in the bedroom." It was an alien issue to them then and difficult for them to accept this new perspective.

The second came with keynote speaker, Motlalepula Chabaku, an African National Congress member from South Africa. She was dynamite! We brought her to speak at Concord and Bluefield State Colleges in

West Virginia, as well as the local high school. She was barred from speaking at another high school. The principal caved in to pressure from the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) director and a veterans group. We went to the newspaper and months of discussions on freedom of speech followed. We brought many other speakers to the area as well, among them Bruce K. Gagnon of The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space.

At the 1991 Congress at Bryn Mawr, the performance of the play "Most Dangerous Women," by Nikki Nojima Louis and Jan Maher inspired us to perform it during our week of activities on Women vs. Violence.

Throughout my tenure with WILPF I stayed focused on local work. When asked to run for regional representative on the national board, I declined. I felt I was needed more locally.

In 2001, I moved to Pittsburgh, PA which had lots of members but no branch. Members Regina Birchem and Lisa Valenti persuaded me that we needed a branch in Pittsburgh to be able to endorse actions by other peace and justice groups, and to use our literature. Our branch now has a very active Raging Grannies group, a small group of activists mostly working with other groups and some inactive members of the former Peace Links.

Branch highlights include anti-racism workshops and four successful performances of "Most Dangerous Women" on various occasions. We were able to get a grant to video the last performance and distributed the DVD widely.



**Carol Urner**, WILPF member since early 1960s Carol Urner helped revitalize the dormant Portland Branch in 1963 while engaged in the Women for Peace (WISP) movement. She is still a WILPF member there. She left the USA in 1966 and, since returning in

2001, has spent winters in southern California. She also became a member of the Los Angeles Branch in 2003.

All of us have rich stories to tell if only we all had time to listen. Actually, we did something like that at the first meeting of our new Board in 2008 and it was a

very useful experience. One of our African American members, wiser and more experienced in such sharing than the rest of us, insisted upon it. We each had half an hour to share our own experiences and life goals. For me, that session was extremely valuable.

I would like to share with WILPF members the 35 years my husband and I spent in Rome (6 years) while he commuted to Libya and I raised our children and absorbed European history and culture; in the Philippines (6 years) where I worked with hundreds of Filipino professionals and ex-pats (and hundreds more of the poor themselves) in some controversial non-violent projects with squatters and threatened tribal peoples; in Egypt (4-1/2 years) where, with two or three other women, I developed revolving loan funds and health and education projects with destitute women and garbage pickers; Bangladesh (2 years) where I spent my days with illiterate and rejected impoverished women and enthusiastic ex-pat volunteers, as the former developed income generating projects and education/health projects for themselves and their children; Bhutan (6 years) where I taught five years in the poorest of urban schools and developed and wrote text books and teachers' manuals published by UNICEF; and Lesotho (8 years) where I worked five years overseeing human rights and self-help community development programs for the U.S. Embassy, and 3 years volunteering with Transformation Resource Center, an NGO involved in development and democracy education. My co-worker, a beloved young tribal chief, and I developed high school level materials on the constitution and democracy, and had just received a grant to work on demilitarization in Africa when our auto accident changed everything. Jack was killed instantly. I was badly injured and had to return to the United States.

All of the powerful experiences during those 35 years and all of the amazing people I came to know and love are what now shape and drive me to work on demilitarization of my own country. I also look for ways we can develop a powerful non-violent movement that can change the direction of our own foreign policy and help bring an end to war.

I am still co-chair of the national Disarm/End Wars committee in which I have been active since my return from southern Africa 13 years ago. I am also involved in speaking, writing and organizing for the same ends.

We believe the time to achieve WILPF's original goal has come.

# US Section's 32nd Triennial Congress: A View From Shilpa

By Shilpa Pandey



Shilpa Pandey (r) with Heather Wellman at the Detroit Congress. Photo Credit: Joan Bazar

The Congress began with a tour of Detroit, visiting historically relevant places in the city's labor movement and learning about long time peace activist Alice Hertz, the first known activist in the United States to self immolate in protest against the Vietnam War.

## **Conversations with Activists**

Afterwards, the Congress kicked off with "Conversation with Activists." Among the speakers, Edith Ballantyne, former Secretary General, International WILPF said she actually cried at the end of the tour of Detroit, hearing the tour guides narrating in detail the labor movement that not only saw women suffer but humanity generally. Commenting on the current water cutoffs in Detroit, Edith said water is not a commodity, but a necessity and every human being has a right to it.

WILPF International President Adilia Caravaca shared her journey with WILPF that began 30 years ago. She noted that a very important human right is the right to dissent and the right to have an opinion.

Medea Benjamin from Code Pink remarked that "homeless" is such a negative term and "forgotten workers" is how we should refer to all those people who suffered during the Detroit crises and economic meltdown. She also said the United States had become a leader in privatization, referring to privatizing the water supply in attempt to manage the city water supply system in Detroit. Medea urged everyone to think about how WILPF, Code Pink and other women's organizations could combine efforts to talk to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry about including Hamas in ongoing negotiations regarding Palestine and Gaza.

## **A New President, 100th Anniversary and the Manifesto**

Friday, August 1, started with a plenary session welcoming new WILPF US Section President Mary Hanson Harrison and going over a report from the

convention rules committee.

Later, I decided to attend the interactive workshop "100th Anniversary: Political Content & Manifesto," lead by Adilia Carava, Edith Ballantyne and Regina Birchem. Their informative discussion explored what the political content should be at the meetings in The Hague next year when WILPF celebrates its centenary year.

A key issue I raised was the need to ensure active participation by women from developing countries and economically disadvantaged regions, including India, as there may not be many women from these countries able to afford travel to Geneva in 2015. However, we must make sure that issues that plague these regions are raised during next year's discussions in The Hague.

## **Alternatives to Conflict Resolution**

Towards the middle of the day I led and conducted a workshop that was co-facilitated by Adilia Caravaca. The topic was "Alternatives to Conflict Resolution," where mediation was discussed as one of the primary skills needed to resolve conflicts.

## **Jane Addams is Alive Today**

The many interesting workshops lined up in the second half of Friday included subjects ranging from "Millitarization and the Internet" to "Violence against Women: Women against Violence."

I had the opportunity to co-facilitate the session "Jane Addams is Alive Today," lead by Altaira Hatton, Nicole Scott and myself. The important theme of the workshop was to explore how we find leaders of tomorrow. The workshop closed with my inputs and sharing on how we in India developed a new branch consisting of young women from schools and colleges in Delhi, along with ideas about how to increase participation of young women in WILPF.

## **Freedom Friday Demonstration, Centennial Celebration**

A highlight of the Congress had to have been the "Freedom Friday Demonstration." Most participants met to agitate against the water cut offs and water crises in Detroit, declaring that water is a human right,

a necessity, and not a commodity. Towards the end of the Congress, a resolution was passed by WILPF US stating the same.

Another very important part of the Congress was an opportunity for all attendees to learn various ways in which they can participate in the coming year's centenary celebrations.

### **Introducing WILPF Booklet on Hamas**

One of the most awaited sessions for me was the booklet from the Middle East committee on Hamas. I read the booklet and for me the most striking feature was the explanation and historical reference that is important to understand before forming an opinion about the current situation in the Middle East region. Personally, this was a very moving session for me, considering the current humanitarian crises in the region. I listened with rapt attention when Ellen Rosser, one of the co-authors of the booklet, shared her personal experiences during the time she was stationed in Gaza. WILPF's Middle East committee has produced an informative, well researched and eye opening document that is much needed.

### **Talking with Our Grandmothers: WWI and the Women's Peace Movement**

The visually engaging workshop led by Robin Lloyd and Charlotte Dennett took the audience on a visual treat with a screening of the movie *Crossing Borders*. It had a performance piece with Robin having a dialogue with her grandmother (a life-sized bust). It also traced the lives of their grandmothers and the active role they played in trying to stop the WWI.

### **Closing Plenary**

In the closing plenary participants had the chance to meet the board members, to discuss outcomes of the workshop and to pass important resolutions, including WILPF US statements on Gaza and the water crises of Detroit.

### **Outcome**

The quality of the workshops, speakers and outcomes made this an excellent program. Each workshop had thought provoking and extremely educating topics. The sessions that I had the opportunity to attend and participate in were very interactive, informative and extremely relevant to our times.

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*Shilpa Pandey is Young WILPF coordinator and vice president of the India Section. Recognized for work to achieve women's empowerment and maternal health, she founded the WILPF Branch in New Delhi.*

## **Growing WILPF, Growing Peace**

2015 will be a year of challenge and creativity for the US Section, as we engage in a campaign to Grow WILPF. Two of our staunch supporters announced at the Detroit Congress that they would each contribute \$200,000 toward our goal of one million dollars. And, individual donations amounting to nearly \$80,000 have already come in from a number of dedicated WILPF members. Yea!



Robin Lloyd (l) and Yvonne Logan announce their pledges to the Growing WILPF! campaign. Photo Credit: Joan Bazar

Now, it's up to the rest of us to raise the remainder – and I challenge each of our branches and members to start now with generating creative and fun ways to do that.

What important causes and achievements would not have been addressed without WILPF US at work locally as well as globally?

Consider how those experiences have helped shape you, enriched your lives and honed your skills as engaged citizens. Now, what can you do to carry the vision forward?

Reaching our goal will give WILPF the ability to hire staff for our national office and field organizers to help reactivate and strengthen our branches. We also need a communications network that links us to modern and traditional media and to each other in an immediate and user-friendly way.

With nearly \$500,000.00 in our pocket, we need your support and encouragement to generate additional giving and to build a sustainable future for WILPF US. Get ready to hear more about this exciting campaign after January 1.

If you are ready now to jump in and get started on our campaign, contact Robin Lloyd at [robinlloyd8@gmail.com](mailto:robinlloyd8@gmail.com) or Marybeth Gardam at [mbgardam@gmail.com](mailto:mbgardam@gmail.com).

# Global Detroit: Race, Democracy and Corporate Power

By Gloria House, Ph.D.

*(Edited comments from Dr. House's speech given at the Detroit Congress on August 1, 2014)*

In our city there are approximately 40 square miles of abandoned land. Thousands of homes have been lost to foreclosures, thousands have collapsed in ruin, while over 78,000 vacant houses remain standing, like relics of a forgotten era. Detroit is a city of loss of population, loss of tax base, deficient in services like lighting, transportation, infrastructure repair. Detroit is a city where the public school system has been dismantled and looted; a space of hunger (with children hit hardest); a place of homelessness and outrageous and persistent police brutality against people of color and their children. This is the space of closed parks, loss of medical services, unemployment and theft of pensions. This is a space of profound suffering and dispossession, while millions of dollars are appropriated for demolition of homes and hundreds of millions are paid to lawyers and other consultants to “manage” our city affairs.

The political policies and strategies leading Detroit to this place have been in effect for many years. Practices of capitalist exploitation are rooted in a stubborn, unrelenting racism that has fractured city life since the nineteenth century. From the 50's, when the power structure spoke of urban renewal in the city, this meant Black removal by uprooting Black communities and businesses from the city core. This legacy of racist spatial politics in Detroit and its suburbs influences the current political dynamics of the City, where a U.S. version of ethnic cleansing is in process against African Americans and other poor communities. If the intent



Dr. Gloria House, professor emeritus at University of Michigan-Dearborn, presented on Detroit Congress' opening panel.

of ethnic cleansing was not clear before the water shutoffs, it must certainly be obvious at this point.

By the mid-1970s, however, the corporate elite began to recognize its enormous mistake in abandoning Detroit, with its vital infrastructure of communication and finance, that links Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Canada and extends over 20,000 miles, as well as its location on the Detroit River, which joins to lake waterways that provide a fresh water source and ensure easy access to international transportation and trade. And so the

reclamation began.

Corporate reclaiming of the city has meant the design of two Detroits—one flourishing, affluent, inviting, and meant to serve the corporate agenda, with the other, a neglected, abandoned wasteland. In fact, with newly announced plans to add a hockey arena, we can see how right down the center of the old city core to the riverfront, a new city is evolving as a consolidation of privately-owned spaces. The attractive, redesigned city core is successfully enticing individuals and families of the managerial class back into the City. This “whiter,” upwardly mobile population will provide an anchor for dominant corporate interests by managing corporate offices, overseeing technology, and supervising manual laborers who clean and maintain the exclusive offices and amenities of a corporate command city. With the creation of this corporate-owned city, with its

symphony, Opera House, posh bars, restaurants, ball parks and other entertainment centers, has come an increased militarization of the city police force which has been integrated into a network of law enforcement agencies, including Homeland Security and Border Patrol.

Simultaneously, the corporate elite has launched a campaign to plunder major City assets by seizing, controlling, reconfiguring and privatizing institutions. They now take another step towards control and privatization of the Department of Water and Sewerage. Such objectives have been facilitated by the illegal imposition of emergency managers and the circumvention of duly elected public officials for processes of city policy and development. Through such strategies, the majority Black population has been disenfranchised.

In pockets throughout the City, individuals and groups are resisting this takeover in every way we know how. Moratorium Now is continuing its struggle against foreclosures, others are working towards food security through farming, still others are creating artist co-ops, small businesses, forums for resolving conflict, educational and cultural programs and activities. And most recently we are working to provide emergency water relief. Detroit has a national reputation for its spunky organizers, innovators, ingenious leaders and problem solvers. But they have not been included in planning Detroit's future. In fact, the resources and energy of many such organizers are being exhausted in the daily work of resistance.

One of the problems we face as organizers is the difficulty of coming to terms with the inhumanity, savagery and barbarism of corporate emergency management strategies, and the fact that these strategies involve simultaneous assaults on multiple areas of our lives. Moreover, with the media at their command, these corporations have successfully popularized narratives that mask or disguise their ulterior objectives.

I quote here from an article by Diane Bukowski, a brilliant Detroit journalist. Her example shows why it is so difficult to resist the city's corporate strategies, because the power is conflated in the hands of a few individuals and agencies that control multiple aspects of city development:

George Jackson, Jr. a DTE Energy Co. executive for 27 years, is president of both the Detroit Economic

Growth Association (DEGA) and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC), as well as Detroit's Chief Development Officer under Mayor Bing (Detroit's former mayor)... The DEGA and the DEGC have the same officers and directors.... The DEGC also serves as the professional and administrative staff for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit (EDC), Tax Increment Finance Authority, and Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (DBRA). The DEGC's Secretary is Attorney David Baker Lewis of Lewis & Munday, which receives city contracts. Developer and builder Michael Tyson is DEGC's Treasurer. Directors include William Brooks, a retired GM vice- president, Denise Starr, Compuware's Chief Administrative Officer, and Roderick Gillum, a GM vice-president and chairman of the GM Foundation...DEGC is funded by the city.\*

The names and relationships of the players Ms. Bukowski describes illustrate the concentration of links in the apparatus of corporate power that influence many aspects of city administration, including the appropriation of land, facilities and other resources and extending to the influence of artists and cultural production through grants, media and public relations campaigns.

In the face of this kind of corporate domination, those of us who insist on self-determination must also insist on discovering alternative means of securing social order and justice. Those we have fashioned in the past no longer apply, because we do not have a scaffolding of law to which we can appeal and on which to rely, as this is a time of corporate and racist lawlessness. Though we must continue with the forms of resistance that are familiar to us in order to hold back the assault on our humanity, it is important to recognize that there is an additional, essential arena of work. That work is the conceiving or imagining and the building of new forms of community that our children and grandchildren will continue to develop. That is our calling in this time and this place: resistance to oppressive forces on the one hand; conceiving and building of a new society on the other.

\*Bukowski, Diane. "Bye, Bye, Detroit," *The Michigan Citizen*, March 11, 2011.

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*Gloria A. House, Ph.D. retired this summer as an active professor of African and African American studies and professor of humanities at University of Michigan-Dearborn. She is a civil rights activist and a former professor at Wayne State University.*

# Detroit Congress Spawns Resolutions, Branch and Individual Activism

By Ellen Schwartz



Participants at the Triennial Congress in Detroit posed with founder Jane Addams. Here with Chair of the Personnel Committee: Nicole Scott (Detroit, MI). Photo Credit: Patricia Schroeder

The two full days of the Triennial Congress in Detroit were packed with 35 workshops covering all WILPF US program areas. Many workshops, as well as resolutions passed on the final day, generated ideas for local branch and individual activism. This brief article cannot do justice to it all. So, watch

our website as these materials continue to appear!

The DISARM/End Wars committee organized two days of antiwar workshops and was joined by other issue committees showing intersections between militarization, environmental concerns and corporate domination. Participants were taught about drone warfare and surveillance, the environmental impact of radioactive waste and the relationship of “bombs, bases and biofuels” to climate change. They learned about the World Beyond War Initiative, recently endorsed by national WILPF, and the Drones Quilt Project featured on the cover of the November 2013 *Peace & Freedom*.



Ruby Woods sings at the Triennial Congress. Photo Credit: Joan Bazar

Peace in the Middle East received a lot of attention, with one workshop devoted to the newest draft of our booklet on Hamas, and others dealing with Israel and Palestine and creating a Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone in the Middle East. (See Barbara Taft’s write-up on the Hamas booklet and Judith Blau’s commentary on the UN and the Palestinian Question elsewhere in this issue.)

Corporations v Democracy workshops promoted the WILPF study course on Corporate Power for building branches, developing new leaders and finding allies in other organizations. Corporations v Democracy member Jim Allison showed a powerful video he had made of Justice John Paul Stevens’ critique of the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*, presented as a dramatic monologue (copies of the DVD are available for purchase). Earth Democracy and Corporations v Democracy joined in a workshop warning of the dangers of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement.

Two workshops called attention to Michelle Alexander’s book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Organizers of Mass Incarceration, Criminal Injustice and the Insidious Racial Caste System are forming a new subcommittee under Advancing Human Rights.

The Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance shared information about people’s trips to Cuba and Venezuela and discussed why defending the Bolivarian Alliance is important. People at the workshop on Peace Education aim to expand the number of branches working on the Jane Addams Children’s Book Awards program and children’s peace camps.

Numerous workshops explored WILPF’s International



Nancy Price speaks to a Congress participant. Photo Credit: Joan Bazar



Detroit Congress audience. Photo Credit: Joan Bazar

programs, its history, development campaigns and plans for next year's Centennial and for the years to follow.

Of the thirteen resolutions passed at the convention eight were program-related: "Militarization and the Internet" urged WILPF to study and act on the subject of who controls the Internet, the Surveillance State and the increasing development of cyber weapons, and supported formation of an Issue Committee devoted to this effort.



Board members Peggy Luhrs, Nicole Scott and Odile Hugonot Haber. Photo Credit: Joan Bazar

A resolution from the Earth Democracy committee on the impact of glyphosate and Monsanto's Roundup herbicide on public health advocated that this product be restricted or banned. Earth Democracy and *Corporations v Democracy* began an educational and action campaign on this issue.

Three previous WILPF political statements were updated. First, the WILPF Gaza Statement was extended, calling for a complete cease fire, lifting of the

siege, stopping U.S. aid to Israel, ending occupation and starting immediate negotiations with all parties, including Hamas. Then, the resolution on a Nuclear Free Zone in the Middle East recommitted us to this work, urging branches to discuss the topic and reach out to our ambassador to the UN, to Congress and to Jewish peace organizations, to build support for this campaign.

Another resolution updated WILPF's 2006 Immigration Statement and urged formation of an Issue Committee on Immigration and border militarization issues.



International President Adilia Caravaca, Meda Benjamin of Code Pink, and Edith Ballantyne. Photo Credit: Heather Wellman

The Detroit Congress produced two resolutions on water, one demanding that water service be restored to the residents of Detroit, and the other affirming that access to water is a basic human right, urging global WILPF to oppose abuse of this right as a top priority, and urging all of WILPF to celebrate the UN World Day for Water on March 22, 2015.

### **Building a Campaign**

One of the many encouraging outcomes of the Congress is a template for building a WILPF Campaign, developed by Program Co-chair Deb Garretson. It directs members, issue committees and branches to think about:

- Who is the target audience?
- What other organizations might participate?
- When will it begin and end?
- And most importantly, how will its success be evaluated?

### **Look for it on our website!**

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*Ellen Schwartz is a member of the Sacramento/Sierra Foothills branch. After serving as registrar for the 2005, 2008 and 2011 Congresses, she graduated to chair of the Congress Committee for the 2014 Congress.*

# Democracy Shut Off with Detroit's Water

By Shea Howell



By Rachael Towne via Flickr Creative Commons license

The human toll of living under Emergency Management was made clear through Detroit's water crisis. Detroiters endured an unprecedented assault on their basic human right to water for nearly 6 months before any action was taken.

demanding the city respect the right to water for all people, went to the Detroit City Council to enlist their help to stand against the shutoffs.

In prepared remarks, Ms. Patrick briefly outlined the history of the water department, the urgency of the current crisis, and encouraged the City Council to be wary of those who would tell them that there was a moratorium on shutoffs.

Ms. Lewis Patrick had been walking the neighborhoods for weeks helping people understand what is happening and where they can get emergency water. She has also been central in setting up volunteer hotlines. She has a vivid grasp of how horrific the shutoffs are. In fact she shared the story of a phone call she received early that same morning from a 98-year-old citizen who had just been shut off in spite of the moratorium.

Council President Brenda Jones became agitated with Ms. Lewis Patrick who challenged the Council's silence on the water shutoff issue. Jones began banging the gavel to say Patrick's time was up. President Jones said, "Miss Patrick, obviously you do not know what is going on because we are addressing these issues... I will be in conversations with the Mayor and Emergency Manager. I don't know if you know it or not, but neither the Council nor the Mayor have charge of the Water Department. That is the Emergency Manager's jurisdiction, but we are not sitting idly by. ...You don't know what's going on behind the scenes."

That is of course the problem. None of us know what is going on "behind the scenes." From the fate of the water department to back room deals for land give aways and crony corporate contracts, decisions about Detroit's wealth and future are being made behind closed doors. We have seen whose interests matter to Emergency Manager Orr. The shutoffs of water are only possible because of the shutoff of democracy.

(This article originally ran August 14, 2014 on The Michigan Citizen website under the column "Thinking for Ourselves, Week 71 of the Occupation of Detroit." See [michigancitizen.com/democracy-shutoff](http://michigancitizen.com/democracy-shutoff).)

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*Shea Howell is a community activist in Detroit where she has lived for more than four decades. She is part of the Boggs Center and a professor of communication at Oakland University.*

The decision to aggressively pursue nearly half the city for being behind in water bills of \$150 while ignoring corporate scofflaws who owed thousands was made by Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr. The decision to sacrifice the wellbeing of people in order to make the sale of the water department more attractive to investors was made by the same Emergency Manager. The decision to persist with the water shutoff policy despite outcry from local activists as well as escalating demonstrations, civil disobedience and the condemnation of the United Nations was made by the Emergency Manger.

The decision to dump the problem on the Mayor after the Judge pointed out that the fiasco was negatively impacting bankruptcy proceedings was made by the Emergency Manager.

This abuse of the human right to water has visible consequences. The violation of our human rights to self-determination and to democratic participation in the decisions that affect our lives is less visible. But its effects are felt in every aspect of our common life. Under the Emergency Manager we witness the sale or give away of public lands to corporate interests. From the new Red Wings Stadium to Lipke Park, pieces of Detroit are moving out to the public domain into the hands of corporate interests.

Public conversations about priorities, development that includes all of our people, and renewal of basic infrastructure have been eliminated.

A prime example of how the city is suffering from a lack of basic democracy occurred just after the announcement of the first moratorium on water shutoffs. Monica Lewis Patrick, a leading voice in

# Outreach Program to WILPF At-Large Members in the Works!

By Millee Livingston



On April 7, 2014, an email was sent to WILPF members interested in developing guidelines for contacting WILPF At-Large members. A proposal was sent to all WILPF Board Members for their input. On June 13, 2014, under the leadership of President Mary Hanson Harrison and staff, a Special \*E Alert was sent to 465 active At-Large Members according to our database.

The immediate response was a success! We received positive messages from At-Large Members in Alaska, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Vermont and Virginia. Next, we will develop a process to help them connect to branches and technologies that will enable WILPF to move forward and to listen to our members!

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*Millee Livingston is currently a Board At-Large Member, a member of WILPF's Sacramento-Sierra Foothills Branch, past founder of WILPF Peninsula Branch ( Millbrae, CA) and Sierra Foothills Branch (Auburn, CA), a WILPF Life Member, past WILPF Region 1 President, founder of WILPF Children's Peace Camp, past Member of WILPF Local and National Issues/Programs, Finance and Membership Committees. Contact: [milleelivingston@hotmail.com](mailto:milleelivingston@hotmail.com)*

# Setting New Terms for Bylaw Amendments

By Darien De Lu



Nearly a decade ago, work began on examining the WILPF US bylaws and reconciling conflicts. Now, WILPF US members will be able to vote for amendments and changes to the WILPF US Bylaws as we did in 2012 and will likely do annually hereafter. A backlog of called-for changes has accumulated and several of these will be voted on this year. Two have particular effects for the general WILPF US membership and are especially designed to address inconsistencies between the current Bylaws and Pennsylvania state statutes.

Pennsylvania law specifies that only members of our organization can make certain kinds of changes or amendments to our Bylaws. Yet, the Bylaws we have been operating under state that only the board of directors can amend the Bylaws. On the Bylaws Amendment ballot that will be sent to you along with the Board candidate elections ballot, there will be a new Bylaw amendment: the Amendment on Amendments.

This new approach requires members to vote on all Bylaw changes. Additionally, the amendment provides three ways that members, the board, and the Bylaws Committee can present amendment proposals to be voted on annually.

WILPF members will want to read details about this amendment and the others on the ballot. The Bylaws Clean-up proposal consists of small corrections and clarifications of wording and formatting throughout the entire Bylaws.

If accepted by members, adoption of this new document will not only make interpretations clearer, it will also address the legal requirement of member approval for the Bylaws document under which WILPF US functions.

All of this is contingent on the Bylaws Clean-up amendment passing. Contact me by phone or email: 916-739-0860 or [conjoin@macnexus.org](mailto:conjoin@macnexus.org). Also, carefully read the materials on these two and all other proposed Bylaw changes and amendments.

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*Darien De Lu is acting chair of the WILPF US ad hoc Bylaws Committee and a Nominating Committee member. In addition to long-time branch work, she served in 1998 as Western Region President and a national board member, and as national Co-President through 2007. She rejoined the WILPF US board as Nominating Committee Chair from 2011 to 2013.*

# Environmental Destruction: The U.S. Military's Invisible Casualty of War

By H. Patricia Hynes

The very small, but politically powerful population responsible for unparalleled environmental impact—the military is, per capita, the world's most polluting human population, and the system of militarism the most toxic of human enterprises. Yet, a well-glued solidarity between the military, national security advisors, civilian defense contractors and government elites has cloaked this extraordinary debt of pollution, destruction of land, and exploitation of finite resources under the paternalistic mantle of national security.

War breeds environmental destruction; and just as war victims and war tactics have changed in recent times, so has the scale of environmental destruction from war.

Casualties of war in the late 20th and early 21st centuries have shifted from combatant soldiers to civilians, the majority being women and children, with an estimated nine civilian deaths for every soldier death. The locus of war has moved from battlefields to urban and rural population centers, causing massive numbers of residents to flee and imminent health crises of contaminated water, poor sanitation, inadequate health care, malnourishment, overcrowding, and sexual predation in refugee camps.



Nuclear Waste Barrels - CC0 Public Domain

Similarly, modern war and militarism have a staggering impact on nature and our lived environment—by the kinds of weapons used, the hazardous waste their manufacture and testing generate, and the massive exploitation of natural resources and fossil fuels to support militarism. Consider this categorical profile of military pollution:

## **Chemical Waste Pollution**

Nearly 900 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) approximately 1,300 Superfund sites are abandoned military bases/facilities or manufacturing and testing sites that produced conventional weapons and other military-related

products and services, according to the 2008-2009 President's Cancer Panel Report. This figure does not include the full U.S. military enterprise, namely, the Department of Energy's radioactive waste from nuclear weapons and the nearly 1,000 U.S. bases worldwide where our military is not accountable for environmental protection.

Military Superfund sites are comprised of chemical warfare and research facilities; plane, ship and tank manufacture and repair facilities; training and maneuver bases; and abandoned disposal pits.

Common contaminants include metal cleaning solvents, pesticides, machining oils, metals, metalworking fluids and chemical ingredients used in explosives. Dumped into pits, leaking from corroding containers, buried in unlined landfills, and left on test ranges, military toxics have leached into groundwater and polluted drinking water throughout the U.S.

The case example of perchlorate, a rocket fuel component, attests to the pervasiveness of military chemical waste. More than 12,000 military sites on which live explosive training takes place, release perchlorate into groundwater where it is exceedingly mobile and persists for decades. Perchlorate has spread from military bases and defense and aerospace contractor facilities into drinking water systems and has also accumulated in leafy food crops and fruit irrigated with contaminated water. A recent study of powdered baby formula produced in the U.S. found that all types of both soy- and milk-based formula are contaminated with perchlorate, and that it has also been detected in breast milk and human urine throughout the U.S. Over half the foods tested by the Food and Drug Administration contained perchlorate. This toxin accumulates in the thyroid gland, where it can inhibit iodine transfer and result in iodine deficiency. Adequate iodine is essential for neurological development in fetuses, infants and children and for promotion of the thyroid hormone. A broad scientific consensus maintains that very low levels of perchlorate in food and water supply threaten the health of infants.

### **Nuclear Weapons Waste Pollution**

Since the United States exploded the first nuclear bomb in New Mexico in 1945, more than 2,000 nuclear weapons have been tested worldwide in multiple environments: aboveground, underwater, underground and in outer space. According to some estimates, the equivalent of more than 29,000 Hiroshima bombs have been tested in the atmosphere, discharging more than 9000 pounds of plutonium—with a half-life of 24,000 years—into the environment.

Hundreds of thousands of military personnel, civilian workers, their families and people living downwind of test sites have been exposed to radiation at levels sufficient to cause cancer and other diseases. Compensation programs set up by the U.S. government place many obstacles in the way of claimants, particularly in the case of compensating citizens of the Marshall Islands and Micronesia. Both places were environmental sacrifice zones for the U.S. nuclear program.

Most uranium mined for the U.S. nuclear program was in or near Navajo tribal lands in New Mexico. More than 1,000 regional mines and mill sites are now abandoned, unsealed sources of soil and drinking water contamination. Navajo miners worked without protection from exposure to uranium dust and still live with their families near the contaminated sites. The Navajo and nearby Laguna tribes suffer cancer of the lung, kidney disease, and birth defects at higher than average rates. Even if all nuclear weapons were dismantled tomorrow, the radioactivity of waste from mining, manufacturing, and testing will endure for millennia.

By 1994, nearly 5,000 contaminated sites at the Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons and fuel facilities had been identified for remediation. The now-closed Hanford nuclear weapons facility, which recycled uranium and extracted plutonium for nuclear weapons, is the largest nuclear waste storage site in the country and may be the world's largest environmental cleanup site, with a projected budget of \$100 billion. The operating plant regularly released radioactive iodine emissions and discharged over 400 billion gallons of radioactive waste into adjacent soil and the Columbia River, exposing tens of thousands of people living nearby to some of the largest amounts of radiation in the world. Over the 30-years Hanford operated, its workers developed a rare blood cancer and other work-related diseases at elevated rates. Nearby residents, including the Yakima Nation, also experienced high rates of cancers, miscarriages and other health problems.

Waste on the closed 600-acre site includes nearly five tons of plutonium and more than 53 million gallons of radioactive plutonium waste stored in underground tanks. According to DOE about 60 of the tanks have leaked and others may be seeping into soil and groundwater that flows into the Columbia River, a regional source of salmon, agricultural irrigation and drinking water supply.

Nuclear weapons' waste dwarfs all other hazardous waste in scale, toxicity, dispersion across the world and cost. Moreover, it defies technical solutions for permanent environmental cleanup and safety.

### **Climate Change and the Military**

Militarism is the most oil-exhaustive activity on the planet, growing more so with faster, bigger, more fuel-guzzling planes, tanks, and naval vessels employed in increasingly intensive air and ground wars and war

exercises. At the outset of the Iraq War in March 2003, the U.S. Army estimated it would need more than 40 million gallons of gasoline for three weeks of combat, exceeding the total quantity used by all Allied forces in the four years of World War I. In 2006 alone, the U.S. Air Force consumed as much fuel as U.S. military planes did during the entire Second World War (1941-1945) an astounding 2.6 billion gallons. A quarter of the world's jet fuel feeds the U.S. Air Force fleet.

Researchers at the U.S. non-profit organization, Oil Change International, calculated the greenhouse gas emissions of the Iraq War and the opportunity costs involved in fighting the war rather than investing in clean technology for the years 2003-2007. Their key findings are unambiguous about the vast climate pollution of war and the bipartisan policy of forfeiting future global health for present day militarism.

- The projected full cost of the Iraq War (estimated \$3 trillion) would cover "all of the global investments in renewable power generation" needed between now and 2030 to reverse global warming trends.
- Between 2003-2007, the war generated at least 141 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, more for each year of the war than 139 of the world's countries release annually.
- Re-building Iraqi schools, homes, businesses, bridges, roads, and hospitals pulverized by the war, as well as new security walls and barriers, requires millions of tons of cement, one of the largest industrial sources of greenhouse gas emissions.
- By 2008, the Bush Administration had spent 97 times more on the military than on climate change. As a presidential candidate, President Obama pledged to spend \$150 billion over 10 years on green energy technology and infrastructure—less than the United States was spending in one year of the Iraq War.

The U.S. military consumes as much as one million barrels of oil per day and contributes 5 percent of current global warming emissions, according to estimates by researcher Barry Sanders. That means, the military's 1.4 million active duty people, or .0002 percent of the world's population, generate 5 percent of climate pollution. The U.S. military is far and away the

largest single climate polluter and contributor to global warming.

### **Conclusion**

The environment could be called the invisible casualty of war. Governments at war honor the fallen and give lip service to the "collateral damage" of civilians injured and killed, while they treat military pollution as the necessary cost of waging war and disdain responsibility for remediating environmental contamination. As the muscled-up Pentagon sees it, environmental protection laws hamstringing their military training and war readiness, thus, jeopardizing national security. The touted greening of the military, including solar and wind energy on bases and research on alternative fuels, pales in comparison to the environmental damage it wreaks. In 2010, the Department of Defense spent an estimated \$40 on the military for each dollar it spent to address climate change.

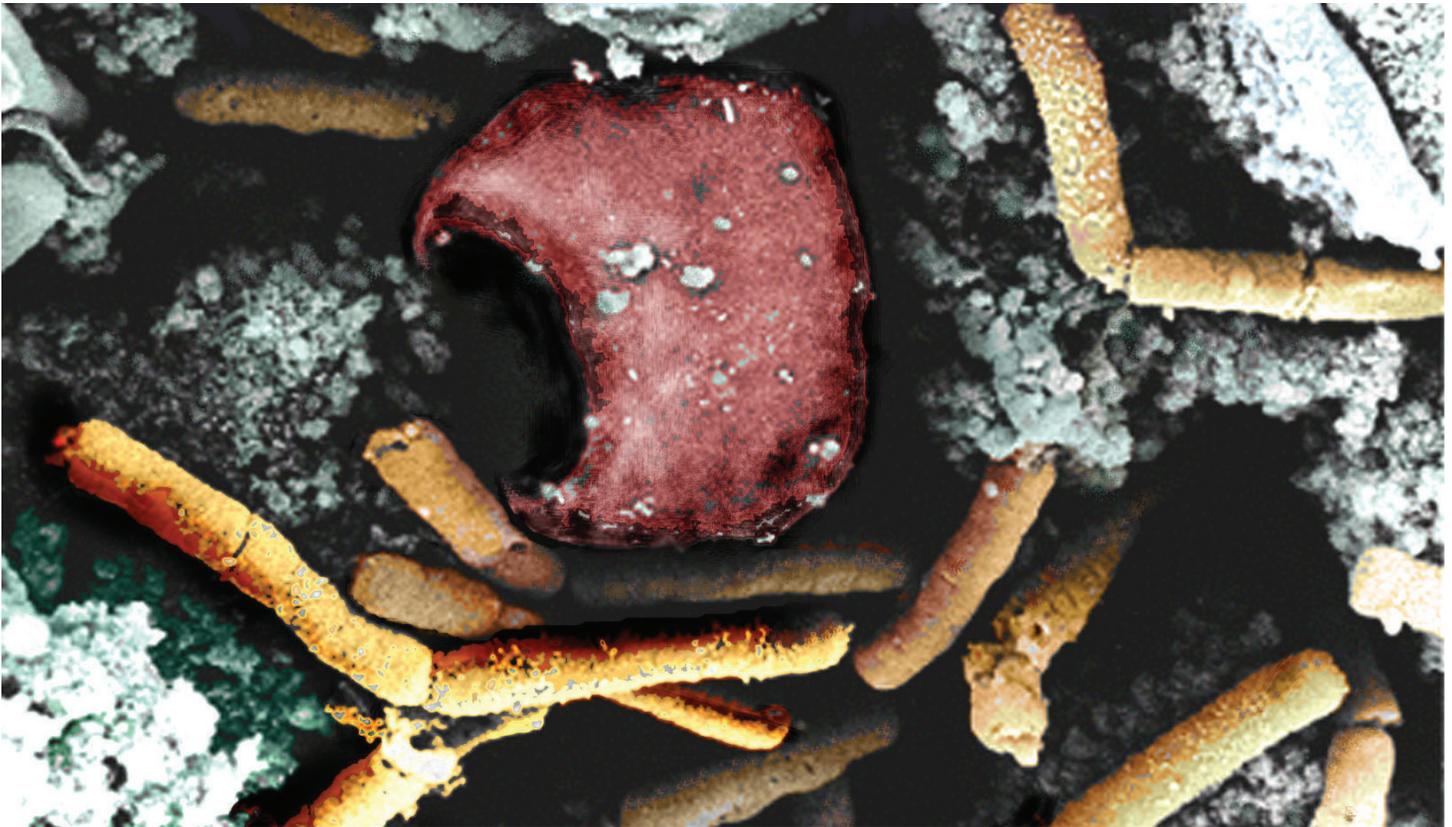
If the principal threat to world security in the 21st century is environmental degradation of Earth's life systems (through climate change, pollution, soil erosion, habitat loss and species extinction), then challenging the destruction and damage to the environment and the massive exploitation of oil and metal resources for the military-industrial war machine must become paramount in our work for peace.

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## **Bio-defense Research: An Even Quieter Pollutant**

In September and October 2001, anthrax spores sent in letters to politicians and media companies in the U.S. killed five people. The 2001 anthrax attacks set off a massive flow of federal funding under the Project Bio-shield Act to federal, university, and private laboratories in all parts of the country for research on live, virulent potential bio-weapons agents.

Between 2002 and 2008 approximately 400 facilities and 15,000 people were handling biological weapons agents in sites throughout the country, in many cases



Color-enhanced scanning electron micrograph shows splenic tissue from a monkey with inhalational anthrax; featured are rod-shaped bacilli (yellow) and an erythrocyte (red). Photo Credit: Arthur Friedlander [www3.niaid.nih.gov/biodefense/Public/Images.htm](http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/biodefense/Public/Images.htm).

unbeknownst to the local community. The rush to spend some \$70 billion by 2014 on bioterrorism research has raised many serious concerns.

**Among them are:**

- Runaway bio-defense research without an assessment of biowarfare threat and the need for this research;
- Militarization of biological research and the risk of provoking a biological arms race;
- Neglect of vital public health research as a tradeoff for enhanced bio-defense research;
- Lack of standardized safety and security procedures for high-risk laboratories;
- Increased risk of accident and deliberate release of lethal organisms with the proliferation of facilities and researchers in residential communities;
- Lack of transparency and citizen participation in the decision-making process; and
- Vulnerability of environmental justice communities as selected sites.

Contrary to popular and public official statements weaponizing biological agents is extremely difficult,

requiring immense research money, effort, and expertise. Thus, the threat of biological terrorism with mass casualty—a threat the government has exaggerated without a basis in fact and without any rational threat assessment—diverts resources from true public health needs, such as gun control, reducing air pollution, and research on tuberculosis resistance and influenza. In March 2005, 750 prominent microbiologists, comprising more than 50 percent of U.S. scientists studying bacterial and fungal diseases, wrote the National Institutes of Health to argue that the funding agency's emphasis on bio-defense research had diverted resources from studying germs that cause more significant disease. Between 1998 and 2005, grants for bio-defense research had increased 15-fold. During the same period, grants to support non-bio-defense germs that cause major sickness and death (such as tuberculosis-resistant microbes and influenza) dropped by 27 percent.

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*Pat Hynes, a WILPF member, directs Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in western Massachusetts. A retired environmental engineer and Professor of Environmental Health, she writes and speaks on feminism, environment and militarism. Her current project is Agent Orange: US Legacy and Responsibility ([traprock.org/agent-orange](http://traprock.org/agent-orange)).*

# The Corporate Person Has No Right to Harm Our Bodies - Achieving the Human Right to Health

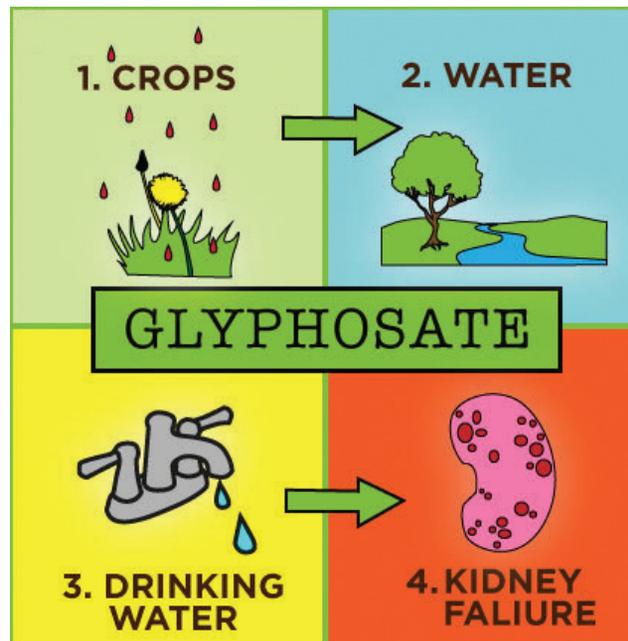
By Marybeth Gardam and Nancy Price

Finally, a decade's worth of peer-reviewed research has been published that documents the extent to which glyphosate, the main ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup and other herbicides, acts on our bodies to cause severe disease and premature death. Used world-wide on Roundup-ready crops, like soybeans, corn, canola, and sugar beets, to suppress weeds, and for municipal and home lawn and garden care, glyphosate's use has increased dramatically due to increased acreage of Roundup-ready crops and increased weed resistance to this herbicide.

Roundup is found in water sources, rain and air in agricultural areas, but has also been found in the blood, urine and breast milk of urban residents. Such exposure comes from drinking water and from eating raw, cooked or processed food contaminated with chemical residues and from breathing air polluted by the chemical drift that occurs with crop spraying.

It is important to keep in mind that all of our cells function by way of a complex message system that works with incredible sensitivity and that our bodies contain many complex systems - immune, endocrine, reproductive and nervous - that all interact with each other. Even trace amounts of one or a mix of chemicals can cause normal cells to function abnormally and any one or several of these systems to be compromised and fail, at times bringing on premature death.

This new research presents a long, diverse and truly alarming list of health impacts from glyphosate exposure that affect pre-natal development as well as older age functions, including: infertility, birth defects, miscarriages, various cancers (blood, breast), neurological developmental problems such as autism



Re-printed with permission from [blog.wondercide.com/what-is-glyphosate](http://blog.wondercide.com/what-is-glyphosate).

and attention deficit hyperactivity (ADHD), Parkinson's and Alzheimer's; gastrointestinal disorders, celiac disease and gluten intolerance; obesity, diabetes, heart and chronic kidney disease or failure, respiratory disease and asthma.

Despite this list, in 2013 the Environmental Protection Agency, after being petitioned in early 2012 by Monsanto, astonishingly increased acceptable levels of glyphosate residue in fruits and vegetables, even though Roundup has never been assessed for long-term

safety by regulators. While glyphosate is toxic, some additives in Roundup increase its toxicity by making it easier to penetrate plant and animal cells. What about human cells? (1)

To date, attention has mainly focused on Monsanto's RoundUp. Now, however, concern is turning to Dow Chemical. Just this summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved Dow's new GMO (genetically modified organism) soy and corn. These seeds have been engineered to resist Dow's new Enlist Duo herbicide with glyphosate and 2,4-D, a chemical used in Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, although, it is claimed, not in the same formulation. It was not surprising then, that after the USDA approved Dow's seeds, the EPA followed with its approval of Dow's Enlist Duo on October 15. EPA's green light gave further proof that the agency tasked with protecting our health is instead protecting corporate profits.

The Resolution presented to WILPF's 2014 Tri-Annual Congress for an education and action project on glyphosate passed unanimously. The multi-phased project will link Earth Democracy's principle of Guardianship of Future Generations with Corporations

v Democracy's principle that the corporate person has no right to harm our bodies.

First, we will create educational materials about this issue. Then, we will join the Organic Consumers Association and other groups to protest at the January Monsanto shareholders meeting in St. Louis. We will also submit a Resolution to the 2015 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting requesting endorsement of collaboration with international WILPF sections to build a global movement against GMO crops and the use of these harmful chemicals and to highlight alternative models of sustainable agriculture.

Our longer-term goal is to put together a class-action lawsuit against the manufacture and use of glyphosate declaring that is unacceptable that corporations and their investors profit from harming our health. We will keep you informed by eNews and Action Alerts.

For more information and to join this project, please email: Marybeth Gardam at [mbgardam@gmail.com](mailto:mbgardam@gmail.com) or Nancy Price at [nancyprice39@gmail.com](mailto:nancyprice39@gmail.com).

1) For the Resolution text, including a full list of references, see: [wilpfus.org/documents/CampaignResolution.pdf](http://wilpfus.org/documents/CampaignResolution.pdf)

2) For report on approval of Enlist Duo see: [huffingtonpost.com/jon-entine/post\\_8477\\_b\\_5992632.html](http://huffingtonpost.com/jon-entine/post_8477_b_5992632.html)

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*Nancy Price works on WILPF's Earth Democracy team and lives in Davis, CA. Marybeth Riley Gardam, of Florida, chairs WILPF's Corporations v Democracy Issue Committee and is a member of Move To Amend's original steering committee.*

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## The Wars Come Home . . . Continued from page 7

Since 2007, U.S. spy satellites have been approved by Homeland Security for domestic spying by U.S. law enforcement agencies.

License plate readers combined with cameras and facial recognition software and cell phone location data can track us down wherever we are.

Fusion Centers combine data from local, state and federal police and intelligence services.

### Training and Practice

Military and police are practicing urban warfare in our cities together without the knowledge and consent of residents, according to The New American. War

games in Miami, Houston, Galveston, and most recently Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota have alarmed residents and even local officials, many of whom were reportedly unaware that the drills would be taking place in their jurisdictions. "When you see this, you think the worst. When you hear this, you think the worst," area resident Frances Jerrals told a local ABC affiliate after witnessing the highly controversial exercise. "I felt like I was in a warzone. ...It was nonstop. I was terrified." In addition to selling equipment, contractors also sponsor training events for SWAT teams, like Urban Shield, a major arms expo. SWAT teams from over 200 police agencies throughout the U.S. as well as Israel, Bahrain, Qatar, Brazil, South Korea and Singapore meet up with military contractors who train and promote equipment to buy. Oakland, California has seen hundreds of protestors at Urban Shield events, prompting Mayor Jean Quan to announce on September 5 that the trade show will not take place in Oakland next year. This four-day event costs the federal government over \$1 million.

Why militarize the police? Do police fear the public? Are more police being killed in the line of duty?

According to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, "There are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States, which is the highest figure ever." Yet, their data dating back to the early 1900s show law enforcement deaths are near an all time low. Is there more crime? The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program research shows violent crime has actually gone down after peaking in about 1991.

### So what is going on?

Official rationalizations for militarization of the police – domestic terrorism, homelessness, and fear peaceful rallies will turn into riots – just do not hold water.

### What you can do

- Sign the petition on Change.org: [change.org/p/chuck-hagel-suspend-the-weapons-transfer-program-that-is-militarizing-police](http://change.org/p/chuck-hagel-suspend-the-weapons-transfer-program-that-is-militarizing-police)
- Watch and promote the new Brave New Films video: [youtube.com/watch?v=kStDAPwCBa0](http://youtube.com/watch?v=kStDAPwCBa0)
- Organize a campaign in your city, county, state or university to De-Militarize Your Police.

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*Helen Jaccard (California) WILPF advocate for cleanup of abandoned uranium mines and a member of Veterans for Peace Environmental Cost of War and Militarism Working Group and Nuclear Abolition Working Group.*

# Including Hamas in Peace Negotiations: In Defense of All Parties' Perspectives (Why We Wrote the Booklet)

By Barbara Taft, co-chair, WILPF US Middle East Committee

As far as I know, no one has successfully reached a peace agreement by speaking only with friends. No, you must speak with your enemies if you expect to achieve peace. Our U.S. Section Middle East Committee began with this basic premise when we decided to write the booklet, "Hamas at the Middle East Peace Table: Why?"

We also recognized the futility of ongoing talks, labeled as peace negotiations, that have led nowhere. We noted that, in 2006, Hamas won Palestine's last election, described as "free and fair" by international observers. As the Palestinian people's duly elected government, their exclusion from peace talks creates an obstacle to achieving peace.

One factor contributing to Hamas' exclusion from these talks is the U.S. government naming Hamas a "terrorist organization." Our own research indicated that the designation does not apply.

We note that there is an armed militant faction, the Izzadin Qassem Brigades, loosely affiliated with Hamas which might be thus classified. But, Hamas itself functions in many ways that prevent terrorism from occurring and acts more as a government than is widely believed in the U.S. You can learn about this distinction in our booklet.

We firmly believe that all parties to a conflict must be present at peace negotiations. But we are also realists. We know that fear, propaganda, and lack of direct contact are all obstacles to bringing the parties together. The way each party perceives the other is colored by all of these factors.

Despite his serious injuries at the hand of Israeli extremists, the late Palestinian mayor of Ramallah, West Bank, Karim Khalaf, told us on a trip to the region, "When peace comes, believe me, it won't just be peace for the Arabs, or peace for the Jews; it will be peace for everyone."

Each side in any conflict has its own narrative, based on facts, as well as perceptions. We all know that witnesses to an accident standing on different

street corners at the same intersection see different things based on their particular perspective. Unless everyone's narrative/perspective is heard, there is an incomplete picture and a tendency for one side to feel unheard. No satisfactory solution can be found when this situation exists.

When we began two years ago to write the booklet, we knew we would encounter many obstacles. We did not expect it to take so long nor to require so many re-writes. But our overall goals never wavered. We remained certain that our readers, especially U.S. government officials, needed to hear the missing perspective on the possibility of Middle East peace. We also felt that the U.S. has such an important role in the region, and in the peace negotiations, that changing the status of Hamas in the eyes of the U.S. government would be necessary to move the peace process forward. And, we continue to believe that having enemies speak with one another, hearing the other's dreams and fears, as well as their narrative, is the only way to achieve peace for everyone.

It may be difficult, we know, but getting all parties to the peace table is an important first step.

Hamas is the legitimately elected representative of one party, the Palestinians, and if the U.S. removes Hamas from its list of terrorist organizations, it can lead to Hamas' presence at those talks. When Palestinians feel their perspective is being heard, it can go a long way toward the goal of peace.

The booklet, "Hamas at the Middle East Peace Table: Why?" is a publication of the United States Section Middle East Issues Committee of WILPF. The authors are Ellen Rosser, Ph.D., and Barbara Taft.

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*Barbara Taft, of Arizona, co-chairs the Middle East Issue Committee. She has spoken with over 200 leaders in the Middle East from 1967 to the present regarding the history and current situation on the ground.*

# WILPF and a World Beyond War

By Leah Bolger and David Swanson

**“I/we understand that wars and militarism make us less safe rather than protect us, that they kill, injure and traumatize adults, children and infants, severely damage the natural environment, erode civil liberties, and drain our economies, siphoning resources from life-affirming activities. I/we commit to engage in and support nonviolent efforts to end all war and preparations for war and to create a sustainable and just peace.”**

The above pledge is the basis for a new international initiative called World Beyond War (WBW), which has been endorsed by dozens of WILPF members, several WILPF branches, and recently by the WILPF US Section. We hope to gather the pledges of all WILPF members the world over, as well as their respective sections and the International leadership. WILPF is perfectly suited to be a key partner organization in WBW, particularly with its international infrastructure and well-respected history in creating international peace and justice.

So, what is World Beyond War? It is a relatively new initiative created to work in a truly global way to end war and establish a just and sustainable peace. WBW seeks to engage citizens all over the world in coordinated campaigns of education, lobbying and nonviolent direct action to oppose the economic and political forces that foster war and militarism, and to abolish the institution of war forever.

WBW seeks to dispel myths surrounding war—that it is natural, inevitable or effective—and to work in a truly international partnership to confront entrenched

powerful military and pro-war entities and policies. We aim to address the institution of war, rather than a particular conflict, or aspect of war such as a weapon system or tactic, because we know that war itself is the problem.” WBW is part think tank (the Strategy Committee is developing alternative peace systems and alternatives to war) and part activist group.

WBW is creating tools necessary to communicate the facts about war and discard the myths. We are creating ways to assist organizations around the world that are working on partial steps in the direction of a war-free world, including developing peaceful means of achieving security and resolving conflict, and to increase widespread understanding of such steps as progress toward war's complete elimination.

Some \$2 trillion a year, roughly half from the United States and half from the rest of the world, is devoted to war and war preparation. Redirection of war funding could save many times the lives that are taken by spending it on war.

We are creating a broad coalition encompassing civilian industries and advocates for green energy, education, housing, healthcare, and other fields, including civil liberties, environmental protections, children's rights, and the governments of cities, counties, states, provinces, and nations that have had to make major cuts in social programs for their people. By demonstrating that war is not inevitable and that it is actually possible to eliminate war, this movement will develop the allies needed to make it a reality.

Please check out the WBW website [worldbeyondwar.org](http://worldbeyondwar.org) and take the pledge! Get your branch to sign on and get involved in one of the many committees of WBW. There is a particular need for outreach with individuals and organizations outside the U.S. For more information or questions, please contact WILPF member Leah Bolger, the Chair of the WBW Coordinating Committee: [leahbolger@comcast.net](mailto:leahbolger@comcast.net).

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*Leah Bolger lives in Oregon and in addition to her work with World Beyond War is a previous national president of Veterans for Peace and coordinator of the Drones Quilt Project.*

# The Fate of the Many, the Power of the Few

By Judith Blau



Image: Palestinian woman stands in front of the ruins of her house demolished during the Israeli operations in Ash Shuja'iyeh area east of Gaza City, July 20, 2014. Photo Credit: Eloise Bollack / Zuma Press / Creative Commons license

There are five people who are so powerful that in a typical year their decisions affect the security and wellbeing of millions of people. It is particularly tragic that these millions are among the world's poorest and most vulnerable—so, powerless, in fact, that their fate lies in the hands of five people they do not know and who they cannot possibly hope to influence. The five people are ambassadors to the United Nations representing their countries as permanent members to the UN Security Council. Each of them votes a party line or how their bosses want them to vote, yet there is always a chance one of them will revolt and vote on the side of the world's people.

## To Illustrate

The matter before the Security Council on February 18, 2011 was "The Palestinian Question." Several of the resolution's more than 120 sponsors and a representative of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine all spoke, as did a representative of Israel. Those in favor of the proposal focused mainly on the harms to Palestinians caused by settlements, the wall and the occupation. Mr. Salem, the Lebanese

representative, citing the Fourth Geneva Convention (Article 49, para. 6) and a ruling on July 9, 2004 of the International Court of Justice that under international law, settlements in the Occupied Territory were illegal and contrary to Israel's obligations under the planned Road Map for peace. He stated that nearly half a million Israeli settlers now wrongfully and illegally occupy the West Bank.

Susan Rice then took the floor for the United States pointing out that its aim was a two-state solution. Israeli UN Representative Meron Reuben added that "Israel had taken the painful steps... of dismantling settlements in the Gaza Strip."

It took a mere one hour and 55 minutes to agree that they could not agree. The vote was 14 to 1, with Ms. Rice vetoing the resolution. (Fifteen members of the Security Council do vote, but only those of the 5 permanent members have veto power). Since 1991 and the end of the Cold War, the United States has exercised its veto power 14 times; Russia and China together 6 times; 5 more times for Russia alone; and 2



United Nations General Assembly Hall in the UN Headquarters, New York, NY. Photo Credit: Creative Commons License

more vetoes for China alone. Remarkably, France and the UK have not exercised their veto power since the 1980s, and then it was only in alliance with the United States.<sup>1</sup>

### The Puzzle

Simply stated, the U.S. appears to be playing mainly by its own rules in the Security Council. There may be several reasons why. Surely one of them has to do with Americans' historically-constructed conception that human rights are rationally pursued individual rights—a concept at odds with the notion of human rights held elsewhere in the world, that human rights are collective rights, broadly shared. Indeed, many of the world's people consider human rights to include social, economic, educational, labor, cultural and environmental rights, collectively enjoyed, collectively supported and collectively shared. Consistent with the U.S. Constitution, Americans embrace civil and political rights, and as individual rights, these become a metaphor for individual possessions and wealth. Unlike many societies in which people take for granted a guaranteed right to housing, clean air, free access to education and labor rights, American society is one where individuals must compete for their share of that pie.

What does this have to do with the United States' policies towards Palestine and Israel? Israel may be seen by the U.S. State Department as having rationally pursued its self-interest, and therefore deserving of the free exercise of their civil and political rights. The solution under that assumption is simple: the rational pursuit of a two-state-deal, recognizing implicitly that



UN Headquarters Building. Photo Credit: Creative Commons License

Israel, having played by the rules, has the more mature polity. But, the U.S. fails to connect with Palestine and its preoccupation with communalistic collective rights and collective well-being.

Of course, this interpretation is somewhat conjectural. But all in all, there needs to be some explanation for why the United States declares a democratically elected government to be a "terrorist organization." I have tried my best to explain it. I invite others to try their hand at it.

<sup>1</sup> See S/2011/24; for a list of Security Council vetoes from 1946 through May 14, 2014, see [un.org/depts/dhl/resguide/scact\\_veto\\_en.shtml](http://un.org/depts/dhl/resguide/scact_veto_en.shtml)

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*Judith Blau is a member of WILPF's Cape Cod branch. She has written books and articles on human rights and is now professor emerita of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, former director of the Chapel Hill-Carboro Human Rights Center and a former president of Sociologists Without Borders-US.*

# WILPF US BRANCH NEWS

WILPF Branches and Issue Committees Take the Lead ...educating and protesting on behalf of the planet and its inhabitants. Des Moines honors organic food activist, documentarian.



WILPF US President Mary Hanson Harrison presented the award to Elizabeth Kucinich, right, joined by husband, Dennis Kucinich, six-term U.S. Congress member and presidential candidate. Photo Credit: Rodger Routh, Iowa peace and justice videographer

**Des Moines** Branch presented its Strong Feisty Woman Award to Elizabeth Kucinich on Oct. 15. Director of the Center for Food Safety, Kucinich produced two documentaries: *Hot Water* (about radioactivity in water) and *GMO-OMG*. She worked with the rural poor in India and Tanzania and is a former director of Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

The presentation took place during the annual gathering

of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance, which honored the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) of Palestine, based in Gaza and the West Bank, and Community to Community Development /Comunidad a Comunidad (C2C) of Bellingham, Washington, as co-recipients of the 2014 Food Sovereignty Prize.

**Des Moines** WILPF has been an active partner in the alliance. Contact Mary Hanson Harrison at [harrison0607@msn.com](mailto:harrison0607@msn.com) for information on WILPF food justice efforts.

DISARM INTERN SHARES EXPERTISE AS LOBBYIST—Halley Cook, the Whittier (CA) College peace research fellow assisting the WILPF Disarm/End Wars Issue Committee, took part in the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability DC Days in May 2014. She joined WILPFers Ellen Barfield, Glenn Carroll, Ellen Thomas and Carol Urner to help educate members of Congress and the administration on the urgent need to abolish nuclear weapons.



Halley Cook will graduate from Whittier College in 2015 with a major in Global and Cultural Studies. Photo Credit: Jill Klancke

Halley focused on lobbying six meetings on Capitol Hill related to Colorado, her home state. She reports, "Also, since I had been focusing my research on the B61-12, I became the resident expert on the topic and had the chance to speak for a minute or two in each

meeting about the missile and how and why to cut funding on it. She added, "Working with WILPF and ANA has given me great real-world experience in both how the law works and in how to employ strategies of conflict resolution!" For more on working with interns, contact Carol Urner at [carol.disarm@gmail.com](mailto:carol.disarm@gmail.com).

**VERMONT** WILPFERS MAKE CONNECTION TO WWI—Robin Lloyd and Charlotte Dennett are engaging audiences across the country in considering how war and militarism have affected their families and the importance of women in understanding power in order to be effective in stopping war.

With the 100th anniversary of WILPF on the horizon, they tell stories of their grandmothers, Lola Maverick Lloyd, who was among the women who gathered in The Hague in 1915 to oppose the war then raging nearby, and Elizabeth Redfern, who worked in Turkey as a teacher missionary before the war.

After presentations in **Burlington** and other East Coast venues, they embarked on a tour of California in October, appearing in **San Diego, Santa Cruz, San Jose** and **Berkeley**. To arrange a presentation or for a link to the video of Talking With Our Grandmothers: WWI and the Women's Peace Movement, contact Robin Lloyd at [robinlloyd8@gmail.com](mailto:robinlloyd8@gmail.com).



Third-grader Jaden Suggs, with an Auburn Peace Zones poster the children made with Native American artist Stan Padilla, Photo Credit: Rocky Zapata

Separately, Judy Adams of **Peninsula** WILPF wants to help other branches do an oral history project similar to the one which interviewed more than 90 women from WILPF and Women Strike for Peace in the 1990s. For guidelines and excerpts, write to her at [judy@jbliss.com](mailto:judy@jbliss.com).

PEACE TAKES ROOT IN CALIFORNIA TOWN—Every summer more than 35 children, ages 5 to 11, attend a weeklong peace camp in **Auburn, CA**. Millee Livingston, a lifelong WILPF member, planted the first seeds of the camp in 1987, developing a curriculum and engaging community support. In 2010, operation of the camp was turned over to a broad coalition of community groups, known as Grow Peace Camp, with her continuing guidance.

Scholarship donations came from WILPF and local sources, providing assistance to two-thirds of the campers. These include the Jones Fund via the Jane Addams Peace Association, **Sacramento-Sierra Foothills** Branch, Placer County, the Sugar Plump Fairies, the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists and individuals.

Starting with peace within (yoga, drumming, music), the focus moved to peace with each other (cooperative games, collaborative art projects), the environment (solar ovens, cleaning a nature trail), our community (interviewing and videoing local leaders), and culminating with the world (multicultural meal, peace songs and peacemaker certificates for everyone who participated).

Contact Leslye Janusz at [leslyej@gmail.com](mailto:leslyej@gmail.com) or Millee Livingston at [milleelivingston@hotmail.com](mailto:milleelivingston@hotmail.com) for details on program and funding.

Lanterns for a nuclear-free world Taiko drumming opened an Aug. 9 ceremony at Lovers' Point in **Pacific Grove**, CA and ended with launching of paper lanterns into the cove. Monterey County Branch gathered with other peace groups for the 19th annual Peace Lantern Ceremony honoring those who suffered the atomic bombings in 1945. The ceremony reaffirms a commitment to a nuclear weapons-free world and to alternative, safer forms of energy so that such tragedies are not repeated. Contact Judy Karas at [jkaras@sonic.net](mailto:jkaras@sonic.net).



Lanterns carry message of hope for a peaceful world. Photo Credit: Susan Sailow



Epi Bodhi on the Climate March

CLIMATE SUMMIT RENEWS HOPE FOR PEOPLE, PLANET—Members of the Earth Democracy Issue Committee returned from the Climate Summit in New York City with renewed commitment to building a movement “for people and planet over profit.” Leading up to the 400,000-strong march on Sept. 21, activists shared resources in workshops. Randa Solick ([rsolick@gmail.com](mailto:rsolick@gmail.com)) has compiled a list for WILPFers, summarized on our website, [wilpfus.org](http://wilpfus.org). To join the committee, contact Nancy Price at [nancytprice39@gmail.com](mailto:nancytprice39@gmail.com).

IN MEMORY OF OUR SISTERS—

**Marjorie Boehm**, April 15, 1922 – October 7, 2014



With great sorrow I share the news that Marjorie Boehm, former U.S. Section President, and one of my oldest friends, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 7. Marjorie was active and committed to WILPF from the time she joined in 1963, until declining health made it impossible about 2 years ago.

She was elected to the WILPF National Board as Vice President in 1975, representing the Western Region, then served as U.S. Section President from 1977–1981. Marjorie represented WILPF as part of international delegations to Cuba and the USSR. Before and after that she was active in the leadership of the San Jose Branch, until moving to **Santa Rosa** in 1990 with her husband Jeff, esteemed California labor union newspaper editor.

In 2002, she moved to the **Sacramento** area to be closer to family and immediately became involved in the activities of the Sacramento branch. From about 2005 to 2007, Marjorie staffed a table with me at the Sunday Farmer's Market in **Sacramento**, offering shoppers a chance to write postcards on current legislation, as proposed by the WILPF legislative office.

Marjorie's devotion to peace and international cooperation will be remembered along with her personal warmth and generosity. She will be missed by all who knew her.

*Submitted by Ellen Schwartz (Sacramento). Ellen joined WILPF in 1970, served on the US Section board in the early 70s, 2010-2011 as treasurer, and 2012-2014 as Program Committee co-chair.*

**Joan Drake**



Joan spent many years as a very active and committed activist for peace and justice, including working with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) from 1988-2011, as well as the Institute for Policy Studies, the American Arab Anti Discrimination Committee and the George Mason University Center for Conflict Resolution. Most recently, she served as Co-Convenor of the Gray Panthers of **Metro Washington**. She will be missed.

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

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