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

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Freedom. Justice. Voice. Power by Favianna Rodriguez. Copyright © 2017 Favianna Rodriguez, Favianna.com. Favianna Rodriguez is a transnational interdisciplinary artist and cultural organizer. Her art and collaborative projects deal with migration, global politics, economic injustice, patriarchy, and interdependence. Visit her website for more about her work.

The Long Journey toward Peace & Justice

By Mary Hanson Harrison

President, WILPF US Section

It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence; it is either nonviolence or nonexistence. And the alternative to disarmament, the alternative to a greater suspension of nuclear tests, the alternative to strengthening the United Nations and thereby disarming the whole world may well be a civilization plunged into the abyss of annihilation. And so we must rise up and beat our swords into plowshares, and our spears into pruning hooks and nations must not rise up against nations, neither must they study war anymore.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Sermon at the Temple Israel of Hollywood, 1965

Fifty-nine years earlier, another Nobel Peace Prize laureate, WILPF's first president, Jane Addams, borrowed from the same biblical reference in her book *The Newer Ideals of Peace* (1906) to illustrate the newer concept of peace in the "Passing of the War Virtues" chapter, when "peace would be no longer an absence of war, but the unfolding of world-wide processes making for the nurture of human life."

In these times, the absence of war, and the mentality that leads to it, seems ominously distant. However, hope still lies with that "unfolding of world-wide processes," though a long and arduous journey, to reveal and deracinate the roots of war. Spanning three rather long days in July, WILPF members gathered together on the University of Illinois Chicago campus to *remember, reclaim, and reimagine* WILPF US's vision and mission for the twenty-first century. From Thursday night's plenary to Sunday's wrap-up, 90 attendees listened, presented, debated, and discussed the possibilities of building a global to local and local to global grassroots movement. The defining metaphor for that journey came from the King sermon cited above: "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." We may not get to the promised land, but we persevere and keep moving forward. The energy and faith that it takes for that bending, and for turning it into political will, was and is the challenge for us to RISE UP!



Congress attendees march to Hull House, with Jane Addams and Mary Hanson Harrison leading the way. Photo: Robin Lloyd.

Reflected in these pages, you'll find a sampling of that journey made by the women and men of the 33rd Triennial WILPF US Congress to connect our way of being-in-the-world to the necessity of sustainable and life-affirming solutions that give us directions, or "next steps," from a gendered perspective. Expert panels, workshops, Issue Committee roundtables, and community gatherings challenged us to train for nonviolent resistance, "unlearn" racism, connect local to global imperatives for sustainable development, demand gender equity, continue to support the UN Treaty for the Abolishment of Nuclear Weapons, develop youth leadership, educate the public on environmental and food rights issues, practice political advocacy online and in elections, seek out collaborations, and advocate for the rights of refugees and immigrants.

The same pragmatic next steps found here led us, on Saturday afternoon, to journey along the precarious sidewalks of Chicago to Hull House, the settlement house founded in 1889 by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr. The same precepts that grounded their social and political realities, in women's suffrage and suffering, immigrants needing refuge, protection for children's rights, racial and gender equality, and humanitarian demands for clean food and water, are the stuff WILPF US is made of—of putting theory into practice. It is a demanding journey and one that can only be taken (Jane Addams again) "by mixing on the thronged and common road where all must turn to one another" (*Democracy and Social Ethics*, 1902).

Today, roll up your sleeves and join the action! It is a journey we are still on.

Global Warming, Food Sovereignty, and Regenerative Agriculture

Making the Connections

By Patti Edwardson Naylor

I am a farmer. As I tend to my crops, I recognize the common realities of farmers around the world as we work the soil, watch for rain, and experience the joy of new growth that results in a bountiful harvest. In our efforts to grow food in an ecologically, socially, and economically equitable way, there are forces that work against us, including government policies, trade agreements, and corporate power. I often say, “To farm is a political act.”

Thus, I was honored to be a presenter, with Mary Hanson Harrison and Shilpa Pandey, in the 33rd Triennial Congress workshop “Women Cultivating Peace.” We highlighted the systemic interconnectedness of global warming, food and agriculture, and peace.

Climate change is increasingly a cause of instability and social unrest, threatening global peace.¹ Resource and border conflicts and scarcity of food and water are triggers for such unrest. Industrial, corporate-controlled agriculture, which displaces communities, exacerbates rural poverty, and disrupts cultural and traditional food systems, is also a cause of instability and social unrest. Not surprisingly, one of the main causes of climate change is industrial agriculture’s chemical-intensive system of mono-cropping. A powerful solution to the dual issues of climate change and peace, therefore, is food sovereignty,² the right of communities to democratically choose where and how their food is produced and the foods that they consume, with a focus on resilient and regenerative agroecological farming methods.³ Protecting soil, water, and natural resources is linked to the human and political aspects of agriculture to create a movement toward stability and peace.

I work with my husband to grow non-GMO and organic corn, soybeans, oats, hay, and cider apples, in the heart of the Corn Belt. We are surrounded by miles of genetically modified corn and soybean fields, with hog confinements dotting the landscape. Water and soil quality has been compromised. Fewer and fewer farmers and their families live on this land, and our rural communities have been left to deteriorate. The farmers that remain must compete with each other for more land in order



At Escuela Campesina Francisco Morazan, a farmer school in Nicaragua, students learn to sift compost, for use as on-farm fertility on their crops, instead of buying fertilizer.
Photo: Patti Edwardson Naylor.

to make any profit from low-priced commodities. This is what industrial agriculture looks like. Increasingly, this is the agriculture model that is being implemented around the world:

intensively growing large swaths of commodity crops that replace traditional foods grown for local consumption by small farmers.

This agriculture system was no accident. For centuries, imperialism and colonialism have used food production to disrupt and control populations and to force the peasant farmer off the land. Historically, farmers have tried to fight back, with protests calling for agrarian reform, fair prices, and farm justice. Today’s capitalist, corporate land grabbing is continuing that imperialist conquest, sending farmers and farmworkers to cities where livable-wage jobs are scarce. This system does not need farmers. In many areas of our world, poverty and hunger are rampant. Peace and stability are threatened.

Scientists have strong evidence that industrial agriculture is a cause of global warming,⁴ The negative environmental impacts from this energy-intensive model are already being seen in our soils and water. On the other hand, regenerative, organic, agroecological farming methods can slow climate change,⁵ by sequestering carbon, holding soils in place, and increasing biodiversity.

To cultivate peace, we need to strive for food sovereignty and agroecology. The policies that support these must include parity: a fair price to farmers that reflects the inflationary cost of producing the crop,⁶ supply management of commodity crops, international trade that allows a country to produce food for its own people first, and support for smaller, diversified farms and farmers worldwide.

Patti Edwardson Naylor, a member of the Des Moines Branch, is a farmer and a board member for the Women, Food, and Agriculture Network. She has learned about food sovereignty and agroecology during visits to farmers in Cuba and Nicaragua.

1. Jonathan Tirone, “Fears Grow That Climate Conflicts Could Lead to War,” *Bloomberg*, February 19, 2017, www.bloomberg.com.

2. Annie Shattuck, “Food, Climate, and the Myths That Keep Our Planet

Continued on page 8.

Would You Like a Drink of Water?

By Kathy Kelly

Jane Addams was a Chicago woman who understood the crucial need to put an end to war, all war, and instead care for the neediest people. She dedicated herself to assuring that many new immigrants in her city were treated with respect, given assistance to meet basic needs, and encouraged to live and work together, peaceably. Addams worked passionately to prevent nations from sleepwalking into the horrors of World War I, and she vigorously campaigned to stop the United States' entry into it.

Upon return from visiting soldiers who had been maimed while fighting in the trenches of World War I, she spoke of how the young men couldn't have carried on the war without mind-altering substances—sometimes absinthe, sometimes extra rations of rum. Families were sending laudanum and even heroin¹ to the front lines in hampers. The soldiers couldn't kill, she concluded, if left in their right minds.

The WILPF gatherings help us ask hard questions about our capacity to prepare for massive obliteration of entire cities, through nuclear weapon buildup, while failing to meet the needs of children, like those in Yemen, whose survival is jeopardized by war and indifference. Can we persist in perfecting our nuclear arsenals, indifferent to millions of children at risk of starving to death or dying because they lack clean water—and because US-supported Saudi airstrikes decimate the infrastructure that might have supplied food and water? Can we do so and claim to be in our right minds?

I remember, in 1988, as part of Missouri Peace Planting, entering a nuclear weapon site at Missouri's Whiteman Air Force Base, planting corn, and shortly thereafter finding myself kneeling in the grass, handcuffed, as a soldier stood behind me with his weapon pointed toward me. I lasted about two minutes in silence, and then started talking about why we did what we did and how we hoped the action would benefit children that he loved as well. I asked him, "Do you think the corn will grow?"

"I don't know," he responded, "but I sure hope so." And then he asked me, "Ma'am, would you like a drink of water?" Recalling his kind offer to give me water jolts me into awareness about the relationship between the



Child enjoying clean and safe drinking water from a newly built well. Photo: Charity: water/Creative Commons.

nuclear weapon below us, that day, and massive numbers of people, then and now, who acutely need clean water.

Imagine if his question, "Would you like a drink of water?" were asked, today, to people in Yemen. Now, as the United States insists on having an exceptional right to dominate the planet, insists on being armed with enough explosive fire power to obliterate entire cities, suppose we were to ask the millions in Yemen who now face cholera and starvation if they would like a drink of clean, pure water?

Or, let's bring the question closer to home and ask people in Flint, Michigan, whose water is contaminated, "Would you like clean, pure water?"

And as we grope for solutions to the signs of climate change, including severe droughts and the rush to privatize dwindling resources of potable water, imagine asking the children of future generations, "Would you like a drink of water?"

President Eisenhower was right to equate possession of nuclear weapons with commission of crime: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."²

1. "Drugs: Heroin at Harrods," Quite Interesting, <http://old.qi.com/talk/viewtopic.php?p=62480>.

2. Dwight D. Eisenhower, "The Chance for Peace," Delivered before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, April 16, 1953, American Presidency Project, www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=9819.

Kathy Kelly, a Chicago-based peace activist, pacifist, and author, is currently a co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, <http://vcnv.org>. This is an edited excerpt of her presentation during the 33rd Triennial Congress Peace Activist Panel.

Dismantling the War System

Leah Bolger and Mary Hanson Harrison at Congress. Photo courtesy Leah Bolger.



“**I’m already against the next war.**” How many agree with that? How do we *know* that? Because we know that it doesn’t matter what the provocation might be that would initiate a war; we are against the *institution*, or *system*, of war as a means of resolving conflict. Period. On the most basic level, the thinking behind the war system is that “might makes right.” States with the strongest militaries use the threat of violence as their primary tool in foreign relations policy. Feeling threatened by the “mightier” nations, lesser-armed nations seek to increase *their* military capabilities. Distrust and suspicion increase, fostering even more military buildup and posturing. Nations start making military alliances, which promotes “us versus them” thinking. It doesn’t take long before the self-perpetuating, self-fueling, self-reinforcing war system is in control.

If we are to be successful in dismantling the war system, we need to dispel the widespread belief that it is impossible to end war. Many people believe that war is part of human nature, or that we have always had war, or that there is such a thing as a “good” war. Even though these are myths, it is this interlocked set of beliefs and values that is the foundation for the war system.

We need to move away from a destructive and ineffective war system of global security to one that is nonviolent, based on diplomacy and international law. Hannah Arendt wrote in *On Violence* that the reason warfare is still with us is not because of a death wish of our species or some instinct for aggression, “but the simple fact that no substitute for this final arbiter in international affairs has yet appeared on the political scene.”

There are several steps that we can take toward creating this substitute—a global security system for humanity and the earth. We must demilitarize by:

- Shifting to a nonprovocative defense posture
- Creating a nonviolent, civilian-based defense force
- Phasing out foreign military bases
- Disarming
- Outlawing the arms trade
- Promoting economic conversion
- Dismantling military alliances like NATO

We must also create the means for managing international and civil conflicts by:

- Shifting to a proactive posture
- Strengthening international institutions
- Reforming the United Nations
- Creating international law
- Supporting the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court
- Complying with treaties
- Democratizing international economic institutions like the World Bank
- Supporting international NGOs
- Implementing a global Marshall Plan

The perfect exemplification of war system thinking in action was expressed when the United States and 40 other countries boycotted the recent nuclear ban treaty. Quoting from the joint US-UK-French statement: “Working towards the shared goal of nuclear disarmament, and general and complete disarmament, must be done in a way that promotes international peace and security, and strategic stability, based on the principle of increased and undiminished security for all. We all share a common responsibility to protect and strengthen our collective security system in order to further promote international peace, stability and security.”¹

This statement is a clear articulation of war system thinking. All the nuclear countries and NATO members (under pressure from the US), who are tethered to the war system, refused to even participate in international treaty discussions. On the other hand, the other two-thirds of the world worked cooperatively over years, using diplomacy and negotiation, to create this critical treaty—a *perfect example of a nonviolent alternative system*.

1. United States Mission to the United Nations, Joint Press Statement from the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the United States, United Kingdom, and France Following the Adoption of a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons, July 7, 2017, usun.state.gov/remarks/7892.

Leah Bolger, a national and international peace and justice activist, is Chair of the Coordinating Committee of World Beyond War. She retired from the US Navy at the rank of Commander after 20 years of active duty service. She was elected the first female President of Veterans For Peace, and she founded the Corvallis Branch of WILPF US in January 2014. This is an edited excerpt of her presentation during the 33rd Triennial Congress Peace Activist Panel.

A Long History of Working to End War

By Ellen Thomas

Co-chair of Disarm/End Wars

Here we are at the 33rd Triennial Congress. That means 102 years that WILPF has been in existence, and all that time, we've been working to get rid of war!

Some people might say, "Yeah, and look what we've got going on now," but then I would like to say, "How much worse might it have been if we hadn't been working against war all this time?" Some things might have happened that haven't happened because of our work.

When I began my antinuclear vigil in front of the White House in 1984, joining the people who had already been there for three years, I remember getting very frustrated, because, though I passionately believed we had to get rid of nuclear weapons and wanted my children and grandchildren to have a future, I really didn't know anything about nuclear weapons.

Most people don't know anything about nuclear weapons. There are young people today who don't even think we have them any more! Young people today who have never heard of Hiroshima and Nagasaki! And there are so many people who believe we need nuclear power because it's "clean" and "safe" and "cheap"—too cheap to meter they told us! Well, we have a nuclear mess on our hands.

The Disarm/End Wars Committee has been working for nuclear weapons abolition for a very long time, but we also are working for ending everything nuclear. Last year we started the campaign "End the Whole Nuclear Era," to move the money from nuclear weapons industries—including nuclear power, which produces weapons-grade uranium and plutonium—so that researchers, scientists, industrialists, manufacturers, and the people who punch a clock to feed their kids can be making carbon-free, nuclear-free energy systems, and we can wean ourselves from oil, gas, coal, and, of course, nuclear power.

A bill has been introduced into Congress asking for just these goals since 1994—the result of a voter initiative we brought to the people of Washington, DC, in 1993, which won the election, much to the surprise of everybody! Eleanor Holmes Norton of DC has introduced



Nancy Price, left, introduces Ellen Thomas at Congress. Photo courtesy Ellen Thomas.

a bill into the US Congress every session since 1994, called the "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act." Congresswoman Norton again introduced the bill, HR-3853, to the current session of Congress on September 27, 2017. Please ask your Representative to sign on!

We now have a UN nuclear weapons ban treaty! We have something we can start working with! Please read more about the WILPF US Section's national petition campaign in support of the UN nuclear ban treaty in the announcement on page 6. More on the other good news: I've been reading that solar and wind are both cheaper than nuclear power and carbon fuels, so people can't argue any more that it doesn't make economic sense to transform from carbon and nuclear to a renewable energy society.

What Eleanor Holmes Norton's bill says is that the United States promises the world that we will get rid of our nuclear weapons if everyone else does, and we will use that money instead to shut down and clean up the nuclear weapons industries, and to transform the arms industries into industries mass-producing carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. And, once those industries are self-sufficient—and they will be quickly—those monies are to be used in the future for human needs, rather than weapons and war. The bill also calls for an end to war and to all military operations.

Now, I think that's sort of a sticking point. Maybe that's why we don't have hordes of legislators signing on. People can't conceive of a world without war. In fact, we have to get there. WILPF knows that, and has known that for a long time.

This is an edited excerpt of Ellen Thomas's presentation during the 33rd Triennial Congress Peace Activist Panel.

WILPF US Petition to Support the UN Nuclear Ban Treaty

The UN General Assembly voted on July 7 to undertake a nuclear ban treaty, after 123 member states, including North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) voted in October 2016 to negotiate a draft treaty. On September 20, 2017, the first day on which member states could begin to sign and/or ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 50 member states signed their intent to proceed with ratification processes within their countries, and three ratified the treaty! Unfortunately, US government leaders have not only been scoffing at these UN nuclear disarmament and world peace efforts, they've been making threats of nuclear and other attacks on other countries.



Under its umbrella campaign “**End the Whole Nuclear Era: Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Close Nuclear Power Plants,**” the US Section has begun a national petition campaign (online and on paper) calling on the US Presi-

dent and Senate to “Support the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty” by ratifying it.

We are hoping for thousands of signatures. Please sign and share the petition widely.

- Access and share the petition online: actionnetwork.org/petitions/support-the-nuclear-weapons-ban-treaty.
- Use a QR code reader to scan the accompanying QR code.
- Share the petition on your Facebook page, on friends' Facebook pages, on your Instagram or Twitter accounts.
- Send information and a request to sign it to friends in emails.
- If your branch members leaflet regularly, provide paper copies of the petition or experiment with your smart phones or tablets and the QR code or petition website page.

Questions? About the online petition: Ask Barbara Nielsen at bln.sf.ca@gmail.com. About the paper petition: Ask Ellen Thomas at etprop1@me.com or et@prop1.org.

WILPF 101: Resources You Can Use

The Triennial Congress's “WILPF 101” workshop was chock-full of valuable information about WILPF. “Everyone should hear this,” one attendee noted. The enthusiastically received workshop covered the following content-rich topics for members and branches:

- 1. Relativity**—This covered how WILPF US and WILPF International relate to one another, and how they connect global and national issues to the local issues members deal with in their own communities.
- 2. Planning for Success**—Elenita Munoz of the Cape Cod Branch shared how to use long-range planning, succession planning, and consensus leadership to make a branch more successful and resilient.
- 3. Finances at WILPF US**—Treasurer Jan Corderman provided a comprehensive overview of the finances

at WILPF, our current (2017) budget, and how the money we raise at WILPF US finances our work.

- 4. Starting (Over)**—For those starting a new branch or restarting a dwindling branch, this presentation focused on creative ways to be more visible in your communities, to attract new members, and to add welcoming skills and share leadership.
- 5. Funding Our Vision**—Development Chair Marybeth Gardam offered clear and motivational messages on how we can increase our donor base and what it would mean if every WILPF US member contributed toward building our organization and increasing our resilience.

Each one of these presentations is available in report form, and a few—Relativity, Starting (Over), and Funding Our Vision—are available as PowerPoint presentations that are excellent for program portions of branch meetings. Send an email to mbgardam@gmail.com to request the “WILPF 101” materials or further information.

Resolutions Passed by the 33rd Triennial Congress, Chicago



At the closing Plenary on Sunday, July 30, section members unanimously approved, through consensus, three formal Resolutions that Barbara Nielsen of the Congress Resolutions Committee presented for consideration.

1. Submitted by the Middle East Issues Committee: 33rd Triennial Congress Support of WILPF US Request to United States Secretary of State/Department of State to Remove Hamas from the Terrorist Watch List(s), so as to Allow Hamas Full Participation, as a Necessary and Indispensable Party, in Middle East Peace Negotiations

An informational handout was distributed to attendees on the history of this issue and actions undertaken at and after the 32nd Triennial Congress in Detroit in 2014. That Congress had given its support for an educational campaign, with distribution of our booklet “Hamas at the Middle East Peace Table: Why?” Although no formal resolution had been presented in Detroit, attendees also supported a request to the Department of State and then-Secretary of State Kerry to remove Hamas from the USDOS terrorist watch lists, so that other nations could deal with Hamas as a necessary and indispensable party at any and all Middle East peace negotiations involving Palestine and Israel. The committee here sought formal Congress Resolution support for our Section’s continued educational efforts and for approaching the Secretary and Department of State in the administration of the 45th President of the United States.

2. Submitted by the Participants in the Issue Committee Roundtable and Brainstorming Session on Advancing Human Rights, CEDAW, and Building the Beloved Community: 33rd Triennial Congress Support of WILPF US Public Statement of Support for Trans People

During the workshop on the umbrella of issues under the Advancing Human Rights Issues Committee, a member made an impassioned plea for us to express our support of transgender people. This was in direct and distressed response to the outrageous position of the sitting President of the United States, who had directed military leadership to begin expelling all transgender people serving in all branches of the US military. A discussion in support of this straightforward statement of support followed. For the rest of Congress, the proposed Resolution language was posted in the hallway outside the main meeting rooms of the conference center. During the final Plenary presentation on Sunday, a member in the audience offered a friendly amendment to this Resolution, pointing out that transgender people generally prefer the term “trans” instead of “transgender.” The members present agreed to this change in our consensus.

3. Submitted by the DISARM-End Wars Issues Committee: 33rd Triennial Congress Support of WILPF US Campaign to “End the Whole Nuclear Era” Campaign as an Umbrella Uniting Activism around Eliminating Nuclear Weapons and Ending Nuclear Power

WILPF US members marched in Washington, DC, and around the country in the Women’s March on January 21, 2017. They did so again in the Women’s March to Ban the Bomb in New York City and elsewhere around the USA on June 17, 2017, as the United Nations moved to undertake drafting a nuclear ban treaty in 2017. On both of those days, in DC and San Francisco and again in NYC and San Francisco, members marched holding banners of our umbrella campaign, “End the Whole Nuclear Era.” The campaign recognizes the need both to abolish nuclear weapons and to close nuclear power plants in favor of clean energy alternatives (and to deal with nuclear waste, production disposal, storage, and transportation issues). The committee sought formal Congress Resolution approval of our US Section campaign to “End the Whole Nuclear Era.” We are using the Resolution in our online and paper petitions to the 45th President and the Senate of the United States, requesting that the POTUS sign and the US Senate give its consent to the US ratification of the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Leadership Gets a Boost at 2017 Congress

By Darien De Lu and Laura Dewey
Nominating Committee

In the 1980s, a new WILPFer signed up for the Leadership Institute at the WILPF US Congress. That early Leadership Institute experience helped her get the most out of her first Congress and left a lasting impression of valuable insight and connection.

Jump forward to 2017, a time in which there had not been a Leadership Institute at a WILPF US Congress for about a decade. Yet the seed planted in the 1980s blossomed into a new reality. The WILPFer of long ago is now a member of the national Nominating Committee,



Presenters and participants from the the WILPF US 33rd Congress Leadership Institute enjoying dinner following a day-long session. Photo: Liz Remmerswaal.

and that committee revived the Leadership Institute at the 2017 Congress for about a dozen participating WILPFers.

The goals of the Leadership Institute are both local and national: WILPF branches can benefit when their members feel equipped to take branch leadership roles. National WILPF benefits from healthy and better-organized branches. At the same time, the national Nominating Committee is very aware of the shortage of candidates for the WILPF US Board. It's important for branch members to appreciate WILPF life beyond the branch level. Offering information on national and international WILPF structures to Leadership Institute participants encourages a wider perspective and greater understanding.

This year's Leadership Institute provided a diverse curriculum, based on giving participants fundamental information and adding to that extensive discussions and

the chance to meet and talk with national WILPF leaders. Sessions focused on topics such as leadership as a team effort, holding effective meetings, and evaluation as a fundamental activity of leadership. The Leadership Institute culminated on the last night of the Congress, Saturday night, with an evening of speakers and the discussion "What does it mean to be part of a movement?"

"I thought the Leadership Institute was powerful and life affirming to have the Institute meetings woven into the process, providing a cohesive tapestry for participants to bond and get to know each other. This empowered each of us to develop better understanding of ourselves and of each other and to listen deeply to each other's life missions and purpose, thereby visualizing our goals and actions with increasing clarity. Taking care to strengthen and cultivate human connection is germane to developing skills for leadership. The Leadership Institute is like weaving golden threads throughout WILPF Congress that will stand the test of time."

—Dawn Nelson, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Branch

What's next for leadership training in WILPF? For the immediate future, a session conducted via a web conference will be held in November, with more workshops to follow. It is hoped that a series of one-topic sessions will be offered throughout the year, open to all members. Members who want to share their ideas for leadership classes or want to help organize sessions are welcome to contact the Nominating Committee at Nominating-Committee@wilpfus.org.

Making the Connections

Continued from page 2.

Hot," *FoodFirst: Exploding Myths and Inspiring Change*, July 17, 2017, foodfirst.org.

3. Parul Laxmi Thapa, *Climate Change and the Agriculture Crisis: Agroecology as a Solution* (New Delhi: Focus on the Global South Publications, June 2015), focusweb.org.

4. Fritjof Capra, "Industrial Agriculture, Agroecology, and Climate Change," Center for Ecoliteracy, February 11, 2015, www.ecoliteracy.org.

5. Tara Ritter, "Why We Need Agroecology, Now," September 24, 2014, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, www.iatp.org.

6. George Naylor, "Without Clarity on Parity All You Get Is Charity," chap. 3 in *Food Movements Unite! Strategies to Transform Our Food System*, ed. Eric Holt-Gimenez (Oakland, CA: Food First Books, 2011).

Reclaiming Elections 2018

By Nancy Price

Chair, WILPF US Earth Democracy Issue Committee

It was not surprising that **Reclaiming Elections 2018** came in second in the survey for possible workshop topics at Congress. Amid all the attention to possible Russian interference in the 2016 election, we must not be distracted from the long-accumulating evidence that our election system, the foundation of democracy, is broken.

The stakes could not be higher. If we ended voter suppression and gerrymandering, achieved accurate elections, and got money out of politics, democracy would thrive. We could elect candidates whose policies would

In this time of Charlottesville, increased white nationalism and racism, and fiery Roy Moore's win in Alabama, we must vigorously protect voting rights for all.

provide for the common good without discrimination; meet the social, cultural, economic, educational, and health needs of all people; and ensure that vital ecosystems survive and thrive.

This administration is not much concerned with the real issues of voter suppression, election integrity, and accurate, verified counts and gerrymandering. Instead, without producing any evidence, President Trump has further distracted us with the inflated claim of voter fraud and illegal voting and signed an executive order on March 11 to create the bipartisan Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity that Vice President Pence chairs. All 50 states have been asked for copies of their voter records, which often include voters' names, addresses, and ages, to allegedly create a national vote registry to find cases of voter fraud, an effort voting rights experts strongly criticize. Most pressing is to restore, before 2018, the right to vote to all citizens convicted of a prior felony in those states still denying their voting rights.

While there are many problems with our election system we should tackle, voter fraud is not one. It's a distraction. Rather, in this time of Charlottesville, increased white nationalism and racism, and fiery Roy Moore's win in Alabama, we must vigorously protect voting rights for all. But let's not stop there.

Presently, gerrymandering is in the spotlight. After the upcoming November 2018 mid-term elections, these new state legislatures will appoint the state redistricting commissions that will use the 2020 census to redraw voting districts for the November 2020 elections. If these redistricting commissions are highly partisan and sort voters into Republican majority districts, then more Republican governors, state legislators, and Congress members will be elected.

More states will "flip red" and the US Congress, especially the House, could remain Republican until the 2030 census and the next redistricting. This could shut down lawmaking for the common good for years. For this reason, major partisan gerrymandering cases are ongoing in Maryland, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. The stakes are high. The highly anticipated Supreme Court

Continued on page 10.

Next Steps



As a next step following the Reclaiming Elections 2018 workshop, WILPF members are invited to use the fall 2016 issue of *Justice Rising* magazine—"The People's Vote Must Count: Reclaim Elections, Restore Voting Rights, Protect Our Ballots"—as a study guide. Read "Principles of Election

Reform," "Hand-Counting Paper Ballots," and "Six Steps" to launch a local hand-counted-paper ballot campaign. Articles are by national experts in election integrity, voter suppression, gerrymandering, exit polling, hand-counted paper ballots, history of electronic voting and corporate ownership, and much more.

Read the issue and print articles at www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/pdf/AfDJR64.pdf. One-page handouts are at www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/peoplesvotejr.html and www.peoplesvotemustcount.org.

To order copies, email afd@thealliancefordemocracy.org or call the office (in Hudson, MA) at 978-333-7971. Copies are \$1.00 plus mailing.

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Advancing Human Rights, CEDAW, and Building the Beloved Community

Recap of Issue Committee Roundtable and Brainstorming Session

WILPF US 33rd Triennial Congress, Friday, July 28, 2017, 3–5 PM

Sixteen members signed in, some new and others of longer tenure, at-large members and branch members. All focus their activism locally, often jointly with kindred organizations. There was great enthusiasm, discussions, ideas, with plans for more meetings and ways to move forward. We will be exploring all this.

We discussed the social justice framework of intersectionality and of social characteristics. We covered work being done on reproductive rights, reproductive justice, human trafficking, immigration, health care for all, gender equality, racial justice, white privilege, age

discrimination and ageism, disability discrimination, and the overall choices of society in its devaluation of humans and people power. We looked at capacity and capitalism, wherein people are commodified, and the resultant chaos. Some members have worked to bring the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) into their communities—“Cities for CEDAW.” Most want to work on these issues. We asked a lot of “how to” questions.

Members of this human rights umbrella workshop proposed a formal Congress Resolution supporting trans people. The first attack by the POTUS against transgender people serving in the US military had just been announced. Workshop members shared their outrage and concerns and proposed a formal Resolution of WILPF US in support of the rights of trans people. After the statement was presented, Congress attendees approved its publication as the public position of the US Section. (Read more about this Resolution on page 7.)

Reclaiming Elections

Continued from page 9.

decision in the Wisconsin case, *Gill v. Whitford*, argued before the Court on October 3, could impact all states if the Justices decide on a test to determine political bias in drawing voting districts.

Alternatively, the Michigan Election Reform Alliance has created the grassroots Voters Not Politicians coalition and launched the campaign to collect 400,000 signatures to qualify the Michigan Redistricting Ballot Proposal. If passed in November 2018, the state constitution would be amended to replace the politicians who now draw voting maps for legislative and congressional districts with a citizen-controlled independent system.¹

Finally, the mechanics of how we vote and how votes are counted now presents the greatest challenge. The 15-year-old voting and vote-scanning machines provided to states under the 2002 Help America Vote Act need replacing. But what do we replace them with? At least since 2000, experts have provided detailed evidence that the computer code for electronic devices is easily manipulated to produce false vote counts, and flip election results. The manufacturers, claiming proprietary information, reject the demand for public inspection of the codes. One remedy is to carry out statistically supported

audits to verify the vote count.² Many experts argue that using hand-counted paper ballots with an audit is the only reliable method, as we know from the Canadian, Australian, and German experiences. Recent revelations and issues around cybersecurity may advance the case for hand-counted paper ballots.

It's time to put democracy back into our own hands and create a national network of citizen activists working to implement paper ballot voting to stop the theft of our elections and to restore transparency and public oversight.

1. www.michiganelectiondefencealliance.org.

2. www.ElectionAudits.org.

Sustaining Peace



Consider a legacy gift to sustain WILPF's work in the world.

Contact: GrowingWILPFChair@gmail.com

Confronting and ‘Unlearning’ Racism

The Beloved Community Workshop at Congress

By Courtney Leinonen

Workshop facilitators: Joan Brannigan, Courtney Leinonen, Sylvia Metzler, Barbara Neilsen

This workshop was dedicated to understanding and acknowledging racism in ourselves and in our institutions. Therefore, the goal was to unlearn and abolish it. We opened the workshop by asking volunteer participants to read Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s version of the “Beloved Community.” One of the criteria, in King’s Beloved Community, was that “racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.” We emphasized this workshop as a judgment-free zone, as a space without any “guilt trip,” and as one in which to raise awareness and spur us to action. The historical foundation of the workshop discussion was based on the historicity and cyclical function of racism in the United States and the history of racism within WILPF. The history of racism was discussed through the lens of racial identity construction and the usage of power to maintain it.

One of the moments that stood out in the session was Sylvia Metzler’s story on discovering her racial bias through the Harvard Test of Implicit Bias. She had spent decades devoting her life to equal justice and eradicating racial inequality, but she learned of her high level of racial bias through the test. This opened her eyes to how racism impacts our everyday lives and influences our perspectives, along with the difficulty of unlearning racial bias.

The discussion also focused on white privilege and discrimination. There were also moments wherein the 31 attendees were asked to respond to questions regarding these topics. Given that there were some women of color present at the workshop, the answers were diverse and encouraged an open discussion among the attendees about their everyday experiences of racial discrimination.

We closed the workshop with the following important question: “Where do we go from here?” The possible



William Walker, *Childhood Is without Prejudice*, mural, 1547-1599 E 56th St., Chicago. Photo: Joe Marinaro/Creative Commons.

next steps were to create a Facebook page or use other forms of media, in addition to holding teleconferences to further the workshop’s discussion and motives.

Personally, I felt this workshop showed us that there is much to learn at various levels about racism. Racism does not operate in a clear way. Most importantly, it thrives on public ignorance to maintain its power. It is my hope that the discussions continue, and that we confront racism in all its forms.

Courtney Leinonen is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Branch, currently working with the WILPF Colombia Section and assisting with translations for their projects and campaigns. She earned a master’s degree in international relations from the War Studies Department at Kings College London in the UK.

‘Keeping It Moving’

The Work of the Addie Wyatt Center for Nonviolence Training—Chicago

By Pam Smith

On Friday, August 4, 2017, at 12:55 PM, I received a text message from one of our core youth trainers who lives in a community of few city resources. We’ll call him Raymond; he’s 17. “Hey Pam, I just got your email. . . . I was recently shot.” Shock ripped through my body. I think of Raymond as a son of sorts. In the hours and days that followed, the founders of the Addie Wyatt Center (AWC) cried, worried, and discussed possible escape routes for the young trainer. But Raymond had different ideas. “I have

his personal story with them. He had always been a good student but hadn’t always been a believer in nonviolence; something changed inside of him after learning about Dr. King’s approach. He told the group that being nonviolent is often viewed as weak, but that it takes strength and courage to not retaliate, and that he is not going to let anything or anyone “knock me off my square.” Envisioning a family of his own one day, Raymond said he wouldn’t want to live anywhere but in his own community, because he believes that peace is possible there, if everyone works together. The young men, somewhat hardened by the streets, were astonished that Raymond, so young, was so committed to nonviolence. They gave the training a try.

With direct ties to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Chicago Freedom Movement of 1965–1966, the Addie Wyatt Center’s work is not just about alleviating violence; it is about creating what Dr. King called the Beloved Community—a place of peace and justice for all. Our in-depth workshops create brave spaces where participants can discover their true power and where many are moved to adopt nonviolence as a way of life. Kingian Nonviolence has a special place on the preventive end of the Restorative Justice spectrum; it helps people embrace new ways of thinking and responding when disagreements occur, as they naturally will. Participants begin to understand

the importance of showing empathy for others who may be struggling with their own set of challenges, and they discover the importance of being an active participant in advocating for systemic change to address economic and social injustices—each person in their own unique ways.

The Kingian Nonviolence curriculum was written by Bernard LaFayette and David Jehnsen and has been taught and implemented in countries around the world, including the United States, Nigeria, Colombia, South Africa, Mexico, Israel, and Palestine. Dr. LaFayette, a close friend and confidant of Dr. King, is a movement activist, minister, educator, co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and director of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign. He is considered



Rahmaan Statik Barnes, assisted by Max Sansing, *The Beacon of Light*, mural, W. Ogden Ave. & S. Central Park Ave., Chicago. Photo: Senor Codo/Creative Commons.

a little pain,” he texted early the next week, “but we’re gonna keep it moving.” For him, keeping it moving meant continuing to do the Kingian Nonviolence training work he believes in so much.

The prior week, Raymond’s house had been “shot up” in possible retaliation to alleged actions of a cousin. Despite the traumatic event, Raymond showed up the very next day for his school’s Kingian Nonviolence workshop to provide training to young men, ages 19–22, recently released from the criminal justice system. Raymond shared

Connecting the Real Dots

Building a Global Peace Movement

By Shilpa Pandey

Membership Development Chair, WILPF US Board

This October 2 took me back 148 years to when one of the greatest pioneers of the peace movement of our time was born. Mahatma Gandhi was a man who showed the world the power of nonviolent resistance.

He never won the Nobel Peace Prize, but he won independence for India from the British colonial powers without a bloody war. The world again is faced with endless wars and armed conflict, and I can't help but yearn for more and more leaders like him who could bring together all the fragmented pieces of the peace movements across the globe and give a cohesive direction to this disjointed movement.

I had the opportunity to attend this year's World Beyond War conference in Washington, DC, which brought together many activists, all working tirelessly to make this world a better place to live in. This was when I felt it imperative for us all to find true intersectionality in our movement. Many spoke at length about the need for collaboration to achieve a successful peace movement, and some rich discussions followed that further reinforced this. For me, however, collaboration needs to take a more global turn.



Shilpa Pandey, right, with Jill Stein. Photo courtesy Shilpa Pandey.

When we talk about connecting the dots, I truly believe an important dot to connect is finding points of intersection with the various peace movements across the globe. By that I mean not just being aware of the very global nature of this movement, but also increasing our actual outreach to other parts

of the world. The conference performed a great service by highlighting the connection and relationship between the environment and war. In fact, one of the speakers at this conference was Jill Stein (the presidential nominee from the Green Party), whose statements struck a chord with me. She mentioned how poorer countries, such as Bangladesh, which lack proper infrastructure, suffer even more when hit by natural calamities that are due to climate change. Citing such examples that reflect the transnational nature of our movement serves to bring together even more allies. That, for me, is the true intersectionality that can aid our movement and help us all achieve our common goal: a world beyond war.

a global authority on the strategy of nonviolent social change. He created this curriculum while working with Coretta Scott King, as a response to Dr. King's mandate that the next step for his work be the "institutionalization and internationalization of nonviolence."

Chemistry teacher Tiffany Childress first implemented the Kingian Nonviolence curriculum at North Lawndale College Prep in Chicago in 2010. The school witnessed a 70 percent drop in violence during the program's first year. Seven years later, that figure is up to 90 percent. The Addie Wyatt Center's mission is to spread this methodology and success to more schools and communities. (See www.addiewyattcenter.org/resources for "The Six Principles of Kingian Nonviolence.")

If you would like to support this work in any way or would like to arrange a Kingian Nonviolence training in your community, no matter where you live, please visit www.addiewyattcenter.org

and email pam@addiewyattcenter.org. The AWC applauds the work of WILPF. We look forward to a vibrant collaboration on our many shared concerns.

Pam Smith, Executive Director of the Addie Wyatt Center for Nonviolence Training (AWC), spoke at the Triennial Congress about the AWC's work in helping to address violence in Chicago. Smith, Mary Lou Finley, Sherri Bevel, and Gail Schechter founded the AWC after the 2016 publication of their book, The Chicago Freedom Movement: Martin Luther King Jr. and Civil Rights Activism in the North (Finley, Ralph, LaFayette, and Smith, eds.). A version of this story previously appeared in an AWC funding proposal to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. It has been adapted here.

Unions and Democracy

You Can't Have One without the Other

By Larry Spivack

would like to offer some thoughts about a sector of our society where rising up is more necessary than ever, where our history—I believe—proves that without a vibrant labor movement, you cannot have a vibrant democracy. If we are ever going to achieve a more lasting international peace, greater economic security for all people, and a society where social justice is the rule and inequality and hatred but a dim memory of things past, then we as a people need to understand our history better.

Let me share the words of Lucy Gonzalez Parsons, a great American woman, though almost unknown today. She led a march of poor people in 1915 from Hull House to City Hall, with Jane Addams at her side, as the song “Solidarity Forever” was sung for the first time in public. This is a woman who spoke to workers along the banks of the Chicago River from a river barge, urging them to organize unions (she had been banned from the City of Chicago, but because interstate commerce interests governed use of the river, she could be on the water). This is a woman who engineered the creation of one of the world’s important labor monuments, the Haymarket Martyrs’ Monument in Forest Park, Illinois, after she witnessed the barbarism of corporate greed and governmental cooperation in the judicial murder of five innocent men in 1887—including her husband, Albert—hanged for their involvement in fighting for the eight-hour day. This is a woman who stood with Mother Jones, Big Bill Haywood, and Eugene Debs at the founding of the Industrial Workers of the World in Chicago in 1905. This is a woman who organized on issue after issue until her untimely and suspicious death in a Chicago house fire in 1942. Here are her words:

The idea of less restriction and more liberty, and a confiding trust that nature is equal to her work, is permeating all modern thought.

Passivity while slavery is stealing over us is a crime.

When labor is no longer for sale, society will produce free men and women, who will think free, act free, and be free.¹

Matters around economic justice are the kinds of issues that can bring us together. More importantly, they are the issues that express much about how democracy can work. What greater laboratory is there for teaching democracy and engaging in advocacy than the workplace, where most of us spend much of our time. Until we free ourselves from wage slavery, which is what Lucy was trying to say, most of us will be dominated by bosses who employ us at will, unless we have a union contract. Unless we have a union contract and enforce it, we will have little input into the working conditions and pay and benefits that determine much of our well-being. Just as important, however, is that unions provide opportunity for average citizens to learn leadership skills, advocacy, organizing, and civic duty.

Today, nearly half of all unionists are women, and minorities represent a greater proportion of the labor movement than ever before. Today’s unionist is likely to be a teacher or a graduate student or a home health care worker. In my union, AFSCME, a convention looks like America: white correctional officers sit next to Hispanic social workers and African American librarians. People learn at the bargaining table and at conventions and union meetings to argue and debate in civil fashion (most of the time) and educate each other about the concerns of their particular struggles. Where else in society does this take place in the same room? Women in the trades and minority caucuses have pushed unions to speak to the concerns of workplace segregation and inequality. In other words, union members actually do the walking and not just the talking.

We are on the precipice of losing a huge part of our democracy when we don’t allow workers to organize. Let me quote Phil Fishman, a former AFL-CIO operative: “Trade unions produce a unique synergy of economic and political benefits. On the economic side, they ensure that workers gain a fair share of the income their work produces. Thus, strong unions reduce stark inequalities within countries. . . . A more equitable income distribution contributes directly to poverty reduction and, by increasing consumer demand, stimulates greater economic growth. On the political side, trade unions make major contributions to producing more vibrant civil societies. They encourage workers to participate in the political process, negotiate with other interest groups, and act as a check on government authority. Unions

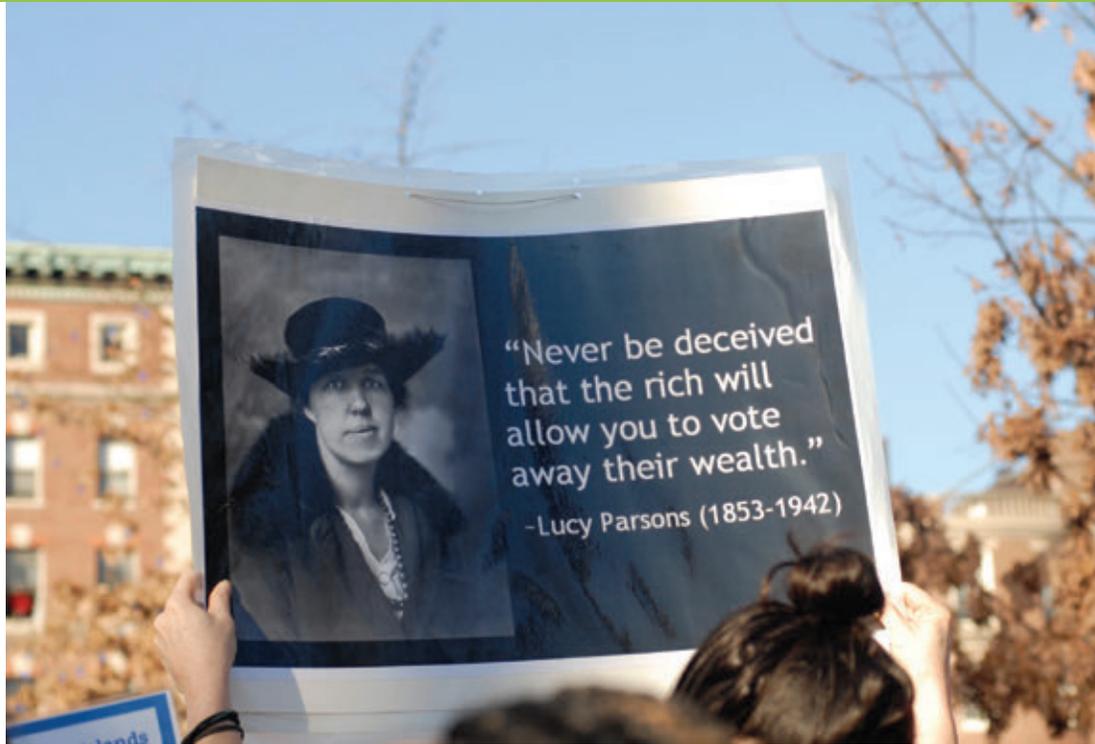
keep governments accountable by ensuring that the concerns of working people are represented not only in the workplace but in the public debate. They advance the social cohesion vital to democracy by bridging ethnic, religious, racial and gender divisions.”²

It is interesting to see how the Chicago Teachers Union has become the voice for the students of the Chicago public schools. It is the union representing child welfare workers in Illinois that promotes better services for the most vulnerable in our society.

It is the home health care unions that advocate for the needs of the population they serve. It is the union representing workers at direct care facilities looking after the developmentally disabled that advocates for increased staffing and equipment. The front line workers in a union can advocate for their clients, unlike those workers who are not represented by a union, because their contract provides them the protection to advocate. This is democracy in action.

I would like to return to Lucy Parsons and her words: “Passivity while slavery is stealing over us is a crime.” I am convinced she was talking about the new world of industrial slavery—not nearly as cruel as chattel slavery, but the imagery of workers in chains during this new epoch of industrialized civilization was not unusual. Born of a slave family, Lucy understood the degradation of work when you sold your labor and got nothing in return beyond just enough to survive. Hence, workers were wage slaves. A new social order would have to be created, where people no longer worked for wages but for the mutual benefit of each other, which in turn would provide for every need and want, and subsequent freedom. The only way to end this degradation and gain freedom was through action. Otherwise, one would be aiding and abetting a criminal act.

History, therefore, teaches us that an educated citizenry led by courageous individuals working in coalition can change the course of history. Think New Deal. Think women’s suffrage. Think the abolition of slavery, the



Lucy Parsons. Women’s March Boston, January 21, 2017.

Photo: Sasha Kimel/Flickr/Creative Commons.

end of child labor in the United States, the end of the Vietnam War.

Civil society, the rule of law, democracy in the work place, social and economic equality, the basic respect for human life. These are the characteristics of the world I want to live in, and this is the world I will continue to fight for.

1. Lucy Parsons, “*The Principles of Anarchism*” (a lecture, 1905), cited in *Lucy Parsons: Freedom, Equality & Solidarity. Writings & Speeches, 1878-1937*, ed. Gale Ahrens, with an afterword by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr, 2004).

2. Phil Fishman, “Democracy, Union Made,” *The American Interest* 3, no. 1 (September 1, 2007).

Larry Spivack is President of the Illinois Labor History Society, which is the holder of the deed and steward to the Haymarket Martyrs’ Monument, in Forest Park, Illinois. A former educator, Larry is also Regional Director of AFSCME Council 31 in Illinois. He has worked as a union leader his entire adult life, active in union organizing, collective bargaining, and staff development. He also gives labor history tours. This article is excerpted from his Plenary speech at the 33rd Triennial Congress, Chicago.

In Memoriam

Yvonne Logan, 1919–2017

Yvonne Logan, “dynamic and devoted past-president and patron of WILPF US,” died on Saturday, June 24, in St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 97.

In her message about Yvonne’s death, WILPF US President Mary Hanson Harrison shared her own and others’ impressions: “She was remarkable both as an activist and as a human being, who lived nearly a century. ‘A woman of considerable stature,’ as one member described her. Another wrote, encapsulating her essence, ‘A good soul for sure.’ The last quote came from Rodger Routh, WILPF DSM member and videographer, remembering her unfailing support and kindness when we interviewed her for the WILPF US legacy fundraising video a few years ago.”

When she was a young mother herself, Yvonne worked on the Baby Tooth Survey for the St. Louis Committee for Nuclear Information. Mary Hanson Harrison reminded members that Yvonne Logan was especially proud of the success of the “baby tooth survey/campaign,” which originated with two St. Louis physicians, who measured levels of the radioactive isotope Strontium 90 in young children’s baby teeth. (WILPF played an important part in requesting and gathering samples for the survey.) The results led President John F. Kennedy “to negotiate a treaty with the Soviet Union to end above-ground testing of atomic bombs in 1963.” (Read more about the



Yvonne Logan (l.), talks with Leah Bolger at the WILPF US Congress in Detroit, 2014. Photo: Joan Bazar.

1959–1970 survey at beckerexhibits.wustl.edu/dental/articles/babytooth.html.)

Her obituary in the *St. Louis Dispatch* noted: “Yvonne joined the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in 1956, and remained dedicated to the organization throughout her life, including a period as the president of its U.S. section. She helped to organize countless demonstrations and was arrested many times in the course of her career as an activist.”

Donations in Yvonne’s memory and as a tribute to her legacy may be made to WILPF US (send a check made out to PDF/WILPF, P.O. Box 13075, Des Moines, IA 50310, and note in the memo line “Yvonne Logan Legacy”); or to her favorite project, the Disarmament Fund (Yvonne Logan), at the Jane Addams Peace Association (www.janeaddamspeace.org), in New York.

A longer tribute to Yvonne Logan will appear in the spring/summer 2018 issue of *Peace & Freedom*.

WILPF US Receives Heart of Trinity World Wide Peace Award



The fifth-grade class of Trinity Elementary School in Menlo Park, California, awarded WILPF US their Heart of Trinity World Wide Peace Award, which included a \$100 donation to WILPF. The students work to raise money for their recognition of five organiza-

tions whose work covers human rights, the environment, education, peace, and medical needs.

The Palo Alto Branch received the award for WILPF at the school in June, sharing stories about Jane Addams and presenting three JAPA Book Award books to the library.

The award letter from the students stated: “You gather women from around the world to hold events and raise awareness about issues that some people don’t even know exist.” It concluded: “Thank you WILPF for helping our community and many issues around the world. We really think that you are a group of great people helping us all.”

Watch video about the award at: wilpfus.org/33rdCongress/news-from-congress.

Funding Our Vision at WILPF

A Message from Development Chair Marybeth Gardam

Look around. It's never been more important to invest in the vision of a world at peace. **Help us reach our 2017 fundraising goal of \$73,750** (from individual donations, grants, and appeals). That's just a portion of our \$250,000 average annual budget, but with everyone's help, we'll be able to expand our capacity and keep our work sustainable. Fundraising at WILPF is everyone's job.

How does WILPF spend the money you contribute?

- \$15–\$17 of each \$35 dues payment goes to **support International WILPF and its international programs**. WILPF US retains only \$18–\$20 from dues to fund our work.
- We support and fund the work of **Issue Committees**.
- We fund **Mini-Grants** to branches and Issue Committees that fuel your community-based grassroots organizing and activism.
- We fund **communications—Peace & Freedom** magazine, monthly newsletter (**eNews**), and time-sensitive **eAlerts**—to connect members to one another and to WILPF US. Visit our **website**, www.wilpfus.org, to stay informed, subscribe to the newsletter, and to join our actions.
- We fund **support staff** to update our database and improve our lists, share our reports, and respond to member inquiries.
- We fund **printed brochures, fact sheets, and infographic cards** on WILPF's campaigns and projects that members may order for their own use.
- We fund such **administrative and governance costs** as a once-yearly in-person Board meeting, insurance costs, accountants, mailing, and equipment maintenance, to keep WILPF functioning.
- We fund an **annual trip for our Section's representative to the International Board** to attend one board meeting in Geneva.
- We fund part of our UN Practicum in Advocacy Program to bring students to the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York City, and we fund the **Local 2 Global Program**, for two of our members to attend the CSW events at the UN.
- We fund **ONE WILPF Calls**; we co-sponsor conferences with national allies; we fund travel for some of our expert speakers to present WILPF's perspective at other conferences.

Our hard-working, hands-on Board of Directors and branch leaders also devote countless hours to the administrative, fiscal, and organizing responsibilities of WILPF US. **Because of their donations of time and your generosity, WILPF US is strong and resilient.**

Do More for Peace!

We have an urgent imperative to do MORE for peace each year. Our funding must grow to keep pace with our dreams and values. Here's an easy way YOU can help:

Consider Buying WILPF a Cup of Coffee each month. Sign up at wilpfus.org/story/buy-wilpf-cup-coffee-once-week. The impact of a small monthly (or weekly) contribution from ALL of us could be amazing.

\$5 a month x 12 months (\$60 a year)—

Or the cost of a moderate dinner for two

- If 200 members each contributed \$5 a month, we'd raise \$12,000 a year for peace.
- If 500 members each contributed \$5 a month, we'd raise \$30,000 a year for peace.

\$10 a month x 12 months (\$120 a year)—

About the cost of one Broadway show

- If 200 members each contributed \$10 a month, we'd raise \$24,000 a year for peace.
- If 500 members each contributed \$10 a month, we'd raise \$60,000 a year for peace.

\$5 a week x 52 weeks (\$260 a year)—

About the cost of two concert or sporting event tickets

- If 200 members each contributed \$5 a week, we'd raise \$52,000 a year for peace.
- If 500 members each contributed \$5 a week, we'd raise \$130,000 a year for peace.

\$10 a week x 52 weeks (\$520 a year)—

The cost of registration for two to a national conference

- If 200 members each contributed \$10 a week, we'd raise \$104,000 a year for peace (about half our average annual budget!).
- If 500 members each contributed \$10 a week, we'd raise \$260,000 a year for peace (more than our entire average annual budget!).

Understanding Our Global Responsibility

A Report on the UN Forum on Sustainable Development, July 10–19, 2017

By Dawn Nelson

In July, I again had the opportunity to participate in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Known as the HLPF, it is a platform for UN member states and civil society to engage in review of national progress for sustainable development. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) fit within a broader framework called the 2030 Agenda. Member states have made a voluntary commitment to convene and report

Since the HLPF is garnering increasing attention and interest, there were a few procedural changes this year that caught many of us by surprise. In addition to obtaining a UN grounds pass, it was also necessary for NGO representatives to request and pick up a ticket for the day's sessions every morning. The tickets were distributed to one person per organization, with the idea that the seating would be distributed equitably if enough interested parties did in fact fill the observer balcony of the conference room. It was a surprising change in protocol from 2016, but it created interesting opportunity. It made necessary the coordination with other WILPF members in attendance—seven women participants, many of whom were affiliated with WILPF International as well as their national sections. I discovered I was one of the few Americans in our WILPF delegation and the only representative of WILPF US during this event. My situation was made ever clearer as WILPF members participated in advocating for equality for women and girls with the Women's Major Group, and I was *the* US representative for WILPF among the dozens of women's global environmental organizations.

I began to understand the role of US citizens and US-based NGOs implementing peace diplomacy at the UN in a new light. I could feel the responsibility weighing on me, a sense of purpose and principled obligation—a powerful insight that I contemplated with growing comprehension each new day. It gave me a new perspective on my own citizenship and responsibilities, on the privileged access to these institutions. I thought about how gaining access to such a powerful multilateral institution in an extremely expensive city is difficult enough as a US citizen; consider how challenging it must be for someone traveling from a small island developing state or a landlocked developing country. To have a presence and to engage in these environments with informed, decisive action depends entirely, it seems, on a Luke Skywalker strategy.

WILPF's responsibility as a historical entity that can bridge global issues of peace and disarmament with environmental sustainability and development is unique and powerful. Participating in governance processes to advance sustainable development is to also participate in the same and similar processes that ensure peaceful governance. Women's equality and leadership (SDGs 5 and 16) are at the forefront of this agenda. We must continue to champion the cause of women in political leadership. The HLPF forum presents powerful opportu-



Women's Major Group gathers for silent demonstration in support of Women Human Rights Defenders, July 11, 2017. Photo: IISD/Kiara Worth (enb.iisd.org/hlpf/2017/11jul.html).

annually at the HLPF, scheduled each year for two weeks in July. While the expectation is that member states will report at least twice during the period between 2015 and 2030, many already demonstrate commitment to reporting much more often. With 43 nations reporting at this year's HLPF, there is growing opportunity to network globally at the local scale to discuss experiences and best practices. To consider the complexities, bear in mind that *sustainable development* integrates environment, social, and economic spheres in the intellectual framework and definition of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals. There is much room for creativity and innovation.



The Trusteeship Council, full to capacity as delegates attend the closing plenary for HLPF, July 19, 2017. Photo: IISD/Kiara Worth (enb.iisd.org/hlpf/2017/19jul.html).

nities to connect with women in grassroots organizations working for earth stewardship across the globe. At the HLPF, women discussed at great length and in detail the various strategies they can utilize in their home countries. Step by step, women are claiming presence in the political sphere. During the HLPF voluntary national reports, discussion centered on the idea that countries should seek to achieve at least 30 percent women representatives in political office at the national level, as well as sub-regionally and locally. Consensus began to emerge that, with focused policy coherence, this is an achievable goal, offering hope and inspiration for delegates as they return home and implement national action plans.

You may be wondering just how the delegation from the US mission to the UN participated in the HLPF. I observed three times that the USA delegation commented officially during the session. Two of these were interventions made early in the proceedings on women's equality (SDG 5)¹ and food security (SDG 2).² The last statement was made during a vote on paragraph 4 of the ministerial declaration, which included language on protecting the rights of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation.

As the vote came to the floor, the Nigerian Ambassador asked for transparency: "Who called for this vote?" The answer: the USA. A hush of silence, the tension in the room palpable. The vote is called, with most voting in favor of keeping paragraph 4 while several abstain. Only one—the USA—does not vote in favor.³ As soon as all votes were in, everyone relaxed quickly into laughter and relief. But it was clear that changes in US federal leadership were taking hold, and a sense of uneasiness and uncertainty persisted.

My report from the HLPF is, perhaps, something of an emotional appeal. Can you feel the weight of your

American citizenship? I certainly could throughout this forum, and I have been thinking deeply about it since. US citizens have a global responsibility to hold American leadership accountable to the ideals and principles of freedom, peace, and prosperity for all people. There is no time to waste on cynicism, because there is no time to lose. We must push forward in implementing peace diplomacy in every endeavor, including and especially through WILPF US presence and participation at the UN.

WILPF US has unique national and international responsibilities, as the US section of an international organization, in advocating for peace and disarmament, sustainable development, and implementing peaceful diplomacy. We are liaisons for peace and diplomacy at a time when the soft power and credibility of US diplomacy is deteriorating rapidly in the international community. Let us take some quiet moments to envision the big picture, to understand the origin and history of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and truly consider the ways in which we can strategically leverage power from the local to the global.

1. US Mission to the UN. High Level Political Forum Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality, United States Draft Intervention Statement, available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25118unitedstates.pdf>.

2. US Mission to the UN. High Level Political Forum Sustainable Development Goal 2: Food Security United States Draft Intervention Statement, available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24977unitedstates.pdf>.

3. The US later explained its position, summarized here: The USA joins Israel in that paragraph 4 contains unacceptable language on foreign occupation, as it politicizes sustainable development. In paragraph 21, the HLPF is not the appropriate body to refer to WTO-based practices; UN members are not supposed to comment on another international body independent of UN. In paragraph 7, the USA disassociates from climate change and the Paris Agreement, and is immediately ceasing nationally determined contributions. The USA is a strong supporter of disaster risk reduction (DRR), including all hazards. The USA is disappointed in the lack of language on trafficking in persons. However, the USA joins consensus on adoption of ministerial declaration 2017 HLPF. "Explanation of Vote and Position Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Segment," <https://usun.state.gov/remarks/7907>.

Dawn Nelson is a member of the Ann Arbor Branch of WILPF. She is an environmental specialist and holds an M.S. in natural resources and environment and a B.A. in sociology from the University of Michigan. She lives in Ann Arbor with her two children.

Building Resilience and Reducing Harm

Central and Western Massachusetts WILPF Fosters Refugee Well-Being

By Karen Clark-Hoey

Refugees come to this country by invitation of the United States government through the Worldwide Refugee Admissions Program (WRAP). Less than 1 percent of the world's current displaced population of 60,000 is selected for resettlement. On average, the United States has annually admitted for resettlement approximately 50,000 refugees since the resettlement program began in 1975. Since then, over 3 million refugees have been resettled in the United States from various regions of the world, as countries of origin shift with patterns of war and displacement, as well as with the changing priority areas of US foreign policy.

Women and children account for more than 50 percent of the world's refugee and displaced population. US refugee processing posts overseas make the final determination as to which cases referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will be processed for admission into the United States. Preference is given to particularly vulnerable cases, including medically complex cases, the elderly, and single women with dependent children. It is this latter population of refugee women and children which I focus on here, to illustrate how the efforts of the Central and Western Massachusetts Branch of WILPF are improving the post-resettlement lives of refugee women and children in this region.

By design, the US refugee admissions program focuses its domestic resettlement resources on those who are considered "employable": those individuals over the age of 18 who are not responsible for the primary caregiving of dependent children. It is, then, by definition that refugee women with children are excluded from such resettlement resources as ESL and job search facilitation and training. They are enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and other public assistance programs; provided with housing, which their below-poverty income is expected to cover; and left to navigate myriad systems that are complex and confusing even for most native-born Americans.

The burden of being a newcomer to the United States following, on average, 17 years living in displacement,



is somewhat mitigated when the city in which you have been resettled has an existing family tie or an existing community of nationals from your country of origin. While this has historically been the strategy for agencies when determining the local destination of refugees across the country, it is becoming increasingly less common; these agencies have had to acknowledge that traditional destination cities have become cost prohibitive. Efforts to increase resettlement in secondary cities have become the norm—cities such as Worcester and Springfield, Massachusetts. Worcester is presently the largest destination city for refugees in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, resettling approximately 700 refugees annually. Worcester is the home base for our WILPF US branch, and it is where a dedicated group of social workers has focused its efforts to address the unmet needs of refugee women and children, carrying forth the legacy of our profession's founder, Jane Addams, WILPF's first international president.

Together with community partners, members of our branch (most of whom are graduate students at the Springfield College of Social Work) have been working with refugee women and children since 2015, when we facilitated an eight-month support group for refugee women from Rwanda, Burundi, and the Congo who were resettled in Springfield. The support group was task-oriented, with women looking for guidance in such "how-to" areas of need as understanding the importance

Photos: Celebrating World Refugee Day in the Berkshires. Credit: Karen Clark-Hoey.

of the home-school connection for their children, learning local transportation systems, understanding the role of law enforcement, and many more areas that represented adjustment challenges. The group met weekly for three hours, a substantial dedication of time and resources on the part of WILPF members who traveled to Springfield from Worcester and provided what became case management services within a group setting, with significant out-of-group time taken by the group facilitators to identify information and resources in preparation for each weekly group.

In the course of our eight months together, a baby was born, a family was moved to a safer neighborhood, a woman was empowered to safely leave a situation of intimate partner violence, and stories of grief, loss, suffering, and trauma were shared. These women were survivors of war and prolonged exposure to the bloodshed and violence that continues to rack this region of East Africa. All of the women gave birth to their children during displacement, while living in refugee camps, and in some cases their pregnancies were from rape. For most, their identities as mothers were tainted. Whether because their children were born from sexual assault or from consensual relations, the women shared ambivalence about having become mothers during periods in which they were living with dire uncertainty about their futures while mourning the loss of strong attachments through deaths or because of distance. They collectively lamented their lost childhoods and their unpreparedness for single parenting in the United States, in the absence of the communal supports their cultures provide to childrearing mothers. Not all of the women were single. Some were married, but their partners had not yet been processed for resettlement in the United States.

Our WILPF members celebrated the strength, resilience, and shared experience of these women on World Refugee Day, June 20, with an overnight trip to a rented 28-bed lodge owned by the Appalachian Mountain Club in a rural town in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains. Our group was 24 women and children strong, and we enjoyed the opportunity to see our new friends experience the natural beauty of their new state and the healing wonder of the outdoors.

Our WILPF branch has organized a second refugee women's support group in Worcester, with weekly meetings beginning October 18, 2017. Working with

local refugee resettlement agencies and service providers, this group will be dedicated to addressing the needs of women who have had, or are at risk of having, their children removed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The incidence of refugee women losing custody of their children to the DCF appears to be increasing, as the environment for the foreign-born has become increasingly

unwelcoming and, in many cases, hostile. Of all the challenges that refugee women and families must contend with following their arrival in the United States, losing custody of their children is not one they would ever expect to encounter. The need for orientation to US child welfare policies and procedures is a serious, unmet area of need requiring assistance in understanding the wider cultural context of differences between African and American childrearing practices and what constitutes abuse and neglect in this country. Cases of cross-cultural misunderstanding on the part of service providers, leading to DCF and court involvement, is an area of action to which we are deeply committed. Our WILPF branch plans to advocate for cross-service trainings with the DCF and other service providers centered on sharing cultural and background information of refugee groups resettled in the City of Worcester, with the goal of preserving the unity of refugee families and reducing the barriers to those resources necessary to safely raise their children in these challenging times.



Karen Clark-Hoey, founder of the WILPF Central and Western Massachusetts Branch, is Assistant Professor of Social Work at the Springfield College School of Social Work in Springfield, MA.

No Fire, No Fury

Boston Branch Opposes Nuclear Build-up and Threats of War against North Korea

By Valentine M. Moghadam

In response to President Trump's increasingly aggressive rhetoric targeting Iran and North Korea, among other countries, peace activists in Boston have staged a number of actions to which WILPF members have contributed. On September 8, 2017, an emergency rally took place at Boston's Park Street MBTA stop, organized by Massachusetts Peace Action (MAPA) and co-sponsored by WILPF's Boston Branch.

Among the speakers were State Representative Mike Connolly and MAPA director Cole Harrison, who spoke of the need for antiwar legislation as well as an end to the war games evidently aimed at provoking North Korea. A young woman from South Korea spoke at length, calling for peaceful resolution, while others described how American involvement in the Korean War had nearly destroyed the North—a harbinger of what was to come in Vietnam

and elsewhere in Southeast Asia the following decade and into the early 1970s. Anti-nuclear activists were also present, calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons and pointing out that there could be no winners in a nuclear conflict. WILPF's Boston Branch came out in large numbers and with prominent banners. Branch co-chair Joan Ecklein spoke on behalf of WILPF, reading from the WILPF statement on diplomacy with Korea and noting the long history of women's involvement in peace and antiwar movements. This includes first WILPF President Jane Addams's opposition to the First World War, the formation of Women Strike for Peace, women's strong presence in the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and other groups opposed to American militarization of Central and South America, Britain's anti-nuclear Women of Greenham Common, the formation of Code Pink in opposition to the invasion of Iraq, Women in Black, Israel's Mochsom Watch, and WILPF's own distinguished history of activism for peace and social justice. Joan mentioned the valiant and risky marches by peace women along the demilita-

rized zone, an action that few men took part in. She also reiterated that North Korea will stop making threatening gestures with nuclear weapons if the US government gives it a sense of security by halting its yearly war games in South Korea. The rehearsal of a US nuclear strike against North Korea is especially objectionable. The settlement of a peace treaty involving both North and South Korea participating, with the goal of reunifying the country, would also lessen the anxieties and uncertainties of North Koreans. Because the Trump administration seems almost eager to wage war, it is imperative that all of us who oppose death and destruction mobilize to prevent such an eventuality. We need to work hard to get the government to focus on diplomacy and soft power rather than hard power; to stop arming and funding rebels in order to destabilize states; to meet its international obligations, including the nuclear agreement with Iran, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; and to stop threatening North Korea, Iran, Syria, Cuba, and Venezuela. In the accompanying photos, several Boston Branch members may be seen, among them Joan Ecklein, Claire Gosselin, Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller, Virginia Pratt, Eileen Kurkoski, Laura Taymor-Berry, David Rothauer, Libby Gerlach, and Michael Borkson.



WILPF Boston Branch members at the September 8 antiwar rally. Photo: Michael Borkson.



Joan Ecklein. Photo: Eileen Kurkoski.

Valentine M. Moghadam, a member of the Boston Branch, is Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at Northeastern University.

Read the "Statement from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom United States Section Regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea/DPRK)," August 23, 2017, on the WILPF US website, at wilpfus.org/story/statements-and-resolutions.

Female Equality Is Key to Sustainable Future

By H. Patricia Hynes

We cannot get to a sustainable world without the full realization of girls' and women's rights, for women are responsible for providing food, fuel and water for billions of people in much of Africa and Asia, where natural resources are growing scarce or rapidly degrading. Yet many of these women lack the right to own land or to access credit and technical training to assure the sustainability of their countries' natural resources.

We will not get there without women's equality in decision-making because women in governance¹ positions sign on to international treaties that take action against climate change more than their male counterparts. Further, there is abundant evidence² that women care more about the environment than men and handle risk—economic, environmental and personal—more wisely than men.

The following recommendations, gleaned from pilot projects and successful programs, are the tip of the iceberg regarding the potential for women's contributions to mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as to their own, simultaneous, liberation.

- Train women technicians in water-saving and solar technologies.
- Hire female as well as male trainers to teach climate-adaptation farming.
- Draw from women's indigenous knowledge about seeds, soil and natural resources.
- Recruit women for emergency planning, especially emergency evacuation methods and routes to ensure women can escape during climate disasters.
- Assure fair and non-discriminatory allocation of disaster relief resources, including food, housing and clothing.
- Include women in local and regional decision-making councils and increase women's leadership in delegations to U.N. climate accord conferences.

All these prescriptions and many more presume that empowering women—through access to credit and tech-



Village women at a crossroads near Mysore and Somnathpur, India, June 2008. Photo: Adam Jones/Creative Commons License-BY-SA.

nical training, through land ownership and equal economic and political decision-making roles—is key to mitigating and adapting to climate change in both developing and industrial countries.

Correspondingly, all of these recommendations—if they are to materialize—oblige men to share power with women and to commit to eliminating social, legal and cultural discrimination against women as well as all forms of violence against women. In other words—a sea change in the patriarchal order of things.

If today's 10-year-old girls are to thrive and help bring about a future we all want, men need to cede their grip on power and women need to take power as partners in the project of transforming the governing paradigms of power. Otherwise, we are all doomed to armageddons of climate change, nuclear weapons, war without end, extremes of inequality and every form of sexualized and racialized violence.

This is an abbreviated version of an article published in *Truthdig*, August 29, 2017, www.truthdig.com/articles/no-climate-justice-without-justice-women. Reprinted by permission.

1. "How Climate Change Impacts Women," NRDS, March 1, 2017, www.nrdc.org/stories/how-climate-change-impacts-women.

2. UNFPA, *State of World Population 2009. Facing a Changing World: Women, Population and Climate*, www.unfpa.org/publications/state-world-population-2009.

H. Patricia Hynes, a WILPF member and retired professor of environmental health at Boston University, directs the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in western Massachusetts, <http://traprock.org>.

Highlights of Branch Actions and Activities

More about the work and actions that engage WILPF US branches and members may be found on the WILPF US website, at wilpfus.org/news, or in the eNews archives, at wilpfus.org/resources/news-archives.

During the weekend of April 22, 26 branches stood together with a single message for Earth Day. This solidarity event was the first time in anyone's memory that WILPF US branches coordinated across the nation on a single theme and spoke with one voice on an issue. That theme, **Peace & Planet Before Profit**, connects concerns around climate justice, the environment, women and human rights, peace, militarism, disarmament, and the importance of #MoveTheMoney from a war economy to an ethical bud-



Greater Philadelphia Branch. Photo courtesy Stelle Sheller.

get that addresses the real human needs of the majority of Americans. Though these issues are deeply entwined, their connection is invisible to many Americans. On Earth Day, WILPF US made clear the interconnectedness. Each participating branch took a photo of its members with a banner featuring the solidarity event theme. Enjoy these photos at wilpfus.org/news/peace-planet-before-profit.

The **Santa Cruz Branch** continues to co-sponsor Together to End Solitary, nationwide actions held on the 23rd of every month to end solitary confinement torture and mass incarceration. That date, the 23rd, represents the 23-plus hours a day people are locked in solitary cells. Such actions to end solitary confinement, mass incarceration, and human rights abuses of currently and formerly incarcerated people began as a statewide effort in California and quickly turned nationwide.



Des Moines Branch members. Photo: Al McDonell.

In May 2017, WILPF members Cynthia Roberts, Nuri Ronaghy, and Alan Shorb attended the **Fifth International Seminar for Peace and the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases** in the town of Guantanamo, Cuba. Representatives from the US and around the world joined in issuing a statement demanding that the US return to the Cuban people the territory occupied by Guantanamo Naval Base and calling for an end to the economic, commercial, and financial blockade. Conference participants called for the closure of foreign bases and military enclaves around the world, and immediate withdrawal of foreign occupation troops from countries where they have been deployed. The statement also called for expanding efforts to disseminate the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and to condemn the imperialist powers and local oligarchy actions in Venezuela directed toward destroying the Bolivarian Revolution as a threat to peace in the entire region.

In May, the **Pittsburgh Branch** was one of the many branches that hosted Ellen Thomas and Odile Hugonot Haber on the **Nuclear Free Future** speaking tour. The event was complemented by the exhibition *Strange Beauty: Autoradiography from Fukushima*, works of Japanese photographer Takashi Morizumi marking the fifth anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster. **Philadelphia WILPF** members also joined Ellen and Odile in a visit to Congressman Doyle's office to deliver petitions with more than 100 signatures in support of Eleanor Holmes Norton's bill for nuclear disarmament.

More than 150 events were held in solidarity with the June 17 **Women's March and Rally to Ban the Bomb**, in New York City, with sister marches across the US and Canada and in countries in Europe, the Pacific Rim, Africa, and the Middle East. A number of WILPF US



Founder of the Ojai WILPF Branch Nuri Ronaghy, fourth from left, at the Guantanamo seminar. Photo: Cynthia Roberts.

branches held events of their own on June 17, demonstrating that the way toward nuclear disarmament has many different paths. Members of the **Des Moines Branch** discussed the issue and distributed leaflets at the downtown farmers market, asking shoppers to advocate for the positive outcome of the UN negotiations for a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. The **Tucson Branch** joined with Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Tucson Peace Center, Nuclear Resister, Veterans for Peace, and the Culture of Peace Alliance to host a June 17 event in support of the landmark UN resolution. The Tucson Raging Grannies, dressed in black and white, serenaded the crowd of 75 who attended.

On June 24, the **Monterey County Branch** cosponsored a Citizen Advocacy Workshop with Kevan Insko, Director of Program and Organizational Development for the Friends Committee on Legislation of California at the Monterey Peace and Justice Center. Open to



Monterey County Branch. Photo courtesy Judy Karas.

the public, the workshop focused on grassroots advocacy and training on how to lobby California legislators.

Palm Beach WILPF members Jean Waters, Carole Fields, and Susan Mosely joined the rally for justice held in Cultural Park, Lake Worth, Florida, on June 25, 2017, to remember murder victim Philando Castile, who was killed in Minnesota on July 6, 2016. The rally was also to protest the verdict, after his killer, Jeronimo Yanez, a police officer in St. Anthony, Minnesota, was released on June 16, 2017, having been acquitted of all charges.



Maine Branch peace wave. Photo courtesy Martha Spiess.

The **St. Louis Branch** held its annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance on Sunday, August 6, 2017, this year commemorating the 72nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Anniversary Letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima was read, and the group watched David Rothausen's film *Hibakusha, Our Life to Live*. The young singers "Group of 12" performed during dinner, and the evening concluded with a candlelight vigil and the singing of "Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me." St. Louis Citizens for Global Solutions, Peace Economy Project, Veterans for Peace, and the World Community Center joined as co-sponsors.

Honoring the occasion of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) called for a global Peace Wave. The **Maine Branch** joined this Peace Wave on September 26, coincidentally the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons! An evening event centered around the Drone Quilt Project, now on exhibit at the Brunswick Public Library.

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WILPF US Congratulates ICAN

Recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize



And, congratulations to those strong-willed, wondrous WILPF women on the WILPF US Board and to all WILPF US members!

WILPF is on the international steering group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and is represented by Reaching Critical Will and Ray Acheson and Allison Pytlak. Susi Snyder, who served as the Secretary General of WILPF, is with PAX, which is also on the international steering group. Felicity Ruby, a former Director of WILPF's UN office, helped found ICAN.

Step up and be a part of WILPF's continuing peace efforts!

Please consider a contribution to WILPF US.

To donate by check:

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To claim a tax deduction, make checks payable to Peace Development Fund-WILPF US

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