

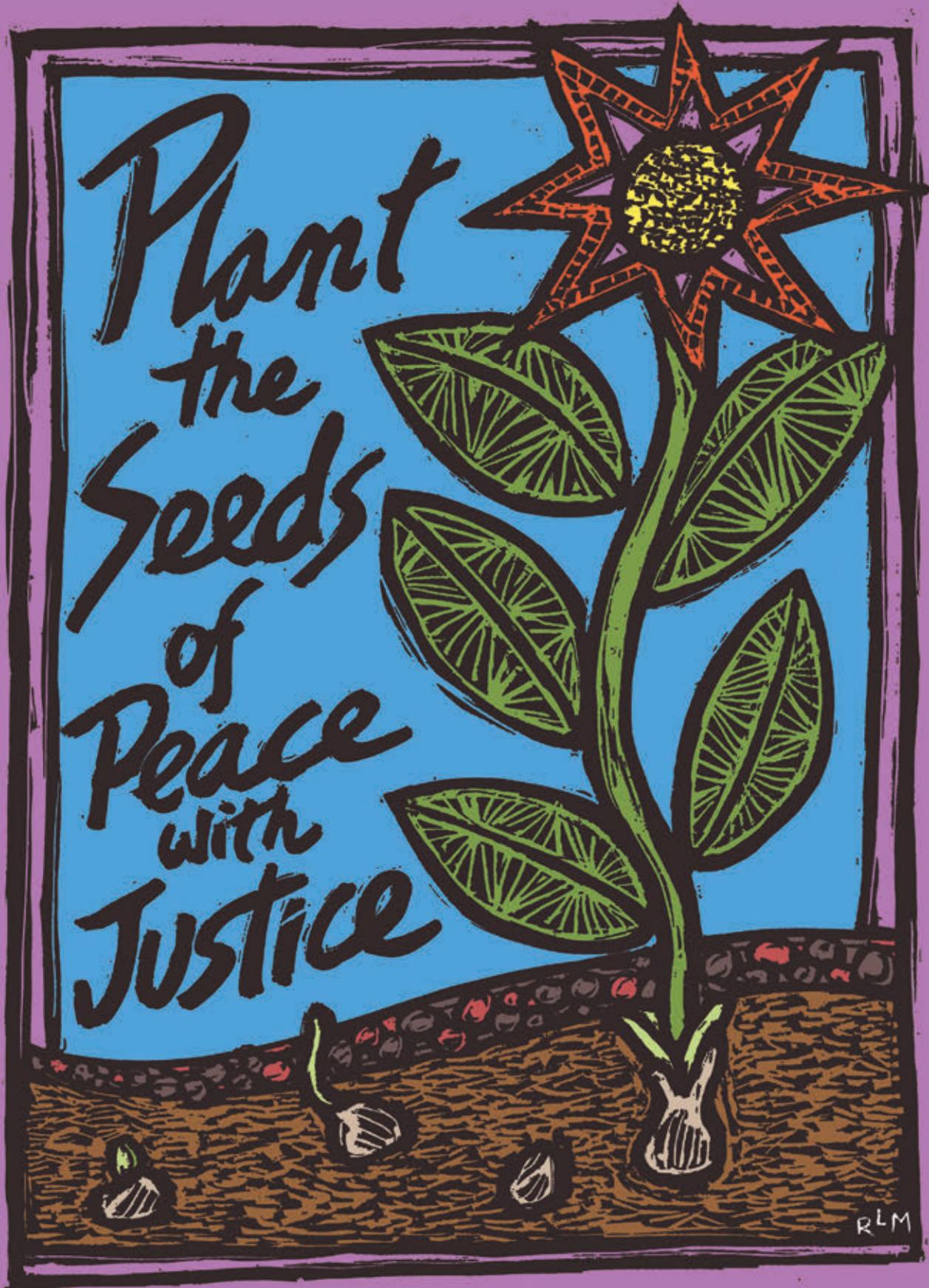
PEACE



FREEDOM

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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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Cover:

"Plant the Seeds of Peace with Justice" by Ricardo Levins Morales. Our cover art says so much about our WILPF work, and we thank artist Ricardo Levins Morales for giving us permission to use this powerful poster. Ricardo is an artist by trade, a healer by temperament and a troublemaker by necessity. His art grew out of his relationships with communities and movements in struggle for a more livable world. He also offers support and reflection for organizers and others facing the dilemmas of trying to create a future out of materials from the past. You can view and purchase Ricardo's work at rlmartstudio.com.

SOLIDARITY & WILPF

Grassroots Movements for the 21st Century

By Mary Hanson Harrison

Just a few days ago I saw an eagle flying over the Raccoon River for the first time since I was a young girl. Maybe it's not a phoenix rising up from the ashes, but nevertheless brings hope while gliding so effortlessly across the sky. I feel hopeful today, too. We have a newly-elected board, and I want to thank all of you who voted and supported democracy. And thank you also for giving the Board and me the opportunity to continue working for a grassroots membership organization, guided and inspired by WILPF members.

I was also recently inspired by a new book on organizing sustainable grassroots organizations: *THIS IS AN UPRISING: how nonviolent revolt is shaping the twenty-first century* by brothers Mark and Paul Engler. The authors take us through the history and complexities of nonviolent grassroots movements around the globe. Their exploration focuses on *how to effectuate sustainable non-violent change*. The two dominant models for nonviolent grassroots movements are Saul Alinsky's structured, more pragmatic community organizing and sociologist Frances Fox Piven's mass mobilization and disruptions. Alinsky is noted for his long-term outlook, stressing the essential need for an "organized people" to overcome "organized money." On the other hand, Piven's theory in her seminal *Poor People's Movements* (1977) is directed at the "burst" of mass protest to change the political landscape.

There has always been, and still is, a certain tension and distrust between these two models of activism, and, as we saw in Occupy, the ongoing suspicion of any institutional structure. The Englers point out varying attempts to integrate the models, hybrids of sorts, with varying degrees of success. For example, the Serbian uprising led by Otpor in the late 1990s to the more recent Arab Spring, Occupy, transformative same-sex marriage court decisions and now, Black Lives Matter and Democracy Awakening! For the authors, it's Gandhi's fifty-year movement that successfully incorporates the two modes of activism and serves as a "potent recipe for transformation."

Following this recipe, WILPF US has the basic ingredients for sustaining a global WILPF grassroots movement in the 21st century. The ingredients consist of branch-level activities; issue committee actions; interface with WILPF



Mary Hanson Harrison and Maureen N. Eke demonstrate in New York against the murder of environmental activist, Berta Cáceres. Photo: Robin Lloyd

International and WILPF's United Nations Office (UNO); along with collaborations with local, national and international grassroots organizations. WILPF US members were a powerful presence at the recent United Nations (UN) Sixtieth Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), serving as both educators and activists.

Many of us stood out in the rain in New York, a few blocks from the UN, corralled by steel barriers as we came to celebrate the life of environmental activist, Berta Cáceres, mourn her death and shout back at the assassins, "¡Viva Berta!" Yet back at CSW60 when I talked with several women, they were worried that not only would we soon forget Berta's sacrifice but that the emphasis on women and gender issues as transformational would meet the same fate. WILPFers bring a sense of urgency and the call for "accelerated action" in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the "CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions." Our job is unifying "these different modes of activism" to carry out the goals within a united global movement.

In *THIS IS AN UPRISING: how nonviolent revolt is shaping the twenty-first century*, the Englers conclude by framing a successful social movement around the "ecology of change." The change reflects "an ecosystem that allows diverse approaches to promoting change," bringing together the short-term burst of energy and the more structured long-term sustaining movement. The interconnectedness that we support in WILPF enables women devoted to scholarly research and policy-making to sit at the same table -- the one WE build -- with grassroots workers and activists. A nonviolent solidarity with a more structured membership-based movement and the momentum of mass mobilization that will RISE UP for peace and freedom!

Introducing the 2016 WILPF US Board

The National Board acts on behalf of the membership of the US Section and is responsible to its membership. We are honored to represent you and to work for peace and justice. We are members of branches from all over the country and at-large members. Some of us are newer to WILPF US, some are life members. The recently elected board is made up of the following ten members:



Mary Hanson Harrison
President
Des Moines, IA



LaShawndra Vernon
Interim Treasurer / Finance
Committee Chair
Milwaukee, WI



Candace Perry
Secretary
Wellfleet, MA



Nicole Scott
Personnel
Committee Chair
Detroit, MI



Marybeth Gardam
Development
Committee Chair
Winter Haven, FL



Laura Dewey
Nominating
Committee Chair
Detroit, MI

Elections for 2017 Board

Nominations will be open until September 2 for positions on the 2017 Board. The open positions are Treasurer (3 years), Personnel Chair (3 years), one of the two Program Chair positions (3 years), Membership Development (3 years), At-large (1 year: third year of a vacant position). The Membership Development and one At-large position are currently vacant; these may be filled by the board between now and the next term. For more details, go to wilpfus.org.



Odile Hugonot Haber
Program
Committee
Chair
Ann Arbor, MI



Maureen Ngozi Eke
Program Committee
Chair
Mount Pleasant, MI



Dixie Hairston
At-Large Board
Member
Dallas, TX



Melissa Torres
US Member of the
International
Board
Houston, TX

Climate Justice Requires Trade Justice

By Nancy Price

Chair, WILPF US Earth Democracy Issue Committee

What does our campaign, **CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE**, have to do with trade policy? Many of us have been encouraged by the outcome of the “Paris Agreement” which was negotiated by representatives of 195 countries at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris and adopted by consensus on December 12, 2015. It was opened for signature on Earth Day, 2016, and we continue to monitor developments. However, we know that this climate agreement is voluntary. There are trade agreements in the making which will have devastating climate consequences. These agreements — the TransPacific Partnership (TPP), the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) — are not voluntary. If enacted, these trade agreements are legally binding.

On Earth Day, April 22, Secretary of State John Kerry gathered with some 60 heads of state at the United Nations to sign the Paris Climate Agreement with representative of about 170 countries from among the 195 countries that adopted the agreement in Paris, December 2015.

This treaty comes into force only after at least 55 countries, including the 28 of the European Union (EU), representing 55% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, have ratified it. For some countries, like the United States, ratification only requires assent of the political leader. Other countries need their parliaments to ratify or to change laws to do so. At present, some 34 countries representing 49% of GHG emissions have formally ratified it, including the US, number two in emissions, but not yet, number one, China.

Are Voluntary Agreements Enough?

But let's be clear, individual country plans to reduce emissions are voluntary. The legal requirement is that countries publicly monitor, verify and report what they are doing, as well as regularly and publicly put forth updated plans. Basically, however, this only creates a sort of “name-and-shame” system of global peer pressure in the “hope” that a country will not want to be seen as an international

laggard. While, this system scales up ambition, it depends heavily on the intentions of future political leaders who will carry out these policies.

Yet, today, people and the planet are entering dangerous territory of chain reactions and unforeseen “tipping” points from which we and the planet might not recover.

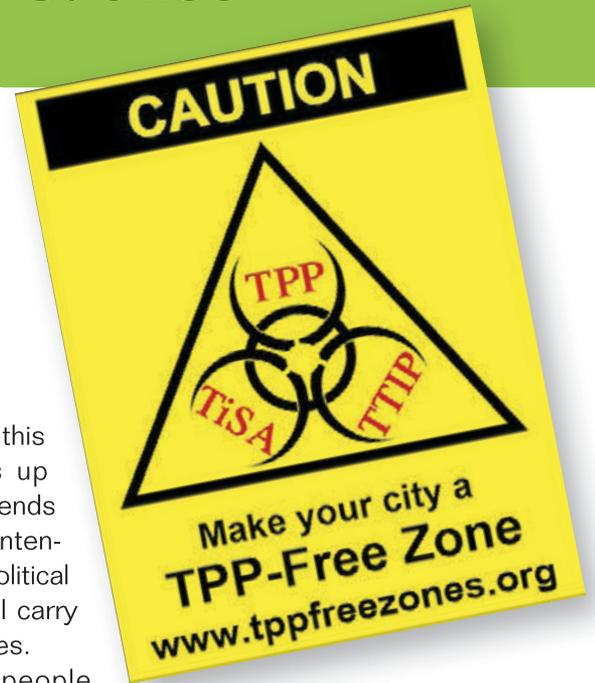
In early March, global temperature briefly crossed the 2-degrees C above “normal” for the first time in recorded history, and the first months of 2016 were the warmest recorded, causing significant sea level rise due to melting of Arctic and Antarctic ice and the Greenland ice cap and high ocean temperatures which are impacting marine species and coral reefs.

Binding Trade Agreements

For over five years a broad coalition of environmental, health, labor, and many professional and democracy groups have worked to expose the devastating impact the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) will have on people and the planet. It comes down to this: Congress could pass the TPP during the “lame duck” session that begins right after the Nov. 4th election. Between now and Nov. 4th we must “lock-down” every “No” vote and convert wavering and “Yes” votes to Stop the TPP.

The TPP is a free trade agreement that allows corporations to sue for anticipated lost profits from democratically enacted laws that protect people and the planet. It also includes the new “docking” provision; any country within or beyond the Pacific Rim that agrees to the text can join to expand its geographic reach and impact.

Now that a huge cache of secret negotiating documents for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the 28 European Union (EU) countries and the US has been leaked, this agreement is surely doomed as resistance builds across the EU. The Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), the third agreement being secretly negotiated among 50 countries, has



received less attention, but will lead to the privation of at least 90% of all public services. However, now we must focus on defeating the TPP.

Shockingly, the climate agreement exempts the carbon footprint of all sea and air transport from national calculations of GHG emission totals and emissions from international flights are predicted to triple and shipping emissions to quadruple by 2050.

The Challenges Ahead

We cannot delay in launching the green energy revolution. The climate agreement does not tell oil, gas or coal producers to leave 80% of the world's remaining fossil fuels in the ground as the only way to achieve the ambitious target of keeping temperature increases below 1.5 degrees C (3.7 degrees F) and avoid runaway global warming and extreme weather events. Rather, should Congress pass the TPP, oil and gas fracking in the US will accelerate, including expansion of dangerous pipelines and oil-by-rail transport to enlarged ports along the East,

West and Gulf coasts for export.

We must challenge "false solutions" such as unproven carbon capture and storage and bioenergy which are being promoted. Bioenergy projects are now greenwashed as "reforestation," replacing forests with tree plantations for bioenergy, which means removing indigenous peoples and forest communities from their land for corporations to profit.

We must change the system to create jobs and manufacturing in this country, reducing the carbon footprint of imported goods to lower the likelihood of increased global warming, extreme weather, conflict and militarism. It has long been documented how women are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

The voluntary framework of the climate agreement combined with the legally binding trade agreements is a lethal combination. Please watch for WILPF TPP action alerts. We must mobilize from now to Nov. 4 to lockdown all the "yes" votes we can and shift other votes into that column to defeat the TPP.

Listen to Women...for a Change

At the Centennial Congress in The Hague, April 2015, members passed unanimously the "Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Peace" and "Protecting Democracy and the Public Interest from Secret Trade Agreements" resolutions co-authored by our Corporations v Democracy and Earth Democracy Issue Groups. Later, in the fall of 2015, these two issues committees received a mini-grant to launch the new one-year CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE Campaign.

Branches and members so enthusiastically ordered the infographic card for the first project of the campaign that we quickly ran out of the 5,000 first printing and have ordered 10,000 more for WILPF and for sale to other organizations.

We are now finishing the Study Guide which will be posted on the website, including possible actions, solutions and further reading. Limited numbers of printed copies will be available for branch and member study and community discussion. This Study Guide will expand

on the issues briefly highlighted on the card to show the intense connections between how women, their families and communities suffer the consequences of the current runaway system of corporate capitalism and of the convergence of the climate, security, economic and democracy crises we are facing. There can be no denying: people and the planet are at a tipping point!

SYSTEM CHANGE! So, at this historic moment, we must move toward transforming the current system to one based on justice, human rights, democracy and the rights of nature – the Study Guide will provide context, resources and actions to inspire change. As Naomi Klein has written, "the best chance to build a new world is to change or be changed."

To order the infographic card, please email Marybeth Gardam mbgardam@gmail.com. The cards are free, though payment for postage is requested. You can also download the card in two sizes and find more information on the campaign at wilpfus.org/our-work/earth-democracy/womenclimatepeace.

CLIMATE JUSTICE WOMEN & PEACE



CLIMATE CHANGE =

- EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS
- LOSS OF SAFE WATER & FOOD
- RISING SEA LEVELS
- COLLAPSED ECONOMIES



2015 HOTTEST YEAR
ON RECORD



200 MILLION
DISPLACED BY 2050
UN PREDICTS

DISASTER CAPITALISM

After extreme weather events, corporations & investors profit from redevelopment projects that displace the poor.

TPP & TTIP "FREE TRADE" AGREEMENTS

**DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT
INCREASE GLOBAL WARMING**

- Increase the carbon footprint of imported goods
- Dictate deliberately weak environmental regulations

CRASH LOCAL ECONOMIES

- Unfairly preference imports
- Seek cheapest offshore labor & weakest worker rights

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

MOST AFFECTED

The Poor
People of Color
Indigenous People
& Tribal Nations



WOMEN

- ♀ Bear the burden of care for elders & children
- ♀ Must travel far in unsafe areas for safe food and water
- ♀ Keep families safe in extreme weather & conflict zones
- ♀ Left unprotected when men go to fight
- ♀ Targeted for RAPE & KIDNAP by armies and terrorists
- ♀ Sold as COMMODITIES in human trafficking and sex trafficking
- ♀ Forced to sell themselves to support their families



**WOMEN BEAR THE
HEAVIEST BURDEN**



**THEY HAVE NO
VOICE OR POWER.**

CONFLICT + MILITARISM

DESTROY

WATER • FOOD • HEALTHCARE
EDUCATION • TRANSPORTATION
& MUCH MORE

CREATE

CHAOS • DISEASE • REFUGEES
DISABLED VETERANS • HUNGER
HOMELESSNESS • IMMIGRATION
HEALTHCARE CRISIS
GENERATIONS OF TRAUMATIZED
FAMILIES & NEW TERRORISTS



THREATEN THE PLANET

Military is major source of CO2 emissions, excluded from global totals.

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Use military, mercenaries & private security to seize resources, protect property & profits. This fuels conflict & tramples human rights.

U.S. ECONOMY BUILT ON ENDLESS CYCLE OF WAR

- The U.S. is a global supplier of weapons & drones.
- Military jobs often only employment option.
- Bloated military budgets divert funds from vital veteran and human services, infrastructure and education investment.

FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE WOMEN & PEACE

LISTEN TO WOMEN FOR A CHANGE

HUMAN RIGHTS
made central to all initiatives
for climate, food security &
conflict resolution.

**WOMEN & ALL
STAKEHOLDERS**
as Equal Partners at all
climate and peace talks.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE &
TRIBAL NATIONS**
Recognition of their rights
and rights of Mother Earth.

**NON-VIOLENT
CONFLICT RESOLUTION**
Violence destroys communities,
life-sustaining ecosystems
& vital infrastructure.

NO MORE THAN 1.5°C global temperature increase.
Even a 2°C target will be disastrous for people & planet.
National commitments must be binding not voluntary.

100% RENEWABLE ENERGY ECONOMY BY 2050
80% of fossil fuels, main cause of global warming,
must remain in the ground. End deforestation by 2020!

NO FALSE SOLUTIONS. No coal, oil & gas fracking/drilling,
bio-fuels, destructive dams, deadly nuclear energy, geo-engineering,
carbon-capture "fixes," or cap & trade/carbon tax policies.

INCENTIVIZE INVESTMENT for sustainable, renewable energy systems.
End fossil fuel subsidies - \$5.3 trillion USD spent globally in 2015.

SUPPORT UN GREEN CLIMATE FUND sufficient for
developing nations to mitigate and adapt to counter climate impacts.

DEFEAT TPP AND TTIP that will override UN COP 21
commitments & Sustainable Development Goals.
Protest military "Pivot to Asia" & NATO expansion.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE for carbon
and nuclear-free energy & green jobs economy. **HR 1976**, "Proposition 1,"
the **Nuclear Weapons Abolition & Economic Energy Conversion Act, 2015**,
submitted by Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton. **HR 540**, 2015, submitted by
Reps. John Lewis and Raul Grijalva.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!



SUPPORT GLOBAL DEMANDS
for climate justice, human rights
& the rights of Mother Earth.
Endorse "The Women's Global
Call For Climate Justice"
for transformative climate
and energy policy.

www.womenclimatejustice.org

REDUCE YOUR OWN CARBON FOOTPRINT

http://green.wikia.com/wiki/How_to_reduce_your_carbon_footprint

WORK TO PASS HR 1976 "PROP 1" AND HR 540

www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1976

www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house/resolution/540

DEFEAT THE TPP & TTIP

PROTEST THE MILITARY "PIVOT TO ASIA" & NATO EXPANSION

www.wilpfus.org/our-work/earth-democracy/womenclimatepeace

RAISE CLIMATE JUSTICE, WOMEN & PEACE issues with
elected officials and candidates.

FIND TOOLS for organizing, actions, & media.

<http://wilpfus.org/our-work/earth-democracy/womenclimatepeace>

EXPLORE WILPF-US! www.wilpfus.org

JOIN WILPF: www.wilpfus.org/join • **CONTACT US:** info@wilpfus.org

SUPPORT OUR WORK: www.wilpfus.org/donate



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM · U.S. SECTION
Connecting Economic Justice and Human Rights to the Roots of War since 1915!

Reporting from COP21

By Odile Hugonot Haber

This past December, the 21st United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Paris, attended by 195 nations. I participated in the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) forums, which took place concurrently in the “Espaces Generation Climat,” the Climate Generations areas where civil society met in all its diversity covering all generations. Ségolène Royal, COP President and France’s Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (which organized the COP21 conference and negotiations), was the opening speaker.

At the same time, the UN Climate change meetings were taking place and produced the first-ever agreement in which almost all countries, including all major carbon emitting economies, pledged to curb their greenhouse gas emissions and focused on keeping global warming under two degrees Celsius. They also pledged to help poor nations make changes and create an infrastructure that would help them to prevent the effects of climate change. The agreements created an outline for monitoring and verifying countries’ compliance with their commitments.

There was some critique of the Paris agreement, such as from James Hansen, a former NASA scientist who first alerted the world to climate change in 1988. Hansen called the agreement a “complete fraud,” diverting us from the real cause of climate change — the continued reliance on oil and coal. He noted that the agreements to reduce emissions contain no mention of concrete consequences for offending polluters; and there are no sanctions, taxes, or other means of punishing those who fall short of the targets set by COP21. Naomi Klein, author of the noted book on climate change, *This Changes Everything*, said that the Paris agreement takes us “backwards.” She said that, at least the Kyoto Agreement of 1997 included binding language, while this one does not.

One of the problems with the COP21 agreement is that it did not include emissions from aviation and shipping, which will make it almost impossible to keep global warming to below two degrees Celsius. Another criticism came from Ananda Lee Tan, the organizer for the



The author inside the Espaces Generations Climat (Climate Generations Zone), the building where NGOs met, riding the energy bicycle which produced power to run a juicer for fresh juice. Photo: Odile Hugonot Haber

Vancouver-based Climate Justice Alliance. Speaking to Common Dreams she said, “Once again, world leaders have shown that they lack the political courage, decency, and integrity to stand for the needs of the most impacted communities around the world in the biggest ecological crises of our time.”

In the most impacted communities, the crisis of climate change creates national catastrophes: desertification, deterioration and loss of productivity, pollution of rivers and aquifers, loss of biodiversity, deforestation of equatorial virgin forests and of tropical regions, intense storms, cyclones, and floods.

The native community wanted to see something in the document specific to native people’s rights. Native people are at the forefront of the defense of the environment, often at the risk of their lives.

Women had a “women gender constituency” day and a list of 11 non-negotiable points that affirmed their demands, and they lobbied the delegates to include them in the agreed document.

Women are often the first to be affected by climate change, as they take care of the children, elders and the sick. In the case of flood, storm, famine or war they assume responsibility to organize their communities for survival. They try to find solutions that protect the population and the biodiversity. According to the UN, women and children have a 14 times greater risk than men of becoming victims of climate crises. For example, during the cyclone of Sidr in Bangladesh, 89% of the victims

were women; 61% of the victims of the 2008 cyclone Nargis in Burma were women.

Women constitute most of the field workers, and mostly women grow and tend vegetable gardens. However, when the meetings on climate change happen in rural communities, women are generally not invited. The fact is that women have little access to resources and, for the most part, they do not make the decisions that affect their lives. "In this case, they are not the people targeted by the program of alert and prevention," said Laurent Fabius, French Foreign Minister.

Yet it is women who often are the keepers of traditional knowledge in terms of agriculture and conservation. It is women who are the innovators in terms of finding strategies for adaptation and survival. They are the ones who know the techniques of preservation and the ones who, with love and patience, apply them where they live with their families to help communities adapt to the changes of the climate.

WILPF was a participant in the gender days in the COP 21 and advanced ideas on the effects of climate change on women and the connection between militarism and climate change.

Huge amounts of money in the United States are invested in weapons systems that could instead be used to preserve the environment by supporting alternative energy. There seemed to be a tacit silent agreement at the COP21 meetings that the impact of the military on the environment was not part of the conversation.

The European women in the group had produced a set of demands that were of concern to them. This set of 11 demands represented the minimum of the conditions to which we must affirm to preserve human survival. They specifically wanted to contain the rise in global temperature to 1.5 C degrees above the pre-industrial level because even 2 degrees is a death warrant for the African continent and the island nations. We heard these concerns voiced many times during the meetings from African and native people, and they tried to lobby the UN delegates.



A particleboard tree greeted visitors when they first walked into the Espaces Generations Climat; handwritten letters to COP21 hang from it like leaves. Photo: Odile Hugonot Haber

Article 2 of the final agreement states as a goal, "Holding the increase in the global temperature to well below 2C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risk and impact of climate change." Scientists tell us that such a small difference in temperature, if not prevented, would indeed impact the coral reefs and ice banks, the sea would rise and cover small islands; it would generate massive heat waves, bush fires, droughts, or heavy rainfall and floods.

After the meeting there was much enthusiasm around the fact that, for the first time, 195 nations could unite around 1.5 C and that it would be inscribed in the final "agreement." However, the document lacks specifics on how to obtain and achieve these goals. The review process for accountability is to take place every five years. For me, it was a great meeting in many ways, since it brought together people who will implement new techniques, grow consciousness on these issues, and teach the youth of the possibilities for our planet.

Odile Hugonot Haber is a registered nurse, a local organizer and National Program Chair of WILPF US.

Program Planning Retreat

Connecting Us All

It became clear to us that our branches are busy doing programs that they think are urgent nationally and locally.

This past fall, a small group of members active in the national program committee and the national issues committees, plus two long-time active members, as well as several other members and staff, gathered in retreat in Des Moines, Iowa, to review and brainstorm ideas and concerns about program activities and interests of WILPF US Section. We were grateful to the Des Moines Branch for serving as our host for this weekend, performing several functions, including meals, transportation and accommodations. We met at an historic former firehouse that has served as a meeting space for peace and justice groups for decades.

Program Chairs Maureen N. Eke and Odile Hugonot Haber facilitated the meeting aimed at examining the strategies WILPF US uses to accomplish goals and work collaboratively across issue committees, branches, and membership. We began with brief reports to familiarize one another with and update ourselves on our current work.

It was clear that as WILPF US members, we are committed to WILPF and our work, many of us being active members of WILPF and working in our specific areas of interests for decades. These wise members provide us with excellent models.

We also have great examples in a new generation of women, strong and equally committed, who are working in some existing and emerging areas of interests. We continue to be present at the annual Commission on the Status of Women. Six WILPF US issue committees remain strong, working in a variety of issues:

1. **Advancing Human Rights/CEDAW**
2. **Corporations v. Democracy**
3. **Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance**
4. **Disarm/End Wars**
5. **Earth Democracy**
6. **Middle East**

In short, as WILPF US, we have passion for our work, and our strength lies in that passion and commitment. In the retreat it became clear to us that our branches are busy doing programs that they think are urgent nationally and locally.

We then became aware that the best approach would be



Participants in the WILPF US program retreat in Des Moines, Iowa, pictured from left, Jan Kubiak, Ellen Thomas, Carol Urner (seated), Marybeth Gardam, Joan Brannigan, Odile Hugonot Haber, Lamia Sadek, Maureen N. Eke (front), Ariane Blondin (back), Mary Hanson Harrison, Cindy Domingo (in shadow), Robin Lloyd, Nancy Price (back), Barbara Taft (front), Melissa Torres, Barbara Nielsen, Mary Jane Schutzius and Penny Hansen. Photo: Ellen Thomas

to support branches doing the same kind of programs by highlighting the dates they chose, connecting them, and adding support with resources provided by national, such as banners, fliers, press releases, and other information. Some of these materials have already been developed by branches over the years, and their expertise should be valued and shared. Helping to make branches more effective was our first priority. Our second is to have a more vibrant and visible national organization.

But we were also honest about areas of concern, potential areas of weakness, and perhaps, potential areas of growth. For this, the new WILPF US Program Chair Maureen N. Eke led us through some strategic thinking so that we could identify areas that need strengthening. Indeed, the retreat provid-

Continued on page 11.

Cuba Update

By Cindy Domingo

Full economic, social and diplomatic relations will not be able to occur without the full lifting of the embargo.

The Cuba solidarity movement's euphoria that took hold after President Obama announced the reestablishment of US-Cuba diplomatic relations has slowly been replaced with the realization that the Republican controlled Congress has no intention, at this point, of lifting the travel ban, much less the US blockade against Cuba. Even the President's trip to Cuba could not convince Congress otherwise.

Substantial issues remain unresolved and continue to be negotiated by the two governments, including Cuba's demands of the return of Guantanamo base, reparations for damages to Cuba from the 56 year old blockade and the continued funding of US initiatives that seek to undermine the Cuban government including monies granted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

A mere three days after Obama left Cuba, the US State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) announced a \$753,989 community internship program targeting "young emerging leaders from Cuban civil society."

As taken from the executive summary, WHA invites, "US. nonprofit organizations and US educational institutions to submit proposals for the Community Internship Program for Cuban Youth, which will support the par-

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you to Cindy Domingo, chair of the WILPF US Cuba and Bolivarian Alliance issue committee, and Leni Villagomez Reeves, chair, Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Committee WILPF Fresno, for correcting my error in the Fall/Winter 2015 issue of Peace and Freedom. I mistakenly noted, "...and we take a cautious optimism now that the travel ban has been lifted and relations may begin to normalize between the US and Cuba." This was an error of substance that has the result of falsely reassuring WILPF members about an end to the unjust and immoral sanctions brought to bear upon Cuba by the US. The travel ban remains in place; the rules are unchanged, and the only change is that one no longer has to document conformity with the restrictions and request a license on a case by case basis.



Miguel Fraga, first secretary of the newly re-opened Cuban Embassy in Washington DC, spoke to welcoming crowds at 20 different events including nine colleges and universities during his west coast tour in March. Shown here at San Francisco State University. Photo: Bill Hackwell

ticipation of young emerging leaders from Cuban civil society in a two- to four-month professional development program. The program will include specialized training and an internship with a nonprofit organization in the United States, which will fuel the participants' development of action plans for nongovernmental community activities in Cuba. Cuban civil society is not formed into well-established organizations that would typically be found in a society with a strong democratic tradition. Through participation in the program, participants will develop a set of leadership tools and skills to manage and grow civil society organizations that will actively support democratic principles in Cuba." Given the history of US interference in Cuba's internal affairs and the funding of counterrevolutionary activities, US funding of individuals and organizations under the auspices of growing "civil society" continues to be seen as part of the US' plan for "regime change."

On the economic side, open trade between the two countries has not commenced due to credit policies and Cuba's inability to use its own currency on the trade market. While Obama continues to tackle these issues bit by bit, the major economic barriers to open trade are regulated by the US embargo legislation. Full economic, social and diplomatic relations will not be able to occur without the full lifting of the embargo. This will require an act of Congress since the embargo was codified into law in 1996 under President Bill Clinton and his signing of the Helms Burton Act.

For most US people, there is a facade of normalization because many more thousands of US citizens are traveling to Cuba. However, people from the US must still comply with travel regulations limiting their visits to Cuba to within 12 categories of travel monitored by the Office of Foreign Assets (OFAC). Travel for tourism purposes is still against US law. For Cubans, travel to the US for educational and cultural purposes is still a hit or miss with some Cubans being denied visas even though their requests for visas are for legitimate purposes like the Latin American Studies Association International Conference being held in New York in May. This past year, WILPF's Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance and US Women & Cuba Collaboration had to call off a national educational tour of a leading lesbian feminist because "there was not a visa for this type of visit," according to US consular officials.

In a recent April speech by Gerardo Hernandez in Vancouver, BC, one of the Cuban Five who was released in December 2014 as part of the movement towards US-Cuba normalization, Gerardo said that Cuba is a small country but that the US must treat Cubans with mutual respect and respect for their national sovereignty. He asked the international Cuba solidarity movement to remember that only when the US lifts the blockade and commits to such a foreign policy, can there be a normalization of relations between our two countries.

WILPF US MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all of you, we're growing!

2015: 950 members

2016: 1470 members

Both numbers include 466 life members.

Thanks to all who joined or renewed and kept WILPF growing!

Program Retreat

Continued from page 9.

ed us with tremendous opportunity for critical self-examination. While acknowledging areas of weakness, such as poor communication between WILPF US board/leadership and branches or among branches, or even between issue committees, we explored ways to further grow WILPF. The critical self-examination and program strategic thinking resulted in the identification of three broad goals:

GOAL 1: Strengthening WILPF US Through an Improved Communication Outreach Strategy.

GOAL 2: Actively Growing Wilpf and More Effectively Engaging Branches.

GOAL 3: Advancing Peace, Justice, and Human Rights.

In early January 2016, a small working group, consisting of Laura Dewey (Detroit Branch), Odile Hugonot Haber, (Ann Arbor Branch and national Program Committee chair), Barbara Nielsen (San Francisco Branch and national Advancing Human Rights issues committee co-chair), Lamia Sadek (US Section managing director), Mary Jane Schutzius (St. Louis Branch), and Maureen N. Eke (at-large and national Program Committee chair) began meeting weekly to organize documents generated during the program retreat and to gather feedback from various committee chairs, branch representatives, and individuals into a draft document to present to the general membership.

The working group has been focusing on the retreat goals with the most suggestions and for which we also received a lot of feedback: Goal #3: Advancing Peace, Justice, and Human Rights. This goal also naturally reflects WILPF's founding principles, and articulates and embodies the organization's vision. Our aim is to produce a realistic and useable draft plan proposal for review and discussion within the general membership. This spring the draft document for Goal #3 was circulated to the membership and feedback was requested. The next step will be to incorporate member comments, suggestions, and ideas into a strategic plan to move the discussion of our program priorities and goals forward with a timeline and an implementation plan. For more information, please contact Program Chairs Maureen N. Eke, eke1mn@cmich.edu, and Odile Hugonot Haber, odilehh@gmail.com.

This article is compiled from reports from Program Chairs Maureen N. Eke and Odile Hugonot Haber.

From Coast to Coast

The Nuclear Free Future Tour

In early 2016, Carol Urner and Ellen Thomas, co-chairs of the WILPF US Disarm/End Wars issue committee, began their Nuclear Free Future Tour. They traveled the West Coast, making many stops from Southern California up through Seattle and reminding WILPF members and the public of the critical need to stop the entire nuclear chain -- from uranium mining in the Black Hills on sacred tribal lands, to the obscene amount of money we spend annually maintaining nukes and building new ones.

Everywhere they went Ellen and Carol were warmly welcomed as featured speakers to crowds who are hungry for ways to abolish nuclear weapons and the threat they pose. They shared information about the threat to peace and the environment from the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), and how the TPP will ramp up military spending, weapons sales, and resource conflicts. They distributed the CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE infographic cards, helping link the issues of human rights, climate change, immigration, human trafficking, resource theft, unjust trade policies and ramped up conflicts over resources that result in more weapons and more military intervention.

In the spring, the **Nuclear Free Future Tour** continued along the East Coast, including stops with WILPF branches and other activists in Columbus, Asheville and Chapel Hill, NC; Woodbridge, VA; Cape Cod and Boston, MA; New Haven, CT; and New York City. In addition, they took part in the annual Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's (ANA) lobbying days in Washington, DC, meeting with congressional and executive branch decision-makers. In the fall, they hope to resume the **Nuclear Free Future Tour**, taking their determined message to branches in the Midwest.

If you were fortunate enough to have had Carol and Ellen visit your community, you know what a huge undertaking campaigning for a nuclear free future is. There are complex national and international treaties, laws, and



Carol and Ellen on the East Coast Tour, Cape Cod, MA.

Photo: Ellen Thomas

proposed bills to consider. Resources abound relating to the risks of all things nuclear. Their presentations help us understand the work ahead.

WILPF East Bay and San Francisco hosted a panel in Oakland, CA which included the **Nuclear Free Future Tour**. Betty Traynor, of WILPF San Francisco, shared her observations with *Peace & Freedom*, giving a sample of Carol and Ellen's comprehensive presentations.

Carol spoke first and told us of her long history in anti-nuclear issues beginning in the '50s and continuing in the '60s with Women for Peace working for the first test ban treaty. And then a car accident, which killed her husband, and left Carol in a coma for many days, caused her to re-dedicate her life to the cause of nuclear disarmament back in the US. She highly recommended a book, "my bible," she said, When the World Outlawed War, by David Swanson, which tells of a time in US history when we did outlaw war through the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 that renounced war as an instrument of national policy. She discussed the global movement to ban nuclear weapons, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) that held a conference in 2013 in Oslo attended by 122 countries and non-governmental organizations, and Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament program of WILPF International, reachingcriticalwill.org. Carol

Ellen and Carol were warmly welcomed as featured speakers to crowds who are hungry for ways to abolish nuclear weapons and the threat they pose.

is now dedicating her energies to letting people know about HR 1976, the bill introduced by Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, the **Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2015**.

Her intrepid fellow traveler Ellen Thomas told us more about this bill, first introduced in 1994 and the only legislation calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide. Ellen also has a long history of activism for peace, being involved with the White House Peace Vigil in Lafayette Park from 1984 to 2002, and with WILPF and the Prop One Campaign against nuclear weapons. She stressed the importance of education about HR 1976 which provides for nuclear weapons abolition and economic conversion while ensuring environmental restoration and clean-energy conversion. Her tour with Carol to visit WILPF branches and hold public meetings also includes meeting with Congressional representatives in each district where they travel. They met with the staff of Congressional Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi in San Francisco on Feb. 3 and also with staff of Rep. Jackie Speier and others in the Bay Area, plus they were able to meet Rep. Zoe Lofgren in person. They are encouraging these Congress people to co-sponsor HR 1976. Ellen pointed us to the website for the legislation, prop1.org, for all the information we need to join the campaign for HR 1976.

Carol and Ellen report that it was a wonderful experience to meet the amazing WILPFers and coalition partners, such as Veterans for Peace, Mothers for Peace, Raging Grannies, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Peace Houses. During their tour they had meetings with many allies in the nuclear free future movement and visited local Congressional offices. And Carol tells of pushing her "wheelie" throughout the halls of Congress!

For more information on how you can become involved in the work for a nuclear free future, go to the WILPF US DISARM/End Wars website, wilpfus.org/our-work/disarm-wars. To schedule a Nuclear Free Future tour, or for more information, contact Ellen Thomas at et@prop1.org.

Earth Democracy Banners Available!



Earth Democracy banners at the 2014 People's Climate March in New York City. Pictured from left are Epi Epton from Amherst, MA and Randa Solick and Judy Geer from WILPF Santa Cruz. Photo: Nancy Price

There are still a few of these Earth Democracy banners available for purchase. They are 3' x 3' on lightweight nylon with water-based paints and come with pockets at the top and bottom for poles. Directions for assembling to carry, as shown here, are included. Banners are \$50.00 each, plus \$5.00 for postage. Please send your name, mailing address and check to Nancy Price, 1223 Sequoia Place, Davis, CA 95616. For more info, contact her at nancytprice39@gmail.com.

Branches Take Action!

There are currently 46 branches in WILPF US, one “WILPF group,” and three new branches in the planning stages. All over the country, our branches are ACTIVE! We asked branches to share examples of the kinds of actions they’re taking, both as branches and in coalition with others. Hopefully, we can learn from each other, be inspired, and know that we’re part of an organization that is always planting the seeds of peace for justice.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Branch

The Pittsburgh Branch held its 10th annual tax day rally and penny poll next to the post office with a lot of foot traffic on a busy street corner. We handed out War Resisters League pie chart flyers with the federal budget and displayed posters showing how much money goes to the military vs. human needs. And we held a penny poll, giving people 10 cents each to distribute “their taxes” according to their preference into the jars marked as follows:

- Environment
- Health
- Education
- Veterans
- Mass Transit
- Food
- Housing
- Military.

The branch started out with just five categories, but added veterans, mass transit and environment through the years. Edith Bell reports that education was again the big winner and the military got very few pennies!

Southern Indiana Branch

The Southern Indiana Branch has fought hard to oppose passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We have targeted three areas: working with the local city council, educating the public, and meeting with our Congressman’s office.

We worked with Bloomington City Council members to encourage them to pass a resolution opposing the TPP.

WILPF members sent council members TPP information from WILPF US. In addition we spread the word to the public about the council meeting to discuss such a resolution, and WILPF members spoke out at that meeting with well-informed concerns about TPP. And on March 3, 2016, the resolution passed!

To educate the public on the harmful implications of TPP, many of our members wrote letters to the editor, one member published a guest column in the newspaper, and we held a public forum where a faculty member from Indiana University’s Labor Studies Department spoke on “Trading Away Democracy.”

We also arranged a meeting with our US Representative Todd Young’s office to explain the negative impact TPP will have on our environment, our labor force, and even our sovereignty.

As a follow-up, our chapter is now reading *Change the Story, Change the Future: A Living Economy for a Living Earth*, by David C. Korten. We are meeting weekly to discuss his ideas.

Cape Cod, Massachusetts Branch

The Racial Justice subcommittee of Cape Cod WILPF took on two major areas of action this year:

1. reparations for African Americans and
2. loss of land rights by seemingly different, but similar groups, Native Americans and Palestinians.

To understand the ongoing issue of reparations we read numerous articles, especially those by Ta-Nehisi Coates. We want to do more than educate, however; we want to plant seeds of change, in the form of action. The reparations action we’re taking is circulating a petition to support H.R. 40, legislation by Rep. John Conyers Jr, “Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.” The bill, which only asks for the study of reparations, has been introduced into every session of Congress since 1997, but has never made it out of committee. The bill makes a compelling plea for the United States to recognize our history and the role of slavery and its consequences. We’re also asking WILPF members and others to contact their legislators to co-sponsor the bill.

In another area of racial injustice, we call attention to land dispossession experienced by Native Americans and Palestinians. In a May program for the public, “Experi-



Tucson Branch members join others at vigils against drone attacks. Photo: Deborah Livingston

ences of Dispossession: Native Americans and Palestinians,” our speakers, Ramona Peters, a Wampanoag and founding member of the Native American Conservancy, and Jeff Klein, a Jewish Palestinian activist, addressed the losses of both populations and drew parallels to their experiences. One of our seeds of change for this issue is promoting the relatively new program on Cape Cod of the Native Land Conservancy (nativelandconservancy.org) which allows Cape Codders to donate land back to local Native Americans.

Tucson, Arizona Branch

Tucson WILPF members joined others in the peace community at vigils outside the gates of Davis Monthan Air Force Base (where armed drones are piloted around the world) and Raytheon Missile Systems (manufacturer of surveillance drones and weapons for armed drones).

These hour-long monthly vigils protesting the use of drones have been held for many years organized by a dedicated anti-nuclear couple, Jack and Felice Cohen Joppa. In March they had a celebration of 35 years of activism. The peace vigils are a regular, nonviolent presence in our community which call for an end to wars and occupations waged by our government in our name and with our tax dollars. By taking part in the vigils, we take a stand against war profiteering, remember the victims of war (including those killed by drones), and join with others around the world in working for peace.

Burlington, Vermont Branch

Robin Lloyd of the Burlington Branch wants WILPFers to know that the School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) has announced that they are moving the annual convergence this Fall from the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia to the militarized US/Mexico border. The Border Convergence is going to take place **October 7-10, 2016 in Nogales, Arizona/Sonora**. The change of the location goes along with the broadening of the issue and the expanded fight against US militarization at home and abroad.

The convergence is taking place right before the November election. Many WILPF members have taken part in SOAW actions in the past, and many continue to be concerned about these issues. For more information, see soaw.org.

And in June, Burlington WILPF, together with playwright and WILPF member Leslie Becker, produced a staged reading of her new play *The Gods of the Hills*. The play taps into the “hot button” topic of energy production, from tar sands oil to ridgeline wind power. For more information contact Leslie at lbecker@burlingtontelecom.net.

Des Moines, Iowa Branch

The play was also the thing for the Des Moines Branch and their staged reading of *Women at the Hague and the Origin of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom*. An audience of invited guests and WILPF members was introduced to seven women who repre-

Branches (Continued)



Pictured are the cast and director in the Des Moines Branch presentation of *Women at the Hague*. Back row, from left: Jan Murphy, Ubaida Hassan, Jane Magers, Mary Hanson Harrison, Jan Corderman, Jan Burns, Mike Hansen, Rick Prettyman, Willa Tharp. Front row: Madith Burnett, Naomi Bargar (in Mary's arms), Valerie Vivian (holding daughter Jamariyah). Photo: Steve Perlowski

sented the many women who, horrified by the beginning of World War I, worked to establish WILPF from 1915 to 1919. With the war just a short distance away in Belgium, over 1200 women met in The Hague, Holland, nine months after World War I began. It was a time when the world seemed "hypnotized by blood," the women said. The second battle of Ypres, Belgium, in which poison gas was used in war for the first time, was underway and would result in 100,000 casualties. By the war's end on November 11, 1918 at least 10 million would be dead, 20 million wounded. Into this atmosphere of carnage, writes one historian "WILPF was born."

Our thanks to Barbara Nielsen for introducing our branch to *Women at the Hague*, written by WILPFer Marghi Dutton. And special thanks to our wonderful director, Valerie Vivian, a recent theater graduate from the University of Northern Iowa. Our players and their roles were as follows: Emily Greene Balch, Jan Murphy; Mrs. Fanny Garrison Villard, Ubaida Hassan; Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Jane Magers; Jane Addams, Mary Hanson Harrison; Dr. Aletta Jacobs, Jan Corderman; Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Jan Burns; Colonel House, Mike Hansen; Newsboy, Rick Prettyman; Rosika Schwimmer, Willa Tharp; Narrator, Madith Burnett; and Newsboy, Naomi Bargar.

Greater Phoenix, Arizona Branch

The Greater Phoenix Branch helped at the Scottsdale Arts Festival with the Peace Kids booth in the kids' area, Imagine Nation. The branch is now moving into position to adopt Peace Kids as a Greater Phoenix WILPF project. In addition to helping numerous children make origami peace cranes, we were also able to tell the story of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, which a few of

the children and their parents already knew. For those who didn't know the story, it made a deep impression on them, and they were happy to make the cranes as a way to say that war is not good for children or adults. More than 150 children visited our booth! We are thinking about stringing the cranes and possibly sending them to Japan with our friend, Ken Koshio, who often goes to Hiroshima during the summer months.

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of dedicated WILPF members, some of whom served on the board of WILPF US and all of whom shared their passion for peace and justice with local, national and global communities. A few words, adapted from their obituaries or letters from friends and family, remind us of their spirit and contributions.

Ann Fleischli: "a Madison activist and lifelong friend of the underdog, who brought an intellectual persistence and a barbed tongue to such issues as poverty, the environment and development, ..."

Ethel M. Jensen: "...the predominant themes in her life were her commitment to peace, civil liberties, and to the rights and dignity of women. In fact, she would argue that the ideals of peace and civil liberties are inextricably bound to those of feminism."

Georgia Pinkel: "Georgia was a one of a kind humanitarian, and dedicated her life to peace, freedom, and equality for all."

Joan Wildermann: "... a life member of the San Jose Branch, who died at age 96 after protesting nuclear war, promoting the clothesline project (against domestic violence), and singing with the Raging Grannies. A nurse during WW II she later cared for patients with brain injuries."

Mary MacEwan: "... a long-time activist and leader in the Tucson Branch of WILPF. She died a couple of weeks after her 103rd birthday. She was involved in peace and justice activity all her life, beginning as a small girl when she marched with her mother for women's suffrage."

WILPF US at CSW 60

WILPF US had a strong presence at the United Nations (UN) 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60) in New York this March. WILPFers from the US Section presented two panels, WILPF US sponsored Practicum students and Local 2 Global participants, and other WILPF members participated in the variety of “parallel events” which addressed this year’s priority theme: Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development.

Enthusiastic students from across the country participated in WILPF’s UN Practicum in Advocacy. They included: Mimi Duong, University of Houston; Anwar Mahajna, University of Cincinnati; Mridu Markan, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Elsa Mendoza, University of Houston; Stephen Nsengiyumva, Brandeis University; Nancy Pratt, Union Institute University; Mayra Rodarte, University of Texas-El Paso; Shadi Sheikhsaraf, Brandeis University; Emily Westgate, Brown University; and Alexandria Yakes, University of Iowa. Coordinators and faculty for the Practicum were Melissa Torres and Dixie Hairston. Barbara Nielsen and Judith Mirkinson, of the San Francisco Branch, were the Local2Global Program delegates.



Some of the CSW 60 participants from WILPF US gather for a photo op. First row, from right: Judith Mirkinson, Maureen Eke, Robin Lloyd; second row: Elsa Mendoza, Emily Westgate, Lamia Sadek, Mayra Rodarte, Mimi Duong; and third row: Nancy Pratt, Alexandria Yakes, Anwar Mahjine, Melissa Torres, Dixie Hairston, Barbara Nielsen, Ayca Mazman. Photo: Shadi Sheikhsaraf

Students are invited to join WILPF’s UN Practicum in Advocacy, and active WILPF members are encouraged to participate in the Local2Global (L2G) program. Applications for both programs will be posted on the WILPF US website in fall 2016 with a submission deadline of December 1, 2016. For more information please contact Dixie Hairston, Programs Coordinator for L2G and the UN Practicum at practicum-mail@wilpfus.org.

Expanding Gender Equality, Unbinding the Gender Binary

WILPF US sponsored a well-received parallel event entitled “Expanding Gender Equality, Unbinding the Gender Binary,” at CSW 60. The event brought together collaborations of WILPF US, Gender at Work, Say This Not That! and S.H.E. (Social, Health and Empowerment feminist collective of transgender and intersex women of Africa). The panelists, representing a global collective from Washington, D.C., New York City, Portland, Oregon and South Africa, discussed expanding feminist theory and gender equality to include the transgender individual rights and justice area. They used Gender at Work’s human rights framework, highlighted in a recent book entitled *Gender at Work: Theory and Practice for 21st Century Organizations* by Gender at Work’s co-founder, Aruna Rao.

Brandy Robinson, representing WILPF US, focused on the governmental application as it relates to the Gender at Work’s framework and in applying it to the trans and feminist advocacy fields. Robinson used the example of the same-sex marriage debate, though some do not see

the same-sex marriage debate and trans advocacy as one in the same. Robinson stated that they are one in the same and that the feminist community has seen similar issues like this before with women of color and women’s advocacy, as historically African American women were denied their rights to equal protection under the law due to race and further denied their privilege due to gender.

Robinson went on to state that if the Gender at Work’s framework is used, the trans and feminist community could see great benefit with advocating for a common cause. She noted that the success of the trans advocacy and feminist advocacy fields depends largely on speaking the language of the policymakers, as was successfully done in the same-sex marriage debate—it was no longer about same-sex marriage but a universal concept that fixed issues and errors under the law that also impacted heterosexual couples who could not take benefit from the traditional benefits of a marriage.

Gender at Work: Theory and Practice for 21st Century Organizations can be purchased online or by contacting Aruna Rao, co-founder of Gender at Work, arunashreerao@gmail.com.

What Has Empowerment Got to Do with Women, Girls, Perspectives from WILPF US

Building a feminist-oriented ecosystem of collaboration and reciprocity transcends the borders of race, religion, countries and gender

The lack of significant progress on transforming women's roles in the world today and the urgent necessity of empowering young girls and other marginalized groups remains a major concern, now, 20 years after the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and executive director, UN Women, has said, "We know now that without gender equality and a full role for women in society, in the economy, in governance, we will not be able to achieve the world we hoped for." In the foreword to the UN Summary Report: Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action turns 20, she asserts, "Twenty years (after Beijing) it is a hard truth that many of the same barriers and constraints that were recognized by the Beijing signatories are still in force globally."

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) and signatory nations also failed to attain many of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), thus, leading to the identification of new goals under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In what is known as a "parallel event" at the UN 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60), WILPF US responded to Goal 5 of the new SDGs: Achieve gender equality and



empower all women and girls. Presenters Maureen N. Eke, WILPF US Program chair; Lamia Sadek, WILPF US managing director; and Mary Hanson Harrison, WILPF US president, explored the challenges and the possibilities of attaining Goal 5.

Maureen N. Eke Relates the Question to Her Teaching

The CSW60 provided me with an opportunity to explore how my classroom helps to empower students and what lessons such educational experiences might provide. In teaching about gender equity and/or the empowerment of

women and girls, one has to contend with the challenges of moving from theory to practice, because the true test and demonstration of our commitment or understanding of what we theorize is the actual transformation of such theory into practice. How do we move from thinking about and imagining empowerment to actualizing it?

My contribution to the WILPFUS-sponsored presentation at CSW 60 focused on the empowering impact of my women writers' course on the students who enroll in it. I addressed how the course provides students with opportunities to engage in various levels of conversations with themselves, patriarchy, the women writers whose works we were studying, generations of women, feminism and gender identities. We ask questions about the role of women in society in general and over generations. We explore how women have helped shape society, contributing to various social movements and world peace, but have been generally written out of historical documents. Interestingly, the topics of these conversations intersect with WILPF's foundational principles. The empowering natures of these explorations were articulated through the students' responses to the courses and readings, either in their research or creative projects.

Networking from the CSW60 has also been rewarding, because I have been able to connect some of my students with Naomi Katz of the Beautiful Project, who also attended our session. Her Beautiful Project is "a movement dedicated to building self confidence in women and girls." Here again, the ideas from the CSW60 find relevance in my classroom and help us to connect with both WILPF's commitment to gender equity and the empowerment of women and girls, our future leaders.

Lamia Sadek Draws on Her Work with the Most Marginalized

For the last several years before coming to WILPF US, I worked on designing and implementing economic empowerment and sustainable development programs of the most marginalized groups (single women, divorced women, refugee women), in several countries including Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon, Sudan and Gaza.

Considerable advances were made in the 1990s in the design of programs and initiatives targeting women, in education, health and economic empowerment. Special focus is now being given to promoting gender equity practices, as a cross cutting theme in all programs regardless of their focus.

and Sustainable Development?

However, many challenges remain. Funding for micro-finance is increasingly dependent on progress towards financial self-sustainability within a given time-frame. The cost-cutting measures in micro-finance programs may have potentially negative implications for poverty-reach and contribution to women's empowerment.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), access to economic empowerment programs, including capacity building and micro-finance services such as credit, savings, insurance and pensions, is still highly unequal between men and women. Another challenge is that donors and organizations design programs and interventions with the aim of seeing an immediate impact on empowerment and poverty. Consequently, programs are designed to phase-out right after achieving immediate impact, without assessing sustainable impact on the women and the communities involved.

Programs that were found to yield the most sustainable development of the communities were designed to include mentoring and were rooted in gender equity. Economic empowerment programs that recognized the centrality of gender equality to poverty reduction succeeded. Additionally, organizations that have other programs within the community (for youth and men), gender equity as a cross cutting theme in all awareness, economic empowerment, education or training programs for youth have been found to help maintain more sustainable empowerment of women within these communities.

Mary Hanson Harrison Gains Inspiration from Food Sovereignty Movements

My panel presentation brought the conversation of women's empowerment and sustainability to the grassroots, hands-on work in local communities around the world. I shared my own WILPF Des Moines branch's activism and food sovereignty movements as examples of women's role in facing climate change and the power of ecofeminism.

The first example comes from the Food Sovereignty Alliance and its annual Food Sovereignty Prize (FSP). The FSP is given out in protest of the World Food Prize and its promotion of Norman Borlaug's "green revolution," which now is subsumed by Monsanto and Big Ag. The 2015 Food Sovereignty Prize international recipient was the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFANEH)



accepted by Coordinator Miriam Miranda on behalf of the Garifuna (Afro-descent) and indigenous peoples. They have suffered slavery and colonial rule and are now threatened by land grabs for palm oil, rising waters and narco-trafficking.

Water is gold. We cannot forget the assassination in March of environmental activist Berta Cáceres and the fact that these activists are putting their lives on the line.

In 2014, the FSP domestic recipient was led by women of color in Bellingham, Washington. Community 2 Community (C2C), influenced by Cesar Chavez and the Farm Worker's movement, enacts "belief in and commitment to ecofeminism and food justice." As C2C leader Rosalinda Guillen stated, "We work to identify common goals and actions among people from marginalized communities and those [who] believe in sustainability with social justice as a way of life."

Personally, the most transformative moment came when the 2013 recipients, Group of 4, Dessalines Brigade/Via Campesina, spoke at the WILPF Des Moines symposium on "Working for a Democratic Food System." They represent over a quarter of a million Haitians and related their rejection of Monsanto's GMO seeds after the 2010 earthquake. As one Haitian woman activist explained, they do not see the US as everyone's dream, rather a nightmare.

The local Des Moines example was the "Real People Ready for Real Solutions" summit hosted by the Iowa Citizens for Community Involvement (ICCI) and *The Nation* magazine. WILPF Des Moines co-sponsored the event along with several other peace organizations. The summit brought together a wide range of activism including #Black Lives Matters and the LGBTQ community projects and appealed to younger activists, all broadening the feminist perspective.

These examples illustrate that building a feminist-oriented ecosystem of collaboration and reciprocity transcends the borders of race, religion, countries and gender and keeps our 101 years of global grassroots activism moving forward.

View from a Practicum Participant

The role mentorship plays in recruiting and retaining new WILPFers

By Dixie Hairston

At-Large Member of US Section Board

I was first introduced to WILPF as a participant in the spring 2014 UN Practicum in Advocacy facilitated by WILPF US annually during the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The Practicum is a week-long intensive study in international policy advocacy where participants serve as delegates to the Commission on behalf of WILPF US. During the week, participants are tasked with attending meetings, discussions, caucuses and panels held by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), country missions to the UN, and heads of state. As delegates, we contribute to the official documentation of WILPF's participation in the CSW, serve as representatives of WILPF US and work to advance WILPF's policy agenda. Needless to say, it is a whirlwind week with days that start before dawn and end, many times, late into the night.

As a participant, that first year, I was introduced to the work of WILPF US, WILPF International, PeaceWomen, and Reaching Critical Will. Because I had not previously been involved with a local WILPF branch, this was the first glimpse I had of the scale and scope of the work we do throughout the world. I absorbed the torrent of information coming at me as effectively as a sponge absorbs water from a fire hose, but I was hooked.

This is due in large part to the Practicum faculty that year, Melissa Torres and Kristin Alder. Under their leadership, our delegation learned how to tread the murky waters of international policy advocacy and we came out of the week with an understanding of the UN that can only be achieved by living through a week at the CSW.

After the Practicum, I did not know where I fit into WILPF. I did not know where my entry point could be, what benefit I could be to the organization, or frankly, where the issues I was working on in my community intersected with the national issue area committees. At the time I was finishing school in Houston and it was through the relationship I established with Melissa during the week that led me to step in as the coordinator for the Practicum the very next year.

I have now coordinated the Practicum for two years, and each year I am awed by the knowledge, diversity



Practicum students learn about NGOs at the CSW 60. First row, from right: Alexandria Yakes, Mimi Duong, Emily Westgate, Elsa Mendoza. Top row: Ayca Mazman, Anwar Mahjne, Shadi Sheikhsaraf, Mayra Rodarte. Photo: Dixie Hairston

and energy the Practicum participants bring to the WILPF table.

Each year, Practicum participants stretch the boundaries of my comfort zone, shed light on my privilege in ways that transform my worldview, and have inspired me to seek out leadership positions.

The Practicum is the reason I have become involved with other work for WILPF US. I serve on the Development Committee, the Advancing Human Rights Committee and have recently been elected to the WILPF US Board as the member at-large. The Practicum fuels my desire to continue to serve in these other capacities in that they allow me to create the space, make the connections and foster the inclusivity that was created, made and fostered for me as I transitioned from Practicum participant to WILPFer.

However, as much as I love the work that I do for WILPF and am looking forward to my new leadership role, there is a very important lesson in my WILPF story. Without my relationship with Melissa, without her mentorship as an established member of WILPF, not only would I not be involved with WILPF today, but I would not have even had the opportunity to engage. Creating a culture of mentorship, a practical roadmap that matches our visionary ideals for diversity, and expanding our vision to represent a wider array of perspectives for achieving a world at peace are the only ways to move WILPF US into the next 100 years of activism and advocacy.

Growing WILPF!

Remember this message?

WILPF designed this poster in 1979 and sold posters, bumperstickers, and buttons with the “great day” message.

One of our younger members recently put WILPF’s situation in the 21st century into these powerful words:

“Those who oppose human rights and peace will always have funds to invest in violence and war. But organizations like WILPF will always have to seek funding for peace work and human rights advocacy.”

Peacemakers still don’t have huge budgets and the Defense Department isn’t holding bake sales. Funding for peace and justice organizations has gotten tighter and harder to find. And the issues which engage WILPF members are more complex and challenging than ever.

With so many issues and so many challenges, we rely on YOU more than ever to show your support for our mission, program and the work that keeps us so engaged.

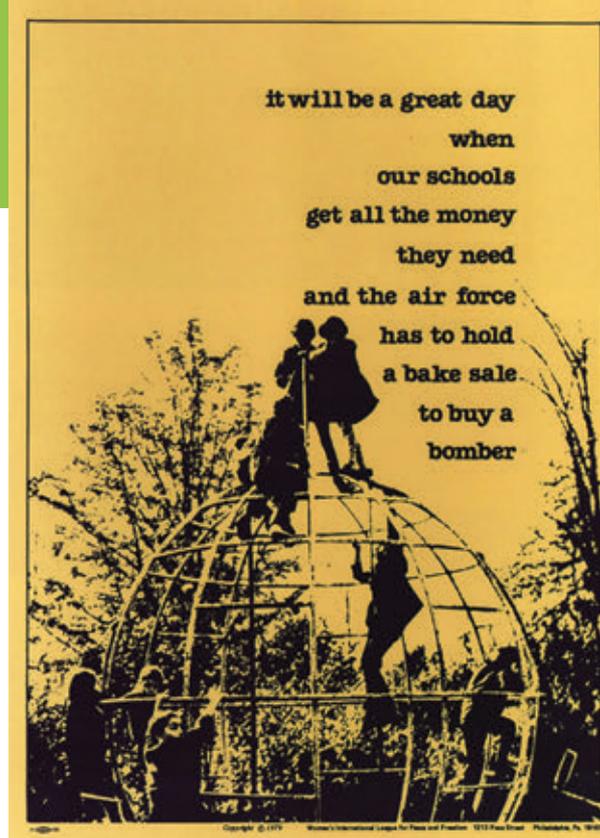
WILPF Mini-Grants Fuel Our Mission and Program Goals

Three times a year WILPF US invests in our program and mission, funding branches, members and issue committee projects.

Will YOU invest in the future of our Program?

Around 2009 the WILPF US Board decided to invest to fund mini-grants, available to members to support action and a closer connection between our mission and our members/branches. The WILPF US Mini Grant Committee offers members and branches the opportunity to apply for small grants, from \$250 up to \$2,500, designed for flexibility and a diversity of needs.

Grant application deadlines are Feb. 1, June 1 and Oct. 1 of each year. These grants are meant to fund one-time projects, seed larger efforts to help procure



Poster courtesy of Northern Sun

Please donate today

Four ways you can donate

- Use the envelope enclosed with this issue of *Peace & Freedom*
- Donate online at wilpfus.org,
- Call the office at 617-266-0999
- Send your check to: Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, 11 Arlington St., Boston, MA 02116

Thank you!

outside funding, and strengthen or expand on-going work from the local to United Nations level.

Barbara West (Maine WILPF Branch) has been on the Mini-Grants Committee from the beginning and sums up the initiative well. “We are investing in projects and activities of branches, members or issue committees which support program and build WILPF.”

- Mini-grants engage the greatest number of our members.
- They are replicable around the country.
- They build WILPF, by promoting our work and supporting our mission.

Use the guidelines for application and application forms found on the WILPF US website at wilpfus.org/resources/minigrant-program.

Your contribution to WILPF US ensures the continuation and growth of this important program which plants the seeds for peace and justice.

Leave a Legacy Where You've Put Your Energies

By Marybeth Gardam, Development Committee Chair

It always bothers me to read of the passing of a long time WILPF member who has devoted countless hours and years of her life to WILPF, but in the obituary, the family directs friends to make memorial gifts to the church, the ASPCA, or Habitat for Humanity, and never mentions WILPF. Those are all wonderful causes, but when the deceased's focal point was WILPF for decades, *how does that get left out of her final plans?*

Now is the time to let your family know how important WILPF is to you, and that you want them to direct friends and relatives to make donations in your memory to the organization which held your heart for so long. We can provide a template for starting the dialogue, and provide help all along the way to make this easy. You can choose to leave WILPF a donation as part of your will. Or you can use an estate planner to donate now in order to reduce your annual tax liability. Both are considered variations of "Planned Giving."

Gifts can include cash, appreciated securities/stocks, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, vehicles, life insurance and/or a retirement plan. There are mutual benefits from this kind of giving to both donor and WILPF. And you can always be sure that all your other obligations are met before a dollar goes to a charity, by using a "Residuary Bequest."

WILPF has benefited by bequests of all sizes. From gifts as small as \$1000 to several hundred thousand, we've been blessed by generous members who remembered us in their wills. Here are just a few examples of legacy donations for which we continue to be grateful:

- **The Kay Camp Fund** was named for one of WILPF's most passionate cold-war era members. Kay, an International President, believed strongly that it was the duty of more privileged women in the US to use their voices to raise issues of concern to women in other less developed nations. The fund was set up to encourage young WILPF women to attend International Meetings.

- **The Joan Patchen Fund** was set up by Cape Cod WILPF to honor Joan, an artist and peace maker. The guidelines state this fund is to help WILPF branches or Sections with projects which combine Peace and Art.



Joan Patchen.
Photo: Betty Burkes

- **The Johanna Muench Fox Scholarship Fund** honors the memory of Mrs. Gerald Fox an avid peace advocate, gardener, conservationist. This fund seeks to support young women working in the environmental movement.

- **The Jane Bibber Bequest** has fueled one branch's local activism for many years.

Long-time and generous member Yvonne Logan has planned to continue funding the JAPA Disarmament Fund, which supports our DISARM/END WARS Issue Committee and others who work on peace advocacy and disarmament. Bequests can have a huge impact for an organization like ours and leave a living legacy for the future.

Talk to your financial planner, your family, your estate banker or lawyer to be sure WILPF is known to them and that they understand your intention to leave a legacy behind to continue our work. Most advisors suggest a general purpose gift, which allows more flexibility upon distribution of your donation.

We'll also be kicking off a **Memorial Giving Program** later this year, to make it easier to contribute to WILPF in the name of friends, colleagues and family members — a fitting tribute to activists and people who have stood for peace and justice.

Contact Marybeth Gardam to find out all you need to know to make your gift or bequest to WILPF. Email mbgardam@gmail.com or call 863-651-4888.

How We Defeated Goliath

By Hattie Nestel

Houston-based Kinder Morgan, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company unexpectedly announced this spring it has abandoned plans to build its 420-mile Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline carrying 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day coming up from the fracked gas shale fields in Pennsylvania, through New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire on its way to Canada, largely for export. The corporation said the \$5.2 billion project was suspended in part due to inadequate commitments for its capacity from New England gas utilities and power generators. How did we stop this corporate Goliath?

Massachusetts and New Hampshire residents, especially those in the rural western parts of the state have been fighting the giant corporation for the past two years. Many factors contributed to a groundswell of opponents to a hard won victory of stopping a major pipeline from one of the largest pipeline corporations in the country.

A grassroots movement across the state ignited and never let up over two intense years. Included in the activism were thousands of Stop the Pipeline lawn signs in each community, bumper stickers on thousands of cars and buttons on our jackets. Weekly vigils sprang up, and at least five different walks crisscrossed the state. We packed meetings in our towns and statehouse with well-informed attendees who spoke on the record.

One of our largest Western Mass newspapers, the Greenfield Recorder featured every pipeline development in headlines and wrote many editorials opposing it. Our local radio and cable television networks filled the airwaves with stories of owners of orchards, farms, homes, and even schools that would be dangerously impacted by the construction of the 36 inch pipeline and 41,000 horsepower compressor stations in the rural towns along the pipeline route.

Our US Senators, Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren and US Representative Jim McGovern, in addition to our state legislators, added their voice to the opposition. Our attorney general, Maura Healey, authorized a comprehensive energy study that determined we did not need this gas to provide for the long term energy needs in Massachusetts. In addition, her report concluded that in



Massachusetts and New Hampshire residents fight a giant corporation and WIN! Photo: Michael Magee

terms of reliability, cost and the climate, new natural gas pipelines are a poor solution. Healey stated, "This study demonstrates that a much more cost-effective solution is to embrace energy efficiency and demand response programs that protect ratepayers and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions." The report also concluded that increased pipeline capacity would make it impossible for the region to achieve its climate-related requirements.

Another big factor was that this pipeline was going to cross over 100 parcels of conserved land that was protected by Article 97 of our state constitution. Article 97 was added to our constitution in 1972 and has enabled thousands of acres to be put into conservation paid for by the state, by organizations such as Massachusetts Audubon, as well as towns and private landowners. It says "the people shall have the right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise and the natural, historic and esthetic qualities of their environment," and "Lands and easements taken or acquired for such purposes shall not be used for other purposes or otherwise disposed of except by laws enacted by a two thirds vote taken by yeas and nays, of each branch of the general court."

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that has to permit pipelines had never encountered a state law as well spelled out and defined as our Article 97. Whether or not our state law can hold over Federal law is an issue that FERC will have to address.

President of the Massachusetts State Senate, Stan Rosenberg, held a hearing and personally took testimony from constituents to FERC headquarters in Washington, DC. He reported back to us that they almost never deny a permit but seemed unclear about what to do about our Article 97. He thinks this issue will end up in the Supreme

Continued on page 24.

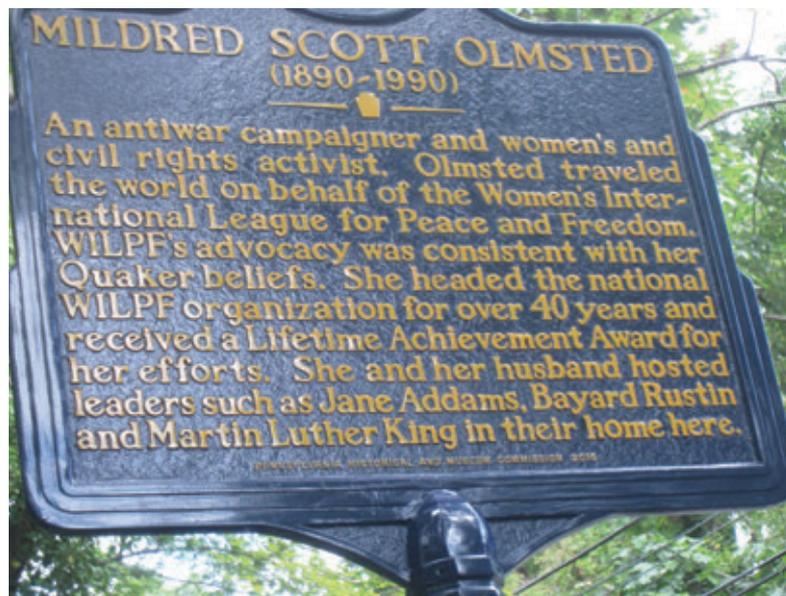
Pennsylvania Historical Marker Honors Mildred Scott Olmsted's Life of Peace and Freedom

If you're traveling through Pennsylvania, you might want to stop in Rose Valley, Delaware County. There, you'll find a recently placed roadside historical marker which honors a lifetime of work by Mildred Scott Olmsted on behalf of WILPF. The first line of the marker reads, "An antiwar campaigner and women's and civil rights activist, Olmsted traveled the world on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom."

The marker is placed in front of "Thunderbird Lodge," Mildred Scott Olmsted's former home, where she and her husband Allen hosted many distinguished visitors, including Jane Addams, Martin Luther King, Jr., Bayard Rustin, George Washington Carver and many others.

Mildred Scott Olmsted (1890-1990) served WILPF in various administrative positions for over 40 years. Olmsted traveled the world on behalf of peace and freedom. In 1986, she received WILPF's first lifetime achievement award. Mildred was married to Allen S. Olmsted, II (1888-1977), a lawyer and former Delaware County judge. Allen served as pro bono legal counsel to WILPF and the Jane Addams Peace Association for years.

Robyn Young, Greater Philadelphia Branch, nominated Olmsted for the marker and saw the process through to its exciting dedication. Robyn notes that many enthusiastic members of WILPF, including Tina Shelton of the Greater Philadelphia Branch, and Wendy Chmielewski of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, contacted her and helped plan the dedication ceremony and program. A few weeks after the dedication ceremony, ownership of Thunderbird Lodge was transferred to the Borough of Rose Valley by the surviving Olmsted family members. Mildred's home is now in the process of being preserved and turned into a museum by the borough.



Historical marker placed in front of "Thunderbird Lodge," Mildred Scott Olmsted's former home, honors her decades of work for peace and justice. Photo: Tina Shelton

How We Defeated Goliath

Continued from previous page.

Court and would likely have implications for conserved lands throughout the country.

I was constantly mindful that Congressman Jim McGovern (D, MA) had said, "We can win this but it's going to take hard work." I sold over 1,000 lawn signs, 1,500 bumper stickers and about 500 NO PIPELINE buttons. I learned how to do video interviews and ended up airing 36 interviews on over 30 cable stations in the state and on YouTube. I also started a weekly "Stop the Pipeline Updates" newscast through our town's local cable and radio stations. With others, I participated in several anti-pipeline walks and with lots of help organized two walks following the pipeline route in Western Massachusetts. I wrote op-eds and organized a weekly vigil and pulled together a women's Affinity Group.

I am sure that thousands were equally engaged, and together we created a critical mass, a groundswell that seems to have finally defeated Goliath.

Hattie Nestel is an at-large member of WILPF who lives in Athol, MA.

It's Time to End Human Trafficking

By Brandy Robinson and Jan Kubiak



“Waiting for the Prey,” from Myrna Balk’s series on trafficking, “The Demand Factor: Buying Despair.” More information on the series available at myrnabalk.com.

The Human Trafficking Subcommittee of the Advancing Human Rights Issues Committee was established in WILPF US as part of its commitment to social justice. This commitment includes advocacy, education and awareness, and corroboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, non-profits, and governmental agencies whenever possible.

We’ve gathered the advice of authorities from a wide range of sources, including FBI, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Polaris Project, the renowned non-profit, non-governmental organization that helps victims of human trafficking through a victim-centered approach. They offer guidance and exhaustive resources to the community of persons working to end this modern slavery. Their affiliate organization is the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) which monitors the national and global hotline for those seeking help or reporting tips on suspicious activity. We’ve been developing materials that will help communities recognize the indicators and the myths of human trafficking and know who to call to report suspicious activities. When a community becomes informed, these agencies receive

phone calls. Those calls may immediately help a victim, but may also help authorities in dismantling the networks of traffickers that plague our country.

Our materials, including the “Toolkit to End Human Trafficking” and “Signs, Indicators and Debunked Myths of Human Trafficking” can be found on the WILPF US website, wilpfus.org. We also outreach to the branches and plan to provide a Safe Harbor Laws webinar which will discuss the efforts in Florida and others states in protecting minors, who may be involved in prostitution. As minors they are victims not criminals, and need protection from prosecution, along with other help.

We’re grateful to Myrna Balk, WILPF Boston, who is providing us with artwork from her series on trafficking. Her website, myrnabalk.com has more information on the demand factor, sex tourism, prostitution, and many other factors which are part of the human trafficking tragedy.

Brandy Robinson and Jan Kubiak are the co-chairs of the WILPF US Human Trafficking Subcommittee of the Advancing Human Rights Issues Committee. To join the subcommittee, or for more information, contact them at brandygrobinson@gmail.com or jankubiak@yahoo.com.

Trafficking is exploitation and coercion of labor or sex by a criminal

It's slavery . . . not a choice for making money nor a victimless crime.

Persons at risk of being trafficked:

- Runaways
- Homeless
- LGBTQs
- Migrants,
- Teens with addictive disorders
- Children from dysfunctional foster care homes. Some foster children already think of themselves as “meal tickets.” Not only are they vulnerable to exploitation but no one reports them missing. No one is looking for them.

Popular places for traffickers:

- Malls
- Outside of shelters
- Near teen hangouts
- The internet
- Perpetrators want to find minors who seem “down on their luck.” Typically, they lure victims by feigning romantic interest, promising exciting jobs and travel
- Labor Traffickers often lure victims who are desperate for a job, into domestic or agricultural work.

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Please support GROWING WILPF! *We do.*



Thanks to WILPF I was able to attend Local2Global at the CSW 59 in 2015. I was able to do this because WILPF covered most of my conference expenses. The experience and knowledge gained benefitted students in my courses, especially those on women and gender. Thanks to WILPF, I have been able to connect to a strong network of activist women. Join us! Please make a donation to support future women activists.

Maureen Ngozi Eke

Thanks to Earth Democracy and Nancy Price, my work on stopping the pipeline has been eased; it's great to have such good collaboration. Others in WILPF have also been tremendously helpful to me as an at-large member. I feel that my issues are supported and concerns are shared. **Hattie Nestel**



Thanks to WILPF I was able to connect with so many diverse women from various walks of life, sharing a common vision. WILPF supported my participation in the Detroit Triennial Congress in 2014, the first international gathering of WILPF women that I had the opportunity to attend. Coming from India, I had many stories from the developing world to share with my WILPF sisters in the US, and it was truly a moment where I felt WILPF has the ability to build a movement spanning continents. **Shilpa Pandey**



WILPF has personally impacted my life as a woman, who is trying to navigate and make positive contributions to creating a peaceful, inclusive world that not only impacts me, but future generations. I participated in CSW 60 and was able to present a topic that normally is not seen at the CSW, to bring awareness of the struggles of women of all backgrounds. This presentation resulted in a great collaboration of people and organizations, as well as furthering WILPF's presence in other communities and initiatives. I ask you to donate to help continue this great work. **Brandy Robinson**

WILPF offers all of us a ray of sanity and hope in the daunting political gloom! Along with all the younger folks, we older women are holding up our part of the sky when we determine to remain politically strong. The connections from the local to the national to the international are what gives us the strength and breadth of understanding to persevere. Our local work here in Santa Cruz has been so well supported and augmented by the national mini-grants, the Earth Democracy and Corporations v Democracy issue committees, and the incredibly smart, funny, kind and strong women throughout our organization. Let's keep sustaining that. **Randa Solick**



Three ways to give

Send checks to:

WILPF US, 11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116
For tax deductible contributions, make check out to "Peace Development Fund" and write WILPF US on memo line

Donate online:

Go to wilpfus.org and click DONATE. Select option for Growing WILPF!

Credit card by phone:

Call the WILPF US national office in Boston at 617-266-0999