

PEACE FREEDOM



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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom:



daring us to break war's cycles of violence and revenge

100 years of holding steady eye contact with the bird of peace —

In This Issue



From Our President: Knowing a Place Deeply 1
 Message from Interim Director 3
 On the Ground in Cuba for Monumental Changes 4
 In Memoriam: Lucinda L. Tate 5
 WILPF and the Human Right to Health and Safe Food 6



From the Campaign 7
Under the WILPF Umbrella: Protests, Peasants and Principles 9
 Mass Incarceration 10
 Cages Kill 11
 WILPF US Celebrates 100 Years! 12



Growing WILPF! Capacity Campaign 14
 Get on Board: Campaigns and Projects in 2015 16
 Meet the 2015 Board 18
 Other WILPF US Branch Activities 19
 We Are All Ayotzinapa 20



Jane Said It Best 21
 Restoring Our Souls 22
Leymah Gbowee Speaks! 23
 A Century of Dangerous Women 24
 Honoring Our Foremothers in WILPF US inside back cover
 Woman as Breadgiver – Jane Addams outside back cover

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: "Welcome Peace" by Sandra Ure Griffin

We adapted Sandra's words describing her evocative image to convey our Centennial message: "WILPF: 100 Years of holding steady eye contact with the bird of peace — daring us to break war's cycles of violence and revenge." Notecards and small prints of "Welcome Peace" are available through Syracuse Cultural Workers. More of Sandra's work can be seen at sandrauregriffin.com.

Knowing a Place Deeply

by Mary Hanson Harrison

Mary Hanson Harrison, President, WILPF US Section, on knowing a place deeply, not just as scenery but also as sustenance



In her most recent book, *This Changes Everything*, Naomi Klein focuses on the urgency of making a radical systemic change in our culture, using climate change as the canary in the coal mine (notably the extraction and utilization of that fossil fuel). She writes of the climate crisis that “climate [changed] is about an early blooming of a particular flower, an unusually thin layer of ice on a lake, the late arrival of a migratory bird—noticing these small changes requires the kind of communion that comes from knowing a place deeply, not just as scenery but also as sustenance, and when local knowledge is passed on with a sense of sacred trust from one generation to the next. How many of us live like that?”

My grandmother always said that you start at the corner and work your way out. Of course, she was talking about cleaning my room, but that advice has kept me balanced when the world’s problems seem overwhelming and unlikely to change. Looking at the world, individual by individual, and seeking out commonalities is a way to start out at the corner. The corner where you live, finding the pulse of your surroundings, brings us all together in a larger sense.

In our GROWING WILPF! Campaign, we use the metaphor of the seedling for our ecofeminist call for survival of not only WILPF but our planet. As the Indian environmental activist and anti-globalization author Vandana Shiva explains, “The seed is the embodiment of culture because culture shaped the seed with careful selection – women picked the best, diversified. So from one grass you get 200,000 rices.” So we, too, desire to grow our membership through diversification and planting the seeds for activism and policy change. As you will read in the following pages, we are ever moving toward making an environmental and cultural impact, both external and internal, and they are interdependent.

WILPF provides for the process of germination, the conditions in which we can grow as individuals within a community/membership-based grassroots movement. The narrative of change and transformation of our civil society is best nurtured by our collective imagination and creativity and our ability to bring women’s stories into the conversation and around the table.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Tina Rosenberg calls on us to “reimagine social change... based on the most powerful of human motivations: our longing for connections with one another.” In her new book, *Join the Club*, she deals with the effects of peer pressure to transform or “cure” societal problems. For us, it is that and the knowledge we gather and accumulate and write and speak about that provides the basic ingredients for a successful generation and regeneration of WILPF.

The longing to make connections is the seed – the moral energy – to tell our stories, our expectations, and our critiques, and provides growing room for other voices from around the globe to speak and be heard. That’s the true 100 years of GROWING WILPF! The building of trust and nurturing of compassion is an imperative for the creation of a culture of solidarity, and we have saved the seeds and are planting once again.

The longing to make connections is the seed – the moral energy – to tell our stories, our expectations, and our critiques, and provides growing room for other voices from around the globe to speak and be heard.

Twenty-four-year-old LGBT rights-activist Kirin Kanakannatt wrote it best in *In These Times*: “We are brave enough to dream, we are brave enough to stumble and build, we are brave enough to occupy spaces where we were told we don’t belong because we are brave enough to hope.” And this is her hope and the hope that generations of women have passed on and continue to pass on. From the politics of reconnection with Cuba, to the recognition of environmental degradation, to immigration and border issues, to the invisibility of those incarcerated and the plight of war-torn countries, to militarization of everyday life, and to the convergence of ecological and economic crises: these issues give rise to the cultural narratives that shape our vision of the world and the treatment of “other” people and of our own interaction within our community and family.

Knowing a place deeply is making social policy by putting theory into practice, noticing the invisible people who are overlooked or not valued, engaging in innovative projects that bring us closer together, and reaching out of ourselves and our corners to the common good.

Today, Jean-François Millet's painting of the three peasant women gleaning the remaining seeds from the



The Gleaners. Jean-François Millet, 1857

harvest is still relevant. In the 21st Century, they are the small farmers in Washington and Mississippi, Bangladesh and China, Africa and Latin America where women are still toiling in the setting of the sun. And knowing our sisters who labor to feed the world can also provide sustenance for much of the toil we do as peace activists.

During our Centennial celebrations let's stop for a moment to bring the global home: to listen to women around the world, to bring them into our narratives and our homes. Let's support WILPF International and our United Nations Office's transforming WILPF movements, PeaceWomen and Reaching Critical Will, to notice and listen to the unheard and unperceived sacrifices made by the many for a more just world.

How many of us can do that? As many WILPF women there are and are to be.

Yours in solidarity,

Mary Hanson Harrison
President, WILPF US Section



PeaceWomen is the Women, Peace and Security program of WILPF and is based at WILPF's United Nations (UN) office in New York. PeaceWomen challenges the root causes of militarism and war by making the implementation of the UN Women, Peace and Security Agenda more relevant and effective for women affected by conflict and violence. Our portfolio of tools and projects ranges from policy advocacy at the UN to local capacity building. We work to advance the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda through our mission, team, partners, strategy, and outreach. Our revamped website, peacewomen.org, features information about women peace leaders, the social movement on women's power to stop war, monitoring tools, and over 24,000 resources on issues of gender, peace and security.



Reaching Critical Will (RCW) is the disarmament program of WILPF, with staff and interns in New York and Geneva, located near the United Nations in both cities. Reaching Critical Will's tools and resources facilitate a broader and deeper knowledge of issues related to militarism and nuclear weapons at both the diplomatic and grassroots levels. RCW works for disarmament and arms control of many different weapon systems, the reduction of global military spending and militarism, and the investigation of gendered aspects of the impact of weapons and of disarmament processes. Reaching Critical Will monitors and analyzes international negotiations on disarmament matters. We publish and archive statements, documents and resolutions while also producing timely reports on the negotiations. To learn more, go to our website, reachingcriticalwill.org.

Message from Interim Director

Paula Herrington

Editor's Note: At a time of transition for WILPF US, we thought readers might appreciate a clearer understanding of the internal management of the organization. Paula Herrington, our interim director, shares her hopes and vision in her letter which follows.

April 2015

Dear WILPF Members and Supporters,

I was honored to have been selected to serve as the interim director of the US Section and to work with you during this time of transition. Beginning in late September, I have been in the role, working a schedule of 20 – 25 hours per week. My primary duties have been to support and assist the board in:

- Financial management
- Fundraising and development
- Resolving outstanding issues with Jane Addams Peace Association
- Organizing the board team building meetings in Houston
- Working with the transition consultant from Third Sector New England on completing an organizational assessment and other organizational development and transition work.
- In addition, I supervise the two part-time contractors in the office: Catherine Brady, the bookkeeper and Ariane Blondin, the membership coordinator.

I was referred to WILPF by Third Sector New England which is one of the premier organizations in the nation that assists nonprofits in transition. Recognizing that this is a pivotal moment in the lifecycle of the organization, they offer a full range of services that support a successful transition including assessment, organizational development consulting, interim management, and post-hire support. They organize the process into three phases: Prepare, Search and Thrive.

Although I do not work for TSNE, I am a member of their interim leader pool from which they make referrals to their client organizations in transition. This is my fourth assignment that I have done through them. Prior to becoming part of the TSNE team, I worked independently for ten years as an interim executive director and consultant.

In spite of significant operational challenges at WILPF, we have been making progress! During the first few months, in what TSNE calls the "Prepare" phase of



the transition, we met in Houston to complete an assessment of the organization, create a shared vision and plan for the future.

During the second phase, or "Search" phase, TSNE's job is to conduct a deep and broad search for the senior staff person as determined by the board. Outreach to and

recruitment of diverse candidates will deliver a strong pool of candidates from which the final selection will be made by the selection committee. Now in the final weeks of my time as interim director, I am working with the board on drafting policies and procedures that will provide a framework for the organizational structure going forward.

These are exciting times! As we await the person who take leadership of the staff, we are continuing to strengthen the organization and put things in place that will help position her and the organization for long term success.

We are planning for the interim management period to end in May with the hiring of this "permanent" staff person. In the final, or "Thrive" phase, TSNE provides support to insure the successful integration of the staff person and implementation of the organization's plan. I will remain for a short time to assist with the transition process.

Until then, I look forward to working with you in support of WILPF US and its mission!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paula Herrington". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paula Herrington
Interim Director
WILPF US Section

On the Ground in Cuba for Monumental Changes

by Cynthia Roberts Hall

I had the privilege of being in Santa Clara, Cuba, on December 17, 2014 when whispers of a possible prisoner exchange reached the volume of a roar. Monumental changes were happening! As part of a delegation traveling on CUBAmistad's People to People license, we were headed to our morning activities at an organic farm when we were informed that President Obama was to give a press conference at noon.

Meanwhile, Cuba's word of mouth network was informing citizens that Cuba's President Raul Castro would be doing the same. We cut short our morning's activities to return to the Institute for Friendship with the People (ICAP). We gathered around a couple of televisions where we were outnumbered by the employees of ICAP to watch the news. First came Castro's announcement that Cuba had released U.S. citizen Alan Gross, much anticipated as the reason for the public announcements.

Of course, for anyone who'd followed the case of the Cuban Five, the expectation was that some reciprocal concession would be made by the U.S. (The Cuban Five — Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González — had been arrested in 1998 and unjustly imprisoned in the U.S. Only René González and Fernando González had been released.) Would Obama release all three remaining prisoners? Had the calls to the White House we'd religiously made on the fifth of each month had an impact? Was international pressure from Free the Five, and our other networks, beginning to pay off? Yes! The three remaining prisoners — Ramón, Antonio and Gerardo — were once

Cynthia Roberts Hall is a member of WILPF's Cuba and Bolivarian Alliance Issues Committee, which has monthly conference calls. To be involved, contact Cindy Domingo at cindydomingo@gmail.com.



Students from the Brigada Pedagógica Víctor Gutiérrez celebrate in an open bed truck with banners and musical instruments chanting, "Han Llegado (They've arrived)." Photo: David Nguyen.

again on Cuban soil before the end of the broadcast. This news deeply touched all of us who had stood behind the five Cuban anti-terrorists. Justice had finally prevailed, and the sense of triumph was palpable. Shortly after the news broke, students from the Brigada Pedagógica Víctor Gutiérrez made their way to the Santa Clara ICAP headquarters in an open bed truck with banners and musical instruments chanting, "Han Llegado (They've arrived)."

Had the calls to the White House we'd religiously made on the fifth of each month had an impact? Was international pressure from Free the Five, and our other networks, beginning to pay off? Yes!

In a prelude to this momentous day, I had the pleasure of meeting Fernando González, the second of the Cuban Five released in early 2014, upon completion of his sentence. Unlike Gerardo who had been denied visits by his wife, Fernando, who was housed in Indiana for several years, received periodic visits from family members: his wife, mother and sisters. On behalf of WILPF, Hoosier Raging Grannies and CUBAmistad we had provided hospitality for them when possible. Upon his return to Cuba, Fernando became Vice President of the national ICAP office. We had corresponded during his lengthy imprisonment and relocation from one U.S. Federal prison to another. He had learned from the Santa Clara ICAP of

In Memoriam: Lucinda L. Tate 1946 – 2015

our visit, so he requested a brief meeting to express his gratitude for our efforts in the release of the Five.

The subsequent announcement of the extent of the agreement between Jefe Máximo Raul Castro and President Barack Obama was initially met with a stunned silence bordering on disbelief, followed by high fives, embraces and a quick appearance of the press to get

Our normally reserved bus driver, Omar, felt compelled to express his belief that it was the work of groups like ours who pressured our government to recognize the sovereignty of Cuba that such a change was realized.

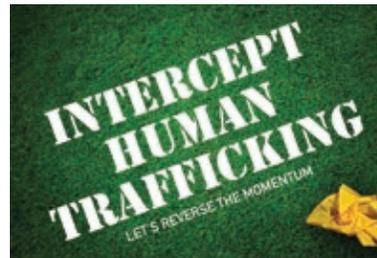
feedback from the group of North Americans from Indiana who were residing at ICAP. Our normally reserved bus driver, Omar, felt compelled to express his belief that it was the work of groups like ours who pressured our government to recognize the sovereignty of Cuba that such a change was realized. We take a cautious optimism that as embassies are reestablished in each nation, respect for self governance will hold forth, and the mutually beneficial exchange of goods and ideas, from which we stand to benefit, will take place. While we applaud Obama for going further than preceding presidents in making this gesture to the government itself, thereby giving it full recognition, he has latitude to take much bigger steps. He is bound in part by the Helms-Burton Act, which requires congressional approval to remove the extra-territorial nature of trade prohibitions for nations who interact with Cuba. As for travel, Obama must still work within the confines of the twelve recognized categories of travel allowed by the US Treasury Department, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

The sense in the street on our final days was one of amazed happiness and expectation of a unity that has so long been lacking. What is incumbent upon us is to prevail upon our government to safeguard the many gains of Revolutionary Cuba as we enter into the coming days of détente. For a more comprehensive report on the full extent of agreements and what to expect in the days ahead, I would refer readers to the interview by Michael Ratner with Attorney for the Cuban government, Michael Krinsky, whom we had the pleasure of meeting on our return flight to the U.S. (See <http://bit.ly/1yb7zl6>)



Lucinda Tate on Super Bowl Sunday 2014, in a photo she had taken by one of the sports fan outside a Portland sports tavern where she was leafleting to educate about the high incidence of Human Trafficking during major sporting events.

Lucinda Lilly Tate, the embodiment of compassion, civility and courage, was chair and later co-chair of the WILPF US Advancing Human Rights (AHR) Issue Committee and served as convener of the Portland, Oregon Branch. Lucinda made substantive contributions spanning many decades of her time and energy to Portland-based activities that advanced peace, social and economic justice for all and honored her African-American, Cherokee, Cree and Blackfoot heritages in all of her work. Plans have been announced for the establishment of the Lucinda L. Tate Human Rights Education Fund of the Advancing Human Rights Issue Committee, as



a memorial tribute fund in honor of Lucinda.

Contact Barbara Nielsen, bln.sf.ca@gmail.com, for information on plans for the education fund.

WILPF and the Human Right to Health and Safe Food

Our international organization of women working for peace with justice since 1915 takes the position that food is a human right – not a mere commodity to be sold at the highest profit. We know that it's time for a system change, time to put human rights ahead of the investor rights of multinational agricultural, chemical and food corporations. It's time to grow safe food sustainably to feed the world.

Human life is threatened by increasing amounts of toxic herbicides used on food crops and weeds. More and more scientific reports are linking use of glyphosate-based herbicides, for example, Monsanto's Roundup, and their over use by industrial agriculture, to serious damage to human cells and embryos.

Meanwhile the public is kept misinformed about these health risks and becomes disengaged by conflicting information and confused about how to take action. "Accepted research" is owned and funded by the manufacturers of the herbicides. Independent research that contradicts corporate research is under-funded, under-reported and deliberately attacked and discredited as "bad science." This is set in the larger context and false frame that only industrial agriculture can support and feed the world's population, despite proven damage to soil health and productivity caused by these herbicides.

Increasingly world democracies are blatantly for sale to the highest bidder, with corruption becoming an acceptable part of "doing business." Corporate executives and their lobbyists influence elected officials and regulatory agencies to gain approval of herbicides which have not been adequately tested by independent (not corporate manufacture owned or funded) researchers. Elected officials and judges prioritize corporate profits, trade advantages and "job creation" above the long term implications for public health, future generations and the sustainability of our soil and planet. Our legislators allow disastrous trade agreements which protect the investor rights of multinational agricultural, chemical and food corporations and remove free market competition and barriers to their investment opportunities.

With increasing scientific evidence that industrialized agriculture is making food crops and processed foods less safe for human consumption, and the chemicals they use are making the world's waters more contaminated by herbicides, pesticides, animal waste, and threatening both human and marine life, **it is time to educate and**

mobilize the public. It is imperative that we put pressure on corporations, elected officials and regulators to prohibit these toxic chemicals in favor of sustainable methods of agriculture and weed control that support life on the planet.

At the WILPF US 2014 Congress it was resolved that Earth Democracy and Corporations v Democracy Issue Committees collaborate on an education and action campaign on the public health impact of glyphosate and Monsanto's Roundup, and advocate that this product be restricted or banned. All branches and at-large members are encouraged to become involved in this and other food sovereignty campaigns.

Hopefully, other branches will follow San Jose which has done public programs on food justice and twice participated with community groups in the March Against Monsanto. With the 2014 passage of the US Section's resolution on the human right to health and safe food and the upcoming US Social Forum in San Jose, the branch has revived its website, foodjusticenow.org.

WILPF US calls on our members and ALL WOMEN the world over to stand up and demand a reversal of a policy that wrongly prioritizes profits over the long term health of people and the sustainability of our soil, water and planet.

Go to wilpfus.org/humanrighttohealth to find out more about this campaign and to download or order printed copies of the infographic card (shown on pages 7 and 8). For more information, contact Marybeth Gardam, mbgardam@gmail.com or Nancy Price, nancytprice39@gmail.com.

Please join this campaign and declare that health and safe food are human rights. The health of our children and grandchildren is at stake.

Joan Bazar, Marybeth Gardam and Nancy Price contributed to this article.

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO
HEALTH SAFE FOOD CAMPAIGN

www.wilpfus.org/humanrighttohealth

WANTS YOU
TO KNOW

MOTHERS & BABIES
ARE AT RISK FROM
EXPOSURE TO
CHEMICALS
IN WEED-KILLERS



GLYPHOSATE is found in the breast milk of nursing mothers and urine collected from people living far from application sites, PROVING THAT GLYPHOSATE DOES ACCUMULATE IN OUR BODIES.

WHAT IS GLYPHOSATE?

Roundup is also used as a drying agent at harvest time on 160 "conventional" crops.



It is in our soil, water, food and the poison accumulates in our bodies.

GLYPHOSATE IS IN ROUNDUP AND OTHER WEED-KILLERS SPRAYED ON A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD CROPS.



90%

of U.S. corn, soy, sugar, canola and cottonseed is genetically modified and Roundup-sprayed.

THE EFFECTS OF GLYPHOSATE

Recognized independent scientists cite hundreds of studies showing that glyphosate and companion chemicals in Roundup ARE EXTREMELY TOXIC.



Scientists' research has linked glyphosate to BIRTH DEFECTS AND LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES. THEY CONCLUDE THAT GLYPHOSATE IS HARMFUL TO HUMAN CELLS AND TO EMBRYOS.



Roundup sprayed wheat has been suspected in rising incidents of celiac disease.

PROFITS OVER HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Monsanto makes billions of dollars selling Roundup and other weed-killers.

THEY CONTROL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE USA ON GLYPHOSATE AND CROPS THAT ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO TOLERATE LARGE DOSES OF TOXIC HERBICIDES.

They lobby Congress and regulatory agencies to accept "safety" tests exclusively conducted by Monsanto's paid researchers & to approve Roundup-ready seeds & toxic chemicals that harm health & the environment.

EPA & USDA DO NOT DO THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT TESTING.

LEARN ABOUT
WHAT YOU
CAN DO

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. ADVOCATE FOR GOOD HEALTH

Help get GLYPHOSATE-based and other dangerous weed-killers better regulated or banned from our food production.



**YES
YOU
CAN!**

Consider switching to organic or non-gmo food.

Ask grocers to carry more organic choices.



ASK LOCAL FARMERS to consider more sustainable methods of weed control and ask your garden center to feature more sustainable weed control products.

2. STOP USING CHEMICAL WEED-KILLERS IN YOUR YARD

It's not just farmers who use Roundup or glyphosate-based products. Ask your town Council and School Board to stop using weed killers on public and school property, and invest in more sustainable planting and weed control methods.



PROTECT WATERWAYS & SOILS

Dangerous chemicals wash off lawns and crops in heavy rains and pollute our rivers, streams and waters supplies. Towns are facing higher costs to treat and provide safe drinking water, to combat algae blooms and deal with water emergencies. Chemicals kill life forms we need for healthy soil, like earthworms.

3. TALK ABOUT IT • WRITE ABOUT IT • LEARN MORE

HERE ARE SOME RESOURCES FOR LEARNING MORE AND TAKING ACTION.

www.wilpfus.org/humanrighttohealth/articles&studies
www.wilpfus.org/humanrighttohealth/resources



→ *Once you feel you understand, start talking to others, ask questions and write letters to your local newspaper, your legislators, the USDA and EPA.*

4. OUT OF THE FRYING PAN TO WORSE OPTIONS

Roundup has created 'super weeds' that are resistant, so even more toxic chemicals are being introduced. Dow Chemical's Enlist DUO combines Glyphosate with 2-4-D, an active ingredient in AGENT ORANGE, known since Vietnam to cause severe neurological damage to human cells and cancer. This increasing indiscriminate use of toxins is unsustainable. We are poisoning our planet and ourselves.

WHAT ELSE KILLS WEEDS?

There are many more sustainable options. Many nations have banned Roundup and GLYPHOSATE products because of their potential dangers to human health and the environment. Here are good options we can use:

www.wilpfus.org/humanrighttohealth/sustainableoptions

SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS

WE HAVE A HUMAN RIGHT NOT TO BE PLACED AT RISK OF DISEASE JUST SO CORPORATIONS CAN BE MORE PROFITABLE.

WE HAVE A HUMAN RIGHT TO HEALTH & SAFE FOOD

LEARN MORE AT:
www.wilpfus.org/humanrighttohealth/resolutions&petitions

The Human Right to Health & Safe Food Campaign is a joint project between the Earth Democracy and Corporations v Democracy Issue Groups of the



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
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Celebrating 100 years of Advocacy!

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Under the WILPF Umbrella

Protests, Peasants and Principles

By Mary Hanson Harrison

The average life-span for peasant workers is 49-54 years. They are the farm workers who feed us; care for the soil, plant the seeds, water and prune, gather and sell to consumers around the world. And most are women. Seventy to eighty percent of the world's food production is in the hands of women.

I was privileged to be present when one of these women, Rosalinda Guillen, accepted the Comunidad a Comunidad/Community to Community (C2C) Food Sovereignty Prize given by U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA) in Des Moines, Iowa, October 2014. C2C is a women-lead feminist grassroots agrarian movement that speaks out for farm workers, migrant workers and small farmers. Guillen spoke urgently about the invisibility and precarious situation of the workers in our food system, "Workers are under attack everywhere today."

For over six years the USFSA has recognized peasant and small farmers and cooperatives around the globe for their work for food justice and social change calling for agrarian reform. USFSA demands that they have the "right to determine their own food and agriculture policies." The model for the Alliance is *La Via Campesina*, an international grassroots movement that is comprised of 200 million peasants and farm workers.

For Guillen, we are living in a time and place where all aspects of agriculture – plants, animals and people, particularly women – are treated as commodities. The impact on women is profound: insecurity, joblessness, no voice, no insurance, little control over their lives, and violence caused by the disruption of climate change. Often the indigenous knowledge that women have stored for centuries is considered useless.

She looked out over the audience and stated, "Our survival and your survival are intrinsically linked.... We are the first to die...eating pain and despair." And she asked us to their support their partner, *Familias Unidas por la Justicia*, and boycott Hagen-Daas and Driscoll's fruits supplied by Sakuma Bros. Berries for harsh and unfair treatment of union workers. "Politically, today is the worst of times for farm workers, family farming and food production," Guillen asserts. "The major reason is

Rosalinda Guillen speaks out for farm workers, migrant workers and small farmers.

Photo: USFSA



that corporations control all major aspects of our food system."

As I sat there and listened to Rosalinda Guillen's eloquent plea to be present, to listen, to act; I reflected on an earlier WILPF webinar (Episode #5 in the Women's Power to Stop War series) I had heard a few months before. Jacqui True, a WILPF "think tank" member and professor of politics and international relations at Monash Australia, talked about her recent book *The Political Economy of Violence Against Women* and her feminist political economic analysis of the underlying economic structures of today, based on economic neoliberalism.

True gives a global overview of the various sorts of the economic hardships experienced by women and the insidious violence that economic instability, gender discrimination, and neoliberalism perpetuates that ends in the "feminization of poverty."

She contrasts multi-national corporations' non-participation in human rights treaties with grassroots mobilizations of human rights by activists, including women's movements, that have focused on the positive duties of states and non-state actors to meet the basic needs that are implied by economic and social human rights. True notes, "Activists understand that unless women can achieve economic independence or be empowered socially and politically, the human rights they hear about will remain abstract concepts."

Putting theory into action is our heritage and future. In WILPF, we understand that protests, peasants and principles are all under the same umbrella.

Mary Hanson Harrison currently serves as president of WILPF US. She has been a long-time advocate for food justice and is active in WILPF's Human Right to Health and Safe Food Campaign.

Mass Incarceration

Criminal Injustice and the Insidious Racial Caste System

By Claire Gosselin

The U.S. Criminal Justice System (CJS) plays a key role in perpetuating a racial caste system. In her ground-breaking work, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (NJC), Michelle Alexander describes a system of social control that operates in a racially discriminatory manner under the guise of colorblindness.

In 2014, the Boston Branch initiated a study/ action group including members of WILPF, the First Unitarian Society of Newton and other individuals. As we explored Alexander's book, we were often shocked by what we learned and by our ignorance and complicity.

As an organization concerned for the rights of women, we need to be aware that women, especially women of color, are the fastest growing sector being incarcerated.

The CJS intertwines deeply in our society and its institutions, supported by vested interests: corporations, law enforcement and communities who rely on prison jobs. The exponential growth in the prison population since the '80's is largely a result of the "war on drugs," which ensnared many low level, nonviolent offenders.

People under CJS control – prison, parole, probation – encounter elements of the old Jim Crow system. Alexander refers to this as "entering a parallel universe": discrimination in employment, denial of voting rights for short or long term, prohibition from living in public housing, denial of other public benefits like food stamps/SNAP, loss of driver's license for drug convictions, fees for their incarceration. What is a released convict to do? Is their "debt to society" ever paid? Clearly the system is designed to send people right back to prison; 70% do return.

Call to action

In Alexander's view, changing the CJS will require a massive, human rights movement acting on behalf of poor people of all colors, to have full human rights to education, food and shelter and an end to legal discrimination against those bearing the criminal brand. She calls on us to "awaken from our colorblind slumber" to the realities and to be vigilant to superficial change that continues the injustice.

The good news is that there is increasing awareness and activism emerging across the country. Black Lives Matter and other responses to the recent police murders is evidence that motion is building to further the work for justice and full equality.

How can WILPF contribute?

Nancy Wrenn and I held a workshop at the national WILPF Congress in August where a group of 19 had a rich exchange on their thoughts, work and hopes. Members of our study group continue to be involved in collaborative efforts in Massachusetts from support and advocacy to legislative efforts and education. Laurie Taymor-Berry, a member of our study group and advocate and inspiration on this issue, met with her state senator, Anthony Petrucci, to ask for his support on a number of criminal justice reform bills. Laurie said the study group's efforts gave her "self-confidence and courage to make the case for him to sign on as a co-sponsor." Her courage paid off. Senator Petrucci agreed to co-sponsor all of her requests.

Study and action go hand in hand in building awareness. Our segregated, unequal communities allow a blindness to the reality that communities of color and poor people face. We need to do collaborative work, which involves locating and partnering with organizations and activists in our communities to build bridges and extend the reach of effective action.

As an organization concerned for the rights of women, we need to be aware that women, especially women of color, are the fastest growing sector being incarcerated. We can advocate for women under CJS control and call attention to the particular impact this has on women, families, children, and communities.

WILPF can learn, contribute and be inspired by joining in this long overdue human rights movement to build community and hope.

Claire Gosselin joined WILPF in 2003 because it recognizes the connections among social and economic inequality and injustice with war and environmental destruction. She currently serves on the Boston Branch Advisory Committee and works locally on mass incarceration and related problems. She can be reached at claireg53@gmail.com.

Cages Kill

By Willow Katz and Courtney Hanson

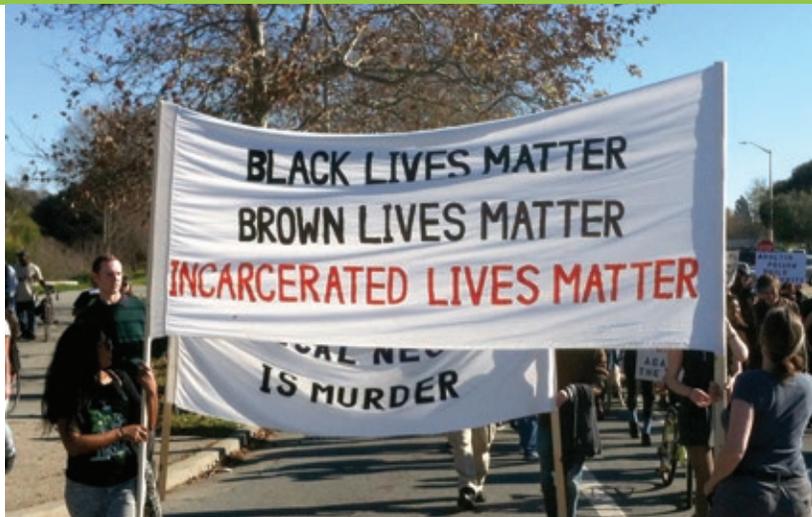
Freedom Rally Demands: Stop the abuse and torture in the Santa Cruz County Jail and jails and prisons everywhere!

Sin Barras, a prison abolitionist and prisoners' rights organization in Santa Cruz and WILPF Santa Cruz joined with others in a powerful march and rally of more than 250 people of mixed races, ages, and genders to protest deaths in the Santa Cruz County Jail (SCCJ) and the overcrowding, lack of healthcare, and abuse and torture in SCCJ and jails and prisons throughout California and the U.S. Family members talked about losing loved ones to the SCCJ and to the racist Salinas police, who have killed five unarmed Latino men since May 2014, including Sin Barras member, Frank Alvarado Jr. Many talked about jail, prison, and law enforcement medical abuse and neglect; coerced suicide; torture such as solitary confinement, the torture/restraint chair, and stress position cage; racial profiling; and the way jails and prisons destroy individuals and families. In Santa Cruz, Black people are 1.8% of the total population, but 9% of the jail population. Recently a Black man was held in the chair five hours without phone call, water, toilet, or blanket.

After a year-long investigation of five deaths in SCCJ since August 2012 (now six), a Santa Cruz County Grand Jury concluded that California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) staff failed to identify and treat symptoms of methadone overdose, and had insufficient oversight and treatment facilities. They made recommendations to improve physical and mental health conditions in the jail, but the Sheriff's Department and CFMG, giant for-profit corporation, denied nearly all the research. Since then, another woman has died.

The protest made the following demands:

1. Board of supervisors cancel its contract with CFMG.
2. Sheriff's department and CFMG accept responsibility for the unnatural deaths and implement grand jury recommendations to expand mental health services.
3. Abolish solitary confinement/administrative segregation, the restraint/torture chair, and other forms of torture.



Activists march for prisoners' rights in Santa Cruz, Calif. Photo: Scott Nelson

4. County cancel the \$25 million planned expansion of Rountree Detention Center and invest in community-based social services.

High rates of deaths occur in jails and prisons throughout California and the U.S. Sin Barras calls for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the MOVE 9, Leonard Peltier, Oscar López Rivera, Russell Maroon Shoatz, and all political prisoners held by the U.S. We support the Dallas 6 in Pennsylvania, a group of young Black men brutally attacked by prison guards after peacefully protesting torture in solitary confinement, including the use of a torture/restraint chair, both used in Santa Cruz.

Speakers at the rally talked about the prisoner-led movement that uses work and hunger strikes to end mass incarceration for profit and solitary confinement. In 2012, prisoners issued the "Agreement to End Hostilities" and unified across race lines, and the women of California Families against Solitary Confinement practice it in the community.

The call of our rally and our work is this: Invest in caring for people and the planet, not in caging and killing.

Courtney Hanson is a founding member of Sin Barras, which works for community-based alternatives to mass incarceration and resources for the most vulnerable: people of color, women, trans and queer, disabled, the poor, and the houseless. Willow Katz, long-term prisoners' rights, women's, LGBTIQ, and social justice activist, is a member of Sin Barras, Global Women's Strike, Haiti Action Committee, and WILPF Santa Cruz.

WILPF US Celebrates 100 Years!

Historic Congress & Conference Focus on Women's Power to Stop War

To celebrate 100 years of peacemaking and to usher in the next 100 years of peacebuilding activities, WILPF is hosting both an International Congress and Conference at The Hague, Netherlands, where our foremothers gathered in 1915. The Congress is limited to WILPF delegates from all Sections, and the Conference is open to peacemakers from all over the world. In addition to the celebrations in The Hague, branches across the United States are celebrating the anniversary in all manner of ways, exemplifying the courage, creativity and commitment of WILPF members everywhere.

Congress: April 22 – 25, 2015

This WILPF Congress takes place April 22 – 25, 2015 at the Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands. Congress is the highest decision making body of WILPF and the final authority in all matters concerning the organization. At this historic Congress, meeting 100 years after our founding foremothers came together so resolutely, we will once again stand strong in The Hague as the world's leading women's peace organization. Setting the course for WILPF for future years, the Congress is where all decisions are made.

WILPF US chose four WILPF delegates, in addition to the US Section President and International Board Representative, to act as official delegates. Five alternates were also chosen as part of the US Section delegation.

The US delegates are Mary Hanson Harrison (US Section President), Melissa Torres (International Board Representative), Regina Birchem, Barbara Nielsen, Jane Doyle, and Carol Urner. The alternates are Joan Ecklein, Odile Hugonot Haber, Darien De Lu, Leah Bolger and Patricia Schroeder.

The US delegates want to focus on learning from our international sisters and to strengthen our knowledge of strategies that have worked around the world. "My role as a US delegate allows me to gain new international experience and insights into how to work collaboratively with other WILPF members to make our section work more efficient and effective in our grass roots activism, exercising the power of women to stop war," said Barbara Nielson, US delegate.



The US delegates and alternates bring decades of collective WILPF and issues experience. They have taken the lead on important projects such as the Drones Quilt Project, the Disarm/End Wars Committee, and the Food Sovereignty Project. They also have important relationships with partner organizations such as World Beyond War and Code Pink.

Conference: April 27 – 29, 2015

The WILPF 2015 Conference is the place where hundreds of women peacemakers from all over the world will come together to establish a new peace agenda for the 21st century. Meeting at The Hague, April 27-29, 2015, women from the US will be joining thousands of others from around the globe to celebrate the Centennial with the Conference theme, "Uniting a Global Movement of Women's Power to Stop War." The WILPF 2015 Conference is about truly establishing the principles of sustainable peacebuilding and exploring the root causes of conflict, as our foremothers did in 1915.

Excitement built when it was announced that Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 2011, will be the Conference key-note speaker (see more at page 23). Five plenaries take place during the Congress, and more than forty sessions throughout the three conference days will focus on everything from implementing international instruments and conversations with peacemakers, to movement-building, game-changing academic research and the latest civil society initiatives. More than one hundred speakers from the field, academia, international institutions, grassroots and governments are sharing their expertise and experiences with participants at The Hague. The Conference also features a number of historical exhibits celebrating the work of the women's peace movement. At the marketplace booths, organizations, groups or individuals exhibit their creative ideas, sell crafts, and share their work and activities with all Conference participants.

WILPF US is sponsoring a booth during the Conference which displays many of the activities and issues the US Section undertakes. Acknowledging that our serious work sometimes requires us to find a way to have fun, our booth includes a display on how to build life size puppets of Jane Addams and other important characters. Please join us!

Branches Activities: All Year Long!

California WILPF members from the Bay Area and Santa Cruz sponsored “Riding the Train With Jane” from San Francisco to Chicago to join women from around the world, including several women Nobel winners at the Hull House Museum. While in Chicago, the Santa Cruz branch explored and celebrated the history of women and peacemaking. The organizers invited others to follow the journey with Jane on facebook.com/RIDEWITHJANE.

Grinnell College, in Iowa, hosts an event in conjunction with the **Des Moines** Branch. Many branches, including the **Tucson** Branch and groups of at-large members in **Texas**, are celebrating International Women’s Day and hosting film screenings. The **San Francisco** Branch hosts the theatrical production of “Conversations with Our Grandmothers.” Members in **Vermont** have been helping young girls learn more about Jane Addams. The **Monterey County** Branch celebrated in the July 4th Parade. The **San Diego** Branch hosted a Uganda Peace Event. The **Cape Cod** Branch features a “Telling Our Stories” celebration where members can each tell about a memorable experience with WILPF, interspersed with stories about WILPF’s history which started at the Peace Conference at The Hague in 1915. The **Bloomington, Indiana** Branch of WILPF will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and the 100th anniversary of WILPF, with a three-month exhibit at the Monroe County History Center.

Some branches are holding fundraisers to expand the Growing WILPF! Campaign, and others are joining with universities to introduce young women to WILPF and peacebuilding for the first time.

WILPF **Monterey County** Branch had a grand birthday party to celebrate WILPF’s centennial, the branch’s fiftieth anniversary and the birthday of one of their invaluable founding members, Joyce Vandevere! In addition, the branch has combined fun and food with showing “Crossing Borders” and fundraising for the centennial.

The **Sacramento-Sierra Foothills** Branch is making a special effort to attract new interest through a year of special programming and follow-up. The 100th birthday plans begin in Women’s History Month when the branch hosts film showings with discussions for the first three Thursdays in March, culminating on the final Thursday with a “Living History Dance Performance” telling stories of Isadora Duncan. Peace activist Lois Flood is coming to Sacramento to present the dance and poetry produc-

tion she has put together. Other activities planned for later in the year include a presentation by local members about their experience at the International WILPF Conference; the initiation of a local economics study group emphasizing corporations, catastrophic climate change, and the evolution of corporate personhood; and possible branch involvement with the US Social Forum in San Jose, California in June.

In addition to branch activities, the New York Public Library hosts a reception and is showcasing WILPF papers highlighting WILPF’s rich history. The Swarthmore College Peace Collection, in Pennsylvania, is the official repository of WILPF records and is also featuring a display.

Patricia Schroeder of the Santa Cruz Branch doesn’t want the anniversary to stop at The Hague. She said the anniversary shouldn’t just be about April but should be about the whole year, so in the US, the celebrations will continue throughout 2015. After the celebrations at The Hague, the western region of the US will host a report back session from The Hague for US members who were not able to attend, and events will continue at branches across the US. Visit the US Section website to find out more about our events at wilpfus.org.

Thanks to Heather Wellman, centennial coordinator for WILPF US, and Joan Bazar, chair of the US Section Communications Committee, for their contributions to this article.



Jane buys her ticket to Chicago at the Amtrak station in San Jose, Ca. from ticket agent Isela Alanis. WILPFers used the opportunity to explain the exciting peacemaking work of Jane Addams and WILPF.

Photo: Rebecca Jordan

Growing WILPF! Capacity Campaign

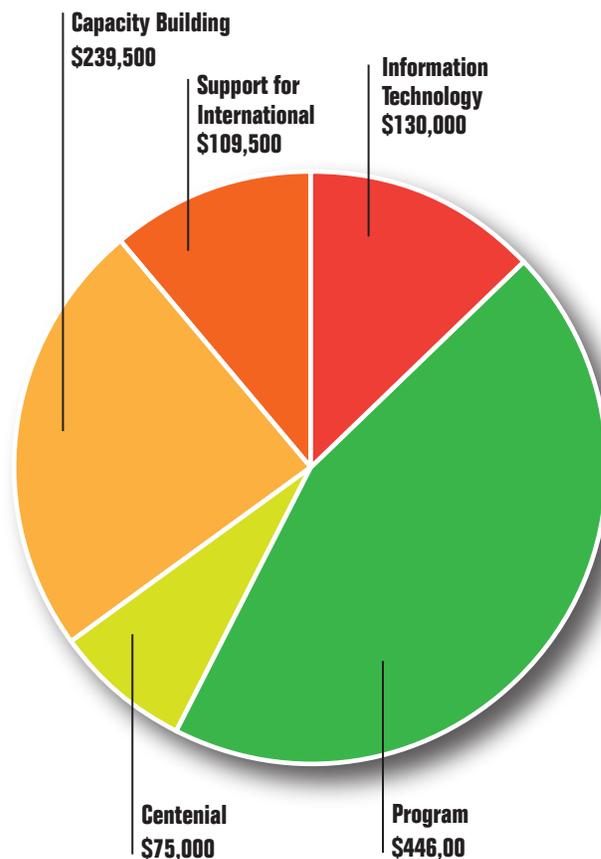
Raising money has never been a strong goal for WILPF US. Instead, we've tended to focus on "the work." Today we are setting ourselves a huge challenge, and we'll need your help to achieve it. We're asking members and friends to dig deeper than ever before, because we have to plan for our future, so WILPF will be around for our daughters and granddaughters, brothers and sons. By "Capacity" we mean having both the funds and the capabilities we need to grow in members, strength and visibility.

The world needs WILPF's voice for peace. We must raise ONE MILLION DOLLARS as part of our GROWING WILPF! Capacity Campaign.

The good news is that we are more than halfway to our goal, thanks to the generous pledge of two of our long time members. It's up to all of us to raise the rest and we're asking you to put your treasure where your heart is!

We will use these dollars to provide:

- More **support for our branches** to organize and work more effectively in their own communities.
- A stronger **visibility** in the world to amplify our message and maximize the efforts of our members.
- More **vibrant program goals** that resonate across branches, states and nations.
- **Training opportunities** to strengthen our membership and provide a gateway to leadership for younger more diverse women.
- Additional **resources for education** among our members and ultimately through them to the public.
- More funding for the **mini-grants to our branches and issue committees** use for specific projects.
- More **efficient communications** within WILPF, uniting members, branches, issue committees, National and International, along with our United Nations programs.



We hope to raise as much as we can during our Centennial Year, 2015. But realistically, we will continue to raise this money until we meet our goal.

We invite the public to invest in our future, because non-partisan Progressive organizing across America is increasingly necessary.

We invite our branches to make group donations, because they will be the strongest beneficiaries of our new technologies.

We invite our allies to contribute in-kind and financial donations, because WILPF has a history of "being there" for other peace organizations. We are the "people who show up" at rallies, lectures, protests, strikes and fundraisers.

We need YOU to stand with us now. Please use the form on the following page to send your donation or visit our website, GrowingWILPF.com, for more details on how YOU can help WILPF grow!

Many thanks to the Growing WILPF! Campaign Honorary Chair, Yvonne Logan, and Campaign Co-Chairs, Robin Lloyd and Marybeth Gardham, for their enthusiasm, commitment and tireless efforts.

Growing WILPF! Campaign Budget

The Growing WILPF! campaign, which seeks to raise \$1million over two years, will build a new foundation upon which the organization can thrive for the next 100 years. This budget, which was approved by the WILPF Board of Directors in December 2014, is a roadmap of a journey yet to be taken.

I. Information Technology	\$130,000
IT Staff (25 hours)	\$80,000
Website Design	\$25,000
Database, Comm, Gen IT	\$25,000
II. Programs	\$446,000
Women's Power to Stop War Tour	\$20,00
Speaker's Bureau	\$20,000
US Mini-Grant Fund	\$75,000
New Publications and Materials	\$29,000
Regional Field Organizers	\$130,000
Membership Coord (30 hours)	\$80,000
Internship Prog Coord	\$30,000
Program Committee Meetings	\$12,000
Issue Committee Expenses	\$30,000
Conferences and Travel	\$5,000
Other Events and Initiatives	\$15,000
III. Centennial	\$75,000
US Delegation Travel to Hague	\$25,000
US Scholarship Fund for Int'l Congress	\$5,000
US Centennial Coordinator Act	\$20,000
Centennial Activities in US	\$25,000
IV. Capacity Building	\$239,500
Fundraising / Development/ GW	\$30,000
TSNE Consultant	\$45,000
Interim Management	\$40,000
JAPA reconciliation	\$15,000
Marketing / PR	\$25,000
Office Manager (15 hrs)	\$50,000
Recruitment and advertising	\$5,000
Board capacity building meeting in Houston	\$25,000
Training and Continuing ed	\$4,500
V. Support for International	\$109,500
Int'l Section Contributions	\$25,000
Int'l - Colombia Conf (Outreach)	\$6,600
Int'l Conf Registration Subsidy	\$20,000
Int'l Travel Fund	\$25,000
Centennial Speaker Fund	\$10,000
Exhibition Fund	\$10,000
Venue Costs	\$12,900
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,000,000



Growing WILPF! Campaign Honorary Chair, Yvonne Logan (l.), talks with Leah Bolger, Drones Quilt Project Coordinator, at the WILPF US Congress in Detroit, 2014. Photo: Joan Bazar

Dig Deep For The Growing WILPF! Campaign

Donate online at WILPFus.org. Just click DONATE, then choose the Growing WILPF! option.

OR

Use this form for your donation by credit card or check. For tax-deductible donations, make the check payable to Peace Development Fund. Include this coupon with your check and be sure to write Growing WILPF! Campaign in the check memo.

\$35 \$100 \$1,000 \$5,000 \$ _____

This contribution is: One-time or Monthly

Credit card # _____

Expiration date (mo./yr.) _____

Security code _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (print) _____

WILPF Branch or at-large

Please use the provided return envelope or mail to:

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

11 Arlington St., Boston, MA 02116 Tel. 617-266-0999

Get on Board

Campaigns and Projects in 2015

By Joan Bazar

Inspired by the articles in this issue and causes calling out for action? WILPF issue committees are a place to start. Committees welcome branch representatives and at-large members, who can play a role in their communities.

Celebrating Change and Working for Justice

Breaking news on many fronts is energizing existing committees and leading WILPF members to launch new initiatives. There's the breakthrough in US-Cuba relations (pgs. 4 & 5) after half a century, bringing joy to the **Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Issue Committee**. Contact Cindy Domingo, cindydomingo@gmail.com, to join in the committee's work in monitoring developments and organizing a visit to the island.

The emergence of a renewed civil rights movement following events in Ferguson, Missouri, adds impetus to the discussions initiated at WILPF's Congress last August. See reports of study and action by members in Boston (pg.10) and Santa Cruz (pg. 11). Participants in the workshop, "Mass Incarceration, Criminal Injustice and the Insidious Racial Caste System," are continuing to share information on the role of the drug war and the injustice of the criminal justice system.

What are the issues in your community? To join the discussion and work toward launching a subcommittee under the **Advancing Human Rights Committee**, contact Claire Gosselin, claireg53@gmail.com.

Immigration and border militarization issues will be the initial focus of a group organizing to follow up on the workshop and resolution on cooperation with our sister Section in Mexico. What role is your branch taking locally, and what information would be helpful in addressing these issues? Contact Melissa Torres, melissa.i.torres@gmail.com, to help move this effort forward.

Issue Committees Collaborating on Critical Campaigns for Food and Water

Corporations v Democracy Issue Committee, whose study guide on Corporate Personhood is used by Move to Amend and others, is partnering with Earth Democracy in the campaign for safe food. Understanding the way corporations gained power is key to many of our strug-

gles. Contact Marybeth Gardam, mbgardam@gmail.com, and check out the study guide available at the website, wilpfus.org/our-work/corporations-v-democracy.

The Human Right to Health and Safe Food (pgs. 6 - 9) is a collaborative campaign between **Earth Democracy** and **Corporations v Democracy** to carry out the mandate of the resolution passed at the 2014 WILPF US Congress that there is a human right not to be placed at risk of birth defects and disease just so corporations can be more profitable. A similar resolution has been submitted to the 100th Anniversary Congress to request creating an International Working Group on this topic or reviving the former **Food Sovereignty Working Group**. This education and action campaign exposes the impact of harmful herbicides and pesticides, notably Monsanto's Roundup, but all based on glyphosate, and to present alternatives. Learn more at wilpfus.org/story/statements-and-resolutions and contact Marybeth Gardam, mbgardam@gmail.com, or Nancy Price, nancypprice39@gmail.com.

The Human Right to Health and Safe Food campaign invites all branches and members to participate through education and action on this vital issue.

The water campaign was inspired in part by presentations made by leaders of the Detroit struggle over the right to water at the 2014 Congress. **Earth Democracy** and **Advancing Human Rights** have joined so that WILPF members can study the many dimensions of the issue to identify ways WILPF can best address it. The right to water, affirmed in Article 31 of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is threatened by practices ranging from fracking and pipeline construction to price gouging and shut-offs leading to water pollution, threats to health, loss of housing, even the removal of children from families unable to pay water bills.

Concerns include privatization of the water commons, exploitation of poor communities and people of color, and control over water being both a motivation for and a tactic in armed conflict. Clearly, peace and freedom cannot be secured without ensuring the universal access to safe water. To learn more and join this effort contact Mary Brinker-Jenkins, mbricker@temple.edu; Rose Daitsman, rosedaitsman@wi.rr.com; or Nancy Price, nancypprice39@gmail.com.

Earth Democracy's mandate is broad and includes four subcommittees:

1. Human Right to Water and Health;
2. Rights of Nature/Future Generation Guardianship;
3. Food Democracy/Local Economy; and
4. Global Warming/Sustainable Energy.

To integrate these broad subject areas, two framing initiatives are highlighted: the Precautionary Principle and Guardianship of Future Generations. These two initiatives along with Indigenous Wisdom, Rights of Nature, The Commons, Community Rights v. Corporate Rights form the core of our "Communities and Nature" Workshop. To find out more, visit our website page, wilpfus.org/our-work/earth-democracy-0. To join us in this Earth Democracy work, contact Nancy Price, nancytprice39@gmail.com.

Global Concerns Challenge Us

The **Middle East Issue Committee** continues its work on Gaza, publicizing what has happened there and encouraging an end to the tragedy occurring due to Israel's blockade. Concern extends to the growing refugee crisis emerging from conflict throughout the region. Odile Hugonot Haber says, "We need to work on our ongoing strategy vis-à-vis Iran, as the safety of all people in the region is dependent upon the region becoming a nuclear-free zone....It seems obvious that U.S. strategy in regard to terrorism has the effect of making people more angry, and seems to be recruiting extremists. We need to be thinking of alternatives."

With the printing of its booklet on Hamas, the committee is working with branches to encourage discussion of the importance of removing Hamas from the US terrorist list and including Hamas as a partner at the peace table. Join in the campaign by contacting Odile Hugonot Haber, odilehh@gmail.com.

The movement for a Middle East Nuclear Free Zone continues as a joint campaign of the **DISARM/End Wars Committee** and the **Middle East Committee**. DISARM/End Wars co-chair Carol Urner says, "We would welcome new projects like demilitarizing the police and local gun control." Currently the committee is working on nuclear abolition, banning militarized drones, Keeping Space for Peace and World Beyond War (a new coalition endorsed by the US Section at our August Congress).



Atomic Clock: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Reproduced by permission.

Check out the Calendar on wilpfus.org and the monthly eNews to plan ahead for events around nuclear disarmament. These include the Peace and Planet Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free and Just and Sustainable World Conference

leading up to the April 27-May 22 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty meetings in New York City. Share your ideas on ways to commemorate: the 70th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days (August 6-9), the International Day of Peace (September 21) and International Nuclear Disarmament Day (September 26).

Carol Urner notes, "With the atomic clock now set at three minutes to midnight, failure to face up to climate change and U.S. bellicosity, Armageddon may not be far away. Our intelligent, truthful and compassionate responses are urgently required now."

Contact Carol, carol.disarm@gmail.com, to learn more about lobbying in DC with the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability May 17-20. In 2014 the committee sponsored an intern, Halley Cook, of Whittier (CA) College, who served as a peace research fellow. The committee is currently composed of 52 members (42 from 23 branches, 10 at-large) and welcomes more participation.

And the Work at Home Continues

Looking forward to a third year working in coalition with the United Methodist Women's Intercept Campaign for the 2016 Super Bowl, the Advancing Human Rights Issues Committee's **Subcommittee on Human Trafficking** is working on another innovative Toolkit with strategies to help end this crime.

The San Jose Branch has begun to work with a local coalition making plans to raise public awareness and provide services for survivors of human trafficking

Meet the New Board

around Super Bowl 2016 at nearby Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. However the work is not limited geographically – the late Lucinda Tate took the campaign to sports bars in Portland, Oregon, raising consciousness with pamphlets.

And the project continues year-round. Are you involved in education? Do you have ideas about how to engage students, non-governmental agencies and churches in this important effort? Help us develop and distribute these important tools that are an education in themselves! Contact Jan Kubiak, jankubiak@yahoo.com, for resources and to offer support.

The work of the ad hoc **Bylaws Committee** is very different from the Issue Committee work; but its work, too, changes with the changing conditions in the world. Our bylaws can be exciting when viewed as the living and growing frame for WILPF US. What changes in structure will help WILPF US work more effectively, democratically, and transparently? Contact Darien De Lu, conjoin@macnexus.org, with your ideas and participate in moving us forward.

Joan Bazar is chair of the US Section's Communications Committee and a member of the San Jose, Calif. Branch.



Front row, l to r: Millee Livingston, Candace Perry
Second row, l to r: Nicole Scott, Barbara Nielsen, LaShawndra Vernon, Ann Fleischli, Mary Hanson Harrison, Odile Hugonot Haber
Back row, l to r: Fran Foulkrod, Melissa Torres
Not pictured: Deb Garretson

WILPF US Board of Directors, 2015

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Other WILPF US Branch Activities

In addition to the branch activity all over the country in celebration of the Centennial (pg. 18), WILPFers have continued to create other exciting programs which inform, inspire and involve members and the community. Here are just a few:

Portland, Oregon

Portland Branch members are developing a "Cities for CEDAW" proposal to assist in writing an ordinance to make Portland, Oregon, another west coast city following in the footsteps of San Francisco to implement CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) at the municipal level. Brandy Robinson, a new member to Portland and alumna of WILPF's Local to Global UN Commission on the Status of Women 2014 Conference, is spearheading this effort with a grant proposal from the WILPF US Advancing Human Rights (AHR) issue committee. The intent of this proposal is to establish local CEDAW initiatives in the hope that these initiatives will create an alliance among local political officials and businesses to maximize our local resources and integrate gender equity principles into its framework, thereby increasing revenue and a better quality of life for women, children, the disabled and LGBT communities. Branch members have also been active in participating with AHR's Human Trafficking sub-committee's collaboration with the United Methodist Women's action to call attention to and put a stop to the human trafficking which takes place during Super Bowl. Human trafficking intensifies around this iconic American sports event, and our branch was especially proud of Lucinda Tate, Portland branch convener and co-chair of the AHR Issue Committee, who, before her untimely death, brought attention and energy to this injustice.

Bloomington, Indiana

The Bloomington Branch hosted author Jeffrey Clements, author of *Corporations Are Not People*, for a lecture and book signing at the local Barnes & Noble. In his updated second edition of the book, Clements includes a new chapter, "Do Something!," showing how Americans are using creative strategies and tools to renew democracy and curb unbalanced corporate power. Forty people showed up to hear Clements' ideas about how to get money out of politics. Jim & Tomi Allison are part of the **Corporations v Democracy** Issue Committee. Jim noted that both Clements and Barnes & Noble are anxious to set up book signings and lectures around the country. Consider organizing one in YOUR town!



Using fashion to make a political statement, Laurie Gates (Cape Cod) models an outfit which reveals the truth of military spending in the federal budget. Her camouflage jacket represents the 60% of the federal budget devoted to war, and her skirt shows how more military money is tucked into the civilian budget.

Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Cape Cod WILPF honored its founding co-mother, Mary Zepernick, on her 75th birthday with a "Tea, Toast and Roast" that included a reprise of the branch's political fashion show. Containing sixteen haute couture costumes that illustrated issues affecting Cape Cod, the show explored militarism, corporate power, preserving the water supply, homelessness, hunger, violence against women and the dangerous Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. The script which described each costume made clear the political statement of each fashion. The tea benefited the Margaret Moseley Peace Education Fund, named after our other co-mother. Plans are to videotape the fashion show for distribution far and wide and to offer the costumes themselves to any WILPF branch interested in using it as a base to put on their own fashion show, in exchange for shipping costs. For more information, contact Elenita Muñiz, elenita@cape.com.

Houston, Texas

The Houston Branch has sponsored a Peace Camp each year for 14 years, with the motto, "Everyone is a winner at peace camp." Playing non-competitive games reinforces the belief that there are no losers. The branch is hoping to acquire grant funding so each camper can give their next teacher a book containing non-competitive games, and the camper can "help" the teacher teach the games to even more children. For more information, contact Lynn Furay, lynnfuray@gmail.com.

We Are All Ayotzinapa

By Melissa Torres

Editor's Note:

Demonstrations continue to take place around the world marking the disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa at the hands of the Mexican government. The surviving students and the parents of the 43 have mobilized communities in Mexico, Uruguay, Bolivia, the United States, Canada, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, and Italy to stand in solidarity with them demanding answers and justice. WILPF US has made a statement in solidarity with the parents and the people of Mexico in demanding justice. The following is adapted from an article by Melissa Torres, WILPF US International Board Representative, which first appeared on the WILPF US website following the students' disappearance in September 2014.

We, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US Section (WILPF US), stand in solidarity with our sisters in the WILPF, Mexico Section, and the people of Mexico, as they stand up demanding answers and an end to the violence and killing resulting from a failed drug war and state corruption.

On November 7, 2014, after falsely stating that the Mexican government discovered the charred remains of 43 students from a rural teacher's college in Ayotzinapa, Mexico, who had gone missing, Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam tried to silence the questioning parents and media and end an hour-long press conference by declaring, "Ya me cansé." ("Enough, I'm tired.") The Mexican people have adopted this as a rallying cry, along with, "Todos somos Ayotzinapa" ("We are all Ayotzinapa"), in solidarity with the 43 students and the over 80,000 deaths and kidnappings since the start of the drug war.

On September 26, 2014, 43 students from a rural teachers' college in Ayotzinapa, Mexico, were kidnapped on their way to protest Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto's education reforms. The students' caravan was intercepted by militarized police from Iguala, a town in the state of Guerrero. After resisting, 6 people were killed, 25 wounded and the 43 students have not been heard from since. The mayor of Iguala, José Luis Abarca Velázquez, and his wife, María de los Ángeles Pineda Villa, immediately disappeared as it was discovered that they had



Demonstration in Houston, Texas in front of the Mexican consulate in solidarity with the national protest in Mexico on November 20, 2014. Photo: Melissa Torres.

ordered police to arrest the students. Information shows that, upset that the students would be protesting an event in which she would be honored and would announce her mayoral campaign, Pineda Villa further ordered that Iguala police turn the 43 students over to a local drug cartel with which she has family ties. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto has remained mostly silent on the matter, only agreeing to meet with the parents of the 43 students nearly six weeks after the kidnappings and urging them to stop organizing protests.

On December 1, 2014, the two-year anniversary of President Enrique Peña Nieto's administration, a national day of protest was held in Mexico, demanding that the 43 students be returned alive and calling for the resignation of President Enrique Peña Nieto. In solidarity with our sisters in WILPF – Mexico and concerned citizens of Mexico and the 43 students, protests were held in 43 U.S. cities on December 3, 2014, calling for the U.S. government to end its funding of the Mérida Initiative.

The Merida Initiative is a \$3,000,000,000 (3 billion dollar) security agreement between the U.S., Mexico and Central America with a stated purpose to stop drug trafficking. The agreement states that the U.S. government will provide military aid (through U.S. private defense contractors), torture training and funds for judicial reforms so long as the Mexican government makes advances in human rights protections. The agreement mandates that the U.S. Secretary of State report any human rights violations by the Mexican government to the U.S. Congress for review of funds. Recent funding has gone mainly for more and more military and policing equipment. Meanwhile the violence has only increased, along with an increase in weapons into Mexico from the

Jane Said It Best...

U.S. and drugs into the U.S. from Mexico. President Peña Nieto has prioritized illegal international investments, damaging economic and educational reforms, and his party's private interests over the security, safety, and rights of the Mexican people.

For years, the people of Mexico have lived with untold violence and violation of their rights. Finally, the disappearance of the students has enraged a country into action. The facade of reform promoted by President Peña Nieto is being exposed for the lie that it is.

WILPF US members took part in the December 3rd protests and will continue in solidarity with our neighbors across our southern border in Mexico and our sisters in the Mexico Section of WILPF. We demand that the U.S. Congress stop funding the militarization and dangerous reforms that are devastating the people of Mexico and review the human rights violations being undertaken by and through the hands of the Mexican government.

**¡Todos somos Ayotzinapa! ¡Ya me cansé!
We are all Ayotzinapa! We are also tired!**

Ongoing actions are planned by WILPF US and WILPF Mexico. For more information and to learn how you can be involved, contact Melissa Torres at melissa.i.torres@gmail.com.

Our founder, Jane Addams, was an extraordinary woman, in thought and deed. Her words ring true today, and continue to move and encourage us.

“Nothing could be worse than the fear that one had given up too soon, and left one unexpended effort that might have saved the world.”

“What after all, has maintained the human race on this old globe despite all the calamities of nature and all the tragic failings of mankind, if not faith in new possibilities, and courage to advocate them.”

“Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we often might win, by fearing to attempt.”

“Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured as upon the result itself.”

“The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”

“Unless our conception of patriotism is progressive, it cannot hope to embody the real affection and the real interest of the nation.”

— Jane Addams (1860 – 1935)

Restoring Our Souls

An Exploration in Healing at Congress

By Catherine Hoffman

Being at Congress in Detroit was an invitation to analysis, to process and to policy. The principles of WILPF are dedicated to a world free of injustice and inequality. But how to get there in society and how to address some of the internal conflicts in WILPF which have caused ruptures? In trying to bring a current approach to both these questions, Betty Burkes and I offered a workshop looking at the nature of harm and the use of restorative principles for addressing it.

A group of forty women attended and were ushered into one large circle, enabling each person to see one another and each voice to be honored. We began with a personal inquiry: “Think of a time when you were hurt. It could be physical or when someone hurt your feelings. What did you feel?”

We passed a talking piece around the circle as each woman offered one word: “shocked,” “lonely,” “angry,” “broken.” The talking piece went around again. More words were added, as people sank deeper into their own stories.

We paused and read the words out loud and then asked the next question: “Remembering that experience, what might you have needed to repair that situation, to allow for healing?” The talking piece moved and needs were expressed: “time to regain myself,” “have the other person acknowledge what they did,” “being listened to,” “an apology,” “have it not happen again,” and “understand why.” No mention of revenge or punishment was made.

Betty and I talked a little about restorative justice, noticing that if asked, we know how we feel when we are harmed and what we need to repair it. Our traditional justice system doesn’t allow for either. It asks, “What law was broken? Who did it? How do we punish them?” Restorative Justice asks, “What harm was done? Who is responsible? How do we repair it?” Restorative Justice sees that harm can be done even when a law or rule is not broken. And laws can be broken without any harm done. People are not defined as perpetrators or victims but human beings who have caused harm or been impacted by it. The person who has been harmed, not the state, defines the harm and has the central role in speaking. For many this is an empowering experience, the opposite of a courtroom where they might be re-victimized in an adversarial system intent on discrediting them. The person who has done the harm is seen as a human being with value.



He/she is not a “monster,” “terrorist” or “other.”

Restorative justice, with roots in Native U.S. and Canadian peoples, understands harm in a community context. A police attack on a young Black man sends terror throughout an entire community. A fight in the girls’ bathroom creates lack of safety for all the girls. Harm can also be “structural” – laws or actions by a group of people which harm another. Holding one individual responsible and seeking individual punishment does little to address the roots of these problems. And just as having the person harmed define their own experience honors the person affected, having the larger community involved honors and engages the wisdom of the community.

Restorative Justice offers us a humanizing future. The person harmed regains some of what has been lost, the person who has done the harm contributes positively and the whole community benefits from greater safety and cohesion.

Finally, Restorative Justice seeks to repair harm, not add to it. The use of punishment in schools through suspension or expulsion can alienate students from school and do little to resolve the problem. Prison, now a profit-oriented venture with more than 80% of people incarcerated for non-violent offenses, is not designed for rehabilitation. In restorative settings — community conferencing, circle processes, and truth and reconciliation panels — repair is defined by all the parties, leading to creative solutions.

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Leymah Gbowee Speaks!



Photo: Flickr/Aktiv Oslo.no

and the whole community benefits from greater safety and cohesion. It allows us to shift our mindsets from our ingrained defaults of violence and separation to building connection.

In the United States, there is an additional urgency. The United States now incarcerates more people than any other country. The war on drugs created by the Reagan administration unleashed a justice system that has been described as the “New Jim Crow” by civil rights litigator and legal scholar Michelle Alexander. WILPFers from coast to coast are working to end the criminalization of people of color as a tool for massive disenfranchisement (see articles on pages 10 and 11 of this issue of Peace and Freedom). Disproportionate suspensions and expulsions in schools and incarceration rates affecting one in four African-American men have made the racial divide a chasm and further skewed the realities for white people and people of color. Restorative justice for the U.S.? It not only interrupts discrimination and division, it allows us to regain and even grow our own souls.

Before the closing circle of our workshop we asked, “Now think of a time when you harmed someone or were part of a group causing harm. What could you do to repair the harm?” Words came more slowly as the talking piece circulated, but the consciousness of our own capacity for harming dawned on each person.

We closed with a few words from each person. Tears of understanding and possibility spilled. One woman said “I wish we had done this the first day of Congress.” The next said, “This should come to The Hague.” Another acknowledged her grievances towards a participant and hope for forgiveness. For some the circle was a new opening for healing relationships within WILPF and for all a glimpse of a more humane approach to transformation of injustice.



Long time Cambridge, Mass. peace and justice activist and former Peace Commission director, **Cathy Hoffman** has been part of local struggles against neighborhood gentrification, work for

restorative justice, community building and nonviolence and solidarity efforts with El Salvador and Palestine. She is an at-large WILPF member and in beloved partnership with former WILPF US president Betty Burkes trying to create the world which is yet to be.

Many WILPFers have been inspired by the work of Leymah Gbowee, Liberian activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 2011.

Many of us marveled at her courage as she and other Liberian women – Christians and Muslims united – demanded an end to the fighting in their war-torn country in 2003, depicted in the film, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. And now there’s an opportunity to be further inspired by her in person as she delivers the keynote speech at the Centennial Conference. In her book, *Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War*, Gbowee speaks of women as peacemakers:

Organizations like the UN do a lot of good, but there are certain basic realities they never seem to grasp....Maybe the most important truth that eludes these organizations is that it’s insulting when outsiders come in and tell a traumatized people what it will take for them to heal.

You cannot go to another country and make a plan for it. The cultural context is so different from what you know that you will not understand much of what you see. I would never come to the US and claim to understand what’s going on, even in the African American culture. People who have lived through a terrible conflict may be hungry and desperate, but they’re not stupid. They often have very good ideas about how peace can evolve, and they need to be asked.

That includes women. Most especially women. When it comes to preventing conflict or building peace, there’s a way in which women are the experts.

What a powerful message for the WILPF 2015 Conference: Women’s Power to Stop War!

A Century of Dangerous Women

By Robin Lloyd

Twenty-five years ago, playwrights Jan Maher and Nikki Nojima Louis created *Most Dangerous Women*, a readers' theater documentary of the international women's peace movement, at the request of the Seattle Branch of WILPF to celebrate WILPF's 75th anniversary. A quarter century later, the show is still going strong, having been performed in dozens of communities across the country. The script is continually updated, now bringing audiences the story of 100 years of peacemaking.

Our centennial year is a fitting time for *Most Dangerous Women* to make its Burlington, VT debut. Burlington WILPF is excited to be working with Jan Maher to produce this dramatic documentary and to bring singers and artists into the WILPF orbit. Other WILPF US branches are invited to stage a performance themselves during this centennial year.

Focusing initially on the creation of WILPF in the midst of World War I, *Most Dangerous Women* uses headlines, speeches, poems, memoirs, and songs to take audiences through ten decades of peacemaking up through the week of any given performance. The voices of more than eighty women (and some men), many members of WILPF and many Nobel Peace Laureates, bring history to life and inspire audiences with the spirit of resistance to war and insistence on peace and social justice. Among the scores of voices are numerous firsts, including Jane Addams, the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize; Jeannette M. Rankin, the first woman to serve in the United State Congress; Dr. Anita Augspurg, Germany's first woman judge; Aletta Jacobs, Holland's first woman physician; Wangari Maathai, first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize; and Malala Yousafzai, the first teen to be chosen as a Peace Laureate.

The songs in *Most Dangerous Women* range from the traditional, such as "Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye" and "Die Gedanken Sind Frei," to those of contemporary noted women songwriters and composers such as Joan Szymko, Paige Wheeler, Holly Near, and Linda Allen.

Howard Zinn said, "If *Most Dangerous Women* were performed in schools across the country, we might well see a new generation of young people dedicated to ending the scourge of war." Margaret Hope Bacon, author of *One Woman's Passion for Peace and Freedom: The Life of Mildred Scott Olmsted*, has stated, "By using liberally quotes from many of WILPF's past heroes and orators, and by the juxtaposition of narrative, music, and action, the authors of this script have created an exciting vehicle

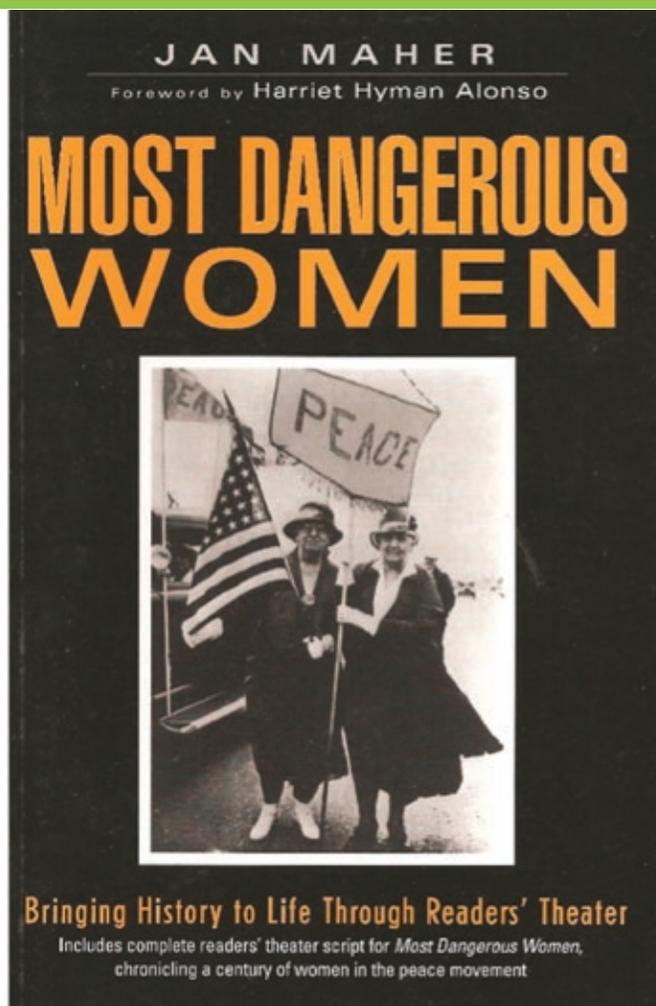


Photo: Heinemann Publishing

for making not only the history of WILPF, but the history of the past...years come alive. They have proved that given the right treatment, the historical record itself is dramatic, and need not be tampered with."

Communities wishing to stage *Most Dangerous Women* in honor of WILPF's 100th Anniversary are invited to contact Jan Maher, jcmaher@aol.com, for complimentary copies of *Most Dangerous Women: Bringing History to Life through Readers' Theater* and for information about obtaining performance rights, an updated script, and sheet music. To receive a DVD of the 2009 Pittsburgh, Pa. performance of *Most Dangerous Women*, contact Edith Bell, edith.bell4@verizon.net. For more information about the Burlington performances, contact Robin Lloyd, robinlloyd8@gmail.com.

Robin Lloyd is a member of the Burlington, Vt. Branch of WILPF.

Honoring Our Foremothers in WILPF US

One hundred years ago, these women came together at The Hague to declare that ending war is, indeed, women's work. Pictured here is the U.S. delegation, including our founder of WILPF, Jane Addams (front row, second from left). Her expression conveys the seriousness of the task ahead. Emily Greene Balch (middle row, far left) and Grace DeGraff, (back row, third from left) are also part of this illustrious group and among the ten women being honored by WILPF US during the Centennial.



U.S. Delegation to the International Conference of Women for a Permanent Peace, The Hague, 1915, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Records, Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

A century later, the WILPF US Section is proud to honor the work of those who have gone before us and inspired us to continue our work for peace and social justice. WILPF US has chosen to honor ten of our foremothers during the Centennial celebrations. Members from branches all over the U.S. were invited to submit their nominees. The selected honorees include the list to the right:

Photographs and biographies of our ten honorees will be available at the WILPF US booth during the Congress and Conference. All were extraordinary in their pursuit of peace and freedom, and their words and actions encourage us still. Jane Addams reminds us, "True peace is not merely the absence of war, it is the presence of justice."

Jane Addams
Emily Greene Balch
Elise Boulding
Dorothy Detzer
Kay Camp
Mildred Scott Olmsted
Peg Mullen
Ava Helen Pauling
Grace DeGraff
Annette Jacobi Roberts

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Woman as Breadgiver – Jane Addams

By Sue Guist

I would live in a shop by the side of the road
And give fresh bread to the hungry.
Every morning at four, I'd come down the stair
And slide the fragrant risen loaves into the oven.

Meanwhile, out front, the country folk
Would fill baskets with fresh-gathered fruit
And vegetables of every shape and color.
The leftovers from yesterday we'd heap into
Great pots for soup, or set aside for birds.

Proud hens could stalk the cobblestones, hunting bugs
And hoping for the fruit to fall.
Doves and finches, larks and swallows would have their niches,
Nest-wise, in all the beams and arches.
And the cats, kind-hearted, tender, well-fed,
Well-loved, would walk among the feathered ones
And never twitch a whisker.

From the schoolyard up the street
We'd hear the happy children, chanting out
Their alphabets and numbers, laughing as they
Learned and played. It almost sounds like singing.

This is a world where we could live
As soon as we remember:
There is enough to go around.
There is enough. There's plenty.

Sue Guist has been a member of the San Jose Branch for many years. She is part of a group of "kitchen table poets" and has been a Jane Addams fan since her childhood in Chicago.