

# Peace & Freedom

MAGAZINE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Spring 2012

www.wilpf.org • Vol. 72 • No. 1

WILPF EXTENDS AN INVITATION:  
*JOIN US; GET INVOLVED!*



## Endless Opportunities Inside

- WORK FOR WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY • PUT THE U.N. TO WORK
- GET INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL WORK • ELIMINATE VIOLENT LANGUAGE
- HOST A NATIONAL CONFERENCE • CAMPAIGN FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE
- READ THE COMPLETE 2011-2015 INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME



Robin Lloyd with Ruth Hooke and Ellen Graves of Western MA WILPF at the SOAW processional in front of the gates at Fort Benning.

**SORROW AND SOLIDARITY**

Soon after the 1989 massacre of six Jesuit priests, their co-worker, and her teenage daughter by soldiers trained at the School of the Americas (SOA), Father Roy Bourgeois began protests, and founded SOA Watch (SOAW) to close the School in Fort Benning Georgia. WILPFers have long been SOAW activists at these weekend-long protests, which Burlington WILPFer Robin Lloyd calls “this unique-in-America sorrow and solidarity protest: the joy on Saturday and the sorrow on Sunday.” See Lloyd’s video of the event at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFXVTV\\_FWRA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFXVTV_FWRA)

SOAW’S NEXT CELEBRATION OF RESISTANCE WILL BE HELD APRIL 14-17 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. CALL 202-234-3440 OR VISIT [WWW.SOAW.ORG](http://WWW.SOAW.ORG)

**Inside This Issue**

U.S. WILPF Women .....3  
 Put the U.N. to Work in Your Branches .....4  
 Mother/Daughter WILPF Team .....6  
 Toward a Nuclear Free Future .....8  
 Food Sovereignty: Rhetoric versus Reality .....9  
 Now What for Civilians in Iraq? .....10  
 Israeli Women Soldiers Voice Their Views .....12  
 U.S. WILPF Section Work on Resolution 1325. ....14  
 International Programme .....17  
 Can Language Be Violent? .....23  
 Help Plan Congress .....24  
 Host Congress, Get Involved with WILPF .....25  
 WILPF Finance Report .....26  
 WILPF ByLaws .....27  
 Peace Education: JAPA Book Awards .....28  
 Santa Cruz Goes Collaborative. ....29  
 Branch Action News .....30

**Cover Photo:** Members of WILPF’s National Board joined the Occupy Boston rally on Saturday, October 22, 2011 are: Catia Confortini, U.S. WILPF representative to the International Board; Robin Lloyd, Development Chair; Joan Ecklein, Boston WILPF; Darien De Lu, Nominating Committee; Randa Solick, Program Committee Co-Chair; and Rita Jankowska-Bradley, Board member. Photo: Pat O’Brien

*Peace and Freedom* is published by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), U.S. Section. Submissions welcome; please query first. Letters to the Editor are welcome. Contact the editor at [editor@wilpf.org](mailto:editor@wilpf.org).

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**The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)**

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

**WILPF has sections in 42 countries**

coordinated by a secretariat in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has consultative status with ECOSOC.

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## U.S. WILPF Women

# Challenge Militarism; Invest in Peace; and Redefine Security

By Tanya Henderson, National Director, U.S. Section

**W**ILPF's strength lies in the unified and collective efforts of international, national, and local members working towards total disarmament and peace, human rights for all, and care for our earth. At the 2011 International Congress, WILPF International outlined its Programme priorities for 2011-2015, articulating a committed focus to "Challenge Militarism; Invest in Peace; and Strengthen and Reform Multilateralism, with the overall aim to redefining security." (See the complete *International Programme*, page 17, which is quoted here).

Our programme emphasizes that "security built on militarism and assumptions that military action, or the threat of action, can solve problems and conflicts have severe and long-term negative consequences." We also point to the "adverse economic and political consequences" that result from this traditional understanding of security.

WILPF U.S. members are engaged in similar analysis of the U.S. government's role in perpetuating "cultures of war" based on its traditional notions of militarized security. We raise awareness of the devastating effects of the military industrial complex on the environment and human health, and demand U.S. compliance with international law and ratification of human rights treaties. Recognizing the seemingly omnipotent position of corporations in U.S. society, our members champion peoples' movements to re-assert the rights of human beings over corporate power and dollars, and draw attention to the un-tethered role of corporations in advancing U.S. militarism. Further, WILPF members dig deep to understand and educate others, about how our history of slavery and discrimination reverberates throughout U.S. society, creating ongoing inequality in power, privilege, and access to basic resources.

### Challenge Militarism

In alignment with the International Programme, U.S. WILPF members challenge militarism in their local branches and through national WILPF's Program Committees. At the national level, WILPF women in the (newly merged) DISARM and End Wars Issue Committees fearlessly work to abolish nuclear weapons, nuclear power and missile programs, and to educate the public and elected officials about the horrific effects of unmanned drones and U.S. missile testing programs. (See pages 8 and 10). At the local level, Washington D.C. WILPF members examine and bring

attention to the harmful impact of depleted uranium on the environment and human health, through a Mini-Grant project funded by WILPF U.S., with the aim to challenge government policy and advocate for the International Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons.

### Invest in Peace

U.S. WILPF members also work to invest in peace, realizing "that current economic systems encourage economic exploitation and continued escalating militarism, causing further social injustices and environmental degradation." The Corporations versus Democracy Issue Committee has worked to challenge political systems that value corporate profit over people. Locally, branches across the country have taken concrete action. WILPF LA members have collaborated with other groups to successfully petition city legislators to overturn the *Citizens United* decision and revoke corporate first amendment rights. Addressing social injustice that both results from and causes ongoing cycles of violence, WILPF's Building A Beloved Community Issue Committee works to inspire dialogue that reflects on the social and economic injustices rooted in race, class, gender, and other differences in U.S. society, and aims to create norms for establishing more just and peaceful societies. (See page 23), Seeking to provide concrete tools to address the destructive impacts of the military industrial complex on human health and the environment, WILPF's newly formed Earth Democracy Issue Committee has organized a speaking tour and national campaign to introduce the Precautionary Principal and Rights of Present and Future Generations as a method for branches to enact local legislation that requires regulation of all industry whenever there is a possible risk to health, safety, or the environment for either present or future generations.

### Strengthen Multilateralism, Redefine Security

Our organization has a long history of advocating for increased multilateralism and of holding the U.S. accountable for its international obligations. (See pages 14-16). Additionally, our members play a unique role in their communities, introducing international human rights instruments



Continued on page 11 ►

## Ann Fagan Ginger Explains

# The United Nations & How to Use It in Our Work

Article compiled from an interview with Ann Fagan Ginger by Mary Zepernick

*The Women's International League for Peace & Freedom was the first women's organization to have consultative status with the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization. Ann Fagan Ginger is a longtime member of WILPF and is founding director of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute based in Berkeley, CA. In this interview, she describes a recent California state human rights resolution proposed by the Institute and outlines the creation and work of the Institute and its relevance to the work of WILPF. Ann passionately illuminates how WILPF members and branches can use the Institute and the U.N. in practical ways to advance peace and justice where we live.*

I founded the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute (MCLI) in 1965. Today, every WILPF member can participate in the most important work the Institute is doing in California and nationally.

I'm sure every U.S. Section member knows about the *Constitution's* First Amendment and the rights it lists. I'm also sure that not every member knows that there are other laws that spell out rights not listed in the Bill of Rights, including the right to housing, to medical care, to a job at decent pay. Our government has ratified three treaties and two protocols that spell out these rights. Under the *U.S. Constitution* (Article 6, Clause 2) a treaty is the supreme law of the land and is to be enforced at federal, state, county, and city levels.

In 1992, the U.S. ratified the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR); and, in 1994, the nation ratified the *International Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD) and the *International Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (ICAT).

These treaties are the law, but they are different from other U.S. human rights laws in two ways. They commit signatory nations to 1) publicize the text of the treaty at the federal and local levels; and 2) file periodic reports with the U.N. Committee that administers the treaty. The reports are to describe enforcement of, and failure to enforce, the treaty articles at the federal and local levels. The treaties also encourage "civil society," that is,



Every WILPF member can participate in this important work, Ann Fagan Ginger told Mary Zepernick.

WILPF and other Non-Government Organizations, to file with the Committee "shadow reports" that it will consider when it is interviewing the country's government officials concerning their report.

This means every WILPF branch has the opportunity to publicize the text of the three treaties among its members and among the members of the city council, board of education, county board of supervisors, state legislators, Senators, and Congress members. In our work at MCLI, we have learned that almost no government official has ever heard of these treaties, and the U.S. government has not notified every state, county, and city about its duties to publicize the text and make reports.

### ENFORCING THE LAW

MCLI has taken several steps that WILPF members can participate in:

- 1) We have prepared a large poster that includes the text of each of the three treaties in short sentences anyone can quickly read and understand. This poster belongs on the wall of every WILPF office. Members can buy and offer copies to officials to post it in every library, school, and police department. You can see and order the poster on the MCLI website ([www.mcli.org](http://www.mcli.org)).
- 2) We prepare periodic reports for the three U.N. human rights committees, including information from NGOs describing specific violations of rights in the treaties. WILPF members, issue committees, and branches can



# THREE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES ARE THE LAW IN THIS STATE TODAY



“...all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby...” U.S. Constitution: Article VI, Clause 2

**1 CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION  
OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION**

**2 CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE  
AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR  
DEGRADING TREATMENT  
OR PUNISHMENT**

**3 INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON  
CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS**

The Rights and Duties proclaimed by the Three Treaties which further define the rights and duties stated in the U.S. Constitution are summarized here. Basic constitutional rights are not repeated here.

**BASIC RIGHTS OF PEOPLE /  
DUTIES OF GOVERNMENT**

THE INHERENT DIGNITY and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, and

**CIVIL RIGHTS /  
GOVERNMENT DUTY**

ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE have the right: To take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service. ICCPR Art. 25 (a), (c).

**ECONOMIC RIGHTS /  
GOVERNMENT DUTIES**

EVERYONE, WITHOUT DISTINCTION, shall have the following economic, social and cultural rights: To work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and remuneration, to create

persons otherwise requires or the proceedings concern matrimonial disputes or the guardianship of children. ICCPR Art. 14 (1).

**RIGHTS AFTER CONVICTION**

WHEN A PERSON has by a final decision been convicted of a criminal offence and when subsequently his conviction

send us the facts on violations of civil and political rights by July, 2012; they may send reports of racial discrimination, the treatment of prisoners, noncitizens, and the poor by October, 2012 for inclusion in the MCLI reports.

3) MCLI drafted a bill that became *California Assembly Concurrent Resolution 129* (ACR 129), which asks the State Attorney General to:

- a) publicize the text of the treaties at the state, county, and city levels; and
- b) prepare templates to use in making reports at each level.

Assembly member Bill Monning introduced this bill, which was adopted in August 2010. WILPF members and branches in California can start urging the state attorney general to carry out these tasks. And members throughout the country can start working with their municipal, county, and state bodies to take the same action.

## REPORTING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

WILPF members know that publicizing the number of people with AIDS helped spark the movement to confront that epidemic; we also know that emphasizing the number of people killed in Iraq and Afghanistan has

helped pressure the U.S. to get out of these wars. In the same way, if the police department in your community had to make a report every two years recording the number, race, ethnicity, and economic class of every person arrested, and knew that this report would be made public locally and in Geneva, it could lead to some changes in police practices.

Since the treaty committees also encourage every level of government to hold training sessions for all government workers on the content of these treaties, WILPF members have a good argument for requesting that their local police and other departments hold such training sessions.

Further, branches and issue committees can read the U.S. Government's submission, which was filed on December 30, 2011 with the U.N. Committee on Civil and Political Rights ([www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/179781.htm](http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/179781.htm)). They may then send their own reports directly to the Committee, or to the Meiklejohn Institute to be included in our report. Municipal, county, state, and federal violations should be spelled out, with the specific actions to be taken about each one.

The MCLI began by collecting information on pending human rights litigation in the United States. The U.C. Berkeley Library was not collecting materials about

*Continued on page 7* ➤

## NOTE FROM INTERVIEWER MARY ZEPERNICK

It was a great privilege and learning experience to hear and transcribe Ann Fagan Ginger's extraordinary grasp of and actions on the vital issues of civil rights and liberties and racial justice. I was especially inspired by the great opportunity we in WILPF have to build on WILPF U.S.'s previous shadow reporting and human rights monitoring work. Our participation in the recent reviews of U.S. adherence to the *U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Article 20* (prohibiting propaganda promoting war), the *Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination* (hearings and report prepared by Milwaukee WILPF for submission by U.S. Human Rights Network), and the *Optional Protocol on the use of Children in Armed Conflict* have set the stage for further collaboration with the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute to further our advocacy in these areas.

With our U.N. history and standing in the organization, we can draw on Ann's work, passion, and information in our own efforts to advance human and civil rights and the ever important challenge to achieve racial justice. I look forward to reading *Memoir of a Radical Family*. —Mary Zepernick

## SHARED PASSIONS, DIFFERENT PATHS

# Adilia Caravaca and Rebeca Werkstetter

By Kristin Knowles

*In our last issue we profiled the mothers and daughters who attended the International Congress in Costa Rica together. As promised, we are following up that story with a profile of two women who weren't included in that line-up: WILPF's newly-elected International President Adilia Caravaca, and her daughter, Rebeca Werkstetter.*

If hosting over 120 WILPF women from 22 countries while simultaneously running for International President was at all overwhelming, Adilia Caravaca did not show it during the 2011 WILPF International Congress. She appeared grounded, calm, and confident, warmly greeting fellow WILPF members during what must have been a marathon of planning, delegating, and logistical problem solving inevitably challenged by the unanticipated glitches encountered during any undertaking of this enormity. Yet, if there were any, it was not apparent; it all seemed to go off without a hitch. (Major kudos to Karin Friedrich from Sweden and her Geneva team as well!)

Perhaps this can be attributed to the vitality of WILPF Costa Rica, which is known as LIMPAL (*Liga Internacional de Mujeres para el Paz y Libertad*). It has strength in both numbers and longevity. Founded in 1980 in this biodiversity-rich country that forms a land bridge between Central and South America, LIMPAL has several branches scattered within its borders, all very active. Though this part of the world is commonly characterized as brimming with machismo, Costa Rica has a long history of espousing progressive intellectual ideals and gender politics. Some attribute this to the influx of immigrants over the past two hundred years, many of whom were lured in the 1800's by the Costa Rican government's promise of fertile land in exchange for coffee cultivation. Another thing that differentiates Costa Rica from its neighbors is the absence of a military branch of government.

Adilia, who received her Master's degree in Gender & Peace Studies from the University of Peace in San Jose, has been a member of LIMPAL for 26 years. She initially chose to join because, she states, "the group was friendly and open, with a great sense of solidarity... and [was] very inclusive." Now, she says that she chooses to direct her activist energies to LIMPAL because, "I have been long enough in it that it feels like home." A lawyer by trade, she received her law degree from the

University of Costa Rica, where she studied under Sonia Picado, a Costa Rican lawyer who was recently elected to serve

as Chair of the Advisory Board on Human Security at the United Nations. Picado has lauded Adilia for her pioneering approach after she made the link between violence against women and human rights in her 1987 thesis (she was one of the first feminists in Central America to do so). In 1981, Adilia was one of the founders of the Feminist Center for Information Action, which was established to defend and promote the rights of women. The Center developed a program called "Women Are Not Alone," which pioneered advocacy for victims of domestic violence, a problem still very much at the forefront of LIMPAL's present agenda.

Rebeca Werkstetter, Adilia's daughter and a new member of LIMPAL, grew up with the awareness of her mother's activism, but, she recalls, "I never thought I could be a part of it because the members were adults my mother's age or older and I didn't think I could bring anything to the organization." As a teenager she participated in activist events, such as demonstrations on Labor Day against CAFTA and celebrations on International Women's Day. "I was aware of the situation in our country and I also have had the good luck to befriend people who are interested in social equality issues."

Her eventual membership came through her connection with Y-WILPF. As she explains: "Last year the Swedish section organized a Y-WILPF meeting in Stockholm. They invited two members of the Costa Rican section, but only Ailyhn could go. Because they

**"What I avoid are groups that talk too much and don't actually do anything. WILPF, however, has both the analysis and the action."**

were also inviting potential members, my mother asked me if I wanted to go. I was hesitant at first but it turned out to be a wonderful experience. I met WILPF members from Nigeria, Colombia, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, and many other countries and their stories are what made me



really want to be part of the organization.”

She was especially moved by hearing the stories of Joy from Nigeria, and Ximena from Colombia – young women doing real work “on a grassroots level, actually helping people that have been displaced by the military or are struggling with their crops.” Rebeca emphasizes, “What I avoid are groups that talk too much and don’t actually do anything. WILPF, however, has both the analysis and the action.”

One of Rebeca’s first actions as a new member of LIMPAL was the creation of a beautiful logo for the International Congress, the theme of which was “Women, Peace & Security: Transforming the Agenda.” She currently studies graphic design at the University of Costa Rica and used her artistic talents to design this meaningful symbol, which cleverly incorporates a heart, hand, circle, and many colors, thereby representing diversity and transformation. She was also instrumental in helping with the numerous design and publishing necessities for the Congress’s various events and presentations. Her presence as an integral part of the revival of Y-WILPF, now growing stronger in number and purpose, was inspiring to this writer. Clearly, the next generation of WILPF is in very capable and committed hands.

Together, Adilia and Rebeca have worked on a campaign in Costa Rica to “Disarm Violence Against Women.” This program educates about rooting out the underlying cultural beliefs that promote and enable domestic violence, and also works to empower women to leave situations where they are vulnerable by giving them supportive options, shelter, and training. They also have worked on educating women about the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Although both women are passionate to address domestic violence and violence against women, Rebeca says that another topic which lies very close to her heart is LGBT rights. “These topics are what interest me most because I have friends that have suffered domestic violence and being discriminated against for their sexual preference or gender identification. This doesn’t mean that I don’t care about other subjects, but that I have felt the consequences of these issues more closely.”

Rebeca says that she has never felt threatened or fearful in doing this work, but she asserts that she has “had issues with being called a feminist because that word seems to be loaded with so many connotations. I find there is sometimes hesitancy to support or approach people who are assigned that description.”

Adilia is hopeful for the future and very encouraged by the young women she works with, as well as having Rebeca find her own path through Y-WILPF. As she states with sincere maternal pride, “It is great to see

my daughters taking interest in issues I have been involved with for many years. We share the desire for a world with no discrimination of any kind, to respect human dignity and Nature. Even if their approach varies, the fact that they care and are willing to put time into these matters and share similar dreams is a very gratifying feeling.”

Rebeca also feels hopeful: “I have met incredibly intelligent and inspiring women from all around the world. This makes me feel connected to their causes and concerns and I think that this empathy and support we have for each other can help us do and achieve anything we can imagine.”

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*Kristin Knowles, artist, activist, teacher, farmer and poet, is a member of Cape Cod WILPF. She lives in Orleans, MA.*

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## ➤ USE THE U.N. *Continued from page 5*

human rights cases, so the original idea was to collect these, along with information on Alexander Meiklejohn. A well-known retired educator, Meiklejohn had established an experimental college program in which students focused on nothing but an ancient Greek or Roman city—its language, history, and philosophy—for two years. This background enabled them to perform better than students in the general population when they entered their third year.

The Institute was named after him and began collecting materials. I was the only staff person, but we attracted interns who came from around the country and the world. Our goal was to briefly describe every pending case in the city, county, state, and federal courts concerning civil liberties, due process, and civil rights law. We collected the facts on the case, the laws being used by both sides, and the names and addresses of the lawyers on the human rights side so everyone would know who was working on their particular issue. WILPF members interested in cases from 1955-2005 can find all the facts on the U.C. Library’s web page. ([www.bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/meiklejohn/project.html](http://www.bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/meiklejohn/project.html))

I am currently writing a book about my family’s activities in the 1930s, entitled *Memoir of a Radical Family*. We lived in East Lansing, Michigan, where my father ran the *News of Lansing*. He was from an English Quaker and Irish Catholic farm family and my mother was from a Lithuanian Jewish city family. The book is about what my parents did in the ’30s as socialists in a small town. They played a pivotal role in helping turn racist, anti-union Republican workers into builders of integrated unions and Democratic voters. I am hoping for it to be out in a year or two. ❖

# Reaching Critical Will Offers Resources to Campaign For a Nuclear Free Future

*By Carol Urner*

Currently, the WILPF DISARM! Dismantle the War Economy Issue Committee is offering WILPFers opportunities to educate Congress and ourselves about the necessity of a nuclear free future. Many WILPFers joined DISARM! in Washington D.C. (March 17-22, 2012) to meet with Congressional leaders and Administration officials about the expanding dangers of nuclear weapons and power.

We were accompanied by nuclear watchdogs from Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), a network to which U.S. WILPF now belongs. ANA experts share our commitment to nuclear abolition, but have far more experience with issues around design, production, continual upgrading and storage of nuclear weapons, as well as with dangers of nuclear power and nuclear waste. We are both informed and awed by their knowledge and integrity.

But WILPFers, too, are privy to important knowledge that cries out to be shared widely with our members, our communities, and with decision makers in Washington, D.C. Much of this knowledge comes through WILPF's Reaching Critical Will (RCW) project. RCW not only furnishes deep layers of resources that both governments and civil society need to rid the world of nuclear dangers, but also is the facilitator bringing NGO voices and vision into the U.N. negotiating process.

We in WILPF U.S. have a special responsibility to share RCW knowledge and resources. Ours is not only the one nation that has used the bomb in war, but our government has also been a major block to its abolition.

RCW and DISARM! were born at roughly the same time in 1997-8. Felicity Hill, a talented and committed Australian WILPFer, conceived of RCW; DISARM! was the brain child of Gillian Gilhool, who then served as a WILPF legislative staffer. The idea was then supported by Yoshiko Ikuta and U.S. women throughout the nation.

In 2009, Susi Snyder, former WILPF Secretary General, joined DISARM! as we shared our efforts to bring about a nuclear free future. Four of our ANA partners joined us to explore practical ways that the U.S. could transition from an economy dependent on "the bomb" to one engaged in its necessary dismantlement—a topic virtually never discussed in Congress or the media. For the first time, an official U.S. delegate participated in our entire three-hour seminar.

The Conference on Disarmament, the only recognized disarmament treaty negotiating body in the U.N., was blocked by the U.S. delegation for many years (1995 to 2009). The Conference is still blocked because it operates by consensus and for varying reasons some of the states that possess nuclear weapons have thus far refused, usually at different times, to support an agenda that would enable the Conference to resume its work. RCW, though, has continued monitoring the sessions in Geneva and interacting with delegates, advocating a way to negotiation and human security.

Thanks to RCW, through the years members from WILPF U.S. have not only met and interviewed key government delegates, but the Middle East and DISARM! committees have prepared a half dozen WILPF seminars for them on the proposed nuclear free zone in the Middle East and on possibilities for needed changes in U.S. military and foreign policies. RCW also made it possible for approximately thirty of our WILPF members to attend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations in New York in 2010.

Begin exploring RCW's current website at [www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org). Here you can find information that governments and civil society need in order to achieve nuclear abolition. Go first to "News" at the top of the page and begin your education in this current month of 2012. RCW is an incredibly rich source of information about disarmament proceedings in the U.N. Brilliant young women in their twenties, such as Rhianna Tyson, Jennifer Nordstrom, and Ray Acheson have opened the way for civil society voices to be heard, and their expertise is respected in both Geneva and New York. The 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review included a half-day plenary session where NGOs were invited to share their expertise. This session was facilitated by Ray Acheson. In addition, the NPTR hosted special presentations by youth groups and Mayors for Peace.

We know that all aspects of WILPF's program are important and interwoven and that each of us works best when following our own insights and passions, but we hope all can support the work of RCW, and that more will join DISARM! in concentrated efforts.

*Carol Urner serves on the WILPF national DISARM! Dismantle the War Economy Issue Committee.*

# Food Sovereignty: Rhetoric vs. Realities

By *Lois A. Herman*

It is a reality that women are the world's primary food producers, yet, due to cultural traditions and social structures, women are more affected by hunger and poverty than men. The World Food Programme states that seven out of 10 of the world's hungry are women and girls.

The NGO Forum for Food Sovereignty has provided a

succinct definition for the concept of food sovereignty: "Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, labor, fishing, food and land policies which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally



**Elderly widows in Vrindavan, India (the "Holy City of Widows") are often poor, starving, destitute. Many sing in Hindu temples for meager bowls of rice.**

Photo: Lois A. Herman

appropriate to their unique circumstances. Food sovereignty includes the right to food, and to produce food, which means that all people have the right to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and to food-producing resources and the ability to sustain themselves and their societies."

The United Nations recognized this right when its landmark *Resolution on The Right to Food* was passed by the U.N. General Assembly in 2007.

However, a huge gap exists between international, documented rights and the experiences of women and children "on the ground." There is a marked divide between the global debate and the local struggle.

In our commitment to human rights, peace, economic justice, and the environment, WILPF analyzes and advocates for the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty in the contexts of our mission and focus priorities. For over eight years, WILPF International has had a dedicated and engaged presence at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome ([www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)). Our involvement includes active participation in the FAO's World Summit on Food Security, the People's Food Sovereignty Forum, the Committee on World Food Security, the Civil Society Mechanism, and the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs.

Consistently, WILPF has articulated to the U.N. our commitment to human rights and peace. We strive to tie the intersectionalities of the right to food and food sovereignty to work on the following issues: Poverty, Economic Crisis &

## FOOD CRISIS ADVOCACY

WILPF SAN JOSE is working on a MiniGrant Project to address the growing crisis in food production and affordability, with clear analysis of the structural violence underlying the change from previously sustainable food systems to a dependence on imports. Making connections between water issues, corporate influence/ privatization and the militarization of our economy, the San Jose Branch plans to develop a study guide and DVD for members and interested parties to study and take action on issues pertaining to the Global Food Crisis. Joan Bazar ([joanbazar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joanbazar@sbcglobal.net)) and Lois Fielder ([loisfielder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loisfielder@sbcglobal.net)) are the contacts for the MiniGrant project.

Food Crisis, Nutrition/Malnutrition, Water & Sanitation, Land Rights & Land Grabbing, Minority & Indigenous Rights, Climate Change, War & Conflict, Refugee Status & Displacement, Environmental Risks & Hazards, Migration, and Natural Disasters.

In March of 2011, WILPF helped coordinate a U.N. Human Rights Council panel on "Women: Right to Food



**Lois A. Herman, WILPF FAO Delegate, and Marcela Villarreal of FAO, at the U.N. Human Rights Council Panel on Women: Right to Food - Food Security - Food Sovereignty in March, 2011.**

Sovereignty-Food Security." Both the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and the FAO leading gender official were speakers on the panel. At this event in Geneva, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Food pledged to dedicate a future report to the contribution of women's rights and gender empowerment to the right to food. This March, WILPF helped organize a panel on "Women: Food Sovereignty, Conflict, and Peace" at the 56th session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women.

Many WILPF sections are also involved in advocacy and projects for women and food sovereignty, food security, and human rights.

*Lois A. Herman is WILPF delegate to U.N. FAO.*

## EARTH DEMOCRACY

From the local to the global, WILPF women are joining the movement to put the decisions that directly affect our lives into the hands of the people and our communities and to be guardians of Mother Earth on which all life depends. The new Earth Democracy Issue Group, expanded from Save the Water, has four sub-committees we invite you to join: Food Democracy/Local Economy, Human Right to Water and Health, Rights of Nature, and Climate/Renewable Energy. Join the new listserve by emailing [earthdemocracy@wilpf.org](mailto:earthdemocracy@wilpf.org).

# U.S. Troops Have Come Home Now What for Civilians in Iraq?

By Joan Ecklein

Now that you have destroyed our country, withdrawing is not enough.” So begins the headline of an open letter to President Barak Obama by Fallah Alwan, President of the Federation of Workers’ Councils and Unions in Iraq. He goes on to say:

“Your withdrawal now – which we still do not trust to be total or final – will not solve the problems that our society faces. It will not end the crisis the U.S. created. We will need many long years to forget the painful memories and suffering of being victims of occupation. We will need decades to restore what you have destroyed, and decades to save our future generations. You have left behind an environment polluted by radiation and soil poisoned with chemicals. Our children and our elders are dying from diseases caused by your weapons and destruction. They cry out for treatment, but there is no cure for their suffering. Many hope for death just to end their pain.”

**“You owe the Iraqi people compensation,”  
Fallah Alwan admonishes.**

The American people need to be mindful of Fallah Alwan’s admonition. “You owe the Iraqi people compensation,” the letter states, continuing, “You must be responsible for the suffering of the innocent victims of your war. The people of Iraq retain the right to make these demands, even if your agreement with the Iraqi government does not mention our right.”

These statements are a far cry from the way the news of the withdrawal of the troops has been characterized in the United States. There is relief here that the war is over. There is also some recognition of what our troops have suffered – not only those killed, but those with lifelong debilitating physical and mental injuries. There is a growing awareness of the costs for the permanent medical care these veterans will need. There is some documentation of the shabby medical conditions many of these veterans face.

Major media in this country make little mention of the plight of Iraqi civilians (nor, for that matter, of the costs in money and quality of life for people living in the United States). Iraq is a shattered country. Its cities are in ruins. According to Raed Jarrarr, an Iraqi-American political ana-

lyst, “The U.S.-Iraq war that started in 1990 has destroyed Iraq’s infrastructure and damaged the Iraqi social fabric. Iraq is far from having a functional democratic government. It is the fourth most corrupt government in the world according to Transparency International, and Baghdad is the worst city in the world according to Mercer’s 2011 ‘Quality of Living’ rankings. One million Iraqis have been killed in the last eight years alone, and another 5 million displaced. Millions of others have been injured and traumatized for life” (<http://raedinthemiddle.blogspot.com/12/15/11>).

The U.S. destruction of Iraqi infrastructure – of the water treatment system, electricity generation plants, and sewage treatment systems – began in 1990 when the U.S. intervened in Saddam’s invasion of Kuwait. To this day, these amenities of a modern society have not been adequately restored in Iraq. After Operation Desert Storm, the U.S. placed sanctions on Iraq that led to grave consequences. UNICEF estimated that 500,000 children under five years of age had died as a result of the war and sanctions from malnutrition, diseases for which cures were available but medicine in Iraq was not, and poor health at birth due to prenatal effects on mothers.

John Tirnan also documented the current state of quality of life for Iraqi civilians for *The Washington Spectator*. He described: “More than half the doctors in pre-war Iraq are gone (emigrated or killed)... The Red Cross also reports that health care delivery in rural areas is dire. Enrollment in schools has steadily declined since 1990. Thousands of women and girls have been driven into prostitution, or kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery; rising Islamic militancy has stripped the rights of millions more ... More than half of all Iraqis live in ‘slum conditions’ compared with 17% in 2000.” (“How Will We Remember Operation Iraqi Freedom?” *The Washington Spectator*, 11/15/11).

What of the millions of Iraqis driven into internal and external exile? Ann Jones, in her book *War Is Not Over When It’s Over*, interviewed Iraqi refugees in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. They described the chaos and criminal gangs: “Justice, law and order dissolved. Militias, religious fanatics and criminal gangs ruled. Iraqis were targeted for many different reasons” (10). Her interviews tell story after story of lives terrorized, disrupted, and utterly devastated by violence, poverty, and uncertainty. She summarizes, “Thousands of Iraqis fled to Europe or beyond, but

most refugees slipped into the neighboring countries— Syria, Jordan, Lebanon—where they rented apartments to wait for the war to end. For the most part, Iraqi refugees are urbanized, educated people who—before the war at least—had property, jobs, businesses, careers, and savings” (212). “Every refugee has a story of loss and terror, a personal disaster that inspired flight” (213).

Jones powerfully portrays stories of the “loss and terror” experienced by refugees. The story of Hassan’s family illustrates the excruciating ordeal most of these families have lived through:

“Hassan, a Shiite, was a driver for an oil company and the head of a family consisting of a wife, Faiza, who is Sunni, and seven children. Everything changed in March 2006 when he was kidnapped ... In April, a month after her husband disappeared, seven armed men broke into the house. They threatened to rape her daughters, and when her eldest son intervened, they shot him and cut off his head. He was sixteen. The unknown men remained in the house for seven hours, during which they forced the next-oldest boys—fourteen year old twins—to hold their dead

## The United States government must not escape responsibility for the horrible carnage wrought upon Iraq. . . . It is a matter of basic morality.

brother’s body and his head. What the men did during seven hours to Fazia and her daughters, Fazia declines to say. Not long after that, she learned that her husband was alive. She gave the family savings to ransom him and, after forty-five days in captivity, he came home. But he had been tortured. He was partially paralyzed and unable to stand. A month later, another group of unknown men entered a nearby school and forced the students to watch as they gang-raped their teachers. Among the students was Faiza’s second daughter, Zahra, then eight years old.”

They kidnapped eight girls, burned their hair and slit their throats. Zahra was the only survivor. “Eight months later, in January 2007, unknown men for unknown reasons set a fire that consumed the family’s house and belongings. Destitute and homeless, Faiza fled with her paralyzed husband and six surviving children to Damascus where they live in a one-room apartment” (230).

Another refugee, Fatima, described to Ann Jones what happened to her family: “Fatima said, ‘I want to go back but to what? Our world is gone.’ Families are decimated or

dispersed. Fatima has seven brothers and sisters, all highly educated, multilingual professionals – professors, judges, and scientists. They are needed in Iraq, but they live and work in Australia, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Switzerland, England, and Oman” (239).

The United States government must not escape responsibility for the horrible carnage wrought upon Iraq. The people of this country, who have borne the cost of the war and its aftermath, must demand nothing less than a full accounting and full compensation by our government for the disaster that lingers after the withdrawal of most U.S. forces. It is a matter of basic morality. Moreover, it is a matter of raising awareness and exercising political will so that our country will not engender another human catastrophe – in Iran or anywhere else.

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*Joan Ecklein, Ph.D, is a retired Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston and is a second-generation WILPF member.*

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### ➤ U.S. WILPF WOMEN *Cont. from page 3*

as tools for creating local change (*See page 4*). Most recently, WILPF members have been working to redefine the concept of security from a definition based on military protection to one that recognizes the fundamental needs of human beings and the environment.

In our efforts to expand the traditional view of security to a “human security” approach, WILPF’s Advancing Human Rights Issue Committee launched a multi-level campaign focused on the development and implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan (NAP) on U.N. Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Members and branches across the country participated in events to draw attention to the impact of militarism on women. These actions included *Whistleblower* film actions on human trafficking, “What does security mean to you?” YouTube videos and survey questionnaires, “Blow the Whistle on Militarism and Violence Against Women” whistle-blowing actions, and five civil society consultations on the development of the U.S. 1325 NAP, in which more than 64 partner organizations joined WILPF members in providing input to the U.S. State Department about what constitutes true security for women living in the U.S.

As an international organization, WILPF’s mission to achieve sustainable peace and create just and equitable communities free from all forms of violence and that value people and our planet above all is being implemented at every level of human society. From local to national to global, we challenge militarism, invest in peace, and work to strengthen our multilateral institutions for the purpose of establishing a world in which human security is rooted in real democracy, true equality, and “cultures of peace.” U.S. WILPFers, ... lead the way! ♦

# OUTSIDERS ON THE FRONT LINE

## Listening to Political Protest From Women Soldiers in Israel

By Theta Pavis

Women have a long history of protesting war, but anti-war protest by women who've served as soldiers is a relatively new phenomenon. While a growing number of women serve in western militaries (with some women in combat roles), little is known about how military service shapes the political attitudes of these women and connects them with larger antiwar movements.

A new study looks at this from the perspective of 20 Israeli women soldiers who've served in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), whose testimonies regarding their military service were published as "Women Breaking the Silence." (Breaking the Silence is a protest movement opposing the Israeli presence in the OPT; it first appeared in the public arena in 2004.)

These women's voices introduce new perspectives into the field of antiwar protest, in Israel and beyond. The lead author of the study, Orna Sasson-Levy, a professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Bar-Ilan University-Israel, says the research shows that "military service can be a new source for women's power in politics." She co-authored the work with professors Yagil Levy and Edna Lomsky-Feder.

While their experience in the occupied territories gave the women soldiers a new authority to speak out, they are still seen as outsiders within the military. Women comprise 34 percent of the regular army; most were drafted around the age of 18. Israel is unique in comparison to other countries in that it is the only Western country that has had a policy of compulsory conscription for both men and women since the establishment of the state in 1948. While men serve three years in the army, women serve for two years. On the one hand, the women are told that they are needed;

indeed, only women soldiers may search Palestinian women at checkpoints or handle the Jewish female civilian population. Despite this, during their military service "the women have to cope with hostility, discrimination, exclusion, and silencing" from their male counterparts. The male soldiers showed their hostility and distrust to the women through ongoing initiation rites, including challenging them to exhibit more violence toward Palestinians, researchers found.

One soldier, Dafna, described these prolonged initiation rites: "Five of us girls joined a new company—this was the first time girls served there. We had a difficult time, everyone looking at us, testing us...It was truly a battle for survival for us. Always having to prove ourselves and live in the shadow of proof."

Other women mentioned the loneliness of service carried out by only a few women among dozens of men in a sexually charged atmosphere brimming with contempt for women, inferior living conditions, and devalued roles. Anat, a company secretary in the Paratroopers, said:

"There were times when I felt like I must see some girls, must relax a little...I'll say it in the bluntest possible way: when you get your period it sucks to serve in a company with just guys. No one understands you, and you're in pain, you want to die and you want to take a decent shower and to be left alone and not have your soldiers guarding your door while you're taking a shower. It took three months for them to put a lock on the shower door. I was sleeping in a warehouse that's also part of the infirmary, without a lock, without curtains, anyone could come in."

Caught in this contradictory position, researchers say the female soldiers who testified about their military service focused their criticism of the occupation on two

**As antiwar voices, these narratives are unique. The women don't challenge the occupation directly, but they do critique the military's sexism, and portray occupation itself as a masculine phenomenon that shapes both the soldiers' behavior and the damage they inflict.**

*Editor's note:* We share this article to provide our readers with a rare chance to see what women serving in conflict have to say about the experience. Running this story is not a WILPF endorsement of the occupation or the idea of female combat troops.

major themes: criticism of “militarized masculinity” and identification with the suffering of Palestinian civilians. Yet when male soldiers spoke out in protest, the focus of their testimonies wasn’t empathy with Palestinian victims. Rather, the soldiers saw themselves as victims of the occupation rather than as victimizing others.

Tal, a female soldier, described the behavior of her male counterparts during house searches. When a deputy company commander came back bragging about how badly troops had “messed up” a house they’d searched, Tal says, “Instead of thinking, ‘We are such men,’ in my mind, I was thinking about those poor women who are now cleaning up the mess that the soldiers made, and the fear of the children who are at home, seeing their house getting messed up. I mean, things like that happen and then we’re surprised that at the age of 18 they blow themselves up?”

### WHAT’S DIFFERENT?

In the past, women engaged in anti-war protest as mothers – citizens concerned with the next generation, or with feminist or human rights agendas. Now, with more and more women engaged in active military campaigns, they can—and are—using “their military service as a source of symbolic capital that can serve to legitimize criticism of the military and its actions.”



On the West Bank, on the road between Ramallah and Jerusalem, children wait as their parents try to get permission to pass through the Israeli Defense Forces checkpoint.

UN Photo/Stephenie Hollyman

As antiwar voices, these narratives are unique. The women don’t challenge the occupation directly, but they do critique the military’s sexism, and portray occupation itself as a masculine phenomenon that shapes both the soldiers’ behavior and the damage they inflict.

The women who spoke out in Israel criticize the behavior of the soldiers they’ve seen abuse Palestinians, and describe it “as raging, infantile, military machismo.”

The few women who dared raise even the most measured criticism were

marked as leftists and informers, were socially ostracized, and had to pass more initiation rites than others to prove their loyalty to the army and the state, researchers say.

*Theta Pavis is former Peace & Freedom editor who can be reached at [thetapavis@gmail.com](mailto:thetapavis@gmail.com).*

**Women comprise 34 percent of the regular army; most were drafted around the age of 18. Israel is unique in comparison to other countries in that it is the only Western country that has had a policy of compulsory conscription for both men and women since the establishment of the state in 1948.**

### ABOUT THIS ARTICLE

This article is based on a much longer piece, “Women Breaking the Silence,” which appeared in the December 2011 issue of the journal *Gender & Society*. Consistently ranked as one of the top journals in both Women’s Studies and Sociology, *Gender & Society* is published by Sociologists for Women in Society, a non-profit, scientific and educational organization with more than 1,000 members. ([www.socwomen.org](http://www.socwomen.org)) Pseudonyms were used for all the women soldiers quoted in this piece.

# U.S. WILPF Work on Resolution 1325

By *Laura Roskos*

With the release this past December of the first U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP) and President Obama's accompanying Executive Order directing the implementation of same, the landscape shifted for continued U.S. Section advocacy on Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325). Although our talking points remain the same, the opportunities for advancing them are more various and may require us to adopt new strategies and tactics. How well we can adapt to the new situation will determine how relevant WILPF's positions remain to the ongoing evolution of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda here, and by implication, abroad.

At the international level, WILPF's advocacy campaigns, strategic interventions, and enduring projects are all directed at reducing military spending. Using the familiar tools of documenting, monitoring and convening, WILPF works to hold national governments and the United Nations itself accountable to the aspiration of the U.N. Charter, in particular Article 26, which requires U.N. member states to spend the least amount possible on defense. Restricting military spending lessens the hold of arms-producing corporations over civic life, while releasing more of the public treasury to meeting human needs. Reducing the amount of weapons produced and traded increases the physical security of women (and everyone), enabling the development of a more complex and vibrant civil society.

At International WILPF Congresses, we become aware of tensions between the Global North and South, between developed and developing nations, between occupier and occupied countries. But these differences among our sections contribute to the strength, relevance, and resilience of our political work. Other divides have the potential to disrupt our ability to act effectively as an international organization: the divide between the feminists and the humanists, between those who are willing to work with governments to reform them and those who are only willing to critique government from the outside, and between those who use their professional status to advance WILPF's work and those who feel that WILPF's work be best advanced from the "grass-roots." Each of these divides surfaced over the past year, as

the U.S. section sought to influence the NAP during the drafting process.

When WILPF U.S.'s Advancing Human Rights Committee announced that the U.S. Department of State had agreed to participate in five civil society consultations to gather information relevant to the U.S. National Action Plan on SCR 1325, considerable controversy erupted among our section's members, demonstrating that as deeply invested as WILPF has been in using SCR 1325 as leverage to change the terms—and indeed the very meaning—of peace, the applications of SCR 1325 have not thus far yielded the transformations for which we hope.

Some members of our section had worked very hard to convince the State Department to undertake broad civil society consultations outside the beltway, and to these members the fact that government representatives were willing to travel outside of Washington, D.C., to meet with grassroots women and local experts on matters of national security was a breakthrough of historic importance. Since the October 26, 2010, announcement by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of her intention that the U.S. create a plan for implementing SCR 1325, these members had, on behalf of the WILPF Section, been advocating three points identified as integral to unleashing the transformative potential of SCR 1325: (1) that the NAP be responsive to the security concerns of women living in the U.S. as well as women living in conflict areas abroad; (2) that the NAP address domestic situations where women living in the U.S. could be shown to be negatively impacted by the country's engagement in armed conflicts; and (3) that the NAP take a holistic, human security approach in addressing armed conflict within its social context. These members saw, in the prospect of the consultations, a possibility that women's voices could become part of the NAP drafting process.

Other members were less impressed. A number questioned why the section would invest precious resources in creating venues where other, non-WILPF women could talk about their issues. Why were we championing women's political participation rather than lobbying Congress directly with our analysis of military spending and disarmament

## UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325: WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution (S/RES/1325) on Women, Peace, and Security, reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and in post-conflict reconstruction, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women, and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. In December, 2011, the U.S. released its National Action Plan, which is the mechanism by which the United States carries out the mandates of Resolution 1325.

issues? What was the point of dwelling on women's vulnerabilities? On their lives and the life of their communities? Going down another path of inquiry, some WILPF members questioned the wisdom of cooperating with the U.S. Department of State. At worst, they felt such cooperation could only corrupt, coopt, sully or otherwise overwhelm WILPF's reputation. At best, facilitating civil society consultations in preparation of the NAP would raise expectations without yielding any concrete results. All of this internal dissent, while useful in sharpening our own methodology for the consultations, was also demoralizing to the volunteers who were tasked with organizing the venues, materials, and participation for the consultations.

While enjoying the full support of WILPF International leaders, WILPF U.S.'s "talking points" on the NAP, in particular the first one, were not embraced by the community of women's NGOs based in Washington, D.C. and comprised primarily of humanitarian aid organizations. I won't speculate here on the motives behind their initial resistance, but will point out the obvious: the women in different social locations do not necessarily have the same practical interests. The women involved in the five civil society consultations were often very poor, frequently displaced, with a history of violence and the residual physical and mental effects of the same. Sometimes, they were women who had served in the U.S. armed forces. They spoke from their personal experiences, with frequent reference to one or another human rights instrument. Most were not WILPF members, but every single one of them might have been.

Disagreements over how and to what purpose SCR



**Organized by WILPF branches and staffed by WILPF members, the consultations were independent venues to which state department representatives were invited. In Boston (l to r), were Theresa DeLangis, Rapporteur; Maria Butler, Peacewomen Project director and facilitator; Susan Braden, U.S. Department of State; Tanya Henderson and Laura Roskos, WILPF U.S. national director and president, respectively** Photo: © Susan Lapides

1325 should be implemented are not unique to the United States, although given the enormity of the U.S. military budget and the history of U.S. aggression throughout the world, there may seem to be more at stake in the U.S. NAP. In developing our priorities and strategy for intervention, WILPF U.S. sought advice both from WILPF's Peacewomen Project and from WILPF sections in countries

that had already developed National Action Plans. This input allowed us to understand that what really was unique about the U.S. was that while it acted as an occupier/developed country, the status of women's rights within the U.S. itself was more similar to that of occupied/developing countries. This insight was key to the arguments we presented in our policy statement.

The recent call by the International Executive Committee for dialogue and action planning in relationship to the future of the WILPF SCR 1325 agenda challenges us to respond as a coherent section. Over the coming months, members will have multiple opportunities to participate in crafting our section's response to this international call. Our hope is that through this process, we in WILPF can learn from the differences among us to become stronger and more accountable in supporting a larger, organization-wide vision. Do we have the courage to accept the changes we've been struggling for when they happen, and to leverage the opportunities history is presenting to us today?

*Laura Roskos is president of WILPF U.S. Section and a member of the Advancing Human Rights Issue Committee.*

## Excerpts: WILPF Agenda on U.N. Security Resolution 1325

### *Coordinated Work with Sections in Preparation for International Board Meeting in 2013*

**T**he WILPF Executive Committee, meeting in London, January 2012, discussed implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 and its successor resolutions from a WILPF perspective. We asked the question "Is 1325 co-opting the women's security agenda and is it being used and interpreted in ways we did not envision or support?"

We want Sections to use this document to develop a work plan and to build strength in their Sections, with International WILPF and where possible, with other NGOs. International (including PeaceWomen) will develop concrete tools to assist sections in their work on National Action Plans (NAPs). Our concern is that there be serious thinking about prevention: it is too late when the Security Council

endorses violent peace enforcement such as has been seen in too many recent interventions. We want you to think about the fears of co-option and to apply and develop, where necessary, a WILPF analysis.

Our discussion and thoughts to date:

- The Peace Prize was awarded to three women activists, who, in different ways, made real the resolution's ideal.
- Mention was made of the five principles put forward by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, which bring both assistance and challenges to our approach:
  - Monitoring increases in violence and discrimination against women as indicators of potential conflict;

*Continued on page 16* ►

## ► AGENDA

*Continued from page 15*

- Protection of women and girls during and after conflict through the recruitment of more women (in the military and police?);
- Inclusion of women as partners in peace negotiations;
- Designation of gender advisors for all crisis response and recovery teams; and
- Increased training for troops, diplomats, and development experts on gender issues in legislation and policy.

Political leaders are responsible for war and serious conflict within their own countries and internationally. Are they now using 1325 to co-opt the women's agenda to allocate money and resources to (help) clean up their messes?

WILPF members may support this "clean-up" money, but we do not want to endorse or legitimise wars.

Many of us feel alienated by the use of 1325 in ways that we feel compromise the human rights and non discrimination principles which it should embody. We feel it should not be used as a mechanism to co-opt women into the military and militarisation processes.

It is important to recognise the difference between co-option and engagement: e.g. more U.N.-policewomen in Ghana, with the right training and mission, can mean more peacekeeping and less abuse. It is important to think productively about the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), as mandated by the U.N. Is there evidence that when women are included in peacekeeping forces, overall conduct improves and people feel safer? How does this relate to WILPF's opposition to militarism?

"Peace enforcement" inevitably involves the use of force and the inevitable consequences for the civilian population. Militarisation then continues in the attempts to consolidate the peace which has long term consequences for the reconstruction of social relations, particularly along gender lines, and with enormous impact as to the understanding of security. We need to scrutinise the performance of gender roles and not believe that by having women in the military they either can or will want to transform that institution. We

need to bring OUR approach to real security into the 1325 agenda.

Women are needed in Peacekeeping, but our issue is broader; it is to interrogate the nature of the peacekeeping — how it should be conducted, and to what purpose. Our argument is not that women are inherently peaceful and must be included at all stages from negotiation onwards. It is that women have a right to be included. It is not for others to determine, to invite or not as it suits them. The bigger question has to be "included into what?" It is that with which we need to grapple and change.

WILPF's arguments on underlying causes are as relevant today as they always have been. Research shows the vast discrepancy in assistance provided to create political and "security" reform vis a vis amounts channelled toward re-building economic and social structures in ways which address the inherent discriminations which often caused the conflict. We need to address this in our approach to women, peace, and security and to our NAPs.

In summary, we need to address:

- The approach that women are victims without agency;
- The essentialisation of women as peace bringers;
- Participation and non-discrimination as elements in the prevention of conflict;
- Addressing root causes, in particular social and economic rights and the intersection of discriminations, power, and patriarchy; and
- The consequences of militarisation in relation to sexual exploitation and trafficking.

All of these require a fundamental re-conceptualisation of the way in which the multi-lateral organisations have addressed conflict prevention and resolution and how we can use the tools and mechanisms we have to effect that.

We would like to encourage consultations and outcomes to be completed by 10 December this year, Human Rights Day, so you have almost a year to plan and do this work. The outcome documents from all of you will be the basis of the planning for the International Board meeting in Geneva in early 2013. ❖

### **EDITH BALLANTYNE AND FELICITY HILL ON SCR 1325, CIRCA 2005**

The choice is not between being "relevant and serious" or "marginalized and passé," as it has sometimes been described. An anti-militarism, anti-war position does not reduce us to one-liners or the simple repetition of certain slogans; WILPF has been generating positions and reactions to events through this lens for nine decades, and more effort needs to be put into WILPF using 1325 rather than 1325 using WILPF. The point is that in facilitating NGO action and engagement or information on 1325, WILPFers should not forget to present our own positions and political messages. PLENTY of organizations are working from an apolitical or humanitarian position on 1325 – and they are proliferating and dangerously colonizing the space of inquiry opened up by

1325 on gender and security in our opinion. PLENTY of organizations are working on gender mainstreaming on 1325. PLENTY of organizations are capable of providing information. What WILPF offers is something different: an undiluted clear unashamed politics critical of militarism and war per se, and the specificities of what that implies in specific conflict situations and issue areas, as they evolve and develop within political fora and within movements.

*Edith Ballantyne served as WILPF Secretary-General and United Nations Representative in Geneva, and Felicity Hill directed the U.N. Office of WILPF. This is an excerpt from their paper, Think Peace.*

# Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME: 2011-2015

### *Adopted by the 2011 Costa Rica Congress*

**T**he Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international women's peace organisation founded in 1915. The insight of WILPF's foremothers remains valid today: in order to achieve peace and freedom, the causes of war must be eliminated and economic and social systems based on profit and privilege must be transformed to societies based on political and economic equality, participation of women and men, and justice for all regardless of race, sex, or creed. The economy of war works against human beings, against nature, and this must be challenged and transformed to an economy based on peace, human rights, and environmental sustainability.

Grounded in these principles, WILPF works to create fundamental change in addressing issues of gender, justice, militarism, peace, and security. WILPF has developed strategic goals, programmes, and leadership focused on these challenges. Our current work draws on the expertise and commitment of our members in 40 countries and formal Sections in almost that many countries (with hundreds of branches and thousands of mem-

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### **WILPF's strength lies in its linkages between international, national, and local efforts to fulfill the aims and principles of the organisation.**

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bers), our staff in the Secretariat and Projects operating in Geneva and New York, and a wide range of partners.

WILPF's country Sections around the world operate in very different environments and the work differs between Sections. The organisation's strength lies in its linkages between international, national, and local efforts to fulfill the aims and principles of the organisation. WILPF focuses on building the capacity of grassroots organisations to enhance their ability to use and develop existing international legal and political frameworks in order to achieve fundamental change in how States conceptualise and address issues of gender, justice, militarism, peace, and security. Our focus on education, information, and participation at the international level leads to concrete organizing and activism around the world, giving the organisation global and local owner-

ship over the issues upon which it works.

WILPF's International Projects—the Women, Peace and Security Project (PeaceWomen Project/PW) and the Disarmament Project (Reaching Critical Will Project/RCW)—strive to ensure that the organisation's work at the U.N. is effective and relevant for local and national contexts. The projects also receive inputs from national Sections to help make our work at the international level diverse, accurate, and accountable. Information and recommendations provided by members in national Sections are taken to multilateral fora by the international staff. At the same time, information and analysis about what is happening internationally is disseminated for use by national Sections.

WILPF is a social movement organisation seeking to ensure continuity and consistency between issues, locations, and time periods. WILPF members and staff around the world have identified the core challenges and programmes of work under three broad areas: Challenge Militarism; Invest in Peace; and Strengthen & Reform Multilateralism. In addition to these, WILPF constantly works on adapting to the changing global environment in order to strengthen and build the organisation.

WILPF's overall aims and principles are to:

- Bring together women of different political beliefs and philosophies who are united in their determination to study, make known, and help abolish the causes and the legitimization of war;
- Work toward world peace; total and universal disarmament; the abolition of violence and coercion in the settlement of conflict and its replacement in every case by prevention, negotiation and conciliation;
- Strengthen multilateralism and support the civil society to democratize the United Nations system;
- Support the continuous development and implementation of international and humanitarian law; and
- Promote political, social and economic justice; contribute towards co-operation among all people; enhance environmentally sustainable development.

### PROGRAMME PRIORITIES 2011 - 2015

War, violence, and militarism impact women differently than men and deepen the challenges women face as a consequence of the breakdown of the rule of law and the

*Continued on page 18* ➤

domination of power structures in societies. The marginalization of women's rights, the development, proliferation, and use of weapons, and the inequality of gender relations are not only consequences of unrest but are the root causes of conflict. Patterns and violation of human rights exist not only during conflict but also before and after conflict. Furthermore, security built on militarism or assumptions that military action, or the threat of it, can solve problems, has severe and long-term consequences and must be challenged. To effectively tackle these issues, we must monitor, engage, and strengthen partners, states, and the international community.

WILPF continues to refocus the discourse on the causes of conflict to tackle widespread violence against women through activism, advocacy, and action. Building and maintaining sustainable peace cannot be achieved while women are excluded from decision-making and denied their rights. Indeed, engendering development, disarmament, and security policies contributes to the global effort to promote human dignity and human security.

To address these issues, WILPF's programme priorities for 2011-2015 are to Challenge Militarism; Invest in Peace; and Strengthen & Reform Multilateralism, with the overall aim to redefining security. The international programme has been developed to ensure a joint and comprehensive approach within the organisation.

### CHALLENGE MILITARISM

Security built on militarism and assumptions that military action, or the threat of it, can solve problems and conflicts have severe and long-term negative consequences. These "traditional" security approaches have proven to bring about adverse economic and political consequences that do not prevent conflict and often increase injustice and inequality. WILPF considers the contemporary military security structures, together with the present economic system where military expenditure continues to overshadow social expenditure in most states, as one of the main root causes of conflict.

An increasing level of militarism is followed by global insecurity, which leads to a world order based on instability and the constant threat of violence, something that constitutes the underlying factors of social injustices and ecological destruction. As traditional military

approaches to security continue to dominate relationships between states, militarism thereby represents one of the major threats to peace, equality, and democracy. To advocate for human security is thus linked to challenging militarism.

The threat of militarization, and particularly its effects on women, is something that needs to be considered in a wider extent when discussing security.

Investments in militarism undermine and often preclude investments in human security and sustainable development.

WILPF strongly advocates rethinking security to broaden the international community's perspective on security beyond that of military power. In short, WILPF calls for a redefinition of the concept of security.

WILPF considers that the core values of security should not be about protecting the state, but protecting human beings and the environment. Since security is dependent on stability, and stability originates from peace and not from a world order based on force of arms, human security is not something that can be obtained through increased militarization. Instead, human security is best promoted through disarmament, democracy, equality, and peace-building efforts. Hence, when we refer to "security" in our work and in this document, we refer to the broad understanding of "human security."

WILPF calls for a more prominent focus on women's security, within all levels and issues related to international relations and human rights. Traditional notions of security tend to neglect gender and the role of women. This is revealed not least by the many threats that women face in everyday life, which are not considered in traditional perceptions of security, where focus is primarily placed on external threats to the State.

Overcoming discrimination based on gender inequality is crucial for reaching peace and security, and the gender aspect of security needs to be emphasized.

Simultaneously, it is important to bear in mind that



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**The voices of, and input from, civil society is fundamental to ensure the knowledge and protection of human rights.**

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human security should not only be considered in terms of protection, but also as a means to empower people.

WILPF also highlights how human security is interlinked with environmental sustainability. By redefining the concept and shifting focus from the traditional perception of security to human security, the perspective can be broadened to include the threats of conflicts related to exploitation of natural resources. The quest to control natural resources is an underlying cause for conflict.

Domestic and international conflict over resources is increasingly becoming more common. For some time we have been able to see a rapidly increasing trend of global instability caused by lack of a sustainable relationship to the environment. This pattern can be traced in many conflicts where access to natural resources such as oil, water, and food, is an underlying cause. The unequal access and distribution of natural resources is also something that particularly affects women. Therefore, WILPF considers it necessary and important to include environmental sustainability also as key in the concept of human security, and to embed environmental and ecological aspects in our work on women, peace, and security.

During the period 2011-2015, WILPF will continue to challenge militarism by redefining security. WILPF will provide information, evidence and lobbying tools for increased and focused protest of military security concepts, institutions, and spending, and will urge for human and economic resources to be converted to human, economic, and environmental security needs. In this work, disarmament is a main priority. War can only be avoided by actions focused on prevention of conflict, regulation of the arms trade, and disarmament.

### **CHALLENGE MILITARISM STRATEGIES:**

- Promote and provide clarification on WILPF's position through statements on conflicts, especially about their causes and prevention;
- Oppose military security structures and policies and support and initiate alternatives;
- Expose and inform about the interests of the military-industrial complex and its effect on people and the environment through arms production, wars, and occupations;
- Disclose military spending, publicise figures, show the alternatives, and compare military research and development compared to peace research budgets;
- Support anti-NATO efforts;
- Highlight the connection between armament policies, gender relations, patriarchy, and concepts of masculinity;
- Demand the broader inclusion of women as decision- and policy-makers on issues related to disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation;
- Monitor and advocate for disarmament through multilateral processes, including the nuclear Non Proliferation

Treaty and the Conference on Disarmament;

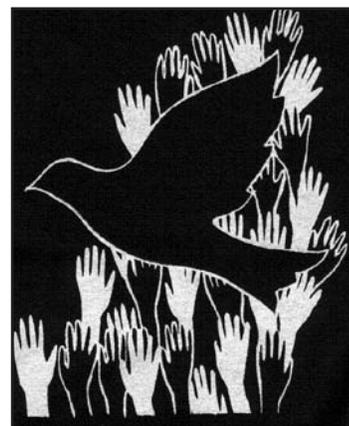
- Work for nuclear disarmament by opposing modernization programmes, promoting a nuclear weapons convention, and demanding compliance with disarmament obligations;
- Highlight the illegality of the use of nuclear weapons under international humanitarian law and support efforts that challenge nuclear deterrence theories;
- Participate in the Global Day on Action against Military Spending and other key campaigns;
- Work for successful negotiations of a robust, legally-binding Arms Trade Treaty;
- Develop advocacy, education, and awareness campaigns for action and/or policy developments;
- Connect disarmament demands to economic and social justice issues in national Sections; and
- Promote social and economic justice and join in solidarity with social movements that advocate opposing reforms that undermine education, health and economic rights.

In order to support Sections' political lobbying, the international offices in Geneva and New York will continue to provide Sections with background material and information, and will encourage the involvement and contributing inputs from them.

### **INVEST IN PEACE**

The marginalization of women's rights, the development, proliferation, and use of weapons, and the inequality of gender relations are not only consequences of unrest, but are some of the root causes of conflict. The effects of gender discrimination and inequality can be seen across many sectors. Building and maintaining sustainable peace cannot be achieved while women are excluded from decision-making and denied their rights. The promotion and realization of human rights including gender, economic, and social equality, and a functioning civil society are decisive for sustainable peace and development. Women's active role in conflict prevention and the process of building peace is crucial to the achievement of sustainable peace and security.

In parallel to the changing context of conflict, there is growing recognition of the valuable contribution women can make to conflict prevention and the building of sustainable peace, and the skills and resources they bring to these processes. United Nations Security Council



*Continued on page 20* ➤

## ► INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

*Continued from page 19*

Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) on Women, Peace, and Security highlights the importance of women's participation in all levels of decision-making in the sphere of peace and security, as well as the need for an integrated gender perspective. Since 2000, SCR 1325 has been followed by four additional resolutions: 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960, which together form the Women Peace and Security agenda (WPS agenda).

A particularly important issue in promoting sustainable peace is that of economic justice. Unequal access to economic resources particularly affects women, and therefore represents a main obstacle to eliminating discrimination based on gender. WILPF calls for more just and equal economical policies, as well as equal distribu-

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**Unequal access to economic resources particularly affects women, and therefore represents a main obstacle to eliminating discrimination based on gender.**

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tions of economic benefits and obligations. The current economic system encourages economic exploitation and continued escalating militarism, causing social injustices and environmental degradation. One of the primary aims in WILPF's agenda has been to work for a transformation of the current economic system, making economic justice and social equalities accessible for all regardless sex, race, social background, or status. Economic justice is both dependent on and a fundamental factor for women's participation and contribution on all levels of society, and is thus a crucial element of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

One of the most acute effects of economic injustice is the increase in immigration for economic and conflict reasons, which has been increasing the numbers of human beings in very vulnerable situations across borders and even inside, in displacement. Such situations take a larger toll on women, including their vulnerability for sexual violence.

In keeping with the tradition of our founder mother, Jane Addams, and her concerns for economic justice, WILPF will continue to bring light into these matters and campaign and mobilize to alleviate their situation and change their immediate and structural causes.

During the period 2011-2015, WILPF will continue monitoring and advocating for the full implementation of the WPS agenda in the U.N. Security Council and by all

Member States, as well as focus on the work of the U.N. Human Rights system for further implementation. WILPF will also highlight and advocate for the human rights of women caught in vulnerable situations caused by wars and economic injustices—immigrants, refugees, and those displaced in their own countries.



### INVEST IN PEACE STRATEGIES:

- Promote peace and the advancement of women's rights and concerns, including women's participation, access to justice, prosecutions and reparations; and socio-economic rights;
- Advocate for the full implementation of the WPS agenda through sharing information, monitoring and accountability work and direct advocacy vis-a-vis various actors including member States, U.N. bodies and civil society;
- Demand the broader inclusion of women as decision- and policy-makers, and consultation with grassroots women's groups;
- Provide information and highlight the linkages between military spending, the arms trade, and disarmament and implementation of the WPS agenda and investing in peace;
- Share information about the climate crisis, focusing on the contribution of the military sector to climate change, challenging the lie that nuclear power is a safe and clean alternative energy source, and advocating for investment in renewable energy technologies;
- Utilize a gender perspective in analysing economic and social justice;
- Support alternative dispute resolution, early warning and prevention mechanisms;
- Participate in the coalitions and key campaigns working on peace-making, women's rights and WPS;
- Promote linkages between the international, national, and local work of WILPF by raising awareness and understanding at a national level with targeted women's civil society organisations; and
- Develop advocacy, education, and awareness initiatives for action and/or policy developments.

In order to support Sections' political lobbying, the international offices in Geneva and New York will continue to provide Sections with background material and information; and to promote and integrate national perspectives and contributions to the international work.

## **STRENGTHEN & REFORM MULTILATERALISM**

From the outset WILPF called for an “organization of the society of nations” and in 1919 welcomed the establishment of the League of Nations and actively followed its work. In 1948, WILPF was in the first group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to receive consultative status with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), under Article 71 of the *U.N. Charter*, the entry point for NGOs. Since its establishment, WILPF has monitored and supported the United Nations, but has also often been critical when governments, who drive and comprise the U.N., fail to uphold the spirit and letter of the *U.N. Charter*.

WILPF works with and monitors the U.N. system in order to influence the international policy framework on women, peace and security, human rights, and disarmament. A key component in WILPF’s strategy is scrutinizing, monitoring, and addressing the work of multilateral U.N. bodies.

Part of the strategy is to educate and influence at the international level through interaction with U.N. agencies, diplomats and foreign affairs ministries.

During the period 2011-2015, WILPF will continue to monitor and report on the U.N. to stimulate discussion, awareness, and a renewed commitment to the United Nations system. Furthermore, WILPF aims to coordinate engagement between the national Sections and International Offices with government policy at the U.N. to promote increased compliance, accountability, respect, and implementation for U.N. resolutions and treaties.

### **STRATEGIES:**

- Increase the understanding of Member States/U.N./ Civil Society on WILPF’s themes including the linkage between disarmament, militarism, insecurity, and the denial of human rights and gender inequality;
- Monitor, analyze, and report on U.N. fora in New York and Geneva to promote the inclusion of WILPF’s themes in their geographic and thematic work (including Security Council, the General Assembly, GA First Committee, the Commission on the Status of Women in NY, the Human Rights Council, CEDAW Committee, and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva);
- Advocate for advancement of WILPF’s themes and areas of work in U.N. fora and with Member States (including human rights, WPS, Article 26 of *U.N. Charter*, and disarmament)
- Establish and maintain a communication system to ensure links between local/national activities and work at international level, going both ways;
- Present statements on human rights issues and conflict areas in U.N. bodies including the Human Rights Council;

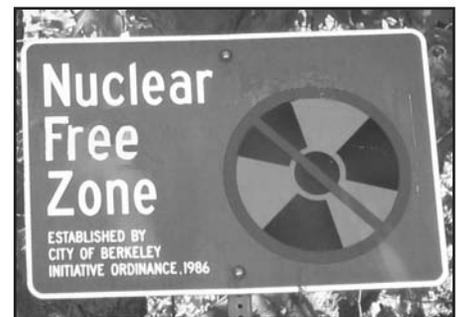
- Promote the improvement and reorganization of the U.N. system in order to fulfill the spirit of the *U.N. Charter*;
- Provide input and recommendations (formal and informal) to the U.N. system reflecting the holistic aspects of the WILPF priority themes including policy advice on legal approaches related to the WPS agenda to the Human Rights mechanisms (treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council);
- Partner with U.N. agencies working to promote WILPF goals including U.N. Women; and
- Provide accountability mechanisms for national actors to use in advocacy and local work.

## **IMPLEMENTING OUR PROGRAMME**

This international programme identifies priorities for our Sections, staff, and offices and provides opportunities for simultaneous coordinated WILPF action. For this work to be successful, it is crucial that Sections are able to take unified action and to hold their states accountable for international policy. In order to reach our programme priorities, WILPF aims to base the work on an integrated approach, so that activities on different levels are related to, and strengthened by, one another.

## **WILPF’S INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CHALLENGE MILITARISM; INVEST IN PEACE; AND STRENGTHEN AND REFORM MULTILATERALISM**

For almost a century WILPF has articulated the need to address the root causes of war and the necessity of the participation of women as being fundamental both to prevention and ultimately to ending armed conflict as a means of dispute resolution. Central to the WILPF approach at the national and international levels is integrating these subject areas in our advocacy and activism. It is not feasible to invest in peace without challenging militarism and strengthening multilateralism.



Investing in peace requires implementation of the Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security while ensuring development and respect for human rights and supporting disarmament programmes and regulation of the arms trade. It is not feasible to discuss disarmament, both weapons of mass destruction and conventional, without consideration of international humanitarian law,

*Continued on page 22* ➤

gender, and human rights. It is not feasible to ignore the economic and social costs of resource exploitation and arms production, in particular from a gender perspective. In all of these areas it is not feasible that the institutions charged with their consideration do so in isolation from the workings of others.

Fundamental to all is the need to look at the reality in the countries where the issues are most burning. For this, the role of civil society at the local, grassroots level is absolutely vital.

Not only are the subject areas isolated but also the mechanisms for dealing with them are fragmented. For instance, although there now exists a system of international law, legal doctrines, and policies addressing conflict, each with multilateral and regional mechanisms, fragmentation and compartmentalization has prevented the system from realizing its potential. WILPF aims to address the challenges of the changed international environment to make the system more effective.

Crucial to this approach is the capacity of civil society to translate what is occurring in countries into human rights terms and to ensure that what is actually being experienced or observed can be addressed to the appropriate body so that there can be timely and effective responses. Equally important is the access to the key mechanisms and the monitoring of policy developments. The capacity to connect the local to the global is critical to achieving WILPF's goals.

WILPF is uniquely positioned to work towards our visions, having a large number of Sections, many in conflict and post-conflict countries, as well as affiliated organisations with whom we work closely.

Within the Secretariat in Geneva, we have experts who provide information on reporting, give direct assistance and input into reports to the U.N. mechanisms, and undertake advocacy. Through WILPF's work on disarmament and gender through the PeaceWomen project and the Reaching Critical Will project, WILPF can contribute to the analysis of militarization and its impact on the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security.

What is set out in this programme is a pragmatic and achievable approach to ending the compartmentalization of peace, security, development, disarmament, and human rights. By linking the Women, Peace, and Security agenda with human rights and disarmament, and ensuring that the issues are raised in all the relevant fora, WILPF will contribute to fulfilling the goals of challenging militarism, investing in peace, and strengthening the U.N. Simultaneous work on the local, national, and global level is necessary.

### WILPF'S INTEGRATED APPROACH: FROM THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL

WILPF's strength lies in its linkages between international, national, and local efforts to fulfill the aims and programme strategies. It is critical that we strengthen links between international and national work to maximize the implementation at all levels. We aim to advance these connections between local and international policy and implementation by improving the flow of information from the international level to the local level.

WILPF has been engaged in gender, peace, and security issues for over 95 years and has been able to show a number of sustainable results despite limited funding and mainly relying on voluntary resources. In order for our work to continue efficiently, communication, structure, and organization are crucial.

The voices of, and input from, civil society is fundamental to ensure the knowledge and protection of human rights. WILPF has built upon and ensured a structure of national Sections to provide specific country context analysis on human rights issues and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

The WILPF International Secretariat will focus on institutional learning and transfer of knowledge between the national Sections and various programmes; this will ensure that the lessons learned from local initiatives are spread throughout the organisation. It will also ensure an element of sustained knowledge and constant communication that exceeds this particular programme period.

WILPF does not work alone, but in partnership with a number of organisations, locally, regionally, and internationally. Through these partnerships there is a mutual sharing of information and expertise in order to facilitate

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### WILPF SECTIONS/GROUPS

**AFRICA:** Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone

**MIDDLE EAST:** Israel, Lebanon, and Palestine

**EUROPE:** Albania, Belarus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK

**SOUTH ASIA:** India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan

**ASIA-PACIFIC:** Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, French Polynesia, Japan, and the Philippines

**AMERICAS:** Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, and U.S.A.

a more concrete and coherent response to the Women, Peace, and Security, disarmament, and human rights issues. Although the programme is ambitious in scope and objectives, working with already established partnerships will increase the ability to reach the targets. The cooperation is in itself a factor for sustainability, as the knowledge gained from the programme will be spread to a large number of organisations.

The national Sections constitute the foundation of WILPF. In order for our organizations to work more efficiently, it is important both to strengthen the Sections, and to improve communication and organization structures. Sections will be strengthened by, for example, increased membership and fundraising. The structure can be improved by, for example, better communication through an updated website, monthly newsletters, reports, and interaction between sections and staff at the

International Offices. Building WILPF with both regarding membership and structures should be integrated in all identified focus areas. The programme is:

- Decided at the International Congress, the highest decision making body of WILPF;
- Focused and prioritised by an International Board made up of representatives from each Section and its Executive Committee;
- Elaborated and implemented through the Executive Committee, the International Board, National Sections, the International Projects (RCW and PW), thematic Working Groups and Standing Committees that broaden the basis for participation in WILPF's international work and create closer links between the national, regional, and international levels; and
- Carried out through Sections working on the national level in cooperation with the International Secretariat and the UNO. ❖

## Can Language be Violent?

*By Chris Morin and Sha'an Mouliert*

The Beloved Community” is a term that was first coined in the early days of the 20th Century by the philosopher/theologian Josiah Royce, who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, popularized the term and invested it with a deeper meaning that has captured the imagination of people of goodwill all over the world.

The “Building the Beloved Community” Issue Committee works to build that better world. What does it take to live in a “Beloved Community?” It is an achievable goal that could be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of non-violence. “Nonviolence” does not only refer to the lack of physical force; it encompasses thought, word, and deed.

To quote Dr. King, the principle of nonviolence “seeks to reconciliation between the truths of two opposites. . . Nonviolence has to be practiced . . . with purity of mind, tongue and body. There should be no ill feelings which is a form of violence. No one should be harmed even by speech. The speech should be sweet, pleasing and wholesome. All actions should be helpful to others.”

As part of building a beloved community, we must consider how we use language in our day-to-day activism. Hateful words do not heal, but serve only to perpetuate violent behavior.

Our language is full of militaristic words with benign intentions. Use of such language is unconscious and many “defend” their use of such terminology. As a peace organization with the vision to build a world free from racial, social,

### PLEDGE OF NONVIOLENCE IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S LIFE AND WORK

I pledge to do everything that I can to make America and the world a place where peace with justice, equality, and freedom will grow and flourish. I pledge to make nonviolence a way of life in my dealings with all people. I will reject all forms of hatred, bigotry, and prejudice, and I will embrace the values of unconditional, universal love, truthfulness, courage, compassion, and dedication that empowered Dr. King. I will dedicate my energy to creating the Beloved Community of Dr. King's dream, where all people can live together as sisters and brothers.

and economic injustice, it benefits us to use language that reflects our values.

We have an excellent opportunity to actively participate in the transformative process by modeling nonviolent language and becoming the change we want to see. In the spirit of collaboration, we would like to invite you to develop a peace glossary and submit it to Chris Morin at morinchris60@gmail.com. The Peace Glossary will be part of the report of the Beloved Community branch survey.

Consider replacing violent terms with more accurate, nonviolent words. Here are six suggestions to get started. Change: 1) blasts *to* alerts; 2) bullets *to* points; 3) fights/battles *to* addresses; 4) struggles/stands up for/stands against/fights for *to* devotes her life to; 5) spearheads *to* takes the lead; and 6) target *to* focus.

*Chris Morin and Sha'an Mouliert are Co-Chairs of the Building the Beloved Community Issues Committee.*

# Send Your Thoughts to Help Plan Congress

Your voice is important in planning future WILPF congresses. For those able to attend WILPF national and international congresses, these open meetings serve as an important point of connection and learning. We would like this opportunity to be shared more widely among our diverse membership. This survey is the beginning of our process of re-thinking our options, in a new economic and technological environment.

The tradition of WILPF U.S., for a while now, has been to hold a 5-day/4-night National Congress of Members every three years, in sync with the election of a new WILPF National Board. The August 2005 Congress in San Francisco was attended by over 200 WILPF members; the June 2008 Congress held in the midst of Iowa floods was attended by about 150; and the

June 2011 Congress hosted by the thriving and vibrant Triangle NC branch by 125. It is anticipated that WILPF's bylaws will be changed so that the terms of various board members are staggered, ensuring continuity of organizational goals and processes, and requiring the election of some officers each year. Regardless of whether or not those changes occur, there are many ways in which the WILPF National Congress could be "tweaked" to adapt to our members' changing resources, schedules, and needs for connection. This survey attempts to examine several specific variables individually, but before you start, please take a moment to imagine your personal ideal of a forum for feeling the power of WILPF's national membership. What would that look like? How would it feel? ❖

## Timing:

1. In making your personal decision to attend congress, which of these factors is most important:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ The year of the congress
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ The month of the congress preference for \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ The length of the congress preference for \_\_\_\_\_

## Location:

2. In making your personal decision to attend congress, which of these factors is most important:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to home base
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Easy access through major or hub airport
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ Climate/beauty of host site
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ Whether the congress is held at a hotel, camp, or campusWhich of these is your preference? \_\_\_\_\_

## Purpose:

3. In making your personal decision to attend congress, which of these factors is most important:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Package cost
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Opportunities to participate in organizational decision-making
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ Opportunities to learn about political issues or present knowledge of same

Please answer yes or no:

4. Y N At a national congress, do we all need to lodge in the same place?
5. Y N Do we all need to physically be in the same place to have a national congress?
6. Y N Could we meet face-to-face regionally and connect nationally via video conference for part of one day?
7. Y N Could we have 2-day annual meetings, rotating regionally around the country, instead of triennial congresses?
8. Y N I am a member of a branch that maintains a travel scholarship fund to provide financial assistance to members wishing to attend WILPF national congresses.
9. Y N I have in the past enjoyed attending national meetings conducted via videoconferencing at multiple satellite sites.
10. Y N Are there other options or ideas you would like to put on the table? If so, please submit your ideas.

Please mail this survey no later than June 30, 2012 to:  
WILPF U.S., 11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116  
*Thank you for helping to shape WILPF's future!*

# Plan Now to Host a WILPF National Congress

Would you like to have the thrills of a WILPF National Congress while enjoying all the comforts of home?

If your branch hosts the Congress, you can indeed attend the Congress during the day and sleep in the comfort of your own bed at night. You can bring your friends and even involve them in planning and executing the Congress. Your branch can use the Congress too as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between your branch and local leaders, including municipal officials. By hosting the Congress, your branch can show everyone else in WILPF just how vibrant, capable, and politically brilliant you all are. In her report on coordinating the 2008 WILPF National Congress, Mary Hanson Harrison commented on the “enormous feeling of pride and accomplishment” that her branch felt after the congress had ended: “pride comes from welcoming all of you into our ‘home’ and into our hearts and having you see the heartland as we see it.”

With a realistic timeline, Congress planning can be more fun than stress. As 2011 National Congress Coordinator Tana Hartman wrote in the fall issue of *Peace and Freedom*, “The experience has proven to be, on the

whole, one of bonding for those of us in the Triangle Branch.” Because time is such an important element in planning, we are soliciting hosting proposals for the 2014 National WILPF Congress now. Branches are invited to begin discussing the many advantages of hosting a WILPF National Congress over the next few months.

If your branch is potentially interested, contact the WILPF National Office for a proposal form that will help you think through most of the relevant issues, including how to assess your branch’s capacity. The National Board will consider proposals, alongside the results of the member survey also included in this issue, at its fall 2012 meeting (*see page 24*). We hope some decisions can be made at that time, based on the information received. ❖

## HELP WANTED

### National Congress Committee Chair

The National Congress Committee Chair is a volunteer who convenes the National Congress Committee established by the WILPF U.S. Bylaws. The committee:

- ▷ provides continuity between National Congresses;
- ▷ solicits and evaluates proposals for the next Congress including site location, Congress Coordinator selection, and Congress Program Chairs selection;
- ▷ ensures the timely approval of appointments, fee schedules, and budget for the National Congress; and
- ▷ is responsible for orchestrating the harmonious interaction of the various committees and individuals responsible for mounting the National Congress.

The Chair should:

- ▷ be a member in good standing (dues current);
- ▷ have prior experience attending more than one WILPF National Congress;
- ▷ be skilled at managing complex interactions;
- ▷ be skilled at mediation;
- ▷ be comfortable interaction via conference calls, e-mails, and videoconferencing; and
- ▷ complete a conflict of interest statement annually.

To apply, send statement of qualifications to [nominations@wilpf.org](mailto:nominations@wilpf.org). All inquiries welcome.

## National, International WILPF Opportunities for You!

With only two full-time staff members, U.S. WILPF depends upon member volunteers to propel the organization’s peace and freedom work. WILPF volunteers serve as on-site United Nations “representatives,” plan and organize triennial congresses, and fill roles related to the work of the national board.

Would you like to help with WILPF’s work as we approach our 100th anniversary? Have you been active locally and now want to step it up a notch to national and international levels of WILPF? If you live too far from a local branch to attend meetings regularly or transportation is a problem, you can be involved via phone and computer. National and international positions function via email, conference calls, and Skype calls.

Volunteers are needed as: U.S. WILPF Representative to the United Nations, Chair of the National Congress Committee, Program Co-Chair (board position), Issue Committee members, and roles in WILPF centennial events, special fundraising planning, and Nominating Committee members. Most opportunities are described in more detail at <http://wilpf.org/JoinCommittee>. Also, the Nominating Committee will keep your contact information, special interests, and personal qualifications on file for future opportunities. A national or international opportunity could be just the thing you need to recharge and renew your commitment to peace and freedom! ❖

# WILPF Finance Report

Prepared January 28, 2012

By Eva Havlicsek, Treasurer

In this Finance Report, several categories have been combined. Operating expenses include items like rent and office supplies. The 2012 budget approved by the WILPF board will be reviewed in the middle of the year to amend as needed.

We have had a successful annual campaign for donations, as well as a new bequest that became available last December, giving us a good boost into 2012. The year was especially difficult because of the added costs of two Congresses and an additional board meeting.

We continue to encourage increased membership amounts to help defray organizational costs. Every membership costs us at least \$20 in international dues, *Peace and Freedom* subscrip-

tions, and individual mailings. Those who are truly unable to give more than the minimum are always welcome, but for those who can stretch their budgets, we encourage a membership level of at least \$50. The added amount allows us to keep two staff members and devote energies to program as well as operational necessities.

Further giving through monthly pledges is also welcome. With the sporadic nature of voluntary giving, it is hard to budget our income. Monthly pledges help spread out the donor's outlay, as well as giving WILPF a dependable source of income.

Monthly pledges can be established by check, credit card or PayPal.

In this time of political turmoil and increasing unrest in many parts of the world, the work of WILPF continues to be essential in all levels of action. WILPF provides us with opportunities to work together in our branches, in national issue committees, and in international programs. As a member-driven organization, WILPF needs support both financially and through active volunteers. See the back cover for the many ways you can help further WILPF's work. ❖

## Ordinary Income/Expense

	2011 Actuals	2012 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>		
Prior Restricted Funds now Unrestricted	40,000.00	45,000.00
Membership Dues	27,812.00	45,000.00
Life Members	3,500.00	4,500.00
Branch Contributions	6,309.15	3,500.00
Events and Initiatives	99,236.00	42,000.00
Member Contributions	50,842.00	41,600.00
Foundation Grants	20,200.00	50,000.00
Total Funding Through JAPA	97,687.61	121,000.00
Subscriptions, Peace and Freedom	391.00	270.00
Investment Income	1,337.43	1,600.00
Miscellaneous	2,070.52	1,034.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>349,385.71</b>	<b>355,504.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Postage and Printing	22,740.98	21,500.00
Coalition, Dues, Memberships	775.00	1,000.00
Board Expense	19,524.26	5,000.00
Mini-Grants, Issue Committee Expense	11,247.88	12,800.00
Events and Initiatives Expense		
U.N. Practicum	20,751.78	24,000.00
National WILPF Congress	36,864.53	0.00
Local2Global	9,424.67	14,000.00
Membership Drive/Branch Rebate	0.00	8,600.00
AWP	6,927.94	6,600.00
Other Programs	17,318.78	30,000.00
Communications: Web, Advertising	4,305.88	4,260.00
Operating Expenses	30,786.04	26,530.00
International Support	42,150.17	44,000.00
PAYROLL & Payroll Service Fees	115,346.10	137,700.00
Professional Fees	37,801.62	45,640.00
Employee Recruiting, Training, Travel	9,735.92	3,620.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>385,701.56</b>	<b>385,250.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-36,315.85</b>	<b>-29,746.00</b>

# Bylaws Review: Expressing Our Values, Governing WILPF

**D**id you know that the U.S. WILPF Section has no Constitution, just bylaws? We, like all WILPF sections, are governed by the International WILPF Constitution. At the same time, each section of International WILPF adopts its own bylaws to fashion specific rules, reflecting how they envision their section working. The words and processes described in our U.S. WILPF Bylaws stand as an expression of WILPF values. They are the written record of our fundamental agreements on how we want to function as an organization. Changing these governing rules requires a degree of formality and proper notice.

Every so often we need to relook at them and ask, “Do these bylaws reflect our current values and organizational needs? Do they describe a truly democratic decision-making process? Do they provide the transparency in governance necessary for effective WILPF member participation?”

WILPF’s national ad hoc Bylaws Committee started work last summer to develop a number of proposals to change the bylaws. Proposed changes respond to evolving technology and organizational needs. Additionally, the committee has been considering proposals for changes offered by the WILPF Membership Council, a volunteer group of WILPF members.

Currently, the national board makes decisions about changes to bylaws. But WILPF is a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation, and under Pennsylvania law, some bylaws decisions are reserved for members. A Bylaws Subcommittee is analyzing what changes are called for to

assure our compliance with relevant Pennsylvania statutory provisions and how proposals can be properly presented and voted upon.

At the time of this writing (February 2012), the Bylaws Committee has honed important proposals for a March 4 special conference call board meeting, which will discuss and seek to agree through consensus on proposals to change the bylaws. The specific proposals for the board to consider cover several governance and openness issues, including:

- 1) elections of about one-third of the board officers every year, in staggered terms, to maintain board continuity;
- 2) election of the board president by the full membership, as with all other board officers;
- 3) specifically allowing virtual board meetings, so we can meet at reduced cost, facilitating more meetings than the traditional two per year;
- 4) electronic recording of board and steering committee meetings;
- 5) the rights of standing committees chairs to appoint additional committee members;
- 6) changing one of the two at-large board member positions to a Membership Development Chair, in order to have a board voice representing the membership; and
- 7) restricting the blocking power of the board president(s) when serving on any committee in an ex officio capacity.

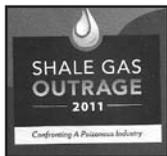
Please be sure to watch the WILPF web site and future issues of *Peace and Freedom* for possible announcements of bylaws changes to be voted upon by the members, as well as for announcements of upcoming board meetings. WILPF members should check the WILPF web site ([www.wilpf.org/bylaws](http://www.wilpf.org/bylaws)). In the past, board meetings occurred only twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. With increased demands on the board, more frequent meetings may be likely. These meetings will be publicized to members on the web site (*look for links on the home page*) and by other means. Drafts of all proposed changes are routinely posted on this site as well. The committee solicits your comments and welcomes the participation of every WILPF member on how to enshrine in our bylaws our commitment to working together.

Are we democratic enough? What rights and responsibilities should members and the national board have? What ideas do you have for changed or new responsibilities?

Do you see a need for a possible bylaws change? The Bylaws Committee welcomes your input! You can contact us via the link on the web page or by emailing [bylawreview@wilpf.org](mailto:bylawreview@wilpf.org). Please be sure WILPF has your current email address for notices.

— Written by the Bylaws Committee

Philadelphia and Delaware County WILPFers joined an Occupy march to Rittenhouse Square carrying big peace doves, courtesy of the Philadelphia Grannies; among them was Evelyn Alloy, 95, the oldest WILPF member in town (*top, right*). WILPF members attended hearings and seminars at a “Shale Gas Outrage” conference on the damage that would occur to the drinking water for the 15 million people in the Delaware River Basin should fracking for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale be approved. For Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, WILPF members Bob Smith and Louise Lisi protested at a Lockheed Martin site.  
— Delores Loder



SEE PAGE 30 FOR OTHER BRANCH ACTION



# Peace Education

JANE ADDAMS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD CEREMONY

## Practicing Peace with Children

.....  
by Mary Hanson Harrison

"I am large/I contain multitudes...." is one my favorite lines from Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself," in his epic poem *Leaves of Grass*. The poet of democracy, at his most poignant and bellicose, is a mixture of the multitudinous grandeur of the "myself" with the humblest singular piece of grass, "the song." Today, Whitman gives us access to the texts and illustrations that illuminate the JACBA choices; but he also brings us closer to the audience for the October 2011 book awards. They could be found sitting in a sunny and bountiful New York City setting, across from another plural and yet singular exemplar, the United Nations.

*For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.*

In its own way, the audience of the 2011 JAPA Book Awards reflected the diversity and inter-connectedness of our global citizenry that Whitman so poignantly depicts. Adilia Caravaca, the new president of International WILPF from Costa Rica, sat together with students from Walt Whitman Middle School in Brooklyn, NY, who attended the ceremony for the first time. Also present were the readers from the Jane Addams Young Women's Book Club (New York City). Young, old, local, and international shared rich discussion and laughter with the authors and illustrators of this year's award winners.

A room full of children boldly embodies Whitman's vision of writing in the world, reminding us all of our inherent worthiness:

*I understand the large hearts of heroes,  
The courage of present times and all times....*

The books chosen have intertwining themes of courage, perseverance, resilience, and transformation. One wove these themes into the powerful and visceral Mama Ya-Ya's girl, Laneshia (*Ninth Ward*, Jewell Parker Rhodes); another laced them into a pledge to not forget

the sometimes-hushed song of all the Freedom Riders (*Birmingham Sunday*, Larry Dane Brimmer).

As beautifully reflected by the audience gathered, Whitman reminds us that prevailing over our differences—barriers of language, race, nationality, age, and privilege—is essential to building a world that values all life equally, and all have an equal voice in defining our collective destiny.

*I speak the password primeval....  
I give the sign of democracy;  
By God! I will accept nothing which all cannot have  
their counterpart of on the same terms.*

Yet, frequently our day-to-day actions and interactions are the ones that matter most, as depicted in another JAPA Book Award winner, where four friends encounter hate when sitting at the counter of Woolworth's; they "woke up [in the] morning, [their] mind set on freedom." During the awards ceremony, the audience sang that song right along with the author (*Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*, Andrea Davis Pinkney, illus. Brian Pinkney).

*Through me forbidden voices....*

One book presented a duality of voices with one of the Sudanese Lost Boys, Salva, who began his journey in 1985, and Nya, who set out for water in the Sudan in 2008. Salva's and Nya's experiences and sacrifices, and their personal relationship with the author, enlightened and engaged the audience as author Linda Sue Park presented slides of the Sudan (*A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story*, Linda Sue Park).

*The pleasures of heaven are with me,  
the pains of hell are with me,  
The first I graft and increase upon myself...  
the latter I translate into a new tongue.  
Have you practiced so long to read?  
Have you felt so proud to get at the meaning of poems?*

Two more books demand deciphering, reading past the words for directions. The first shared a textual space in a poetry book with Walt himself, as they also shared outrage against discrimination of all sorts. Emma Lazarus's stone-driven poem on the Statue of Liberty speaks for all of the oppressed, of all souls aspiring to freedom. The story of Emma puts into action, some real, some make-believe, the force of poetry's clarion call (*Emma's Poem, the Voice of the Statue of Liberty*, Linda Glaser, illus. Claire A Nivola). The second book, *Ruth and the Green Book*, has a popular counterpart in today's

This Peace Education section is funded by the Jane Addams Peace Association.

# Santa Cruz WILPF Goes Collaborative

by Nancy Abbey

The Santa Cruz WILPF branch is one of the largest in the country, but suffers, as do other branches and most all-volunteer organizations, with a lack of active involvement by its members. Over the years we have lost wonderful elders full of energy, initiative, and wisdom, until we find only a handful of people provide the wo/man-power to keep our branch going.

Last year we realized other activist organizations in our community faced the same dilemma: "How can we do what we need to do when we're growing tired and discouraged after years of struggle?"

Two events pulled us out of this "trough of despair." First, last February, our branch invited every organization in Santa Cruz County with progressive objectives – political, environmental, peace, human rights, social welfare – to a half-day "Activist Conclave." Each group described their organization and promoted their cause, then formed groups sharing similar objectives. These groups identified their common ground and formed networks for communication and action.

Action was the organizing principle – actions that called on collaboration of several organizations to meet similar objectives and maximize energy and membership. The most successful of these groups formed around issues regarding corporate power. Because we shared similar goals, WILPF joined with Health Care for All, Organizing for Santa Cruz, and the Santa Cruz MoveOn Council to organize several protests at major banks, a campaign for local banking, and a town hall meeting to involve more people in planning.

This collaboration has grown into a "Progressive Network" of over 30 different organizations including unions, small single-issue groups, and individuals. The second event was the advent of Occupy Santa Cruz. And

**Collaboration increased our visibility; generated greater interest; produced more participants in our actions; and increased our impact.**

because we already had a network of progressive activists, we were able to muster material support, intercede in support of Occupy Santa Cruz with local officials, and recruit partners and participants for their actions.

Being part of a larger collaboration has increased our visibility and presence in the community. Carrying WILPF banners and our WILPF doves-on-sticks, wearing our WILPF t-shirts, and distributing WILPF literature at events, allows us to be readily recognized in the collective actions as members of WILPF and is a useful recruitment tool.

Most importantly, we have generated greater interest and produced larger numbers of participants in our actions. Rather than dilute our message by joining others, we have increased our impact while maximizing our energy. We know other branches have formed similar alliances and would like to hear their experience and share lessons learned.

Nancy Abbey is Co-Chair of Santa Cruz WILPF and also of the Corporations V Democracy Committee.



**JOYCE MCLEAN**, who served on the boards of U.S. WILPF and International WILPF, died December 13, 2011. An article in the Spring 2010 issue of *Peace & Freedom* detailed her vibrant life of activism for peace and justice. A video on her life, called *Napalm Ladies*, is available at [48south7th.org](http://48south7th.org).

The McLean family has asked that donations honoring her work be sent to the Jane Addams Peace Association to help WILPF women from developing sections attend international meetings. You may donate online at [www.janeaddamspeace.org](http://www.janeaddamspeace.org).

## ▶ PEACE ED

*Continued from page 28*

world, *The Green Book*, which is about saving our environment. However, the story of Ruth and her family in the 1950's resonates with the same possibility of rescuing families and individuals. Young Ruth's guide out of the clutches of Jim Crow could also be a map for us right now (*Ruth and the Green Book*, Calvin A Ramsey, illus. Floyd Cooper).

What to do, what map to follow? You can be a Jonette Appleseed not only planting the books in libraries and schools, but reading them aloud to fruition.

Let us, as many of you have already done, hear the crack of a new book opened, your voice started, and let fly out the words of courage, peace, reconciliation, and tenacity to our children.

Closing lines of "Songs of Myself:"  
*Failing to fetch me at first keep encouraged,  
Missing me one place search another,  
I stop somewhere waiting for you.*

Mary Hanson Harrison, Des Moines WILPF, chairs JAPA's Peace Education Project.



# BranchAction News

*Edited by Georgia Pintel*

## **WILPF continues to be in the forefront of movement politics.**

Look at all that has been going on with WILPF at all levels – locally, nationally, and internationally: *The Whistleblower* movie, the Consultancy on, and release of, the National Action Plan ([www.peacewomen.org](http://www.peacewomen.org)); the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence/Blow the Whistle project internationally; the Occupy Movement in its myriad forms; national action against the XL Keystone Pipeline; and many local actions besides.

This coming year promises even more action – in local city council meetings where our members are pushing stands on Move to Amend and Bring the War Dollars Home; in state and national elections with issues of justice, equity, and the environment; and in new calls on the U.N. and national governments to change the paradigm around war and destructive economics.

Our many branches publish their news in diverse formats and timeframes. Some produce monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or as needed announcements. Some distribute paper editions, electronic editions, or e-alerts. And some just send me an annual “X-mas Letter” summary of their highlights and actions. There are some great newsletters out there; send them to me.

## **AROUND WILPF**

This time, we have input from the West Coast: in California - **Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, Palo Alto, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, San Jose, Fresno, Monterey County, Sierra Foothills**; in the West: **Ashland, Portland OR**; Welcome: **Greely, CO** (Where are you Montana?); from the East Coast: **Cape Cod, Boston, Philadelphia/Delaware County, Washington, D.C.**; from the Heartlands: **St. Louis, Des Moines, Metro Minnesota**; and from the South: **Greater Phoenix**. I would love to have input from our many sisters in the Jane Addams Branch (our at-large members). So, I call upon you working alone or at kitchen tables on behalf of WILPF’s values and goals to send me an article or summary of how you manage to represent WILPF locally, in partnership with other groups, or perhaps on one of the WILPF issue committees adding a different dimension. How are you able to bring WILPF concerns into the mix where you are? How can other levels of WILPF’s organization lend you a hand or share your best practices? Would you attend a regional meeting if you knew about it, such as the California Cluster Meeting? Would you gather at least once a year with the branch(s) closest to you if invited?

## **BEST PRACTICES**

**LA** is promoting art around the issue of the 10-year “War on Terror” and the question of actions speaking louder than words in relationship to the International Day of Peace and U.S. scheduled nuclear weapons testing. **Palo Alto** is getting ready for the 100th anniversary of WILPF by



**Burlington WILPFers joined a new feminist group, FED UP, to blow the whistle for women’s human rights on International Human Rights Day.**

continuing to collect oral histories of local members. **Cape Cod** set its annual goals, which include “work to educate new constituencies about the costs of war and militarism, while building skills for effective civic engagement, both internally (within the branch) and externally.” Has your branch set targets this year – in actions, in membership building, in skill building, in visibility, in budgeting? Do you use the U.S. Section’s “Evergreen” branch survey to guide your planning? **Santa Cruz** held a fun-filled fundraiser at which Sambada played for an all-ages dance party. **Des Moines** held another “Strong Feisty Women” Awards banquet to honor Jane Magers and Rekha Basu. I love getting the minutes of the **Santa Barbara** meetings, because they share an insider’s look at all the local concerns and actions, the national and movement events, and the imaginative fundraising (virtual tea party) that occur. **Des Moines** members get to share in a unique fusion of Irish and Lebanese cultures monthly – from belly dancing to Irish jigs – peace-making of another kind! **Ashland, OR** showed the film *The Return of Navajo Boy* and held an extensive discussion on the impact of uranium contamination of Native American lands with the makers of the film and other Diné educators. (Have you noticed the changes in focus and structure of the WILPF Issue Committees? Some merging of committees includes Disarm and End War and Save the Water expanding to cover more environmental issues and thus renamed Earth Democracy. They all would love a representative from each branch on each committee to inform and promote these efforts.) **San Jose** continues to display the Clothesline Project as part of its witness against Gender Based Violence; it received a mini-grant for work around the Global Food Crisis. **Monterey County** again sponsored the annual Nagasaki Lantern Ceremony and worked with the Mayors for Peace and Pacific Grove for the People’s Procession. **Greeley** held a film series that included *Gasland*, *Swift Justice* (about the raid of the beef packing plant in Greeley), and several Michael Moore films.

## **WE OCCUPY ALL MOVEMENTS!**

Too many branches were involved in the following movements to

**Send your news for Branch Action to G. L. Pintel, 2718 Falk Rd, Vancouver, WA 98661 or by email to [glpintel@gmail.com](mailto:glpintel@gmail.com).**

list separately: Move to Amend, Occupy in all its permutations, Bring the Money Home, Keystone XL Pipeline, Move the Money, Support Union Rights, MLK events, Keep Space for Peace, A Nuclear Free Future and Hiroshima, and Human Rights Day.

**Portland** noted the passing of Jackie Hudson of Ground Zero and their local member, Rudi Nussbaum, who worked actively with WILPF to educate about the health issues of radiation, as well as the passing of Joyce McLean (See page 29).

#### PEOPLE: AWARDS, BIRTHDAYS

**Portland** member Celeste Howard demonstrated in Washington, D.C., and was one of the 1,252, along with Maude Barlow, who were arrested during the two-week action on the tar sands and Keystone XL pipeline. **Santa Cruz** celebrated its 50th birthday in December in song, with their Raging Grannies and local Peace Chorale. In **Des Moines**, the Iowa Commission for the Status of Women awarded Marti Anderson the Christine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice. **Fresno** went all out for MLK events, covering the entire weekend with their Grannies group singing at the garlanding of the MLK bust. **Sierra Foothills** co-sponsored an MLK event that ended with a candlelit walk through Auburn, CA to the birthday cake. **Monterey County's** co-chair, Judy Karas, received the annual Baha'i Human Rights Award. **Greeley** worked to stop a local uranium plant, tracking the process from mining to nuclear plants. **LA**, with local Move to Amend, Occupy LA, and Common Cause, focused on making the event a multifaceted, interactive, inclusive experience, sporting "We are the 99%" shirts!

#### LOCAL ISSUES/EDUCATION

**Palo Alto** responded to the issue of indefinite detention and the militarization of the U.S. as a battlefield in the National Defense Authorization Act with a call to contact one's legislators and the President. **Cape Cod** is presenting an updated version of their project "Roots of Violence, Seeds of Change" course of study and extending their "Art of Dissent" over five months, thanks to their Public Activist Events committee. **Santa Cruz** is working to overcome racism; ask them about their action groups. Col. Ann Wright and Susan Dixon spoke at **St. Louis**. **Santa Barbara** writes letters on legislative issues – from five to 15 topics each month! **Des Moines** is active in the Justice Reform Consortium, focusing on their state justice/courts/corrections systems. **Portland** members participated in urging the City Council's adoption of proclamations in support of "Bringing the Money Home" and "Corporations are Not People; Money is not Speech." **Philadelphia and Delaware County** were out in force for the Occupy the Courts event where WILPF member Heather Shafter was among the speakers; they're planning future educational sessions. **Ashland** plans an International Women's Day event on March 8.

#### PEACE ACTIONS

**Minnesota Metro** is promoting the Million Women Drummers Gathering in 2013. Sacramento handed out 194 flyers as they tabled for *The Whistleblower*. **Des Moines**, in an interfaith service, noted the 10th Anniversary of September 11, as well as a statewide



**Cape Cod members Jan Kubiak, Heidi Trester, Elenita Muñiz, Mary Zepernick, Candace Perry, and Kristin Knowles held a call-and-response on hunger, gender violence, homelessness, and war at a "Blow the Whistle" action, above. Burlington members marched to an Occupy the Courts action, below.**

conference on Palestine-Israel ("Pursuit of a Just Peace"), and also cosponsored the 10th Anniversary in Afghanistan.

**Portland** again held its School of the Americas send-off for the local participants who travelled to Ft. Benning, GA. **Boston** reports that the MA Congo Conflict Minerals bill is moving ahead in their legislature, as they work to end the illegal trade in minerals that is at the root of the devastating war in Eastern DRC. **San Jose's** Joan Bazar and team produced a collection of DVD programs for use on local public access cable (contact [www.sanjosepeace.org](http://www.sanjosepeace.org) to get your copy). **Washington, DC** received a mini-grant to work on the campaign to ban uranium weapons. **Monterey** continues protests at Vandenberg Air Force Base against missile launches (check out their updated website at [www.wilpfmontereycounty.org](http://www.wilpfmontereycounty.org)). **Greater Phoenix** continues work on peace actions involving Women in Black, the local End the War Coalition, particularly through *The Whistleblower* movie. **Cape Cod** did their first "flash mob," blowing the whistle on violence, hunger, and homelessness. It was such fun that they vow to continue it on a bi-monthly basis.



Photo: Robin Lloyd

#### WHAT WE'RE READING AND WATCHING

*About Face: Military Resisters Turn Against War*, by Jeff Matterson

*Blackwater: the Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*, by Jeremy Scahill

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford

*New Jim Crow*, by Michele Alexander (now in paperback)

*Pray the Devil Back to Hell* (video about the women of Liberia and the peace process)

*Sister Citizen*, by Melissa Harris Perry

*The Sorrows of Empire*, by Chamblers Johnson

*Under the Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson

*Walking for Our Lives*, by Donna Rankin Love

*War Isn't Over When It's Over*, by Ann Jones

*When the World Outlawed War*, by David Swanson

*The Woman Behind the New Deal: the Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins*, by Kristin Downey

*Wired for War*, by P.W. Singer

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## Time Value - Do Not Delay

### *All Around the Country, WILPFers Were Active*



At a Move to Amend Occupy the Courts rally in front of San Jose's historic courthouse, were San Jose and Peninsula WILPFers (*l to r*) Lois Fiedler, Paula Rochelle, Jo-Anne Scott, and Trudy Myrrh Reagan. Photo: Eric Olson

*See other Branch Actions, page 30,  
and throughout the issue.*

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO GROW WILPF AND SUSTAIN WILPF'S PEACE WORK**

- Make an outright gift.**
- Become a monthly donor. Pledge for WILPF!**
- Ask your company if it can match your gift.**
- Pay tribute to someone special with a gift in their honor or memory.**
- Donate appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds.**
- Make a bequest of a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate in your will.**
- Give a gift of life insurance.**
- Consult your estate planner about setting up a trust fund for WILPF.**



**To make a gift to Grow WILPF, mail your check to:**

WILPF, U.S. Section, 11 Arlington Street, Boston MA 02116

Donate online at [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org). For more information, contact WILPF U.S. at 617-266-0999.

**Tax-deductible gifts** may be made through WILPF's fiscal sponsor, the Jane Addams Peace Association. For more information, visit [www.janeaddamspeace.org](http://www.janeaddamspeace.org) or call 212-682-8830.