

Peace & Freedom

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

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YOUNG WILPF: Defining the Future



**On the Front Lines in the Middle East
Don't Spy on Us! Challenging the FBI**



Members of the Monterey, CA branch protest at Vandenberg Air Force Base, center for space militarization, at an event co-sponsored by WILPF and Global Network.

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A young girl lights candles for peace in the Middle East.

Cover photo credit: WILPF Lebanon

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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.

National Program: WILPF envisions a world free of violence, poverty, pollution, and domination — a genuine new world order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 2005-2008 program cycle has two key campaign areas: Women Challenge U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East and Save the Water.

WILPF has sections in 37 countries coordinated by an international office in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches, coordinated by a national office in Philadelphia. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (non-governmental organization) status.

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Nurturing Our Next Generations

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Chris Morin, WILPF co president
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I am a gardener, meaning that I enjoy planting, weeding, watering, and tending to living plants. Despite that I know little about the names of all the flowers in my yard, when they should be pruned, or what kind of sun/shade they should have, my modest efforts allow me to enjoy the miracle of their beauty and the escape into an oasis when the world gets too crazy.

Just as a garden can not continue to thrive without proper care and the planting of new seeds, an organization can not continue to exist without cultivating its membership. And since we do not live forever, organizations need new members of all ages to join, so that our work can continue. So it is with WILPF.

WILPF was initially founded to prevent World War I and all future wars. We have a long way to go to fulfill that life-sustaining mission. Hence, this issue of *Peace and Freedom* is dedicated to youth.

In some circles of WILPF, members joke about “youth” meaning someone under the age of 65. “If you want to live forever, join WILPF!” has been heard many a time, and those of us who are younger than 65 have many role models available: our activists in their 80s and even their 90s, who continue to amaze us with their dedication, persistence, and perseverance.

Why youth? For our purposes, “youth” refers to members younger than 35. We have heard many explanations as to why younger people do not join WILPF, or why they are not actively recruited: “Younger people do not want to think of the future.” “They don’t have time to volunteer.” “They are more transient than older people and don’t want to commit to an organization.” But, truth be told, these reasons can apply to any age group.

Whatever the reasons, we must overcome them, because younger members offer much to the older generation of WILPF activists. First, it will take WILPF another generation, at least, to prevent war, and for that task we will need members in their 20s and 30s. These women (and men) have not lived long enough to be completely paralyzed by our country’s decline of democracy nor numbed by decades of fear and apprehension. They still believe that we can change our political system and they are more apt to think “outside of the box.” Moreover, younger members have more technology at their fingertips than our older members have ever had. Even better, they understand how such technology can advance WILPF’s mission.

WILPF has long struggled to have a younger voice represented in our membership, in our branches, and on our National Board. Today, we boast four board members under the age of 35. Co-president Tamara James (31) and Program Chair C.J. Minster (28) are serving their second terms, and Staff Concerns Chair Luz Morales (25) and Membership Committee member Darrah Sipe (21) are former interns.



This youth ascension certainly didn’t happen overnight. Three major steps were undertaken to help us reach a goal of recruiting younger members into WILPF. The first was that in 1996, the board began talking seriously about it. The second was a four-month speaking tour, mainly to campuses across the United States, led by WILPF Australia member Felicity Hill. The third was the start of a stipended internship program. With a generous donation from an anonymous WILPF member, we have succeeded not only in attracting capable paid interns but also many student volunteers.

These interns may not always remain in WILPF or the Philadelphia area, but they are the source of our younger membership. It is our responsibility to create the mechanisms to keep in touch. We also must stay open to change and new ideas, accept our own limitations, and be willing ultimately to “pass the torch.” Both young and old can learn from each other. Neither has a patent on what is best. But both offer knowledge, commitment, and passion.

WILPF needs to nurture a huge, beautiful garden of peace activists, bursting with all colors and kinds of plants and flowers, to plant the seeds of peace and freedom — to change the world. ❖

Pledge to WILPF

Help provide a predictable stream of income and make a difference in the world.



*See pledge sheet,
page 31*

In Memoriam

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KAY CAMP, 7/10/1918 — 7/9/2006

Katherine Merrill Lindsley Camp, known to WILPFers as Kay, passed away on July 9, 2006 — the day before her 88th birthday — at her home in the Quadrangle retirement community in Haverford, PA. A lifelong activist and self-described “peace protagonist,” she joined WILPF in 1958, eventually serving as our national president (1967–71) and international president (1974–80), and remaining active until only recently.

Kay attended peace conferences and fact-finding missions all over the world, forging ties with countless women activists in the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa. As she told graduates of Swarthmore College, her alma mater (class of 1940), in a 1982 commencement speech: “Since we can’t leave peace to the generals, it is up to us generalists, who tend to see things whole. Our fevered pursuit of national security through military means alone is no longer credible. Can’t we understand that peace is our only security? . . . Peace is possible if we commit ourselves passionately to insist, resist, and persist.” For her efforts, she received an honorary doctorate from Swarthmore, the Martin Luther King Jr. award from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the Gandhi Award from the Gandhi Foundation.

Raised on a farm in Livingston, NJ, Kay married a fellow Swarthmore alumnus, the late William Camp. During World War II, she worked as a cryptographer for the federal government, after which she and her husband settled in the Philadelphia suburbs, joined a Quaker meeting, and raised their sons David, Nelson, and Anthony. In later years she was a grandmother to seven and an avid gardener, sailor, and tennis player, among many other things.

A brief biography can’t fully capture Kay’s accomplishments, however — nor how beloved she was to fellow WILPF women. As notes of sympathy sent to the National Office attest, she possessed a special “quiet and gentle forcefulness of . . . character,” perhaps best epitomized in this letter from former International

Secretary General and past International President Edith Ballantyne:

“Kay Camp’s death comes as a terrible shock. I feel a part of me has died with her. We worked closely together in WILPF for more than four decades—when she was U.S. Section president, then member of the IEC and later international president. Our close relationship continued after that, although communication became difficult in the past few years.

“Kay was such an extraordinary human being, with this special combination of high intelligence, creativity and activism, committed to the transformation of a military society to a peaceful one in which women had their big part. She had a wonderful way with words and could create a slogan at the drop of a hat. The title of her publication for WILPF, *Listen to Women for a Change*, became a slogan still used. She was the creator of WILPF’s S.T.A.R. (Stop the Arms Race) signature campaign in the early 1980s to exhort citizens around the world to “buck the arms race with a buck,” the slogan she created



Kay Camp, above, and below left, with U.N. Secretary General U Thant and activists from national peace organizations in the late 1960s.

Photo: WILPF archives

to raise funds to carry out the one-year campaign that took the petitions to NATO headquarters in March 1983, ending with a huge women’s rally in Brussels.

“Around a million signatures were collected and many paid one dollar for the privilege to sign. Kay was always a creator, and also an enthusiastic supporter of ideas

of others, and once they were accepted she did everything to help make them a reality: the renewal of the WILPF summer schools for young women in the 1970s (later named Gertrud Baer seminars), the internship program started in 1980, and later the opening of the WILPF U.N. office in New York. Those were some of the bigger innovations that one remembers easily, but she was behind many others, small ones that were important but easily forgotten.

“I remember many hour-long telephone conversations we had, often arguments about ideas, about positions, about actions that made each of us clearer and stronger in our thinking and convictions. Kay was a wonderful person to work with and to be with. She was gracious, generous and always challenging.

“She joins the WILPF Hall of Fame. Her disappearance leaves a terrible void and we will miss her.” ♦

**See page 25
for
highlights
of Kay
Camp’s life**

Whose Wars Are They, Anyway?: Israel Pulls the Trigger, the U.S. Pulls the Strings

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Libby Frank
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There has been tremendous suffering recently among the people of Palestine, Israel, and Lebanon. Pregnant Palestinian women have been denied access to Israeli hospitals because of the “Separation Wall.” (*Editor’s note: See the Spring 2006 *Peace and Freedom* for an article on the wall.*) Awful personal and environmental devastation has been wrought by Israel on Lebanon using U.S.-made weapons, including illegal cluster bombs, and Lebanon’s Hezbollah missiles, likely made in Iran or Syria, have struck Israel’s population centers.

This human suffering cannot be ignored. But these atrocities won’t stop until the policies that engendered them are exposed and opposed.

WILPF believes it is our job to help make it possible for all peoples of the Middle East to determine their own future. U.S. policies are standing in the way of that goal.

While Israel is a willing U.S. partner for its own reasons, it could not continue its aggressive actions without economic and military support from the United States — which in 2003 alone totaled some \$3 billion in arms aid, \$11 billion in grants, plus guaranteed loans. As a sign carried by a Philadelphia peace demonstrator during the war in Lebanon put it: “Israel pulls the trigger, the U.S. pulls the strings.”

To examine the role of U.S. policy in engendering/exacerbating the Israel/Lebanon war and ongoing Israeli/Arab crises, let’s look at what really caused the violence between Israel and the Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah during this past summer. By now the whole world knows that Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers on July 12. It appears that this event was simply the excuse Israel and the United States were looking for to lash out at Hezbollah. According to an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (July 21), “the invasion of Lebanon was long planned by Israel in consultation with Washington. . . . More than a year ago, a senior Israeli army officer began giving PowerPoint presentations — to U.S. and other diplomats, journalists and think tanks, setting out the plan for the current operation in revealing detail. It is a long-planned war to increase Israel’s ascendancy over [Hezbollah] and its patrons.”

Indeed, in his May 23, 2006 summit with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, President Bush offered full U.S. support for Israel to attack Lebanon as soon as possible. Journalist Seymour Hersh, writing in the August 21 issue of *The New Yorker*, quoted a Pentagon consultant on the Bush Administration’s longstanding desire to strike a “preemp-

tive blow against Hezbollah.” The consultant added: “It was our intent to have Hezbollah diminished, and now we have someone else doing it.”

Once the fighting began, President Bush strove to postpone a cease-fire in the hope that Israel would weaken Hezbollah’s military and political base in Lebanon. *The Jerusalem Post* for July 30 reported that Bush even pushed Israel to expand the war beyond Lebanon and attack Syria. In addition, according to Hersh, the White House ordered top planners at the U.S. Air Force to consult with their Israeli counterparts on a war plan against Iran that incorporated an Israeli preemptive strike against Hezbollah.

Clearly, Hezbollah’s support base has been strengthened, not weakened, by Israel’s attacks, and the Bush Administration’s vision for the region suffered a blow that neither Israeli Prime Minister Olmert nor President Bush will admit.

A dire and parallel situation exists in Gaza. As Israeli peace activist Uri Avneri commented in *War Times/Tiempo de Guerras*, “The very same thing happened two weeks earlier in the Gaza Strip,” the densely populated Palestinian area still occupied by Israel. “ Hamas [the Palestinian majority party elected last January] and its partners captured a soldier which provided the excuse for a massive [Israeli attack] operation that had been prepared for a long time and whose aim is to destroy the Palestinian government.”

The whole world also knows the name Corporal Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier captured by Hamas in Gaza on June 25. But the corporate media have not told us that the day before, Israeli soldiers had kidnapped two Palestinian civilians in Gaza, as Noam Chomsky later pointed out on “Democracy Now.” And to this day we don’t know their names. But they join 10,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails, including many members of the Palestinian Parliament who belong to Hamas.

After Israel completed its “withdrawal” from Gaza last year, Palestinians expected to rebuild their land and their economy. But after Hamas won the election, international donors led by the United States cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority. Israel stopped transferring the tax revenue it collects for the Palestinians, and the authority’s monthly income dropped from \$150 million to \$20 million or less, according to United Nations sources.

As a result of Israel’s then two-month-old offensive in Gaza, the U.N. World Food Program warned in August that

Continued on page 7 ➤

Youth and U.S. Foreign Policy: A Conversation

Two Young WILPF leaders, one Jewish, one Arab American, reflect on being young and working to challenge U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Following is a discussion between C.J. Minster, 28, program chair and former WCUSP board representative, and Kate Zaidan, 25, program coordinator, U.S. Section.

What impact has being young made on doing the work within WILPF?

C.J.: I don't think I'm always taken seriously as an expert on both organizing and understanding U.S. policy. I graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in Peace and Justice Studies, with an emphasis in political science. I've been on the list of eligible hires for the U.S. Foreign Service. I was a union organizer. The larger world never seems quite sure how to deal with my varied experience. And I've learned that my WILPF work is rarely taken seriously when I apply for jobs, simply because I am not paid for it.

Within WILPF, I've experienced ageism. Sometimes, people try to patronize me or tell me that I should defer to my elders. On the other hand, I've met some of my closest friends in WILPF, and I'm committed to helping this organization thrive, increase its visibility, and expand its membership.

K.Z.: In the WCUSP Campaign, I've noticed a lot of generational differences in the way that we think through the issue of Israel and Palestine. It's very easy for me to jump to "radical" —and incredibly oversimplified— conclusions because I didn't grow up with the notion of Israel as a "safe haven," and Israel's existence has never been celebrated in my lifetime or my culture. If anything, it has been demonized. I also don't understand the historical legacy and impact of anti-Semitism in the way that a lot of our older members do because I think anti-Semitism looks a lot different today than it used to. Not being Jewish, I hadn't given much thought to it before I got involved in WCUSP because it looks and functions in very different ways than other forms of oppression.

Our notions of strategy are very different, too. I grew up in the information age. I often don't understand the emphasis on reading and education, because I am very comfortable using technology to access whatever information I need. I feel like young people tend to gravitate toward high-impact, high-visibility campaigns that they can win, and older generations focus more on movement and community building. I would like to see the culture of WILPF meet somewhere in between these two styles.

I think one of the things that we fail to do in WILPF is to acknowledge these cultural differences between younger

and older women. The contrast in organizing styles, communication styles, etc., can be a barrier to working together. WILPF would be wise to create a space for young women to work in their own way, on their own issues, while partnering with WILPF members for joint projects, mentoring, and dialogue. For that reason, I'm really excited about the YWILPF program and the new West Philadelphia YWILPF branch.

How does your religious/ethnic identity affect your activism? Do you believe it's more effective to work within an ethnic community or in a multiethnic group like WILPF? Have you had trouble with your family because of your activism?

C.J.: I'm Jewish and some of my family have nothing in common with me politically. But more than any other topic, challenging their knee-jerk support for the Israeli government is the hardest activist work I've ever done. I'm used to having strangers call me a "self-hating Jew," but for my own aunt to write "Do you realize you're Jewish?" hurts more deeply. This doesn't stop my activism; but I must admit that organized Judaism's unflinching support of Israel and its occupation of Palestine is a major reason I'm not more active in the Jewish community. I was a Bar Mitzvah tutor, a leader in my temple's youth group, and a member of the adult choir before going to college, so this disconnect is hard for me.

I've always done my activism within multiethnic groups, but I also appreciate the need for more ethnic communities to become activists. I admire the Muslim community's strong stand against ethnic profiling, and I am encouraged by actions like the nationally coordinated Jewish "die-ins" to denounce Israel's unlawful war of aggression against Lebanon. I suppose I believe it's important to have a multi-pronged strategy that includes both WILPF and ethnic communities. Unfortunately, I don't have any quick solutions for speaking with people about Israel/Palestine. I only know that our words can cause pain to both Palestinian solidarity activists and supporters of the Jewish state of Israel.

K.Z.: I see my organizing for peace in the Middle East bound tightly together with my Lebanese-American identity and my effort to connect with my culture and family. In my spare time, I study Arabic and work to further integrate myself into the Arab community in Philadelphia. I am the first of my family to be born in the United States, however I have only been to my father's home twice, and I'm just now getting to know my aunts, uncles and cousins, all of whom live in Beirut. The July War in Lebanon was an incredibly intense experience for me. I had just gotten back

from a visit and in one short month the whole country was flattened. Living through this experience gave me a small taste of what it is like to have your friends and family brutalized by the system, and doing activism in that context is a really different experience from doing work that you are personally abstracted from.

I agree that we need a multi-tiered approach to working across cultures. On one hand, I really take a lot personally from organizing in the Arab community. I have a sense of belonging I just don't feel in other organizations. But I also believe in the need to build a grassroots movement of people from all cultures and backgrounds, and I think if WILPF learns how to engage in true solidarity work with poor people and people of color, we could serve as a bridge between larger NGOs and grassroots organizations run and led by the people who are directly affected by social injustice.

What advice do you have for WILPFers to get more young people involved in WCUSP's work at the local level?

C.J.: Have your meetings on weekday evenings. Try meet-



Courtesy Signe Wilkinson. Originally published in the *Philadelphia Daily News*.

ing at a pub — Drink Liberally is an intriguing group. Don't start a meeting at 9 a.m. on a Saturday. Really figure out if you're ready to give up some control. Realize that you can't expect every young person you meet to recruit 10 more young women for WILPF. Be willing to change.

Learn to use web activism — to promote your in-person meetings and to expand the reach of your branch. Have a plan that includes actions in addition to reading dozens of articles. Don't be afraid to take risks. Choose a representative from your branch to interact with the WCUSP national leadership team — we can provide additional support and resources.

K.Z.: Pay attention to the existing youth organizing that is happening in your community. If there is a college or university in your neighborhood, there will most certainly be student activist groups. Work with them, but don't try to take over.

Understand the importance of youth leadership, not just youth involvement. ❖

► WHOSE WARS?

from page 5

the area faces a food crisis. Israel has enforced a blockade, allowing almost no goods to leave Gaza and only limited food supplies to enter. Industry has shut down. Electricity and water services are only intermittent, since Israel bombed the main power station. Increasing poverty in Gaza can lead to a desperate, radicalized population. Neither Israel nor Palestine is made secure by these policies.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed the current mantra of the Bush Administration on July 21: What we are seeing is “the birth pangs of a new Middle East.” And, she went on, “whatever we do, we have to be certain that we're pushing forward to the new Middle East, not going back to the old Middle East.” That “new” Middle East would be one where all states and movements that resist U.S. domination are weakened, brought into line, or destroyed. The U.S. interest in the region isn't just oil — but in preventing or reversing the nationalization of industries and ensuring there are no limits on incursions by private Western corporations.

In this respect, the U.S. Middle East strategy of leveraged influence for its own ends is not different than elsewhere, a concept difficult for many activists to understand and accept.

What might the United States do instead? Begin talks with the leaders of Iran, Syria, and Palestine, who have made indications that they are willing to do so. Work actively for a two-state solution in Palestine/Israel. And stop arming Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman!

Editor's note: At press time, a cease-fire had been negotiated and Israeli troops had begun pulling out of Lebanon.

Libby Frank is co coordinator of WILPF's Women Challenge U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East (WCUSP) Campaign.

* WCUSP's *Feminist Action Guide to Challenging U.S. Policy in the Middle East* is now available for \$20 from the WILPF U.S. office and at local WILPF meetings.

“Water, Water Everywhere, Nor Any Drop to Drink”: The Costs of Bottled Water

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Nancy Price
.....

Readers may recognize the above quote from the poem “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. In this time of growing water crisis, there may be drops to drink, but who will get this water and how much will it cost? Can we protect our water commons from the corporate goal of privatization and sale to the highest bidder? Can we turn back the agenda, codified in the international trade agreements, that thwarts the will of the people and overrides democracy?

Over the years, we’ve come to appreciate the challenge of working locally while learning about global water struggles in Bolivia, India, South Africa and elsewhere. WILPF members and branches need to labor on the community and national levels as long as is needed to ensure that the universal right to water is recognized officially and that water is protected as a global commons and a fundamental right of all people and of nature. To this end, we must work toward an internationally binding U.N. treaty. The power to determine the use of water must rest firmly in the hands of the people, not corporations or the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, or other private elites.

WILPF and the International Movement

The international movement for the right to water came of age this year when water activists from around the world gathered in Mexico City at the first International Forum in the Defense of Water, held simultaneously with the 4th World Water Forum. Olivia Zink and I, representing WILPF and wearing headbands emblazoned with “Nestlé Basta Ya” (Nestlé — Enough is Enough), marched with tens of thousand of advocates, many of them high school and college students. We participated in workshops and plenary discussions with representatives of civil society from Mexico and Central and South America, and were inspired to learn that after years of popular struggle in Peru, Bolivia, and Uruguay, national policies to protect the water commons and turn back privatization are being enacted.

In the United States, perhaps the single greatest challenge of the next few years is to challenge the bottled water industry — at the least, to hold steady our consumption of bottled water. After an intense 15-year advertising campaign, the bottled water giants (*see below*) have convinced us to slake our thirst for water any time, any place. What ever happened to public and school water fountains and the metal canteen?

More insidious, the manufacturers of bottled water have convinced us that tap water is not safe, and that buying bottled water at up to 1,000 times the cost of water from a municipal system — that we’ve already paid for with our tax dollars — makes sense. We are being conditioned to look for and accept individual, private, and expensive solutions to local water problems rather than to work with public officials and others to craft communal strategies such as testing the water, identifying and stopping pollution, and adequately funding our public water works.

Small wonder, then, that in the United States bottled water is the fastest-growing beverage sold, with more than \$7.9 billion in sales last year. Today, while sales of beer, coffee and milk are static, those of bottled water outpace all



Nancy Price (in hat, far left) and Olivia Zink (far right), in Mexico City at the first International Forum in the Defense of Water.
Photo: Arthur Cohn.

other beverages except soda pop. The bottled water market has choices to suit every taste: still, fizzy, flavored, and/or “enhanced” with different ingredients: minerals and vitamins for the pregnant and nursing mother; fluoride for the growing child; special trace elements for the athlete; and many more. (How about a “Fountain of Youth” brand for seniors?) Bottled water is now a fashion accessory, the labels small portable billboards for corporations.

Babies’ First Beverage: Bottled Water — It’s Only Natural

Nestlé targets babies before they are weaned. As the world’s largest food and beverage corporation, with annual sales in the tens of billions, it aggressively markets breast-milk substitutes. Some years ago, mothers in developing countries often mixed powdered formula with unsafe water, contributing to thousands of needless infant deaths. As a countermeasure, in 1981, the U.N. World Health Organization adopted an International Marketing Code, intended to help mothers make fully informed choices free of commercial influence. Nestlé continues to violate this code, and because Nestlé Waters markets products in 130 countries, they now freely market bottled water with their instant infant formulas and infant-sized bottles suitable for individual feedings. For these reasons, Nestlé is designated “Corporate Enemy No. 1” in Europe and Baby Milk Action continues its international anti-Nestlé campaign.

Hey, Kids! Try the New Cool Drink — Bottled Water

Now Nestlé and the bottled water barons are cashing in on the drive to improve children's diets and rid schools of soda pop and sweetened juices. The beverage makers have agreed to limit sales of their products in elementary and middle schools to bottled water, juices without artificial sweeteners, and nonfat milk products by the school year 2009-2010. Such "generosity" makes business sense and buys them good will. As an industry expert said, "It's a big land rush now that carbonated soft drinks are getting the boot from schools."

Because many young parents already drink bottled water, they've set an example for their kids. But just to be sure, this past summer Nestlé and others launched a bottled-water campaign targeted to the new 6-12-year-old consumer. Nestlé's new Aquapod brand is promoted with animated ads proclaiming, "Aquapod Springwater: A blast of fun," which flood Nickelodeon and other kids' channels. And the company is touring the country with two giant Aquapod bottles on wheels. "Kids Only" launched its own brand of water, encased in exclusive "collectible" bottles featuring favorite children's characters such as Superman, Scooby-Doo, and Spider-Man.

Parents who challenge marketing bottled water to this age group may be made uncomfortable by other parents and school officials ("C'mon, it's healthier than Coke!"), but most of all, they may feel pressure from their children — just what the corporations want. Will grocery stores now place kids' bottled water near the cash register with the candy?

Hooked on Bottled Water

As there is no ban on high school and college vending of soda pop and specialty drinks, it will be a win-win situation for the big three bottled water companies: Coca-Cola, with its Dasani brand; PepsiCo, with Aquafina, whose products use municipal water with a little extra filtration; and Nestlé, with its U.S. regional brands produced mainly with spring water: Arrowhead and Calistoga, Deer Park, Ice Mountain, Ozarka, Poland Spring, and Zephyrhills.

As students in this age group learn more about corporate issues, they are beginning to take on the beverage industry. They are challenging the "exclusive beverage agreements" that lock out competitors and allow aggressive corporate marketing on campus — even as they advocate for adequate funding of education and join international movements protecting water for all. In particular, students are engaged in a boycott of Coca-Cola and PepsiCo on campuses and support the campaigns in India to hold Coke accountable for depleting and polluting the country's aquifers (see www.indiaresource.org/campaigns/coke).

Perhaps we water activists can encourage high school and college students to create partnerships with elementary

and intermediate schools to mount campaigns to restore public and school water fountains; learn how the plastic manufacturing and transportation involved in producing bottled water wastes non-renewable resources and water (producing 1.3 gallons of wastewater for each gallon of bottled water); and practice water conservation and sustainable use.

Bodies Harmed Without Consent

Though bottled water is touted as purer than that from municipal sources, that is not always the case. Pesticides have been found in Coca-Cola's Dasani brand, and bottled water can contain bacteria and other contaminants potentially harmful to the newborn, the very young, and those with compromised immune systems. The Natural Resources Defense Council has published a research report, *Bottled Water: Pure Drink or Pure Hype?* available on its website: www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp.

The plastic housing bottled water is another health concern. The new science of bio-monitoring, through the testing of human hair, blood, urine, and even amniotic fluid and breast milk, shows how all types of industrial chemicals accumulate in our bodies. Plastic resins, from their creation to their formation into bottles to their final disposal, create a world-wide toxic trail of land, air, and water pollution that contributes to this lifelong body burden. Because many of these chemicals are similar to our bodies' own estrogen, this extra dose disrupts development, particularly of the fetus and young child.

Alarmingly, evidence connects these chemicals to abnormal fetal development resulting in learning disabilities and hyperactivity in children; genital abnormalities in boys, including DNA damage to sperm and low sperm counts; prostate cancer; early puberty in girls (a possible pre-condition for breast cancer); fertility and endometriosis in women; and conditions affecting insulin resistance (related to diabetes). Perhaps a campaign on the health effects of the plastics encasing bottled water may have an impact upon parents, PTAs, and school administrators. How can we stand by and let the "corporate person" harm our bodies without our consent?

Education and agitation will be key in the movement to protect and democratize water. WILPF's Save the Water campaign will develop and post to the website materials on water as a human right, exclusivity contracts, the anti-Nestlé campaign, and the new science of bio-monitoring. We encourage you to contribute to any and all of these efforts, particularly with your research and writing skills. To get involved, please email water_leadership@wilpf.org. To learn more about water issues, order a copy of the book *Inside the Bottle: An Expose of the Bottled Water Industry* at the Polaris Institute website, www.polarisinstitute.org.

Nancy Price is a member of the leadership team of the Save the Water Campaign.

Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



Advancing Human Rights: WILPF Branches Further Human Rights Agenda

Laura Roskos

WILPF members across the country are taking leadership roles in the national movement to “domesticate” human rights. While the United States has always been vocal in criticizing the human rights records of other countries, our government has lagged behind much of the world in terms of monitoring human rights compliance within its own jurisdiction. Some of the crises driving this activism were articulated in testimony presented before the National Truth Commission on Poverty (NTC), held in Cleveland this past July.

Victoria Carter and Valerie Robinson represented Cleveland WILPF at the event, organized by the Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign, a movement “to unite the poor across color lines as the leadership base for a broad movement to abolish poverty.” (See www.economichumanrights.org.) They witnessed testimony presented by those personally affected on violations of the rights articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (www.un.org/overviews/rights.html), such as health care, a living wage, housing, education, water, food and other basic necessities, as well as a special panel convened on the unjust removal by authorities of children from poor households. They also participated in a march through downtown Cleveland to Republican and Democratic headquarters, and attended workshops on a variety of topics including organizing day laborers and video documentation.

Valerie sees the success of this event, the first of its kind in the United States, as “an indication that people can unite around the pressing domestic issues of our time.” She noted that “Testimony . . . spoke to the urgency of the need to address poverty in this country and to work toward its eradication. Analysis and action are desperately needed from organizations such as WILPF.”

Mary Bricker Jenkins, a WILPF member and professor of social work, facilitated a dynamic workshop on the plight of children who are removed from their homes because of poverty. (In many U.S. cities, this practice disproportionately affects black families.) At the workshop, groups from different parts of the country shared tactics that have been successfully publicizing and combating this problem.

Meanwhile, WILPF activists in Milwaukee have formed a human rights working group to design and advo-

cate for an institutional vehicle that could enforce international human rights standards in city governance. Informed by the similar ordinance campaigns currently under way in New York City and San Francisco, the Milwaukee group seeks to develop a human rights instrument tailored to that city’s own civic traditions of populism and clean government. Their diverse coalition partners include the NAACP and United Nations Association, among others.

On September 15, the Milwaukee group hosted an “intergenerational roundtable” at America’s Black Holocaust Museum intended to bring county supervisors and other public and union officials into the human rights organizing process. Rose Daitsman, lead organizer of the event, reflected that “The roundtable format enabled grassroots community activists to come together with recognized leaders to consider local issues in the context of international human rights law.”

* * *

The Advancing Human Rights (AHR) Committee exists to recognize and strengthen the ongoing human rights work of WILPF branches across the United States. If your branch is already working on local campaigns for immigrant, labor, or women’s rights or for recognition of the universal human right to housing, health care, or equal marriage, we invite you to send us a report and urge you to appoint a branch liaison to the committee to help build resources that can assist WILPF in strengthening this dimension of our work.

Laura Roskos is co chair of the Advancing Human Rights Committee and co founder of the Massachusetts CEDAW Project.

Building the Beloved Community

Vickie M. Fouts

The mission of the Building the Beloved Community (BBC) Committee is to provide educational information about the history and nature of systemic racism, the connections between different forms of oppression, internalized oppressions, racial justice and the struggles to achieve it. In light of this mission, we ask members and branches to join us by participating in one or more of the initiatives below.

1) Pledge to Heal Racism in My Life. To stay mindful of racism and take the first steps for an ongoing transformation to overcome and eliminate racism in ourselves and in our society, we invite members and branches to sign on to the Pledge to Heal Racism in My Life, and to share it



WILPF’s Rose Daitsman (r.) presents Corrie Joe Biddle of America’s Black Holocaust Museum with a citation honoring the human rights work of museum founder James Cameron.

Photo: Susan Lina Ruggles

with other individuals and organizations in your community. The pledge is at www.icujp.org/04.10.06_racism.html. Feel free to print it out, collect signatures under it for your branch, and return to the original organizers, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (www.icujp.org). We encourage you to organize public events around the pledge.

- 2) **Eracism.** The definition of Eracism is the elimination of the belief that one race is superior to another. You can learn more about a T-shirt project promoting Eracism by visiting www.eracismwear.com, writing to EracismWear at 11333 Moorpark St. #506, Toluca Lake, CA 91602-2618, calling 1-888-Eracism, or emailing mreracism@adelphia.net. WILPF also has its own conversation- and thought-provoking T-shirts from the earlier UFORJE (Uniting for Racial Justice) Campaign, which can be viewed and ordered on the WILPF website resource catalogue section, <http://wilpf.org/resources/default.htm>.
- 3) **Creating Caring Communities/ Being an Effective Social Justice Activist — The Personal Side Workshop.** This project combines BBC Chair Sha'an Moulert's workshop, Creating Caring Communities, and BBC member Donna Lamb's workshop, Being an Effective Social Justice Activist - the Personal Side. The former uses the very physical and often nonverbal

techniques of the game Star Power and the improvisational and interactive techniques of Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed; the latter takes a more verbal approach to dealing with the need for introspection to achieve one's goals as an activist. We encourage you to host this workshop in your branches. Learn more about the workshop in the BBC section of the WILPF website, <http://wilpf.org/issues/uforje/default.htm>. To arrange a workshop, or if you have questions, please contact Sha'an Moulert at moulert@vtlink.net.

- 4) **Building the Beloved Community Resources.** Check out our list of educational resources at http://wilpf.org/issues/uforje/UFO_resources.htm. There you will find articles by Donna Lamb, Tim Wise and others; handouts on Interrupting Racism and Active Anti-Racist Behavior, and a downloadable BBC brochure. We are working on increasing our resources list, so remember to check our web page often.

To learn more about the Building the Beloved Community Issues Committee or to join the committee, contact BBC Chair Sha'an Moulert at the email noted above, or Vickie Fouts at socialjustice@sti.net or (559) 658-8260.

Vickie M. Fouts is a member of the BBC issue committee.

Corporations v. Democracy

Jim and Tomi Allison

During 2006, WILPF branches around the country led diverse efforts to shed light on the many forms of corporate domination in this country, and to enable greater citizen participation in our government. Recently, the Des Moines Branch sponsored a free, month-long corporate power-centered film festival that began September 9 and ended with a visit by David Korten — author of *When Corporations Rule the World*, and, most recently, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*. The films included, among others, Bill Moyers' *Globalization* and *Free Speech for Sale*; *The Big Buy: Tom Delay's Stolen Congress*; *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*; and *The Corporation*.

Mary Zepernick of the Cape Cod Branch represented the Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy (POCLAD) and WILPF at a two-day meeting, "Toward Building a Democracy Movement," held in Washington, D.C. on November 1–2. About a dozen people from various organizations discussed what they are trying to achieve vis-a-vis corporations and how to overcome our main obstacles.

Last winter and spring, Mary coordinated the Cape Care Resolution Campaign, initiated by a coalition of WILPF and Cape Codders for Peace & Justice. They took the concept of a single-payer, community-owned health insurance program to Cape Cod voters through a non-binding resolution pro-

posed at spring town meetings. The proposal gained overwhelming support, compelling the county government to take the effort seriously. Task forces will draft a specific plan, and the organizing committees created in most of the 15 Cape Cod towns will bring it back to the citizens.

Meanwhile, the Bloomington, IN branch helped form VerifyTheVoteIndiana, a citizens' group that opposes electronic voting machines as a serious corporate threat to the integrity of democratic elections.

In addition to getting involved in branch work, many members see the Water and Middle East campaigns as an integral part of the previous Challenge Corporate Power campaign because of the corporate push to privatize water and the role of the military-industrial complex in the politics of the Middle East, and have been working with them to address this side of those issues.

Finally, a revised edition of the Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights study packet is in the works. The revision, compiled by Jim and Tomi Allison, Maggie Rawland, Sherry Hutchison, and Virginia Rasmussen, is now in final editing and production. Look for a link soon on the Challenge Corporate Power website: <http://wilpf.org/issues/ccp/default.htm>.

Jim and Tomi Allison are members of the Bloomington, IN Branch.

► COMMITTEE CORNER *continued*

DISARM! Dismantling the War Economy

Carol Urner

The DISARM! Dismantling the War Economy Committee intends to keep disarmament issues before the branches and, when possible, integrate them into the work of the campaigns and the other issue committees. Peace and progress toward general and complete disarmament is the promise embodied in the United Nations Charter, just as freedom is embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Both are essential components of the WILPF vision of the world we want.

Resources and a calendar of events for branches and at-large-members are posted on our DISARM UPDATE website at www.disarm.wilpf.org. There you will find reports from branches on disarmament-related work including counter-recruitment, the “women’s budget,” and resistance to war toys and war taxes. There are also rich resources to aid your work on key concerns including abolition of nuclear weapons, space militarization, bio-weapons, war profiteering, and abolition of war itself.

Reports from branches on participation in August Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorations and demonstrations can be found in the July-August 2006 UPDATE, and we are now gathering reports on Keep Space 4 Peace Week events. Please send individual and branch reports on these and all DISARM-related items to carol.disarm@gmail.com.

From October through December this year, our focus will be on influencing the five-year Biological Weapons Treaty Review Conference in Geneva and the inspection protocol thus far blocked in the United Nations by our own government. We will also focus on the runaway U.S. funding for bio-weapons research (some sources report a budget as high as \$51 billion). Many of our WILPF branches are located near universities, which are scrambling for the bil-



Giant missile brought to Vandenberg Air Force Base by Peace Action, one of many organizations at the WILPF-Global Network-organized events protesting space militarization.

lions in Homeland Security funds available for bio-weapons research. The Boston Branch is already involved in highly publicized community resistance to the University of Boston Biolab, which will house always-fatal pathogens in an African-American community there. We want other branches to hear their story, and then to look at this growing program in their own communities. We also need more informed and committed women to help us bring about an inspection protocol for bio-weapons. To that end, in November and December, we plan to sponsor a small U.S. WILPF delegation to the Geneva bio-weapons conference.

DISARM! would like every branch to arrange for at least one person to keep an eye on our UPDATE and to report to the DISARM! committee. Also be sure your branch has an “eye contact” for DISARM!’s Eye on Congress program — to volunteer, contact Val Mullen at vmullen@together.net.

Carol Urner heads the DISARM! committee.

Women and Cuba

Cindy Domingo

The second report by President George Bush’s Commission for a Transition to a Free Cuba, issued in July 2006, arrived just weeks before the first transition of power in Cuba in 47 years. In accordance with the Cuban constitution, Fidel Castro’s serious health problems in August resulted in his brother, First Vice President of the Council of State Raúl Castro, taking over as president of Cuba for an indefinite period. However, the Bush report has made it clear that the United States plans to continue its nearly half-century-long policy of overt and covert intervention in Cuban affairs to affect any Cuban succession plan.

Sections of the report outline the U.S. goals for a new Cuban government, which include political freedom, economic opportunity, and fair and free elections. To support

these goals, the commission report suggests funding of \$80 million, with an additional \$20 million added annually until the “dictatorship ceases to exist.”

A section of the report is marked classified. Many experts conclude that this section is so designated because it includes specific plans for overthrowing the Cuban government — hardly an example of political freedom and fair elections.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government continues to implement the measures set forth in the first commission report, especially regarding its travel ban. Essentially, all travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens, including Cuban Americans, has ceased under our government’s increasing harassment of anyone who attempts it. Faith-based organizations, churches, and academic institutions have lost their licenses to trav-

Continued on page 19 ►

Ending the War at Home: WILPF Joins Schoolchildren at U.N. Small Arms Conference

Jody Dodd

In WILPF, we assert that the issues of peace, security, the environment, and human rights are interconnected. This holistic view is one of the aspects that make WILPF unique among the many peace and justice organizations with whom we work. We also assert that war abroad and the gun violence in many U.S. cities are interconnected. Both are products of arms proliferation and both have as their victims members of our human family who our government has decided are expendable.

The numbers of Iraqis killed in the U.S.-Iraq war continues to rise — the latest estimates are from at least 40,000 to as many as 100,000 dead. Recently, news media have reported that gun violence is increasing across the United States. Here in Philadelphia, as of late August, in 2006 alone the death toll was up to 261 individuals murdered and more than 1,000 injured due to gun violence. One news account showed an image of a vacant building in North Philadelphia where the word IRAQ had been spray-painted on a wall. I'm sure the folks living with this daily gun violence are making the connection, too.

While the peace movement has spoken out against the war in Iraq at many marches and vigils and with petitions, educational forums, and so on, activists have not expended the same effort to end the gun violence in our communities. So when West Philadelphia's Jubilee Elementary School asked us to join them in attending the Small Arms Conference at the United Nations this past June, we were honored to help. At this annual conference, nations come together to craft treaties to end the trafficking of illegal guns and to monitor small arms and light weapons.

Through the wonderful assistance of our U.N. staff in New York, staff and interns from the U.S. Section office accompanied 11 children, ages 9 to 13, from the Jubilee School to the United Nations, where they gave a presentation on the Children's Campaign Against Gun Violence during the Small Arms and Light Weapons Annual Meeting. The children organized the campaign in response to the death of a student and the increasing gun violence in their community. They came to tell their story and ask the international community for support in ending gun violence in their neighborhood and on behalf of children everywhere, and to learn from others what people around the world are doing to halt this form of violence.

Here, WILPF intern Alice Nascimento shares her impressions of this event:

"Seeing the children of the Jubilee School from West Philadelphia share their stories of hope and hopelessness

alike, as gun violence plagues their communities and poisons the minds of those around them, was a poignant experience. By providing these children with the opportunity to speak at a world forum and have their voices heard by those who influence policy decisions on the international

stage, WILPF showed that presidents and secretaries of states are not the only ones with the power to change the world. Kids can do it too. They do it better. Unlike presidents and prime ministers, they have no ulterior agendas or motives. They are simply asking for one thing and one thing only— peace. End the semantic debate and take action, they echo. No more guns.

"The students of Jubilee epitomized the desire for a just society in a world mired in chaos. Although seeing children as young as nine years old talk about the need for justice was inspiring, I was left feeling equally disheartened. How could such young children be talking about guns and be living in an environment where the sound of bullets is as common as the sound of car engines? Most important, why do most of us stand idly by as more than 50 children a week are killed in the United States as a result of gun violence?"

"Despite these problems, I left the conference feeling a sense of faith and optimism. I won't deny that I, along with many others, overly emphasize the negative aspects of our communities when we choose to focus on the problems of violence and injustice, and the need for social change. However, organizations like WILPF and conferences like this show us that there is still a vestige of hope left in the world as activists, world leaders, and even kids united with a common goal: to stop the arms race and end gun violence."

I couldn't have put it better.

Jody Dodd is WILPF's leadership and outreach coordinator.



Students from West Philadelphia's Jubilee Elementary School at the United Nations.

Photo: Jody Dodd.

DISPATCHES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST: WILPF WOMEN ON THE GROUND

Last summer, WILPF activists from the Israel, Lebanon, and U.S. sections — both residents and citizen diplomats — bore witness to life on the ground before and during the war between Israel and Lebanon. Following are excerpts from their reports.

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PREWAR LEBANON, MAY 2006

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From Kate Zaidan, program coordinator, U.S. WILPF

I journeyed to Lebanon for both political and personal reasons, though after spending time with family, friends, and colleagues, I've come to understand that for residents of countries that have endured occupation and war, there is very little difference between the two.

I was to attend a conference on Palestinian Refugees and the Right to Return. Unfortunately, it was cancelled at the last minute. As a result I was able to spend more time with the Lebanese section of WILPF and one of the emerging YWILPF (Young WILPF) branches in the city of Bhamdoun.

Samira Khoury, vice president of WILPF International, and I had originally planned to visit the Palestinian refugee camps in the south of Lebanon, but on the appointed day the Israelis began bombing the border. Samira told me this was a common occurrence, the daily reality for the people there, and I was struck by how little we hear about these incursions in the U.S. media. So instead, she escorted me to various convergence spaces of Lebanese civil society, where I got a small taste of Lebanese political activism.

The women's movement in Lebanon is served by the Lebanese Council of Women, an umbrella organization of which WILPF is a member. We spent the day engaged with other members of this movement, including a visit to the headquarters of the Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps, whose mission is to improve refugees' living conditions through cultural, educational, and economic development, primarily through income generated by the sale of Palestinian hand embroidery. I was able to purchase some of this beautiful work for souvenirs and to show my support. We also met with the Arab Women's Solidarity Project and I toured a newly-acquired space that houses their tutoring program for young Palestinians in Lebanon, created in conjunction with a labor organization to prevent youth from dropping out of the inadequate schools in the refugee camps and being forced into child labor.

A highlight of my trip was the Village Welfare Society's Annual Cocoon-Picking Festival. The society,

an economic development and cultural heritage association, is another WILPF sister organization started by Beirut branch founder Anissa Najjar. There we picked silkworm cocoons to spin silk, a vital part of Lebanese history and a symbol of early resistance to the Ottoman Empire. The efforts of this small village in the mountains to retain its cultural identity and use it as a means to develop economically was an incredibly profound experience for me, as I struggle to retain my own sense of cultural identity. This celebration culminated in a feast of traditional Lebanese food prepared by the women of the village of Darkoucheeh-Chouf. We shared an amazing meal that included fresh manaeesh (fresh bread with herbs and cheese) as a community of women and activists.

LEBANON IN WARTIME

Messages sent in July and August

From Shirine ElJurdi, member of WILPF Lebanon

The Lebanese people feel left out by the world that is turning a blind eye on the savagery of the Israeli state. The numerous civilian victims of the Israeli operations are increasing by the hour. The viciousness of the attacks has attained terrifying levels where a child has been cut in three while another was half burned. The Israeli war machine is destroying not only our lives but the foundations that could help the civilians survive beyond their massacre.

*From Noura and Rayya Shaar,
YWILPF branch, Bhamdoun*

We are still suffering from the extreme attacks, all bridges that link the cities and villages are currently closed, even communications through cell phones. Each and every bombing is killing and injuring lots of children and innocent people. All high schools at Mount-Lebanon are currently jammed with families that escaped from South Beyrouth and South Lebanon. We are helping families to find shelter, food, and cloth[ing]. Please, try your best to raise your voice to all nations for "No violence, and an immediate stop to the attack."

From Roula Zoubiane, WILPF Lebanon

The situation is very dangerous in Lebanon, this beauti-

ful country which has always sought to live in peace and today faces a total and bloody war where the victims are mainly civilians. Israel is destroying our infrastructure, the airport, bridges, roads, electricity, and water facilities, all of which the Lebanese people have worked very hard to rebuild after 17 years of civil war and almost 30 years of Syrian presence and interference in our internal affairs. Now, all of a sudden we are in the eye of the storm again. We keep the faith intact. I hear bombardment. I have to go.

From Dispatches from the Middle East: Letters from WILPF Lebanese Sisters and International WILPF's Urgent Updates on the Middle East Crisis.

Residential areas in Beirut have been totally destroyed due to the heavy bombardments launched by Israeli aircraft in South Lebanon, where dozens of villages are under systematic bombardment, lacking food, milk for children, and medicine, while the hospitals — some of which have been hit — do not have enough medical equipment to meet the numerous needs of the injured civilians. To tell you the truth, not one military member of Hezbollah has been reported missing in action nor killed; only civilians are falling like autumn leaves: 200 people killed, among them numerous children, and more than 350 injured.

In the southern third of the country (South Lebanon), usually a half-hour bus ride from Beirut, now takes hours to travel in either direction because vehicles can not get through. Instead, people are shuttled from one giant crater to the next, where they walk across debris-strewn holes in the ground or wade through rivers once spanned by wrecked bridges to reach another taxi — if they manage to find one — or mini-bus ready to take them to the next impasse. Throughout the risky journey, their vehicles are subject to Israeli attacks; so many people prefer to stay home and try to cope with the situation. But a considerable number are subsequently convinced to run the gauntlet when the Israeli military warns them that they have two or three hours to leave their villages. On several occasions, such warnings have been followed less than one hour later by air or artillery



strikes on civilian vehicles leaving the village. Dozens of civilians have been killed in their own homes, with and without warnings beforehand.

Lebanon has approximately 3.5 million people. On a per-capita basis, as of Wednesday, July 21, 2006, the rough equivalent of 9/11 has happened every day here for ten days. Furthermore, Israel is using banned weaponry in its war on Lebanon: For instance, Lebanon's main Southern town of Nabatieh was attacked with phosphorus bombs, which caused fires in the surrounding fields. Israeli air strikes have ravaged Beirut's southern suburbs and show no sign of ending. The scene included the usual debris of twisted metal, shattered glass, and chunks of cement that follow bomb and rocket blasts, along with personal items, including abandoned toys, scorched mattresses, and dusty books and photos. Dozen of buildings were completely demolished in Haret Hreik and in Bir al-Abed in the southern suburbs, where 20,000 people formerly resided.

Read more at www.wilpf.org/campaigns/WCUSP/articles/lebanon_letters.htm and www.wilpf.int.ch/updates/leb.htm

Above: Beirut, post-bombing.

Photo: WILPF Lebanon.

More dispatches on next page ➤

► MIDDLE EAST DISPATCHES

continued from page 15

PREWAR ISRAEL

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*From the 2006 WILPF Israel
Section report*

The Israel Section of WILPF has been very busy this past year with everything that has been happening in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The WILPF sisters are active with many related organizations including Machsom Watch, which monitors and reports on the checkpoints set up by the Israeli army inside the occupied territories; Yesh Din (“There is a law”), which helps Palestinians to file complaints and seek justice for damage done to them and their property by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Territories; Women in Black, which aims to end the occupation and promote peace everywhere; Bat Shalom, the Israeli/Palestinian Jerusalem Link for dialogue with many Palestinian women’s organizations; Neled, Women for Co-Existence, which sponsors educational speakers on current events; Tandit, or the Democratic Women’s Movement, an organization of Jewish and Palestinian Israeli women; and The Coalition of Women for Peace, which comprises all of these organizations, but also functions independently to help organize large actions.

Our members do a lot of humanitarian work — such as teaching English to Palestinian women; helping needy families (we are finding more and more hunger in the Occupied Territories); driving sick children to Israeli hospitals; helping with olive harvesting, and acting as human shields in the face of settler violence. In addition, WILPF sisters have been visiting and supporting Palestinians who have been wounded through the actions of the Israeli army and are hospitalized in Israel.

ISRAEL IN WARTIME

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From the 2006 WILPF Israel Section report

Since the beginning of the war in Lebanon, the radical left, to which we feel we belong, has demanded that the two [captured Israeli] soldiers used as a justification for the war be released through negotiations and an exchange of prisoners. (There are many Lebanese prisoners in Israeli prisons.) From the first day, we protested



against the brutality of the Israeli incursion into Lebanon; the bombing of the south Lebanese infrastructure, water and electricity and thousands of homes; the bombing of the cities, Tyre and Beirut; the killing of hundreds of Lebanese citizens, causing thousands to become refugees; the Hezbollah aggression against civilians in northern Israel; the shelling of Israeli cities and villages; and the indiscriminate killing of civilians.

The war increased our activity load. There were two to three demonstrations every week! We have been involved in planning, carrying out, and participating in these actions. We stand firmly with all those who demand, “Stop shooting! Sit down and talk!” The only solutions to our problems will come through negotiations. We believe that any discussions of long-term peace agreements must take into consideration economic security for Israelis, Lebanese and Palestinians. Without economic security there is no possibility for a viable and sustainable agreement that can guarantee living without violence in this area.

We believe that any unilateral action — such as the unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000, or the proposed Unilateral Convergence plan in the West Bank — is bound for failure. Only a just and honorable agreement between all parties involved can stop this long bloody ordeal and lead us to a new future. We believe it is possible, if Israel will understand it cannot shuffle the cards on its own, and must come to terms with its opponents, whoever they may be. ❖

Above: “Negotiations and not power!” Demonstrators opposite the Ministry of Defense in Tel-Aviv.

Photo: Rachel Avnerly

Teach Your Children Well: At Philadelphia's Parkway Northwest High School, Peace Is Part of the Curriculum

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Miranda Spencer
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When the Philadelphia School District established a military academy in the city's Mt. Airy neighborhood in spring 2005 as part of its initiative to create more small "magnet" high schools, residents and activists were "up in arms," recalls Laura Richlin, a long-time WILPF member. In a city known for violent crime, they were able to convince the schools superintendent that a high school promoting peace deserved equal time.

So a year ago last fall, the Parkway Northwest High School adopted the theme of peace and opened its doors with a new name: Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice. In addition to taking regular college-preparatory coursework, its some 300 students learn to be leaders in nonviolent conflict resolution and international cooperation through special classes and programs overseen by Laura, the school's Peace Program coordinator, and supported by a committee of advisors including WILPF and the American Friends Service Committee, among others.

For example, this year's freshmen study Social Development and Leadership, a multi-disciplinary class created with the help of Educators for Social Responsibility, to develop their conflict-resolution skills, self-awareness, and multi-cultural sensitivity. They also take Multicultural Ethical Issues, a social studies course that trains students to identify the causes of conflicts and to collaborate on solutions to local and global problems. Gradually, teachers are threading peace and social justice themes into the study of history, English, and other subjects. Their emphasis is on promoting alternatives to violence rather than opposition to government policies, however. "We have plenty of students here who have family involved in the [Iraq] war," Laura notes, "so we don't take an official stand."

In addition, the school offers seminars on peace and social justice topics, peer mediation, and extracurricu-



Logo for Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice.

Photo: Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Justice

lars including a date-violence awareness and prevention group and an international relations group called the Jubilee Club. Run in collaboration with International House Philadelphia, the club places students in community-service projects that let them practice presentation skills and hold video conferences

with youth abroad. Those who successfully complete the intensive yearlong program spend two weeks in England working with their British counterparts. In this way, says Laura, "Students learn to be global citizens."

The first of its kind in Philadelphia, the peace high school was greeted enthusiastically by adults, she says. "It's become an inspiration to the community! Parents and community members are stepping forward and volunteering. We've had the opportunity to work with all sorts of organizations that a regular high school would not."

Some students took longer to warm up to the concept, having enrolled at the school for its academic program rather than its peacemaking philosophy, Laura recalls. (Though public, Parkway Northwest is selective — students must have acceptable grade and behavior records and participate in an interview before admission.) Now, however, they seem excited. "They come to me and say, 'I used to think this was corny, but now I see that we're doing more fun things.'"

But the school's theme really "hit home" for the students last summer, with the death by gunfire of their 17-

year-old classmate Terrence Adams. "They're still processing it," says

"Students learn to be global citizens."

Laura. "The senior class is very small, and they really notice his absence." To help the kids understand the tragedy's larger lessons, in late September Parkway Northwest sponsored a field trip to a gun-control rally in Harrisburg, PA, in Terrence's honor. They carried a poster bearing the boy's photo, one of hundreds at the rally picturing loved ones lost to bullets. The school's

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Teen Activists Speak Out

“My Age Has No Impact on How Much I Care”

Lila Zucker

In 1999, when I was 11, my parents took me to the Seattle protests of the World Trade Organization. I remember seeing the turtles and the Teamsters marching together, representing the unity that environmentalists and union activists felt in fighting the WTO.



The energy at the WTO protests and hearing about the Radical Cheerleaders — a group of young activists who cheer at rallies and protests — made me want to get involved on my own. My grandma is a proud member of the Seattle Raging Grannies, so I guess activism has always been in my blood.

The Radical Cheerleaders seemed so cool because they were inspiring change and having fun at the same time. Through the Cheerleaders, I found the group Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (PPRC), which is a progressive social justice group that helps to organize many events in the Portland area. They became my second family.

In PPRC, I was treated as an equal, not as a child. At all the meetings I started going to, people were so excited to see “new blood.” The adults treated me, and the handful of other students who were there, as though we would one day save the world. Everyone was excited to have students speak at large marches and participate in planning — people were there to listen and did not care that I couldn’t vote or even drive. The entire group became my mentors, pushing me to contribute even more by being a labor reporter for a local progressive newspaper and working with the Cascadia Network for Peace & Justice, which organized the mass demonstrations in Portland before and during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. There were always opportunities to contribute, and I was able to do things I never thought I would do and which led me to my passion — social justice and union organizing.

Still, we student activists often get the feeling that, in the minds of other activists, we are somehow less capable of doing certain things. Want to get young people involved? Listen to us because of our ideas, not our age, and encourage us to take leadership roles. For example, we can do things usually reserved only for “seasoned” activists, like getting march permits, planning actions, and acting as police liaisons.

Being a beat reporter and working with the labor group Jobs with Justice has helped me show others that being a student activist does not mean that I care only about “youth” issues such as military recruitment or education. Breaking everyone’s stereotypes of lazy, apathetic, trouble-making teenagers makes it fun to do the work I do.

Joining the Radical Cheerleaders showed me that you can always make someone’s day by trying to change the world, even one pom-pom-filled cheer at a time. I am just as excited to become a Raging Granny as I was to become a Radical Cheerleader, because my age has no impact on how much I care.

Lila Zucker, 18, is a first year student at the University of Washington.

Do-It-Yourself Peace Activism

Tura Campanella Cook

Youth activists are all around us. They are the young women and men who walked out of high school classes in the spring of 2006 over immigration legislation, and then continued to hone their skills as activists. And before the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, they were among those who demonstrated to stop that war; some even formed their own peace organizations, rather than join existing organizations run by adults. Will Martin of Austin, TX, is one such individual.

Will was a 14-year-old high school freshman when he became inspired by television coverage of demonstrations against the U.S. invasion. After the war began, he saw young people felt helpless and fewer of them turned out to protest.

So Will and others formed Youth Activists of Austin (YAA) in 2004 to promote peace activism among youth. By maintaining an email list and organizing popular concerts, they grew their organization. “We were just a few white guys when we started,” said Will, who recently graduated from high school. “But as we grew, we became more diverse.”

YAA’s biggest success was in changing district-wide policy on military recruitment on public high school campuses. Working with an adult group, Non-Military Options for Youth (NOY), YAA lobbied the Austin Independent School Board to significantly restrict military recruiters at schools and to ensure that the forms parents fill out on the first day of school include an opt-out box that prevents student information from being released to recruiters. By law, opt-out was always an option, but until YAA and NOY’s efforts, few knew about it or how to do it.

When asked how adult peace organizations could attract youth members, Will said youth should organize themselves over issues that affect them, as he has. He pointed out that it is our job to recruit adults.

Will is now figuring out “what to do with my life. My activism might be through my work, like theater or art.” He’s already made a start — helping to organize YAA’s recent “Stand Up for Better Schools Rally” featuring hip hop, spoken word, and video artists.

Tura Campanella Cook is a member of the WCUSP campaign.

How to Bring Young Energy Into WILPF

Vickie M. Fouts

The Fresno, CA branch has found a way to bring youth — and their energy and new ideas — into our work. For the past three years, we have partnered with California State University, Fresno to hire a total of five social-work graduate students as unpaid interns. WILPF's first international president, Jane Addams, was also the first U.S. social worker. Like Addams, these students understand the need for systemic change to promote social justice.

The arrangement has been a win-win situation. WILPF gained 512 hours of free labor per student per year, and the interns got to learn about social, economic, and racial justice organizing at the grassroots level. Three even served as board members during their internships and two attended the WILPF National Congress in San Francisco last year.

Because these individuals were graduate students, they were mature self-starters, and needed only general

supervision. As their supervisor, I learned as much from them as they from me — if not more — and I consider them my friends today.

All of our past interns are still WILPF members and have found, or plan to seek, employment in the social justice rather than the clinical arena of social work. For example, Ruth Obel-Jorgensen has spent the past year as a student organizer for the University of California system. Catherine Garoupa took a fellowship in India and

“The arrangement has been a win-win situation.”

was just hired as an organizer for the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition and the Madera Coalition for Community Justice.

If there is a college in your branch's area with an internship program in its social work or other departments, I highly recommend that you contact the administrators to see if a similar partnership can be built. As I say, it's a win-win proposition.

Vickie M. Fouts is a member of the Building the Beloved Community Committee.

► **WOMEN AND CUBA** *from page 12*
el, with little chance of renewal based on the new guidelines.

These new measures have not gone uncontested. After the report was issued, Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's National Assembly, stated that Cuba would resist this plan for the virtual annexation of Cuba. Fidel Castro announced that any individual or organization receiving money from the United States to realize the goals of the commission's plans would be tried for treason.

In the United States, a group of academics called the Emergency Coalition to Defend Educational Travel has filed suit in U.S. District Court challenging the restrictions on travel to Cuba and defending academic freedom. In July,

Pastors for Peace, the U.S.– Cuba Labor Exchange, and the Venceremos Brigade conducted their annual “travel challenge,” bringing more than 150 people to Cuba without a U.S.-issued license. Within weeks, travel-ban challengers received notice from the U.S. government of its intention to penalize them for their actions.

It is imperative that WILPF members write and call their Congress members to change U.S. policies toward Cuba. Please visit www.lawg.org to read the commission's report, obtain the latest updates on U.S.– Cuba relations, and learn about current U.S. congressional legislation that deserves your support.

Cindy Domingo is a member of the Women and Cuba Committee.

► **PEACE HIGH SCHOOL** *from page 17*

adults are also encouraging the students to create an anti-gun violence action or commemoration, perhaps as the senior project required of all graduating Philadelphia high schoolers.

Whatever they decide, the class of 2007 will likely take what they've learned about peace and social justice onto university campuses — according to Parkway Northwest leaders, 100 percent of last year's graduates

were accepted to college.

For more information on Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice, visit www.pccy.org/peace_school.htm. The school is seeking tutors, mentors, speakers, and peace posters/buttons; to volunteer, contact Laura Richlin at parkway-peace@hotmail.com. To learn more about the Philadelphia Military Academy, visit www.philadelphiama.com.

Miranda Spencer is editor of this issue of Peace & Freedom.

International Perspective: Engaging Swedish Youth in WILPF

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Lisa Hagström
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We all have a personal story behind why we came to join WILPF. Mine is that I Googled. I was at the end of my university peace-and-conflict studies program and wanted to do something practical with my time. So I Googled “women and peace” and came upon the Swedish section of WILPF, where I managed to get a part-time internship.

I noticed quickly the need and also the wish for younger members in the Swedish section. So I started thinking about what drew me to WILPF and what I, as a young member, would want. I later took part in several great discussions with the board of WILPF Sweden on how to fulfill some of these basic needs and we identified several areas on which to focus:

1. Short-term projects in which young members can get involved
2. Activities in which both younger and older members can take part and share knowledge and experience
3. Concrete ways to use WILPF’s international network
4. Access to the areas where our target group — young people — is found.

We then began planning ways to improve in these areas. In particular, we needed to address the fact that young women in Sweden usually hesitate to take on long-term projects, not because the goal is unimportant, but because it is difficult to dedicate, say, one year to something when you may be attending school, moving, getting a new job, or having your first child.

We therefore started a number of projects that address these concerns. One option is a training for trainers. With the help of Swedish government funding, we have hired a facilitator to hold training sessions in all our branches. Participating members will receive material to take into schools, libraries, cafés, and events where they will speak about our focus issues.

Right now, we are conducting training on the issue of disarmament. The training-for-trainers project has received great interest from both younger and older members, a bonus in that it allows all generations to work together in a way that lets them steer the process. The younger women may want to speak at schools, while the older ones may prefer to speak at libraries — or vice versa! We have also focused on holding seminars and workshops at universities and schools, where we have recruited many new members.

What has drawn the most attention to WILPF is our internship program. By marketing our internships to career centers and student counselors at universities and colleges

all around Sweden, we have made ourselves visible to people who had never heard of WILPF before. Volunteers contact us regularly and we have even started new branches in university cities!

“Members receive material to take into schools, libraries, cafés, and events where they will speak about our focus issues.”

Another clear interest among young Swedish women is participating in the international arena. Therefore, we offer opportunities to cooperate on projects with several other WILPF sections, showing our members not only what the other sections are doing, but also how they can work for peace across borders. For example, members of Young WILPF (YWILPF) from close to half of WILPF’s sections shared thoughts and ideas at the YWILPF meeting held parallel to the International Executive Committee meeting this past September, and we are currently planning study visits to Geneva and Japan.

When YWILPF was created, we wanted it to be a network for the young women of WILPF to share ideas, thoughts, and frustrations about world politics; find other sections with which to cooperate; and bring younger members and older members together. Unfortunately, many older women in WILPF feel that the younger do not appreciate their experience and knowledge, while the younger women feel that the older ones do not recognize their insight and potential, nor are they given room to prove themselves.

To change this, we first need to acknowledge that the problem exists. YWILPF provides a means for young women to exercise their own experience and knowledge, and to share them with other members of WILPF. However, the projects and activities resulting from their work should be integrated into projects in the individual’s section. In this way, we can all learn from and empower each other.

Working to bring younger members to WILPF does not need to be difficult. All we need to do is get out there and show ourselves. And if we can identify and agree upon the vision for which we are all working, we can also find ways to achieve it using everyone’s unique wisdom.

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Lisa Hagström is the secretary general of WILPF Sweden and a member of the steering group of YWILPF.
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ter to be under surveillance by the FBI and the Federal Joint Terrorism Task Force. Undercover agents attended Pittsburgh vigils and marches against the war in Iraq, at taxpayer expense, and uncovered the Thomas Merton Center's shocking secret: It is a law-abiding, nonviolent organization opposed to war.

WHY FILE? WHY NOW?

WILPF is filing now as a way to expose and challenge the escalating U.S. government attacks on dissent and dissenters. We are motivated by the revelations of spying on citizens authorized by President Bush without even token permission from the panel of judges who review such requests under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). (The judges have, historically, seldom refused any government surveillance requests.) Filing as part of a collaborative initiative makes the process more efficient and creates a stronger impact in defense of our constitutional rights to protest, to organize, to express our views, and to mobilize for change.

WHY WILPF?

We don't yet know that we have been spied on recently. We do know that other peace groups have, particularly in California. We also know that WILPF's Philadelphia office building and its meetings were under (not very) secret infiltration and surveillance in 2000 during the Republican National Convention. And we know that when WILPF filed a previous FOIA request, in 1977, the FBI released to us nearly two dozen boxes of materials dating back to the early 1920s. These documents now occupy several feet of shelf space in the WILPF archives at the Swarthmore College Peace Collection. Although we can expect that any new documents obtained will be like the old ones, filled with deletions to hide crucial names or dates, the effort is still an important way to assert our rights, defend our freedom, and learn the extent to which our government will go to prevent any challenge.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Although it is more than four months since the FOIA filing, not one government agency has responded. (Under

FROM A JANUARY, 1931 LETTER FROM U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

“. . . a Mr. Charles A. Jinter, of Wenonah, New Jersey, who produced a card identifying himself as a member of the American Legion in that city, called and stated that some members of the Legion had been exercised because a feminine friend had joined the International League of Peace and Freedom. These members had requested him . . . to call at the Bureau and ascertain whether this organization is affiliated with the Communists.

“Of course I informed [him] that the files of the Bureau are confidential and no information could be furnished even though the Bureau should have information on this organization. He stated that the purpose of obtaining this information was to persuade the lady to resign from her membership if it were a Communist Organization. I informed him that, speaking personally, it was my opinion the organization is a member of the Women's Communist International, which is affiliated with the Communist International.”

the law, “all federal agencies are required to respond to a FOIA request within twenty business days [after receipt of request], excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.”) If you as an individual, or your branch, would like to file a FOIA request to discover the nature of possible surveillance in your area, please contact me at the National Office at mdkent@wilpf.org. The ACLU of Pennsylvania has been contacting its own branches around the country and can tell us whom to contact for support. (One of the idiosyncrasies of our national security state is that it is

really not “national.” The FBI and other agencies are fragmented and locally based so that the most effective filings need to be regionally or locally based rather than made to the national offices in Washington, D.C.)

In our filing statement, we quoted WILPF past president Sandy Silver: “It was—and is—a sad day when a woman is considered ‘dangerous’ for believing in and working for equality and justice for all people. If these goals are still considered ‘dangerous,’ then our government has a great deal to worry about.” Stay tuned.

For more information about the FOIA, visit www.usdoj.gov/04foia/04_3.html. Learn more about the ACLU's Don't Spy on Me! program at www.aclu.org.

Mary Day Kent is executive director, U.S. WILPF.



Colombian mother and child at the Immigration Rights Rally in Hazelton, PA, September 3, 2006.

photo: Mary Day Kent

WILPF Membership Report:

Keeping Connected, Striving to Grow

The Membership Committee of the U.S. Board

Membership is WILPF's lifeblood, both its strength and the source of its passion! Our members provide grassroots leadership and, through their dues, the financial resources needed to promote our work on the local, national, and international levels. Membership numbers also give WILPF credibility and visibility: The more members we have, the larger the movement for peace with justice. Women need to unite and speak out with one voice to challenge war and the Bush Administration's military budget, which wastes resources better spent on human needs such as access to health care and affordable housing, environmental sustainability, and quality public education for all. WILPFers take the long view in our work for human and civil rights, trusting it will lead us to workable alternatives to war.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

WILPF provides much more than membership in an organization. One of our greatest resources, and what sets us apart from other peace and justice organizations, is our analysis of issues. This analysis enables members to present facts to legislators and the public when challenging policy. With it comes a deeper understanding of the intersections of various forms of oppression that are causes of war. Another distinction is that while many groups today are working to stop the war in Iraq, WILPF's goal is to prevent war. This is hard work, because U.S. culture is "hypermasculine," supporting violence and encouraging conflict.

Members' financial contributions, including dues, support the staff at the National Office, the work of the campaigns, the issue committees, International WILPF, the newly designed website, our highly regarded internship program, and resource development to enhance WILPF's visibility. Your membership connects you to a network of local activists and offers opportunities to build leadership skills and to attend national and international conferences that connect you with WILPF members globally. Due to WILPF's NGO consultative status at the United Nations, members can even participate in U.N. programs!

As the electronic world expands, WILPF activists are able to stay more connected using email, blogs, and listservs. The Membership Committee has also initiated national conference calls, in which members from all parts of the country can participate in a phone conversation at the same time. The first few conference calls have

been enlightening, and we will continue to use the calls as a tool to help members make their voices heard and forge personal connections across great distances.

SURVEY RESULTS

Last year, WILPF asked members to complete a membership survey. We tried very hard to ensure that each member received a survey. It was printed in the Fall issue of *Peace and Freedom*, copies were sent to the branches for distribution, and, finally, directly to members in various mailings. The surveys continue to trickle in, but to date we have received only 366 replies. While they do provide a small statistical sampling, we would really like to hear from all of our members to get a truer picture of their concerns.*

One purpose of the survey is to collect demographic facts about our membership. This information helps us to make our programs more effective as we engage in organizational planning at the national level, and to gain foundation funding. Some of the more interesting preliminary results: 27 percent of respondents have been members for 21 years or more, and 10 percent have been members for 50 years or more. Forty-five percent joined WILPF through family or friends.

While WILPF has always had influence in high places much larger than our actual numbers, it is also true that our membership has not increased in several years. Many people see recruiting new members as a very big hurdle. But the key to recruiting is simply asking! As noted, 45 percent of our present members joined WILPF because a family member or a friend asked her/him to join, and many stay members for a long time.

Many times we assume someone is most likely to join because she/he has just attended a wonderful program and returns for another meeting. But another step is needed: People like to be invited.

We would like to double our membership in the next six months. Join us! It is simple but requires boldness. Each of us needs to ask just one person to join WILPF, to get involved, and to put her or his passion to work. When you recruit someone, contact Jody Dodd at jdodd@wilpf.org so she can welcome them officially as well. In this way, we will grow one member at a time. As Jean Shinoda Bolen's latest book, *An Urgent Message from Mother: Gather the Women, Save the World*, reminds us, it is up to us — and the time is now. ❖

***It's not too late to send in your survey. If you have misplaced it, please contact Jody Dodd at the National Office: jdodd@wilpf.org.**



Peace Education

2006 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards and Ceremony Announced

How WILPF Branches Can Promote Peace to Connect with Your Communities

Each year since 1953, the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards honors children's books published in the United States during the previous year. The books' themes effectively address or promote the cause of peace, justice, world community, and gender and racial equality to young readers. The books also meet conventional standards of literary and artistic excellence.

The 2006 award recipients have been named:

- *Delivering Justice: W. W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights* by Jim Haskins, illustrated by Benny Andrews (Candlewick Press), is the winner in the Books for Younger Children category. Law, a mail carrier by trade and a courageous activist by conviction, catalyzed and led his community in the peaceful integration of all public facilities in Savannah, GA, in the 1940s and well beyond. Haskins traces Law's impressive progress in succinct chapters, each accompanied by expressive oil-and-collage illustrations by Andrews.
- *Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX, the Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America* by Karen Blumenthal (Atheneum Books for Young Readers) is the winner in the Books for Older Children category. Replete with photos, comic strips, and progress "score cards," the book provides exciting moment-by-moment political coverage of the 1971 bill that ensures equal education for girls. It is splendidly executed in design and documentation.
- *Poems to Dream Together — Poemas Para Soñar Juntos* by Francisco X. Alarcón (Lee and Low Books) has been named an honor book in the Books for Younger Children category. In 19 short and heartfelt poems in both Spanish and English, Alarcón encourages and inspires us to dream alone and to work and dream together, as families and communi-

ties, to make our hopes for a better world come true. The stylized paintings of Paula Barragán colorfully extend and interpret the theme.

Two books have won honors in the Books for Older Children category, each written as a prose poem:

- *The Crazy Man* by Pamela Porter (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press)
- *Sweetgrass Basket* by Marlene Carvell (Dutton Children's Books).

The Jane Addams Children's Book Awards are presented on the third Friday of October each year in New York City.

BOOK ORDERING INFORMATION

WILPF Branches may order sets of the 2006 award-winning books to use in promoting peace education, WILPF membership, and branch building, as well as to enhance visibility in your community. At a time when many schools are looking for alternatives to violence, militarism, and other forms of injustice, this year's winning books can be donated to school and community libraries as well as to women's, multicultural and other community centers. The cost of each set of JACBA books is \$70.

Checks should be made out to Jane Addams Peace Association and sent to 777 United Nations Plaza, 6th floor, New York, NY 10017-3521. Please include the name of your branch and where the books are to be shipped. Books will be available to branches while stock lasts, or until February 15, 2007.

For additional information about the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards and a complete list of books honored since 1953, see www.janeaddamspeace.org.

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

The Jane Addams Peace Association: Your 501(c)3

A QUIZ FOR BRANCHES

QUESTION:

DO YOU KNOW WHOM TO CONTACT WHEN:

- Your branch is holding a fundraiser and you want to offer tax-deductible giving options to your donors?
- You wish to set up a fund to honor or memorialize an individual member, for which all book-keeping and accounting will be done for you?
- You or your branch wishes to endow or create an earmarked fund for WILPF?
- You wish to make a tax-deductible donation to a branch or to National or International WILPF?
- You wish to open an annuity that will make quarterly payments to you during your lifetime, and help ensure the financial future of WILPF?

ANSWER:

YOUR JANE ADDAMS PEACE ASSOCIATION!

Linda Bell, executive director
(212) 682-8830
Email: japa@igc.org

Great thanks to Donna Barkman, immediate past chairperson of the Book Awards Committee, for three years of devoted stewardship, and our deepest appreciation to Millee Livingston for her tireless service over the years in the distribution of JACBA books.

► KAY CAMP *continued from page 4*

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF KAY CAMP'S ACTIVIST CAREER

1961: Her leadership in WILPF leads to a seminar for Soviet and U.S. women to meet and discuss peace and disarmament, the first such meeting during the Cold War.

1971: Heads a WILPF delegation to North and South Vietnam, working with women's groups in both Hanoi and Saigon to sign a peace agreement on behalf of the women of Vietnam and the USA. Also co-founds the National Women's Political Caucus.

1972: Wins the Democratic primary election in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives, campaigning on a platform "to use the billions being spent on the military to free our cities and their citizens from the blight of poverty and discrimination." (She lost to the Republican incumbent.)

1974: Takes a round-the-world speaking tour. It includes a visit to Chile following the U.S.-backed coup, to lead a team of six women to investigate human-rights violations there. Testifies on the subject before the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the U.S. Congress.

1978: Appointed to U.S. delegation to the U.N. Special Session on Disarmament. The State Department asks her to run a conference about the SALT II missile treaty for leaders of women's organizations.

1980: Appointed to a three-year term as a commissioner of UNESCO. Later is briefly jailed for her protest at the Limerick (PA) nuclear power plant.

1983: Arrested at the White House for gaining illicit entry and refusing to leave. (She wanted to talk to President Reagan.)

Kay was a war tax resister for many years and engaged in nonviolent civil disobedience well into her 80s.

Compiled from material by Barbara Harris of the Delco Branch for WILPF's November 12, 2005 "Tribute to Kay Camp"; Kay's obituary in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (July 23, 2006); and WILPF archives.



Kay Camp, *right*, in 1971, discussing the Vietnam Peace Declaration with Marii Hasegawa, 1996 winner of the Niwano Peace award known as "the Japanese Nobel."

WILPFers of the World Unite at 2006 IEC Meeting

Darien De Lu

What does feminism offer peace, economic and social justice, and human rights activists? This question was the focus of the seminar offered on the second afternoon of WILPF's International Executive Committee (IEC) Meeting outside London, September 7–12, and pursued in the plenary session the next morning. A remarkable group of women from some 20 of WILPF's national sections shared experiences and ideas as we grappled with this question and a related one: How is change generated?

The seminar's keynote speaker, International Vice President Annelise Ebbe of Denmark, emphasized the value of a feminist analysis of issues. This analysis was useful in appreciating the subsequent presentation on the Middle East situation. Members of the Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel sections (including both Jewish and Palestinian women) gave a shared report about the on-the-ground impacts of the warfare and militarization besieging their countries, describing the heartbreaking effects of contempt for human life and dignity.

Using feminist analysis, we can also see how the increasing militarization of modern life — whether in the Middle East or the United States — reinforces patriarchal and hierarchical structures and attitudes that value obedience and the use of violence. In contrast, WILPF celebrates compassion and humanism as part of a culture of peace.

Other section reports at the meeting reflected the sad state of the world, riddled with armed conflicts, economic problems, and a marked rightward shift in politics. So this IEC was necessarily forward looking. In committees and work groups, we assessed our progress on projects conducted via email during the rest of the year. We then built on that success, laying plans and setting goals for our work in the areas of peace and security, environmental sustainability, and global economic and social justice. (You can read section reports and learn about other topics covered in the 2006 IEC agenda at www.wilpf.int.ch/events/2006IEC.)

Young WILPF (YWILPF) offered an especially bright point at this IEC. The group's members organized a successful pre-IEC Gertrud Baer seminar for young WILPFers and issued a series of proposals to promote WILPF's work.

Besides doing a great deal of work, the IEC meeting gave us the chance to be encouraged and inspired by the efforts of our sister WILPF members around the globe. Being part of an IEC gathering is a real privilege— espe-

cially for me, coming from the Twilight Zone of the United States, where G.W. Bush declares the flowering of democracy in the Middle East while launching an embargo of Palestine to protest its democratically elected Hamas government.

WILPF's next IEC Meeting will be a part of the Triennial International Congress in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, next year (*see below*). The South American location lends itself to examination of the resurgence of progressive democracies on that continent. Therefore, WILPF plans to organize a delegation to Colombia, who will report their findings to the 2007 congress. Another delegation will travel to Cuba in November 2006 to gather information that will be included in a study document for the congress.

The U.S. Section (that's us!) represents more than half of the total International WILPF membership of about 7,000. Consequently, International relies heavily on us for financial support and active involvement.

For further information about International WILPF, becoming active with International committees, or the upcoming election to choose the next U.S. IEC member, please contact me at conjoin@macnexus.org, or (916) 739-0860.

Get to know more about International WILPF by visiting our website at www.wilpf.int.ch. There you'll find information on our issue areas as well as links to WILPF's two excellent educational websites and YWILPF. You can also subscribe to International WILPF's journal, *International Peace Update*, each year when you renew your membership.

Darien De Lu is the U.S. IEC member.

Save the Dates!!

WILPF's next International Triennial Congress will be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia from July 21–27, 2007. For information and registration details, please visit www.wilpf.int.ch. SAVE THE DATES, and start planning now for yourself and your branch! Is there a young member you would like to send to the Gertrud Baer Seminar and congress? U.S. WILPF has two openings for voting delegates to the 2007 congress. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Jody Dodd (jdodd@wilpf.org) at the National Office before January 5, 2007 for more information and an application.

Las Mujeres Unidas Jamás Serán Vencidas! The Women United Shall Never Be Defeated!

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**For an update
on a branch near you
visit the website,
www.wilpf.org.**



BranchAction News

Leslie Reindl, Branch Action editor

Branches reporting: Baltimore, Berkeley, Boston, Cape Cod, Catonsville, Cleveland, Delaware County, Detroit, Los Angeles, Madison, Minnesota Metro, Monterey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, Sacramento, St. Louis, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Sierra Foothills, Triangle

Dear Friends: This will be my last edition of Branch Action News. After almost 10 years of reading your newsletters and writing up your amazing activities, I regretfully feel the need to retire from this line of work. I've so much enjoyed getting to know about you all, and working with former editor Theta Pavis on this section of *Peace and Freedom*. The National Office will let you know where to send your newsletters in the future. I so admire you all as you continue in the forefront of the urgent work needed to achieve a peaceful world.

— Leslie Reindl

GREAT IDEAS

At **St. Louis'** annual gathering, each place setting had cutouts printed with questions to stimulate discussion around the table, e.g., What's the best thing about WILPF? What is your favorite WILPF issue? **Monterey** has a 9/11 Truth Committee! And it sponsors a program called "The Power of Dissent in Democracy," an evening of reviews and discussion of books that question authority and challenge the status quo. **Triangle** is trying a new organizational structure, with a small steering committee and an emphasis on getting members to take more responsibility by establishing eight possible areas of involvement.

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI ANNIVERSARIES (AUGUST 6 AND 9)

Monterey held a commemoration for the community, floating memorial lanterns and reading messages from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. **Minnesota Metro's** Women in Black conducted a meditative procession at the Minneapolis Peace Garden. **St. Louis'** program for the anniversary was titled "Where Do We Go Now with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?" **Pittsburgh** held a teach-in and co-sponsored a protest at Bechtel's Bettis Atomic Power Lab: "No Nukes, No Wars, No Profiteers."

THE COSTS OF MILITARISM

San Jose gave a tea party and asked attendees to name their federal budget priorities. Health care, education, affordable housing, and alternative energy topped the list. The group sent cards listing these priorities to Sen. Dianne Feinstein at her California office. Similarly, **Pittsburgh** conducted a

penny poll on tax day. Health care won, with education close behind. **Peninsula** and **San Jose** heard from public policy analyst Jane Midgeley, speaking on "Women and the U.S. Budget: Where the Money Goes and What You Can Do About It." **Boston** is organizing around an impending Level 4 biolab planned for a densely populated area of Boston, in and near communities of color. **Philadelphia** hosted Phyllis Bennis, fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, as guest speaker at its annual luncheon. **Los Angeles** held a program titled "The United Nations and the United States: Can We Tame the Beast?" led by Carol Urner, co-chair of National WILPF's DISARM! committee.

LEBANON, IRAN, AND IRAQ

Many Branches announced a demand for a cease-fire in Lebanon, and a peaceful resolution of the Iran nuclear crisis, reprinting the National Office's statements in their summer newsletters. All branches continue to participate in demonstrations and actions against the occupation of Iraq. **Santa Cruz** asked members to spread news of a possible "bunker buster" bomb test on Shoshone native lands in Nevada, considered a prelude to use of such a bomb in Iran. (Opposition stopped this test, but the Department of Defense is now targeting a limestone quarry in Indiana for a 2007 test.) **Cape Cod** held a vigil for peace in the Middle East during the Lebanon invasion. **Portland** presented a program of music, dance, and poetry on Mother's Day, with money collected earmarked for the rebuilding of the Haditha Hospital in Iraq. **Philadelphia** had a great picture in the local paper during their weekly vigil on a main street. **Los Angeles** participated in the May 20 Protest for Peace at Vandenberg Space Command. **St. Louis** joined some 900 antiwar protesters in a peace march to the World's Fair Pavilion. **Monterey** has a new committee, Direct Action Task Force Against Torture, whose first action was to demonstrate at the Defense Language Institute at the Monterey Presidio wearing orange jumpsuits and black hoods. They got their picture on the front page of the local paper and coverage by local TV stations.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Madison held a public forum, "Working for Justice in the Mideast," featuring National Campaign Coordinator Odile Hugonot-Haber. **Portland** printed an article about the situation in Palestine as of June 2006 titled "Starvation Is a Weapon of Mass Destruction." It also printed the article, "Israel Lays Claim to Palestine's Water," about secret plans for a giant desalinization plant to deliver ocean water to Palestinian territory in exchange for Israel's being able to keep most of the water of the West Bank (see www.newscientist.com for details). **Baltimore** teamed with Tikkun Community to bring Prof. Sharif El Musa, author of *All That Remains*, a history of more than 400 Palestinian villages, to speak on his proposal for a tri-ethnic state of Israelis,

Palestinians, and Jordanians. **San Jose's** Middle East Committee presented "The Wall and the U.S." at a joint meeting with the National Organization of Women and Older Women's League. **Santa Cruz** heard from Dorothy Naor, an Israeli active in New Profile, a group dedicated to transforming Israel from a militaristic society to a civil one. **Detroit** urged a boycott of Caterpillar and asked people to write letters to Congress about Cat's violations of U.S. law in bulldozing houses in Palestine. **Peninsula** heard from National Board member Libby Frank and a local member on U.S. policy on the Middle East. They mentioned the founding of Combatants for Peace, comprising 120 former Israel Defense Forces and Palestinian fighters. **Cape Cod** heard from a member of the International Solidarity Movement. Hedy Epstein (**St. Louis**) was a reader for the New York Riverside Church production of "My Name is Rachel Corrie" in March. **St. Louis** members were featured in a Women in Black vigil commemorating the third anniversary of the murder of Corrie, an American who was crushed by a bulldozer while trying to stop it from destroying a Palestinian home. **Monterey** brought the Palestinian ambassador to the Monterey International Institute for a talk. **Philadelphia** is studying the connection between the pro-Israel lobbies and U.S. policy toward Israel.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

These countries are getting increased attention from our branches (and, not coincidentally, from our government). **Sierra Foothills** offered a multimedia tour and talk about the new Venezuela and the World Social Forum (held in Caracas in February); **Baltimore, Catonsville, Berkeley,** and **Madison** also heard from World Social Forum attendees. A Madison member described a water workshop she attended at which groups from all over Venezuela described how they created their own water systems. Community members mapped the neighborhood for water needs and then met with a government technician to develop plans and budget. **San Jose** co-sponsored an event with a Bolivian campesina leader — but her visa was revoked just before the program was held! It also co-sponsored a talk by a Venezuelan trade unionist. Triangle hosted a member's son, William Powers, an aid worker in Bolivia, to talk about his new book, *Whispering in the Giant's Ear: A Frontline Chronicle from Bolivia's War on Globalization*. **Los Angeles** held a program titled "Cuba: Economic Model for the Future." **Monterey** feted the 17th Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravanistas on their return from Cuba via Mexico, hosting a reception, dinner, and a screening of the film *The Little Yellow School Bus*.

WATER

On U.N. Water Day in March, women from **Cape Cod** dressed in water-themed costumes, including one made of discarded plastic water bottles. They participated in street theater and demonstrations, handing out literature and discussing

bottled water with passersby. In the evening they sponsored a public information meeting on water. **Cleveland's** Yoshiko Ikuta participated in Cleveland State University's Peace Week, making two presentations on WILPF's Save the Water campaign. **Madison** had a Water Appreciation Tent at a July 4 celebration. **Catonsville** sponsored a program on "The Chesapeake Watershed: Past, Present and a Hopeful Future," and a community-wide program on water issues.

Philadelphia heard from an organizer for Clean Water Action and from Kate Zaidan of National WILPF. Members of **Minnesota Metro's** first study group presented a coffee program on "Corporate Profiteering from Water: The Need to Protect Our Water for the Common Good." The branch has created a tri-fold water exhibit board that attracts lots of attention during tabling events. **Catonsville** and **Los Angeles** watched and then discussed the documentary *Thirst* at a branch meeting. **Santa Cruz** held a community forum on "Water: Threats and Solutions." **San Jose** gave a presentation on water issues for FORUM, a group of retired union members. Nancy Price was the speaker on "Human Rights vs. Corporate Rights: Keeping Water in Public Hands" at a program held by **Peninsula**. **Portland** advertised Maude Barlow's World Water Day lecture and printed excerpts about water from *Blue Gold*, Barlow's book with Tony Clarke.

LEGISLATION

WILPF branches are working on the following legislative campaigns: the California Clean Money Campaign (**Los Angeles**); the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 (HR 4681) (**Cape Cod, Peninsula**); anti-death penalty bills (**St. Louis**); the Freedom of Choice Act, and a depleted uranium exposure study (**Santa Cruz**); an end to torture by the U.S. military (**Portland**); abolition of nuclear weapons (**Catonsville, Portland**); "No" to more plutonium and anti-satellite weapons testing (**St. Louis, Detroit**); "No" to selling nuclear technology to India (**Los Angeles, Philadelphia**); "No" to President Bush's Sunset Commission, which could earmark any government program for termination (**Portland**); "No" to the federal government's plan to eliminate pesky entitlements by deliberately producing huge deficits (**Madison**); and last but not least, impeachment of George W. Bush (**Santa Cruz, Berkeley**).

OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN

Detroit joined the Michigan Alliance to Strengthen Social Security and Save Medicare; it promoted an event titled "Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime?" featuring Michigan State Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith and warning that Social Security privatization efforts are not dead. **Cape Cod** provided major support to a successful effort to gain a local human rights commission for Barnstable County. A **Peninsula** member prepared a list of points for WILPF members to use to rebut immigrant bashing, including the fact that NAFTA has driven more than a million Mexican farmers from their land. ❖

WILPF 2005 Annual Report

Overview

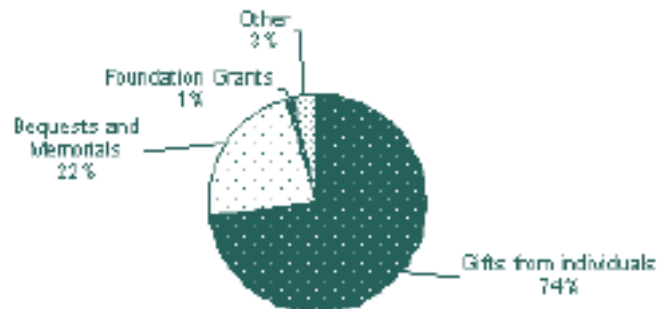
WILPF's 90th year, 2005, was marked by internal accomplishments and global challenges. U.S. WILPF's membership engaged in a democratic process to choose its program priorities for the 2005-2008 triennial term and, on March 8 (International Women's Day), launched two new national campaigns: "Save the Water" and "Women Challenging U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East." Both campaigns were presented to the membership — along with impressive plenaries, workshops, and action materials — at U.S. WILPF's 29th National Congress, held in August at San Francisco (CA) State University. Also at the congress, the 2005-2008 board began its term following a national election that brought us a second set of "co-presidents" and the highest number of board members in WILPF history who are 30 years old and younger — a living commitment to the future. This commitment was also embodied in members' generous response to the 90th anniversary fundraising campaign and the unprecedented wave of new life members joining WILPF in 2005.

Globally, WILPF's work was focused on the concluding efforts of the national campaigns (DISARM!, Challenge Corporate Power: Assert the People's Rights, Women and Cuba, and Uniting for Racial Justice). All of WILPF's work—in our campaigns, branch activism, and issue committees—was permeated by the horrors of the U.S. war in Iraq and the ongoing efforts to end it. On May 15, for example, WILPF organized a national day for "Counting the Cost/Stopping the War," featuring events from Alaska to Costa Rica that spotlighted civilian Iraqi and U.S. military deaths, which now total more than 100,000.

WILPF's Tucson branch inspired worldwide attention in July with a wave of Raging Granny actions at which the "grannies" were arrested at their local military recruitment office after they tried to enlist for service in Iraq so that young people would not need to go. ♦

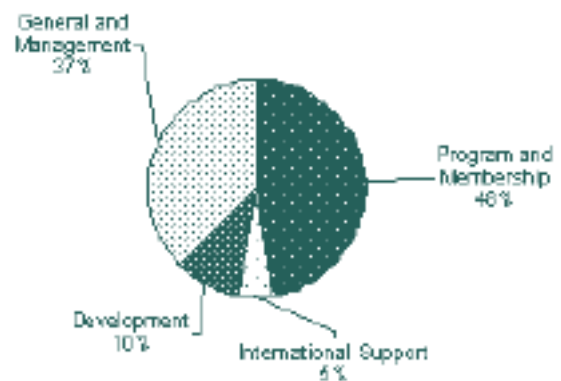
For a copy of the complete 2005 report, please contact the National Office by U.S. mail, or email wilpf@wilpf.org.

Financials



REVENUE (\$676,617.00)

Gifts from Individuals	\$494,257.00	74%
Bequests and Memorials	\$150,144.00	22%
Foundation Grants	\$ 8,689.00	1%
Other	\$ 23,527.00	3%



EXPENSES (\$577,678.00)

Program and Membership	\$275,601.00	48%
International Support	\$ 29,325.00	5%
Development	\$ 58,569.00	10%
General and Management	\$214,286.00	37%

BEQUESTS

In 2005, bequests were received from Charlotte Adams, Esther Bonner, Robert Blum, Violet N. Nettleton, and the Tarn Trust.



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JOIN YOUR WILPF SISTERS TO PLEDGE FOR PEACE

*See page 31 for an opportunity to help
provide a future of peace.*



**“As women come increasingly into public life,
constituting the most potentially powerful pressure
group, we must insist that peace is our priority. Women
subscribe fully to the UNESCO maxim
that ‘Wars begin in the minds of men.’
We offer the corollary: ‘Wars must end in the minds
of women.’ Peace and disarmament
must become our way of life.”**

— former WILPF National and International President Kay Camp
(b.1918–d.2006). (See page 4 for full story.)



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At this high school,
peace is part of the curriculum.

See page 17