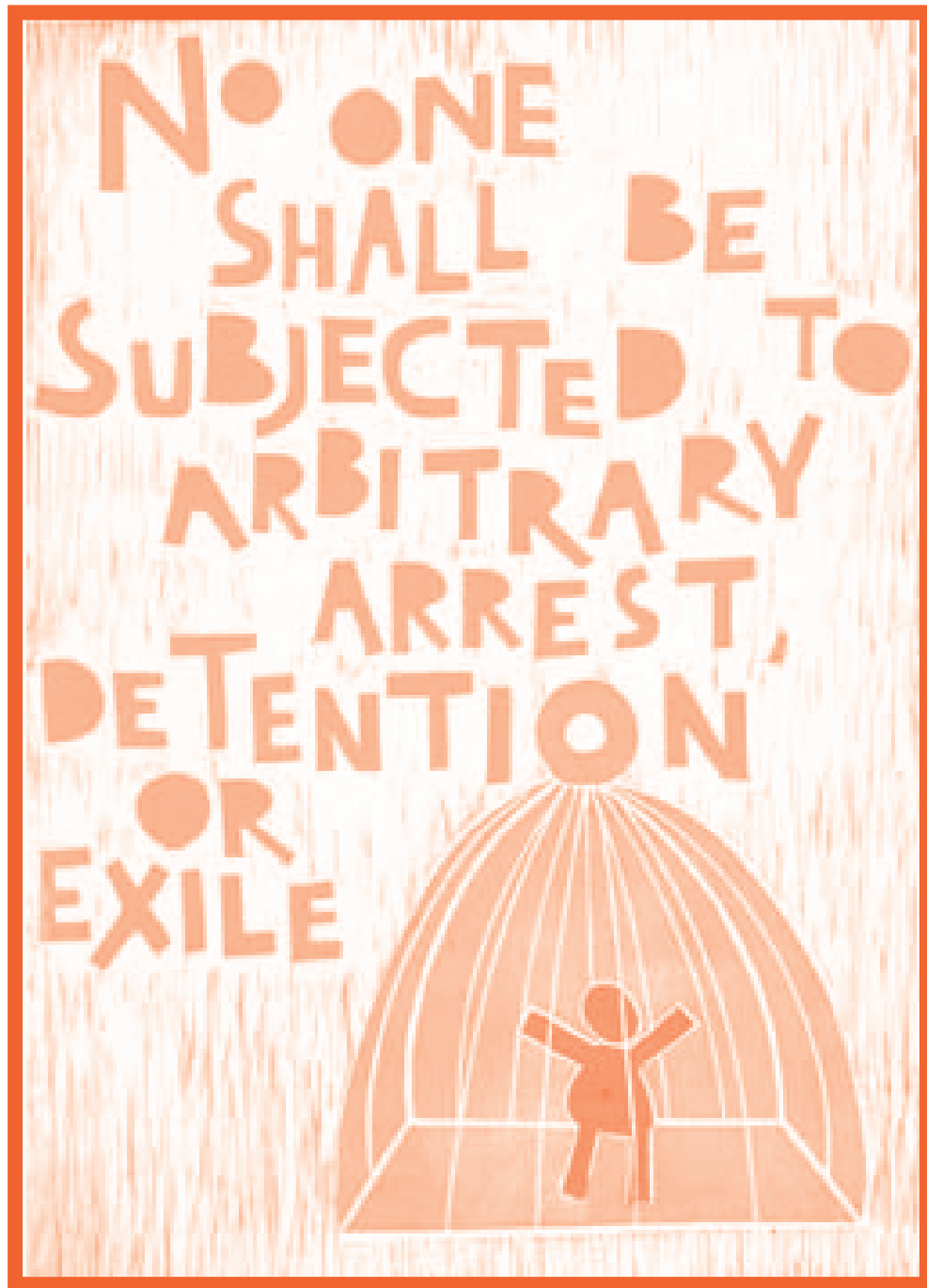


Peace & Freedom

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

Spring 2006

www.wilpf.org • Vol. 66 • No. 1



Human Rights for All



Women sort newly harvested coffee beans on a farm in Haiti. See *Haiti report* on page 20.

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Cover photo credit: United Nations Graphic

Peace and Freedom is published by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), U.S. Section. Submissions welcome; please query first. To contact the editor, e mail peacefreedom@wilpf.org.

Editor: Theta Pavis
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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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A Sense of Liberation

Mary Day Kent, Executive Director

A favorite but troubling legacy I have from my grandmother is a small browned paper book of photographs, entitled “Serbs in December” 1915. The pages feature photos of men, women and children fleeing over mountains in the snow, pulling their possessions on sleds, or taking shelter in rough stone houses — images that could be from the Balkan war in 1999 or blend in with scenes from Pakistan after the earthquake in October of last year.

My grandmother bought the book at a fundraising talk in Philadelphia, raising support for relief to Serbs suffering in the first year of the war we now think of as “the first world war.”

When I look at this book, I am struck by the bleak sepia beauty of the photos, the evidence that my



Photo caption reads, “Hurry up, the children are cold.”

grandmother was part of a community that cared about people suffering far away, the irony that in 1915 my grandmother was 20 but had no expectation of being able to vote at her next birthday. Of course for WILPF members the date 1915 rings bells since that was the height of the U.S. anti-war organizing, the movement that sent the women across the dangerous ocean to the conference at The Hague, the conference dedicated to the creation of “permanent peace.” We are still not there, and as we plunge into all our actions for this 91st year of WILPF, I am haunted by the little book from 1915. How many causes will we need to support? How much human need will we try to meet? How much hope do we have for the changes that will prevent such persistent suffering?

On the hopeful side, I think this issue of *Peace & Freedom*, devoted to the theme of “Human Rights” gives us both the expanding vision of the global human rights consensus and the range of WILPF involvement in advancing the reality of that vision. Last spring when we had the membership-wide voting process for campaigns to focus WILPF's national organizing, the outcome

seemed to me astonishingly true to the origins of the WILPF purpose. “Women Challenge U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East” takes up the WILPF goal of building just and non-military alternatives to war for resolving conflicts. The “Save the Water” campaign picks up the extensive efforts made by Jane Addams to create a just and effective system for ending world hunger. Both are key elements to making progress in the world today, and recognize the well-informed political intuition of WILPF members.

The direct descendant of my grandmother's little booklet is the card I just received from a WILPF member devoted to stopping the killings and displacement in Darfur, Sudan. The card is beautiful, the photo in color showing a young girl with dark brown skin, wrapped in indigo, with the golden sun and desert behind her. Do the nine decades of building international human rights institutions give us the means to protect her? Is the Darfurian girl in the sunshine any safer than the Serbian children in the snow 91 years ago? It is our obligation to see that she is and we do have the network of global resources, many of them created out of the ashes of past wars, that must be enabled to respond. The Serbs in 1915 had no World Food Organization, no U.N. High Commission for Refugees, no Declaration of Human Rights, no international Convention on Genocide. WILPF of course contributed its share to the process of creating this international web and WILPF members contribute every day to the worldwide effort to make it work for the global community and all of us vulnerable individuals who live on this planet that we must learn to protect and share.

I encourage all of us to take out our copies of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (or find it on the web at www.un.org/Overview/rights.html) and, at the risk of feeling awkward, read it aloud whether to yourself, your cat, or as many people as you can gather in listening range. I promise you that you will be lifted up, even stunned by the sense of liberation that comes from this affirmation of human dignity, value, and possibility. I hope you will find this issue of *Peace & Freedom* contributes to an understanding of this wonderful Declaration and the capacity it offers to us in our work to make peace a reality. ❖



Eleanor Roosevelt's Human Rights Legacy

Blanche Wiesen Cook

“Once more we are in a period of uncertainty, of danger, in which not only our own safety but that of all mankind is threatened. Once more we need the qualities that inspired the development of the democratic way of life. We need imagination and integrity, courage and a high heart.”

— *Eleanor Roosevelt*

The very existence of the United Nations and the promise of Human Rights, indeed the rule of law, domestic and international, are in a state of siege. At Cold War's end, after a century of destruction and



Eleanor Roosevelt holding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a poster in English, in November 1949 at Lake Success, New York, then the location of the U.N.

disaster, a U.S. president promises the planet all war all the time, nukes included. His unprecedented contempt for law threatens to return all humanity to the

Dark Ages, defined by dungeons, torture, ignorance, secrecy — the rule of unlimited violence. Only the United Nations, and the active mobilization of the world's peace activists, can restore sanity and the promise of civility as defined by the Magna Carta (1215), the U.S. Bill of Rights (1791) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

The survival of the U.N., and the restoration of human rights is an immediate and urgent challenge for WILPF today. The Universal Declaration goes to the heart of all our concerns: By U.N. standards, health and housing are human rights issues; racism and bigotry, employment and education are human rights issues. For decades the U.S. celebrated the United Nations and these rights, at least rhetorically, as part of America's historic legacy.

In 1945 the founders of the U.N. considered their responsibility for the future threefold: to maintain peace,

protect human rights, and promote economic development.

When President Harry Truman appointed Eleanor Roosevelt to the first General Assembly delegation, which met in London on October 24, 1945, she concentrated on human rights, believing that without justice and liberty there could be no peace; without a “Magna Carta for the world” economic development would remain a cruel and greedy business.

Eleanor Roosevelt imagined a global community that would have at its core respect for diversity and a commitment to cooperative support. She believed that such an ideal would be enhanced by a doctrine of intent, like the Declaration of Independence.

Eleanor Roosevelt was part of a small group of world leaders responsible for the declaration agreed to by the U.N. General Assembly on Dec. 10, 1948, to serve “as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Article 19, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

nations.” It remains the most far-reaching of all U.N. declarations on behalf of fundamental freedoms and economic and social rights.

As chair of the Human Rights Committee from 1946 to 1952, Eleanor Roosevelt was its chief architect and promoter — and every word was an agony of disagreement. At first, she was instructed by Truman's State Department to limit the principles to civil and political rights, similar to those in the Bill of Rights. This she refused to do, and offered to resign.

The woman who always advised her friends: if you have to compromise, compromise up, succeeded in persuading the United States to include the Soviet-originated demands for economic and social rights: “You can't talk civil rights to people who are hungry.”

The declaration remains a beacon of hope to stir our imagination and prod us on. Roosevelt considered it a first

Continued on page 11 ➤

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and “to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories.”

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, *Whereas* disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people, *Whereas* it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law, *Whereas* it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations, *Whereas* the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, *Whereas* Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, *Whereas* a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge, *Now, Therefore* THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and

rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

ARTICLE 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

ARTICLE 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

ARTICLE 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

ARTICLE 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

ARTICLE 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

ARTICLE 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

ARTICLE 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

ARTICLE 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

ARTICLE 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Editor's note: Due to space constraints, we have only printed the first 10 articles here. To read the full Declaration online, see www.un.org/Overview/rights.html.

WILPF's Role in Advancing Human Rights at Home

Laura Roskos

As a women's peace organization, WILPF pre-dates the codification of human rights in international law. Human rights law, with its emphasis on protecting the freedoms of belief and expression, is often understood as protecting "the natural rights of man" by limiting the extent to which governments can interfere in the self-determination of individuals. But human rights law also asserts a slate of positive responsibilities for governments. These are first enumerated in Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations



In her work at Hull House in Chicago, Jane Addams learned that people needed to have their basic human needs met before they could participate in "a vigorous civic life," including free elections.

as "taking joint and separate action" to "promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development . . . without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

In her writings on municipal government, completed mostly in the years immediately preceding what has become known as the Progressive Era in U.S. history, WILPF co-founder Jane Addams repeatedly expresses concern about the inability of municipal governments to adapt their institutions to the conditions of modern urban life, specifically their inability to devise the means by which to "receive" the talents and cultural assets of their newly arrived immigrant residents. "We have," she wrote, "a municipal administration in America which concerns itself only grudgingly with the social needs of people, and is largely reduced to the administration of restrictive measures." An evolving, robust democracy, she believed, would take a different attitude.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

When WILPF members in Pajaro Valley (CA), New York City and Pittsburgh (PA) work to establish single-payer universal health plans in their communities, they are working to develop

the human rights infrastructure envisioned by Addams. They are also fostering her vision of an adaptive, expansive democracy able to welcome and embrace the energies, wisdom, and talents of all who come under its sway. Two years ago, when the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued its findings pursuant to its adoption of House Resolution 144 recognizing economic human rights, it forcefully noted that "adequate and affordable housing, adequate and affordable health care, adequate clothing and nutrition and quality education. . . are rights and not products available only to those who can afford them." Furthermore, the report goes on to note that while the state invests an adequate sum (approximately \$23 million) toward meeting its human rights obligations, "access is often impeded when policy and program requirements for one service renders an individual ineligible for another critically needed service."

Addams understood that for the transplanted Poles, Italians, and Bohemians she met and interacted with daily at Hull House in Chicago, protection — in the form of meeting basic human needs — was integral to their full participation in a "vigorous civic life," including free elections. People in bondage to their employers or to their ward boss could not cast their votes freely. Nor were they truly free to re-weave the social fabric of clan and place ripped by migration into a "cosmopolitan bond" of mutual assistance and accountability among their similarly displaced neighbors. The institutions of elected office and legislative bodies put in place by the revolutionary forefathers were moribund, Addams observed, if they could not foster the participation of all and fostering such participation required attentiveness to the development and support of embodied human beings.

When WILPF members work within the United Nations structures or with post-conflict governments on full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, they are practicing the double-movement of protection and empowerment advocated by Addams for advancing human rights. SCR 1325 reminds the Security Council of the interdependence of economic, social, cultural and civil and political rights written into the U.N. Charter itself, and is explicit about steps to be taken both to protect and to empower women in post-conflict situations. In this way, SCR 1325 builds on the wisdom of Recommendation 19 to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and moves this wisdom across the institutional barriers of the United Nations to a specific application. But this work within the body of the U.N. would not take hold if it were not part of a larger strategy based on popular education and local implementation initiatives.

Human rights is, in large measure, what WILPFers do in

advancing the possibilities for sustainable peace where ever we find ourselves. Nevertheless, the urgency of doing this work escalates daily. In order to meet this challenge, we must work more effectively, more self-consciously, in a way that both strengthens the United Nations and fosters solidarity with social justice organizations who are our potential allies in this work.

FULL PARTICIPATION

There are two principles that WILPF's Advancing Human Rights Committee believes are key.

First, recognize the complex diversity within yourself as your greatest asset in doing human rights work. None of us inhabit only one identity; rather we live at the intersection of several identities, some advantaged and others disadvantaged economically, legally, socially, or otherwise. Full participation in the human rights culture we hope to build requires that each of us understand and use our privilege as well as our oppression as sources of insight and leverage. To understand oneself in terms of either/or leads to categorizing others as either us or them, and according to Addams, sustains vestiges of mili-

Two principles are key:

First, recognize the complex diversity within yourself as your greatest asset in doing human rights work. Second, insist on connecting the dots. As more and more of us have less and less to lose, we should insist on what some will tell us is impossible, the whole, integrated bundle of human rights.

tarism in society. Militarism persists whenever a few presume to rule the many through repression and control. This she saw as antithetical to the democratic spirit which demands that we create and re-create institutions of self-governance inclusive of all.

However, this does not mean that we are all the same. Nor does it mean that we can't or shouldn't hone particular skills in advancing human rights. The wordsmith who can draft a flyer bringing hundreds to a public rally may not also be capable of drafting a compelling legal brief in defense of the human right to marry a partner of the same sex or defining the human rights to adequate housing. The advocate who can persuade a member of a U.N. treaty body to publicly address a certain human rights violation may not also be able to ferret out and document the violation in its local manifestation. Yet all these abilities are necessary to the success of this work. Respecting the diversity in ourselves also means recognizing our limits, and can be a necessary first step to respecting the

specific skills and competencies of others. It can help us build bridges across distance and across professional boundaries. It is essential to building bridges with other social justice organizations.

The second principle is to insist on connecting the dots. As more and more of us have less and less to lose, we should insist on what some will tell us is impossible, the whole, integrated bundle of human rights. Recent critical histories of both second wave feminism and the U.S. civil rights movement have focused on the compromises each made to open up access to social institutions such as elected office, higher education, and professional employment. While striving to break the glass ceiling of achievement for the few, neither movement succeeded in establishing a floor of social benefits for the many. Taking shape against the backdrop of the Great Society programs and general respect for the benefits yielded by the New Deal, movement leaders could not have anticipated the steady erosion of public supports for social institutions like schools, libraries, subway systems, immunizations, etc., that we've observed over the past 25 years, nor the more recently accelerated looting of the federal treasury.

In August, the Geneva-based Human Rights Committee solicited U.S.- based civil society for information regarding the infringements of civil liberties occurring under the U.S. Patriot Act; in their carefully researched response, the responding coalition of organizations asked the HRC to intervene on behalf of a much broader range of human rights violations being promulgated by the current administration. If we resist the seduction of "small wins" and insist on what Addams calls "the right to locally determine the scope of local government in response to needs as they arise," we will find many allies.

This issue of *Peace and Freedom* is brimming with practical ideas and projects for building human rights accountability structures in our local communities. We hope that they will inspire you to create materials addressing local concerns through a human rights lens, to make alliances with other groups defending human rights in your area, to document and report human rights violations suffered by your neighbors and acquaintances, to integrate the language of human rights into your daily conversations and into local ordinances and state legislation. Let us know what works and what doesn't. The Advancing Human Rights Issues committee is here to support you in your efforts, wherever they lead.

Laura Roskos is co-chair of the Massachusetts CEDAW Project (www.masscedaw.org), a participatory research collaborative dedicated to infusing human rights standards and process values into state law and policy, and chair of WILPF's Advancing Human Rights Issues Committee. In 2005 she was elected to serve on the board of the U.S. section of WILPF. She can be reached at: masscedaw@yahoo.com.

Truth and Reconciliation

Lucy Wagner Lewis

On November 3, 1979 in Greensboro, North Carolina some 40 Ku Klux Klansmen attacked an anti-Klan demonstration organized by the Communist Workers Party. They shot and killed five young union and community organizers and wounded 10 others. Several North Carolina WILPF members were at the demonstration (or an adjoining site) and the Triangle WILPF branch has been an active supporter of the search for justice ever since.

The Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created to address the unresolved issues of November 3rd, following three trials in the 1980s. The first two trials were characterized by prosecutorial bias and cover-up, including the failure to call a



Members of the seven person Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission receive their charge and are commissioned in June, 2004.

Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms undercover agent or KKK informant Edward Dawson. All-white juries found the defendants not guilty. In a third, civil suit, \$351,000 was awarded to the estate of Michael Nathan in a judgment against six KKK and Nazis including informant Dawson and two policemen. Survivors donated \$75,000 to form the Greensboro Justice Fund (GJF), a foundation committed to social justice in the South.

But as in too many cases of human rights abuses involving government complicity, there was no public acknowledgement of wrong-doing, no involved police or federal agents were fired, demoted or even rebuked. The effect was a quelling of dissent, particularly of labor and anti-racist dissent, and a deepened distrust between Black and white communities.

Today, Greensboro is witnessing the unfolding of a three-year old Truth and Reconciliation process, born from a collaboration between the GJF and Greensboro's Beloved Community Center. Triangle Branch Chair Lori Hoyt says, "WILPF's sole reason for existence is to further peace and social justice; the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission's process fits right into that. In addition, several of our members were march partici-

pants in 1979, so we are very aware of the impact of these events on the survivors and the community. To us, the TRC is a creative, pioneering way to keep the issue in the forefront of the community where it has never been adequately addressed, and to lead to a deeper understanding and changes so that something like this doesn't happen again."

In November 2004, Triangle WILPF members joined one thousand marchers in a demonstration to continue the unfinished work of economic and racial justice for which five people died and to support the TRC in carrying out its mandate.

The truth and reconciliation concept, used extensively in Africa and Latin America, has developed into an effective global strategy for dealing with war crimes and other human rights abuses. It focuses on soliciting public and private "truth-telling" by victims and perpetrators as a way of basing change and community transformation on a full and truthful understanding of violent historical events. However, the first Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the U.S. is exploring uncharted territory.

In Greensboro, the Commission lacks subpoena power or legal standing, so why would perpetrators come forward? In 2005, Triangle WILPF members were present every day of three, two-day public hearings in Greensboro as the TRC relied on moral authority, ongoing grassroots mobilization, and community pressure to encourage scores of witnesses, including Klan members, to give their testimony.

For many of the victims, the process has been a chance to proclaim their humanity after years of dehumanization. Already gained for victims, friends and activists is the pride in a history of resistance to race and class oppression and the public acknowledgement of the complicity of government officials with the KKK and Nazis. We expect a report this spring that is, at the very least, critical of the lack of oversight of law enforcement. Such a finding would support a civilian review of police, state and federal officials acting in the bounds of the City. We also expect recommendations for injecting a truthful account of the 1979 events into educational and cultural institutions as well as other creative ways to memorialize those who were killed and to continue their struggle.

Whatever the outcome, citizens in communities with histories of civil and human rights abuses, such as Wilmington, NC, Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Birmingham, Alabama are looking towards Greensboro as providing a model for truth and healing in their own communities. Triangle WILPF members have been proud to be part of this historic process. "I feel the need to put my WILPF body where my WILPF words are, whenever I can," said

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Women and Torture

Peggy Hong

*“Those who can make you believe absurdities
can make you commit atrocities.”*

— *Voltaire* (1694 - 1778)

Of all the things that make us squirm about being American — the preemptive war in Iraq, our awkward role in the U.N., the poverty Katrina revealed — what makes many of us writhe the most is our use of torture in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo, and elsewhere. Since the release of the Abu Ghraib photos, we’ve witnessed a steady stream of evidence that such tactics have been ongoing, condoned, and pervasive.

Not only are we ashamed of being the Americans perpetrating torture, but as women, we are unable to hide behind our gender, as women have been involved on every level of the abuse. Where were the women defending human rights at Abu Ghraib?

Fairly or unfairly, I tend to hold women to a higher standard of morality. As a mother of three, a caregiver to dying parents, a teacher, a community activist, and a person of faith, I’m reminded constantly of our interdependence. Perhaps like me, you have been trained to be a nurturer and provider to your family, and to serve your community as a responsible and upstanding citizen. Perhaps you’ve also been trained, like me, to trust authority, to defer to men, to do your best to be attractive, and to not make a fuss.

Considering the mixed messages I grew up with, I can imagine how women in the military have found themselves in moral quandaries. The structure of the military exemplifies values of hierarchy, authority and domination; the extreme expression of these values is painfully, shamefully apparent in the cases of torture.

In her memoir about her year in the U.S. Army in Iraq, *Love My Rifle More Than You*, Kayla Williams describes being used as a prop in prisoner abuse. She is told, “We are going to bring these guys in . . . Strip them naked. Then we will remove the guy’s blindfold. And then we want you to say things to humiliate them.” She describes the scene: “The prisoner enters the room with a blindfold on and his hands tied behind his back . . . They position him so he is facing me. When they remove the blindfold, I am the first person he sees. The civilian interpreter and the interrogator . . . mock the prisoner. Mock his manhood . . . Point to me. Remind him he is being humiliated in the presence of this blond American female.”

Williams goes on to describe how disturbed she was by the episode and how she refused to participate again. But in a frank confession, she asks, “However, I did not

file a complaint . . . I did not do anything to stop those interrogations.” All I said was: ‘I am not going to be a part of it.’ I did not blow the whistle on anybody. So how morally culpable am I?”

General Janis Karpinsky, commanding officer at Abu Ghraib when the scandal broke (and since demoted to Colonel), describes trying to bring attention to the poor conditions in the prison to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, to little avail. The actual abuse taking place was kept from her knowledge, at the same time that she was ultimately held culpable and punished for it. The highest ranking officer punished for the scandal and the only woman in charge of a combat operation, Karpinski feels she was singled out.

Perhaps no one represents the problematic role of women and torture in Iraq more than Lynndie England, featured in several now iconic photographs, and currently serving three years in military prison. She wasn’t even assigned to prison security but simply chose to “hang out” down in the cells with her then-boyfriend. He asked her to pose in many of the photos taken of the various imaginative humiliations, and she complied.

As Susana Adame pointed out in Eastern Michigan University’s newspaper *Echo Online* on October 5, 2005, “. . . things are starting to trickle out. Things like the fact that England was emotionally abused on a regular basis by her boyfriend (and self-confessed leader of the abuse), Charles Graner. That England was pregnant with Graner’s baby when he was beginning an affair with the other female involved in the scandal, Sabrina Harmon (whom he eventually married) . . . That England was a poor white girl from the rural south who quit her job at a chicken factory to join the army and escape a documented abusive relationship with her mother.”

Although England’s actions are in no way justifiable, we must acknowledge the pressures she was experiencing. These same pressures plague all American women, although most sharply, the poor. How will we turn the Lynndie Englands of our military and our nation into human rights defenders?

Peggy Hong is the author of the poetry and fiction collection, Three Truths and a Lie (Water Press and Media). She is currently serving as Milwaukee Poet Laureate for 2006 2007. She is also an Iyengar yoga teacher, an instructor at Alverno College, and a teacher of yoga and creative writing throughout the community. She belongs to the Milwaukee, Wisconsin branch of WILPF, where she lives with her three teenagers and husband.

An Interview with Dorothy Rupert

Gillian Gilhool



WILPF member Dorothy Rupert cares passionately about human rights, health care, families and public schools. Rupert was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1987, followed by eight years in the state Senate before term-limits ended her legislative role in 2001. Before entering electoral politics she was a high school teacher and counselor. Always embracing young people, the course Rupert teaches at the University of Colorado, Boulder, “Civic Engagement: Using Democracy as a Tool for Social Change,” is open to both high school and university students. Rupert was one of the 1,000 Women for Peace nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

Q: What are the most important human rights issues in the U. S.?

A: As a legislator I always worked on two issues, abolishing the death penalty and ending corporal punishment in schools. How are we ever going to address violence if the state allows violence against human beings? The most pressing issue is violence against each other, to the environment and to other peoples in the world, without a critical look as citizens, and the press going along with it, not awakening us to what is really going on. One of the worst examples besides war and initiating war, is the way we are treating prisoners in 30 - 40 installations around the world and in our prison system at home. We cannot live together and belong to each other as long as we know that things like this go on. The cultivation of fear must be confronted.

Q: What can be done in state legislatures to advance human rights?

A: Introduce legislation looking at how CEDAW would apply as state law. Require analysis and a statement with every piece of legislation of what the human rights impact will be. People say the process would be expensive. How much does not knowing what we’re doing cost? Reform the prison system to stop the flow of money spent on the degradation and loss of humanity for us all. Human rights awareness can help frame political choices as moral issues, which trump pocketbook issues with voters every time.

Q: How did you, as a Colorado legislator, relate to human rights?

A: I introduced a bill mandating that a Child Impact Statement accompany every piece of legislation presented. Another, to shed light on state budget decisions, would have required data from the corrections and education agencies every year comparing the dollars spent per person in prison to the amount spent per student in school. I wrote bills for 10 years to expand access to health care. One legislator pledged to vote for my bill for pre- and post-natal benefits for immigrant women then reneged, urging colleagues to vote against it saying: “They are not us.” Unfortunately I served all my years in a Republican legislature.

Q: Why should women, and WILPF members, be involved in human rights work?

A: It’s important for us to learn about ourselves, who we are, and to have courage and strength, instead of feeling inadequate. Women especially need to know “I am a person, I am a human being, I have human rights. I’m worth it.” This insight can help women re-juggle the demands of childcare, family, job or coping with poverty to find time and energy to get involved with whats going on in legislatures and Congress and to educate the world around us. And when we get older our brains change. We tend to use both sides together, especially women. New ways of understanding lead to openness to change. WILPF women speak out. Voices and leadership are important.

Q: What gives you hope?

A: My interactions with people. I am devoted, involved, in love, have never not been, with young people. And so much is going on, so many initiatives. There are opportunities every day to have conversations valuing people. I take time each day to really see one person and say something to her. I started after the Beijing Conference which I went to with WILPF. With no common language, looking intently at each other’s face, women said without words “I’m so glad you’re here, and we have every right to be here.”

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➤ ROOSEVELT *from page 4*

step. Fearful that the U.S. would reject the Declaration entirely, she agreed to negotiate two enabling treaty covenants, one for political and civil rights, one for economic and social rights.

In 1952, President Dwight Eisenhower demanded Roosevelt's resignation, ending the United States' leadership role in the effort to achieve human rights. The United States endorsed the concept of human rights only as a propaganda ploy. So long as the Soviets opposed human rights, the Eisenhower administration trumpeted them. But Secretary of State John Foster Dulles wanted nothing binding and any hint of legal obligation sent him into a frenzy of moral confusion.

Eleanor Roosevelt seemed to the right wing of the 1950s a wild woman. She was a feminist, a unionist and supported civil rights. During the 1950s, McCarthyite attacks were aimed directly at Roosevelt and her circle. Even Eisenhower, who privately opposed Sen. Joseph McCarthy, publicly mocked the former first lady and

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity. . .

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

—Article 23, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

wrote a friend in 1954 that opposition to the U.N.'s human rights agreement was an effort "to save the United States from Eleanor Roosevelt." She believed that it would take as much energy and vision, as much money and dedication, to win a war for human rights as it took to win any other war. And the battle line began in every home.

In 1958 she wrote: "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home — so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual per-

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Article 18, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

sons: the neighborhood . . . the school or college . . . the factory, farm or office . . . such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

More than 100 nations signed both covenants. But the United States failed to do so until 1977, when President Jimmy Carter finally signed the treaty and resumed the U.S. interest in human rights. Not until 1992 did the U.S. Senate finally ratify the political covenant, which George H.W. Bush supported. The U.S. has never even discussed the economic and social covenant.

Until her death on Nov. 7, 1962, Eleanor Roosevelt was committed to the U.N., and to the view that with "proper education . . . a strong sense of responsibility for our own actions, with a clear awareness that our future is linked with the welfare of the world as a whole, we may justly anticipate that the life of the next generation will be richer, more peaceful, more rewarding than any we have ever known."

There was nothing radical, really, about her views or her efforts. But it is amazing how radical simple decency seems in a period of mean-spirited militarism. It is now up to every one of us to continue the fight for human rights: to organize in those small places close to home: to become activist and join with each other in the long struggle toward dignity and decency for all. If we are to survive, we can do no other.

Blanche Wiesen Cook is distinguished professor of history at the John Jay College & The Graduate Center, CUNY. She is the author of Eleanor Roosevelt, vols. I & II, volume III forthcoming (Penguin). She is a historian, activist, journalist and a lifetime member and sponsor of WILPF.

The Making of a Human Rights Commission

Jacqueline P. Fields

Cape Cod in Massachusetts is a narrow sandy peninsula 75 miles in length extending miles out into the Atlantic Ocean. The region consists of 15 towns stretching from Bourne to Provincetown. Each town is autonomous and independent, with town managers and local officials comprising an elected Board of Selectmen. Entirely separated from coastal Massachusetts by the Cape Cod Canal, it is virtually an island. There are 240,000 year-round residents of this area, which is also known as Barnstable County.

With the passage of the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter, signed into legislation in July of 1988, certain rights of home rule for the county were guaranteed and a legislative body, with the power to enact ordinances, was established. This increased Barnstable County's accountability to the residents of Cape Cod and provided for increased citizen participation and input into county government. Barnstable County government has long been recognized as a model for successful regionalization of services.

Human rights commissions serve communities throughout the state. But the towns of Cape Cod are among the most geographically isolated from state and federal anti-discrimination agencies in Massachusetts, increasing the difficulty for people on the Cape to have discrimination issues solved.

Enter the Barnstable County Anti-Discrimination Task Force (ADTF): Our grassroots lobbying force is comprised of support from townspeople, WILPF, the Council of Churches, synagogues, summer residents, Martha's Vineyard residents, and visitors to Cape Cod, the Cape Cod NAACP and professional organizations. The group called for the creation of a Barnstable County Human Rights Commission (HRC) in January 2005. The response from the County Commissioners was "Why does the Cape need a HRC? We don't have any discrimination problem, and if we do they can be taken care of by existing agencies." The County Commissioners dismissed the proposal of the ADTF and essentially got up from the discussion table. A \$75,000 line item had been inserted in the county budget for a proposed HRC, but it was cut to \$10,000 and the proposed committee was downgraded to a "study."

What was amazing about the response of the County Commissioners was that they had supported and paid for a 2001 County Research Project which resulted in findings indicating that more than 20,000 people on Cape Cod reported significant barriers to meeting basic needs; discrimination was the most frequently identified problem.

The ADTF lobbied, held meetings and presented doc-

uments until an ordinance to create the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission was passed in October of 2005. Never in the history of the County government had the Commissioners been lobbied in such a way — 700 people signed the petition to create a HRC. Iridescent stickers, proclaiming, "I'm for it! HRC" were worn on jackets and coats by men and women — week after week — to each of the Assembly of Delegates meetings.

Many funny stories were recorded on the road to getting an HRC on Cape Cod. One involved how the ADTF took over an important and very large Cape Cod meeting on Martin Luther King Day in 2005. A celebrated speaker, a Boston judge, at the very last minute agreed to include in his speech (four times) the need for a Cape Cod HRC!

At another very crowded HRC hearing, a college student named Sean described the discrimination he experienced as a visually impaired person. He spoke with his service dog, Shadow, alongside him. Sean and Shadow's impact on the hot, crowded room could have been right out of an Academy Award movie. There were few dry eyes in the room.

On October 12, an ordinance to create the HRC was passed and on December 14, 2005 seven commissioners were appointed. The HRC exists. Often times I find myself saying, "Jackie, be careful what you wish for!" because the past two months have been spent building the infrastructure of a county agency without a paid staff, and implementing a work plan for the Cape's 15 towns. Additionally, the County Commissioners' 2007 budget has a zero line item in it for the HRC. This hostile act by the Commissioners has sharpened the negotiating skills of the HRC, but drastically increased the work.

While comforted and supported by my Cape Cod WILPF sisters, racism and many other "isms" abound and must be addressed on Cape Cod. We have a Human Rights Commission by ordinance on Cape Cod and many of us are going to see to it that it is successful.



Pat O'Brien, left, Boston WILPF Branch, and the author were among attendees at the Cape Cod event.

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The U.N., the U.S. and the Commission on Human Rights

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Carol Reilley Urner, Laura Roskos
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For 58 years the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has overseen the negotiation of a complex web of human rights treaties, codifying the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into international law. By now every nation in the world has ratified at least one of the six major treaties and entered the process of self-examination and reporting required under each treaty, bringing their own laws into conformity with agreed international standards. The European Union actually requires ratification of all six major treaties as a prerequisite for membership.

Of course the U.S. Administration and Congress are presently dominated by men who have never had much respect for the treaties that now form the basis for international human rights law. These are men who have redefined the four freedoms of Franklin Roosevelt — freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear — as freedom to move capital, goods, services and labor across national boundaries. And of course they want these freedoms for legal persons (i.e. corporations) as well as for natural persons (i.e. human beings). In the United States today, these are the four freedoms that are now considered basic and that our government increasingly goes out on a limb to defend.

Of the six major human rights treaties, the U.S. Senate has ratified only three, and those only during the early Clinton Administration. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which codifies the first 22 articles of the UDHR into international law, and the international conventions on racial discrimination and against torture. The present administration has claimed to observe these laws, albeit grudgingly, but during the first five years in office failed to submit the required reports on progress in implementing them.

Now it appears that the present administration has been violating even the three ratified treaties, hence triggering an investigation by both the Commission on Human Rights, and the treaty bodies responsible for monitoring each individual treaty.

Perhaps in response to those investigations — and to memos prepared by U.S. civil society organizations and the City Council of Berkeley at the request of the



Two young residents in the Acqba Jaber camp for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank. Located just outside Jericho, the camp is run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Photo: U.N.

Human Rights Committee (HRC which monitors the ICCPR) — the U.S. State Department finally submitted the required reports in late 2005. Nonetheless, the State Department has still refused to answer questions on subjects like the Patriot Act, torture in Guantanamo and in Iraqi and Afghani prisons.

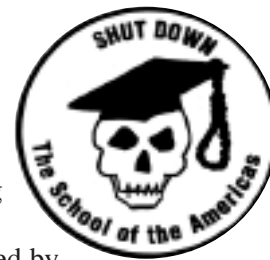
While this “constructive dialogue” has been playing itself out in Washington, D.C., New York and Geneva, the Bush Administration has become increasingly aggressive in its criticism of the United Nations in general and the CHR in particular. Nowadays, administration spokespersons usually refer to the Commission on Human Rights as “discredited.” This antagonism began after the Bush Administration took power, when, in 2002, the U.S. failed to gain a seat on the Commission despite intense lobbying towards that objective. That same year, the U.S. forced the resignation of Mary Robinson as High Commissioner for Human Rights. Since then, the White House has expressed vocal dismay at countries such as Libya, Cuba, Zimbabwe, Sudan and China being elected as members of the Commission. These recent hostilities are consistent with a more long-standing pattern of disruptive behavior. For example, U.S. State Department representatives, including Colin Powell, behaved antagonistically at U.N. sponsored global summits in Durban and Johannesburg, and dashed the hopes of women from around the world with their obstructionist stance toward reaffirmation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action on its 10th anniversary.

In the months leading up to last September’s U.N. Reform Summit, the U.S. pushed hard for dismantling the Commission. The Administration pressed for reorganizing human rights work under a new umbrella: a smaller human rights council no longer subsidiary to the Economic and Social Council. Despite mounting inter-

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Crossing the Line

Robin Lloyd



I may be in a prison soon, where all the walls are grey and all the guards mean-looking. Where any effort to express identity is squelched, and even the color of your underpants is prescribed. Actually it seems like an interesting place to be right now. Maybe I just wanted to get out of Vermont for the winter and try a new career path? Well, no, I think it's the right place to be.

In fact, taking this step has made me wonder: What if we filled the prisons with our protest? The problem is that the prisons are already full. Faced with such a crisis, "they" would probably take us to stadiums or armories, like they do when they have coups in third-world countries.

How about this: People rise up and occupy recruitment centers around the country. You occupy them and

are arrested and released — and you go back and occupy them again. And again. And more people join you. It wouldn't take huge numbers to do this. Think about it. Why aren't we doing this? If the Iraq war is illegal, then isn't recruiting for it an illegal act?

Meanwhile, here's my own story. I was arrested on November 20 with 36 others for "crossing the line" — actually, we crawled under a wire mesh fence — at the School of the Americas (SOA), officially renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) in Columbus, Georgia,

where Latin American soldiers are trained to enforce U.S. hegemony in this hemisphere. One reason I chose to get arrested at this event is that I knew I wouldn't be maced or hit over the head or dragged in the mud. There is a compact at SOA Watch protests that both sides abide by, unlike other demonstrations that have followed the 1999 protests in Seattle where the police decided to change the rules in midstream and launched a police riot.

Demonstrations at the Fort Benning site of the training school have been spearheaded by former Maryknoll priest Roy Bourgeois, who started it all in 1983 when he entered the grounds of the school at night, climbed a tree with a boom box, and broadcast some of the last words of Salvadoran bishop Oscar Romero, in Spanish, to the

Salvadoran troops sleeping in the barracks. Romero said, "I beg you, I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!" Revered by the Salvadoran poor, Romero was assassinated while saying mass on March 24, 1980 under the orders of Roberto D'Aubuisson, who had studied at the SOA. Bourgeois was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for this solemn prank. Six years later, after the grisly murder in San Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and daughter by other SOA graduates, demonstrations and fasting began in earnest at the school's gates, and have grown every year.

This November, between 16,000 and 19,000 protesters took part in the funeral procession, carrying small crosses marked with the names of victims and crying "Presente!" as their names were chanted from the stage. More protesters "crossed over" this year than in the past, and I was among them.

What are we like, this small self-selected brigade of sacrificial lambs? The most serious organizer amongst us was Gail Phares, founder of Witness for Peace (WfP). Inspired by liberation theology and leader of 40 delegations to Latin America, she is the oldest of nine children. During one of the WfP workshops on the day before the procession, she said, "We have got to find a way to stop our government. I don't think it's just going to happen through letters to the editor and meetings with Congressmen. We've got to begin to take more creative action. For me, this is the right time to walk onto the base, knowing that I'll spend a few months in prison. It's the least we can do."

Gail issued a call for those who wanted to join her in "crossing over" to meet her for dinner. Accepting her invitation at the table was another remarkable woman, 76-year-old Dorothy Parker from Chico, California, a Grant Wood archetype, but amazingly limber (she took the top bunk at Muscogee County Prison without complaint). When I asked her why she was taking this action, Dorothy said, with her wry sense of humor, "I've been convicted about this for a long time but now I need to be a person of conviction and be convicted for sure..."

The most unusual woman in the group was Priscilla Treska, 66, fashionably dressed in black. "It's a funeral, after all," she said. I don't know how she managed to scramble under the fence without getting a blemish on her black coat, stockings, or heels. Priscilla is a mother of 15 (14 of them her birth children), a Catholic, and a

Continued on next page ➤



Author Robin Lloyd holds a poster in a march on International Women's Day, 2000.



WILPF Legislative Update

LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES

For decades, advocates of The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) focused on petitioning city councils and state legislatures to urge U.S. ratification of the Convention. Frustration with that approach has led activists towards new, creative tactics. Many CEDAW activists are now challenging officials (and legislative bodies) to see poverty as a human rights issue. The movement to reframe grievous social needs in the U.S. as human rights violations makes use of state and local legislative strategies. The goal is to engage communities and elected officials and spur government action.

The Economic Human Rights Pennsylvania Campaign (EHR-PA) is building a statewide movement to end poverty. Poor people, social workers and students asked State Rep. Larry Curry to press for a resolution regarding economic human rights, intending to organize around its introduction. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers pushed the measure. It passed unexpectedly, creating a legislative commission to study and investigate “the integration of human rights standards in Pennsylvania laws and policies.” Hearings across Pennsylvania captured painful stories of local peoples’ lives and garnered media attention. EHR-PA continues documenting abuses and holding workshops. See information at www.wilpf.org/issues/womensrights.htm.

The New York Human Rights Initiative (NYCHRI) is organizing around a proposed ordinance titled Human Rights in Government Operations Audit Law or Human Rights GOAL, which draws from the Conventions Against All Forms of Discrimination Against Racial Discrimination (CERD) and CEDAW. Designed to expose the impact of NYC laws, policies and practices on different populations of New Yorkers, it provides tools for a system-wide assessment of city functions and programs. The NYCHRI coalition of 80 groups works widely with the many “protected” groups under New York non-discrimination laws already on the books. For an update, see www.nychri.org.

A MassCEDAW pilot undertaken by Northeastern Law School students comparing selected Massachusetts laws to articles of CEDAW found deficiencies in government benefits for families in poverty, pregnancy and maternity leave for employed women and access to

health care for older women. In a related legislative initiative, House Resolution 706 would set up a commission to compare state law with international human rights standards and investigate human rights abuses. Despite smart coalition-building by the “Human Rights for All Initiative” the bill is languishing. Other approaches are being considered. See www.masscedaw.org and www.suffolk.edu/cwhhr/lcd.html.

— Gillian Gilhool

➤ CROSSING THE LINE *from page 14*

Montessori teacher from Cleveland, Ohio. She came with plans to refuse bail, meaning she would be immediately incarcerated (she had already wrapped all her children’s Christmas presents before leaving home). When Judge Faircloth asked why she was refusing to post bail, she said, “Because I don’t want to be part of a system that punishes poor people who can’t make bail.”

He replied, “But you are part of the system just for standing here in front of me.”

“No, your honor,” she told him. “You can force me to go to jail, but you can’t force me to pay bail.” His jaw dropped, according to an onlooker.

My particular approach was to enter the base with a warrant for a “citizen’s arrest” of Colonel Gilberto R. Perez, Director of WHINSEC, for “inviting and facilitating the presence at WHINSEC of known human rights abusers and torturers” — in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I go back to Georgia for the arraignment on Jan 30, and then wait for my assignment — probably to the federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut. Three months? What’s the big deal? Hearing people’s dismay at the length of my probable sentence reminds me of Vermont activist Palmer Legare’s story about the racial implications of sentencing. When he tells his white friends that he had to serve three months, they are all shocked. “Three months? How terrible. So long!” When he tells his Black friends, they say, “Just three months? That’s nothing!”

Robin Lloyd is a peace and justice activist and film maker. She is director of Green Valley Media, which makes documentary films on the culture of human rights. She served on the WILPF board, and also on the board of TowardFreedom.Com. Her heroine is her grandmother, Lola Maverick Lloyd, one of the many founders of WILPF, who crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1915 with 47 other women to try to stop World War 1. This article originally appeared in the Peace and Justice News, in Burlington, Vermont.

Coming Together in Caracas

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Kristi Fults

I was dropped off by a bus in the middle of Caracas, a city of four million bustling people, with my backpack full of WILPF paraphernalia and clothes to last me a week. I had no idea where to go and after spending six hours on a flight from Philadelphia, I did not have a lot of energy to figure it out. This was my first trip to a Latin American country and with little experience speaking Spanish, I thought to myself, "What am I doing here?" then remembered, "Oh yes, I wanted to come here and have this experience for myself." I was attending the Sixth Annual World Social Forum (WSF) in Caracas, Venezuela from January 24 - 29, 2006.

For those of you who do not know about the World Social Forum, it is an annual conference held by groups involved in the alternative globalization movement. The first one was held in 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

People come together from all over the world to discuss alternatives to globalization, neo-liberalism, imperialism, and capitalism. It was an eye-opening experience, one that I would encourage everyone to have. The forum opened with a march against war and imperialism. Approximately 100,000 people from all over the world were there. Colombians for the disappeared, women for abortion rights, Brazilian performance artists, North Americans for economic human rights, Indigenous groups for water and land rights, and many more shouted, danced, and played music in the streets as the march crawled from one part of the city to the other.

Amparo Guerrero, from Santa Fe, New Mexico (via Colombia) and I had our own two-person WILPF/LIMPAL contingent in the march. The march ended with a huge festival where political and cultural events against war and imperialism took place. Musicians, speakers, and dancers celebrated into the night while Amparo and I ate, rested, and finally made our way back to our hotel.

The second day was spent trying to connect with other WILPF/LIMPAL members. Amparo and I met with Gitti (Brigitte) Baldauf, the WILPF/LIMPAL Cuba Conference Coordinator and spent the day with her attending a panel on "Women, Community and Participation Experiences to Improve the Life of All," organized by the Federacion de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC) and Federaciun Democratica Internacional de Mujeres (FDIM). The panel was in Spanish, and since I understand only a little Spanish, it was hard for me to follow. Amparo promoted the International Women's Peace Conference in Cuba and many women expressed an inter-

est in attending. Later that day, we successfully met up with other WILPF/LIMPAL members including Adriana Gonzalez from Colombia, Marta Benavides from El Salvador, Laura Roskos from Massachusetts, and Mary Sanderson from Wisconsin. It was an amazing experience to meet these inspiring women who are doing so much in each of their communities.

The third day was the day for WILPF/LIMPAL to shine. We had two panels scheduled. One was on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security presented by Amparo Guerrero, Laura Roskos, Marta

Benavides and myself. Our panel was successful, with approximately 30 attendees from



Venezuela, the United

States, Canada, Syria and Costa Rica. Each panelist spoke about her experience with 1325 in her respective country. We then had the attendees break into groups and discuss ideas on specific articles from the resolution. The report backs from these groups were thought provoking and inspiring. The other panel was to promote the International Women's Peace Conference in Cuba, which was presented by Gitti Baldauf, Amparo Guerrero and Adriana Gonzalez. The panel succeeded in spreading the word about the conference and in developing ideas for workshops. Gitti also had the opportunity to promote the conference at the International Women's Tribunal Against the Patriarchal Violence of Neo-liberalism.

After our panels, we spent the rest of the WSF relaxing and touring around Caracas. Overall the experience gave me a renewed sense of the work that needs to be done in the U.S. and meeting so many inspiring women will facilitate that process for me. Thank you to the WILPF National Office for supporting me on this experience. Muchas gracias to Amparo, Adriana, and Gitti for translating and being wonderful women. And thank you to Laura, Marta, and Pat Willis for your hard work on our panel.

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Kristi Fults is an intern at WILPF's National Office working on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325. She is attending Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, where she will be graduating in May 2006 with a Master's Degree in Social Work and Law and Social Policy. She can be contacted at: kristi@riseup.net.

The Wall: Occupation and Apartheid

Barbara Taft

Cutting deep into the West Bank (not on the 1967 Green Line once separating Israel from that territory) the so-called “Separation Wall” being erected by Israel has resulted in the *de facto* annexation of some 47 percent of the West Bank, isolating communities into bantustans, enclaves, and military zones. Having a major impact on the day-to-day lives of thousands of Palestinians, it has been referred to as an “apartheid wall” separating the two peoples. Instead of creating security for Israel, the Wall is raising levels of anxiety and anger that Palestinians feel toward their occupiers. WILPF’s Women Challenge U.S. Policy Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East (WCUSP) campaign believes Israel has a right to defend its borders, but takes issue with the Wall as a means of doing so. We believe it benefits neither Israel nor Palestine and is an impediment to peace.

When the Wall is completed, the Palestinian population of the West Bank and Gaza, including almost 1.5 million refugees, will be living on only 12 percent of historic Palestine. Nearly 16 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank will be outside the Wall, in areas annexed by Israel, including over 200,000 residents of East Jerusalem.

The Wall is 730 km. long. It is being built at a cost of \$3.4 billion, approximately \$4.7 million per kilometer. So far, 245 km have been completed. The wall is 8 meters high, in most places, twice the height of the Berlin Wall. Elsewhere, it is a fence topped with barbed wire. It has armed watchtowers and a 30-100 meter wide “buffer zone” for electric fences, trenches, cameras, sensors, and military patrol. Some communities have been surrounded on all sides, a virtual prison, such as the town of Qalqilya. Its population is 12,000 inhabitants, all trapped and isolated from their fields. Gates open only twice a day for an hour, at the whim of soldiers who control the gate. The area around the Wall is a military zone patrolled by soldiers with orders to shoot at anyone “vaguely suspicious,” often including children.

Farmers cannot access their land, and are without a livelihood. Students cannot reach their schools, shopping districts are cut off from populations they ordinarily serve, the ill cannot reach hospitals—some have died and others simply do without medical care.

This not only prevents people from going from one village or town to another, but since the Wall often cuts through the center of a village or town, people cannot



Left to right: Marlene Santoyo, Odile Hugonot Haber, and Tura Campanella Cook enjoyed a potluck with other members of the WCUSP Leadership Team during a weekend planning meeting hosted by the Portland branch in February.

even visit neighbors any more.

The Wall has been routed through areas enabling it to encircle zones with the highest Palestinian population. In the first phase, 16 villages west of the Wall were *de facto* annexed to Israel, while some 50 villages were separated from their lands and livelihoods. Some 36 groundwater wells have been confiscated, making water access an even greater issue, while another 14 are threatened with demolition. Jerusalem is to be isolated from the rest of the West Bank.

On July 9, 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled that the Wall, Israeli settlement policies, and the occupation violate international law and must be ended. In February 2005, the Israeli Cabinet presented modification plans, changing the route slightly, but not back to the Green Line. This deflected attention from the ongoing building.

We have heard that “good fences make good neighbors,” but here this is not the case. The WCUSP Campaign believes that we should build bridges, not walls, and we encourage letters to U.S. officials asking that pressure be put on Israel to stop this land grab and to try to act as a good neighbor.

As Americans, we have a right to ask for this, since our tax dollars are being used for this construction, which runs counter to what we stand for.

We must tell our government that we want our tax dollars to support peace and that destroying the lives of people and separating them from their livelihood is not the way to achieve a peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict. We must also urge that the U.S. insist upon Israel upholding international law. This is what we should expect from a “good friend” and we would hope that Israel would not fail to consider the needs of the 3.5 million Palestinians living under Occupation on land it controls. To learn more about the Wall, see the films “The Wall” by Benny Bruner and “Wall” by Simone Bitton (available at Blockbuster — if not at yours, ask them to carry it). Info on “Wall” can be found at <http://chriskutschera.com/A/wall.htm>. ❖

The Patriot Act and Dr. al-Arian

Barbara Taft

Peace and justice activists have been worried since before the ink was dry on the U.S.A. Patriot Act: How will it affect my First Amendment rights? Are they looking over my shoulder, tapping my phone, monitoring my e-mail, what I check out at the library, where I go, who I meet, and many other little details? We thought we were safe from government intrusion, and then ... along came 9/11. Suddenly it's a different world.

Multiply that a dozen or more times to understand what it is like to be an Arab- or Muslim-American since then. If your status in this country, on top of the "Arab" or "Muslim" designation, is a temporary one (permanent resident, student, guest lecturer, scholar, work visa, etc.), multiply again. The real consequences of the Patriot Act for ordinary, law-abiding Arabs and Muslims in this country have been a nightmare. Students wanting to drop a class become "out of status" because they are taking too few college credits; they are suspect and subject to deportation. Whole families are deprived of their breadwinner while that person is thrown in jail because someone reports "suspicious activity" — something as simple as worshipping at a local mosque, calling a relative or friend in the Middle East, or wearing traditional Middle Eastern clothing.

For a few, who live a more public life, lengthy prison stays, loss of jobs, prolonged trials, and deportations have become the order of the day. They make for good test cases.

The Leadership Team of WCUSP has been following a case typical of this last category. Information is available in the press and online about the accused, Dr. Sami al-Arian, much of it troubling. We hope you will monitor it with us, following progress of the case and getting involved, working to see that justice is done. The lives of this family, like many others, are on hold while the wheels of justice slowly turn.

It began February 20, 2003. Dr. Sami al-Arian and three others were arrested on charges of supporting terrorism. Dr. al-Arian, an award-winning tenured professor

at the University of South Florida, had been harassed for nearly eight years for supporting Palestinian human rights. The four were arrested in pre-dawn raids on their homes. Their families and attorneys believe this is an attempt by the Administration to silence political speech and expression protected under the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Hundreds of similar cases have arisen since 9/11.

The government's indictment relies heavily on innuendo and guilt-by-association, as well as mistranslation

and fabrication. Dr. al-Arian was fired from his job even before a trial could begin. He went on hunger strike to protest his treatment. At a bail hearing a month later, more than 35 character witnesses appeared for the defense, while the prosecution provided not one witness, no evidence against them, nor proof they were a flight risk, but a week later, Dr. al-Arian and Sameeh Hammoudeh were denied bail.

They were transferred from a local jail in Tampa, to a maximum security federal penitentiary in Coleman, Florida, 75 miles away, placed in solitary confinement and denied basic privileges, given limited visitations and access to attorneys. Subjected to strip searches and extremely harsh conditions of confinement, with court-appointed attorneys representing them, they were again denied bail on April 10, 2003. The National Liberty Fund (NLF) took on Dr. al-Arian's case, but the start of trial was postponed to no sooner than January 2005.

During the interim, Amnesty International sent a letter to the Federal Bureau of Prisons condemning the conditions under which Dr. al-Arian was being kept. Those included 23-hour lockdown, strip searches, use of chains and shackles, severely limited recreation, lack of access to any religious service and denial of a watch or clock in a windowless cell where the artificial light is never turned off. All of this prior to any trial or conviction.

On July 25, 2003, Dr. al-Arian ended his hunger

WOMEN CHALLENGE U.S. POLICY: BUILDING PEACE ON JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (WCUSP)

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Continued on page 23 ➤

Hamas Elected: What next if aid is not forthcoming?

Barbara Taft

Hamas is now the majority power within Palestine. The U.S. says it was a fair and democratic election. This has put the Bush Administration in a quandary. The U.S. intends to take the lead from Israel on how to respond to this turn of events and may cut off aid.

That's the way information is coming out. But what are the facts? Since the election, two events from Israel's side seem counter to the U.S. response. First, Israel evacuated four settlements almost immediately after the elections, sure to please Palestinians, no matter who they voted for. Secondly, Israel has now released tax monies collected from Palestinians but withheld for months from the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Were there to be a complete cut-off of aid, many Palestinians—already in the midst of economic disaster—would be unable to live. Unrest would certainly escalate.

It would seem Israel has accepted the election results and resigned itself to living with them and working to legitimize the new Palestinian government, while the U.S. is balking at continuing aid. Why?

First, why did Israel make the decisions it has made? It was a pragmatic stance, since Hamas might be convinced to ease its hard-line position if Israel shows some flexibility. After all, the two peoples are living elbow-to-elbow in the land and failure to ease tensions can only lead to a greater conflagration.

Then why is the U.S. taking a firmer position than Israel? This position is not much of a change from the past. Although the U.S. has allocated money to the Palestinians in the past several budgets, the amounts have never been large, and the money has not gone to the PA, but to non-governmental organizations doing humanitarian work. This is unlikely to change. President Bush has stated that the humanitarian monies will not be affected. Also, the Hamas response has been to request additional funding from elsewhere to make up any shortfall. We should look at U.S. public pronouncements as posturing, not as an actual change.

The problem lies elsewhere. Were there to be a complete cut-off of aid, many Palestinians—already in the

midst of economic disaster—would be unable to live. Unrest would certainly escalate.

The implied cut-off is not only economic; it will also reflect on the ability of negotiations to continue. The U.S. will not stay engaged in any peace talks if Hamas refuses to abrogate its charter language calling for the destruction of the "Zionist entity." The U.S. has not been fully engaged for some time and ongoing talks have not occurred between the two sides recently. Still, this is a sticking point to consider. Hamas has said it would not change its charter language, but its actions have refuted that contention. For over a year, Hamas has maintained a cease-fire with Israel. They intend to do so as long as Israel does not commit acts of aggression against Palestine. This overture has been repeated since the elections, with a call to move forward to some sort of peace negotiations.

Does this constitute *de facto* Hamas recognition of the State of Israel and its right to exist? We can't be sure. The Leadership Team of WCUSP urges our members to do as we are doing: Follow developments closely; urge our government to stay the course on humanitarian aid to the Palestinians, and to work with the parties to move toward a resolution. A number of articles demonstrating a range of responses to the Hamas election are on our web page. We hope you will read them and, as we are doing, reserve judgment until we see where the recent developments are leading.

The articles can be accessed at www.wilpf.org/campaigns/Middle East . ❖

WCUSP Recommended Resources

Washington Report on Middle East Affairs
P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009
Phone (202) 232-6754, e-mail: wrmea@aol.com
web: www.washington-report.org

The Link, published by Americans for Middle East Understanding, Inc.
475 Riverside Drive, Room 245
New York, N.Y. 10115-0245
Phone (212) 870-2053, e-mail: AMEU@ameu.org
web: www.ameu.org

Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



HAITI ISSUES COMMITTEE UPDATE

The crisis in Haiti deepens. More deaths and police/MINUSTAH (U.N. peacekeeping mission) brutality have been reported over the past weeks as political instability worsens and the promised national elections have been postponed four times. The release of political prisoner Father Gerard Jean Juste for treatment in Miami of advanced leukemia, complicated by pneumonia, is the only “bright” spot in the picture since this committee reported at last August’s WILPF Congress.

The New York Times published an important expose on January 29; in an unusual front-page story it detailed the players behind the scenes and the way in which the removal of President Aristide was accomplished by a cadre of political and corporate operatives. The story was made possible only by the revelations of former U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Brian Curran. With 30 years of service to this country as a member of our diplomatic corps, Curran was fired by the Bush administration in 2003 because it was felt he was not playing ball with their plans for a coup. Presidential elections to replace the interim government were scheduled for February 7. Assisting in the process were some 9,000 U.N. peacekeepers.

An *Associated Press* report on February 2, 2006, announced that four human rights groups filed a petition on Feb. 2 with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights blaming the United States, the Dominican Republic and Haitian allies for the demise of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide’s elected government two years ago.

The Bush administration helped Aristide flee the country for exile in Africa on February 29, 2004, contending that only his departure would avert a major escalation of politically-motivated violence. It insisted that Aristide left the country voluntarily. Yet the petition filed by the human rights groups said the U.S. collaborated with the Dominican Republic and Haitian accomplices in the overthrow of the Aristide government, and its replacement by a government that it said had no legal basis.

The Haiti Issues Committee has published regular updates on the situation in Haiti via our listserv, recommending actions that WILPFers can take in response to U.S. policy toward our Caribbean neighbor. We urge members to keep their elected representatives in Washington aware of developments in Haiti (see www.ijdh.org) and call for the U.S. to support Haiti’s economic and political

recovery and continue to ask for the release of all political prisoners.

Members of the Haiti Issues Committee are prepared to provide presentations to local branches and/or a brief workshop format to be used by a person in the branch.

Recommended resources include: *The Uses of Haiti*, 3rd Edition, Common Courage Press, written by Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health. To join the Haiti Issues Committee listserv, email JoanWDrake@aol.com.

— Joan Drake, Marge Van Cleef

Joan Drake is a former member of the Board and Program Issues Committee of the U.S. Section of WILPF (1986-1993). She is currently chairing WILPF’s new Washington, DC Branch. Marge Van Cleef is a former U.S. WILPF Program Chair and presently Coordinator of the Rapid Response Committee as well as a Haiti Issues Committee Member. She can be reached at: margevc@verizon.net.

BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

The U.N. Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 asserted that “disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.”

The declaration further suggests that its principles be a “common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance...”

The missing component to the realization of a global human rights policy is the principle that the entire human family is inextricably connected. Dr. Martin Luther King’s

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S PEACE CONFERENCE IN CUBA

International WILPF is sponsoring a worldwide gathering in Havana, Cuba. Join us during November 22-26, 2006 for “Voices for Peace, Ecology, Dignity, and Life.”

Defy the call to war and other forms of violence and injustice. Share and celebrate the struggles and successes of women from many countries and backgrounds whose work gives us hope for the future. Join actions and voices for a better world!

For details and further information please see the conference website, www.peacewomen-voices.org or send questions to voices@wilpf.ch.

Beloved Community synthesized human rights principles with established non-violence guidelines. The King Center asserts that the purpose of non-violence is the creation of the Beloved Community and offers six principles of non-violence:

- Non-violence is a way of life for courageous people.
- Non-violence seeks to win friendship and understanding.
- Non-violence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.
- Non-violence holds that suffering can educate and transform.
- Non-violence chooses love instead of hate.
- Non-violence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.

WILPF's Building the Beloved Community Issue Committee shifts the focus of the racial justice movement from a focus on anti-racism to achieving racial justice and from identifying institutional racism simply as prejudice plus power to recognizing systemic racism as structural abuse of power plus propaganda. Additionally, the BBC issue committee shifts focus from national to grassroots-led initiatives.

— *Jeanmarie Simpson*, member,
Building the Beloved Community Issue Committee

DISARM! DISMANTLE THE WAR ECONOMY

WILPF was founded over 90 years ago to put an end to war. Our foremothers saw war as the greatest destroyer of human life and human rights, and worked tirelessly to replace might makes right with international law and peace building/keeping institutions. The U.S. WILPF DISARM issue committee continues in this tradition. We work closely with the WILPF U.N. offices of Reaching Critical Will and Peace Women in New York and the International Office in Geneva. We offer our resources to branches, campaigns and members wanting to emphasize demilitarization.

Our new website, featuring nuclear disarmament issues in April and May, can be reached from the upper right hand corner of www.wilpf.org. (Those without Internet access can contact the national office for information on DISARM.)

We post frequent updates on branch activities and continue to feature the Mil-Corp ConneXion Manual, EYE on Congress, and Abolition (of war, weapons of mass destruction, missile defense and weapons in space). The website also contains information on other DISARM related matters including creating a peace economy, ending Iraq occupation, preventing deadly conflict (especially with Iran and North Korea) counter-recruitment and similar anti-war issues of concern to branches. You'll find reports on the February U.N. Commission on the Status of Women meetings in New York and the March International Women's Day WILPF seminar on Depleted Uranium. Members of our DISARM Leadership Team participated in both events. Since we believe disarmament is impossible without

ensuring human rights (and vice versa) we have also included our flyer on the U.S. and U.N. human rights treaties there.

In April, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, (4/26/1986), we are encouraging branch programs on dangerous new nuclear power and weapons programs. In May events include co-sponsorship with Global Network of the annual Armed Forces Day demonstration at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Medea Benjamin and Que Keju (representing indigenous people of the Marshall Islands threatened by missile defense testing) will speak. MacGregor Eddy, demonstration organizer and DISARM team member, is challenging the U.S. Government in court on the basis of the Nuremberg Principles.

— *Carol Reilley Urner*

SWIM, BIKE, RUN FOR PEACE

In July, 2006 Chris Morin, co-president of U.S. WILPF, will be participating in the Gay Games in Chicago. She



will be entering the triathlon (over 50 version). This is a stretch for Chris, but she's motivated by the exercise and the fundraising possibilities for WILPF. She recently met someone in his 40's who made the comment, "We've got to get our bodies in shape for old age," and this made a lot of sense to Chris. Just as we need to get in shape for old age, we need to get WILPF in shape for years to come and that means raising funds.

"With my new role as co-president, I am focused on the development aspects of WILPF and look to see how

I can raise money and I hope to have fun doing it!"

"The Triathlon is a 700M swim, 12 mile bike ride and a 3.3 mile run (or jog in my case)." As a fundraiser for WILPF, she is asking friends and family, far and wide, to pledge \$20 for her to finish the event. (More if you can, less if you can't). She will be decked out in sport wear imprinted with the WILPF logo and "Make Peace a Reality" and will be carrying plenty of brochures to pass out and help her engage in conversations. Her goal is to raise \$10,000.

Chris has been a member of WILPF since 1990 and considers members of WILPF to be part of her family, far and wide. Please consider making a pledge to support WILPF, as Chris "Swims, Bikes and Runs for Peace." To make a pledge, please email Chris at funforlife1@mac.com with your name and pledge amount.

Send your checks to "US WILPF," with "triathlon" in the memo corner. With pledges of \$50 or more, you can receive a tax deduction if the check is made out to the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA). ❖

Water: Human Right or Tool of Power?

Linda Park

Water is a human right. Think about this:

water is a human right. In the United States we take this for granted. In many parts of the world, this is a luxury. If we are not vigilant, it will not be a right in the United States.

Think about the ways in which you use water. From the time you rise in the morning and use the toilet, brush your teeth and wash up until you go to bed at night after a shower or wash and taking a medication with a glass of water. We use water as an ingredient in our foods. We drink water just as a drink or as a part of other things we drink. We clean with water. We wash our clothes with water. We clean up our kitchens with water. We do dishes with water. We mop our floors with water. We put water on house plants that beautify our homes and clean our air. We water our lawns and gardens. We “hose down” our walks and drives to wipe away winter’s grime. We wash our cars with water. Many of us live near water and value it for its soothing effect and the beauty it adds to our landscapes. We swim in water. We boat and fish on water. We learn to respect the power of water.

In the larger world, these same functions take place. Factories prepare our food with water. Hospitals treat with water and clean with water. Manufacturers use large quantities of water in their processes. Ships bring raw materials and take away finished products on our rivers, lakes and oceans. Water is harnessed to create power to drive these functions. This is where we begin to lose water as a human right. Water is used



A woman does her family's wash in the Nyaderi River in Zimbabwe as her young son looks on.

Photo: U.N.

as a tool for power.

Recently, I again saw a program “Dirty in the Water” on FreeSpeech TV. There were two images that stayed with me: a family in Canada whose water was the color of mud coming out of the tap so that they had to buy their daily water supply separately and a family in South Africa who had to carry their water and reuse it as much as possible. A South African child carried on the mother’s back would lean over and drink

from a leak in the pipe as the mother filled containers with water for their daily use. Both these families had major problems in going about their daily tasks and trying to keep enough water for basic needs. This really shows us the scope of the water problem in our world. It is not just an issue in the developing world — it is an issue for all of us.

Think of the distress we feel when the fire department flushes the hydrants and our tap water comes out rusty. A minor annoyance, yes, but why does it always happen when you really are in a hurry and need a drink of water? Well, this is what some areas are living with day in and day out as their water systems are becoming old and corroding.

This becomes a situation that is ripe for privatization. The local governments that typically control water systems have been squeezed financially. The maintenance of water systems that work today become low on priorities of expenditures. With the age of systems and stress of increased use, this is an accident waiting to happen. When it does, a company coming in to say, “I’ll take this off your hands” is a very tempting

RESOURCES

Books

Blue Gold, Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke
Inside the Bottle, Tony Clarke
Water Wars, Vandana Shiva

Web sites

www.polarisinstitute.org
www.waterallies.org
www.kNOwBottledWater.org
www.mccloudwatercommons.org
www.stopcorporateabuse.org/campaign/expose-bottledwater
www.savemiwater.org
www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/html/eng/2037-AA.shtml
www.foodandwaterwatch.org

proposition. It does not require bond sales, convincing the public to pay higher rates, or the oversight of planning and construction. It does mean that water rates become a marketplace function and that a profit motive is built into the structure. More affluent areas become the recipient of better service and faster repairs. Shut offs become more efficient in poorer areas. Over and over again, cities that have tried this approach are unhappy and move to take back their water systems.

In South Africa, where they have full water systems, people must prepay for their water. They are given a meter to plug in and when they have used the amount of water they have paid for, they can no longer have access. Just think what this would mean to a family that has no one being paid for work, or for a family that is barely making the minimum to survive. In other areas of the world, people must go to a central well to get their water

**“Be informed; become active.
We have no time to lose!”**

and carry it back to their homes. Estimates are that it takes 4 - 6 hours per day just to obtain needed water. Women who do this work are often attacked on their journey to the well.

As WILPF women we need to become more aware of what is happening around us on this issue. But knowledge is not enough; from this knowledge we need to move into action. From our privileged position as having safe water available, we need to be sure we do not lose this, but even more so we need to work to see that this is not just a position of privilege, but one that is available to all, locally and globally. As individuals, we need to be aware of the corporate challenge we all face. Where do you fit in this picture? Are you learning? Are you doing?

There is a point where the individual/corporate continuum intersects the global/local continuum. We need to get to that point and do it before we have lost our water.

Start a study group in your area. Use the study guide prepared by the Cape Cod Branch. Borrow the films “Thirst” and “In the Light of Reverence” from WILPF. Ask for a speaker to work with you. Get information at the WILPF website, www.wilpf.org/campaigns/water/default. Be informed and become active. We have no time to lose!

Linda Park is a long time member of the WILPF Branch in Cleveland, Ohio and a member of the Save the Water Leadership Team. She has lived on the Great Lakes most of her life. The building of nuclear plants on each of these lakes was one of her first concerns about water safety. The proposed shipping of water from this resource to desert areas, including Iraq, has also been a concern. Contact her at veggiepark@sbcglobal.net or (216) 851 0968.

➤ **PATRIOT ACT** *from page 18*

strike, after 140 days and a loss of 45 pounds, and fired his court-appointed attorneys. On October 23, he hired respected Washington, D.C. attorney William B. Moffitt and lawyer Linda Moreno to represent him. On December 9, it was revealed that key evidence had been destroyed by federal authorities. By January 20 - 24, 2004, the government had narrowed wiretapped conversation from 21,000 hours to 200 hours of relevant material. Motions to dismiss based on First Amendment and free speech grounds were denied.

So, what is the government’s case against Sami al-Arian, and why question the validity of those claims? First, Dr. al-Arian was listed on the bank account of The World and Islam Studies Enterprise (WISE) with a man who later became the leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Therefore WISE is called a “racketeering enterprise.” In October 2000, a federal immigration judge had ruled WISE was not a “front” for Palestinian political causes, including the PIJ; it was a “reputable and scholarly research center.” What problems would occur if we were all judged based on who we knew years ago, never knowing who they would become?

A second claim is that Dr. al-Arian attended a conference of the Islamic Committee for Palestine (ICP) where “funds were solicited and raised for the PIJ” and where he attempted to recruit individuals to join the PIJ. A judge ruled that not one excerpt from a composite videotape used by the prosecution showed Dr. al-Arian raising money for PIJ and, at the time of the meeting (1997), it was not illegal to do so.

Dr. al-Arian is also under fire because his think tank (WISE) possessed the wills of three Palestinian suicide bombers, but think tanks often possess documents relating to their area of study, in this case the Palestine- Israeli conflict. He is accused of making four wire transfers to a bank in Tel Aviv, Israel, but has never been to Israel and could not have transferred such money without appearing personally with identification, according to the bank.

These are just a few of the charges for which Dr. al-Arian was recently tried. As a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. since 1989, first arriving in the country in 1975, Sami al-Arian seems an unlikely candidate for such a trial. The jury heard the evidence and found him innocent of nearly half of the charges. It deadlocked on the rest, citing insufficient evidence. Still, the U.S. Government has decided to re-try the case on remaining charges, without new evidence. Dr. al-Arian remains incarcerated pending new trial. Further information is at www.freesamialarian.com. His case should be a wake-up call for all of us.

Barbara Taft is a member of WILPF’s WCUSP Campaign. She can be reached at: beejayssite@yahoo.com.



Peace Education

News from the Jane Addams Peace Association

Here are two opportunities to help with WILPF's educational efforts.

PLEASE CONSIDER THESE ROLES:

SEARCH FOR MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE JAPA BOARD

JAPA board members comprise the decision-making, policy-setting, planning and oversight body of the Jane Addams Peace Association. Eligibility requires that candidates be committed members of WILPF for a minimum of two years prior to nomination for the JAPA board. We seek a diverse board composed of people experienced with (or willing to learn about) finance, fundraising, donor planned giving, organizational development or management, and/or boards of nonprofit organizations or foundations.

A board member attends two JAPA board meetings a year (Saturdays in the spring and fall in NYC), responsibly participates on two committees, is knowledgeable about JAPA and WILPF, is familiar with JAPA By-Laws and Policies, and participates in the development and promotion of JAPA. Directors are elected for a three-year period unless they are filling an unexpected vacancy. They can be selected for a second three-year term. JAPA pays travel expenses to JAPA board meetings. Hospitality may be available in the area of the meeting, upon request. Hotels, meals and cabs are the responsibility of the individual board member.

Please give names of nominees for the JAPA Board, with contact information, to at least one member of the Nominating Committee: Jan Strout, 206-547-0940, email: peacewomen4ever@yahoo.com / Virginia Rasmussen, 607-587-9558, email: vrasmussen@stny.rr.com / Joan Goddard, 408-396-8039, email: jam@batnet.com. Nominees who complete the application process within the next three months will be considered for the board.

The aims of the Jane Addams Peace Association, Inc., are to serve as the tax-exempt 501(c) 3 educational arm of WILPF; to perpetuate the spirit of Jane Addams' love for humanity, commitment to democracy and freedom, and

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

devotion to the cause of world peace; to promote projects consistent with these aims; and to oversee the funds necessary for the execution of these aims.

BRANCHES ELIGIBLE FOR CHILDREN'S PEACE EDUCATION FUNDING; JONES FUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The Jones Children's Peace Education Fund, designated by the JAPA Board of Directors from a bequest given by Doris Jones, provides monies for WILPF International, U. S. WILPF and WILPF branches whose members are planning activities to promote children's education for peace. Eligibility includes WILPF programs endorsed by other groups but not those put on by coalitions of which WILPF is a part. Priority is given to projects/programs that are innovative, well designed and in keeping with current WILPF program goals. Contact the JAPA Executive Director (*address page 30*) for application forms, etc.

Currently the Fund allocates about \$5000 per year with maximum funding for any one grant of \$1500 per eligible WILPF entity per year. It can be used for items of basic necessity such as travel expenses for speakers, publicity, film rental, literature, rental of auditoriums, etc. It may not be used for honoraria or hotel costs.

Committee members for the Jones Fund are needed. WILPF members in good standing should be nominated by a current WILPF member and need to have access to email communication. If selected, the nominee will serve a three-year term, with a second term possible. In addition to promoting the fund's availability within WILPF, committee members' responsibilities include review of proposals; decisions based on funding guidelines and a thoughtful critique of the applicant's plan and capacity to carry it out; oversight of Jones Fund allocations and monitoring of the financial integrity of the Fund; assuring that the names of both WILPF and JAPA appear on all projects that receive funding; encouraging timely evaluation and final budget reports from grantees; and communicating via the JAPA Board's Peace Education Projects (PEP) Liaison, including an annual written report.

To offer to serve on the Jones Children's Peace Education Fund Committee or for more information, contact Jan Strout, JAPA Board PEP Liaison, in Seattle (PST) 206-547-0940; e-mail: peacewomen4ever@yahoo.com.

New Development

Director Joins WILPF

Judy Claude joined the WILPF staff in February. As development director, she brings broad experience in donor cultivation and solicitation, planned giving and grant writing.

From 1990 until 1997, Judy served as executive director of the Bread and Roses Community Fund. Bread and Roses is a member of the Funding Exchange, a network of funds committed to funding progressive social change. As director, she was responsible for annual donor giving, identifying and cultivating new donors, expanding workplace participation and giving, and beginning the development of a planned giving program.

“Bread and Roses was my first experience in donor solicitation. I found, to my surprise, that I liked it, particularly the relationships that were developed with donors. My prior experience had been in writing grant proposals to foundations with whom relationships are determined in part by the grantmakers’ “ priorities.”

Prior to Bread and Roses, Judy served as assistant coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean in the international division of the American Friends Service Committee. In that position she was responsible for program in the Caribbean. Following the ouster of “Baby



Doc” Duvalier in 1986, she led the development of a project in Haiti which still continues. Working with groups in Puerto Rico, where AFSC had a project, and in the eastern Caribbean, Judy facilitated the raising of consciousness about self-determination for Puerto Rico, environmental degra-

dation in Vieques, and the militarization of the Caribbean Basin. In addition to raising grant monies for program work in Haiti and Puerto Rico, she obtained a grant of \$500,000 to aid the reconstruction efforts of small community groups in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

“I am so excited to be joining WILPF. Fundraising is made easier when you raise money for organizations in which you believe. WILPF’s history, mission, structure and constituency feels so comfortable to me. Working here is in keeping with so much that I believe. I am grateful for this opportunity.”

Contact Judy at judclaude@wilpf.org. ❖

Welcome to new Life Members!

Life Memberships (\$500) represent a commitment to the future of WILPF. Life members will never receive another renewal notice and will never run the risk of becoming “lapsed.” Life memberships make wonderful gifts to family, friends, or admired activists.



Tomilea Allison
James Allison
Linda Belle
Mary Bricker-Jenkins
Carol Brouillet
Nancy Broyles
Sandra Cisneros
Cameron Crain
Miriam Crawford
Alice Davis
Martha Devine
Jane Doyle
Madeline Duckles
Judith Evered
Lois J. Fiedler
Theresa Futvoye-Micus
Joanne Gellerman

Sue Hilton
Odile Hugonot-Haber
Alan Haber
Tamara James
Carol Johnson
Florence Johnson
Sharon Kind
Shirley Kinoshita
Gwyn Kirk
Sandra Last
Elizabeth Ann Leeper
Anne Lovegrove
Betty June Marsh
Helen Matelson
Joyce McLean
Douglas McLean
Cynthia Minster

Stephanie Munoz
Ellen Murtha
Peggy Olsen
Ellen Peterson
Jean Piraino
Annie Marie Pois
Joan Poss
Celeste Prehmus
Bonnie Reagan
Karen Redleaf
Barbara H. Reed
Leslie Reindl
Alice Ritter
Anne Rosenzweig
Ellen Schwartz
Carol Seeley
Sandy Silver

Jeanmarie Simpson
Regina Sneed
Phoebe Thomas Sorgen
Martha Spiess
Barbara Stahler-Sholk
Barbara Taft
Michael Taft
Barbara Ulmer
Vic Ulmer
Toni Vafi
Polly Victor
Sallie Watkins
Gloria Weber
Phyllis Yingling
Elizabeth Zimmerman

Remembering Ione Biggs

Cleveland marked the end of an era at a memorial service for Ione Biggs on December 21, 2005. She personified the peace and justice movement in Cleveland and beyond for many years. Her quiet dignity and firm resolve propelled many causes. One of her



pet projects was CEDAW, and as recently as October, 2005 she was railing, "Why do we let them get away with this?" She served on the National Board of WILPF and as president of the Cleveland branch, Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice.

The Cleveland branch held a program to honor Biggs in February, 2004.

What started as a small gathering could not be contained. When people heard of the event, they wanted to be a part and soon spoken tributes grew to over 20, with others being sent in writing. When people asked about which causes she was active in, the response was likely to be "Were there any where she was not active?" Among them were: Cleveland Partner Cities, Hard Hatted Women, Grass Roots Coalition, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, school desegregation, Inter Religious Task Force on Central America, Cleveland City Club, Presbytery of the Western Reserve, Church Women United, Racial Justice Project, anti-apartheid movement, anti-Vietnam and Iraq wars, anti-Wahoo actions, end the embargo against Cuba, Cleveland Works, Cuyahoga Plan (a local fair housing agency) and Cleveland Women Working.

Biggs traveled extensively in doing this work. In 1975, she attended the United Nations International Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya after working on a committee honoring the Year of the Woman. She was a delegate to Volgograd, Russia as part of a sister cities program. She also went to Nicaragua on a fact-finding mission and to conferences in Australia and Sweden. She organized a group of over 30 women from Cleveland to attend the Fourth World Forum for Women in Beijing, China in 1995, but illness prevented her from attending. She has been named to the Cleveland City Club Hall of Fame and the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame.

Biggs' focus and energy were an inspiration to all who met her. She will be greatly missed as a person who truly lived the slogan, "think globally, act locally."

— Linda Park

Honoring WILPF "Twins"

Members with Birthdays before 1920:

Amy Bush - Santa Rosa, CA
Kay Camp - Mainline (PA) - Life Member
Leah Campanella - NY
Caroline Canafax - Seattle, WA - Life Member
Marghi Dutton - San Francisco, CA
Miriam Schweitzer - Ann Arbor, MI
Alma Sims - Des Moines, IA
Helen Tichy - Des Moines, IA

Special congratulations to the Los Angeles Branch for the largest number of WILPF Twins!

Myra Barnes
Riki Belew - Life Member
Eleanor Belser
Sarah Blanken Bruch
Shirley Cloke
Florence Cohn
Elizabeth Dalsimer
Eleanor Eagan
Al Feinblatt
Irene Fortess
Lena Friedman
Ruth Hadley
Ruth Hammer
Florence Johnson - Life Member
Evelyn Kostove
Pearl & Ephraim Letz - Life Members
Betty Long - Life Member
Miriam Ludwig
Carla McNamara
Saul Morrison
Vivien Myerson - Life Member
Adele Nussbaum
Mollie Portner
Mildred Rosenstein
Julia Ross
Ruth Sheff
Yetta Sosin
Milly St. Charles
Laura Woolley Smith
Florence Tabor
Ann Witkovsky
Mollie Zucker

Note: Since running our first list of WILPF "Twins" last year we've heard from many other members who should have been included in this list. Please alert Sandy Silver of additional names for future listing. She can be reached at silver@cruzio.com or in care of the National office.

➤ HUMAN RIGHTS

from page 13

national criticism, the U.S. still perceives itself as a leader in human rights. Therefore, its ambassador argued that membership in this slimmed-down body should be limited to states with good human rights records, in part, because the new council would have power to request the Security Council to impose sanctions or take military action against those it judged to be abusing human rights.

Kofi Annan and a significant number of other governments also sought replacement of the commission with a council and this was approved in principle at the 2005 U.N. Reform Summit. Its parameters were to be negotiated under the leadership of the President of the General Assembly.

However, as of this writing, negotiations on the size, shape and functions of the new Council are thus far not producing the body the Bush Administration and some others have sought. Other nations are resisting reforms that will result in a smaller Council the U.S. can dominate and early negotiations indicated little reduction in size. Supervision has indeed shifted from the Economic and Social Council as the U.S. demanded, but the new Council is still under the General Assembly, rather than an independent entity as the U.S. proposed. And the General Assembly, where the U.S. sits as just one among 191 nations, insists upon remaining true to the U.N. Charter, the treaties already negotiated, and the three pillars of the U.N.: human rights, human security and the right to development.

International WILPF is watching the process carefully, and working to ensure that NGOs will continue to have significant access and influence in the Human Rights monitoring and oversight processes. We hope the new Council will continue the vital work the Commission on Human Rights has accomplished, helping all nations to move forward in their observance and implementation of human rights law.

In U.S. WILPF our task is moving our own country toward adherence to the three treaties already part of the supreme law of our land. Members of WILPF's Advancing Human Rights/CEDAW Issue Committee have been participating in a working group comprised of U.S.-based civil society organizations which has been in dialogue with the U.N. Human Rights Committee over domestic violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Copies of some of the reports filed with the HRC through this process are now available on the WILPF website at:

www.wilpf.org/issues/humanrights/shadowreport.htm

At the same time, WILPF recognizes the urgency of ratifying the other three treaties. Shamefully the U.S. is

one of very few governments (and the only developed nation) which has not ratified CEDAW on women's rights, and the only national government in the world which has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Especially important, however, is the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which codifies the last eight articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into law. The ICESCR directly challenges the commodification of natural resources, such as water, land and all other natural resources, as well as the commodification of social goods such as education and healthcare. In addition, WILPF sees the ICESCR as a potentially powerful tool for dismantling militarism and corporatism. Nations that have embraced human rights (such as those in the European Union, all of which have ratified six major human rights treaties) have had more success in making room for both entrepreneurship and the common good, and in balancing aspects of capitalism and socialism while ensuring human security and human rights. As members of an international organization, we can help the U.S. learn from the experiences of those nations.

More than 90 years ago Jane Addams and our other foremothers began WILPF's work on both human rights and ending the scourge of war. Eleanor Roosevelt and countless other WILPF members have done much to move the process forward. We must remain committed to continuing the work that they began.

Carol Reilley Urner is a former WILPF board member and a member of its Advancing Human Rights Issues Committee. She can be reached at: turner@qwest.net. Laura Roskos is co chair of the Massachusetts CEDAW Project, a WILPF board member and chair of WILPF's Advancing Human Rights Issues Committee. She can be reached at: masscedaw@yahoo.com

➤ TRUTH, RECONCILIATION

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member Ann Powers. "I felt the need to be part of that (TRC) process and I felt like I was."

For more information visit www.greensborotrc.org or www.gjf.org.

Lucy Wagner Lewis is a long time WILPF member. She and her mother, the late Jean Wagner, were among those in Greensboro on November 3, 1979. Jean Wagner was a former WILPF Southern Regional Vice President, who had been part of a WILPF delegation to Northern Ireland in the mid '70s to witness human rights abuses in that country.



BranchAction News

Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor

Dear Readers: *Peace & Freedom* just can't be sent out enough to cover all that is happening in WILPF branches — your newsletters and other communications are so full of activities and good ideas, they should be shared among all branches. A reminder that National WILPF has a new membership blog, <http://wilpf.blogspot.com/> for connecting and sharing. Send news to C. J. Minster at cjminster@gmail.com.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Sacramento County used the Make Peace a Reality postcard campaign in November to counter hate mail being received by the Sacramento City Council for passing a resolution to bring the troops home and close the bases. Ten giant puppets made by **Catonsville** members, created to look like people from around the globe and wearing signs saying “peace” in many languages, were enthusiastically cheered at the January MLK Day parade. **Madison** celebrated WILPF's 90th with a program “Our Topic is FEAR.” Jeremy Scahill (Democracy Now! and *Nation* magazine), just back from Iraq, was the speaker. Lea Zeldin's (co-chair) letter to the editor was published as the lead letter in the afternoon paper the day before the event, under the title “Unlike FDR, Bush is promoting fear among Americans.”

MEMBERS HONORED

Madeline Duckles, by the **Berkeley Branch** and the City of Berkeley (official Madeline Duckles Day) for tireless advocacy for peace and justice. **MN Metro's** Arts Committee was given the “Creative Women Inspiring Justice” award by MN Women's Consortium. Kay Camp, “one of WILPF's most influential women and a peacemaker who embodies the ideals of dedication and perseverance,” was honored by **Delaware County**, which has set up a fund in her name. Sherry Hutchison (**Des Moines**), was given a Peace Award from the Catholic Peace Ministry. Shirley Powers (poet, **Peninsula**) was named “Achiever of 2005” by the National League of American Pen women. Ruth Chippendale and husband (**Peninsula**) were honored by The *San Francisco Chronicle* for outstanding community service. Valori George (**Monterey County**), was given the Baha'i Human Rights Award.

HUMAN RIGHTS/CORPORATE POWER

Los Angeles published the Universal Declaration in its December newsletter. **Cape Cod** published extracts from a

speech given back in 1958, listing the ways U.S. society goes about taking away the human rights of native people. **Portland** is working with several organizations to promote the U.N. on Human Rights Day and into the future. **San Jose** co-sponsored a program on Human Rights Day. **Des Moines** reported how surprised it was by the response to its corporate power conference “Democracy Under Siege” held in November 2005, attracting 20 co-sponsors from different facets of the community and over 200 participants. In January it reported on breakout sessions: corporate media and democracy, “big pharma” and health care, agribusiness and family farms, corporations and labor, and a strategy session. This could be a model for all branches. A **Madison** member attended the January 2006 World Social Forum in Caracas, Venezuela, and carried the concerns from branch members with her. **Cape Cod** is helping to organize resolutions to be placed on each Cape town's government agenda proposing Cape Care, a single-payer community health insurance program.

SAVE THE WATER

Cape Cod, Portland, and Los Angeles began water study groups. On November 28, 2005, **Catonsville** held a program on “Save the Water” led by Angel Shannon, with guest speaker Andy Fellows of Clean Water Action. **Delaware County** launched its water campaign with a potluck, film about the Delaware River, talk by Kate Zaidan from national WILPF and a discussion. It invited people from environmental and social justice groups. It also offered scholarships to the Feb. U.N. conference “The Global Challenge of Water.” **Triangle** is working with OrangeWater and Sewer authority to spread information about the advantages of local tap water over commercial bottled water. **Detroit** followed its September forum “Water as a Right Based in the Common Good” with study groups and printed comments by the forum speaker on “What's the ‘Common Good,’ Anyway?” **Cape Cod** called attention to passage of the “Water for the Poor Act” (HR 1973), to make access to safe water and sanitation a major purpose of U.S. foreign assistance. **Sacramento Valley** presented “Water for All: Corporate Rights vs. Human Rights — Keeping Water in Public Hands,” with Nancy Price from the Leadership Team. Price was also the speaker on “Monterey Water: It's Our Water. It's Our Money. Can We Take It Back?” at the Cluster meeting. **MN Metro's** water study group visited metro area drinking water and wastewater treatment plants and is now design-

Members: Please remember to send me a copy of your announcements and newsletters. That's the only way I am able to report on your activities so all the branches know what you are doing. My address: Leslie Reindl, 1233 Ingerson Road, St. Paul, MN 55112.

ing follow-up. **Santa Cruz**'s water committee is researching possible metal water bottles in place of the "kNOw" plastic water bottles they ordered previously, because of nalgene used in the plastic bottles. **Cape Cod** alerted readers to MA House bill HB 1333 "An Act to Preserve Public Water and Sewer Systems."

MIDDLE EAST

Monterey County heard from Dalit Baum, anti-occupation activist from Israel on the topic of the wall. **San Jose** presented a study program on water usage in the Palestinian territories. **Des Moines** co-sponsored a conference "Hope for the Holy Land: Truth and Reconciliation." **St. Louis** called together all local organizations working for Middle East Peace to a gathering for sharing of information, with Libby Frank as honored guest. **Philadelphia** printed Libby's report on a conference held at the Palestine Center in November. Two general ideas were presented by all speakers: "The U.S. is the major disrupter to peace and justice in the region, and Palestinian statehood alone is not a substitute for liberation, justice, and self-determination." "The Reality of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict" was the subject of a **Cape Cod** program. **Sacramento Valley** had Barbara Taft, member of the Leadership Team for the Middle East campaign, speaking on the "Nuts and Bolts of the Middle East Campaign: The Challenge of Challenging U.S. Policy." Barbara Taft also spoke to **San Jose**.

MILITARISM/IRAQ

Berkeley listed the website for the 2005 International Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity Committed by the Bush Administration, www.bushcommission.org. **Delaware County** presented a program on "Our Schools, Our Youth, and the Military," with a speaker from Iraq Vets Against the War. **Des Moines** reported on a speech given locally by Daniel Ellsberg, "Telling the Truth About Viet Nam and Iraq." **Philadelphia** showed the film "Battle Program under Fire," issued by U.S. government and outlining the current aggressive war practices of U.S. armed forces. A local lecturer on military issues led a discussion after the film. **Burlington** co-sponsored a film and



WILFers Renee Kasinky (left) and Christina Brinkley (right) of the Boston Branch hold a banner at a demonstration in Caracas.

panel discussion on "Warrior's Women," on the impact of war on the lives of soldiers' families, in anticipation of the 500 national guardsmen soon to return from Iraq to Vermont. The film and discussion were carried live on cable for audience participation. **Peninsula** has a "Think First, Counter Military Recruiting" project; it has prepared materials in Spanish for Spanish-speaking parent groups. It finds parents eager to hear how to get their children out of Delayed Entry Military Enlistment programs and into union trade apprenticeships and peace-related work. **Portland** printed parts of a speech by Joan Chittister, in which she urges listeners to organize with established peace groups such as WILPF. **Berkeley** listed the military service or non-service of many Democrats, Republicans, and Pundits and Preachers. An amazing list of "did not serves" for the latter two categories. **Catonsville** honored Sr. Carol Gilbert at its 10th Anniversary party. Sr. Carol spoke about her 2 1/2 years of time in federal prison for being part of a Plowshares action of civil resistance in 2002. (*The Catonsville Times* covered the event and published a picture of Sr. Carole.)

NUCLEAR MADNESS

Santa Cruz printed a long article by member Jean Merrigan, describing a public tour she had taken of the Lawrence Livermore National Lab in the Bay Area. She found the experience surreal, in the seeming disregard for environmental contamination and the deadliness of what is being worked on, and the openness with which tour guides described problems. At the end she discovered that depleted uranium weapons are being tested very close to civilian housing, and a proposal has been made to test radioactive tritium.

ELECTIONS

[Another election is looming, and the machine fraud problem is being addressed only by requesting "paper trails."]
St. Louis reviewed the November 2004 election debacle and plans by state election officials to buy electronic voting machines despite their many problems. It printed the Voters Unite map of 2004 voting system failures (www.VotersUnite.org/info/map/flyer2004.pdf). Missourians for Honest Elections proposed to the Secretary of State's office that Missouri return to hand-counted paper ballot system. **Los Angeles** heard from a speaker on "Election Justice and Actions to Protect Democracy." **Berkeley** listed all of the propositions on the Nov. CA special election with recommendations.

PROGRAMS

Branches held various events, including: "Stopping the Pentagon War Machine" with Carol Urner and MacGregor

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► BRANCH ACTION from page 29

Eddy from the national DISARM committee (**Los Angeles**); On the topic of Katrina and its aftermath, **St. Louis** hosted “Homeland Insecurity: What Is Really Going On?” **Philadelphia** hosted a talk on Haiti, given by Marge Van Cleef; “The Doctor, Depleted Uranium and Dying Children,” an award-winning German public TV documentary was shown by (**Santa Cruz**); **Santa Cruz** hosted “Genetically Engineered Food: Why Should We Worry?”; Medea Benjamin, Code Pink Founder, spoke on her book *Stop the Next War Now!* (**Sierra Foothills**); WILPFer Ann Fagan Ginger spoke on her new book *Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11* (**Los Angeles**).

Think Outside the Bottle

Marketing of bottled water is “the most visible symbol of corporate control of water,” says Corporate Accountability International (CAI), which staged protests in which WILPF participated, to send the message: “Our water is not for sale.” One in six Americans now drink bottled water. “Coke, Nestlé and Pepsi have spent tens of millions of dollars convincing us bottled water is cleaner, healthier and better for us than tap water,” protest sponsors say. “But, it’s just not true. In fact, bottled water is less regulated than tap water.”

CAI urges letters to Coke (Dasani), Pepsi (Aquafina) and Nestlé (Poland Spring, Deer Park and more) to tell them to “stop misleading promotion of bottled water and stop interfering in policies that protect our water.” For information, contact www.stopcorporateabuse.org.

RAGING GRANNIES

New York Grannies were arrested trying to enlist while chanting “We insist that we enlist!” while the group Billionaires for Bush demonstrated outside. **San Francisco** has formed a new group, aided by **Peninsula** Grannies. The latter sang at De Anza College as part of activities for the Tribunal conference on Colin Powell, and participated in street theater protest against Wal-Mart and its health care policies, asking hard questions of the person playing the “Wal-Mart CEO.” **San Jose** Grannies’ schedule includes a showing of “Wal-Mart: High Price of Low Cost.” **Santa Cruz** sang in front of the military recruiting center on national stand down day in November.

MAINE MOURNS LOSS

WILPF members in **Maine** report their sad loss of 87 year old life member Marianne Maloney of York, Maine. Maloney was described in a newspaper feature as a “cheerfully fearless grandmother” noted for her outspoken bumper-stickered car. In a personal memoir (the kind based on facts!) Marianne recalled her childhood in China as her fundamental experience in looking at the world. She worked as a social worker at the Tule Lake

(CA) camp for Japanese-Americans as one of her first jobs — an experience of government racism that horrified her. In 1972 she went to jail in DC for 30 days for “trying to petition the Senate for redress of grievances” to stop the bombing of Vietnam. Her connection to China remained throughout her life with several return travels including visits to the places where her parents had worked. Her link to China inspired her to visit Cuba and volunteer in Nicaragua to support their efforts to build a better life for their people. She was happy to see thousands of Cubans riding Chinese bicycles.

ACTION ALERTS

Against new antipersonnel mines (**Delaware County, Santa Cruz**); against the Patriot Act (**Portland, Des Moines, Berkeley**); eminent domain (as state issue, **St. Louis**); “Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policy Making Act” (**St. Louis**); California Health Insurance Reliability Act (SB 840) (how single-payer health care system would be financed) (**Peninsula**); compulsory vaccination bill giving pharmaceutical companies immunity from liability (**Santa Cruz**); Graham Amendment to the defense bill, taking away rights of habeas corpus (it was amended, but barely) (**Santa Cruz**); Darfur genocide (**Portland**); budget cuts from social programs (**Berkeley**).

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

A new biography of Jane Addams, *Citizen, Jane Addams, and the Struggle for Democracy*, by Louise Knight (Madison); *Women and the U.S. Budget: Where the Money Goes and What You Can Do About It*, by Jane Midgley (**San Jose, Portland**).

Save For Peace

Yes! It is possible to support the cause of peace and get a secure income at guaranteed rates higher than most savings accounts or certificates of deposit!

As we notice our world’s unhappy condition and act to make it more peaceful and just, many of us are also concerned about personal finances. The Jane Addams Peace Association serves both objectives by offering annuities with lifetime income.

In addition to the benefit of a tax deduction on your gift (\$10,000 or more) the current return is 6 percent for those who are 65, with higher rates for each additional year of age. Rates change every few months, so please contact me soon to discuss how this opportunity might work for you.

Linda B. Belle, Executive Director
Jane Addams Peace Association
777 United Nations Plaza, NY, NY 10017
(212) 682-8830 or email: japa@igc.org

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SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the WILPF West "Gathering the Women Conference," July 20 — 23, 2006 at Portland State University, Portland, OR. Don't miss this opportunity to get face to face, up-to-date information on WILPF International and National activities, participate in workshops on U.S. priorities, Water and Mid-East, as well as on-going standing committees. Get re-acquainted with your International and National officers, and, best of all, get to visit with our hard-working grassroots members who keep WILPF alive. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Georgia Pinkel (gpinkel@pacifier.com) or Pat Hollingsworth (claypat@aol.com).

JOIN YOUR WILPF SISTERS TO PLEDGE FOR PEACE

Since 1915, WILPF has been working to create a global, lasting peace.

JOIN us as we make peace a reality in 2006!



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Expiration _____ Signature _____

Option for credit card or debit card only!! Please check here _____ if you wish to make your monthly pledge to the U.S. Fund of the Jane Addams Peace Association. These gifts are fully-tax-deductible.

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For more information, call (215)563-7110 or email wilpf@wilpf.org.

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The Middle East Campaign was the subject of a meeting hosted by Portland WILPF where Mary Bricker-Jenkins, WILPF Program Chair, acted as facilitator to help the Leadership Team focus on accomplishments and goals. *See report on page 17.*