

Peace & Freedom

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

Fall 2008

www.wilpf.org • Vol. 68 • No. 3

Women Confront Power



As Y-WILPF member Robin Rose offers a flower to police, they pepper spray her during the first day of the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, where she was participat-

ing in the Funk the War march, the Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign, and an anti-war march. Robin was briefly arrested.

INSIDE

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- Standing Up for Peace
- Stopping Sexual Violence
- Women in Afghanistan

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The soapbox at the 30th Triennial Congress invited participants to "Speak Your Peace." Tae Campbell photo



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What Kind of Impact Can We Make?

An article has been circulating on the Internet entitled "This is Your Nation on White Privilege." The article describes the presidential campaign in terms of the dominant culture's interpretation of Gov. Sarah Palin and Sen. Barrack Obama. For instance, comparing their political experiences, Gov. Palin's is admirable and Sen. Barrak is untested.

White privilege is alive in the U.S. as well as in each of us. As many of you know, *Making Whiteness Visible* is a video that was shown at one of the plenaries at our Triennial Congress. This powerful video addresses the core of racism, which is the privilege that the dominant culture exercises every day. Sha'an Mouliert, member of Vermont WILPF, facilitated the plenary session and a following workshop, both of which were well received.

WILPF has a history of addressing racism in the context of racial justice but with little follow up. We are at a crossroads now where we can either say we are working on racial justice or we can actually make solid plans to continue our work. It's with this background that we are offering a full-day training to branch members. The training will include a showing of *Making Whiteness Visible* with facilitated discussion, steps to take after the training, and evaluation plans that address continued work on racial justice in the context of white privilege.

A letter has been sent to all branches concerning this offer. For questions concerning the training or to schedule one for your branch, please contact Sha'an Mouliert at mouliert@vtlink.net or Chris Morin at funforlife1@mac.com. ♦

Cover: AP Images/Matt Rourke

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.

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

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

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

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Moving Forward Toward Lasting Change

By Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos, Co Presidents

Lasting change is hard. Ask Madeline Duckles, or Joyce McLean, or Macgregor Eddy — or any of the hundreds of WILPFers who have struggled for decades to abolish nuclear weapons only to see their governments take steps towards acquiring them. Or ask one of the many, many WILPFers who worked to end racism long before the Civil Rights movement had a name. In its history of addressing the root causes of war, WILPF has adopted stances of both resistance and engagement; resistance as a mobilization of "holding" actions intended to stop imposed or injurious changes from going any further, and engagement as a release of creative powers when we work with others in crafting alternative solutions. Through our active engagement in developing the mechanisms for positive change in the world, we've all recognized that it takes more than a simple decision to secure our work.

We've been thinking about how to institutionalize change because we took on the presidency of WILPF's U.S. Section with a goal of securing the changes begun by the 2005-08 National Board. Some of these changes are: making participation in WILPF and its work more accessible and meaningful; nurturing our sense of responsibility to each other by asking for greater political initiative from our members, and providing support and mutual aid through increased skills sharing and trainings; mending the gaps in our internal communications resulting from the "digital divide" that exists among our membership and addressing our failure to continually upgrade our technology. Re-tooling our organization to meet these goals and the challenges of the future, we recognized, would take sustained effort and the involvement of all our members and supporters.

As Terry Futvoy-Micus recognizes in her report on our recent National Congress (*see page 4*), transparency and democracy have become the rallying cries of many of our members as they seek to understand the tangible effects of WILPF's internal changes. But rather than rallying under the twin flags of transparency and democracy, perhaps we should be asking ourselves and each other "What does democracy look like?" or "What do we really mean when we ask for transparency?" The operational changes underway have opened up new spaces for engagement by our members, but for these new spaces to yield more democratic participation and transparent decision-making, they will need to be filled with the creative energies of WILPF members, new and old.

In this issue, you'll learn about WILPF's ongoing work at the U.N. and in Washington. D.C., as well as



what WILPFers are doing right now in Alaska, Afghanistan and elsewhere. In addition, you'll read about some of the internal changes being made within WILPF. We've entered into a partnership with Democracy-in-Action to improve communications among our members; we've instituted an internal mini-grant funding process that gives our most passionate members the resources they need to shape WILPF initiatives on a national level; we've launched an ongoing program to engage members in undoing the internal racism that has kept WILPF from realizing its full potential to effect change in U.S. policy; we've fully enfranchised our younger members in our national decision-making structure by adding two Y-WILPF seats to the National Board.

All of these were envisioned as invitations, extended to increase membership and involvement in all aspects of WILPF's organizational life. The movement toward greater participation and involvement means more interpersonal interaction among all of us as we continue the task of co-creating our better selves and a better world.

Just as change in the world requires shifting consciousness and building new institutions, changing WILPF will require a transformation of our organizational culture and sustained follow through. The effectiveness of our efforts to change the world for the better — whether that means curtailing the military presence in public schools, keeping space free of nuclear weapons, or preserving popular control of water as a resource shared in common — will, going forward, rest to a greater degree on the quality of the relationships among us. By minding our relationships, we give ourselves the gift of present energies, to complement the inspiration of future generations and the memory of the strong women who cared for us in the past. Better together, these three gifts will sustain our work in the political arena for years to come. ♦

Report from the 30th Triennial Congress

By Terry Futvoye Micus

The theme of this year's National Congress, "Moving Forward, Making Peace," proved provocative. The entire first day of our gathering in Indianola, Iowa was set aside for internal WILPF concerns that arose last fall, such as the lay-offs of the national office staff, the financial crisis, temporary shut-down of the office, and ensuing structural changes. Congress attendees and members from branches across the U.S. asked many questions and insisted on answers. The board has focused on transparency and accountability since the events of last fall, and members made it clear they want backup for their branch work and up-to-date information, but not top-down leadership or obscure direction. Attendees also stressed the importance of a strong national presence for our venerable, 94-year old organization. Overall, the first day's discussion was constructive and fruitful.



Eleanore "Ellie" Bluestein and Yvonne Logan, past president, U.S. WILPF.

Traditionally, the heart of WILPF's Triennial Congress has been to establish a program for the next three years. This year, rather than choosing campaigns as we did for 2005-08, WILPF established a mini-grant program for the branches and issue committees. Branches (individual and groups of branches) may apply for mini grants to support an issue they are working on — building our national campaigns from the bottom up.

On Friday through Sunday, Congress workshops, actions and guest speakers covered the major concerns facing U.S. and the world. Save the Water and Women Challenge U.S. Policy in the Middle East reported on their efforts over the past three years and their future plans. The overall emphasis was on multilateralism and the internationalist mindset shaping all the work we do. Our unique position on peace and justice serves as a point of reference for other NGO, progressive, and governmental entities.

The 30th Triennial Congress ushered in more appreciation for WILPF's international office and the work they do. Susi Snyder, secretary general in Geneva, Dr. Hanan

Awwad, president of Palestine WILPF, and Diane Brace, president of the U.K. WILPF section, all gave presentations.

Susi held remarkable workshops on international WILPF's program, which is organized into four pillars: Challenge Militarism, Invest in Peace, Strengthen the United Nations, and Build WILPF. Dr. Awwad covered in more detail the Palestinian history of peace efforts and described WILPF's condition and life in Jerusalem as highly "checkpoint-ed" but alive. Diane Brace, a long-time labor activist, attributed her WILPF membership to Phyllis Yingling, past president of U.S. WILPF. Three years ago, Diane started London WILPF, which now numbers more than 60 members, many of them young women. Her secret to success is to "carry WILPF applications all the time" and train new members.

CONGRESS TRADITIONS

The 2008 Congress action saw Raging Grannies singing from their vast repertoire at an Indianola farmers' market, as well as leafleting with WILPF's Iran/Iraq paper and other issues. Their presence led to three new memberships for the Des Moines branch. The Grannies were an integral part of Congress each day as inspiring us, reminding us to have fun, and selling wonderful materials including songbooks. Branches and issue groups also sold a wide variety of items.

On Saturdays of each Congress, it is traditional to introduce the previous and new National Board Members and to do some fundraising. This year was no different, as branches and individuals were encouraged to pledge donations to the national office. Branches were asked to encourage their members to give monthly \$10 pledges, or to pledge as a branch to make a specific monthly donation. (To learn how,



go to www.wilpf.org and click on "Donate Now.")

In the midst of all the intensity, the Des Moines branch sponsored a magnificent local women's dance troupe and secured tickets to a delightful, well-sung community opera.

Maggie Rawlands at the Corporate Personhood Workshop.



Amy Goodman with Pastor David Lewis who presented WILPF with The James Cheney Peace Award at Congress.

Robin Lloyd Photo



Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now!* radio told anecdotes about the human casualties of current governmental policies. *YES! Magazine* creator and publisher Fran Korten talked about "planetary alchemy," the development and conservation of natural resources through sustainable grassroots programs. Peg Mullen received the First Annual "Strong, Feisty Woman Award" from the Des Moines Branch for her years of outstanding work.

NEW AT CONGRESS

This Triennial Congress ushered in several new events and action items:

- An extensive collection of Jane Addams Peace Award book winners was exhibited. Susan Freist described her classroom use, as well as student and parent reception of a "peace curriculum." Creative uses of the books by branches were reported.
- Members are asked to volunteer for several national WILPF committees now being formed. These are: 1) Site Committee, to search for a new location for the national office; 2) Grant Allocation for the mini-grants, 3) Grant Oversight and Evaluation; and 5) Personnel. For full descriptions of these committees and to volunteer, go to www.wilpf.org.
- Every WILPF section in the world is looking forward

Congress photos by Tae Campbell



Left to right: Mary Hanson Harrison with Sandy Silver at Tribute Night; Peg Mullen at Tribute Night; and Tae Campbell with Congress T-shirt.



At left, Board members celebrate at Congress. Above, left to right, Janet Burns, Vinie Burrows, and Sha'an Moulert.

to the next 100 years. By 2015, when we celebrate our 100th anniversary, a new Manifesto will be proposed. An online committee is forming to help write the Manifesto. Also, International WILPF has set a goal of finding 1,000 members worldwide to donate \$1,000 dollars each by 2015.

- U.S. Y-WILPF, for WILPF members aged 18-35, was officially welcomed with two seats on the Board. At the international Congress in Sweden six years ago, a resolution was passed to establish a youth group within WILPF, called Y-WILPF. Next year, a meeting of all Y-WILPFs will convene in Europe. U.S. Y-WILPF is engaged in fundraising for this meeting. It also planned a presence at the Democratic and Republican conventions this summer, and continues to work on recruitment and communication.

From hands-on workshops such as how to conduct a "Perfect Meeting," to sessions on "The Real Cost of War," our Congress covered a lot of ground. It was a chance for all of us to be inspired by our speakers, to re-connect and re-commit to WILPF, and to welcome the new Board. ❖



International Co-President Annelise Ebbe spoke at the "Beyond Bi-Coastal" plenary session.



Why Peace and Freedom?

By Emily Greene Balch

Editor's Note: Emily Green Balch (1867-1961) wrote this pamphlet explaining the origins of WILPF's name in 1935. Along with Jane Addams, Balch helped found WILPF and served as first international secretary from 1919 to 1922. A former settlement house worker and economics professor (she was fired after 25 years at Wellesley for teaching "pacifism not economics"), she went on to write important reports on Haiti and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946.

She begins her pamphlet by quoting a column from *The Nation* in which the author comments on the popularity of the Statue of Liberty, but goes on to say: "... among us grown-ups, liberty either in bronze or in life has been so completely under a cloud in recent years that [this writer] may, perhaps, be pardoned for overlooking it."

An original, framed copy of this pamphlet was given to WILPF at Congress by Diane Brace, president, U.K. WILPF.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has had quaint experience of this unfashionableness of freedom in the land of the free. When this [WILPF] name was adopted at an International Congress in Switzerland in 1919, some of us may have fancied it would be attractive. "International," however, we soon came to realize had curious connotations in some minds. When we held a Summer School in Anti-Semitic Austria we found that to many people it meant something Jewish; in other cases, it seems to call up echoes of the "Third International;" to others, it apparently sounds vaguely dangerous.

"Freedom," however, we had thought would be universally acceptable, but most of all so in the United States, the self-styled "land of the free," whose symbol is the Goddess of Liberty. But in the United States freedom also is suspicious and provokes challenge. "What do you mean by it?"

At the time this title was evolved those present at the meeting were under the pall of the peace parleys then going on in Paris. Women were gathered for this Congress from most of the countries that count in the progress of the world — France, Germany, England, the United States, Italy, Holland, the Scandinavian countries, Australia and others.

They had come together as pacifists. No lesser issue would have brought French, German and Belgian women together in friendship in those days when the Versailles treaty was being completed. But they felt the danger of confusing peace with stagnation. They believed that vio-

lence creates new wrongs in redressing old ones, but also they believed that a peace which rests on oppression maintained by force is an evil peace and cannot last, and that freedom must be won for all peoples by peaceful means.

Because of what they had seen for over four years they also believed that freedom, the basic condition of human personality and growth, could not be maintained EXCEPT UNDER PEACE. That, too, was in their minds in making "peace and freedom" their objective.

It may be that of those who voted for this new name, for what had been known till then as the International Women's Committee for Permanent Peace, some had also in mind the struggle that still lay before them, as women, to secure the right of suffrage and the full status of citizenship then not yet won in the United States. But this was not the chief consideration.

As President Neilson of Smith College said at a recent address in Boston, thought went into the choosing of this

"The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom believes in an Americanism . . . which . . . holds the future of our people as its pledge."

title. And there is need today of more thought on these subjects for what we had inherited as unquestioned watchwords have been allowed to become just unreal phrases hallowed by lip service only, and after a period of dry rot belief in them is now crumbling. How many Americans not only believe, but openly maintain that fascism is better than democracy, that unthinking obedience is better than action based on individual conscience and thought, that patriotism is synonymous with nationalism, that liberty is dangerous, that peace is a dream and not even a beautiful dream.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom believes in an Americanism which is older than this modern creed; an Americanism which they believe holds the future of our people as its pledge. This Americanism breathes a spirit of universal and disinterested good will; it is based on individual liberty, enriched by a sense of social duty, and it strives to do its share of the world's task of realizing a peace which shall be no dream, but beautiful beyond old dreams of peace. Such a peace must be a state of dynamic harmony, not rigid and hidebound, able to change only by the explosive method of revolution, but as living organisms alter — by vital processes of growth. ❖

Working for Women in Afghanistan

By Theresa de Langis

IT'S DAY SIX OF A SIX-DAY LOCK DOWN, with all U.N. staff restricted to essential movement, and then only in scarce armored cars. If you follow the security advisories on a map of Afghanistan, you quickly discover the insurgency is not only closer, but has virtually surrounded the capital. Barely a week after the assassinations of four international aid workers with the International Red Cross, "specific and credible" intelligence has been intercepted that the U.N. may well be the next target.

Here at the guest house where I am staying (living with four other women and two men, all U.N. workers from various agencies) we debate whether the Taliban is stronger or more aggressive. Of course, it could be both. It's hard to know within the confines of this house, even if we are situated in the heart of Kabul.

English-language newscasts with local reporting don't exist, and neither does daily newspaper delivery. All we have to work with are cryptic text messages from our respective directors forwarded from U.N. security. Reconnaissance helicopters fly overhead every few hours — we all look up, and some of us wave — but otherwise, it's another painfully quiet summer day in our overgrown backyard, morning glories climbing up the mud wall, around the U.N.-mandated, double row of barbed wire.

The seven of us are here to do development work, and that means we are considered "non-essential staff." If an evacuation is called, we're among the first on the plane. For some of us, that's a relief. For others, like me, who work on advancing women's human rights within the framework of U.N. SCR 1325, it's a nightmare.

A month ago, my director asked that I design a new unit around women's participation in governance, peace,



Young girls prepare for exams in Bamyan, Afghanistan. U.N. Photo/Shehzad Noorani

and security. I've completed the work plan, neatly compartmentalized and diagrammed around the "3 Ps" — Prevention, Protection, Participation — and organized through capacity building and technical support. My outputs, targets, and outcomes are impeccably aligned in three distinct columns. The concept note outlines the EVAW law the women Ministers of Parliament will pass, the CEDAW report the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will submit, and the election



Mother and child at a class in Kapisa, Afghanistan. U.N. Photo/Eskinder Debebe

We will need to tread lightly, even while leaving a heavy footprint for peace.

campaigns grassroots women will organize. I imagine how crisp, sensible, logical, and inevitable this proposal will appear when printed on clean white pages.

IT TOOK ONLY THREE DAYS for the house to get edgy in its listlessness. We've caught up on our emails, we've Skyped our friends and family for hours, we've each checked and re-checked and checked again our 15-kilo evacuation packs. We sleep late into the morning and take long afternoon naps

IT'S ON DAY THREE that I erase, entirely and irrevocably, the neat and tidy unit I have designed. I do this with a single key stroke.

I begin again, this time tacking a photo above my desk of two burqa-clad women beheaded by the Taliban a few weeks back. They were accused of being "prostitutes," which in Afghanistan can mean just about anything: a woman who works for government or an NGO or the U.N.; a woman who has attempted to escape a forced marriage; a woman caught talking to a man that is not her near relative. Or just a woman in Afghanistan. Last week, this photo was my point of reference while

Continued on page 23 ➤



New Resolution Tackles Sexual Violence in Conflict

By Sam Cook

It is undeniable that sexual violence is being used as a method of war and perpetrated at levels that defy belief. In too many cases the perpetrators act with impunity.

In June, the U.N. Security Council (under the presidency of the U.S.) held an Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, which concluded with the unanimous passage of Resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflict. Some 50 other U.N. member states, not on the Security Council, co-sponsored this resolution.

The resolution and the advocacy for its adoption was controversial, in part because there was not broad and open consultation with women's groups when it was drafted. In addition, women peace activists were troubled that the U.S. was leading the debate on this issue.

Some of their discomfort was alleviated by the fact that the U.S. was taking up an initiative driven by many women's groups and governments over a long period of time.

With regard to the resolution itself, there were several substantive questions beginning with: why the focus on sexual violence? After all, Security Council Resolution 1325 (adopted in October 2000) provides a broad and fairly comprehensive framework for a range of issues affecting women, peace and security. Some argued that Resolution 1820's exclusive focus on sexual violence would undercut the powerful breadth of SCR 1325 and reduce its importance.

For some, spotlighting sexual violence in conflict is seen as reducing the issues of women and armed conflict

Key Provisions of Security Council Resolution 1820

- Clearly establishes that sexual violence in conflict situations is a matter for the Security Council to consider and act upon.
- Stresses that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war in order to deliberately target civilians or as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security, and expresses a readiness to adopt appropriate steps to address widespread or systematic sexual violence.
- Provides explicit examples of possible measures to provide protection from sexual violence, including vetting armed and security forces to take into account past abuses, the evacuation of those under imminent threat of sexual violence and debunking myths that fuel sexual violence.
- Affirms the Security Council's intention to consider taking measures against parties who commit rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict

when renewing sanctions against regimes.

- Reiterates previous calls to end the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes.
- Explicitly requests the Secretary General to include information and recommendations on the protection of women and girls in his country-specific reports to the Council; to provide an extensive report on the implementation of Resolution 1820, information on the use of sexual violence (including prevalence and trends), strategies to prevent such violence and benchmarks for measuring progress in this. (This is important because it establishes pathways for the continuing flow of information.)
- Recognizes the importance of women's participation.
- Requests training of personnel including pre-deployment training and urging the development and strengthening of the response capacity of national institutions (including judicial and health systems) and local civil society networks.



and focusing only on the victimization of women. As many rightly argue, Resolution 1325 represented an important recognition of women as agents in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building. It cannot simply be seen as a way to make war safe for women. For others, the more important issue is women's participation in decision-making at all levels, so that women can be recognized as agents.

However, it's a false dichotomy to think that we can classify women as either "victims" or "agents." Many women who are powerful agents of change also have

As WILPF and other NGOs monitor the work of the Security Council, we see peacekeeping missions that are not given explicit mandates to provide protection from sexual violence; high rates of violence not being considered in discussions on arms embargoes or sanctions; and the rates and patterns of such violence not being reported in the Secretary General's reports to the Council on Countries. Where there is no information in country-specific reports, the Security Council, claiming a lack of credible information, does not include an explicit mandate to peacekeepers to prevent, protect and respond to

Some argued that Resolution 1820's exclusive focus on sexual violence would undercut the powerful breadth of SCR 1325.

been affected by sexual violence and conflict. The issues of participation and violence are inextricably linked — sexual violence is both a cause and consequence of low levels of women's participation in all decision-making. Sexual violence does more than discourage political engagement; as a women's rights activist from the Democratic Republic of Congo explained, sexual violence holds communities hostage and prevents access to markets, water and schools. Getting women and gender equality concerns into the highest levels of decision-making is critical if we are to eliminate such violence. But, this is not an easy exercise.

As many studies (including the 2006 Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Women) have shown, ending such violence requires a multidimensional and integrated response from many actors. The Security Council is one such entity; its mandate is to maintain international peace and security, and its resolutions set the mandates of U.N. peacekeeping missions around the world. It also has the power to act against countries waging war through illegal methods.

Gender, Peace and Security

Many who agree with this assessment argue that what's needed is to fully implement Resolution 1325. Indeed, 1325 does address the issue of sexual violence and the implementation of its commitments must continue. Indeed, a new resolution was not needed to recognize that sexual violence can constitute a war crime or crime against humanity. International law's recognition of this has outpaced the response of the Security Council. The Security Council has done little to prevent such violence or to sanction the use of sexual violence as a method of war.

sexual violence. (Unfortunately, the Security Council does not count the reports of human rights and humanitarian NGOs working on the ground.)

Time and again members of the Security Council have argued that the issue of sexual violence is not within their purview. It is not, they claim, a matter of international peace and security. While this argument may seem somewhat absurd, Resolution 1820 puts this debate to rest (as the U.S. Secretary of State chairing the debate noted). On the question of whether systematic sexual violence belongs on the Council's agenda — the answer is a resounding "yes."

Much work remains to be done to implement Resolutions 1325 and 1820. Certainly 1820 is not perfect; its provisos, passive language and sovereignty concerns make commitments weaker than they might have been. There are vital issues, such as the provision of comprehensive services to survivors and commitment of resources that are not comprehensively covered. In part this is because some of these issues must be taken up elsewhere in the U.N. system and by national governments. Also, because of the work done to link the issue to the protection of civilians — an explicit theme on the Council's agenda — Resolution 1820 at times conveys the idea that it is only sexual violence against civilians that is of concern. These various issues must be addressed. But it is important to recognize this resolution as a step forward.

Sam Cook is the Project Associate of WILPF's PeaceWomen Project, based in the United Nations Office in New York. www.PeaceWomen.org

President of WILPF Palestine Makes Historic U.S. Tour

By Odile Hugonot Haber

The Palestinian population has the highest number of displaced people in the world, an estimated 7 million.

One well-known Palestinian is Hanan Awwad, president of WILPF Palestine. A highly regarded activist, poet, and academic (she was head of the Department of Cultural Studies and the Department of Humanities at the College of Science and Technology, Abu Dies, Jerusalem), she recently completed a wide-ranging tour of the United States with the help of numerous branches.

WILPF's Middle East Campaign worked to bring Hanan to the U.S., just as it had done earlier with Aliyah Strauss, president of the Israeli section.

Many branches helped raise money for the tour and Hanan was able to visit several of them, including: Cleveland, Philadelphia, Detroit, Ann Arbor, San Francisco, San Jose, Palo Alto, Arcata and St. Louis. She spoke at the WILPF Congress in Des Moines before heading to Washington, D.C. and New York.

The branches were very creative, arranging for her to speak at salons, poetry readings, churches, synagogues and at Women In Black vigils. Events were well attended and some of the programs were co-sponsored by local coalitions, including Detroit, where Jewish Voices for Peace was part of the effort. In Arcata, Hanan spoke at Temple Beth El in Eureka, followed by a Q&A; the program was organized by WILPF in conjunction with Rabbi Naomi Steinberg.

At Congress, Hanan spoke about United Nations resolutions on Palestine and the history of the conflict. In Washington, D.C., Joan Drake organized a very full day of meetings for Hanan, including a meeting with Elizabeth Olson, Sen. Barack Obama's legislative correspondent. We gave her a brief presentation about WILPF. She welcomed the visit and declared that Sen. Obama is aware and concerned about the situation in the Occupied Territories. Hanan expressed hope that the U.S. Congress would exert sufficient pressure on Israel to bring about a change in policy and an end to settlements and occupation.

Hanan also met with Nabil Abuznaid, from the PLO



Wearing three of the peace necklaces San Jose WILPF has been circulating widely, Hanan Awwad spoke at the San Jose Peace and Justice Center and at the South Bay Mobilization. See page 29 for additional information on her visit. Sharat Lin photo

Mission to the United States and with Nicole Schampain, deputy director, Israel/Palestine Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Hanan talked about the occupation and settlements, which are making normal life impossible for Palestinians. Ms. Schampain said that "peace cannot be imposed" and talked about the "problem" with Hamas, adding: "The Palestinians are shooting themselves in the foot by sending rockets into Israel." Joan replied: "We are not here to speak about individual culpability but about national policy."

This was quite a journey for Hanan, but when she returned to Jerusalem, the hard reality of the occupation hit as she discovered she could face imprisonment over unpaid taxes on her office. WILPF immediately responded, with members sending money. (Palestinian NGOs face harassments in the form of high taxes from the Israeli authority.)

Here at home, WILPF's National Middle East committee is re-organizing and continues to focus on U.S. policy.

Odile Hugonot Haber is a long time member of WILPF's Women Challenge U.S. Policy in the Middle East (WCUSP/Israel Palestine) campaign.

HANAN AWWAD IN CLEVELAND

This summer, after a potluck supper at Cleveland Friends Meeting House, Hanan Awwad addressed over 60 long-time activists and young people. From the 1948 "Nakba" (catastrophe) to the 1967 occupation and beyond, Hanan brought 60 years of land confiscations, restrictions, imprisonment, torture, accelerating settlements, roadblocks, checkpoints, neighborhood bombing, house demolitions, and the "Wall" to life for us. She talked about men, women and children being shot on sight, and Palestinians' struggle to regain their homeland.

Hanan spoke of the right of resistance (U.N. Resolution 3703) and the role of the writer in resistance. The power of her poems was evident as she read three in Arabic, with a lyrical translation following each.

Responding to many questions, Hanan touched on media distortions, silence and apathy in Europe and the U.S., Israel's continued control over Gaza since its purported withdrawal, and peace conferences from 1991 (Madrid), to the most recent "peace process."

Hosting Hanan was a great honor and pleasure for Cleveland WILPF. I felt a strong connection with her from our first meeting in the airport (where her luggage failed to arrive — held, we later learned, in Tel Aviv).

— Vicky Knight

WILPF, Water and the World



by Nancy Price

The 5th World Water Forum will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from March 16 - 22, 2009. Calling this the "world's largest water event," the World Water Council (organizers of this every-three-year Forum) seem to have missed the drying lakes and rivers, the hurricanes, floods, melting glaciers and ice-shelves. I would call these catastrophes the world's largest water events.

Such natural disasters — brought on by global warming, combined with water pollution and taking too much water from surface and groundwater sources — have led to the current global water crisis. Up to a billion or more people lack safe, affordable, sufficient water for domestic use and sanitation, causing hundreds of millions of deaths, particularly for children. Yet the World Water Council wants to solve this crisis the good old corporate way, through privatization and public-private partnerships with governments that put profits over the rights of people and nature.

This is how the World Water Council describes their vision: "The largest water event in the world, aimed at putting water firmly on the international agenda. A stepping stone towards global collaboration on water problems, the Forum offers the water community and policy-and-decision-makers from all over the world the unique opportunity to come together to create links, debate and

attempts to find solutions to achieve water security."

The global community that advocates for water as a "human right" and a right of nature has organized at each of these meetings. At the last Forum in Mexico City, Olivia Zink and I (representing WILPF's Save the



On opening night at the Triennial Congress, the Waterway Dance Theatre performed "Water is Life." Tae Campbell photo

Water Campaign) peacefully marched with tens of thousands from all over Latin America. This was the first time activists organized a parallel People's Water Forum, holding our own, three-day meeting outside — while representatives of major water and human rights groups met with policy makers on the inside.

U.S. WILPF and the Save the Water Issue Group will explore with International WILPF opportunities for our participation with other NGOs in Istanbul. Join the Save the Water Issue group to find out what you can do here at home.

Nancy Price is a member of WILPF's Save the Water Campaign.

U.S. Global Duty: To Deter Violence Against Women

By Tzili Mor

When Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama first introduced his running mate this past August, he described Sen. Joe Biden as the man who championed the 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) so that “every woman can have place for support.” Obama noted that VAWA yielded “dramatic reductions in the rate of domestic violence” and gave countless “women a second chance.” While Sen. Obama disappointed many by not choosing a woman for the coveted vice presidential spot, he chose a senator with long-time support for women’s human rights, both at home and as part of U.S. foreign policy responsibilities.

As chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Biden (D-Delaware) has, albeit unsuccessfully, called on his colleagues to ratify the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). More recently in late 2007, Biden co-drafted and introduced, along with Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Indiana), the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA). Sen. Obama joined the 21 bi-partisan co-sponsors of the bill in June.

Currently pending in Congress, the I-VAWA represents an unprecedented recognition by the U.S. government that eradicating violence against women cannot be divorced from addressing today’s most pressing global development and human rights challenges, including poverty, health epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, and humanitarian, war, and conflict crisis. Existing U.S. overseas health assistance programs contain guidelines on violence against women and girls, but similar guidelines do not exist for other areas, such as training programs for foreign militaries, police and judicial authorities to address prevention and response to violence against women and girls.

Current efforts by the U.S. to promote the political participation and safety of women and girls lack oversight, coordination, and accountability. No effective strategy to address such a global phenomenon can be fashioned from isolated programmatic successes. The I-VAWA would create high level positions within the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as an Interagency Standing Committee, to better institutionalize work and build expertise in this area.

Working Together

Amnesty International-USA, the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and the Women Thrive Worldwide (formerly Women’s Edge) are leading an effort in partnership with WILPF and numerous other NGOs to increase U.S. leadership to end violence against women and girls globally. The campaign aims to reshape the way in which the U.S.

government provides assistance to other governments and designs overseas programs. The bill embodies unique collaboration and input from more than 150 groups, including U.S.-based and international NGOs, ranging from WILPF, the Global AIDS Coalition, Man Can Stop Rape, NOW, Care, Refugees International, and faith-based groups, U.N. agencies, and 40 local women’s groups from across the globe.

Highlights of the International Violence Against Women Act

The I-VAWA will:

- set up a comprehensive, five-year strategy to reduce violence in 10 to 20 diverse countries with severe levels of violence against women and girls;
- authorize more than \$1 billion over five years in U.S. assistance to support international programs that prevent and respond to violence;
- provide for U.S. training of foreign military and police forces on violence against women and girls;
- support capacity-building for overseas women’s organizations working to stop violence against women and girls;
- create an Office of Global Women’s Initiatives in the State Department and an Office of Global Women’s Development at the Agency for International Development (USAID) to coordinate efforts and integrate violence prevention programming into current foreign assistance activities.

For more information about the I-VAWA campaign:

www.aiusa.org/ivawa

www.women thrive.org/ivawa

www.endabuse.org

Since “1 in 3 of women in the world will experience violence in her lifetime,” the bill recognizes that “violence against women and girls is rooted in multiple causes and takes many forms, including physical, sexual, and psychological. It affects all countries, social groups, ethnicities, religions, and socioeconomic classes and is a global health, economic development, and human rights problem of epidemic proportions.”

Cognizant of horrific, large scale rape and sexual violence raids against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other crisis regions, the bill devotes a detailed section to “addressing violence against women and girls in humanitarian relief, peacekeeping, conflict, and post-conflict operations.” This concern over the impact of conflict on women echoes the U.S. push this summer at the U.N.

Security Council to pass Resolution 1820 on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. (For a discussion of this historic resolution, see article by Sam Cook on page 8).

Both the I-VAWA and U.N. Resolution 1820 suffer from — at points — a heavy handed focus on women as perpetual, passive victims of violence, rather than as empowered agents of change and reform. I-VAWA drafters, however, specifically solicited women’s and human rights groups in countries receiving or affected by U.S. foreign aid for their views and feedback on programmatic priorities and resource allocation levels to be highlighted in the bill. The resultant bill emphasizes “community-based solutions” and earmarks substantial support and capacity-building for overseas women’s organizations working to stop violence against women and girls. For example, when crafting emergency measures for outbreaks of violence during conflict or post-conflict operations, I-VAWA requires the Secretary of State to consult NGOs with “demonstrated expertise working on preventing and addressing systematic violence against women and girls as a weapon of intimidation and abuse in situations of conflict and war.” While this provision may still focus on input from U.S.-based or international NGOs, rather than local groups, it mandates consultations with women’s human rights groups with relevant expertise, rather than relying exclusively on internal State and Defense Department intelligence agencies.

The I-VAWA also partially addresses criticisms about differing standards for U.S. and foreign armed forces by mandating similar training “on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls” in U.S. training of foreign military and police forces and to all U.S. “military personnel, military contractors and military forces deployed to humanitarian, relief, conflict, and post-conflict operations.”

In keeping with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, the I-VAWA calls on the Secretary of State to expand the number and roles of women in all U.N. peacekeeping missions and to routinely propose women candidates for such missions.

Given the purported nonpartisan nature of advocacy around I-VAWA, the act unsurprisingly fails to explicitly link violence against women and reproductive health and rights. Instead, the universally agreeable “women’s health” terminology pervades the bill, though devoid of any contextual content. For example, while the I-VAWA condemns rape as a “weapon of war,” it stops short of specifying support for much-needed programs to address victims of sexual violence, including comprehensive access to post-exposure prophylaxis, emergency contraceptives, and safe abortion services. Existing foreign aid restrictions would likewise continue to cripple efforts by local women’s rights activists overseas to advocate for safe abortion services for victims of incest and rape, including rape by one’s husband.

According to its drafters, the “I-VAWA (S.2279, HR.5927), if passed, would consistently incorporate solutions for reducing violence against women into U.S. foreign assistance programs.” Notably, a recent drive for an overhaul and modernization of U.S. foreign aid — currently governed by the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act designed to fulfill a defunct Cold War era ideology — could boast I-VAWA in its efforts to partially amend this act.

Conservative critiques of the I-VAWA only make it sound more attractive. One group attempted to denigrate the I-VAWA as “bankrolling CEDAW’s mandates.” Phyllis Schlafly cautioned her supporters that the I-VAWA “would create millions of dollars of feminist pork.” This is pork even the vegetarians amongst us should be able to stomach.

Tzili Mor is an Attorney Teaching Fellow with the International Women’s Human Rights Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center. She has coordinated, edited and drafted numerous reports and documents to the United Nations and has worked on international human rights projects in several regions of the world. She is a member of WILPF’s AHR committee.

Violence Against Women in Armed Conflict

Let your Senator and Representative know that you support I-VAWA legislation (in the Senate: S.2279; in the House: HR.5927).

For more information about the campaign to support the I-VAWA, please visit: www.aiusa.org/ivawa

For additional information on this subject, see page 20 for an excerpt from a fact sheet prepared by WILPF.

Alaskan Mining: Consequences for People and Land

By Dee Hunt

Fueled by rising prices in copper, gold, zinc and uranium, there has been an explosion in mining exploration, development and production in Alaska. Figures from 2005 (\$1.85 billion) to 2006 (\$3.26 billion) show an astounding 76 percent increase.¹ This parallels mining development nationally, particularly in the western U.S., where active mining in 12 states increased 80 percent from January 2003 to July 2007.²



Alaska WILPF Mining Film Series Committee, from left to right, Dee Hunt, Ruth Sheridan, Robyn Lauster, Martha Shaddy.
Aron Crowell photo

For the first time, the largest multinational mining corporations (Anglo American, BHP Billiton, Barrick Gold Corporation) are developing Alaskan projects. If permitted, these mines will represent some of the largest gold, copper, molybdenum and coal mines in the world.

Industrial mining consumes, diverts and can seriously pollute water resources. Of particular concern are the gigantic projects favored by multinational corporations, which impact water during the extraction and processing of minerals and in the disposal of mine waste. The quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater is frequently affected within mines and in the surrounding areas. Tailings³ from the mining of sulfide ores interact with water and air to produce acid mine drainage, which is toxic to many forms of life and can be self-perpetuating. Acid mine drainage also facilitates the release of heavy metals that are poisonous to wildlife and people. Toxic by-products of “heap leaching,” the process of chemically extracting mineral from low grade ore, often

enter rivers, streams or lakes to devastate flora and fauna and pollute drinking water. The large-scale diversion of water systems by mining companies can also diminish access to water by local communities.

For these reasons, Alaska WILPF developed a film series and public forum on industrial mining as part of U.S. WILPF’s Water Campaign. We ran the series at three venues: at the Anchorage Museum to reach a general audience; at the University of Alaska, Anchorage to build student leadership on mining issues; and at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer, Alaska where citizens are very concerned about development of the proposed Pebble Mine.

If developed, Pebble Mine would be situated at the headwaters of the largest sockeye salmon fishery in the world, in a seismically unstable region. Public controversy over the mine generated Alaska’s Clean Water Ballot Initiative, which sought to reinstate water protections that would prevent large-scale mines from releasing contamination harmful to salmon spawning and human health. Given all of this, the WILPF film series was particularly timely. Five months later, Alaskans were to vote “thumbs up” or “thumbs down” on the initiative.

We selected films that looked at mining from several perspectives: the politics of regulation and development (Frontline’s *The Curse of Inca Gold* and Oxfam America’s *Our Land Our Life*); how mining affects the health and environment of communities near the mines (*Uranium, Black Diamonds, The Curse of Inca Gold*); what companies leave behind for governments and communities to clean up (*Poison in the Rockies*); and a close examination of specific types of impacts, such as acid mine drainage.

Environmental justice, particularly as it relates to Indigenous communities, was a prominent theme in the majority of the films. In rural Alaska many Indigenous communities follow traditional practices of hunting, fish-



Note from the Director of Operations

GREETINGS, FELLOW WILPFERS. I had the pleasure of seeing many of you in Iowa this past June, but there are still hundreds of people I have yet to meet. In an effort to try and get to know each other, I wanted to share a bit more about myself.

Currently, I serve as your Director of Operations at the national office. I am also finishing up a Master’s degree in Women’s Health at Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. The Master of Arts in Women’s Health at Suffolk University is the first graduate program in the U.S. to focus exclusively on the health of women, from a holistic, more sociological perspective. This approach is very much in line with how I have

➤ **ALASKA MINING** *from previous page*
ing and food gathering, often referred to as subsistence. While federal law protects subsistence rights for all communities in rural Alaska, state law prioritizes multiple uses of land. This often results in development that pollutes natural resources.

Following each film, local leaders from tribes, nonprofits and environmental law firms tied the issues raised in the movies to our situation in Alaska. We wanted to convey the growing extent of mining exploration and development; the difference between mining as it operated historically and mining as implemented by multinationals today; and to provide an up-close look at the environmental records and practices of multinationals who want to do business in Alaska. We also wanted to illustrate that federal and state regulations provide little environmental protection, a point of view that contrasts with common public perception.

Sadly, the Clean Water Initiative was defeated by 62 percent of Alaska’s voters. Some say that Governor Sarah Palin’s personal but very public opposition (she took a full page ad in the *Anchorage Daily News*) to the initiative sealed its defeat. It’s also likely that the questionable reputation and politics of the initiative’s sponsors (resource development Republicans, not environmentalists) and their funders contributed to its downfall. But, for the moment, multinationals and Alaska’s mining industry are the victors, with Governor Palin’s resource development priority firmly in place.

Despite this, activists and politicians continue to work toward more stringent regulation of Alaskan mining. As a follow-up to the film series, Alaska WILPF convened a working group to oppose uranium explo-

always seen the health of women and young girls.

This semester is especially exciting for me, as I am embarking on a year-long independent study. When the WILPF work day is done, I will be performing an in-depth analysis of women and genocide. This topic is very challenging, but I am excited to be contributing research towards something that, in my opinion, has never received enough attention. My specific interest within this vast category of study will be on the experience of women with regards to disease, armed conflict, intimate violence and displacement during times of genocide.

I am a New Englander by heart, but I have been fortunate to have traveled quite a bit, backpacking around Europe and living in Morocco as a Peace Corps volunteer. My love of the world and social justice activism has been present all of my life, and I am grateful that these passions have moved my professional energies towards WILPF. — Stacey Ann Ferguson

ration and development on the Seward Peninsula. This working group meets monthly by teleconference and includes tribal leaders, educators, researchers, environmentalists and attorneys from Alaska and the southwestern U.S. The teleconferences are now coordinated by Alaska Community Action on Toxics, a local nonprofit that conducts community-based research and training on public health issues related to environmental contamination. Alaska WILPF was also invited to join Alaskans for Responsible Mining, a coalition directed toward reform of Alaska’s permitting process and statutes relevant to mining. Alaska WILPF will be working with other coalition members on uranium issues.

We are grateful to our sponsors for their support: the U.S. WILPF Water Campaign, the Alaska Conservation Foundation, the Pratt Museum of Homer, the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, and Maryellen and Richard Oman.

Dee Hunt was the project leader for “*The Consequences of Mining: Films and Forum on Mines, People and the Land*,” a project of Alaska WILPF. Contact her at dhunt@gci.net.

¹ Alaska’s Mineral Industry 2006: A Summary by D.J. Szumigala and R.A. Hughes, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.

² Horwitt, Dusty, Oversight Hearing on Hardrock Mining on Federal Land before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, September 27, 2007.

³ Tailings are what is left after removing the valuable mineral from an ore. Tailings are often stored in a dam “in solution,” creating a toxic sludge that has to be contained and treated in perpetuity.

Welcome to 'Democracy in Action'

By Stacey Ann Ferguson and Rachel Crosby

One of WILPF's recent projects has been creating a partnership with the online database management system "Democracy-In-Action" (DIA). Now before you yawn and turn the page, let us tell you how DIA can make a difference to you and to our activism. This system is very user-friendly and has the ability to keep us organized, in touch and active. More than 400 organizations are now utilizing DIA.

Democracy In Action is more than your average online database system. By using it, we are also tapping into a host of different advocacy tools that we can all use to coordinate and motivate ourselves, our branches, and our national advocacy efforts.

The decision to collaborate with DIA was made in an effort to give each WILPF member the ability to manage her own membership, renew membership dues online, and stay connected. We have linked our national website directly to DIA, enabling new members to sign

With Democracy in Action, you can easily track your relationship with WILPF.
We look forward to seeing you online, where we can all practice democracy in action together!

up online, pay a membership fee, and get involved with WILPF right away. Also, using the online donation page from our national website makes it easier than ever to manage your own records. Democracy-In-Action enables all WILPF members to:

- Correct personal contact information, such as a change of address, phone number, or updated email address.
- Renew individual and/or family memberships. Each time you renew your membership, a financial record of this transaction appears in your personal profile. Now it's easy to track when you've updated your dues. Democracy-In-Action can also update your donation record to reflect any other special donations/contributions that you've made online.
- Keep track of all WILPF transactions, including membership renewals, resource material purchases, donations, and more!
- Branches and individual members can also suggest items for e-advocacy campaigns.

Now, we recognize that computers are not for every-



one and that "getting online" can be a scary thing. Like anything, it takes a bit of practice and getting used to. That's what we at the national office are here for! Please be sure to give us a call or send us an email if you are encountering any difficulty using Democracy-in-Action.

As of late September, any member could go online and get started by either checking their existing profile or by creating a new profile. If you have been getting emails from WILPF in the past few months, the odds are good that you are already in the DIA database and will only need to request a password to go in and check the accuracy of the data on file.

GETTING STARTED

- First, go to www.wilpf.org. and, on the home page, click on the link near the top of the right side that says "Click Here for DIA Member Login."
- This will take you directly to the DIA login page. (It will have the same banner at the top as other WILPF pages, however.)

How do I get into the DIA database?

Once on the DIA login page, do one of two things:

1. If you have been receiving emails from U.S. WILPF during the past few months (since July 2008) your record is probably already on file with DIA. So, all you have to do is request a password by entering your email address and clicking on the button that says "Send Password." You will quickly get an email that provides a password and a link to click so you can go back to DIA and change your password. Then you can review your record.
2. If you are sure that you are not in the DIA database, click the link that says "Not signed up yet?" and you will be able to create a new profile.
 - Enter your First Name, Last Name, Email, and Zip Code
 - Check your email account in order to receive your temporary password. (You can also login directly to the profile manager by clicking on the link that says "Log in to your profile manager here.")
 - Once in the profile manager, click on the tab that says "Your Profile" and fill out or update your contact information. Make sure to click on "Submit changes" to save your new information.

We look forward to seeing you online, where we can all practice democracy in action together!

Stacey Ann Ferguson is WILPF's Director of Operations; Rachel Crosby is WILPF's Webweaver.

ISSUE COMMITTEES

Advancing Human Rights

Works to ensure U.S. compliance and full domestic implementation of international human rights instruments through advocacy at the international, national and local levels of government.

Tzili Mor:

tzilimor@hotmail.com

Laura Roskos:

lauraroskos@hotmail.com

Building the Beloved Community

Provides educational information about the history and nature of systemic racism, connections between oppressions, internalized oppressions, racial justice, and the struggles for racial justice.

Sha'an Mouliert:

mouliert@vtlink.net

Tura Campanella Cook:

turacc@earthlink.net

(Contact them for information and the name of a new committee facilitator. Sha'an is now developing workshops on white privilege for WILPF branches around the country.)

Corporations vs. Democracy

Exposes the dangers of corporate personhood, provides an updated study guide and promotes action to end corporate domination of local communities when in conflict with human political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

Tomi and Jim Allison:

jimtomi@earthlink.net

(812) 336-6671

Women and Cuba

Works to normalize relations between Cuba and U.S. governments and to educate people on the reality of Cuban society, especially in the area of gains made for women and children under the Cuban revolution.

Cindy Domingo:

cindydomingo@gmail.com

DISARM! Dismantle the War Economy

Works for the abolition of nuclear weapons and war itself, and for a peace economy promoting human security and human rights for all.

Claire Gosselin:

clagos@verizon.net

Haiti Committee

Promotes debt relief; immigration reform; continuing inves-

WILPF Program Priorities and Contacts

WILPF U.S.'s political, educational and advocacy program is generated by our members and branches. The WILPF Program Committee consists of representatives from each of the national issue committees. National issue committees welcome both members-at-large and branch representatives. We urge you to join one of these committees. You can also use resources developed by these committees for branch or individual, local actions.

The Program Committee administers mini-grants which are available to both branches and issue committees for projects that promote peace and freedom ([www.wilpf.org/grant program](http://www.wilpf.org/grant_program)). Committee members also work together to weave our many interrelated issues into a coherent whole.

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Contact the co-chairs if you want to generate a new issue committee or apply for a branch or issue committee mini-grant. To join, or learn more about a particular issue committee, contact the conveners directly.

Carol Uerner

carol.disarm@gmail.com

(503) 320-9108

Tura Campanella Cook

turacc@earthlink.net

Women Challenge U.S. Policy in the Middle East (WCUSP/Israel-Palestine)

Focuses especially on resolving the conflict between Israel and Palestine and has produced a WCUSP Feminist Action Guide to Challenging U.S. Policy in the Middle East. This is a 165-page tool with original source material, articles, maps and steps to take action.

Odile Hugonot Haber: odilehh@gmail.com

Barbara Taft:

beejayssite@yahoo.com, (480) 380-6325 ♦

tigation of the U.S. role in the 2/29/04 coup d'etat; and de-politicization of U.S. aid to Haiti.

Joan Drake:

joanWDrake@aol.com

(717) 715-7024

Iraq-Iran Committee

Works to end the war and occupation of Iraq, and oppose any invasion or bombing of Iran.

Marge Van Cleef:

mvc@igc.org, (484) 384-2487

Yoshiko Ikuta:

YIkuta@aol.com, (216) 521-7057

Pan-Africa and Diaspora Women's Issues

Provides a forum for ALL women of Africa and the various diasporas to inform the U.S. Section of WILPF of their issues, and to make the Pan-Africa & Diaspora Women's issues an intrinsic part of WILPF U.S. and International program/agenda/initiatives.

Paij Wadley-Bailey:

pwadleybailey@aol.com

Save the Water

WILPF joins the larger "right to water" and water justice movement, with many other local, national and international groups (including other WILPF sections), all working to keep water services under local democratic control, to stop the commoditization of water for profit, to create healthy communities by working to end water pollution, and to advocate that water be held in the public trust as a commons to be protected for people and nature for all time.

Nancy Price:

nancytprice@juno.com

(530) 758-0726

Linda Park: veggiepark@sbcglobal.net

(216) 851-0968



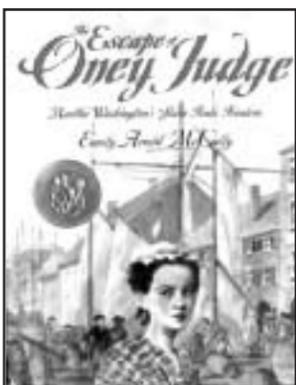
Jane Addams Children's Book Awards

by Judith Joseph

Every year since 1953, a committee of WILPF members has selected books of the highest artistic and literary merit for the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards (JACBA). Books promoting peace and social justice are singled out for this prestigious award. Your branch can order sets of the 2008 JACBA books and join the dozens of WILPF branches donating these books to schools, libraries, and shelters, thereby promoting social justice and WILPF.

The Award Winners Are . . .

The 2008 winner in the Books for Younger Children category is, *The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's*



Slave Finds Freedom, written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) which tells the story of a young woman "owned" by Martha Washington who flees when Mrs. Washington tells her she will not grant her freedom until her death. This well-researched biography portrays the bravery of Ona Maria Judge who claimed and

fought for the right to have "no mistress but herself."

"Straightforward and unapologetic — a noteworthy effort to add complexity to the mythology surrounding the country's first president." — *Kirkus Review*

We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin, by Larry Dane Brimner (Calkins Creek Books) is the 2008 winner in the Books for Older Children category. Working behind the scenes because of his sexual orien-



tation and unpopular political stands, African-American pacifist and civil rights activist, Bayard Rustin organized the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, worked for racial justice with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and demonstrated against the war in Vietnam. The text is complemented with graphics and archival photographs.

And the Honor Books Are . . .

One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II, written and illustrated by Lita Judge (Hyperion Books) is a tribute to the author's grandmother who sent shoes to needy German families in the aftermath of the war. (Younger Children)



Rickshaw Girl by Mitali Perkins (Charlesbridge Publishing) is a novel about an artistic 10-year-old Bangladeshi girl who disguises herself as a boy to help her family's finances. (Older Children)



Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis (Scholastic Press) is the story of an 11-year-old from a runaway slave community in Canada who courageously confronts slavery across the border in Detroit. (Older Children)

Birmingham 1963, by Carole Boston Weatherford (Wordsong) tells the horrific story of the Birmingham church bombing from the perspective of a fictional 10-year-old girl. (Older Children)



If you order the books immediately, your branch will have them in early November — in time to encourage libraries, schools and bookstores to highlight them as holiday reading for children.

The books can be displayed with information about the Jane Addams Peace Association and your WILPF branch. Each set comes with seals inscribed with the names of WILPF and JAPA and a tool kit, "Building WILPF with the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards." The tool kit is

also available online at the "book awards" link on the JAPA website.

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

Judith Joseph is a member of Burlington WILPF, a member of the JAPA Board of Directors and chairwoman of the board's Peace Education Projects Committee.

JACBA BOOK SET ORDER FORM

Your name			
Branch name			
Address		State	ZIP
Phone		E-mail	
Number of sets	@ \$60 per set*	\$	
Shipping		\$	10.00
TOTAL: \$			

Make check payable to Jane Addams Peace Association and mail to:
Jane Addams Peace Association, 777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017

*This discounted price to WILPF branches is only available if the branch donates the books to a non profit group (school, library, shelter, etc.)

A Letter of Apology

We are pleased to announce that on July 29 the Industrial Workers of the World, representing former staff in our national office, withdrew the complaint it had filed against the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

As part of the settlement agreement, the National Board offers the following formal statement of apology:

On May 13, 2008 the National Labor Relations Board filed a consolidated complaint against the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section. The U.S. WILPF National Board apologizes to the members of the Industrial Workers of the World who worked for WILPF as of December 2007 — Elaine Jones, Jody Dodd, Judy Claude and Kate Zaidan — for the incidents that led up to the complaint.

We deeply regret that board/staff relations had deteriorated to such an extent that by last November we could not have a frank and open discussion about our differences and our organization's fiscal fragility, and for our lateness in attending to the resolution of conflicts that were obvious for some time. While we acted only with the best of intentions for WILPF and her health and sustainability, we made mistakes.

Specifically, we take responsibility for the lack of communication around the proper process of negotiating and approving the contract with the Industrial Workers of the World governing your work conditions.

We apologize for not giving you proper notice through your union representative of the January 4, 2008 layoffs necessitated by our fiscal crisis; and subsequently directly offering you mediation instead of talking to you through your union representative.

We regret that mistrust had so escalated that the lock on the door of the office was changed on Dec 7, 2007 by a representative of the 2005-2008 Board, thus interrupting your work lives for three days.

We are sorry for the pain the loss of your jobs has caused, and the disruption to the work of WILPF, of which you were an important part for so many years.

We hope this apology will be a step in the direction of reconciliation between us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos, Co-Presidents
On behalf of The National Board of the WILPF U.S. Section

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

A New Home for WILPF's Office

WILPF's home at 1213 Race Street in Philadelphia does not meet ADA accessibility standards and the cost to make it accessible is prohibitive. For that and a variety of other reasons, WILPF asked JAPA to sell the building. As time goes on the building will become more and more economically infeasible, so to reduce expenses and streamline operations we need to sell as soon as possible.

To that end, JAPA has listed the building with Colliers Realty at an asking price of just over \$1 million.

Additionally, a site committee was formed to explore options for WILPF's future home. This committee is committed to listening to feedback from members, both at-large and in branches.

The site committee discussed the following criteria for any new location:

- ADA compliance
- Accessibility to public transportation
- Vicinity of a viable branch
- Co-locating with an existing branch office
- Proximity to the most members
- Proximity to good transportation
- Economy of area and affordability; rent or buy?
- Proximity to workforce and/or volunteers

In September the board gave the site committee approval to seek temporary (for about a year) office accommodations until the decision for permanent headquarters is made. Locations in Washington, D.C. and Boston, MA have been inspected for this interim arrangement and the commit-

tee expects to make a decision soon. Following a decision, the Race Street facility will be vacated and surplus furniture donated to other non-profits in the Philadelphia area.

We Want to Hear from You

- How do you and (for branches) your branch see interacting with the national office?
- Do you, and (for branches) your branch want more support for legislative advocacy in Washington, D.C.?
- Is it important to you that WILPF have a central, physical, headquarters?
- Should we have more than one office?

Please respond to home4wilpf@wilpf.org by no later than December 1, 2008.

Some of the scenarios for WILPF's permanent home have been posted on the website (www.wilpf.org). Please review the scenarios and the graphic information and let us know what you think. The site committee has an email address for feedback.

Site Committee

Pat O'Brien, chair, nominating committee, Boston Branch
 Madeline Duckles, member, Berkeley-East Bay Branch
 Terry Futvoye Micus, member, Detroit Branch
 Deb Garretson, member, Bloomington Branch
 Robin Lloyd, member, Burlington Branch
 Ellie Bluestein, member, Fresno Branch
 Barbara Nielsen, national treasurer, member, San Francisco Branch
 Laura Roskos, national co-president, member, Boston Branch
 Ellen Schwartz, member, Sacramento Branch
 Stacey Ferguson, Director of Operations

armed conflict and where conflict has eroded security and public order. Iraqi women cite the breakdown in security and public order as the primary reason for the more than 400 Iraqi women abducted and raped within the first four months of the U.S. occupation. These rapes triggered a spike in so-called Honor Killings, where male relatives murder rape survivors to salvage the honor of the family. ❖



A woman and her daughter seek shelter after fleeing their home in the village of Abyei, engulfed by the heavy fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army. (May 2008)
UN Photo/Tim McKulka

Violence Against Women in Armed Conflict

Excerpted from a fact sheet prepared by WILPF

The U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration asserts that gender-based violence is a feature of virtually every recently concluded and current armed conflict. Whether women are engaged in armed conflict as military personnel, political leaders, medical/ aide workers, or civilians, they may be subjected to gender-based violence.

Rape was used as a "weapon of war" in at least 13 countries between 2001 and 2004. "Strategic rape" — sexual assault that is encouraged by military leaders as a means of furthering war aims — has been rising. According to the United States Agency for International Development in recent conflict situations — such as Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the former Yugoslavia — "sexual violence against girls and women resulted in the (sometimes deliberate) exposure of large numbers of girls and women to the HIV virus."

In Sudan, UNHCR reported that two thirds of the Sudanese women refugees who were being treated in a regional hospital in Chad had been raped. The youngest victim was only 10 years old.

In particular, sexual exploitation of young women and girls is exacerbated amongst populations displaced due to



BranchAction News

Edited by Georgia Pinkel

Branches reporting in this issue include: San Jose, Santa Cruz, Fresno, Los Angeles, and Palo Alto, CA; St. Louis, MO; Portland, OR; Burlington, VT; Pittsburgh, PA; Madison, WI; Cape Cod and Boston, MA; New York Metro, NY; Chapel Hill, Triangle Branch, NC; Detroit, MI; Baltimore, MD; and Alaska.

I want to add my voice to those singing the praises of everyone who worked so hard and planned so well for the successful Congress in June. Everyone did an outstanding job and the staff at Simpson College could not have been more supportive. I sincerely hope that more of us will be able to experience Congress next time. Start your own personal and/or Branch fund to make it possible for more to join in.
 —Georgia Pinkel, Portland, OR branch

CALENDAR EVENTS

Thanks to the revitalization of the Branch email listserv, many branches shared their actions on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, all incorporating the official WILPF statement when possible. Margo Smith from **Berkeley** supplied a Litany for Hiroshima Day compiled from the Chogoku Shimbun in Hiroshima. Raging Grannies took part in a **San Jose** action/vigil, and carried their messages of peace and disarmament to Livermore Labs the next day. **St. Louis** shifted their efforts to a pro-peace tone in an event, "Imagine All the People Living Life in Peace," staged throughout the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Beginning in the Japanese section, WILPF members and co-sponsors answered the statement: "What the World Needs Now." They transferred the answers to brightly colored ribbons which were tied to a peace pole to be carried to the School of the Americas later in the fall. A picnic followed and culminated in attendance at the Botanical Garden Concert Series that evening. There was a sense of hope and change as they reached out to local students to join with WILPF to create change from the grassroots up. Kudos! **Vermont**, fighting against the extension of a local nuclear plant, took the opportunity to connect nuclear bombs to the nuclear power industry. An extensive series of actions started with events around Hiroshima: a silent vigil, an anti-nuclear rally, the declaration of Nuclear Disarmament Day by the Mayor, speakers, and a performance by local Taiko Drummers. They welcomed The Walk for a Nuclear Free Future to town, and the day ended with a potluck and more discussions. **Pittsburgh**, in collaboration with other local

groups, created a similar series of events connecting the dots with a positive focus. "Imagine Peace" on August 6 included the Shadow Project, while on August 9 there was a vigil outside Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute to focus on defense work being done there. This focus carried over to several additional events in September. **Detroit**, with others in the Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network, sponsored the "From Hiroshima to Hope" event, which featured the video, *Conviction*. It is the story of Jackie Hudson from Ground Zero and two other nuns who went to jail for their actions in support of disarmament. **Alaska** created a program that was both local and international in scope:



incense from Vietnam, a local Japanese speaker and Japanese visitors. Vietnam veterans and others highlighted the effects of war in the Nuclear Age on people and the environment, including Amchitka Island in the Aleutians. **Detroit** held a Women's Equality Day Celebration luncheon in conjunction with other groups in the Michigan Coalition for Equal Rights Studies. Way to end up on a happy note!



Burlington, VT Hiroshima-Nagasaki days event.

MODERN MEDIA OUTREACH

The Branch e-list carried the WILPF Statement on Georgia/Russia; a copy of a letter Boston sent to Speaker Pelosi regarding Iran; and a plea to highlight the two humanitarian ships breaking the blockade of Gaza. This list is playing an important role connecting us all. **Fresno's** invitation letter highlights WILPF/branch history, current meeting information, recent achievements, on-going issues and action groups, anti-war vigils and their local radio program. A great model. Check it out. Get on the WILPF International e-list to receive monthly electronic newsletters from International, keeping us connected globally. **Los Angeles** is now offering its monthly newsletter as a PDF file via email, saving postage and paper! Members have the option of how to receive it. The **Cape Cod** newsletter's calendar section is called "So What! A Calendar that Answers the Question: So What can I DO about that?" What a great challenge to our outlook! It lists WILPF events, everything from PFLAG meetings to local and state legislative issues meetings. **Triangle** continues with

➤ BRANCH ACTION *from previous page*

the WILPF radio show highlighting WILPF members and important issues. Tune in at www.communityradio.coop. Click on the box in the upper right hand corner!

GREAT IDEAS

New York Metro continues to share its extensive video library for home parties, providing the videos, a discussion guide, and even a facilitator, if requested! I love the way they framed their request for sustaining monthly memberships, with the question: WILPF Women are dangerous women! How dangerous are you? Starting with \$5/mo = Dangerous Woman in Training, on up through levels Bona Fide, Extremely, Remarkable, Exceptional, Most and Dangerous to the Nth Degree at \$100+. The **St. Louis** newsletter's column, "Random Readings," has quotes and excerpts from various national newspapers. Duplicating its former success with the Roots of Violence, Seeds of Change, **Cape Cod**, in conjunction with the Western Asia Study Group, is creating another ambitious curriculum for its local community college. This one will focus on the central conflict of the region — Palestine/Israel — and will use *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolman to discuss natural and political geography, water issues, history of the area from the Crusades to Zionism, the wars, borders and current U.S. foreign policy. For more information, contact Mary Zepernick. Perhaps you can bring it to your local community college. **Santa Cruz** honored Cappy Israel with its own version of the "Oscar" in the form of the Peace Doll, a wooden carving of a woman.

GLOBAL AREAS OF CONCERN

Madison held a town hall meeting on U.S. Policy Towards Iran. **St. Louis**

joined to sponsor an event, "Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories and Photos" in March and then hosted Hanan Awwad, president of the Palestine Section in June just before Congress, as did

Palo Alto. In May, **Los Angeles** co-hosted Living with the Conflict — A Palestinian and Jewish Experience Form the Oasis of Peace. **Triangle** hosted three events in April on Israel/Palestine. **New York Metro** joined V-Day's world



Afghan girl at the blackboard.
xxxx Photo

wide campaign to end violence against women. Several members journeyed to join this year's V-Day focus on New Orleans. Check out www.vday.org and look for the film, *Until the Violence Stops*, to arrange for a showing. In April, **New York Metro** also participated in an event, "Opposing U.S. Military Bases Abroad," while **Los Angeles** noted the "Close the Bases Tour" stop organized by the AFSC, which aims to close the over 700 known military bases and unknown/secrete installations in 40 countries around the world. **Palm Beach County**, which learned about Haiti at its March meeting, plans an additional fall meeting to check the status of working conditions and the plight of Haitian citizens at that time. **Palo Alto**'s April membership meeting featured a video on the Cuban Latin American School of Medicine (*Como Angels*) and a report by Carol Cross on current Cuban issues. **Madison**'s April meeting heard three tourists' views on "Warriors of Fair Trade," after a trip to Oaxaca, Mexico to attend the annual meeting of the Family Farm Defenders.

VIGILS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

Madison Grannies showed up at the Senior Idol Talent Show at the Dane County Fair. No word yet on whether they took first place! **St. Louis** joined the annual war tax protest at the local Post Office on April 15. **Palo Alto** members Sara Alchemes and husband Ernie celebrated May Day with the IWLU, shutting down the West coast ports to protest of the Iraq war! **Palo Alto** Grannies enjoyed their Anti-War tax event enlisting many passers-by to join in the fun. The Granny Peace Brigade, loosely connected to **New York Metro**, had a Times Square Knit-in for the March 19 Iraq War commemoration in front of the recruiting offices there. The pouring rain tried their ingenuity, but they knitted socks for stumps (amputated limbs) for both U.S. and Iraqi soldiers, and baby clothes for Iraqi children in camps and orphanages — singing all the while. **Portland** continues its weekly Wednesday vigils, Women in Black on Fridays and celebrated the 17th anniversary of the Clothesline Project in August, thanks to Yvonne Simmons.

LEGISLATIVE

St. Louis hosted a talk on the Missouri Tax System and advocated for local legislation to counteract restricting access to contraception. They also joined AFSC in resisting plans to build a nuclear bomb plant near Los Alamos

➤ BRANCH ACTION *continued*

Lab in New Mexico. **Los Angeles** published great material on local propositions up for a vote in the June primary. **Triangle** highlighted health care and advocates for passage of HR 676 promoting universal, single-payer health care.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

St. Louis held its annual potluck and elections, hosting International Co-President Kirsten Greback. **Portland** ended its year in July with an annual potluck and elections. **Palm Beach County** held its annual meeting and season-closer in April along with Code Pink. **Triangle** had its annual retreat in May. **Los Angeles** held the week-long Orange County Peace Camp, "One Voice, One World: Being part of a global community." **Los Angeles** also celebrated Paul Robeson's 110th birthday. **Madison** reported

➤ AFGHANISTAN *Continued from page 7*

contributing to a case study of the limits of 1325 on-the-ground in Afghanistan: "To ask if women are at the peace table" one sentence reads, "seems obscene when their presence in the public market alone puts them at risk of summary execution by the Taliban."

BY DAY FOUR, MY WORK PLAN HAS TRANSFORMED

itself into a movement-building machine. It's filled with the voices of the women who have inspired me for the last six months, and the ghosts of the two headless Afghan women pinned above my desk. The unit is designed with multiple and easy entry and exit ramps — escape routes really — to allow for a matrix of connections in Afghanistan and around the world. I realize it will be messy: capacity will be built along the way, but right now we will work with what we have. I take an inventory of what's in the "have" column: incredible, passionate Afghan women, here and in the Diaspora, committed to not turning back, to not seeing the country dissolve into war again. We also have a global network of women and men committed to women's peace-building. We have daily high-level meetings with (all-male) power brokers on the fate of Afghanistan — is this war won, almost won, almost lost, entirely lost? In this parched land, we will need to do some bridge building.

We also have the Taliban, and the warlords (too many of whom, despite committing gross human rights abuses during the civil war, now serve in parliament or on the cabinet). We have "night letters" in the south warning of the fatal consequences for using cell phones after dark; we have gang rapes in the north by comman-

on a February forum regarding "Water Wealth or Water Woes" around the Great Lakes Compact. **Portland** has started a Y-WILPF book club. Working with WAND, **Portland** hosted two events in May around the Federal Budget. For Women's History Month, **Baltimore** and **Catonsville** co-sponsored an event highlighting "Black Nuns in a Slave Society" at UMBC. **Boston** is working on several fronts to oppose/prevent housing foreclosures and Criminal Offender Record Information, testifying on the Boston University Biolab in both Boston and in Washington, D.C.

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ders more powerful than the U.S.-backed president; we have girls in the west who burn themselves alive out of a hopelessness made more acute after learning about this illusory idea of "universal human rights."

We will need to tread lightly, even while leaving a heavy footprint for peace. We will need witnesses at our back — is the world of women peace builders ready and willing? We will need to have courage, wherever we are.

BY THE NIGHT OF DAY FIVE, I've completed the unit. It takes up barely any room on an external hard drive, or in my 15-kilo evacuation pack. I've called it "Women in Peace and Governance." I spend day six distancing myself, ready to tear the whole thing apart if needed after having shared it with the Afghan women for whom it is intended. What do I know? I am only a visitor here, locked behind barbed wire, with armed guards stationed at my guest house door. All I know is the fire in my belly that says even if the evacuation is called, I will not abandon this work.

It's late in the night when the last text message arrives. "Situation normal. Restrictions lifted. Report to work as usual." And, as quietly as it began, so it ends. For some of us, understandably, it's a nightmare, invited back into an unprotected world with fear as ubiquitous as the dust in the dry air. For me, it's an awakening into a new kind of day, with a new kind of clarity about the beautiful bravery of women's peace building in Afghanistan.

Theresa de Langis, Ph.D., works as the Senior Gender & Politics Specialist for UNIFEM Afghanistan. She can be reached at Theresa.delangis@yahoo.com.

RENEW Your Commitment to WILPF! Fall Membership Drive!

The most basic way you can show your ongoing support for WILPF's work in the world is by keeping your membership current. Renew promptly and pay your dues. By simply remembering to pay your dues annually, you can help WILPF plan for

Paying dues online is easy!

You can join or renew through www.wilpf.org. Click on JOIN WILPF on the right hand bar of the homepage. Joining or renewing online saves on administrative expenses and allows WILPF to focus more energy on its advocacy work. It also helps keep our membership records up-to-date and secure. Once you join online, future renewal notices will automatically be sent to your email address. If you prefer to renew by post, use the mail-in form below.



Here's my Membership Renewal!

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Amy Goodman, seated, at her book signing at Congress. At left: Susan Temere of Des Moines, IA
Tae Campbell photo

See Congress Report, page 4