

Peace & Freedom

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

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Take Back the Planet

INSIDE:

- STOPPING CHEMICAL TRESPASS • IRAQ, RWANDA & MEXICO REPORTS
- A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE • STANDING UP FOR GAY RIGHTS



Branch Out — Host the National Board

In October the Cape Cod branch hosted the National WILPF Board meeting. Hosting these meetings not only helps support WILPF, but is a great way to get to know board members and WILPF’s work. Please let us know if your branch would like to host a National Board meeting.

Above: Celebrating at the end of the board meeting are Laura Roskos, Tura Campanella Cook, Pajj Wadley Bailey, Ann Chalmers Pendell and Monika Kinkel.



At right, left to right: Y-WILPFer Monica Kinkel (Des Moines) with Margo Kochruthe (Wellfleet--Cape Cod).

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For more information on the Ava Helen Pauling Tribute on page 4, see <http://library.oregonstate.edu/specialcollections/> and search for “Linus Pauling and the International Peace Movement.”

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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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Healthy Bodies, Healthy Planet

By Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos, Co Presidents

At WILPF's 2005 National Congress in San Francisco, we celebrated the cohort of WILPF twins present and still active with WILPF on their 90th birthdays. As Mary Bricker Jenkins and Lois Fiedler playfully encouraged individuals to purchase Life Memberships, the slogan "join WILPF, live forever" began to circulate among attendees.

And, it's actually true that WILPF women tend to live long lives, although not at all true that these lives are always or even most often lived in the best of health. In many cases, the bodies of our members have been damaged by years of living in poverty, or by abusive personal relationships, making them more fragile as they age. And many members are suffering the long-term consequences of police beatings, imprisonment or participation in protest actions involving exposure to high levels of radioactivity or subfreezing temperatures.

What is equally observable, though, is the way in which WILPF itself constitutes a caring community for us when our bodies give out. In part, it is our structure of local branch organizing, when it works well, that facilitates members' ability to build caring relationships of mutual assistance and support. But the impulse to help kicks in across great distances as well, generating new correspondences and reigniting established friendships.

Unfortunately, our ability to create a caring community that can sustain our good health is often thwarted by the very systems that we oppose politically: by chemical trespass perpetuated by corporate greed; by state oppression of dissent and acceptance of violence against women; by privatized for-profit delivery of health care; by a militarized economy that leaches creativity from the social fabric and impoverishes our communities.

With a new president in the White House, WILPF members in the U.S. have an opening to create real and lasting change. Every indicator suggests that the Obama administration will enact sweeping policy changes in international trade agreements, in

energy policy, in our country's stance on nuclear weapons. How can we respond effectively to exploit this political moment? How can we turn opportunity toward the more peaceful world we envision? How can WILPF "add value" to the currents of popular opinion driving these reforms?

In her keynote address to WILPF's International Seminar "1325 Billion Arguments for Human Security," held in Geneva this past November, Cynthia Cockburn challenged us to overcome our inhibitions and better integrate our implicit feminist analysis into all of our protests and policy advocacy work. Her talk includes a powerful rendition of the feminist analysis we bring to issues of war and environmental destruction. Dr. Cockburn identifies patriarchy as a "root cause" of armed conflict, operating at the cultural level of social relations to produce both visceral and immediate eruptions of violence as well as the more hidden, structurally pervasive violence that permeate everyday life. (See www.wilpf.int.ch/events/2008IB/cockburn_speech.html for the full text of her talk.)

We want to suggest that by becoming clearer and more vocal about WILPF's feminist analysis, we can add something different and important to the broader discussions shaping the Obama administration's priorities. But how do we gain this clarity?

This issue of *Peace & Freedom* begins with Linda Richard's recollection of Ava Helen Pauling, a WILPF leader who framed her position on disarmament through the lens of her maternal body. A mother of four, she was alarmed by the link between nuclear testing and the discovery of Strontium 90, a radioactive element causing bone cancer and leukemia, in the teeth of babies. This link between nuclear weapons testing and children's health

galvanized thousands of new women activists, creating Women Strike for Peace and swelling the membership of WILPF. The issue ends with a call to honor the non-maternal, lesbian body of Jane Addams, WILPF's first international



Jane Addams Day at Hull House in Chicago. Rose Daitsman, Lea Zeldin, Laura Roskos and Nancy Munger celebrate with author Louise Knight (third from left) and AAUW-IL President Linda Henning Cohen (far right).

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A Tribute to Ava Helen Pauling and WILPF's Disarmament Work

Human Dynamos vs. Nuclear Weapons

.....
by Linda Richards

Ava Helen Pauling (1903 -1981) had a lifelong interest in the health of the earth and its people. She joined WILPF during World War II and was a longtime member of the Palo Alto Branch. After the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, she convinced her husband, scientist Linus Pauling, that his dedicated and brilliant research for physical and mental health would be meaningless if the world were destroyed by nuclear war.

Radioactivity and its effects on the environment were unknown to most Americans until the tangible fallout of the 1954 "Castle Bravo" thermonuclear blast on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific. Ava Helen Pauling publicized the issue of radioactivity and its health effects using petitions, symposiums,

speeches and marches to confront the inaccurate science of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). The AEC, along with politicians and the military, insisted the testing was required for national security and was safer than "being Red." But, strontium-90 had been detected by scientists in wheat and milk, and as a mother of four, Ava was concerned. Her perspective on health was shared by mothers around the world. She argued that in addition to the direct health effects of nuclear weapons testing, the diversion of resources to weaponry sacrificed human needs.

Ava Helen served on the National Board of WILPF and as national WILPF vice president for three terms and spoke in 39 countries. She coordinated actions among international peace groups to plan a cohesive strategy, emphasizing long-term health and true security through international law and justice.

Linus Pauling won his first Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1954, and because of Ava Helen's influence, he also became a member of WILPF. He researched additional dangers of fallout, including radioactive carbon-14 and its genetic effects. Together, he and Ava Helen educated the public on the dangers of radioactive fallout. They made the connection between the human body and the environment on a genetic, molecular and cellular level.

Fifty years ago last year, Linus Pauling's book *No More War!* was published, and the Paulings presented then United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld their petition with 13,000 signatures demanding an end to nuclear testing. By 1959, the couple's



Ava Helen Pauling participating in the "Marathon to Athens Peace March," Greece, May 1964.

Courtesy Ava Helen and Linus Pauling Papers, Oregon State University Libraries Special Collections.

efforts had helped convince many leaders of the need for a global nuclear test ban treaty: an idea that seemed inconceivable just two years earlier. Paying tribute to WILPF in 1959, Ava Helen said: "Something has made a difference in the past few years, and the League has played no mean part in that."

Yet, after several moratoriums on testing and some negotiations for a permanent test ban, progress toward an agreement was halted by the 1961 Berlin crisis. Public polls reflect the hopelessness of the era at this

Disarm! Dismantle the War Economy Committee has launched an 18-month campaign for a Nuclear Free Future. Read Margaret Harrington's invitation to join (page 8). The project builds on 60 years of WILPF work. The Atmospheric Test Ban of 1963 was the first real victory for which WILPF campaigned, and Ava Pauling was almost certainly the U.S. WILPF member with the widest influence in that effort. We can gain inspiration from Pauling and past WILPF experience as we respond to present opportunities. The time is NOW for ending nuclear threats to human life and our planet!

time, when 60 percent of Americans said they believed the world would soon be annihilated.

The Paulings, however, did not give up. They encouraged all the groups protesting nuclear weapons to

continue — including a new movement sparked by a group of Washington, D.C., mothers. These mothers were painfully aware of U.S. plans to launch nuclear weapons against Russia and called for a Women’s Strike for Peace (WSP). Women across the United States, many of them young mothers never before politically active, responded in large numbers. Many WILPFers, including the Paulings, recognized the power of this new movement and became mentors and guides, rather than rivals. One of these guides was Elise Boulding (WILPF international president, 1968 -1971), whose leadership along with Ava Helen’s, helped bring new members and energy to WILPF.

The Pauling/Portland Connection

An example of this synergy is the genesis of the Portland WILPF Branch. In Portland, Carol Urner (now WILPF program co-chair and former DISARM! co-chair) shared the anguish of a friend who was among the D.C. WSP organizers. In August 1961 her own troubled letter to the editor resulted in dozens of phone calls from women who insisted on doing something about the threat of nuclear weapons. A first meeting in September drew 70 determined women; the second meeting brought out 200. They called themselves “Women For Peace” (WFP) and decided to remain an “unorganization” to avoid both hierarchical decision-making and Red baiting. They engaged in a flurry of activity, encouraging every woman to become a “human dynamo.”



The late Jack Urner pins a white rose, one of 1,000 taken to Hiroshima from Portland, on his wife, Carol Urner, in 1963 when she represented the WSP at two conferences in Japan.

Women Strike for Peace (WSP) called for their first action on November 1, 1961, and thousands of women marched in 60 cities worldwide “to end the arms race, not the human race.” The D.C. leadership consciously followed Portland’s nonhierarchical example. (See WSP historian Amy Swerdlow’s account in *Women Strike for Peace*, 1993.)

The loose structure had many advantages. The fierce determination of so many women mobilizing to protect the lives of children everywhere resulted in thousands of creative actions. Those actions kept the media interested. The unexpected mobilization of so many mothers ward off the Red baiting that had persecuted the anti-nuclear movement. In fact, WSP/WFP was credited with

ending the long reign of McCarthy’s House Un-American Activities Committee.

By 1962, Portland WFP was already considering WILPF membership.

The Atmospheric Test Ban Treaty

The Berlin crisis passed without a nuclear holocaust, but protests increased when Kennedy announced the resumption of U.S. atmospheric testing. In April 1962 the Paulings attended a formal dinner for Nobel laureates at the White House after picketing outside with 3,000 others demanding a test ban. Historians credit the public horror after the Cuban Missile Crisis, as well as the pressure of the protesters and the personal impact of the Paulings on Kennedy, for his final decision to sign the Atmospheric Test Ban Treaty of 1963. The treaty banned nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, underwater and in outer space.

Linus Pauling received his second Nobel, the 1962 Nobel Peace Prize, for his work on the test ban, and he dedicated the prize to his wife. Their work continued with new authority.

In August 1963, Carol Urner traveled from Portland to attend two rival Hiroshima-Nagasaki conferences. She was sent by WSP, as a thank you for her work in mobilizing for the test ban. She took along 1,000 white roses, in exchange for the 1,000 peace cranes Hiroshima activists sent to Portland for their efforts supporting the test ban. After Carol’s return, Portland WFP decided to become a WILPF branch. The group didn’t lose its creativity, but realized it could better meet challenges within WILPF’s wisdom and structure.

Continuing WILPF’s Work for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

In 1965, at WILPF’s 50th anniversary Congress in the Hague, members passed a series of powerful resolutions calling for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, proposing articles for a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and supporting creation of a nuclear weapons-free zone in Africa. Yvonne Logan and Val Mullen, also members of the current DISARM! leadership team, were there in the Hague, as was Carol.

During the past 44 years, WILPF has worked to bring those 1965 resolutions to reality, to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons, nuclear power, the nuclear fuel cycle and the nuclear industry. Thousands of U.S. WILPF members have contributed to this effort, and hundreds of significant WILPF women leaders have emerged.

Today the WILPF DISARM! Nuclear Free Future project builds on the work of Ava Helen Pauling and

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The Crisis in Iraqi Medical Care

By Joan Ecklein

When he threw his shoes at President Bush, shouting, “This is the farewell kiss, you dog. This is from the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq!” the world heard a cry of anguish coming from Muntadhar al Zaidi, the young Iraqi journalist who made headlines last December.

But while we heard his cry, it’s debatable whether most Americans truly understand the amount of suffering going on in Iraq today. Sometimes our newspapers cite statistics on the number of Iraqis killed in the war – about 1 million people. But how many funerals of Iraqi civilians have we seen actually covered in the U.S. media? I’ve never seen any.

After seven years of war, the extreme suffering of the Iraqi people is experienced daily by both the wounded and their families. We read constantly of bombings, with scores of people killed and injured. What happens to these wounded people? What kind of treatment do the injured receive? How many who die might have lived with better medical care and better equipped facilities? What are the long-term implications of their wounds? Who is addressing the mental health needs of the wounded and of their grieving families and friends?

We do know about the enormous number of post-traumatic stress disorders suffered by American troops returning from the war zone. But what of the Iraqi civilians? An article in *U.S. News and World Report* titled “Tragically Little Help for Sick and Wounded Civilians in Baghdad” by Alex Kingsbury is one of the few pieces in the mainstream press describing the suffering of wounded Iraqi civilians (2/26/08). The article tells the story of Marwa Jasmin, a woman, Kingsbury tells us, who has “...two children and a pair of metal rods in her legs. The latter are a result of injuries she received when a mortar shell crashed through the roof of her house, blowing out the windows and killing her husband. She is 16 years old and slowly bleeding to death internally.” Kingsbury writes that Dr. Mohammad, who runs the clinic Jasmin visits, “...is certain of two things: that his patient doesn’t have long to live and that there is very little he can do about it without the trained surgeons Jasmin needs for an operation.”

According to Kingsbury, “A report last year from the Iraqi government found that 70 percent of critically wounded people brought to Iraqi hospitals die due to lack of proper drugs, equipment, and doctors.”

In 2005, Dahr Jamail, an American journalist who has spent considerable time in Iraq, issued a report titled “Iraqi Hospitals Ailing Under Occupation.” This report was submitted as evidence during the culminating session of the World Tribunal on Iraq held in Istanbul in 2005.

Jamail’s report “surveys 13 Iraqi hospitals, examines the actions taken by the U.S. military against hospitals and care workers that constitute war crimes as defined by the Geneva Conventions, discusses and documents cases of U.S. medical personnel complicit in torture through failure to document the visible signs of torture in their patients and much more.”

He found that all the hospitals surveyed lacked clean water, electricity (with power only on for several hours a day), basic supplies, drugs and doctors. The shortage of experienced medical professionals was acute because doctors had left the country in droves; many of them had been targeted by kidnappers and death squads. Almost none of the promised help had come from the U.S. to cope with these critical needs, compounding all of these problems. On the contrary, interference by the U.S. military with medical care was a major issue.

“Perhaps the most glaring example of the U.S. military impeding the medical care of Iraqis occurred in Fallujah during the heavy fighting in April 2004. Doctors from Fallujah General Hospital, as well as others who worked in clinics throughout the city during the U.S. siege of Fallujah, reported that U.S. Marines obstructed their services and that U.S. snipers intentionally targeted their clinics and ambulances.”

Jamail puts the breakdown of medical care in perspective at the end of his report: “This report supports the conclusion of many observers that the war and occupation – and sanctions prior to that – are primarily to blame for the appalling state of healthcare in Iraq today. Up to 1990, Iraq had one of the best healthcare systems in the Middle East. This was the result of a deep commitment by the Iraqi health professionals to serve their patients well; long-term, quality-oriented planning by successive Iraqi governments since the 1930s; and well-functioning and disciplined – albeit sometimes heavy-handed – government structures.” This entire report is



Wajdan M. Shamo Salim, Minister for Human Rights of Iraq, addressing a Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva.

U.N. Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

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WILPF at the U.N. Nuclear Fallout and the Future of Disarmament

By Jean Verthein

At a recent U.N. panel hosted by WILPF and Peace Boat (an NGO based in Japan), Setsuko Thurlow, an A-Bomb victim – or *Hibakusha* in Japanese – described the stigma endured after the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Because of burn scars, Thurlow said, people who weren't hit directly perceived the *Hibakusha* as “horrible people no one would marry.” If they did, the thinking went, deformed babies would certainly result. In fact, some of these births did occur.

Overall, about 220,000 people died from the immediate bombings and double that in the following decade.

Another panelist, Morita Takashi, said, “We always fear that our children are affected. Radiation lives in the human body a long time.” Takashi went on to explain that his son died – at age 55 – from leukemia.

SOME PROBLEMS DEFINED; SOLUTIONS SOUGHT

Thurlow, a Canadian-Japanese *Hibakusha* leader, said neighbors of the *Hibakusha* often assumed that “survivors contaminated them.” Occupying U.S. and U.K. postwar forces, she noted, controlled public speech in Japan and kept discussion of these issues hush-hush. Clarification only began about 12 years later, once the *Hibakusha* grouped together to organize help for themselves and to push for medical care and support. Ultimately, they have organized internationally against nuclear weapons.

During the 60th commemoration of the Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2005, I was hosted by both a WILPF family in Tokyo and a *Hibakusha* family in Hiroshima. The *Hibakusha* expressed concern that radiation from lingering fallout could poison their family into the fourth generation.

Some of these fears are addressed every fall when heads of state meet at the U.N. in New York to strengthen the world's peace mechanisms. Afterward, the U.N.'s First Committee for Security and Disarmament convenes.

Last year, along with other disarmament NGOs, Greenpeace and WILPF (and its Peace Boat) held events parallel to the opening of the First Committee. In addition to the *Hibakusha* testimony, WILPF and Greenpeace held a panel on the Middle East and nuclear abolition.



Students in Hiroshima who worked on the 2005 commemoration. Thousands of people poured into Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Photo: Jean Verthein

TOWARD ABOLITION — LOOKING AT IRAN AND BEYOND

Iran is authorized to build nuclear facilities within what Jonathan Granoff, president of the Global Security Institute, calls “the nuclear bargain.” As he noted at our WILPF-Greenpeace panel, Iran signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Within its stipulations, it can prepare its own nuclear power stations. The political uproar over this centers on whether or not Iran will overstep the bounds of the NPT.

The U.S., Iran and Israel, along with other developed nations, present numerous nuclear power risks. By signing the NPT, the U.S. and some European Union countries (France, Britain and Germany) agreed to dismantle their nuclear weapons stockpiles.

“We always fear that our children are affected. Radiation lives in the human body a long time.” - Morita Takashi

In a recent paper (“A Sensible Policy on Iran: Towards a Safer, Saner World”) Granoff and Rhianna Tyson, a former WILPF Project Associate, favor acknowledging Iran's right to develop nuclear energy. But they also call for more highly developed monitoring. To discern the difference in what is actually being built, high-level inspections are required. To scholarly experts like Granoff and Tyson, such inspections must continue.

They also write that the U.S. must help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons states by being “a trustworthy leader.” In particular, Iran, they write, has overreached international safeguards against potential weapons development. Nuclear weapons and nuclear reactors derive from the same substances – such as uranium and plutonium – and have similar production methods.

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Want a Nuclear Free Future?

Join WILPF's DISARM! Leadership Team

By Margaret Harrington

WILPF has long realized that nuclear weapons production, waste and power all seriously threaten the health of our bodies and our planet. A succession of polls has shown that most of humankind, including as many as 70 percent of U.S. citizens (according to Peace Action polls), agree with us that use of nuclear weapons in war is unthinkable, and that nuclear weapons must be abolished globally.

Now, with the new U.S. president promising to make the abolition of nuclear weapons a goal of his agenda, we have the best opportunity for forward progress. (It was almost 15 years ago, in fact, that the likes of Jesse Helms and Newt Gingrich gained control of Congress and prevented ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.)

We believe the year 2009 will be a key one for making progress towards a Nuclear Free Future, with abolition of both nuclear weapons and nuclear power. Much of the work will be at the local level in our communities, but we will also be lobbying Congress and supporting negotiations at the U.N. Check our web pages, accessible from the WILPF site, for details on how to get involved in this effort.

LOBBY AND LEARN

WILPF members are invited to join the DISARM! Leadership Team from April 24 to 29, when we'll lobby Congress and administration staff to abolish nuclear weapons, stop the building of nuclear power plants, and clean-up nuclear waste. We will receive a full day of training on nuclear issues and effective lobbying from the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) which, like WILPF, calls for abolition. Then for three days we will visit our own Congressional offices and lobby alongside experts from ANA, as well as members of Peace Action, Women's Action for New Directions, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and similar organizations. Evenings will be full with ANA activities, but on Saturday and Wednesday evenings we'll hold our own sessions on sharing WILPF's unique contributions with Congress and other NGOs. We will also strategize on how best to lobby in our home districts and educate our communities while we work together on achieving our common goals.

JOIN US AT THE U.N.

Members are also encouraged to attend the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Prep Com at the U.N. in New York during the sessions from May 4 - 15. This will be an opportunity to meet with ambassadors from many of the 190 nations which have ratified the treaty. This time we will have the guidance and wisdom of WILPF Reaching Critical Will (RCW) staff at the U.N. RCW supports and reports on all practical steps toward global nuclear weapons abolition, as well as negotiation of a nuclear weapons abolition treaty. Staff of WILPF's RCW has already helped draft a model treaty, introduced in the U.N. by Costa Rica. It is now an official document that can serve as the basis for negotiations.

As we work in the coming 18 months for a Nuclear Free Future we'll be calling on the U.S. to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty that eliminates the option of nuclear testing. We will insist that the U.S. carry through on our government's commitments to the NPT. We must reduce our nuclear weapons and not build or design new ones. We urgently ask that the U.S.-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act, which is part of a proposed dangerous and destabilizing Global Energy Partnership, be nullified. This Act is in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The agreement increases India's ability to develop its nuclear weapons program instead of encouraging that government to ratify the NPT.

RAISING AWARENESS

We believe the opinion that nuclear weapons are necessary for deterrence is misguided and wrong. WILPF DISARM! is against the deployment of ballistic missiles in Eastern Europe or elsewhere. We urgently ask President Obama to reject this failed cold war tactic and implement a policy of tough negotiation. We support activists who resist nuclear weapons bases.

Members of DISARM! protest at the Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile launches in California on an on-going basis. MacGregor Eddy has been arrested when on public land for merely observing a nuclear missile test launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Shirley Lin-Kinoshita has led protests in San Jose, CA to raise awareness of the continuing missile

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Towards a WILPF Section in Mexico

By Amparo Guerrero and Elizabeth Ballén



Co-author Amparo Guerrero

For over a year now, we've been working with women in Mexico to establish a WILPF Section there. The Mexican women are motivated and want to join our organization. Amparo has been working to raise \$1,500 to visit the group and provide technical assistance. Here's what our sisters in Mexico are saying about their hopes for joining WILPF this year.

BUILDING PEACE IN MEXICO

The idea for a WILPF section in Mexico emerged from the reflection, hard work and strong desires of a group of women from Puebla. Our hope is to stimulate changes and take actions that will help build a free, equal, just and peaceful society in Mexico.

Our group consists of both students and professionals dedicated to peace and social justice. We are young women



Elizabeth Ballén, standing at left, addresses the WILPF Mexico working group.



students, professionals and professors from the University of Puebla, activists and women working in NGOs. Elizabeth Ballén, a sociologist with a Masters in Gender Studies and emphasis in women and

development, is the leader, facilitator and organizer.

Why do we need a Mexican WILPF section? The history of Mexico, like many countries of Latin America, demonstrates profound inequality and injustice for women. Beginning with the Aztecs, continuing through the Spanish rule and after independence, women have been delegated to a position of subordination and marginality. Aztec women were submissive and obedient to Aztec men. They were prohibited from endeavors that conferred wealth, power and prestige: religious activities, commerce, war and hunting.

During Spanish rule, a married woman had limited rights. Although she could inherit property and titles, her ability to exert any influence or make decisions was subsumed by her husband, who administered and controlled the family wealth. Before marriage, a girl was completely

dependent on the father.

After Independence, women could work, but as *campesinos* or domestic servants. Women's participation in Mexico's political life was rare.

MEXICO TODAY: WOMEN MARGINALIZED BY VIOLENCE AND POVERTY

Social factors in Mexico continue to marginalize Mexican women. Our culture is characterized by "machismo" in its customs and other cultural expressions. For example, Mexico makes more "telenovelas" than any other country, which are translated into 21 languages and transmitted worldwide. Our music — boleros, rancheros, ballades — along with these TV shows, sell the idea that men have power over women and that women are only objects of their desires. Women are portrayed as accepting their role, which is to suffer, to toil and exist only to nurture others.

With respect to violence, Mexico has a heartbreaking and devastating record. The murders of women in Juarez are illustrative. After more than 15 years, the authorities are unable to stop the killings or punish those responsible for the horrendous crimes. Domestic violence is also too common. Statistics show that 50 percent of women with primary or secondary education have suffered domestic violence in the last 12 months, whereas four out of 10 women with university education have had a similar experience. While one out of every five victims seeks legal assistance, the laws are inadequate.

Poverty is also a major problem affecting women. According to the NGO Bilaterals, (www.bilaterals.org) between 1994 and 2000, poverty increased from 51 percent to 70 percent. This is alarming considering that a majority of those impoverished are women heads of households, lacking a formal means of generating income for their families.

Mexico is a multicultural country with 72 indigenous groups. Many indigenous peoples are monolingual, which, among other factors, increases their poverty rates and prevents assimilation. In Puebla, we have seven ethnic groups, each speaking its own language.

Indigenous women and children are the poorest of the poor, the most excluded and least visible in Mexican society. They experience the most discrimination, violence and suffering. It is also for these women that we want to

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Rwanda: A Paradox and a Paradise

By Paji Wadley Bailey

On my trip to Rwanda this past spring, I saw the memorials and saw blood on the walls. I saw the skulls cracked by machetes and the man with no legs. I saw the bones packed in rice sacks bearing the letters “USA,” the very country that ignored the obvious in 1994.

I heard the stories from the survivors: of the identity cards (which determined whether you were killed or “spared”), of the starvation and the tears. Yet through all of this I also saw a light of hope. I saw a people with the power to love, the power to endure and the power to forgive. Rwanda is an unexpected paradise, with a bloody past and an uncertain future, but with the potential to be an example for the world.

Being in Rwanda in April is very important to me. It is a time to be with my Rwandan sisters and their families. Most importantly, it is a time to learn about and support their visions for the future.

April is the anniversary of the Genocide. Naturally, this is a critical time for Rwandans, and being there to hold their hands is an important thing for them and for me.

Rwanda is much more than a “third world country in need.” It is a place of emotion. Banners span the roads to commemorate the dead, and thousands gather to pray for peace. For me, it is a powerful event to witness.

Aaron, a 14-year-old amateur filmmaker* from the U.S., took the trip with me to the south where we met with small groups of Rwandan WILPFers. We went to Batare, Nyewenge (the rain forest), Cyanguu and Kibuye. Linda, a Rwandan college student, was our interpreter. During our travels, we passed mourning survivors gathering in huge masses to remember the Genocide; praying that it may never happen again. Sadly, we could not visit any active schools as the children were on leave for the Remembrance.

As we traveled, we handed out little coloring books, crayons and candy to the children, many of whom had never tasted refined sugar. (Aaron, who has a grand sweet tooth, couldn’t bear the thought of this depriva-

tion!) Their faces lit up as we handed them these precious treats and they put their hands together in thanks. In more remote areas, some of the children were afraid to touch Aaron’s skin, as most had seen very few, if any, people of European descent.

Buses are a good way to travel in Rwanda. Some say you haven’t seen Rwanda until you have been on one of its buses. About seven people are piled on each bench, many on laps. But you get to know the people for who they really are. I could never even begin to recount all the many folks we met on those buses – from mothers, traders and artists to soldiers, orphans and small business owners – all with stories to tell. Along the way, announcers used radios on the buses to talk about the Genocide and call for moments of silence.

RWANDA’S BEAUTY, HISTORY AND WOMEN

I first went to Rwanda in 2004, when I was invited by the Ward Brook Center, a non-profit organization that promotes education for spiritual and material reconciliation of African and European-descent peoples. Burlington WILPF and Central Vermont WILPF asked that I talk with the Rwandan women to see if they’d be interested in founding a Section, one that Vermont WILPF would “sister” and assist. The Rwandan women were thrilled by the idea; they rolled up their sleeves and began laying the foundation for what is today a reality.

I am uncertain about how to describe Rwanda’s history, culture and ecology. Rwanda is a paradox: it is riddled with starvation and poverty, however, the beauty of the people – their spirits and the natural surroundings – can blind one to that. What I will always remember are the women and their incredible, somehow regal dignity. I heard their tragedy, yet saw their beauty. I saw their pain, yet still heard their song. They will always stay with me.

On the way to the Genocide memorial sites we passed some small, round, thatched-roofed huts with dirt floors. On a distant path, women walked along with bun-

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dles of twigs balanced on their heads. In a front yard, the sorghum was laid out to dry. A child rolled a slender wheel along with a stick, like something from a Norman Rockwell painting – only this was on a very rutted dirt road bordered by a dusty banana grove. Several goats and young children emerged from the vegetation, crossed the road and then disappeared down a small path back into the brush. While so simple, in context it is profoundly beautiful. Life – for these women, for these people – life, no matter what, always goes on.

On the road to Butare, we turned off the main thoroughfare and onto a dirt road which we traveled on for quite a long time; the land was very hilly and intensively farmed in tiny patchwork plots. We frequently passed women at watering holes, washing clothes and laying them out to dry on the closest shrub or simply on the grass.

The women felt it was important for me to hear their stories. They spoke of their horrific experiences during the Genocide – how their families were killed and how they managed to survive. They would show me their wounds – a sharp indentation in the back of the neck where a machete had struck, and their battered, scarred bodies. Many had empty, hopeless eyes.

RWANDA WILPF AND THE WATER ISSUE

Water is a colossal issue here. One of the most common sights throughout Rwanda is that of a person carrying a large, dirty, yellow, plastic can, either on their way to fill it (often with polluted water), or on their way home. Sometimes a bicycle without tires is loaded with four or five such cans, slowly being hauled up long hills, and then painstakingly pushed down. Many children have been driven to using wooden crutches, as their backs have been slowly broken by the heavy load of carrying water.

For Rwanda and Africa to develop in a positive direction, clean water is essential. This is why Rwanda WILPF is exploring the development of a simple water filter, produced from red Rwandan clay. In the future we will be working with the indigenous Twa people, who have a long history of pottery-making and of utilizing

* Aaron Gould-Kavet, 14 years of age, lives in Williamstown, Vt. and is home-schooled. He is passionate about filming, and he plays piano and organ professionally. As a virtual travel agent, Aaron coordinated our trip. He is computer savvy and adept at mathematics. (He learned the Rwanda franc system immediately). Aaron returned to Vermont and coordinated a film and discussion event at the Savoy Theater in Montpelier, the proceeds of which went to F.R.E.E., a non-profit he established to provide education for Rwandan children and youth.

**Rwanda could move from
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**We have the power,
they have the hope.**

the Rwandan clay to produce simple water-filtration systems. There are other forms of filtration systems, but they all involve plastic. In Africa, plastic cannot be properly disposed of, and is extremely detrimental to the environment. Rwanda WILPF is determined not to bring more plastic into the country or into Africa.

Aaron and I separated for a few days; he to spend time working with young men, I to work with Rwanda WILPF and two Rwandan lawyers so we could achieve local NGO status. This is required in order to write grants. At present, Vermont WILPF helps enable the Rwandan women to come together nationally (a couple of times a year) as well as supporting meetings of the local branches in the provinces. Rwanda WILPF is now recognized as a legitimate non-profit.

A HOPEFUL CONCLUSION

Rwanda and I have made a connection that will stay with me for all of my life, and – thanks to support from so many WILPFers – I will do all I can to keep Rwanda moving forward. The women constantly say to me, “Paij, please do not abandon us.” Rwanda could move from a paradox of paradise and poverty, to the inspiration of the world! Let us join together, and take the world to new levels of peace. We have the power, they have the hope.

For further information and progress reports on this work, please get in touch with me at pwadleybailey@aol.com.

Paij Wadley-Bailey is a former member of WILPF's National Board and the Liaison between Rwanda WILPF and Vermont WILPF.

People Against Chemical Trespass

By Nancy Price

At this time, as no other in history, our health and life are at risk from the accumulation of chemicals used by industry, agriculture and the military that poison our air, land, water and our bodies. Currently over 80,000 corporate-produced chemicals are in use in the U.S. and among the 15,000 chemicals tested, few have been studied enough to conclude there are no risks. Amazingly, about 1,800 chemicals enter the market each year.

Over the decades, different chemicals have been found to be far more toxic to the environment and people than initially reported: lead, mercury, asbestos, DDT, PCBs, pesticides, tobacco, flame-retardants, solvents, perchlorate, dry-cleaning chemicals, Agent Orange; the list goes on and on. We now know chemicals that might be useful for one purpose can be extremely harmful in other ways. The threat to all life now far exceeds what Rachel Carson exposed more than 60 years ago.

NEW WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT HOW CHEMICALS HARM

The great advance of the 20th century was proof that micro-organisms caused disease. In the 21st century, advances in cell and developmental biology are leading medical researchers to significant new understandings about how our body is comprised. The body contains many complex systems – nervous, hormone, immune and reproductive — and the cells of each system function by way of a complex and incredibly sensitive message system. It used to be accepted that the higher the chemical dose, the more disease. People also thought that disease occurred right after exposure. Now it is agreed that there is no “safe” level and that there can be years or decades between exposure and illness.

One of the chemical classes of major concern today is “hormone disrupting chemicals,” since it is found that even trace amounts of these chemicals can interfere with the delicate messaging system and disrupt normal development.

CHEMICAL BODY BURDEN

Scientists and regulators once considered one chemical at a time. But now chemical combinations and factors

such as poverty, racism, continual exposure, and compromised “immune systems” are considered to cause “cumulative impacts.” Scientists estimate that over 700 chemicals are now found within every human creating a “chemical body burden.”

It used to be thought that adults were at the highest risk of disease from chemical pollution. But now we understand that early exposure creates a “pre-condition” for disease to develop at any time of life, even many years after exposure. Now the focus is on the fetus, newborns, and young children whose exceptionally rapid growth and development depends on precise and intricate timing of the hormone messaging system for normal brain, nervous and reproductive-system development.

Alarming new evidence shows that a mother’s body burden contaminates the amniotic fluid – our first environment before birth, and affects breast milk – our first food after birth. Such early exposure is understood to affect normal, healthy development leading to behavioral and developmental problems such as autism, hyperactivity, juvenile diabetes, early puberty (with, perhaps, increased breast cancer for young girls), and problems of the reproductive systems for both girls and boys. Early exposure may also trigger disease in an older person leading to early death, and over time to the development of Parkinson’s disease and dementia in old age.

THE BROKEN FEDERAL REGULATORY SYSTEM

We know how business groups and corporations profit at the expense of public health, while government agencies and the medical and scientific community fail to protect us. Industry, agriculture, and the military regularly lobby government for lower standards and exemptions and promote free trade agreements that erode environmental protections. What laws are on the books are violated, and violators rarely receive more than a slap on the wrist for their criminal actions. Business and industry, along with “their scientists” engage in the suppression or falsification of information, cover-ups, lies and intimidation, while federal and state agencies are high-jacked, not least by the revolving door between government and the private sector. Furthermore, corporate control of science, especially alliances with universities, undermines objective research to prove links between toxic chemicals and disease.

Join Branches and members to plan an event for
World Water Day on March 22.
See our website for more details at
www.wilpf.org/water_news.

Nancy Price is a member of WILPF's Save the Water Issue Group Leadership Collective.

The Santa Cruz Branch Spearheads Organizing with P.A.C.T.

We are all part of a grassroots movement, asserting our inalienable rights, and taking charge of our environment, health, and well-being.

WILPF has been at the forefront teaching that We, the People must assert our rights, beginning with the Challenge Corporate Power/Assert the People's Rights Campaign, which in 2005 became the Corporations v Democracy Issue Committee.

Now, WILPF's branch in Santa Cruz has introduced community rights-based organizing and, in the fall of 2008 (along with other local groups), we formed People Against Chemical Trespass (P.A.C.T.) to assert our right to be free of chemical pollution and to take back local control of pesticide use in order to protect people's health and the environment. This is a significant first on the West Coast, spearheaded by WILPF members. This work follows several towns in Pennsylvania and Virginia that have passed similar ordinances based on legal advice and consultation with the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund.

We began in response to the State of California, which under federal mandate sprayed pesticides over the Monterey Bay Area in 2007 in an attempt to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). As a result, 643 people reported illnesses, thousands of seabirds died, countless household pets were sickened, and bees disappeared. To keep the City of Santa Cruz safe from future pesticide assaults, the "City of Santa Cruz Local Control, Pesticide and Chemical Trespass Ordinance" was written.

The Ordinance is based on the Declaration of Independence which declares that we have certain inalienable rights and on the California Constitution which declares that among those rights is our right to safety. (Article 1, Section 1) The State's LBAM program is not over. They still plan to do aerial spraying in "agricultural and forested" areas, and to do toxic ground treatments in our neighborhoods. In a world with global trade, there will always be non-native insects coming into our country. What happens when the next "pest" comes to the Bay Area? What toxic substances will be used to try to eradicate it? Now is the time to organize. If this rights-based ordinance can be passed in the City of Santa Cruz, it will set a precedent, and it will be much easier to do the same in the county and in surrounding areas. This is the way to assert the people's rights – to begin at the community level. Visit www.peopleagainstchemicaltrespass.org to learn more about this campaign and www.celdf.org to read "Chemical Trespass Ordinances."

— Nancy Price



WILPF Women Honored

WILPF member Millee Livingston, of Auburn, CA (*above*) was awarded the first Women's International Film & Television Showcase Dove Award for "Outstanding Contributions to Peace." The ceremony took place in Hollywood in December. Millee brought the play *A Single Woman*, about Jeanette Rankin, to Auburn; the play spawned a movie, written by Jeanmarie Simpson, former WILPF National Board member.

WILPF member Madeline Duckles of Berkeley, 92, (*below*) received the 2008 Agape Foundation "Enduring Visionary Peacemaker" prize in September. It is one of two awards given annually by the foundation in celebration of the United Nations International Day of Peace.



WILPF Mini Grants

Nine projects have currently received funding through WILPF's Mini Grant Program. Here are reports on several of these projects, as well as a list of all nine.

PROJECT: CAMP HOPE

WILPF members from several Midwest branches came together in Chicago on December 6 and 7 to celebrate Jane Addams Day with a brunch at the Hull House museum. (The state of Illinois honors Jane Addams as the first American woman recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.) These meetings resulted in plans for WILPF to participate in Camp Hope at Hyde Park (Chicago), presenting the "WILPF Peace Agenda" to incoming President Obama. The brunch on December 7, attended by about 30 people and co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women of Illinois, featured a talk on "Jane Addams as Community Organizer," by Louise W. (Lucy) Knight, author of *Jane Addams, Citizen in the Struggle for Democracy*.

PROJECT: WOMEN AND WATER RIGHTS

The project of Minnesota Metro WILPF is to provide programs, facilitators for panels and discussions, speakers, printed information, and a "Water Wall for Action." This Water Wall accompanies "The Art of Saving the Earth's Water," a water and women's rights international art exhibit co-sponsored by the Women's Caucus for Art and faculty members of the University of Minnesota Art Department. It is planned for Feb. 23 - March 25, 2010. Our emphasis is on the relation of women to water, its availability, accessibility, ownership and management, as expressed in the art works displayed. We are making good progress in finding and signing up participants for our programs.

PROJECT: MOST DANGEROUS WOMEN

The Pittsburgh branch has performed Jan Maher's play "Most Dangerous Women" five times at various venues to very receptive and enthusiastic audiences. We have been asked to perform again in March 2009 at La Roche College, as part of Women's History month. The play recounts the history of the founding of WILPF, and the women fighting for peace and social justice, some well known for their labor and feminist organizing work. It includes such founding mothers as Crystal Eastman, Rosika Schwimmer, Emily Green Balch and Jane Addams. It also includes such modern women as

Wangari Maathai, Cindy Sheehan and others.

We plan to record our upcoming production to provide the story of this important and almost forgotten history to larger numbers of organizations and educational institutions, including labor groups, universities and women's groups. A grant from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a mini-grant from WILPF will help make this DVD possible. We are soliciting some more donations from other sources. The DVD will be available to WILPF branches for a fee of \$5.00 to cover postage, disk, mailer etc. The WILPF Mini-grant committee has proposed a trailer for the WILPF website.

For more information, contact: edith.bell4@verizon.net or (412) 661-7149. ❖

Current Mini Grant Projects:

- "Curbing Corporations" conference organized by Santa Cruz Branch
 - "Gaza - End the Siege!" postcards by Middle East issue committee
 - Jane Addams Day by Midwest Cluster branches
 - Networking in U.S. for Rwandan women by Pan Africa and Diaspora Women's issues committee
 - Support for Nuclear-Free Future work by DISARM! issue committee
 - Videotaping "Most Dangerous Women" by Pittsburgh Branch
 - Workshop development on local control of water by Water issue committee
 - "Women and Water Rights" exhibit by Minnesota Metro Branch
 - "WILPF Day" at Camp Hope by St. Louis Branch
- *Compiled by Tura Campanella Cook and Theta Pavis*

➤ **CO-PRESIDENTS** *Continued from page 3*

president, by actively supporting the contemporary struggle for equal marriage in the United States. Y-WILPFer Jessie Brady Bombasaro explains why explicitly embracing WILPF's connection to the historical struggle for gay and lesbian civil rights is key to connecting with the sorts of young women who can sustain WILPF in the decades to come.

We invite members to respond to these and other articles in this issue by writing a letter to this magazine's editor. Send your comments to peacefreedom@wilpf.org. We'll feature the best of these responses in our next issue — part of our ongoing effort to deepen the conversation among us and build a more resilient and robust WILPF as we approach our centennial anniversary. ❖

▶ AT THE U.N. *Continued from page 7*

Merav Datan, Greenpeace Middle East Political Advisor, appearing on the same panel, stated that, “A weapons of mass destruction-free zone in the Middle East is far from reality.” A lawyer, physicist and former director of WILPF’s U.N. office, Datan noted that “Israel plays a game of chicken – who’s willing to take the first step toward peace and neighborliness first?” Datan said one

A survivor accepts a bouquet from the head of a Korean *Hibakusha* organization to honor her during the 60th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 1945 there was a large Korean community living in Hiroshima.

Photo: Jean Verthein



point of hope in the region is that Yemen has developed a wind policy to counter nuclear power.

What can we learn from the Japanese experience with atomic catastrophe? Panelists suggested that national pride is key when considering how to counter nuclear proliferation, whether in Israel, Iran or the U.S.

For more recent background and events leading up to the next NPT review, see www.reachingcriticalwill.com.

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Jean Verthein is U.S. WILPF’s NGO Representative to the United Nations, and a disability and trauma specialist working with university students, who says, “Japan and Iran have long concerned me, along with my continued interest in nuclear disarmament.”

▶ IRAQI MEDICAL *Continued from page 6*

well worth reading. (www.brusseltribunal.org/DahrReport/htm)

Recent reports by the International Committee of the Red Cross describe an only slightly better situation today. These reports continue to detail a ruined health care system, a lack of clean water, electricity, medicine and doctors that make treating the injured extremely difficult. Some of these reports emphasize the disastrous health effects on children.

Another, compiled by human rights and environmental organizations based in Fallujah, describes a detailed study of the long-term effects of illegal weapons use, such as

phosphorous and depleted uranium on the population of Fallujah. This report, “Prohibited Weapons Crisis: the effects of pollution on the public health of Fallujah,” was presented to the seventh session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, in March, 2008. It states:

“This document, packed with hard facts, reminds the world about the use of internationally banned weapons by U.S. forces against innocent civilians. [It includes a] description of consequent health problems on both children and women. The Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights at the United Nations should do its responsibility towards what has been mentioned in the report. We here legally bind ourselves to the facts mentioned in the report and state our readiness to prove every single factual element with documented evidence.”

The overall health situation in Iraq, including war-related injuries and diseases, have been minimized and underreported, so it’s important for WILPF members to educate themselves and their communities about the situation. We must insist that the incoming Obama administration address the health emergencies that exist and provide reparations. The war was initiated by the U.S. and our government must be held accountable for the severe and disastrous effects it has had on the lives of the Iraqi people.

Phoebe Knopf, a Boston WILPF member, was the inspiration for this piece. She has worked tirelessly to bring the plight of the civilians injured in the two U.S. sieges of Fallujah to the American public. I am grateful to her for sending me the report on the Prohibited Weapons Crisis, referenced above.

Additional readings suggested by George Capaccio, who provided invaluable assistance on where to find information for this piece, include:

- *U.S. News* carried an important article in February 2008 on the treatment (or lack thereof) for wounded and sick civilians in Baghdad. See www.usnews.com or search for **US News civilians in Baghdad**.
- For a report from the International Committee of the Red Cross on Civilians without Protection (on the humanitarian crisis in Iraq), see www.icrc.org or search for **Red Cross civilians without protection**.
- Global Research reported on the healthcare collapse in Iraq. See www.globalresearch.ca or search for **Silent Death in Iraq**.
- A *Washington Post* article published in the *St. Petersburg Times* detailed the collapse of Iraq’s healthcare system. Search for **Iraqi health care a shambles doctors say**.

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Joan Ecklein is a retired professor. She was assisted in this article by Marjorie Van Cleef, co chair of WILPF’s Iran/Iraq Committee.



Jane Addams Children's Books and Violence Prevention

by Chris Morin

What would you tell a young child if they asked you "Why did 9/11 happen?" The attack on the World Trade Center was one of thousands of acts of aggression that people inflict on one another. Whether it is a nation invading another nation, or a person assaulting another person, violence is too often an accepted form of dealing with relationships in our society.

WILPF was founded on the principles "to study, make known and help abolish the political, social, economic and psychological causes of war and to work for a constructive peace." Yet it is no longer enough to demonstrate against war. We must have a plan for preventing violence.

This is not an impossible task. In fact, we have a program in place – and we've had it since 1953 – that is a strategic plan to prevent violence. Perhaps we haven't thought of it in this way before, but now is a good time to think of the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards as a stepping stone to the prevention of war and violence.

These awards are given annually to children's books that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and sexual and racial equality. What better way to plant the seeds of peace-making than with our future leaders. Changing how our children think about conflicts, prejudice and inequality can help build a better, more just future.

There are two great examples of how the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards are being used to promote children's thinking about healthy choices when dealing with differences and conflicts.

The Jane Addams Literature Circle for Girls in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, New York is comprised of six students (ages 11 to 12) from culturally diverse backgrounds. Each month the group selects books to read independently. Then they meet to discuss the reading under the guidance of co-facilitators Sonja Cherry-Paul and Michelle Yang, middle and elementary school teachers.

In their discussions, the girls challenge each other's ideas and appreciate different perspectives. "It is important to read these books to keep the struggles and pain of the

characters alive," says Imani, one of the participants. "With the knowledge these books give us about the mistakes of history, we can change the future,"

Another project is the "Reading Book Club Jobs Bookmark," launched by Susan Freiss, a 4th grade teacher from Madison, Wisconsin who is also a WILPF member.

Susan Freiss uses bookmarks to help her students think about the content of the books they're reading. Before reading aloud to her students, she gives each one six bookmarks. The bookmarks assign each student a specific



Children enjoy the "Making a Difference" event at the main public library in San Francisco, co-sponsored by the local WILPF branch and featuring JAPA award books.

Photo Barbara Nielsen

"job" that they are responsible for while listening to the reading. These jobs include finding the connection between the book and the world around them, determining the importance of the changes in the main character's thoughts and feelings, and making important inferences about what was read. Freiss uses the jobs as a tool for deep discussion and to build an understanding of the choices that people make.

Some branches still sponsor local Peace Camps, which are excellent venues for the books and something

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



Reading together at the event in San Francisco.

Photo Barbara Nielsen

WILPFers might consider when focusing on violence prevention. Another idea is to have an event at a local library. The San Francisco branch did this in the fall of 2007, when they put up a display of award-winning books at the main public library. They did this in conjunction with a program for school-age children entitled "Making a Difference." During the event, branch members spoke

about Eleanor Roosevelt, the Jane Addams books and activism in general.

Branches may purchase Jane Addams award books and donate them to schools, libraries or children's organizations. The books come with a tool kit filled with ideas for promoting the books and using them to help children learn about peace and justice.

The Peace Education Committee (a committee of the Jane Addams Peace Association Board and WILPF) will continue to define the prevention of violence and how that can be a part of the work we do.

You can access the tool kit through the JAPA website (www.janeaddamspeace.org). Click on "About Children's Book Awards," then click on the box on the left "Building WILPF." The tools for a formidable prevention strategy are within our reach. WILPF needs only to lead the way.

Chris Morin is an at large member in Williamsburg, VA. She serves on the National WILPF Board as the past president. She's also a member of the Peace Education Committee of the Jane Addams Peace Association.

► DISARM

Continued from page 8

launches. We support their brave actions and looks for ways to raise awareness throughout the United States.

We also support Proposition One and similar local initiatives to hasten a Nuclear Free Future. Ellen Thomas, a co-chair of our DISARM! Leadership Team, launched the Proposition One Campaign in 1990 to support a ballot initiative asking D.C.'s Congressional delegate to introduce the "Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act" into the House of Representatives. The initiative passed with 63 percent of the vote in September 1993. Since 1994, updated legislation has been introduced each session. The bill has gained 10 co-sponsors over the years.

We feel hopeful that the White House will finally look approvingly at the "Nuclear Disarmament and Conversion Act," if other communities make similar efforts. We also encourage work with Mayors for Peace on their Vision 2020 petition and campaign, and other local initiatives.

A NATIONAL DAY?

WILPF Disarm is petitioning Congress for a National Nuclear Disarmament Day to be observed on August 6. The anniversary of the date the United States dropped

the first atomic bomb on the civilian population of Hiroshima has long been observed by WILPF. Last year, the Burlington, Vermont branch of WILPF joined with Burlington Mayor for Peace Bob Kiss to initiate and observe the first Nuclear Disarmament Day in the U.S. on August 6. Burlington WILPF members, including myself and Cheryl Diersch joined Carol Urner in Washington, D.C. on September 15 to deliver thousands of signatures on the National Nuclear Disarmament Day petition to Congress. The alliance with Mayors for Peace and the petition drive is on-going and WILPF members hope to return to Washington this April with thousands more signatures.

We believe it is time to transform the way our country views nuclear weapons as a basic premise of our national identity. Are we a people who, because we caused a nuclear holocaust over 60 years ago, must fortify our image as "Nuclear Masters of the Bomb?" Or are we a people who can move forward, knowing that to repeat such an action goes against the very meaning of what it is to be human? We urgently ask President Obama to support our petition for a National Nuclear Disarmament Day.

Margaret Harrington is co chair of the DISARM! Dismantle the War Economy and wrote this piece in conjunction with its Leadership Team

The next issue of *Peace & Freedom* will focus on "Sustainable Communities" and be published in June. The deadline for copy will be in early May.

International WILPF meets in Geneva

WILPF's International Board met late in 2008 in Geneva. The title of the seminar, "Over 1325 Billion Arguments for Human Security," drew attention to the colossal sum wasted on annual global military spending. With Sections in 37 countries, the meeting brought together members from around the globe for several days of important meetings. The title of this year's seminar invoked Security Council resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security" and drew attention to the colossal sum wasted on global military spending annually.

Special thanks to all WILPF members and Interns who contributed photos.



*Above, left to right: Ingabire Siliacus (WILPF Rwanda), Amparo Guerrero (WILPF Colombia), Anissa Abou Zaki (WILPF Lebanon)
Below, left to right: Josefine Lind and Emma Rosengren (WILPF Sweden), and Edith Ballantyne, Special Advisor on UN Matters for WILPF*



Above, left to right: WILPF India members, Krishna Ahooja Patel, Ranjana Harish, Ila Pathak, and Sushma Pankule.



At left: Monika Kinkel (U.S.), Kirsty McKay (Geneva), Joy Onyesoh (Nigeria) and Robin Rose (U.S.)



► DYNAMOS

Continued from page 5

hosts of other determined WILPFers. These include members like Kay Camp who led nuclear disarmament efforts in the '70s and '80s, and Susi Snyder who began her anti-nuclear work in the mid '90s. Susi joined the Shoshone resistance at the Nevada test site. She later became Coordinator for WILPF's Reaching Critical Will project, started in 1999 to give effective leadership to the global anti-nuclear movement. Now Susi is our WILPF Secretary General in Geneva. Former staff member Gillian Gilhool's guidance of our legislative work on nuclear weapons abolition was also critical.

In U.S. WILPF, Yoshiko Ikuta, Ellen Barfield, Claire Gosselin, Margaret Harrington and Ellen Thomas have served as co-chairs of DISARM! They join in inviting every WILPF member to become a leader in the current movement for a nuclear-free future.

Linda Richards is on leave as a member of DISARM! and Ashland Oregon WILPF to study nuclear science history at Oregon State University.



Among the many women who continue the nuclear free work begun and inspired by Ava Helen Pauling (shown below working on a 1957 appeal with her nuclear physicist husband Linus) is Susi Snyder, (at left) who is WILPF General Secretary in Geneva.

Photo below courtesy, Pauling Papers



A Membership Council for WILPF

By Barbara Reed

In responding to the call that went out from our 30th Triennial Congress to move forward in WILPF, and desiring to enrich and deepen our commitment to working at the local level for a world free of war and violence, members have formed a WILPF Membership Council. What follows are some responses to frequently asked questions along with an invitation to become part of this dynamic vehicle for direct participation by members in the political and organizational work of WILPF.

What is the goal of the Membership Council?

- To restore and re-vitalize participation of members in the political and organizational work of WILPF.
- To provide a vehicle of advisement and support for both Board and members.
- To present a collective members' voice to the Board on issues of concern.
- To provide improved communication between Board and members on program, policy and organizational matters.

Who would comprise a Membership Council?

It could be one person from each branch, or a cluster of branches, or clusters of at-large-members. It might include individual members. A branch is not required to participate in the Council. It is an opportunity.

What is the role of the Membership Council?

- Assist in developing skills in shared leadership throughout the organization.
- Provide a sounding board and resource for Board members on decision-making and policy. The Council does not usurp the decision-making role and responsibility of the Board.
- Provide advisement on content and types of resources members need for their activist and education work.
- Foster inclusion of underrepresented groups and new members. Increase ownership of decisions made and enhance implementation.

Would members communicate through Membership Council representatives rather than directly with the Board or national office?

The Council does not interfere with members' interaction with the Board nor with Board members communication with members. We envision a relationship of mutual support, common purpose and respect. However, if members feel they're not being heard by the Board or

not receiving necessary information, the MC may be asked to make a collective presentation to the Board.

What specific tasks/questions would the MC deal with?

The Council could, for example:

- Assure minutes of Board meetings and financial reports are available, transparent, and understood.
- Provide advice and input on decisions such as the site of the national office, program needs, etc.
- Encourage diversity and inclusiveness.

How can the Membership Council help build WILPF membership?

The full creative participation of members, full of energy and vitality will help build a movement. Our goal is to help build a viable, dynamic peace movement in which WILPF plays a major part.

What is the response from the branches so far?

We have liaison members from several branches and some branches have agreed to be on the Council but haven't chosen a liaison yet.

Participating branches are: St. Louis, MO; Houston, TX; Pittsburgh, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Monterey County, CA;

Cleveland, OH; Boston, MA; Washington, DC; San Jose, CA; Cape Cod, MA; Palm Beach County, FL; Portland, OR (to be determined); Essex County, NJ; Ann Arbor, MI; Detroit, MI; and Tucson, AZ.

For more information, please contact:

Barbara Reed, bhrfl@earthlink.net, or Regina Birchem, regbirchem@earthlink.net, or Libby Frank, lmfrank1@verizon.net.



Barbara Reed is a life member of WILPF and is treasurer of the Palm Beach County, Florida Branch.

Make WILPF Stronger

Your time and financial contributions are the bedrock of our organization. Please consider donating to WILPF (*see back page*) or giving a tax-deductible donation to our sister organization, the Jane Addams Peace Organization, earmarked for the U.S. Section.

Honoring Jane Addams

A WILPF Commitment to Gay Rights

By Jessica Bombasaro Brady



Jane Addams (left) with Mary Rozet Smith.

Photo courtesy Swarthmore College archives

April 28th marks the 94th birthday of WILPF, which makes it a great time to celebrate the life of our founder, Jane Addams, and to recognize what WILPF has accomplished in nearly a century. WILPF members are familiar with Addams' outspoken advocacy and support for immigrant services, workers' rights, and peace; but she was publicly silent about one aspect of her life. Jane Addams was a lesbian; she had a "Boston marriage" (a 19th century term for a lesbian relationship) with Mary Rozet Smith. Addams did not hide her relationship with Smith, but she, like many other lesbian activists, including Susan B. Anthony, understood that it was not yet the time for lesbians to demand equal rights. That time has now arrived: discrimination based on sexual orientation is now a principle political issue in this country and it is time to fight for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) rights.¹

HISTORY OF LESBIANS IN WILPF

LGBT issues have long been invisible in peace and justice organizations like WILPF. Historically, women have campaigned for the rights of others before demanding their own rights. In the decades before the Civil War, Northern women figured largely in the movement to abolish slavery but did not demand the right to vote for themselves. Second wave feminism supported and drew strength from the Black Civil Rights movement. Though a part of all these earlier movements, lesbians have rarely sought equal rights for LGBT citizens.

WILPF STANCE ON LGBT RIGHTS

Though LGBT rights were first mentioned in *Peace & Freedom* in 1987, WILPF only drafted a platform on "Lesbian Human Rights" some 11 years later, at the 27th WILPF International Congress in Baltimore. This platform promised that WILPF would "intervene in order to eliminate discrimination and prejudice against lesbians [and] ... support initiatives at local, national, and international levels which ensure full human rights for lesbians." In 2004, Chris Morin, a former WILPF President, was part of the revival of a LGBT Committee to, "serve as a liaison to national WILPF, keeping the organization abreast of the LGBT political scene and legislative issues ... [and] address homophobia within

WILPF."² The Committee sent a survey to all WILPF branches in the Spring of 2004 to help "determine appropriate goals and objectives for the committee," but, they "received very few responses."³

Perhaps WILPFers are reluctant to discuss LGBT issues because they are afraid of splintering or diminishing emphasis on peace and justice issues. However, addressing sexual orientation issues could make current members, whose primary identity is as an activist and not necessarily as a lesbian, feel more welcome and included. It could also encourage non-members to get involved. Homophobia and efforts to deny gay rights across the country are sponsored by many of the same groups that oppose WILPF on peace and justice issues. Now is the time for WILPF to actively support LGBT rights to strengthen our organization and its commitment to the larger peace and justice agenda.

The inclusion of LGBT rights in WILPF's agenda, and actively supporting equality, is especially important to the youth generation. As a 19-year old WILPF member and college student, I can accurately identify the LGBT rights movement as *the* Civil Rights issue of my generation. In fact, the results of a recent poll conducted by Pew Research showed that among young people, ages 18 - 29, 48 percent favor gay marriage and 58 percent favor adoption by gay couples.⁴ If WILPF hopes to draw in young women we must address the LGBT issue.

SUPPORT FOR LGBT RIGHTS IS CONSISTENT WITH WILPF IDEOLOGY

Not only is LGBT rights the Civil Rights issue of the youth generation, but it is also an issue that WILPF should support because it is consistent with WILPF's positions on the military, violence, and discrimination. The current position of the United States military on LGBT rights is limited to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This policy is a military stamp of approval on discrimination based on sexual orientation, and the legitimization of deceit; it highlights the trademark of the military which is a lack of transparency.

WILPF's long history of promoting peace and tolerance is also consistent with LGBT rights activists pursuit

of more stringent Hate Crime laws. Since the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming in 1998,⁵ only 24 states have added sexual orientation to Hate Crime Laws, with only 11 of these adding gender identity. Congress nearly passed a bill that would have added sexual orientation and gender identity to the existing Hate Crime Laws in 2007,⁶ but it was dropped at the last minute.

Violence and intimidation are part of growing up for many LGBT young people. Recent studies report staggering numbers of violent incidents involving LGBT youth both as victims of others and themselves. "Suicide is the leading cause of death among gay and lesbian youth ... [they are also] two to six times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth ... [and represent] over 30 percent of all reported teen suicides each year." Many LGBT youth are harassed at school (86.2 percent),⁷ and half of all lesbian and gay youth are rejected by their parents because of their sexual orientation.⁸ Homelessness among LGBT youth is also very common; 26 percent of gay and lesbian youth are kicked out of their homes because of their sexual orientation and about 30 percent of homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered. In Massachusetts, the first state that legalized gay marriage (in May 2004) and a state that is considered one of the most "blue," gay, lesbian, and bisexual students are over four times more likely to attempt suicide, over three times as likely to skip school in the past month because of feeling unsafe, and over four times more likely to have been injured or threatened with a weapon at school than their heterosexual peers.⁹

I can personally attest to this violence and harassment at school. When I was in Middle School I was verbally and physically attacked by students who thought I was gay because I asked students to not use derogatory terms for homosexuals and defended students who were labeled "faggots." Though the effects of the abuse were long lasting and difficult for me to overcome, there is no doubt that my feelings of isolation, depression, and anxiety about going to school would have been even more serious had I actually been gay.

People with LGBT orientation are often discriminated against in the workplace, when adopting children, or visiting their partners in the hospital. "Currently, [only] 20 states and the District of Columbia prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; thirteen of those states also prohibit gender identity discrimination."¹⁰ Some 35 percent of LGBT people surveyed report they have been discriminated against in the workplace because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.¹¹

There are 130,000 children awaiting adoption, but adoption¹² by gay parents is only legal in 15 states. Six states have passed legislation that prohibits gay adoption.¹³

WHAT SHOULD WILPF DO?

Have a conversation in your branch, perhaps about the meaning of heterosexism and homophobia. Discuss inclusion in your branch. This can include anything from using inclusive language ("bring your partners" versus "bring your boyfriends and husbands") to forming alliances with local LGBT organizations.

Should WILPF revive the LGBT Committee?¹⁴
Should WILPF join and be visible in gay rights marches and demonstrations?

Equal rights must include LGBT rights. Alice A. Huffman, president of the California State NAACP stated, in opposition to the repeal of gay marriage by the passage of Proposition 8,¹⁵ "We cannot become a society that picks and chooses who is entitled to equal rights."¹⁶ It is time for WILPF to give voice to the issue that was silent in Jane Addams' life.

Jessica Bombasaro Brady is a member of Boston WILPF and a YWILPF member.

Footnotes and Resources

- 1 People over the age of 18 who identify as LGBT represent 6.8% of the US population (approximately 15 million people). <http://witeckcombs.com/pdf/glblt-market-research-highlights.pdf>
- 2 Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Committee
- 3 "Heterosexism: How does it affect our political work?"
- 4 <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/27/politics-and-the-dotnet-generation>
- 5 Matthew Shepard was an openly gay 21-year-old student at the Univ. of Wyoming, who was kidnapped, robbed, and tortured by two men because he was gay. He was pistol whipped and beaten while tied to a fence in a remote pasture; he was left to die and discovered 18 hours later by a passerby who thought he was a scarecrow. Shepard remained in a coma but died on October 12, 1998, five days later. www.matthewshepard.org/site/PageServer
- 6 However, President Bush had already promised he would veto it, so it is unlikely it would have become law. "Hate Crime Law Moves Through Congress." www.civilrights.org/publications/monitor/winter2007/art3p1.html
- 7 "2007 National School Climate Survey." www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/2340.html
- 8 www.pflagphoenix.org/education/youth_stats.html
- 9 Massachusetts High School Students and Sexual Orientation Results of the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey." www.mass.gov/cgly/yrbs07.pdf
- 10 William Institute at UCLA. www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/PACR.pdf
- 11 <http://witeckcombs.com/pdf/glblt-market-research-highlights.pdf>
- 12 www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/trends.htm
- 13 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gay_Adoption_Map_North_America.svg
- 14 From 1999-2003 WILPF had a LGBT Committee headed by Chris Morin, former WILPF US President
- 15 Proposition 8 was the most recent defeat for equality; California voted to overturn gay marriage on Nov. 5, 2008.
- 16 "Civil Rights Groups Sue to Block Proposition 8: Petition Filed with California Supreme Court."



BranchAction News

Edited by Georgia Pinkel

I have a friend who often uses the expression “So what?” to prompt deeper thinking on perceived accomplishments: rallies, picketing, workshops, discussions, etc. So what was really accomplished? So what was the end result? So what’s next? I feel that’s where we in WILPF are now; so there’s a new administration, a new feeling in the air, So what? What do we need to do to assure that issues important to us are addressed? Definitely the work is not done and the women of WILPF will continue to work together. WILPF’s letter of congratulations to Obama calling for an end to the “War on Terror,” implementing U.N. Res. 1325, and securing nuclear disarmament was one example.

Branches reporting this time around: Bloomington, IN; San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Peninsula Branch, Palo Alto, and Santa Cruz, CA; Catonsville, MD; Des Moines, IA; Tucson, AZ; St. Louis, MO; NY Metro, NY; Cape Cod and Boston, MA; Combined Mid-West, Madison, WI; Philadelphia, PA; Minneapolis, and MN; Triangle, NC. I want to thank those branches without newsletters for updating me electronically. It’s also great to use the Branches’ e-list to share more widely everything that’s happening around WILPF. My new email is: gpinkel@gmail.com

A vital book for everyone to read is *Shock Doctrine* by Naomi Klein. Form a local discussion group to help you process it. Give a copy to your local legislator. Check out Klein’s website. Several branches are already reading this book together (**Portland, Des Moines** and **Triangle**). And to answer the question, “So what?” try spinning off additional discussion groups; writing letters to newspapers; spreading the word; and refusing to be “shocked” into accepting bad decisions.

INNOVATIONS/BEST PRACTICES

Many branches plan ahead for the whole year, some with great detail, down to their 12 newsletter deadlines; some plan programs three to four months in advance, and some settle for general themes. Every month **Tucson** lists those leadership functions that are still unfilled. One always knows where to plug in. **Cape Cod** is attempting a new organizational structure for the branch. Keep us posted on how it’s going! **NY Metro** held an event that was a combination of honoring long-time WILPFer Molly Klopot and fundraising: “A Laugh for Peace,” a night of stand-up comedy. **San Jose** led workshops on Corporate

Personhood at the OWL’s (Older Women’s League) California State Convention while their Raging Grannies entertained at lunch. **Cape Cod**’s annual fundraiser, “Jane Addams Drama and Dessert” evening featured a staged reading of *Meridian Summer*, by WILPF member and playwright Candace Perry and an expanded keepsake program with bio notes, history, personal and business ads. The combined **Mid-West** regional meeting was held at Chicago’s Hull House. **Santa Cruz** will focus on three action projects centered around “Take Back our Democracy,” featuring corporations, the environment, U.S. government policies, civil rights and priorities. Since the 4th World Conference in Beijing in 1995, **Minnesota** WILPF has worked through the WILPF Committee on Art for Social Change, creating art through poetry, puppetry and play that dramatizes women’s issues.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Many branches, including **Tucson, St. Louis** and **Peninsula**, were actively involved in issues leading up to



Raging Grannies/WILPF members from Peninsula and San Jose sing at the 26th Annual Holiday Peace Fair, a fundraiser to benefit the peace and social justice community.

Photo: Shirley Lin Kinoshita

the November election, especially in safe guarding the electoral process. Mary Somers of **Madison, WI** related her experiences at the Democratic National Convention as a press person for the Madison radio station WORT. **Santa Cruz** presented the 12th annual, week-long Jane Addams Peace Camp at the Orchard School for over 60 campers. **NY Metro** participated in Run for Congo Women, the 2008 fundraiser, and a kick-off Pasta Party Pep Rally the night before. **Cape Cod** was involved in the “My Heart is Moved” concert by Carolyn McDade. For the second time, **Santa Cruz** will sponsor a girls’ soccer team with their beautiful blue WILPF jerseys. **Santa Barbara** is taking an active part in getting the city council to pass an ordinance against plastic bags in 2009, and proposed December 19, 2008 as a “Day without Plastic Bags.” **Cape Cod** co-sponsored the Sustainability Fair in November. **Tucson, NY Metro, Des Moines** and **Boston** all hosted film series. **Triangle** hosts a WILPF Radio program; check out www.communityradio.coop. **Portland, Tucson, Peninsula** and Women in Black in St. Louis have on-going protests and vigils, and **Minneapolis** continues its Stop Funding the War protests.

EDUCATION

Check out your local World Affairs Council offerings this year, as the Foreign Policy Association in New York (www.fpa.org) is proposing a wide range of topics. **Cape Cod** celebrated Women's Equality Day with a lecture on Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Movement. **Triangle** hosted Dr. Joyce Blackwell, author of *No Peace Without Freedom: Race and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1915-1975*. **Cantonsville** will be presenting a community program on "Food and Shelter."

DISARMAMENT

The Keep Space for Peace campaign focused in October on the petition to the U.S. Senate requesting support for the U.N. General Assembly Resolution on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) Israel/Palestine. **Tucson** continues with its Study/Action Group meeting monthly. A **Peninsula** event featured "Bethlehem: A Different View." **Philadelphia** offers a Glossary of Middle East terms with information about Iran, Israel, Lebanon and Palestine for \$5.00, plus shipping (free shipping for 10+ copies).

ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS

On U.N. Day, October 23, **Minnesota Metro** supported a local rally and seminars with the keynote speaker, Dr. Leslie R. Wolfe, president of the Center for Women Policy Studies. She spoke on "Women's Human Rights: the Global Revolution." WILPF members presented a seminar on "Women and Water Rights: An International Perspective."

BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

Planning on presenting workshops are **NY Metro** and **Portland**. **Cape Cod** passed along an interesting analysis of Sarah Palin using the "Recognizing White Privilege Method" by Tim White. Be sure to avail yourselves of the opportunity to do the workshop and video on "Making Whiteness Visible" with all travel expenses covered by a WILPF grant.

WATER

Combining both its active Haiti Committee with an ongoing Water Committee, **Philadelphia** highlighted three efforts: water chlorinators for Haiti, safe drinking water for kids world-wide, and Traveling Mercies, which promotes water pipelines around the world. **Madison** publishes updates and attends local Water Utility Board meetings. **Minnesota** hopes to have a group going to Turkey in March for the World Water Forum; a letter of opposition to the CEO Water Mandate was delivered to Ban Ki-Moon with a WILPF sign-on. **Indianapolis** hosted a roundtable discussion on "Who Owns the Water?"

CORPORATIONS AND DEMOCRACY

The Democracy Organizing Group (DOG) of **Tucson** sponsors Community Action Plan Workshops to unify various stakeholders into a stronger voice at the local level. **Palo Alto** plans to highlight this issue for 2009. Karen Redleaf of **Minnesota Metro** spoke about the financial crisis, "Crash Course on the Crash," using materials in the WILPF Study Guide and an article she wrote, "We Need More than A New Sheriff."

CALENDAR EVENTS

Santa Barbara had tables at the September 21 International Day of Peace at City College for the U.N. Day at the Forum on America's Tattered Global Image, and for the U.N. Decade of Human Rights at the main post office. **Santa Cruz** presented its First Annual Human Rights Fair in December. This all-day affair allowed more than 40 organizations of the new Alliance for Human Rights to introduce themselves and their work locally. A "soup line" provided refreshment at this five-hour event. It was also the premier of a play about Eleanor Roosevelt and the struggle to create the U.N. Division of Human Rights, starring WILPF members. **Philadelphia** attended a U.N. Declaration of Human Rights Celebratory Anniversary party with live entertainment from a South African musical group. **St. Louis** traveled to Chicago for Camp Hope. **Cantonsville** marched to honor Dr. M.L. King in January. **Minneapolis** will be co-sponsoring events on International Women's Day.

➤ MEXICO

Continued from page 9

establish a WILPF section. There can be no democracy, no legal state, no justice, peace or liberty, without full participation and equality for indigenous women.

We want to be part of WILPF because we respect and admire the efforts WILPF makes in its demand for world peace, social justice and freedom. We know that Mexican women can contribute to this cause, and work together with other sections to add our voice to a movement that will find strength and success only if we work together across national boundaries for the good of all people in the world.

This article was translated by N. Garabedian. Amparo Guerrero is a vice president of WILPF International and a social worker with a Master's Degree in Gender & Development Studies from the National University in Bogotá. Please contact her (amparoelisa@hotmail.com) for more information. To financially support WILPF's work in Mexico, contact Linda Belle at JAPA (japa@igc.org). Elizabeth Ballén is a sociologist with a Masters in Gender Studies.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO WILPF! MAKE A MONTHLY PLEDGE!

One way we can make little sums of money count is to pledge a monthly amount to WILPF, rather than just paying our dues annually. Simple as it is, it's important, because pledges enable us to plan for the year, and for the future. When you pledge to WILPF, your membership status remains current as long as you continue your pledge. No more renewals!



Three Ways to Make a Monthly Pledge

- **PLEDGE ONLINE AT THE WILPF U.S. WEBSITE, www.wilpf.org.** Click on "Donate Now!" at top right.
- **DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD CHARGE**

Print, fill out and send the form below to U.S. WILPF, 565 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116. Available through WILPF; also through Jane Addams Peace Association, should you wish a tax deduction. Minimum monthly pledge is \$5.

- **AUTOMATIC DEDUCTION FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT**

Send us a voided personal check and we will set up the process for the amount you indicate to be deducted automatically. Available only through WILPF; see address below.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Monthly Pledge: ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$25 ___\$15 ___\$10 ___\$5 ___Other

VISA/MC# _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

WILPF JAPA _____ (Please check one) (Pledges include a subscription to *Peace & Freedom*)

Mail to: **U.S. WILPF, 565 Boylston Street, Second Floor, Boston, MA 02116**

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

565 Boylston Street, Second Floor
Boston, MA 02116

Time Value - Do Not Delay

WILPF was there!



Above: WILPF co-president Nancy Munger with a Bush puppet. She and Laura Roskos were among many WILPF members in Washington, D.C., to celebrate Barack Obama's inauguration. At right: Catonsville WILPF and Women in Black, Baltimore, marched to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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