

Peace & Freedom

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

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SHUT THEM DOWN! WOMEN SAY NO TO U.S. BASES



INSIDE:

REPORTS FROM GUAM, JAPAN, SOUTH AMERICA, CUBA

PLUS:

THE SECRET HISTORY OF NATO, MOBILIZE FOR APRIL



In unprecedented numbers, young women led a youth movement to protest at Pagat Village on Guam where the U.S. military wants to take over 1,200 acres to create a Marine Corps firing range.

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Cover Photo: Christina Illarmo is a Filipina-Chamorro, born and raised on Guahan. Her home, the southern most island of the Mariana archipelago is 8,000 miles away from Boston, Massachusetts where she currently studies social work. In May, 2010, Christina joined the delegation to represent the concerns of Guahan at United Nations International Day of Action.

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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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Women in the Military, Women in WILPF

A New Perspective on Human Security, Military Spending and Gender

By Nancy Munger and Laura Roskos

“You could barely find us in the crowd. It was like where is Waldo in the puzzle? Women are outnumbered so it is very uncomfortable in the field.”

— 1st Lieutenant Asha Castleberry, U.S. Army, commenting on peacekeeping exercises held in Managua, Nicaragua involving 400 police officers from 22 countries, of which only 10 were women.*

Asha is exceptional. All of the women participating in WILPF’s Practicum in Advocacy at the U.N. during this past spring’s Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference were brilliant and engaged, but Asha stood out because she is an active member of the U.S. armed services.

How could an active-duty servicewoman find her political home in WILPF?

As an African-American woman, Asha is bull’s eye center for the U.S. military’s recruitment strategy which targets black women and Latino men. She’s also at the crux of ongoing struggles to define the appropriate meaning and implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, which mandates greater gender sensitivity in the delivery of humanitarian aid and more female representation in peace negotiations and peace keeping. And this is Asha’s vision for her service in the military – to make peace. In order to pursue that goal, Asha is using aid from the armed services to augment the fellowship she’s been awarded by Columbia University. This fall she began a graduate program in International and Public Affairs at Columbia.

Many in WILPF were excited when the first all female-peacekeeping brigade was organized by India for service as part of the U.N.’s mission to Liberia in 2007, and buoyed when this same strategy was used in assembling the Bangladeshi unit dispatched to Haiti this spring. At the same time, WILPF sections in Europe have become increasingly enraged by government attempts to co-op the gender equity provisions of SCR1325 as rationale for recruiting more women into the armed services. WILPF’s position is that SCR1325 requires a whole new approach to resolving the inequalities that constitute the root causes

of war, not merely gender equity within the ranks of forces on the ground in conflict areas. So how, exactly, does the struggle for equity of military



women intersect with WILPF’s desire to put an end to the root causes of war—which are, in essence, structural inequalities? If women in the ranks are successful in improving their lot, but women in civil society are less successful or even lose ground, the world will have taken a giant step backwards, away from sustainable peace. Asha wants to make peace, and maybe she will. But that dream, in our view, could only be realized if WILPF and other peace-loving women become her political allies and support system; in other words, only if Asha can remain as connected to “women” as she is to the Army. But how could that happen?

We know that women who pursue careers in public services—as social workers, public defenders, public health professionals, probation officers and police officers—are often motivated by romantic ideals of community as a space of nurture and justice. These women question the model of top down social control, often endorsed as a bottom line requirement of public safety by officials and candidates for office. These women, on the other hand, are actively seeking and inventing new techniques that incorporate ideas from human rights, trauma recovery and non-violent communication. It is not a big leap from their ideas about public safety to WILPF’s ideas about human security.

Add Your Two CENTS

Since the mid-1980s, WILPF U.S. has encouraged its members and government officials to think about human security rather than national pride and border defense. This year, we’ve joined WILPF International in launching a new initiative, Changing Every Nation’s Thinking about Security (CENTS), which uses a human rights legal framework to leverage cuts in military spending. We all know that military spending is the biggest barrier preventing our government from fulfilling the economic human rights of people living in the United States. CENTS challenges us to understand how human rights legal mechanisms can be used to pressure the U.S. Congress and the U.N. in very strategic and focused ways. But, as all WILPF sections and members internationally work simultaneously, using this same strategy, we hope that together our efforts can lead to a demonstrable reduction in military spending by a majority of the U.N. member states by 2015.

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U.S. Military Plans Mega-Base for Guam (Guahan)

Women Organizers Lead Opposition

By Christina Illarmo

The women of Guahan are worried. Most of the world knows our homeland as “Guam,” a name loaded with heavy connotations of U.S. militarism. But for us, Guahan, (which means “we have” in our Chamoru language) is a name that resonates with all that is precious: a 4,000 year-old matrilineal culture, close family ties, and a deep respect for the island’s natural resources. To the U.S., we are a colony and potential mega-base that will house the largest amount of weaponry in the Pacific. Everything we hold dear is now at stake as the proposed military plans include the destruction of 71 acres of reef to berth a nuclear aircraft carrier, which would turn a sacred archeological site into a live-fire shooting range. The plans would also bring an influx of 79,000 new residents (a 45 percent increase to the overall population), all of which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said will further damage our strained infrastructure by depleting our fresh water source and contaminating our oceans with raw sewage. Legally and politically, we are given few options to oppose the proposed buildup because we are an unincorporated territory of the U.S., which basically means we are still a colony.

Though we were granted U.S. citizenship in 1950, we have no meaningful representation in Washington, D.C. We cannot vote in presidential elections, we are not represented in the Senate, our one Congressional delegate cannot vote on the floor, and the federal government routinely overrides local laws in the interest of military planners. We are invisible politically and as our community becomes more aware of the impacts associated with the proposed buildup, we are increasingly frustrated by how our voices are blatantly disregarded.

Militarism in the Western Pacific

The hyper-militarization of Guahan is connected to military operations on the small Japanese prefecture of Okinawa, where people have been protesting the U.S. presence for decades. Okinawa now houses three-quarters of the 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan; their presence has distorted local economics, contaminated the environment, established an industry of military prostitution, and increased the incidence of sexual violence against women and children.

In 1995, the highly publicized gang rape of a 12-year-old school girl by Marines led to negotiations between Japan and the U.S., the goal of which was to “ease the bur-

den” for the people of Okinawa. To this end, an agreement was made to reassign thousands of Marines stationed in Okinawa to Guahan. When this agreement was signed not a single person from Guahan was present. Our local leaders were not consulted and when they voiced concerns they were summarily dismissed. It is worthwhile mentioning that recent reports indicate that this transfer of Marines from Okinawa to Guahan will not reduce the collective military burden in Okinawa. While Okinawa, Hawai’i, California, the Philippines, and South Korea have refused to allow the construction of additional military bases, we were never asked.



Remnants of WWII on display at the Pacific War Museum on Guahan.

Environmental Concerns and Outrage

In November 2009, the Department of Defense (DOD) released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement detailing the military’s plans for Guahan. Those familiar with environmental impact statements and regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act will tell you that the typical length of these types of documents runs somewhere around 350 pages. However, our community was forced to read, comprehend, and respond to a highly technical 11,000-page document within a 90-day period. Despite the sheer magnitude of the draft, more than 10,000 written comments were collected and hundreds of residents came out in force to three village hearings (we have 19 villages on island), which limited individuals to a meager three minutes to testify. People expressed concern, fear, and outrage over a number of potential impacts, including: land use, a failing infrastructure, environmental destruction, quality of life, and political status. (A small collection of these testimonies is available on the “Voice of Guam” YouTube channel.)

As a colony where residents have no say, our indige-



The rugged northeastern coast prized by archeologists, fishermen, traditional healers, and hikers is the planned site for a Marine firing range complex.

nous community has suffered a traumatic history of being forced from ancestral lands by the U.S. military. The DOD is Guahan's largest landowner, occupying roughly one-third of the land. When the draft document was released, the island community united to contest plans that would take 1,200 acres of additional land to create a Marine Corps firing range complex. This includes Pagat Village, one of the few sites remaining accessible to the public where families live, traditional healers gather medicinal plants, and hikers can spot artifacts dating back thousands of years. Due to the threat facing Pagat and its deep cultural and historical significance, it has been recognized on the 2010 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" created by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. (For more information visit www.SavePagatVillage.com)

The addition of 79,000 people to Guahan's population during the peak construction period of the proposed buildup has led to a discussion of public health concerns. One of the most publicized criticisms of the proposed military buildup came from the EPA, which called the military plans "insufficient" and "environmentally unsatisfactory." The EPA supported the claims of local agencies, saying that the population increase would lead to daily, island-wide water shortages and an overload of the sewage system which could permanently contaminate our ocean and freshwater sources.

Plans to berth an aircraft carrier at Apra Harbor, rather than use an existing wharf already under military use, include the permanent removal and destruction of 71 acres of thriving reef. The proposed site for dredging at Apra Harbor hosts rare species of coral which have yet to be identified and serves as habitat for federally protected species such as the hawksbill turtle, green sea turtle, and spinner dolphin.

The presence of military bases on Guahan have also created a unique form of racial and socioeconomic seg-



Chamorro artist Joseph A. Perez created this poster to protest against the dredging in Apra Harbor.

regation in which military families living "behind the fence" have their own hospitals, state-of-the-art schools, affordable homes, manicured parks, shopping centers, pristine camping grounds, and beautiful beaches. Military planners ignore the impact of their work beyond the fence, where over a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line, as quality of life declines and the existing economic divide deepens. The plans will cause the cost of living to rise for local residents and military planners indicate that a recession will follow the peak construction period. As a result, buildup plans will greatly decrease the ability of many residents to meet their basic needs. The Guam Memorial Hospital regularly operates at capacity; the increased strain of 60,000 additional patients will make it even more difficult to administer adequate care.

So long as the people of Guahan are barred from making decisions, we will remain the last priority in our own home. For the past three decades, Chamoru delegations have been appealing to the United Nations for support in their quest for self-determination. The population increase associated with the mili-



A youth movement driven by young women led to an unprecedented protest at Pagat.

tary buildup threatens to reduce the Chamorro population to only 24 percent in their own home. Military-related personnel and newly emigrated construction workers from Asia-Pacific could outnumber the local population, threatening any political power held by the people of Guahan.

Local groups driven by women's leadership – such as the Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice, Fuetsan Famalao'an, and We are Guahan – continue to tirelessly organize a movement opposing the continued militarization of Guahan. We feel it is our responsibility to work to keep our community healthy and safe. As women of the world, we ask you to join us in solidarity to meet our responsibility: We must all care when a place is at risk of being negatively transformed and we must intervene when the rights of disempowered people are violated.

Christina Illarmo is a Filipina Chamorro, born and raised on Guahan. Her home, the southern most island of the Mariana archipelago, is 8,000 miles away from Boston, Massachusetts where she currently studies social work. A member of the Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice, Illarmo eagerly awaits graduation when she can return to a growing movement of women seeking to demilitarize and build community across the Asian Pacific. She can be reached at cillarmo@gmail.com.

Okinawa: Life on the Island of U.S. Military Bases

By Kozue Akibayashi, Ed.D.

Each year the children at elementary schools in Okinawa, Japan take part in a unique kind of drill. The “annual emergency drill” is held here because some of the schools are located near military bases operated by the United States, namely the U.S. Marine Corps Futenma Air Station and Kadena Air Base. The drill prepares students and teachers for the possibility of U.S. military aircraft crashing into their schools. Teachers instruct children to evacuate their classrooms with their mouths covered with handkerchiefs to avoid inhaling toxic gas that might come from a burning aircraft. This may be unheard of in other places, but it is not a strange scenario in Okinawa, where the U.S. military has been stationed since 1945.

As of 2009, there were approximately 25,000 troops in Okinawa – plus an additional 20,000 civilians and family members – stationed at 34 locations. The U.S. military facilities occupy about 20 percent of the land on the main Okinawa island, which has a population of about 1.2 million.¹ As recently as August 2004, a cargo helicopter (a CH-53D) lost control and crashed into the Okinawa International University campus, bursting into flames. Miraculously, there were no severe injuries. People remember, however, what happened in 1959 when a U.S. aircraft crashed into the Miyamori elementary school, killing 17 – including 11 children – and injuring 210 people.

This shows only a part of the insecurity the long-term U.S. military presence has had on the lives of people in Okinawa. It has impacted all aspects of their life: aircraft training and operations cause noise day and night²; live ammunition drills cause wildfires; environmental destruction is ongoing, including the possible destruction of the habitat of endangered species and marine life; chemical contamination of the soil and water occurs; economic dependence on U.S. military bases continues; crimes are committed by U.S. soldiers and raise questions of jurisdiction; sexual and gender-based violence by soldiers occurs; on and off-duty accidents are frequent. The list can continue endlessly.

Suzuyo Takazato, a feminist peace activist and a co-director of Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence (OWAAMV) characterizes the situation as “life surrounded by the U.S. military bases.” Unlike the military bases on the mainland U.S., the installations in Okinawa are placed

adjacent to residential areas, in many cases literally a fence away. The people of Okinawa have been imposed on in this possibly unlawful and clearly unreasonable and intolerable way for 65 years, and their livelihoods have been gravely undermined.

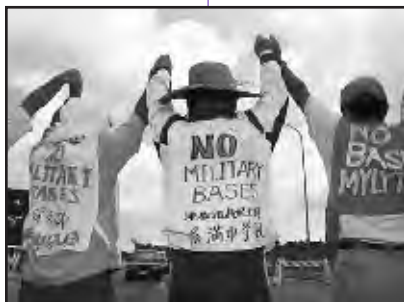
History of Long-Term U.S. Military Presence in Okinawa

The Okinawa prefecture of Japan consists of a vast archipelago in the East China Sea. It is the southern most part of Japan, with its capital Naha situated between Tokyo and Manila. Okinawa was once an independent Ryukyu Kingdom until it was conquered by Japan in the late 19th century. The Ryukyu Kingdom had prospered from trade with neighboring countries like China, Japan, Korea, and southeast Asian countries, but once it was incorporated into Japan, its language, culture and people, which were considered inferior, were subjected to assimilationist policies.

During WWII, the Japanese Imperial Military allowed the U.S. military to land on Okinawa in order to engage them in protracted combat (the idea being to stall for time so they could protect the mainland, where the Emperor lived). The resulting fierce ground combat on the islands of Okinawa lasted for several months and claimed more than 240,000 lives: about 150,000 Okinawans (a majority of them non-combatants),

77,000 non-Okinawan Japanese, and 14,000 Americans.³ Okinawa was devastated by the battle.

The “geopolitical” location (especially its proximity to major Asian cities) has always been cited as the justification for the high concentration of U.S. military facilities in Okinawa. The U.S. military actually started to build bases in Okinawa at the end of WWII’s “Battle of Okinawa,” while survivors of the battle were confined in relocation camps. When they finally returned to their villages, the people saw that their lands had been turned into military bases. They remained under U.S. military occupation until 1972, while the rest of Japan became independent in 1952 (except for the Amami islands in 1953). The U.S. military has used the bases in Okinawa as storage for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and as outposts for the wars waged by the United States in Asia during the Cold War era and now in the Middle East. Even after the reversion to Japanese



Protesters form a human chain around the Kadena U.S. Air Force base in Okinawa.

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A Renaissance of Resistance: U.S. Military Expansion in South America Meets Opposition

By Amparo Elisa Guerrero and Cecilia Zarate

In the last U.S. presidential election, Obama represented a new style and change. The Bush presidency left the country internationally isolated and lacking leadership. Obama inspired hope for a new approach to foreign policy. Unfortunately, after a year and a half in office we see no break with the past and no creative change.

Perhaps we should not have expected much. In 2001, the phantom threat of communism was replaced in the U.S. by a new, much-needed enemy: terrorism. Defined more broadly and portrayed as omnipresent, terrorism took the place of the “Red Scare.” In the U.S. it seems the economic and political machine works on automatic pilot, regardless of who is president.

Fears of a Strong, Regionalized South America

One aspect of U.S. foreign policy that has not changed is the country’s fear of strong, emerging regions. One such region is Latin America, which the U.S. has traditionally considered its backyard, whether by “divine design” or through the Monroe Doctrine. However, the outstanding failure of neo-liberal policies in South America during the 1980’s (policies promoted by the U.S. through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank) has had some interesting effects in South America. For example, we now see elected presidents who, unlike Obama, are indeed committed to change not only in their own countries, but in the region as a whole.

The ruling elites in the U.S. do not yet perceive the depth of this change. Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela will never be the same. The new governments have created UNASUR (Union de Naciones Suramericanas) to integrate the nations of this sub-continent politically, economically and culturally without U.S. political influence.

Still, this political transformation has naturally stimulated a U.S. counter-offensive, which expresses itself primarily in two areas. Firstly, in the economic sphere, the U.S. seeks to maintain its access to natural resources and protect its investments; secondly, the U.S. continues militarization in order to conserve and strengthen its political control in the region.

It’s important to recall that in 2005, under the leadership of Brazil and Argentina (at the meeting of the Presidents of the Americas) the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas was defeated. This trade agreement was one

means by which U.S. had exerted its economic control. In response, the U.S. has negotiated individual treaties with certain countries, such as Chile, Peru and Colombia – the latter still pending.

Bases and the Battle for Colombia

More striking, however, is U.S. militarization expressed through military bases in the Bahamas, Curacao, Aruba and Guantanamo (in the Caribbean), Sotocano (Honduras), Comalapa (El Salvador), Manta (Ecuador) and Mariscal Estigorribia (Paraguay). When the new government of Ecuador closed the Manta base on the Pacific coast, Colombia entered the picture.

Geographically, Colombia is the entrance to the Amazon and Andean regions. It’s been devastated by a 60-year internal conflict which has seen 4.5 million people internally displaced (some 10 percent of its population). With its destructive neo-liberal policies and with a decadent guerrilla movement, it is an ideal place for the U.S. to promote its interests in the continent. Initially, through Plan Colombia, the country received approximately \$7 billion dollars in total for the so-called “War on Drugs,” a euphemism for the U.S. promoting a counter-insurgency war in the country.

More recently, Colombia’s offer to the U.S. of not one, but seven military bases (to replace Manta) is a major victory for U.S. strategy. These bases are intended to serve not only as training centers, but as hubs for U.S. espionage and recreational places for U.S. soldiers that will affect the civilian population, especially women.

The mere idea of these bases is causing a political cataclysm in the region, not only due to the area’s instinctive distrust of the U.S. (given its long history of invasions, support for dictators and military coups) but also due to the fear that these bases might somehow destroy the progress being made on regional integration.

Of course, destroying this regional integration is at the root of the U.S. strategy. To do so, the U.S. uses traditional methods such as economic hostility, as in the case of Cuba; creating division, as in the case of Bolivia; bombing, as in the attack in Ecuador on Colombian guerrillas. There are also cases of “humanitarian intervention,” which we’ve seen in Venezuela where the U.S. has tried to foster a change of government or encourage a conflict between

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► RESISTANCE *Continued from page 7*

Colombia and Venezuela.

In Colombia, the U.S. has negotiated with the former president certain privileges and rights in the military-base agreements which are abusive. These include diplomatic immunity regardless of the type of crime committed in the host country and exemption from taxes. The agreements also contain provisions that violate the Colombian Constitution, or were intended to be implemented without the required approval from the Colombian Congress.

The good news is that on August 17, 2010 the Colombian Constitutional Court declared the agreements unconstitutional. This is a preliminary victory in what promises to be a long battle.

Aggression and Resistance

The other piece of good news is that the U.S./Colombia military agreements are stimulating an organized opposition from Colombian women and NGOs.

This past August, for example, the Women and People's summit of the Americas Against Militarization took place in Barrancabermeja, the petroleum capital of Colombia. This event represents an important step in the extraordinary work that Colombian women have done to highlight the impact of military expansion in their country, despite the activities of paramilitaries and the ongoing socio/political violence in recent years. The presence of more U.S. bases in Colombia will only continue the pattern of aggression and control that already exists in this militarized state.

Militarization is an extreme form by which a state legitimizes and exercises its power. It is a means for controlling the people, a strategy to promote the idea of national security and counter terrorism/insurgency, and a tactic to control territory and violate boundaries, not only politically, but personally. For women, militarization almost always involves domination and abuse of their bodies.

We know that the presence of any military apparatus, in whatever form, army, guerillas, paramilitaries, U.S. bases, etc., leads to the use of military power. The military ideology, based on the legitimacy of armed defense, is just another manifestation of a patriarchal society that maintains the social order through repression and brutal force.

Colombian women know very well that militarization has consequences in daily life – both on a personal and collective level. These consequences are multiple and complex. Sexual abuse, physical violence, forced displacement and femicide only scratch the surface of this multifaceted and deadly problem.

The U.S. bases will bring with them: prostitution and sexual commerce, sexual slavery networks, illegal trafficking, unwanted pregnancies, an increase in single moth-

ACTION FOR CONGO

On July 17, 2010, Boston WILPF's Congo Action Now (CAN) project joined the celebration for 50 years of independence for 31 African nations at the first Boston



African Festival. Congo Action Now is a dynamic, inter-organizational group of women that since the spring of 2009 has worked against war and sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. CAN's actions have included holding a vigil in Harvard Square, organizing informational house parties, writing a resolution that was passed by the Cambridge City Council, supporting Congo Conflict Minerals and International Violence Against Women legislation, lobbying U.S. officials, and supporting women in the DRC. For more information, contact Pat Aron at pat.aron@verizon.net. ♦



CAN MEMBERS ALL

Top: Maman Jeanne Kasongo, President of the Shalupe Foundation, and Samba Halkose, Liaison to U.S.-Congolese for Unity, Peace and Development. **Above, left:** Marie Jackson-Miller and Coleen Houlihan. **Above, right:** Pat Aron holds on before the umbrella collapses. **At right:** Suzanne Bas-Davis collects signatures to support the International Violence Against Women Act.



Photos: Pat Aron and Marie Jackson-Miller

ers, higher rates of abortions, sexually-transmitted diseases, increased family violence, more corruption of civil authorities and police, micro-trafficking of drugs in military zones, an increase in murders and a general state of misery.

WILPF (known as LIMPAL in South America), whose founding nearly 100 years ago was based on opposition to all militarization and war, rejects the establishment of seven U.S. military bases in Colombia and the consequent degradation of women's lives that will result. We applaud the Colombian Constitutional Court's rejection of the base agreements.

Amparo Elisa Guerrero is International WILPF Vice president (Colombia Section). She can be contacted at amparoelisa@hotmail.com. Cecilia Zarate Laun is the co founder of the Colombia Support Network. Translation and editing was done by N. Garabedian.

Guantanamo's Past & Present: *From Treaties to Torture*

By *Cindy Domingo*

Before 9/11, most people in the United States knew little about the Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base in Cuba. In the aftermath of the attacks in 2001, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq became “wars against terrorism” and a site was needed to imprison those captured and labeled terrorists. Suddenly, Guantanamo became a frequent topic in the public discussion about the war.

The history of the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo can be traced back to 1903. It is the oldest overseas U.S. Navy base, and the only one in a country with which the United States does not have diplomatic relations. Since the revolution in 1959 the Cuban government has opposed the presence of the naval base and its prison, which continues to detain prisoners denied due process.

During the first U.S. imperialist war abroad – the Spanish-American War – the U.S. militarily challenged Spain’s standing as a world power in the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Cuba. Through the 1898 Treaty of Paris, the United States obtained from Spain these three territories, as well as Guam. Eventually military bases were established in all of these countries, with the Philippines and Guam holding particular strategic significance for U.S. interests in the Pacific and Asia.

Each country had its own specific agreements with the U.S. in regards to the military bases. The first President of Cuba, Tomas Estrada Palma, signed the Cuban-American Treaty in 1903. Among other things, the treaty granted the U.S. “complete jurisdiction and control” of the area (where the base is now) for the explicit purposes of extracting coal

The U.S. continues to send checks for the annual lease of Guantanamo Bay even though the Cuban government refuses to cash them. Approximately 9,500 U.S. sailors and marines continue to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay.

and creating naval stations. In 1934, another treaty reaffirmed the naval base lease but granted Cuba and her trading partners free access through the bay. The annual lease payment from the U.S. to Cuba was set at \$2,000 in U.S. gold coins (about \$4,085 in current dollars). The treaty stipulated that the lease was permanent unless both governments agreed to break it or the U.S. abandoned the base property.

In 1959, the U.S.-supported dictator of Cuba, Fulgencio Bautista, was overthrown by the July 26th Movement under the leaders Fidel and Raul Castro, Ché Guevera, Celia Sanchez, Vilma Espin, Haydee Santamaria and Camilo Cienfuegos. Land reform and the



Detainees at the now-closed Camp X-Ray, Naval Base Guantanamo Bay.

Photo: Dept. of Defense/ProPublica (from a 2008 article)

nationalization of foreign-owned property resulted in U.S. companies losing their holdings.

However, the U.S. refuses to this day to cede control over Guantanamo, even though Cuba has stated that the base is an affront to Cuban sovereignty. The U.S. continues to send checks for the annual lease of Guantanamo Bay even though the Cuban government refuses to cash them. Approximately 9,500 U.S. sailors and marines continue to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay.

Cuba’s call for the closure of Guantanamo has heightened since 2002, when the U.S. began using the base to imprison detainees allegedly linked to Al-Qaeda and the Taliban in several camps: Camp Delta, Camp Echo, Camp Iguana and the now closed Camp X-Ray. Hundreds of people from all over the world, but principally from Afghanistan and Iraq, were and are detained at the Guantanamo prison without the right of due process of law or protection of the Geneva Conventions,* including protection from torture. Some of those held were children.

Cuba has maintained that the violation of human rights at the Guantanamo detention camps is in clear violation to Cuba’s principles and the fact that torture takes place on Cuban soil is in direct contradiction to the country’s leading role in advocating for human rights around the world. The closing of the Guantanamo Prison has been requested by Amnesty International (May 2005), the United Nations (February 2006) and the European Union (May 2006). In June 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that prisoners held at Guantanamo were entitled to the minimal protections listed under Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, basically calling for the humane treatment of detainees. Following this, on July 7, 2006, the Department of Defense issued an internal memo stating that prisoners

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► CO-PRESIDENTS *Continued from page 3*

WILPF U.S. has already begun working on CENTS. We've begun by distributing a new brochure, *You Get What You Pay For*, to WILPF branches. This brochure puts military spending internationally into perspective vis-à-vis the Millennium Development goals for gender equality. Through our Advancing Women as Peacemakers project, we've supported over a dozen branches in hosting public educational events exploring the link-

ages between women's human rights, sustainable peace and human security. We've refocused the job descriptions for our section's representatives to the U.N. in hopes that they will continue to build solid relations with the staff of the U.S. mission to the U.N., so that these key policy makers will have more regular access to WILPF positions and research. We've asked our issue/action committees to generate ideas about where exactly a human rights argument could lead to measurable reductions in U.S. military spending. The years ahead will see an even greater expression of synergy among WILPF's activists as we adopt outcome-based planning, project budgeting, and other accountability measures into collaborative ways of working together.

The tagline of our new brochure—"You get what you pay for"—applies to the other side of the ledger as well. Through your WILPF dues and pledges, you pay to have a steady voice for security and sustainable peace heard during debates in Congress and at the U.N. But, such tithing, as important as it is, doesn't provide WILPF with the resources it needs to tackle major goals and initiatives like CENTS.

This summer, Mary Hansen Harrison and Rodger Routh have been traveling the country to collect testimonials from WILPF members who have already pledged bequests to ensure our future work. It is their hope that these recordings will inspire others to do the same. While Mary and Rodger talked to people who they know, we're certain that there are many more who care urgently about WILPF's future and about the success of our work and the efforts of future peacemakers like Asha.

This issue of *Peace & Freedom* focuses on the ubiquity of the U.S. military presence through its bases around the world. As you read through the various reports in these



WILPF members march in Manhattan during the NPT, with members of WILPF's "Practicum in Advocacy at the United Nations." Far left, Carol Urner, far right, Laura Roskos.

pages, you'll notice that our work to reduce U.S. military expenditures is supported by the organized resistance of women in the communities where these bases are located. All of us, together, are speaking with one voice to say that these bases — even the ones in Afghanistan — don't make us safer. Instead, too often, they ask us to exchange personal freedoms and civil liberties, healthcare and workplace dignity, for

the delusion of "protection."

Cynthia Enloe wrote about the diverse community of women who sustain every military base: wives, nurses, prostitutes, even peace activists and women soldiers. If it is the complex interactions among women that keep the bases viable then it will be the coordinated resistance among many sorts of women that take them down. Security Council Resolution 1325 calls our attention to the energies of women soldiers exiting service and their need for gender specific protocols of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. At the National Peace Conference in Albany this summer, we learned about the growing strength of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), which provides much needed support to soldiers returning from duty, in addition to engaging in visible protest to end ongoing wars. Female veterans are visible in the leadership of IVAW and, in addition, a number of veteran-led organizations have emerged in the past decade to seek justice for women traumatized by the sexual harassment and assault perpetrated by their male counterparts within the military.

WILPF grew during the Vietnam War, as wives and mothers of soldiers sought a political home that could transmute their grief and anger into effective action. Today, the military is 15 percent female and many of these women are wives and mothers. As they struggle to make meaning of their military experience and reintegrate into civilian life, how can WILPF make itself relevant to them? Can we create a WILPF that initiates effective advocacy projects, has the integrity to carry them through to their completion, and is inclusive enough to attract disciplined, skilled women like Asha? ❖

* Quoted from "U.N. Official Calls for More Female Peacekeepers" by Dominique Soguel (*Women's Enews*, 3.10.09).

Join WILPF in Washington and Raise Your Voice

Mass Mobilization Builds for April

By Laura Roskos

The Obama administration is falsely claiming that the war in Iraq is ending. Meanwhile, they are escalating the war in Afghanistan and Iran is being threatened. The economy is collapsing, while trillions are spent on war. At the same time, the country is moving toward the ideological Right with attacks on Islam, unions and workers increasing daily. Our civil liberties continue to be undermined. The National Peace Conference, held in Albany this past July, sparked a new level of coordination among activists representing numerous local/national peace and anti-war groups.

In Albany, plans were launched for a mass mobilization to “End the Wars and Occupations; Bring the Dollars Home” on April 9, 2011 in New York City and San Francisco. The action plan approved at the Albany conference offers a timeline for organizing toward next spring’s mass mobilization.

WILPF played an important role in organizing the Albany conference and continues to be active in realizing the platform agreed to there. We’re committed to the success of this mobilization and are asking all members and branches to participate in raising awareness of, and endorsements for, the march over the intervening months.

Here’s what needs to be done:

1. Make a concerted effort to reach out to your Muslim neighbors and to military families in your community.

Co-Sponsors of the National Peace Conference

(Held in Albany, NY, July 23-25)

After Downing Street, Arab American Union Members Council, Bail Out the People Movement, BAYAN USA, Black Agenda Report, Campaign for Peace and Democracy, Campus Antiwar Network, Citizen Soldier, Code Pink, Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Action Center, Grandmothers Against the War, Granny Peace Brigade, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Military Families Speak Out, May 1st Workers and Immigrant Rights Coalition, National Assembly to End US Wars and Occupations, National Lawyers Guild, Office of the Americas, Peace Action, Peace of the Action, Progressive Democrats of America, Project Salam, September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, Students for a Democratic Society, U.S. Labor Against the War, Veterans for Peace, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Voters For Peace, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, World Can’t Wait

Find out their concerns with regards to the U.S. economy, cuts in domestic government programs, military spending and human security. The April 9th mobilization will be much more effective if these two constituencies can be encouraged to participate in visible ways, and we believe they will want to engage in this way – but only if we ask. And before we can ask, we need to understand.

2. Broaden support for the mobilization’s core message of “End the Wars and Occupations; Bring the Dollars Home” by consciously and continually linking it with the urgent necessity to create jobs and fund social needs. Support the growing number of mass actions demanding jobs, health care, housing, education and immigrant rights in your community by showing up and bringing literature, signs and banners linking military spending to the impoverishment of domestic programs providing for basic human needs. Check www.nationalpeaceconference.org for more information on endorsing organizations and local actions as they develop.
3. Join new and existing broad-based campaigns to fund human needs and cut the military budget. Join with organizations representing the fight against cutbacks (especially labor and community groups) to build coalitions at the city/town and state levels. With the support of these coalitions, draft resolutions for city councils, town and village meetings, and voter referendum ballot questions linking astronomical war spending to denial of essential public services at home.
4. Obtain endorsements of elected officials, town and city councils, state political parties and legislatures, and labor unions for the April 9th mobilization. Raise military spending as an issue in state legislatures and city government. Target specific military expenditures and spending bills to make the issues clear and couple those examples with specific civil society issues affecting your local community (i.e. homelessness, public library closures, etc.). Use civil disobedience when appropriate to gain the public’s attention and raise the visibility of our message.
5. Organize campus and town square teach-ins on military spending for mid-March, to mark the eighth year anniversary of the Iraq War and to recruit participants for the April mobilization. Have transportation arrangements in place by then so that interested people can be easily and smoothly registered.
6. Decide if direct action is right for you. The bi-coastal mass mobilizations will be accompanied by separate and distinct direct actions in various locations. WILPF

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The Story Behind NATO

Nuclear Weapons and Outdated U.S. Bases in Europe

By Susi Snyder

In April 1949 a group of countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty (also known as the Washington Treaty) and established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO. The transnational military alliance was “resolved to unite their efforts for collective defense and for the preservation of peace and security.”

Peace and security as interpreted by NATO includes the development and maintenance of military hardware and the capabilities to implement Article 5 of the Washington Treaty wherein “an armed attack against one or more [of the treaty parties] in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all.” In order to guarantee a collective response (and more importantly for some) to ensure that the U.S. is fully committed to European security, nuclear weapons were placed in Europe in the 1950s.

These nuclear weapons were designed for use on the battlefields of Europe.

Originally, they included thousands of nuclear weapons, of many types – including nuclear mines – stored in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Greece, Turkey and the Netherlands. The weapons have been removed from

Greece and the numbers have been reduced. Today about 200 or so B61 nuclear weapons remain in the other five nuclear-sharing countries.

The national roles are different for each of the countries that currently host U.S. nuclear weapons. Belgium, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands each maintain aircraft capable of dropping the B61 bombs stored there. The Turkish Air Force is not currently certified to carry the B61s, and at the U.S. base in Aviano, Italy the U.S. 31st Fighter Wing is stationed so that American planes would be used. However, each base hosts about 110 U.S. military personnel as part of “Munitions Support Squadrons.”

What’s Next for NATO?

The bases at Aviano and in Incirlik, Turkey have been subject to the most protest. In fact, in 2003, the Turkish government refused to allow the U.S. military access to its bases for the war in Iraq. Across the alliance, discussions are going on about replacing the dual-capable aircraft, as most of the existing planes are set to retire in the next decade. In countries whose national air forces are required

to participate in the nuclear task, the debates are fiercest about whether to invest significantly more funds for planes that are nuclear capable, or to go with the less expensive options and eliminate the nuclear task.

NATO has changed significantly since these weapons were first deployed in Europe. With the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, and the end of the Cold War, a military alliance designed to protect the territorial integrity of Europe is about as outdated as the weapons, which many members see as the glue that keeps the alliance together. There is currently a review of the Strategic Concept of the alliance, with a new concept expected to be agreed on at the Lisbon summit later this year (November 2010). The emerging threats that the alliance is seeking to

address are no longer land-based wars, but cyber security and terrorism. The new strategic concept is also expected to examine how NATO can play more of a political role – and changes are underway in the alliance to position itself as a political grouping, expanding

the original military alliance mandate.

The U.S. bases in Europe are both a sign of alliance solidarity and continued U.S. expansionism. They are a relic of the Cold War, the period just after the Second World War, when European military infrastructure was mostly destroyed. The bases were expanded as a way to maintain control over European states and prevent nationalist expansion. Just as NATO is seeking to find new reasons for its existence in a post Cold War era, the U.S. bases and the U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe also need to be relegated to the dustbin of history.



Susi Snyder

In 2003, the Turkish government refused to allow the U.S. military access to its bases for the war in Iraq.

Susi Snyder is Program Leader, Nuclear Disarmament for IKV Pax Christi, in the Netherlands. Prior to this position, she served as the WILPF International Secretary General. She can be reached at snyder@ikvpaxchristi.nl.

The opinions expressed in this article are the author's alone and do not reflect the position of any organization.

A Nuclear Free Zone in the Middle East?

By Carol Urner

This spring, some 50 WILPFers attended the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) Review Conference at the United Nations in New York. Perhaps the most exciting result of those meetings was the unanimous agreement by 186 nations to convene a high-level conference in 2012 on achieving a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ). Establishing such a zone could do much to stabilize the region.

The goal of a NWFZ in the Middle East has been recognized in U.N. General Assembly resolutions since 1974 (following a proposal by Egypt and Iran). These resolutions have been adopted by consensus every year since 1980.



NPT Practicum participants Leslie Salas, Nicole Scott, and Maureen Saduwa with Japanese students.

Few people in the U.S. realize that by now well over half the globe is in nuclear weapons free zones. Latin America, the Caribbean, the South Pacific,

South-East Asia, Africa, and Central Asia all have established themselves as regional NWFZs. There are active movements to extend such zones to all of Europe and northeast Asia. Mongolia and Austria have already banned nuclear weapons. Production, storage or transit is banned in NWFZs, and enforced with inspection and verification.

Nuclear weapon states pledge never to threaten or attack with nuclear weapons countries in NWFZs. This provides a way to opt out of protection under the “nuclear umbrella” offered by the United States, which usually brings with it unwanted militarization and U.S. military bases, debt, economic exploitation, and insecurity.

In 1990, President Mubarak of Egypt – often a mediator between Israel and the Muslim world – got agreement to expand the NWFZ proposal into a weapons of mass destruction free zone (WMDFZ), the first of its kind in the world. Nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons would be banned in the whole region, enforced by verification and inspection. In 1995, when the NPT faced expiration, the promise of progress on a Middle East WMDFZ was a principal factor in achieving agreement to indefinitely extend the Treaty.

The new agreement in 2010 to convene a conference on a WMDFZ in the Middle East is especially significant



Anna Vidal signs peace message to Japanese

for members of WILPF. Emily Greene Balch, who had already been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946, laid foundations for the first NWFZ in Antarctica. Indeed, that 1961 treaty not only bans nuclear weapons and testing, it demilitarizes the entire continent and preserves it for peaceful uses and research by all nations.

During the past decade, WILPF, through Reaching Critical Will, has taken the lead in facilitating civil society input into the United Nations on abolition of nuclear weapons as a necessary step toward general and complete disarmament. A Middle East WMDFZ would be rich fruit of this continuing work, but much is required of civil society – especially in the United States and Israel – to achieve that goal.

Few people in the U.S. realize that well over half the globe is in nuclear weapons free zones. Latin America, the Caribbean, the South Pacific, South-East Asia, Africa, and Central Asia all have established themselves as regional weapons free zones.

Israel and the U.S. are the major barriers to the WMDFZ. Israel is the only Middle Eastern nation that possesses nuclear weapons or that never ratified the NPT. The Israeli government and many of its citizens, after centuries of cruel persecution by Europeans, are wary of

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Make a Difference: Run for WILPF's U.S. Section Board

WILPF is seeking candidates to run for the organization's National Board. Serving on the board is an opportunity to represent the membership in making important decisions about WILPF's future, to help steward and build its resources, and to share and develop your leadership and technical skills.

The board meets twice a year in person and also holds several conference calls. Terms run three years, from 2011-2014. To nominate yourself, request an application from Nominating Committee Chair Pat O'Brien (patob777@verizon.net; 617-576-0649).

The deadline for completed nomination applications is January 5, 2011. All candidates must run for a specific position. Election ballots will be mailed to the entire membership on February 15, 2011; they should be returned by March 20. Results will be available no later than April 15.

Below are listed the present board positions and the responsibilities of each board member.

BOARD POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- President/Co-Presidents
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Co-Chair of the Program Committee (2)
- Chair of the Personnel Committee
- Chair of the Nominating Committee
- Chair of the Development Committee

Each board member will:

- Attend two board meetings per year
- Make WILPF her priority activist involvement during board service
- Participate in annual budget deliberations and passage, and subsequent decisions as needed
- Participate in making, supporting, and communicating WILPF policy decisions
- Promote WILPF locally and beyond, as opportunities arise
- Be an active fundraiser in WILPF by raising a minimum of \$500/year
- Develop a working relationship with WILPF staff



Current board members at the November, 2009 meeting.

- Commit to working as a team, following the democratic arts of conflict resolution, facilitation, and delegation
- Be cognizant of integrating fundraising, membership building, and program in all of

WILPF's work

- Have access to email and be willing to communicate with this technology

Position descriptions in accordance with bylaws are as follows:

PRESIDENT/CO-PRESIDENTS

The Board President is the chief administrative-executive officer. She convenes the Board and Steering Committees and is the direct supervisor of the Director of Operations and the National Director. She prepares semi-annual reports to the Board and, as required, to WILPF International reporting on the activities of the Section. She ensures that decisions and policies set by the board are implemented; appoints ad hoc committees and delegates to non-WILPF meetings in consultation with the Board Steering Committee. She consults with appropriate staff and U.S. Section and International members in developing responses to urgent events. She is an ex-officio member of all WILPF U.S. committees. She writes a column for *Peace and Freedom*, and quarterly e-letters to members; she has responsibility for ensuring that WILPF's annual appeal letter is successful. She serves on the Board of the Jane Addams Peace Association and prepares reports in advance of their Board meetings.

TREASURER

The Treasurer is the chief fiscal officer of the section and chair of the Finance Committee and, with the committee and staff, works on preparing and monitoring the budget. The treasurer presents a written report to the National Board on an annual basis and to the U.S. Section Congress in the year it meets. In addition to chairing the Finance Committee, the treasurer is also a member of the Steering, Development, and National Congress committees, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

SECRETARY

The Secretary collects all minutes from each board meeting. She works to insure that minutes are coherent, corrected, and readily available for reference. She maintains a full record of policy decisions taken by the board, ensuring that these decisions are disseminated within the organization to all relevant subgroups and individuals. Additionally, in cooperation with staff, she works to maintain consistency of board actions with existing decisions and policy. The secretary is a member of the Steering Committee, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

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MINI-GRANTS ENABLE WILPF LOCAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

The 2007 Strategic Plan for Sustainability recommended that WILPF Issue Committees and branches play a greater leadership role in setting the organization's program and advocacy priorities. Since 2008, we've been experimenting with doing just that through the implementation of the internal mini-grant program which funds member-designed projects.

In the three years since 2008, nine Issue Committees and 15 branches have received grants. This spring three Issue Committees and six branches received grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. Applications for the next cycle are due by October 15 for funding 2011 projects.

Issue Committees initiate projects on the national and global levels and include both branch and at-large members from across the country. Branches initiate their own projects, but often in cooperation with Issue Committees. For instance the Corporations v. Democracy Issue Committee received a 2010 grant to help branches get involved in the national Move to Amend campaign of which WILPF is a founding member. This campaign responds to the January Supreme Court decision granting corporations rights to almost unlimited campaign funding based on "corporate personhood." WILPF proposes a constitutional amendment establishing that corporations are not persons and thus not entitled to rights of persons. This year Burlington (VT) received a grant for a similar project on the local level.

Bloomington (IN) in 2009 and Santa Cruz (CA) in 2008 have already used grants to educate their communities and initiate local action to end corporate personhood and reclaim democracy. Representatives of these three branches participate actively in WILPF's 40-member Issue Committee that meets by teleconference and email.

The End Wars Committee (formerly Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan) also received a 2010 grant. It concentrates on ending wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and on prevention of new U.S. wars in Iran, Pakistan or other Middle Eastern countries. The grant helped branches prepare for the "Bring the Troops Home" marches October 2-9, and develop community education and action projects. The Committee has worked closely with the Des Moines branch which received a 2010 grant to circulate the *Silent Screams* DVD and action kit to all WILPF branches. The kit is a powerful plea for no war in Iran (or anywhere!) and features the devastation brought by unmanned drones to

neighboring villages in Afghanistan.

The DISARM!

Dismantle the War
Economy Issue
Committee
promoted

*Silent
Screams*
during
Keep
Space for
Peace Week,
October 2 to
10. Monterey
(CA) branch

received a 2010 grant

for member transportation to

Vandenberg Air Force Base to organize and protest test missile "defense" and nuclear missile launches. DISARM! also recently completed a 2008 grant that funded the 18-month WILPF Nuclear Free Future project in Congress



**This spring's 2010
grant cycle brought grants
ranging from \$500 to
\$2,500 to three Issue
committees and six
branches.**

and at the United Nations. Two branches received related grants in 2009: Ashland (OR) to permanently mount their very successful Hiroshima/Nagasaki exhibit, and Washington D.C. for Proposition One's tour around the country promoting local actions for a Nuclear Free Future.

Building the Beloved Community (BBC) and the Cuba and the Bolivian Alliance Issue Committees also received

2010 grants. BBC is using most of its funds to continue offering *Undoing White Privilege* community workshops in branches. Cuba and the Bolivian Alliance Issue Committee, which is working to lift the travel ban, is bringing the Women's Studies program director at Havana University to meet with some of U.S. branches. (A representative of the Cuban women's movement was denied a U.S. travel visa to come to the U.S. Social Forum.)

Not all branch projects are tied to Issue Committee concerns. Santa Barbara (CA) will use its 2010 grant for training in non-violent communication – skills we all could use! Triangle (NC), celebrating its 75th anniversary, secured a 2010 grant to develop well-planned branch building from which we all can learn.

In 2011, the WILPF Board plans to hire a National Director. Such a person can coordinate, but member-designed and -implemented programs will continue. ❖

Women of Peace:

WILPF Honors Members Who've Passed

PAULA HELEN HOLLMEN TASSO

WILPF's former U.N. Representative and a member of WILPF's U.S. National Board, Paula passed away at age 87 this July in New York, NY. Paula graduated from Wayne State University in her hometown of Detroit, and went on to work with Walter Reuther and the United Auto Workers in the 1940s. Tasso worked in her dual capacity for WILPF for 16 years, during which she also wrote a regular column for *Peace & Freedom* on her work at the U.N. During this time, she was involved in a variety of issues and advocacy actions important to the global community for environmental, racial and economic justice. Twice she was invited to the former Soviet Union to present workshops on The Bruntland Report for an international environmental study and later covered the U.N. Nuclear Disarmament Committee. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Charles A. Tasso, she is survived by her children David and Kaarli Tasso, sister Kaarli Bowers, nieces Anila and Amy Bowers and grandniece Kate Bowers.



MARGARET STRAWBRIDGE CLEWS

A longtime WILPF member who was also a major donor (particularly in funding special initiatives) Margaret passed away at age 91 this August in Hanover, NH. She was a lifelong activist for women's rights and peace, being deeply involved in WILPF as well as the American Friends Service Committee. Born the year women obtained suffrage (1919), she championed the Equal Rights Amendment her whole life. In 1984, she participated in the Peace Fair for Nuclear Disarmament in Ardmere. Margaret graduated from the Shipley School and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and throughout her life she created and taught pastel painting. She passed away just six days after the opening of her one-woman art show in the Ledyard Gallery at the Howe Library in Hanover, NH. Entitled "Mostly Women." The show tells the stories of women, ranging from Afghani and Iraqi mothers, to that of our Clews' mother, through portraiture. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Mancha Madison Clews, she is survived by her twin sons, Henry M. Clews and Christopher S. Clews, her daughter, Sylvan Clews, seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

HELGA HERZ

A WILPF sustaining member, Helga passed away at age 97 this February in Silver Springs, MD. She had moved there to be closer to family, after many years of living in Detroit. "Although diminutive in size, she was known for her fierce independence and strong, well-reasoned opinions," said Diane Herz, a relative. Helga, along with her mother Alice Herz, was very active in WILPF and many other peace organizations. Helga and her mother fled their home in Gustrow, Germany when Hitler rose to power. Because they were Jewish, everything they had was confiscated by the Nazis. They were sheltered by a Catholic priest in a small French town, finally arranging to come to the U.S. in 1942. Helga worked as a secretary at the Detroit Public Library. She then received a library science degree from the University of Michigan and became a librarian. In 1965, her mother immolated herself at a Detroit plaza to protest the escalating war in Vietnam. Alice Herz died 10 days later. Following her retirement in 1978, Helga continued her volunteer work at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University for nearly 30 years. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Herz filed legal documentation seeking reparations from the German government for the family property in East Berlin that had been seized by the Nazis. Vindication came in 2000, when she won her appeal and was granted the family home at the age of 88. Herz sold the property and donated all proceeds to the German branch of WILPF. "She felt she had finally completed the work that her mother would have wanted her to do to make things right," said Diane Herz.



Helga Herz (at age 90) sits with WILPF member Adjoa Aiyetoro during WILPF's 2002 U.S. Congress in Vermont.

Photo: Theta Pavis

ELISE BOULDING

A former WILPF International Board president and a leading force in the 20th Century women's studies and peace research movements, passed away at age 89 this June in Needham, MA. Elise, sociologist emeritus of Dartmouth College and the University of Colorado, helped to found

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Economic Downturn Leads to New Threats of Water Privatization



By Nancy Price

WILPF's Save the Water Issue Committee participated at the U.S. Social Forum this summer in the "Water Warriors Strategy Session," a four-hour workshop sponsored by the People's Water Board of Detroit to give activists from many areas the chance to share stories and strategies. Like struggles everywhere, the universal challenge is to recognize water as a commons that should be held in public trust free of privatization and to ensure the human right to clean and affordable water.

In the U.S., earlier phases of water privatization have been based on specific local situations. The current economic collapse, however, with housing foreclosures and unemployment, has uniformly left state and municipal governments in financial crisis. One solution for public water utilities has been water shut-offs to force payment of bills. Another is a new kind of "privatization" by means of long-term lease of the public water utility to a private corporation, with the annual income used for municipal programs. As in previous rounds of privatization, people are organizing and fighting back.

Creating the People's Water Board in Detroit

Highland Park, a city within the city of Detroit, was the site of the first community-wide water struggle. Because of the city's mounting fiscal crisis as the automotive industry failed and manufacturing left the area, an emergency fiscal manager was appointed in June 2001. Shortly thereafter, thousands of residents and small businesses had or were threatened to have their water shut off because they could not pay their exorbitantly high water and sewage bills. For unexplained reasons, extensive billing delays of six to nine months meant high "estimated" water bills that, at the time, were almost four times the national average. If water bills weren't paid immediately, water was shut-off and bills were often attached to home property taxes as a lien that if not paid, could lead to foreclosure. Alarming, children could be removed from their homes because of lack of water. Furthermore, city clerks would not allow residents to make partial payments or payment arrangements. At one time, more than 40,000 people experienced shut-offs. Many suspected this was an effort to make the public water utility look profitable and attractive for privatization. The Highland Park story is documented in the film, *The Water Front*. (See study guide <http://www.waterfrontmovie.com/files/documents/WaterGuide-10.pdf>)

Now, the current economic collapse means continued, aggressive shut-offs, rising water rates and on-going strug-

gle in Detroit, the hardest hit of all major cities with 45 percent of residents unemployed. Over 80,000 in the area have lost homes, leaving 25 percent of the homes vacant,

which is a rate second only to New Orleans.

Neighborhoods are being destroyed due to foreclosures and evictions; public education and public services are failing for lack of funds. This year the city will pay over \$220 billion in debt service to the banks, money it doesn't have and desperately needs.

Detroit Water Warriors are now focused not just on access and affordability, but also water quality, conservation and privatization. For example, even though the Detroit City Council approved the citizen-drafted "2006 Water Affordability Plan" (which created a fund to assist rate-payers based on their ability to pay) the Mayor and Detroit Water and Sewerage Department refused to implement it, following instead their own "watered-down" version. Failing in accountability and transparency, information about the number of people served and funding for the system has been hard to get; one-half of the funds collected cannot even be accounted for. Additionally, water quality is of great concern as raw and partially treated sewage pours into surrounding rivers and into Lake Erie. Finally, there is concern about steps toward privatization already taking place, as members of the Water Workers Union were terminated and private contractors hired.

In response, a coalition of environmental, social justice, and conservation groups came together in spring 2009 to form the People's Water Board with a set of goals to:

- Get the 2006 Water Affordability Plan on the ballot for approval.
- Create a media/public education campaign on access to water for all people and protection and conservation of water.
- Increase fines and advocate for criminal charges for water pollution.
- Conduct audits of broken water mains, commercial misuse of water, and water shut-offs in homes.



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► WATER

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- Demand transparency of the current municipal water board, including full public access to all meeting agendas and minutes.
- Obtain enactment of city, state and federal laws ensuring that water will be held in the public commons, and that the water and sewerage system be publicly owned and operated.

People say “NO” to Newark Municipal Water Authority

Like Detroit, Newark residents in New Jersey have faced water shut-offs and they have documented that major corporate users in the city have outstanding water bills. But most importantly, Mayor Cory Booker wants to lease the city’s waterworks to a newly created private Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) to solve the city’s immediate \$70 million budget shortfall, provide reliable long-term income from water rates and sale of water, avoid lay-offs and other budget cuts, and prevent increased property taxes.

The funds to pay for the lease would be raised by a bond issue, including interest, which the *Newark Star-Ledger* (July 26, 2010) estimated would necessitate a minimum 5 percent increase in water rates every year for the next 10 years, resulting in at least a 34 percent increase in water rates through the decade. Furthermore, the MUA would be able to sell the water of the 35,000 acres of watershed in Northern New Jersey that the people of Newark own and already sell to 20 other municipalities and private water companies. It’s already well-documented that independent authorities have a track record of corruption and cronyism.

On July 27th, the City Council voted 5-4 in opposition, but the fight is not over, according to activists involved with the group “Stop the Newark MUA” (<http://www.stopthenewarkmua.com/>).

This is not the first leasing scheme to fix a municipal budget shortfall, though the mechanism proposed by Mayor Booker is different from the long-term 50 to 90 year leases considered by other cities. Linda Park of the Save the Water team helped defeat such an initiative in Akron, Ohio a few years ago. And residents are fighting back against leases in Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and elsewhere. Leasing may sound simple and straightforward, but it is still “privatization,” with all the well-documented problems associated. Be forewarned. Maybe now’s the time, following Detroit’s example, to create your own local People’s Water Board to make sure public water utilities and local governments serve the public interest and keep our water commons in public hands.

Nancy Price is a member of WILPF’s Save the Water leadership team. She can be reached at

Children Raise Money for WILPF

In late summer, WILPF received a donation of nearly \$200 from students at the International School of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo, Japan (<http://www.isssh.ac.jp/>). Students in grades 9 and 10 in a “Peace Studies” class during the last school year organized a bake sale to raise the money. The school describes the course as identifying and exploring “...the preconditions for peace as laid out in the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century. Contemporary human rights advocates will be studied to see how their efforts have contributed to the struggle for human dignity, reconciliation and peace. Students will investigate ways to contribute to a peaceful society both locally and internationally.”

One way to do that, of course, is to support WILPF! What a great lesson for all of us. —*Theta Pavis*



Playground and building on the campus of the International School of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo.

Photos courtesy ISSH

► Guantanamo *continued from page 9*

would in the future be entitled to protection under Common Article 3. The detainees held as of June 2008 have been classified by the United States as “enemy combatants,” essentially disqualifying them from prisoner-of-war status under the Geneva Conventions.

One of the first acts of newly elected President Obama in January 2009 was the issuance of an executive order mandating the closure of the detention center in Guantanamo Bay. To this date, however, the detention center remains operational upon the orders of the United States Senate. Meanwhile, while bilateral talks between Cuba and the United States have resumed on issues of migration and direct mail flights (and both the President and Congress are considering a further loosening of travel restrictions), there is no talk of the U.S. ceding the military base back to Cuba.

Cindy Domingo, co chair of the Cuba and the Bolivian Alliance Issue Committee, has traveled extensively in Cuba. She can be reached at cindydomingo@gmail.com.

*The Geneva Conventions were signed in 1949 in the aftermath of World War II and contain extensive language defining the protection of those captured in a military conflict.

Nuclear Power and the Hidden World of Radioactive Waste

By Jean E. Verthein

Fifty years ago *National Geographic* documented the rush to find uranium and called it "...the most sought after metal on earth...for atomic bombs and peaceful uses to benefit for all mankind."¹ That unfortunate legacy is still with us, yet now we face another rush: politicians and businesses are pushing for new nuclear reactors to be built across the United States.

What no one is talking about is the nuclear waste, much of which remains semi-exposed at more than 100 old military bases, outdated plants and research units. We have trucks moving across the country filled with waste and ships moving it through the Great Lakes. *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* reports that there are about 1,000 U.S. military bases worldwide that are generating waste, including the nuclear kind.² Do we really need more?

This toxic waste is a threat to our air, water, earth and people everywhere. Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) Director and WILPFer Bobbie Paul, notes their four-year struggle against potential nuclear leaks into the air by the Vogtle reactor. "The safety of these new reactors is a serious environmental justice issue affecting all those living in the shadow of the nuclear Plant Vogtle."

Regarding the Diablo Canyon reactor in California, Sandy Silver, Acting Board President of the Jane Addams Peace Association, says: "The San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace filed to intervene in ... licensing it because there was 'no solution to the storage of the highly radioactive waste'."

WILPF's DISARM Committee recently completed a five year nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review cycle at the U.N. The two-fold NPT opposes nuclear weapons and favors nuclear power, called "Atoms for Peace." The debate this past May focused mostly on nuclear disarmament. About Article IV of the treaty governing "peaceful use," WILPF Norway Vice-President Ursula Gelis, formerly a curator of Nazi Holocaust policy papers, asked delegates in New York about "unsolved waste and human costs." She was told by officials: "We have highly sophisticated regulatory systems." Gelis says the "unsolved waste problem was completely denied – [it's a] bloody lie."

Take the case of the Indian Point Nuclear Plant, which affects 20 million people living in metropolitan New York. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission found 1.63 cubic feet of nuclear contaminated soil there, enough to fill near-by Yankee Stadium.

Still, many U.S. politicians continue to back new nuclear plants. Sens. Lieberman, D-Connecticut, and Kerry, D-Massachusetts, have vowed to pass the "American Power Act" which would guarantee loans for nuclear plants, something President Obama also supports. Minority Leader Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, attacks critics of these

new plants by saying, "All waste should be sent to Nevada."

International crises over Iran and North Korea relate to nuclear power usage and overlap with the issues of weapons production.

France relies on nuclear power for 76 percent of its energy; in Sweden nuclear power accounts for 45 percent, though Sweden objects to Russian military waste in the Baltic. To its credit, the U.S. so far derives only 20 percent of its energy from nuclear power.

In most cases, new nuclear plant projects have been stalled here in the U.S. for 30 years, since the Chernobyl explosion in Belarus. (Scientists have tallied over 900,000 deaths from that accident and I, myself, witnessed a math teacher dying after being exposed to Chernobyl. The teacher had been picnicking on the day of the disaster. Her students wept bitterly at her death.)

Many WILPF members have marched and lobbied to close reactors, such as the one in Shoreham, on Long Island, and at other facilities in Vermont.

Even nuclear particles harm people; German scientists have found childhood leukemia clusters near European nuclear facilities. Scientists disagree over how fissionable materials correlate with mortality data. Does uranium waste cause actual deaths? Nuclear plant proponents continue to gloss over toxicity.

At present, 600,000 tons of waste exists in the U.S., buried and open in containers. Some commentators say waste should be buried at old military bases, or that new sites need military support. However, no one has explained just how the military might secure surrounding communities from the deleterious environmental and health effects of nuclear waste.

Our efforts to raise this issue will continue. During the NPT Review, WILPFers spoke to ambassadors, representatives from other NGOs, and marched with 1,300 Hibakusha – Japanese Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors. Officially, 15,000 persons marched to the United Nations against nuclear arms build-up. Together, we will highlight radioactive waste build-up in late September, when we mark International Waste Day.

1 *The National Geographic Magazine*. October 1954.

2 *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, "Empire of Bases," March 9, 2009.

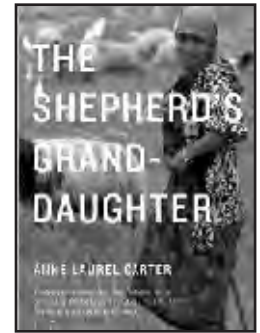
3 Environmental Defense Fund re *Scientific American* www.edf.org

4 *NY Daily News*, August 28, 2009.

Jean E. Verthein has represented WILPF, U.S. at the United Nations for the last five years and works as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University and Long Island University on disability issues. She can be reached at Jean.Verthein@liu.edu

The Shepherd's Granddaughter Sparks Controversy

By Tura Campanella Cook and Susan C. Griffith



You can search high and low for a good young adult read that portrays an Arab or Arab-American woman as the heroic main character, not in need of rescuing by a male relative, or a Western feminist, for that matter. *Habibi* by Naomi Shihab Nye (Simon & Schuster, 1997) opened a nuanced dialogue on Palestinians and Israelis. Her book was the 1998 Winner of the Jane Addams Children's Book Award (JACBA). *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* by Anne Laurel Carter (Groundwood Books, 2008) pushes the dialogue even further. Carter's book was a 2009 JACBA Honor Book.

The Shepherd's Granddaughter busts one myth after another, making it ideal reading material and a discussion catalyst for middle school students and adults. Here is the story of a patriarch who recognizes a girl named Amani as

ful opportunities to initiate dialogue that has been, and is, of utmost importance to the world.

Recent events challenged the JACBA Committee's vision of *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* as a springboard for dialogue. As a nominee in the Ontario Library Association's 2010 Red Maple Reading Program, *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* weathered serious criticism and an attempt at censorship. In a February 2010 press release, Canada's Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) for Holocaust Studies extended "a caution to all educators," citing the novel as "a fictionalized, one-sided view of the Middle East conflict that cannot be simplified in the manner that it is presented."

On March 25, 2010, B'nai Brith Canada named *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* "a vehemently anti-Israel book" and lobbied for its removal from recommended reading lists of Ontario public school libraries.

Wide support for the book as a well-written story that promotes critical thinking countered both the criticism and censorship attempts. In a thoughtful, articulate response to FSWC's press release, Craig Wiesner champions the book and mirrors the values found in it by the JACBA Committee. Consult the website of his California-based peace and justice learning company, Reach and Teach (www.reachandteach.com) for teaching resources. You can also check Groundwood Press (www.groundwoodbooks.com) for a complete list of the book's reviews, awards and accolades.

It would be stimulating and truthful to have both *Habibi* and *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* as recommended reading in local schools – along with others, such as *Samir and Yonatan* by Daniella Carmi, (Scholastic, 1994) and *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* by Ibtisam Barakat, (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007). Let's help each other find the best titles and share our successes in increasing opportunities for young people to think deeply about peace, social justice and world community. Look for the 2010 JACBA order form on the next page.



Peace Education

the heir to his flock. Amani is a teenaged girl in a traditional family who is self-assured and independent; and her family dynamics are universal. When an Israeli settlement expansion invades the family's grazing land and devastates their home, the Palestinian family has a range of natural reactions, from striking back to resisting non-violently. Canadian author Anne Laurel Carter lived in the West Bank in order to research this book. The few Israeli characters developed are the ones who touch Amani's life: a settler boy she meets, a rabbi and other Israelis who demonstrate against the settlement expansion with the Palestinians, and a lawyer from Tel Aviv who works to free her father from jail.

The 2009 JACBA Committee praised *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* for its purposeful focus on Amani's family, its traditions and love of the land. This, and the immediacy and emotion of its telling, bring texture and meaning to the array of responses to violence and oppression that are portrayed. In line with JACBA evaluation guidelines, the book invites young readers to think deeply about how people of all cultures, nations and economic systems can live peacefully together. As one of many books recognized by the Addams Award over the past five decades, it offers power-

Tura Campanella Cook is a member of the Middle East Committee. Reach her at turacc@earthlink.net. Susan Griffith chairs the JAPA Book Awards Committee.

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

The Jane Addams Children's Book Awards (JACBA) are given annually by the Jane Addams Peace Association and WILPF to the children's books published the preceding year that effectively and engagingly promote peace, social justice, world community and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meet conventional standards for literary excellence. JAPA has been honoring children's books since 1953. For more information about the Addams Award, including a complete list of winners and honor books, see the JAPA website at www.janeaddamspeace.org

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Supplies are limited – order early. Full sets of books may not be available after February 1.

▶ APRIL MARCH *Continued from page 11*

members understand that direct action depends on the trust among co-participants and that preparation for direct action always involves training in non-violence. If you are ready to engage in direct action to stop the wars, prepare yourself in advance of April 9th.

7. Select a week before or after April 9th for local lobbying of elected officials at a time when Congress is not in session.

Attend town hall meetings organized by Congresspersons and confront them vigorously on their support for the wars and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and sanctions on Iran. Schedule meetings with them at their district offices and if they refuse to meet, organize a sit-in at the office or demonstration in front of their home.

Members of the United National Anti-war Committee (UNAC) in San Francisco have already initiated meetings to plan for the April 9th demonstration and other actions voted on at the Albany conference. UNAC Steering Committee and



Maria Butler,
 WILPF'S director of
 Peacemakers,
 speaks at the
 National Peace
 Conference in
 Albany.

Photo: Robin Lloyd

Continuations Committee members from the East Coast and Midwest are planning a large UNAC organizing meeting in New York on Nov. 6 or 7 to lay plans for the April mobilization. If you are interested in attending this meeting on behalf of WILPF, or if your contacts in other organizations want to use this meeting as a point of entry into the mobilization building process, please contact Pat O'Brien at patob777@verizon.net.

Unity is important but we need an understanding around agreed-on principles and a common purpose. While there may be tremendous pressure to veer away from a clear and focused demand like "Bring the troops home now from Iraq and Afghanistan," we need to stay clear that this demand marks the point of greatest convergence and strength for the peace movement. By holding on to the demand that we "end the wars and occupations now," we can educate others about how "bringing the dollars home" will allow our government to address the people's demand that domestic human needs be met. The core message of this mobilization is, in this way, essentially reciprocal. Organizing now for April 9th offers WILPF members and branches an opportunity to reach out more broadly and build new alliances. By doing so, we'll breathe fresh air and bring new energy into WILPF and into the broader peace movement as well. ❖

control, Okinawa has been practically under U.S. military occupation, depriving people there of their autonomy.

New Military Plans in Henoko

One of the most important issues at present is a plan to build-up the military in Henoko, a small section of Nago city in the northern part of Okinawa Island. The U.S. wants this to replace the Futenma Air Station. The return of the Futenma Air Station was announced in 1996 after an intense political uproar in Okinawa protesting the U.S. military presence. Being located in a highly populated area, Futenma Air Station is cited as one of the most hazardous facilities. Despite the many promises, however, the closure of the base is yet to happen. The U.S. government has demanded a new facility to replace Futenma Air Station as a condition of its closure. It has become clearer to the people of Okinawa that this path is not leading to decreasing the number of U.S. bases or the burden on locals, but to intensifying the militarization of the island.

Popular protests in Henoko are strong. Sit-ins by the ocean side began in 1997 and have continued to this day. When the preliminary drilling survey on the proposed sea area was about to begin in 2004, non-violent direct actions were mounted by people sitting on platforms built in the sea, by canoeing, or even by simply people floating in the water to prevent construction boats from nearing the site, risking the protesters' lives. The Japanese government had to halt the survey after about one year.

Despite this, and administration changes in both countries, the military build-up was revived in 2009. Protests are continuing, but the military plans have destroyed the livelihood of this small, unemployment-ridden community of about 2,000 residents. Not all of them could oppose the plan because of the economic incentive the Japanese government can offer. Many of the residents are desperate for jobs, and there is a perception that the construction may provide subcontracted jobs, even though they won't be sustainable. The close knit community was very deeply scarred in the 13-year struggle over the military build-up.



Author Kozue Akibayashi, International Vice President of WILPF and board member of WILPF's Japan Section (top row, second from right) leading a seminar in New York.

Feminist Challenge to Militarized Security

A more elusive problem caused by the U.S. military presence is sexual or gender-based violence by U.S. soldiers. Sexual crimes are generally underrepresented in official

statistics in patriarchal societies because the blame is placed on the victims. Shame is used to stigmatize the victims, thus making them reluctant to come forward. Since its creation in 1995, OWAAMV has consistently been the first to condemn the sexual crimes by U.S. soldiers in Okinawa, as well as the victim bashing.⁴

To make these offenses more visible, OWAAMV members have compiled (from various sources) a chronology of sexual crimes committed by U.S. soldiers since 1945. The chronology contains hundreds of cases of sexual assaults against women and children of all ages.⁵ War-time rape has gained public recognition in the past decade as a prosecutable war crime, but is still all too often considered just part of the “collateral damage” of warfare.

OWAAMV members have analyzed the situation from a feminist perspective by looking at the sexual violence committed by U.S. soldiers. OWAAMV members see the deep-rooted misogyny in the military as a source of violence against women in the host community. The inherent frustration and aggressiveness of combat training tends to be vented on women in the localities and the military does

Continued on page 23 ►

Working for Women: WILPF Interns Get the Job Done

TETYANA (TANYA) BUROVTSEVA is originally from Ukraine and is actively working on the implementation of WILPF's Advancing Women as Peacemakers (AWP) speaking tour. Tanya's responsibilities include managing and coordinating logistics of the AWP Fall 2010 events with branches, international and domestic speakers, and the AWP planning committee. Tanya says her WILPF internship is an excellent opportunity for her to expand her knowledge about the impact women's peace movements have around the world. Tanya is a graduate student in Boston at Suffolk University's program in Political Science/International Relations; her academic focus is gender issues and female political participation. Her academic work also includes research on the history and implementation of CEDAW. Previously, Tanya was a graduate fellow at the Ballotti Learning Center of Suffolk University and worked at the Council on International Educational Exchange, where she provided support to international exchange students in the United States. She can be reached at: tburovtseva@wilpf.org.



MAUREEN SADUWA is a native of the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria. She is currently studying for a Master's Degree in Sustainable International Development at the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Maureen became a WILPF member in the spring of 2010. Under the auspices of WILPF's Practicum in Advocacy, she participated in the NPT review in New York. This summer she became an administrative intern at the National WILPF office in Boston. While in this position, she assisted the Operations Director in: restructuring the branch database directory, program development and management, and also performed other office tasks. In addition to WILPF, Maureen is a member of the Women's Group of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and a member of the Gender Working Group at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Prior to coming to the U.S., Maureen worked for more than five years with the U.K. Department for International Development programs in Nigeria. She can be reached at smaureen@brandeis.edu. ❖



► OKINAWA *Continued from page 22*

not do enough to prevent it.

OWAAMV challenges the excuses repeatedly given that the "U.S. military is there for security." Whose security is the U.S. military presence for? OWAAMV members point out that the military presence itself has created insecurity in people's lives. OWAAMV's protest statements against sexual crimes always demand the withdrawal of the entire military from Okinawa because they believe sexual violence is the central problem of the military and militarized security. Members say that demilitarization is the only way to assure security of all people.⁶

Demilitarization and Decolonization

Life in Okinawa demonstrates the fundamental contradiction of our present global security policies. The people of Okinawa have demanded that the U.S. military leave their islands, but are careful about proposed plans to transfer the Marines to Guam or other colonized areas. Through building international peace networks, Okinawans know that many other places have suffered militarism and colonialism; They know that relocating bases will not solve the problem.

So what should we do? It is time for the United States and Japan to push for demilitarization and decolonization so everyone can achieve true security.

¹ Okinawa prefectural government
<http://www3.pref.okinawa.jp> (Japanese site, with English available)

² Ginowan City Hall website; includes short video clips of operations at Futenma Air Station
<http://www.city.ginowan.okinawa.jp/2556/2581/2582/27745/27746.html>

³ Okinawa Prefectural Government. Heiwa no ishiji
<http://www3.pref.okinawa.jp>

⁴ The most recent protest statement by OWAAMV, issued on August 6, 2010 can be found at Close the Base: <http://closethebase.org>

⁵ Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence. "Post-war sexual crimes by U.S. soldiers in Okinawa."

⁶ For more discussion on this issue, please see Akibayashi, K. & Takazato, S., "Okinawa: Women's struggle for demilitarization" in Lutz, C. ed. (2009), *The Bases of Empire: The global struggle against U.S. military posts* (Pluto Press).

Kozue Akibayashi is an International Vice President of WILPF and board member of WILPF's Japan Section. She is Associate Professor at the College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan and teaches English, Gender Studies and Peace Education. She is a researcher active in several international networks working for demilitarization from a gender perspective. You can reach her at: akibaya@ir.ritsumei.ac.jp

► WILPF BOARD *Continued from page 14*

CO-CHAIR OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

(two positions)

The Co-Chairs oversee the Program Committee (comprising themselves and representatives from each issue committee, plus relevant staff) which has responsibility for ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of WILPF's programmatic activities, including fostering broad participation of the organization's members in these activities. In addition to chairing the Program Committee, the chairs are also members of the Steering and National Congress committees, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

CHAIR OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Chair oversees the Personnel Committee (comprising herself, the operations director, a representative appointed by staff, relevant WILPF and JAPA staff, and WILPF members). The chair has responsibility for ensuring that all personnel policies are implemented, particularly in the areas of staff evaluations and career development, and for making recommendations regarding personnel issues, including revisions of the personnel policies, as needed, to either the Finance or Steering committees. In addition to leading the Personnel Committee, the chair is also a member of the Steering Committee, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

CHAIR OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chair oversees the Development Committee (comprising herself, relevant WILPF and JAPA staff, and WILPF members who have some experience and interest in fundraising appointed by the chair with board agreement), which is responsible for ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of WILPF's development activities, including fostering broad participation by the organization's members in activities intended to expand WILPF's financial resources and support base. In addition to chairing the Development Committee, the chair is also a member of the Steering, Finance, and National Congress committees, as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.

CHAIR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Chair is responsible for overseeing the Nominating Committee (comprising herself and WILPF members with interest in expanding the number of people involved in the national leadership of the section as appointed by the chair with board agreement), which secures nominations for delegates to the International Congress, the International Board representative position, elected board positions, and any other ad hoc positions that may arise. Her goal is to encourage member participation in WILPF at the national and international levels and to help expand our leadership

circles. In addition to chairing the Nominating Committee, the chair is also a member of the Steering and National Congress committees as well as other appropriate ad hoc committees.



San Jose Raging Grannies and Nihonmachi Outreach Committee members NOC hold up signs and sing nuclear disarmament songs.

San Jose joins disarmament event

This year for first time, community members from San Jose's Japantown (also known "Japantown Nihonmachi") collaborated with the San Jose WILPF Branch at our Hiroshima/Nagasaki nuclear disarmament



San Jose WILPF members join members of the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee at a Hiroshima/Nagasaki remembrance.

event in August. The Nihonmachi Outreach Committee is a political advocacy organization of Japanese Americans who successfully worked on reparations for redress of past injustices. In recent years, Nihonmachi Outreach has supported the local Muslim community against racist and inflammatory attacks following 9/11.

Three members, Gary Jio, his 80-year-old mother, and his 11-year-old daughter, joined us. They brought the Sadako story with them and origami paper cranes to give away. Our rally took place in front of the Martin Luther King Library, the main library in San Jose, which also serves the state university next door.

— Shirley Lin Kinoshita

Shirley Kinoshita is and founder and coordinator of San Jose Raging Grannies and a member of WILPF San Jose Steering Committee/WILPF DISARM!

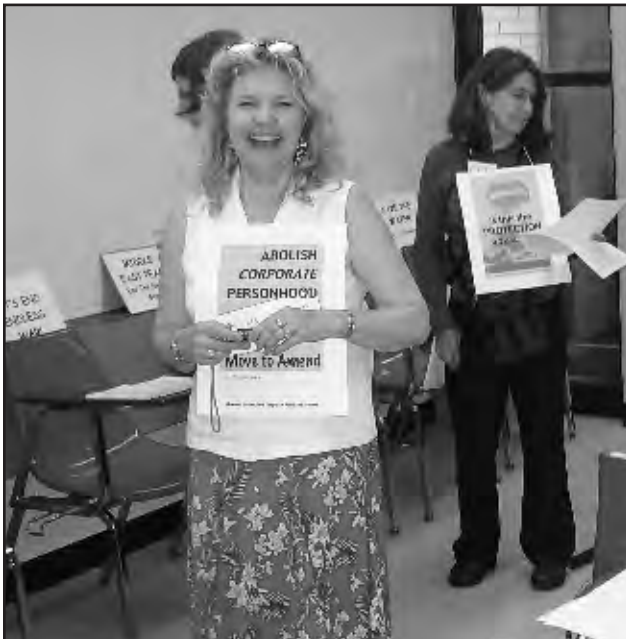
Around and about at WILPF events



AT WILPF PRACTICUM in New York:

Above: Ana Vidal, Nicole Short, and Leslie Salas

At right: Bobbie Paul and Judi Loring.



AT U.S. SOCIAL FORUM: WILPF member Phoebe Anne Sorgen, of California's East Bay Branch, was among WILPF members who participated in a march through Detroit to open this year's forum. Some 20,000 people took part.

► WOMEN OF PEACE

Continued from page 16



peace studies programs at both of these institutions.

Elise Boulding was the author of over 300 publications and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990. Her theoretical work on the role of the family in creating social change, the role of women in peacemaking, and her ideas on internationalism are considered seminal contributions to 20th century peace education thought. Prior to her scholarly career, Elise was making major contributions as a leader in WILPF. She was a founder of the International Peace Research Association and later became its International Secretary-General. She was a cofounder the Consortium on Peace, Research, Education and Development. As an active opponent of the Vietnam War, she ran for Congress in the 1960s on a Peace Platform in Ann Arbor.

She worked on climate change and arms control with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was engaged with the American Futures Society, the World Policy Institute, the United Nations University in Tokyo, did consultative work with UNESCO, and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as the only woman to sit on the Commission to establish the U.S. Institute of Peace. She was on the boards of the National Peace Institute Foundation, the Boulder Parenting Center, the Exploratory Project on Conditions for a Just World Peace, the International Peace Research Association Foundation, the Committee for the Quaker United Nations Office, and Honorary Chair of the National Peace Academy Advisory Board.

In 1993, Elise represented Quakers at the inaugural gathering of the global Interfaith Peace Council. Predeceased by her husband, Dr. Kenneth Boulding and her two sisters Sylvia Griffith and Vera Larson, she is survived by her five children and their spouses: Russell and Bonnie Boulding, Mark and Pat Boulding, Christine Boulding and the late Gregory Graham, Philip and Pam Boulding of and William and Liz Boulding, 16 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: We are grateful to the many members and relatives who sent us information on these amazing women. The item on Tasso was supplemented with information from *The New York Times*, July 9, 2010; the notice on Clews was supplemented with information from the *Valley News*, Aug. 12, 2010; the item on Herz drew on information from the *Detroit Free Press*; the notice on Boulding was created with information provided by the family.

► MIDDLE EAST *from page 13*



Sylvia Ikerionwu and Judy Loring

giving up what they perceive as their ultimate weapons for both defense and pre-emptive action. Israeli leadership nonetheless acknowledges in principle the goal of a WMDFZ but argues that peace and stability in the region must prevail before nuclear issues can be addressed. The U.S. has wavered between resistance and support, depending on the administration in power. During the past 15 years the U.S. strongly resisted such a treaty and instead, under its own nuclear umbrella, initiated a war for oil in Iraq.

Originally it was France that shared nuclear and rocket technology with Israel. It is now the U.S. that supplies Israel with delivery vehicles (thus far 50 F-4E-2000 Phantoms and 202 F-16s, with more on the way) and assistance with rocket development. The Obama Administration is actually increasing overall military aid to Israel. Three billion in military aid (with the condition that 75 percent be spent for U.S. military hardware) is a boon to both the Israeli militants and to U.S. weapons contractors. It also frees up more Israeli money for continued nuclear warhead development.

The Way Forward

Recently, in response to the NPT's decision to convene the 2012 conference on the Middle East WMDFZ, the Israeli government said that it "ignores the realities of the Middle East and the real threats facing the region and the entire world," and added that Israel would not take part in its



WILPF contingent lining up for May 2 march in New York.

implementation. The U.S. government, which in fact agreed to the language in the NPT outcome document, now says that the U.S. ability to help organize the conference "has been seriously jeopardized because the final document singles out Israel in the Middle East section, a fact that the United States deeply regrets."

The way ahead looks difficult indeed, but we must keep building on the previous work of our foremothers and current contributions of Reaching Critical Will. We can gird ourselves with knowledge of how far we have come against apparently impossible odds. It is time to inform ourselves thoroughly and share that information with others. For a start, find *Beyond Arms Control* on WILPF's www.ReachingCriticalWill.org page (or order the book for \$10.00) and read WILPFer Merav Datan's article on steps to a WMDFZ. Then educate your community, Congress and the media. You can also send short, well reasoned comments to President Obama at www.whitehouse.gov/contact in support of steps in the United Nations to achieve the Middle Eastern WMDFZ and nuclear weapons abolition. He and the entire administration face strong opposition from many U.S. sources addicted to war and nuclear weapons for every positive step they take, so your support can make a difference. Contact the Program Committee at carol.disarm@gmail.com to join the national Middle East Issue Committee and find out about other ways to get actively involved.

As we all know, this year of the Jane Addams' sesquicentennial is no time to rest on past WILPF achievements. We must respond with the same courage, ingenuity, passion and determination as did members like Addams, Balch, Pauling, King, Myrdal, and thousands of lesser known WILPFers before us. Our planet and our people still need our input along with that of newer and younger organizations.

Carol Reilley Urner (WILPF National Program co chair) wrote this article with input from Ray Acheson (Reaching Critical Will) and Sarah Sheffer (former WILPF Program Intern). You can reach Carol at carol.disarm@gmail.com.



Two staff members from WILPF Sweden joined NPT Practicum participants for a seminar.

Report from the Treasurer

By Ellen Schwartz

Reporting on WILPF's finances is a rather delicate business; I get the reports on any given month several weeks later, as the previous month's transactions must be entered, reviewed, verified, etc. Then, there is lag time from when I write this (early September) to when you will finally read this. So I thought I would just give you a "long view" of our cash status:

Date	Total*
May 31, 2009	\$207,609
Dec. 31, 2009	\$159,948
May 31, 2010	\$211,916
Aug. 15, 2010	\$387,476

*All Checking/Savings accounts/funds held by JAPA

Keep in mind: our 2009 audit is not complete; figures from 2009 or 2010 are subject to correction and do not take into account liabilities such as whether the rent, payroll, etc. was just about to be paid. Nevertheless, the broad outlines are accurate, and I think reassuring.

To give the Board and Finance Committee a clearer idea of our financial picture, we have started to develop reports that will not only show us standard "Profit and Loss" statements (how much we took in during a month versus how much we spent), and standard "Balance Sheets" (total of all assets versus total of all liabilities). We will now also be keeping track of "encumbered funds" in monthly reports: how much is dedicated to the Intern Program; how much is allocated for mini-grants, etc. The proceeds of the sale of our former headquarters in Philadelphia (\$193,984.52 to WILPF, which is included in the August 15 total above) will similarly be tracked.

These monthly reports will help us see how much money we have for expansion, for hiring additional and sorely needed staff, and for moving into larger office space. And, while we do not intend for this to happen, if we develop deficiencies in our operating fund, the new reports will help us spot them while we still have plenty of cash on hand.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

In addition to my strictly fiduciary responsibilities, I have been working with U.S. WILPF Secretary Deb Garretson in forming a Membership Committee. We have embarked on an ambitious project of contacting every branch, determining who the branch officers are and updating the Branch Directory on our website. (Please tell us if there are errors in your branch listing: www.wilpf.org/directory). When that is complete, we will determine who in each

The broad outlines of our finances are accurate, and I think reassuring. We were in healthy financial condition at the end of 2009, and have continued to improve.

branch will be available for training in DIA, our membership database, or we will do our best to find a volunteer in another branch to do this. From there we will be able to maintain more accurate records, and branches can see the status of their members at any time. We look at this not only from the point of view of better dues collection, but also for the health of our branches. Several branches we've contacted said they haven't been meeting, but they were going to try to pull the branch back together. By remaining in communication, we can build and strengthen our organization. Need I mention that any member is welcome to join the Membership Committee? Contact me or Deb (library336@yahoo.com) for more information.

When I was appointed Treasurer in February 2010, I found that we were in healthy financial condition at the end of 2009, and have continued to improve. I hope you will be confident that the National Board is keeping careful watch on our income and spending. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Ellen Schwartz is Treasurer for the U.S. Section of WILPF. She can be reached (916) 369 5510 or ellen@nicetechnology.com.



AT U.S. SOCIAL FORUM: WILPF members Linda Park and Sha'an Mouliert joined others to carry a banner in the opening march.



BranchAction News

Edited by Georgia Pinkel

Updates from our newsletters, including: **Cape Cod, MA; St. Louis, MO; Chapel Hill, NC; Los Angeles, Peninsula/Palo Alto, and Santa Cruz, CA; Portland, OR; Minneapolis, MN.** News from e-newsletters, including: **Des Moines, IA, and San Jose, Santa Barbara and San Francisco, CA, Philadelphia, PA, Cantonville, MD, Detroit, MI.** Does your branch maintain a social networking site such as Facebook? Let me know if you know of any other social networking sites WILPF branches maintain, so we can share your creativity, especially the photos.

Best Practices: Sharing amongst the branches – **Cape Cod** followed **Santa Cruz** in the “move your money” project, taking our funds out of the “too big to fail” banks and moving them into local coffers. Check with the Corporations v. Democracy website to find helpful materials to use in the campaign and “think local first” for money, shopping and food consumption. Opt out of the globalization paradigm any way you can! Check out WILPF’s favorite blogger at <http://wilpf.blogspot.com> – C.J. Minster will always have something to say on an issue. **Cape Cod** has a three-step process: June, end of year evaluation; midsummer, brainstorming retreat; fall, final commitments, branch and personal matters. This helps the branch keep on track and maintain continuity. **Triangle** is celebrating its 75th anniversary all year, especially with an upcoming Fall Gala. They produce critical updates “WILPF’s Wake-up Call” radio program every Friday from 7:30-8:00 am. (To listen, go to www.trianglewilpf.org).

Keeping in touch: In February, **Peninsula Branch/Palo Alto** and **San Jose** hosted the Northern California Cluster Meeting. WILPF West Gathering III was also hosted and held in Ashland, OR this July. For the second year, WILPF has taken a significant role in the US Social Forum, held in Detroit this past summer, and the Poor People’s March leading up to the main event. Eric Angell reported to the **Minneapolis** Branch on his experiences there. He co-produces a weekly cable show locally – check out <http://our-worldinddepth.org>. **Santa Cruz**’s monthly newsletter focuses on a local member – what a great way to find out more about ourselves. A first for **Santa Barbara:** marching in the 4th of July parade – and they were favorably received! Are you reaching out through a local WILPF presence in celebrations and parades throughout the summer, as well as local vigils for peace, actions against corporations, and

being present at local farmers’ markets? Tell us what works best – flags, banners, T-shirts, sashes, signage or handing out literature? **Catonville** is continuing its commitment to the Housing as a Human Right program, supporting breakfast food for the 100 men who reside at Westside Shelter. Sometimes direct action is necessary while we work on social justice issues. Ellen Thomas and the “Proposition 1 Campaign” traveled the nation this past year.

Special People: Fundraisers or fun-raisers: **Cape Cod** hosted a Mad Hatter’s High Tea Party (and Roast) in honor of their own Elenita Jane Muniz this spring; hats and gloves were encouraged. **Santa Cruz** took the opportunity to pay tribute to Joyce McLean at their Spring Fundraiser and also honored three local women working for economic justice. **Triangle** noted the loss of long-time WILPF member Yonni Chapman (<http://freedomlegacyproject.blogspot.com>) while **Minneapolis** marked the passing of Howard Zinn. **Peninsula** hosted Angie Rosga, WILPF’s U.N. Office Director at the home of Joan Bazar. **Los Angeles** documented Ilse Wermink’s historic oral testimony on behalf of WILPF at the 13th Special Session of the U.N.’s Human Rights Council. She spoke “Support to the Recovery Process in Haiti: A Human Rights Approach.” WILPF has status at the U.N. and that means you, the members, do too.

Calendar Events: Don’t forget the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (it meets during the first two weeks of March). Make arrangements early through the New York WILPF U.N. Office to be credentialed and involved in all those events. International Women’s Day (IWD) led to **Cape Cod**’s fourth annual HERSTORY event – including women’s art, storytelling and the wild women dance at the end of the evening. Ask for the script presenting this dramatic history and try it out at your branch! **Peninsula** highlighted and advocated for the passage of CEDAW on IWD; it’s been held hostage in a Senate committee since 1979. **Los Angeles** celebrated IWD with a luncheon featuring the founder and coordinator of the Coalition for Alternatives to Militarism in our Schools, Arlene Inouye. **St. Louis** took action on Tax Day, focused on re-directing military spending to national needs; they also reviewed what the 1930’s WPA bill accomplished. **Santa Barbara** always tables on Tax Day, Earth Day and United Nations Day. **Triangle** branch participated in three significant events just in May of this year – the Peacemaker Award Dinner, the annual NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, and the annual Memorial Day Event. **Portland** celebrated the 90th anniversary of Women’s Equality Day (Women got the vote on 8/26/1920.) with an open house in late August. **Ashland** created a “Nuclear Maze,” a way of educating around a Nuclear Free World for the Hiroshima commemoration.

Local Actions on National and International Issues:

Check out the video of Cape Cod's rally and march for Gaza at <http://blip.tv/file/3114438>. **Peninsula** heard from U.S. citizen graduates of the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, Cuba after they returned from working in Haiti. If you want to learn more about scholarships for U.S. students to the School of Medicine, visit the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organizations at <http://www.ifconews.org/MedicalSchool>; it's just one more reason to think about changing our policy towards Cuba. **Minnesota's** Women and Water website has been updated with new programming: <http://womenandwater.net>. They will also be expanding their work to include the relationship between women and food production. **Santa Cruz** focused on the Campaign to Legalize Democracy. Visit WILPF's Corporations v. Democracy website (<http://www.wilpf.org/cvd>) for other actions and join the effort to overturn the Supreme Court's ruling in the Citizens United case. **Des Moines** presented "The Other 98% of Us" [people who don't hire lobbyists] rally and will be traveling to Kansas City to meet the Monahan Brothers, who are walking across the U.S. to protest the Supreme Court decision. **Cantonsville** focused on lobbying their senators on both CEDAW and the new Start Treaty to limit nuclear weapons.

Local Issues/Education: **Cape Cod** learned of the work of Padraig O'Malley who is creating a new approach to resolving conflict and violence. Check out the "Forum for Cities in Transition from Conflict" to see how well his techniques might work for our troubled culture of divided societies. **Triangle** focused on local worker justice campaigns, including farm labor and public employees. **Santa Cruz** used International WILPF's project highlighting "disarming for gender equality" as a way to achieve part of the Millennium Development Goals. Check out the brochure on International WILPF's website and order copies, edited for use by the U.S. Section, from the National Office in Boston. **St. Louis's** brown bag discussion on legislation of concern led to several local actions. **Portland** distributed five sets of Jane Addams Books to local schools, including one in Vancouver, WA. At their annual luncheon, **Philadelphia** honored ACORN members with the WILPF Peace and Justice Dove Award – counteracting the unjust actions taken by this Congress. **Catonsville**, in coalition



ACORN members honored in Philadelphia.



Left to right: Yoshiko Ikuta, Co-president Nancy Munger, Vicky Knight and Linda Park after meeting with leadership of Cleveland branch.

with the Charlestown Speakers Bureau, presented a program in April on "Save the Water" around the Chesapeake Bay tributary system.

Peace Actions: **Cape Cod** is considering a Peace Train for next fall, if interest warrants. **Minnesota** has a close connection to the Lyndale Park Peace Garden all year long, celebrating Mother's Day there, doing plantings, and even taking part in a visit of the current Mayor of Nagasaki. **Los Angeles** sponsored a protest on June 5, Nuclear Weapons Abolition Day, featuring MacGregor Eddy. **Santa Cruz** heard an alternative approach to eliminating the nuclear weapons issue from Dr. Martin Hellman, a professor at Stanford. See his website: <http://www.nuclearrisk.org>. **Portland** co-sponsored the March 20 demonstration and teach-in on the 7th Anniversary of the start of the Iraq war, as well as a later teach-in, March 27 teach-in. Mobilizing for Regional Health, Well-Being and Equity in southwest Washington was organized by local WILPF member, Professor Desiree Hellegers, Chair of Washington State University's Center for Social and Environmental Justice. **Catonsville** stands with Baltimore's Women in Black weekly. In August they handed out paper cranes to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki. **Philadelphia's** focus for this year is ending the wars, bringing the troops home and diverting the war economy to domestic problems. Four of the branch members attended the National Peace Conference in Albany, NY. Philadelphia also wants to say that persistence pays off. The branch announced success in shutting down the "Army Experience Center" which had been set up at the local Franklin Mills Mall. The Army said the demise of its center "... was due to the large demonstrations, non-violent civil resistance and regular vigils." A coalition of 30 peace groups had maintained the pressure for over two years at the mall. "We shut it down!" cheered Philadelphia WILPF.

Recommended Books:

The Value of Nothing by Raj Patel

Jane Addams: Spirit in Action by Louise Knight

A Young People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn

WILPF West Gathers

By Millee Livingston



WILPF members from branches based across the west met in July in Ashland, Oregon on the campus of Southern Oregon University. Approximately one third of those who attended had never been to a WILPF National or International Congress. This small gathering gave us the opportunity to meet sisters from Ashland and Portland (Oregon); Fresno, San Jose, Monterey, Sacramento, Davis, Whittier, Auburn, Los Angeles (California); and Missoula (Montana).

We shared our individual and branch activities; we caucused whenever two or three of us met. Discussions were ongoing throughout our time together. (The favorite place to meet turned out to be the ladies room, down the hall, as we were brushing our teeth!)

In addition to the songs and music of the Raging Grannies (San Jose, CA) and Yvonne Simmons (Portland, OR) and others, there was a skit based on *The Butter Battle* (a book by Dr. Seuss; performed by the Monterey Branch) and time to see the play *Ruined* (which focuses on women in the Congo).

We extend our thanks to the Ashland Branch, which hosted this gathering. On Friday there was a presentation by Linda Richards (Ashland) regarding the effects of uranium mining on Native Americans and an update on the Helen and Linus Pauling archives at the University. This was followed by reports from the WILPF DISARM Committee (Carol Urner, Portland), a DVD interview from McGregor Eddy (Ellen Schwartz, Sacramento) and reports from various National U.S. committees (Carol Urner), and from the Membership Council: Barby Ulmer, Lois Fiedler (San Jose) and Millee Livingston (Auburn).

On Saturday Nancy Price (Davis) told us about water issues and the U.S. Social Forum, and from Jean Hays (Fresno) regarding a successful Water Forum held in Fresno. Other issues covered included Corporations vs Democracy, branch building and sharing, how to run successful programs, as well as a session on Women in the Congo (Yvonne Simmons, Portland) and a report from Honduras

(Barby and Vic Ulmer, San Jose).

Our Sunday morning wrap-up included plans for the next WILPF West Gathering IV in 2013, the beginning of the development of a Congo women speakers' tour, and many fond farewells. WILPF member Nancy Price, who came from Davis, said, "Building a shared base of ideas and experiences of how-to-do [things] means the wheel doesn't have to be invented every time...The Saturday night of skits, music, poetry/rap and Raging Grannies shows the depth of talent to keep us laughing – and inspired."

Millee Livingston is a WILPF West Coordinating Committee Member. She can be reached at: milleelivingston@hotmail.com.

A New Biography of Balch

Kristen E. Gwinn, WILPF member and creator of www.j1325.org, has written a colorful new biography of WILPF founding mother Emily Greene Balch. The first scholarly biography of Balch, the book draws on primary sources, including a draft of Balch's

autobiography, letters and speeches.

Emily Greene Balch: The Long Road to Internationalism will be published in December, by the University of Illinois Press.

Born in 1867, Balch served at Wellesley College as a full professor of economics and sociology, starting in 1913, until her pacifist activism against U.S. involvement in WWI resulted in the board of trustees' refusal to renew her contract. In



1915, Balch helped co-found WILPF and when she left Wellesley she became the Secretary General of WILPF at the Geneva headquarters.

Among her many activities, Balch was involved in a delegation to Haiti in 1926, arriving in the middle of the U.S.'s 19-year occupation of the nation (1915-1934). Balch's report on the situation recommended the immediate removal of the U.S. presence, a recommendation which was echoed three years later by an official report. Throughout her years with WILPF she advocated for negotiated peace and promoted ideas like internationalism and global citizenship. In 1946, Balch was honored by being made a Nobel Peace Prize laureate for her work with WILPF. Emily Greene Balch died in 1961, when she was 94.

This new biography helps contextualize Balch's activism, while taking into consideration changes in American attitudes toward war and female intellectuals in the early twentieth century. — Daniel Cline

Membership Council Update

By Regina Birchem and Barbara Reed

A viable organization is more than the sum of its parts. We are stronger when we work together, transparently.

In 2007, a few long-time WILPF members became concerned about our organization when we were informed that the national office staff had been suddenly and summarily dismissed because of lack of financial resources. This raised concerns about WILPF finances. We tried to find out more, in order to see how we could be of help. Without the office staff, we were no longer able to verify our membership records. It now appears that we have lost many members in the past few years.

Recently, 13 long-time WILPF members (most of whom are Life members of WILPF) requested a visit to the WILPF national office in Boston to clarify membership and financial records. A delegation of two WILPF members, as agents appointed by these members, met with our Director of Operations and two WILPF National Board members to discuss and receive the materials that were listed in their request letter. The membership lists provided by the national office during this visit varied in content and showed far fewer members than we had hoped.

During or immediately after this visit, the national Board established an ad hoc Membership Committee and extended an invitation to any and all WILPF members to join. Several members of the Membership Council, among others, have joined this newly formed WILPF national ad hoc membership committee, which is working to compile valid Branch and membership lists that can be easily accessed.

It is the goal of the Membership Council to offer constructive assistance wherever possible, to insure that WILPF will continue as a membership/grass-roots organization as we look forward to our 100th birthday and beyond. The world needs WILPF, and so do we, in order to be more effective in our ongoing work, nationally and internationally!

WILPF members and friends are invited to comment and to ask for more information by contacting the Membership Council at wilpfmembers@gmail.com. ❖

The WILPF Board Responds

The Membership Council is the name adopted by an informal group of WILPF women who gathered together in early 2008. They were concerned that the organization's cash flow in the fall of 2007 was so poor (and after all reserves had been depleted) that it necessitated laying off every staff member. This was done in accordance with WILPF's Personnel Policy, and with proper notice, severance pay and extended health coverage.

In responding to the Membership Council's request for financial and member records this summer, WILPF observed the requirements of Massachusetts state law to protect the private data of all its members and donors, and incurred expenses of nearly \$5,000 in meeting this request.

The problem of declining membership has plagued WILPF for at least the past two decades and was diagnosed in the 2007 strategic planning process as primarily due to (1) poor succession planning at all levels, from the branch to the international and (2) the shifting patterns of group affiliation among younger adults. While the strategic plan offered some remedies, in the absence of sufficient implementation funding these remedies have been put "on hold" for perhaps too long. The current efforts to hire a National Director by the beginning of 2011, if successful, should help WILPF to move forward in a way that will encourage new supporters to participate in our programs and campaigns and contribute to our financial stability.

We are pleased that over the past three years, so many members have chosen to be involved in standing or ad hoc national WILPF committees. We hope, as we move toward our 2011 WILPF U.S. Section Congress, our International Congress in Costa Rica and our 100th anniversary meeting in the Hague, that we can work more and more cooperatively, despite our differences, and concentrate on problem solving and programming that speaks to both the crises and hopes of our present time.

The WILPF U.S. Board of Directors can be reached at dialogue@wilpf.org. We welcome and respond to all inquiries. ❖

We Love Your Letters

And emails too! Want to let us know what you think of *Peace & Freedom*? Just drop us a note to: peacefreedom@wilpf.org

What a Pleasure

What a pleasure to see your cover photo on the spring issue of *Peace & Freedom*, which was also displayed on a page of *Positive News*. The article in that publication featured a story titled "Movement for Peace Circles the Earth." I hope that beautiful young woman shows up in many publications around the world. Her face and gesture speak volumes.

Thank you for highlighting an image so expressive of who we are and what we stand for. Peace indeed!

—Trish Kaspar

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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“WILPF Working for Women – Local to Global”

June 1 – June 5, 2011, Chapel Hill, NC

University of North Carolina

Plan now to attend WILPF's 31st U.S. Triennial Congress in Chapel Hill. We'll have an action-packed agenda, plenary discussions, a tour of the surrounding area and a Young/New WILPF Leadership Institute, plus much more. Planning is underway, so please check the website for more information and stay tuned for additional announcements.



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!



Two 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 - IF CHOOSING THIS OPTION, USE THIS FORM**

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.

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

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