

Peace & Freedom

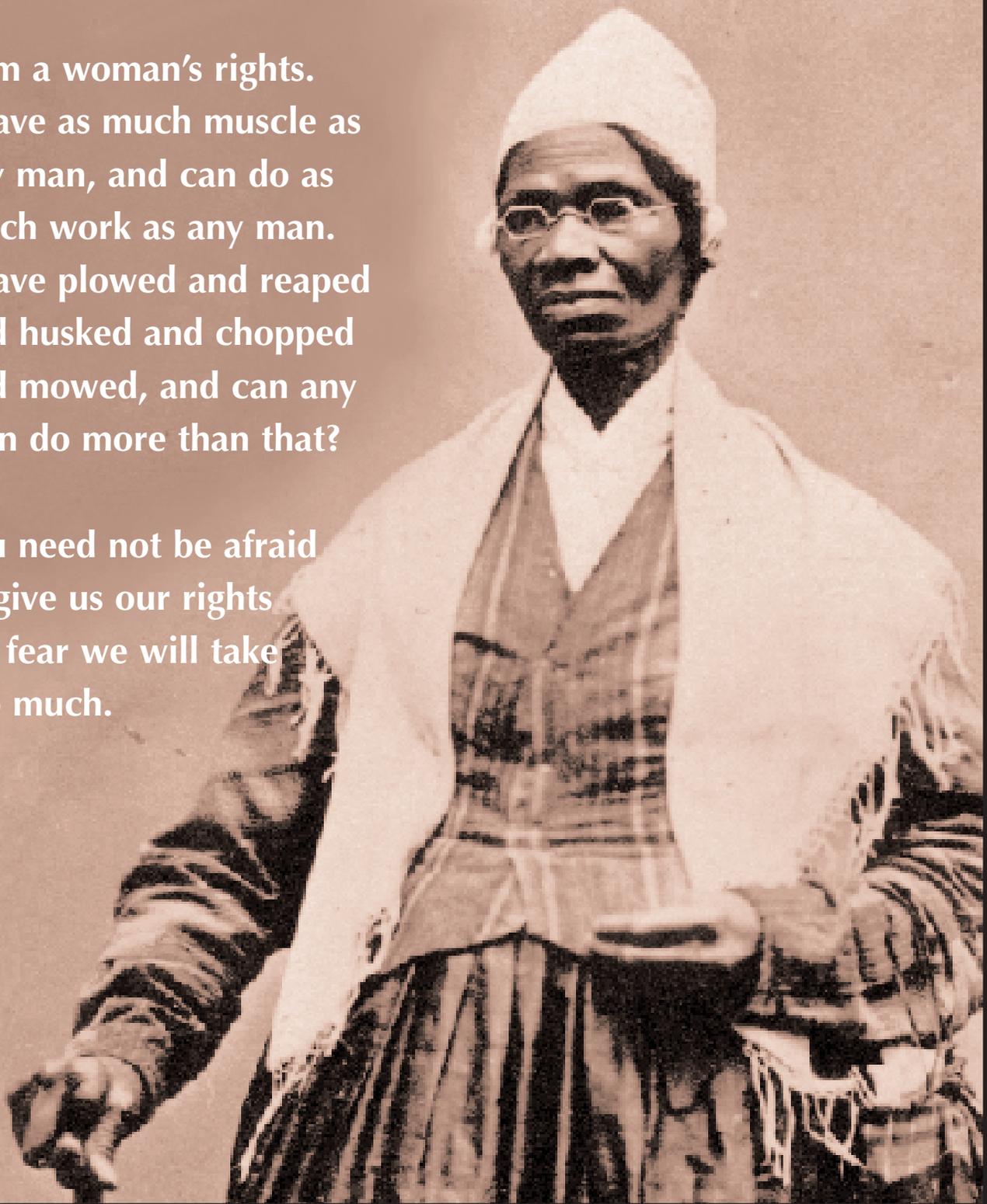
MAGAZINE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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I am a woman's rights.
I have as much muscle as
any man, and can do as
much work as any man.
I have plowed and reaped
and husked and chopped
and mowed, and can any
man do more than that?

You need not be afraid
to give us our rights
for fear we will take
too much.





Young girl at the School of the Americas demonstration, held in Fort Benning, GA, in November, 1998. Thousands of people attended the demonstration, including many WILPF members.

Photo: Beth Trigg.

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

National Program: WILPF envisions a world free of violence, poverty, pollution and domination—a genuine new world order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 1997-2000 program cycle has four key campaign areas: Disarmament; Ending U.S. Intervention; Racial Justice; and Women's Rights/Ending Violence. Each campaign area focuses on local and national effectiveness in creating lasting social change.

WILPF has sections in 42 countries, coordinated by an international office in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches, coordinated by a national office in Philadelphia. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (Non Governmental Organization) status. We invite all people who support our goals to join us.

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Cover: *Syracuse Cultural Workers* © 1998

Sojourner Truth—I Am a Woman's Rights (SCW© 1998) was published by Syracuse Cultural Workers, a national publisher of feminist, progressive, multicultural resources. It is available as a 12x24 poster, notecard and postcard. Also available is the *How To Build Community* poster and *The Alternative Alphabet Poster For Big and Little People*. To order or for catalog (\$1): SCW, Box 6367, Syracuse, NY 13217 (315) 474-1132; Fax (315) 475-1277.

A Goodbye to WILPF Brothers and Sisters

Marilyn Clement
National Program Coordinator

This letter is a hard one to write because I am leaving your staff June 30 at the end of the WILPF Congress. It is hard to say goodbye. WILPF is a wonderful organization, and my experiences with our members have been a highlight of my career. My admiration of your political grounding, your unswerving determination to bring warring individuals and nations to the negotiating table, and your amazing stamina serve as an inspiration to live a life of action and hope for a better now for all people.

It has been a good four years, really five, when you include my year of working for the WILPF peace train from Helsinki to Beijing. The initiatives we have taken together have made a significant difference and WILPF has grown in size and diversity. Since I have interacted with so many of you, it will come as no surprise that the essence of my being and my work will continue to be political activism. I will continue working with the great organizations and individuals that have shaped my history, including WILPF. *

Come to Congress to Create WILPF's Future — WILPF is moving to its next future. The work of the Mavens for Change, the membership surveys and board policy changes will be taking us to a different and less centralized kind of structure. Some people say that WILPF has outlived its usefulness, but I think not. I think WILPF is young in spirit and renewing itself through yet another period of radical change, taking our structural questions down to our roots and seeking answers from the wisdom of our members. Please plan to join us in St. Louis the last week of June to be sure that your voice is heard at this Congress, a meeting that will determine the future of WILPF.

We Live in Precarious Times — These could be precarious times because of millennium mania and because of the very real problems presented by the Y2K computer bug. Another danger, indicated by the history of past millennia periods, is the increase in witch-hunts and scapegoating of minorities during millennium years. The world economy and nukes in space are also frightening prospects. The worst scenario for January 2000 is a right-wing-survivalist nightmare with people shooting each other for food and shelter.

I think the more likely scenario is one of disruption of electrical, gas, telephone and monetary systems because of computer failures for a few weeks, maybe

longer, while the computer bugs are being worked out.

I have thought a lot about what WILPFers should do to prepare, even if this preparation turns out to be unnecessary. I believe our efforts to build community should be increased a thousandfold — now, in advance of the 2000 deadline. It is a great time to be talking with our neighbors about solar power, urban gardens, alternative currencies, bartering and sharing, unplugging ourselves from the control of the insatiable corporations, negotiating peace and being mindful of the future of our Mother Earth. We can discuss these issues among our branches and in our neighborhoods, in truth and reconciliation settings, political meetings and other gatherings, strategizing together to meet each other's basic needs.

WILPF members can play a wise and good role even as the two extremes, growing hysteria and persistent denial, rage all around us. I plan to organize with the people in my apartment building and the WILPFers and others in my community in New York when I return there in July. (By the way, you are all invited to visit me in New York. Just make reservations in advance, and bring your rice and beans.)

Raise the Volume — Our determination to be heard on WILPF's analysis of crucial issues should not diminish, but rise in volume and coherency as a result of our new structure. No increase in the military budget— cut it down! Work together as neighbors to transform our inherited history of racism and economic disparity. Encourage women to become independent and to resist violence and discrimination. Make the corporations serve us, not the other way around.

Demand that our resources and policies (politics) be used in opposition to the greedy, thereby enhancing good possibilities for all people rather than the massive enrichment of the few. Feed the people, not the Pentagon's bil-

Continued on page 7 ➤





U.S. Section News

WILPF WELCOMES NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Rosemary Burke has joined the WILPF family as the new development director. With experience spanning more than two decades, Rosemary specializes in international development, development/fundraising and marketing.

Certified in fund-raising management from LaSalle University, she earned her master's degree in anthropology / demography from the University of Pennsylvania and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Hawaii in anthropology and journalism.

Photo: Theta Pavis



Rosemary's first job was as a field officer at C.A.R.E. Inc., where she managed field offices in Tunisia and India, providing health and nutrition services to poor women and children. She also executed programs in implementation, planning and annual budget preparation, among other things.

Later, as the director of program development for Opportunities Industrialization Centers International — a Philadelphia-based skills training program for unemployed people — she researched and identified foundation and corporation gift opportunities, wrote grant proposals and successfully solicited hundreds of thousands of dollars from foundations such as the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the IBM Foundation.

Before joining WILPF, Rosemary worked at the

Pennsylvania Chapter of the Nature Conservancy where she helped increase membership by 620 members, generated \$80,000 in grants and fundraising and managed a budget of \$3 million.

At the Conservancy she also planned and publicized special events, including a lecture series and nature walks. She also developed an information package on giving stocks as gifts for members of the Conservancy.

An active member of the community, Rosemary is a board member of the United Methodist Church in Chestnut Hill, PA. She is an active member of the Toastmaster's International, where she is the Secretary of the Speechweavers and is a member of the National Association of Fund-Raising Executives. Rosemary is an experienced public speaker and is fluent in French and Spanish. She has two children, a son Nizar Sedki, who attends college at Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburgh, PA and a daughter, Amira Sedki, who goes to Central High School in Philadelphia.

- Wanda Jones, *Peace & Freedom Intern*

THE FUTURE OF *PEACE AND FREEDOM*

To pave the way for the magazine's future, WILPF's Steering Committee has decided to make the editor's position full-time. A search for a full-time editor is underway, and the Publications Committee has reformed to help during this transition. Five issues of the magazine, plus a special mailing with your board election ballot, are slated to appear in 1999; however some delays may be unavoidable due to this change. We thank your for your patience. ❖

Reader's Forum

To the Editor:

In December I joined a delegation to Guatemala and El Salvador, coordinated by School of Americas Watch, Witness for Peace, and the human rights group, the Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean. Our pilgrimage took us to the sites where death squad assassinations had shocked the international community. In El Salvador, these included the lives of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the six Jesuit priests and their two housekeepers.

From there, we went to Segundo Montes, named after one of the slain Jesuits. There is a Christian Base community whose spirit and courage is awesome as they rebuild their village after 12 years of living as refugees in Honduras. During our stay we also drove to El Mozote to join the day of commemoration, in memory of the massacre of 1,000 inhabitants 17 years ago. On the way, we picked up Ruffina Amaya, sole survivor of that day of infamy.

During our journey, we were profoundly aware of the role the School of the Americas had played in training 60,000 Latin America military since 1946 — many responsible for tragedies and human abuses in both Guatemala and El Salvador.

We came away determined this time to lend our efforts to close the School of Assassins as termed by *La Prensa News* in Panama, former home of the SOA. Carol Richardson, Director of SOA Watch in [the] Washington, D.C. office, one of our coordinators, mention[ed] that there will be an action in the capitol, in front of the White House. It will start on May 1 and terminate in civil disobedience on Sunday, May 4, at the Pentagon.

I urge my WILPF sisters to join me if possible or organize a local action to demand that our government close the SOA. Fifty-three years of existence, supported by our tax dollars, is enough. We must wipe out this dark chapter in the history of our country.

Ruth Hunter, Santa Cruz, CA

WILPF Programs at a Glance

Racial Justice

Since the U.S. Greeley Congress mandated a process of truth and reconciliation in 1996, WILPF has participated in numerous events. We held a large symposium with students at the NYU Law School on the feasibility of such a process in the U.S., participated in the Hate Crimes Summit in Atlanta and held a meeting with national leaders in Washington, D.C. In addition, local branches took up the question and created multi-racial committees to look at the current and historical problems of racism.

WILPF's 20-minute video, *Truth and Reconciliation: Can It Work in the U.S.?* and a corresponding report, provide resources for members. These are both available to members and branches as a tool for opening discussions.

We have been asked to develop a roundtable at the Hague Appeal for Peace in May with participants from truth commissions around the world.

In the year 2001, the United Nations will be holding a world conference on Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination. International WILPF is calling upon our members worldwide to join in the regional preparation for this conference.

We have also created a monthly fax net; please clip and send stories about racism in your community to WILPF T&R FaxNet, 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Fax to (215) 563-5527 or e-mail: mcclem@igc.org.

- *Marilyn Clement, National Program Coordinator*

Women's Rights/Ending Violence

CEDAW—The Philadelphia Gender Justice Education Project is a pilot program supported by: WILPF members, the Philadelphia Beijing Delegation, local American Association of University Women, National Political Congress of Black Women chapters, the Women's Rights Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association and Temple Law School. The project is piloting a curriculum in area high schools on gender bias. The Beijing Platform for Action is as used an instructional vehicle, linking local and global issues. CEDAW is covered, as well as the role of the United Nations and international law in advancing women's rights.

See the Legislative Update on page 19 for more on CEDAW.

- *Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Coordinator*

Ending U.S. Intervention

Drug Policy - The Drug Policy Committee is planning to

issue a report on the fall tour, America/North and South: Women on the Realities of War and Drugs. The report should be ready before the WILPF Congress in June.

This tour broke new ground for WILPF. Listening to women from our hemisphere share stories about the impact of the U.S.-instigated "War on Drugs" clarified for many of us the interconnectedness of militarism, racism, and intervention.

The problem — or the possibility — of involvement with drug policy issues for WILPF is that it has ramifications in so many of the areas where we are already active.

We will use the final report to educate membership, and to develop a resolution on drug policy to be submitted at the St. Louis meeting. We also plan to work with International President Bruna Nota, who will be returning from her tour of Latin American sections in mid-February.

We hope that some of our insights from the tour can be incorporated into a reinvigorated Women's Peace and Justice Treaty, which will take place at the International Executive Committee meeting in Costa Rica in August 1999. Those interested in joining the Drug Policy Committee, please write to me at 300 Maple St., Burlington, VT 05401, or e-mail me: rlloyd@together.net.

- *Robin Lloyd, Chair, WILPF Drug Policy Committee*

Cuba—As this issue goes to press, Jan Strout, Co-Chair of the Cuba Action Committee is leading an International Women's Day delegation to a conference in Havana and Santiago de Cuba addressing issues of the environment and health care. The next issue of *Peace & Freedom* will have a full report. *See Lisa Valanti's article on page 29 on Cuban Sister Cities.*

Disarmament

WILPF's long-standing commitment for nuclear disarmament continues. The U.S. section of WILPF, along with the International WILPF and 42 other national sections, are sponsoring a three-year program for nuclear disarmament. The U.S. section of WILPF will take special responsibility for: getting the U.S. to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, stopping computer simulation tests of nuclear weapons, and stopping the expansion of NATO in Eastern Europe.

In addition, WILPF is encouraging everyone to withhold their votes from candidates who accept campaign donations from military corporations and then vote to increase military spending.

- *Marilyn Clement, National Program Coordinator*

Women's Human Rights

Elmira Nazombe

(Editor's note: This is an excerpt of a speech on "Globalization, Women's Labor and Women's Human Rights" given on July 28, during WILPF's 27th Congress.)

As you have probably heard, 1998 is the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Each time I reread the UDHR, I cannot help but be struck and humbled by how visionary its framers were. Imagine how, coming out of the horrors of the second World War, the women and men who sat down to write this Bill of Rights for the fledgling United Nations were bold to assert several very important things: One, that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights — that is, rights belong to everyone . . . Secondly, that the recognition of these rights represents the "foundation of freedom, justice and peace" in the world.

So not only are the rights important, they are the very source for the security of the international order. It followed then that the writers of the UDHR would assert that the rights they would set out represented a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations." That is, universal human rights is not just some vague goal that peoples and nations can piously say they want to achieve. We have a yardstick to measure our actions, a yardstick by which all — nations and peoples, rich as well as poor — can be judged . . . As I am sure you know, specific references to women in the UDHR and many of the covenants and conventions that flowed from it have been sparse.

If you know anything about the women's human rights movement of the 1990s, you know that its task has been to take the fundamental aspects of the international human rights framework and articulate the specific content of the framework for women.—to articulate for themselves the special character of the human rights of women and to name the places where their rights are violated because of their sex and/or the gender roles that too often control their lives. In the face of globalization and its impact on women, no task could be more urgent.

And so, what is the connection between globalization and women's human rights? It is our contention that the women's human rights framework gives us a very important way for both understanding globalization and of responding to it. In fact, the women's human rights

lens gives us a yardstick for measuring the actions of governments and other institutions on behalf of globalization . . .

Can we think for a moment about the very complicated phenomenon that we call globalization? Although not everything that happens as a result of globalization is bad . . . it seems clear that globalization is not value neutral and that the values that drive it are not the values articulated by the framers of the Universal Declaration — the right to work, the right to social protection, the right to bodily integrity, the right to an adequate standard of living. For the next few minutes I'd like you to think with me about these rights as they apply to women . . .

I feel it is only fair to confess that I do have a hypothesis about all this that I would like to share with you. I believe that women are the spoken and unspoken factor in the globalization equation. As the policy makers of globalization make their decision, women's presence as both paid and unpaid labor, as consumers, caregivers and even as community activists, is taken for granted and necessary to the "success" of free market strategies.

The UDHR understanding of the right to work is comprehensive. It includes the right to a job, freely chosen. It includes equal pay for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, just and fair wages that will make possible an existence worthy of human dignity, equal opportunity for employment and protection from unemployment.

How is a woman's right to work faring under globalization? The images that come to mind are the sweat shops that exist in probably all of our countries that count on a supply of cheap and "flexible" labor of women to make sure that wages are kept as low as possible and worker safety is a matter of little concern. Another image is of the temporary and part-time worker, the worker with little or no access to benefits, no job security and very often working in a low-wage service sector job. This is the sector of job growth in many of our countries. It is the sector of job growth for women. The subcontractors who abound in this sector count on women to give them the flexibility that they need to move quickly to whichever job market is the most profitable. Then there are the women who leave their own countries to work as migrants . . .



➤ Women are pioneering a new style of labor organizing that recognizes women workers play many roles: wage earner, household caregiver, and community support system workers. One such woman is a Mexican-American woman named Antonia. I met her first in Mexico City when both of us were involved in tri-national meetings opposing the North American Free Trade Agreement. Tonia is an organizer with La Mujer Obrera, a part of a new kind of organizing effort among women workers which is sometimes called Worker's Centers. These centers are founded by women to address the multiple facets of women's lives, wages and working conditions but also housing and legal rights, real, not make-believe job training programs. These Centers have also pioneered in cross border/national organizing, refusing to make scapegoats and enemies of other women in other cities or regions of the world but recognizing and naming the common dangers of exploitation that they face collectively as women workers.

Women are also facing challenges to their right to social protection. The UDHR says that each citizen can expect that the state will help them to survive in the times of adversity like unemployment and old age, etc... State systems of public assistance cash payments and subsidized public services like health care are examples of social protection.

Here is another place where women are organizing to challenge globalization. I first met Joy Butts of the Kensington Welfare Rights Union last year when she came to the United Nations during the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to talk about Kensington's human rights march to the United Nations. The KWRU is saying no to government policies that violate their rights to social protection and they are prepared to show the international community that the United States is failing to honor its commitments under the UDHR.

The UDHR says that everyone has the right to security of person. In the women's human rights convention this is talked about as the right to bodily integrity. The economic conditions created by globalization are also endangering women's right to bodily integrity. Worsening economic conditions in some countries lead to conflict and internal wars, rape as an instrument of war used in a brutal fashion against women caught in the cross fire, and women refugees. Ironically, it is the excesses of wealth that globalization has generated in some parts of the world, especially some parts of Europe and Asia, that has led to a dramatic and frightening increase in trafficking in women. In June of this year, I had an opportunity to meet an Albanian woman organizer named Jeta. Jeta explained to us . . . the efforts of Albanian women's organizations to investigate the extent

of trafficking of Albanian women and to work to seek ways for criminal prosecution of traffickers, as well as advocacy for laws that will actually protect Albanian women outside their own country and guarantee their rights.

Finally, the right to an adequate standard of living is a key provision of the UDHR. For women, this points to the important means of access to things like land and credit, as well as housing and health care. The unfettered movement of investment capital is one of the hallmarks of economic globalization, but government policies designed to diminish government involvement in areas like housing are creating homelessness. These policies do not guarantee the right to housing . . . The Working Women's Forum of India is another pioneering grassroots women's organization working to strengthen women's economic power through small-scale cooperative lending programs. The women of the Appalachian Land Trust are working to purchase and preserve the land of their community and hold it in common so that their community can have a future.

I recommend to you the international human rights framework as a tool that WILPF could incorporate into its organizing efforts on behalf of justice and peace and the rights of women. It can be a powerful global tool for direct and concrete local action. I encourage WILPF to join in the wonderful work of celebrating women's human rights.

Elmira Nazombe is the program director for leadership development and global education at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. She spoke in place of Center Director Charlotte Bunch, who was unable to attend.

➤ GOOD-BYE

continued from 3

lionaire corporate suppliers whose golden contributions control Congress. Don't save the stock market by transferring Social Security's billions to private enterprise. Believe me, this proposal is not about "saving" Social Security. Tell the truth to the people.

On the bright side, I hope you will organize great celebrations for our 85th Anniversary during this historic year. Support WILPF and support each other!

I look forward to hearing from you and sharing our futures.

P.S. Be sure to check out Rosemary's article about our 85th anniversary and Theta's article about the millenium computer bug in this issue.

* My organizational commitments include: The Center for Constitutional Rights, IFCO (Pastors for Peace), The Labor Party, the Center for Democratic Renewal (the National Anti-Klan Network) and WILPF, to name a few. ❖

A Gender Agenda

Z

Talk about employing more of a gender analysis in our program work has been buzzing around WILPF for a long time. Many members are, I'm sure, quite skilled in thinking this way. Others are less sanguine about gender analysis. Some are concerned about race and/or class, without feeling the need to include a gender dimension. Sometimes our national programs reflect a gender analysis and sometimes that component is not present. I think the time has come to engender a discussion within WILPF on this issue.

I am not putting myself forward as any kind of expert on the subject of gender analysis. Nor am I proposing that WILPF privilege gender analysis over any other perspective. Indeed, it seems to me that a traditional WILPF analysis would require a multi-faceted approach. However, I hear criticism from many members that in the last 50 years or so we have failed to hold that part of the torch up as high as others, consequently shedding less light on the gender aspects of our work.

I would like to propose the following questions to consider in exploring this issue:

- What is gender analysis? Exactly what are we looking for when we look for the gender dimension of an issue?
- Is this important? Is it something we think WILPF should be involved in?
- How would a gender analysis affect our practice? What would we do differently? What the same?
- What are examples of gender analysis and how would it be translated into action around an issue of concern to you?

By way of example, I present a summary of a gender analysis done by Sultana Alam of the Nationwide Women's Program of the American Friends Service Committee on the topic of landmines. *

Given the apparent "neutrality" and randomness of landmines, is it possible to talk about the gender aspects of landmines? The answer is a firm yes. As in the case of other forms of technology, such weapons lose their neutrality when introduced into any human society and produce very different implications for the rich and the poor, women and men.

The way relations between the sexes are ordered in society, the way work and social roles are allocated between women and men means that:

- Women, overall, are less exposed than men to the dangers of landmines. In Southeast Asia, men are more exposed because initial land-preparation is part of their agricultural role, whereas in most parts of Africa this is somewhat less so because land-prepara-

tion is part of women's agricultural role.

- Women are generally less aware about landmines, their dangers and possible preventative measures because gender roles and the division of labor make education and command over information less available to women.
- Women's fate is much harsher than men's if they become casualties of landmines. In many parts of the world families are less likely to expend their scarce resources on medical services, physical therapy and prostheses for women than men. Requirements for attractiveness are imposed with greater force upon women than men, leaving disabled women and girls to suffer greater social rejection and shame. A disabled woman is much less likely to be able to marry, with severe economic consequences for her.
- Disabled women find it much harder to find employment than men do. Already handicapped by sexist assumptions that women are less intelligent, women are often forced to depend on physical beauty to negotiate the job market. A landmine injury creates a double barrier to women's employment.
- Families are even less likely to afford injured girls the opportunity to go to school.
- Women carry a disproportionately large load of work caring for other landmine victims. In families with unmarried daughters, an accident to another family member often ends their chances of continuing in school.

Implications of this gender analysis on action proposals could include: Starting a landmine awareness campaign targeted at women and girls, changing the delivery of medical and prosthetic service programs to be more inclusive of women, raising awareness about the need for better life options for women landmine victims and changing the way governments and agencies allocate resources to meet those needs.

Please consider this piece an open invitation to anyone with thoughts or feelings about the question of gender analysis. My hope is that we can develop a lively discussion in the pages of Peace & Freedom or on the bulletin board/chat room of WILPF's website (www.wilpf.org).

* The full article *Gender, Landmines and UXOs* is available from the Nationwide Women's Program of the American Friends Service Committee. Contact Sultana Alam at (215) 241-7185.

Z is a former WILPF staff member of 12 years and a lifelong feminist activist.

Why Women?

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Felicity Hill & Beth Trigg
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In the Platform for Action of the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, there is a clear mandate for making women's voices heard on issues of international policy. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) process offers one opportunity to make women's voices heard on policy that affects our safety, our environment, and the way resources are allocated, especially regarding excessive military spending.

WILPF's involvement in the NPT process gives women a chance to redefine global "security" to mean the health and well being of the world's people, rather than stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction.

The extent to which the current construction of masculinity is complicit in the yearning for and use of weapons was reinforced recently at the Commission on the Status of Women, which dealt with women and armed conflict. Women, especially from the Great Lakes region of Africa, were there in force and they talked a lot about the unwillingness or inability of African men to enter into any debate on disarmament, because it would be an assault upon their masculinity to question or to put down a weapon.

There is a need for gender to be mentioned explicitly as a category of research and as a factor in the light weapons issue and the general area of disarmament every time something is published. It is the job of WILPF to stir this into the thinking of peace movement activists. Felicity Hill, Director of WILPF's U.N. Liaison Office, and convenor of the Abolition 2000 NPT working groups, is creating a document to help the disarmament community put the idea of gender — as a category of research and as a factor in this issue — into their documents.

The Commission on the Status of Women: Connecting Feminism and Disarmament

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) creates an opportunity to insert dialogue about weapons of mass destruction into the international women's movement. Felicity Hill is also the co-convenor of the Women and Armed Conflict Task Force of the Commission on the Status of Women. She has created a data base of all women participating in this group to link the women of Europe, the Pacific, the Americas and the active African women's peace groups who are eager to work on the issue, and to provide documentation from the field.

Largely because of WILPF's influence, the 1998 Commission on the Status of Women's final document on Women and Armed Conflict was almost unrecognizable from the first draft. The first draft failed to mention

weapons of mass destruction, the goal of eradicating armed conflict as a means of settling disputes, or the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms. During the March, 1998 CSW meetings, due to the work of NGOs, and particularly WILPF, the governments of the world were negotiating the following:



“Work to end all forms of armed conflict by delegitimizing the concept of war and promoting the right to peace. Until war itself is prohibited, take the following measures: stop the weapons of mass destruction, stop the production, transfer, stockpiling, use and threat of use of weapons of mass destruction, sign and ratify the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines, ban all export of military equipment and components from all sources to countries where there are gross human rights abuses.

“Integrate the concerns and viewpoints of women into bilateral and multilateral peace building discussions, particularly on the crucial issues of disarmament, reductions in defense expenditures and promotion of social development.”

“Acknowledge and support the vital work of NGOs in the field of peace efforts toward conflict prevention and peace keeping, and make resources available through a reduction in military expenditures and budgets.”

After much debate, the FINAL text read, “Work to prevent and put an end to aggression and all forms of armed conflict, thereby promoting a culture of peace. Encourage as appropriate the role of women in the peace movement, working toward general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control — including disarmament of all types of weapons of mass destruction.”

For several generations, WILPF women have been in the forefront of the movement to challenge world military spending, to abolish nuclear weapons, and to build real security. WILPF will continue making women's voices heard at the local, national, and international levels to achieve these goals.

Felicity Hill is WILPF's Director of Liaison to the United Nations. Beth Trigg is WILPF's former Development Director. She is currently doing community organizing and working as a fundraising consultant.

Resources

A short selection on women's rights,
domestic violence and gender.

BOOKS

The International Human Rights of Women: Instruments of Change. Edited by Carol Elizabeth Lockwood, Daniel Barstow Magraw, Margaret Faith Spring and S. I. Strong. This book chronicles the development of women's human rights over the past three decades. It contains reprints of 50 documents on the evolution of women's rights. Gillian Russell Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Coordinator, wrote the introduction to Chapter 31, *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*. Produced by the American Bar Association, Section of International Law and Practice. 607 pages, Copyright 1998.

Rights of Women: A Guide to the Most Important United Nations Treaties on Women's Human Rights. Edited by Vicki J. Semler, Anne S. Walker, Leonora Wiener, Tina Johnson and Jane Garland Katz. A comprehensive review of women's human rights as defined by the United Nations human rights treaties. Produced by the International Women's Tribune Centre, U.S. 148 pages, available for US \$15.95 from: Women, Ink., 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, U.S., Copyright 1998.

Dangerous Intersections: Feminist Perspectives on Population, Environment, and Development. Edited by Jael Silliman and Ynestra King. This collection of original, critical essays by well-known feminist scholars and activists present a multicultural, international scope on the major global issues of the day: environment, development, and population control. South End Press, Cambridge, MA, 300 pages, US \$20, ISBN: 0-89608-597-X. Copyright 1999.

The Sex Sector: The Economic and Social Bases of Prostitution in Southeast Asia. Edited by Lin Lean Lim. This award-winning ILO study examines the social and economic forces driving the growth of the sex industry in four Southeast Asian countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. ISBN 92-2-109522-3. 232 pages, US \$32. Copyright 1998.

Ain't I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism. By bell hooks. This book examines the impact of sexism on African American women during slavery. Published by South End Press, Cambridge, MA, 205 pages, US \$15, Copyright 1981.

HOTLINES

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

On February 21, 1996, President Clinton launched the National Domestic Violence Hotline, a 24-hour, toll-free service that provides crisis assistance and local shelter referrals for callers across the country. The hotline represents a major step towards the Clinton Administration's goal of ensuring that every woman has access to information and emergency assistance, wherever and whenever she needs it. The hotline has received over 140,000 calls since it was launched, and the majority of these calls are from individuals who have never before reached out for assistance. To support the response to this service, the hotline received \$1.2 million in funding for fiscal year 1999. The hotline is operated by the Texas Council on Family Violence, through a Health and Human Services grant. The voice number is 1-800-799-SAFE, and the TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-787-3224.

WEBSITES

www.emich.edu/public/wstudies/Violenceact.doc
The 1994 Violence Against Women Act

www.dvshelertour.org
Victim Services Domestic Violence Shelter Tour and Information Site: New York-based, independent non-profit organization that assists crime victims with financial, legal, and social services.

www.isomedia.com/homes/AABL
Advocates for Abused and Battered Lesbians: Assistance for women in abusive relationships with other women.

www.mincava.umn.edu
Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse
Electronic Clearinghouse: Online site aids higher education programs on violence; provides research on violence prevention

www.who.int/inf-fs/en/fact153
Female Genital Mutilation: Has fact sheet of the World Health Organization; provides basic definitions, health consequences, prevalence and distribution of the practice and more.

members.aol.com/nascasv/home.html
Speakout: The North American Student Coalition Against Sexual Violence: Recognizes, unites, and enhances the efforts of campus activists throughout North America, working to end sexual violence.

Compiled by Theta Pavis, Editor; and Wanda Jones, Intern, Peace & Freedom.

POETRY

Me is A Guyanese, Jus' So You Know!

Karen Job Wills

You!
Watching me, hearing me
Ask where I'm from.
One answer later, you say
"Where's that at?" Or, "I have
friends in Nigeria!"
You!
Living in this hemisphere
Oblivious to your neighbors!
Some, signatories like your country,
To the Treaty of the Americas!
Know this!

I, am coming out of the soil
of the Wai-Wai, Macushi and
Wapishiana!
A land that had 75 known indigenous
groups.
From where when Trade Winds blow
The Golden Arrowhead flutters
loudly
And Kaieteur, the "old man"
Roars 300, sometimes 421 feet wide
Then tumbles 741 feet down;
A sheer drop,
Giving meaning to Guyana,
Land of many Waters,
Where tangled roots of mangrove
and
Granite seawalls stand in solidarity
To back the Atlantic Ocean off!

Coming from that place
Colonized by the French, the Dutch
and
Most recently the British.
So you can understand why
My villages are La Belle Alliance,
Beterverwagting or Vreed-en-Hoop!
A fort, Kyk-Over-All!
A market, Stabroek!
Cemetery, Le Repentir!
Major Rivers Demerara.
Essequibo, Corentyne
And a capital city could be called
Georgetown!

Born where those indigenous
Build structures thatched,
Drink cassiri and paiwari,
Eat cassava bread, hunt the

Sweet bush meat named labba and
Consult the piai man and obeah
woman
For ancient wisdoms.
Where Africans named Accabre,
Cuffy,
Akara ... called for, and got slave
rebellions!
And sugar ... sugar plantation, rice
plantation
Were worked by those brought over
the ocean
Strictly to serve colonial masters'
intentions.

When you set eyes on me
Remember my navel string is buried
in the backyard
Under split banana tree leaves.
My fruits are guavas, apples with
names like
Star, Mami and Custard.
Kukreits, tamarind, papaws,
gunips, soursops and coconuts.
My food touched by Africa, Asia,
Europe and these Americas
Smells like none other!

I am child of the land of the lukanani
And of the arapaima fish swimming
in fresh water
Sometimes seven feet long
Over five hundred pounds strong!
My flowers are outrageously colored
Flambouyants, hibiscus, bougainvillea,
Vibrantly colored orchids,
lilies know as
Anthurium, water or ginger
I drink stinging nettle and korilla
bush tea
Scrub my broad back with a ninwa
And my teeth?
With sage that is black!

In my country,
The jaguar, puma and lynx spring
light
Manatees hefty surface to eat gently
from hands
In Botanical Gardens
In my interior eagles soar, sackiwinki
monkeys swing



Karen Job Wills

And horned owls, feathers well
fluffed,
Watch intently from rafters and trees.
Silty rivers are churned by ferries,
and trawlers,
And from my forests come
moraballi, silverballi,
Crabwood, wallaba, purpleheart and
greenheart,
Some of the world's hardest known
woods,

My people dig for bauxite
Pan for diamonds
Drum and dance at kweh-kwehs
Eat out of lotus leaves at weddings
Moving to the sound of tablas and
sitaras
Greet you dripping in gold
Like moving pawnshops.
Laugh hearty, cuss nasty
Owe The IMF too much money
And would gladly welcome you
as visitors
In our nice, nice country!

*Karen Job Wills is a member of
Cleveland WILPF and of WILPF's
national Truth and Reconciliation com-
mittee. "Me Is a Guyanese" has been
published by the St. Rose's Alumni
Association and in The Popular
Economist, a publication of The
Center for Popular Economics. The
poet urges every activist to attend the
Center's week-long summer institutes.
Contact the Center at (413) 545-0743
or e-mail: cpe@acad.umass.edu*

Come to the WILPF Triennial Congress

St. Louis • June 23 - 27, 1999 • Webster Groves, Missouri

- Participate in WILPF's restructuring;
- Help choose WILPF's national program for 2000;
- Develop strategies for action campaigns; and
- Listen to women who have built successful programs.

Speakers

Some of our noted Congress speakers include:

Clementine Barfield, a WILPF member from Detroit who founded Save Our Sons and Daughters after her 16-year-old son Derick was killed in the summer of 1986. An African American woman, Barfield went beyond her personal grief to initiate and organize what has become a national movement. Along with other parents of slain children and concerned citizens, Barfield began working to create alternatives to violence. Save Our Sons and Daughters offers counseling for survivors, trains volunteers, runs a crisis intervention program and a hotline. It also runs a Peace Program, aimed at developing violence-free, drug-free and gun-free peace zones throughout the city. A peace curriculum has also been created for elementary school children and is currently being used in Detroit schools. Barfield will speak on "The War at Home and the War Abroad."

Barbara Lubin, founder, Berkeley's Middle East Children's Alliance. This group works for peace between Palestinians and Israelis by breaking the cycle of violence and hatred. Lubin, a Jewish teacher from Berkeley, California, founded the organization after learning about the plight of the Palestinian people during a trip to Israel. Her group — committed to ending the suffering of children — has organized trips to Israel and the occupied territories for many people and has initiated countless programs giving voice to people from the Middle East. Lubin is currently working on a "Playground for Peace" in Gaza.

Build Bridges

Only with your ideas and skills will we build a national team that can create national actions with branch solidarity.

The Plenary speaker at the congress will carry the concept of "building bridges." A panel of diverse practitioners will speak of their widely varying efforts.

Each WILPF branch in the U.S. is asked to creatively depict any of their programs or projects at the Congress. We're hoping to receive at least one 8.5 x 10 piece of paper from every branch. A "wall" exhibit, comparable to the Wall of Peace in Beijing, will be built of these at the Congress.

Plan to come to the Congress and build bridges — between issues, groups, styles and strategies — and to build your branch's tools, with art, theater, teams and more.

For your WILPF branch's vitality, we encourage you to finance the participation of someone from your branch, especially a younger woman. Checks should be made out to your branch, marked for "Congress Assistance." If you are contributing to defray the cost of the branch's work for Congress, mark the memo "Congress Cost."

Peace Camp

Peace Camp will be held for children ages 6 to 11 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the Congress. Various activities will provide fun and consciousness raising in a warm, friendly atmosphere. We are also looking for volunteers for Peace Camp in two-to three-hour segments. If you can do this, or if you want information on Peace Camp or its nominal fees, please contact Gaby Litsky, Chair, Peace Education Committee at 831-429-8221 or das@sasquatch.com

Leadership Institute

The Leadership Institute at the Triennial National Congress is a parallel conference for new WILPF members who want to enhance their leadership skills.

Institute members must have an interest in social-action organizing, awareness of contemporary social issues and have plans to use skills learned for future political change activism. Participants will learn group and community building techniques, meet with long-time activists, become part of a network of activists and be part of the Congress.

To register for the Leadership Institute, please contact Chris Morin at (215) 563-7110 or e-mail at: cmorin@wilpf.org or rthis1@aol.com.



WILPF/U.S. Section Triennial Congress

St. Louis • June 23 - 27, 1999 • Webster University, Webster Groves, Missouri

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

BRANCH:

Date/Time of Arrival/Flight #

REGISTRATION FEES: Member, \$75 - \$100 Non-member, \$100 - \$125 \$

Please pay within the above sliding scale, according to your ability to pay.

Note: If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please contact Marilyn Clement at the WILPF National Office. mclem@igc.org

Daily registration fee. (*For partial attendance*) Thurs. Fri. Sat. \$25 x days \$

Late registration fee: Add \$20 after May 21, 1999. \$

HOUSING: \$100 for 4 days lodging at Webster University. \$

I am making my own housing arrangements. Bring linens and towels.

Note: Limited housing is available with local WILPF members, call Joann Eng-Hellinger.

I would like to share a room with:

MEAL PLAN: \$100 includes continental breakfast for 4 days, lunch for 3 days and closing dinner. Meals are served buffet style.

Vegetarian preferred Diabetic I will provide all my meals

Parking — \$1.00 per day @ days \$

Here is my Scholarship Contribution, to enable women of diverse economic backgrounds to attend \$

Please check: Child care Wheelchair Signing Building-to-building van service

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: WILPF TRIENNIAL CONGRESS

Send check and self-addressed, stamped envelope and completed form to Joann Eng-Hellinger,
615 Florence Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119-4931, (314) 968-1435, toll free number (888) 314-1435.

Important Deadlines: Registration will be considered late if postmarked after May 21, 1999. (Late registration, add \$20.00)
Requests for refunds cannot be honored if postmarked after May 28, 1999.

Dates: Congress begins on Wednesday, June 23, 1999. Registration opens at 3:00 p.m. Programs begin at 7:00 p.m., with dinner on your own. Congress ends on Sunday, June 27, 1999 at 12:00 p.m.

Please note that Webster University is wheelchair accessible and smoke free.

Transportation: Webster University, Webster Groves, MO, is a 1/2 hour drive south of Lambert International Airport, St. Louis (STL). Most major airlines fly into STL. The travel agent for this Congress is New Era Travel: 1 800 822 6393.

Public transportation is not available from the airport to Webster Groves. Taxicabs are available from STL to Webster Groves, call (314) 522 0888. One way fare is approximately \$25 for one person, plus \$1 for each additional rider. Genevieve O'Hara will be at the air port coordinating group taxis. Please give us your time of arrival and departure, airline and flight number.



Reaching Out to Refugees

.....
Paula H. Tasso, United Nations Representative
.....

Refugees have wandered the earth as long as there have been wars, persecution, discrimination, intolerance, famine and flood. But due to regional conflicts in places like the Sudan and Bosnia, the number of displaced people has grown exponentially during the last half of this century.

Becoming a refugee means the usual parameters of life are lost — only dreadful fear remains. Think of what it must mean to leave everything one owns and values — home and friends and country and culture — to begin an unguided journey, hoping to find food and shelter and safety.

Today there are 19 million refugees around the world and another 24 million displaced in their own lands. One in every 130 people on earth has been forced into flight, and most of these are women and children.

These women and children come from all over the world and they are of every race and religion. And they do not just come from the Third World — more than 4 million people have been driven from their homes in the heart of Europe. (Most refugees have found sanctuary in developing countries. Southeast Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East have about 6.4 million refugees; Africa 5 million; Europe 4.4 million; the Americas 2.9 million; Asia and Oceania 1 million.)

In 1951, the General Assembly of the United Nations recognized the enormous political and human rights issues involved with people who have been forced to leave their homeland and established the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. UNHCR is an apolitical, humanitarian organization supported in part by the United Nations and by voluntary contributions from governments, other organizations and individuals.

To work with those who no longer have a home in their own country, UNHCR employs close to 3,000 workers at 193 offices in 109 countries and supports thousands of refugee camps. Food, water, shelter and medical care are provided. The displaced must also be protected against physical harm and from being forcibly returned to a country where they would be in danger.

Finally, UNHCR works to find durable, long-term solutions. This quest has been definitively supported by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Everyone,

the Declaration states, has a right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution.

Protecting that right has not been easy. People in poor countries find it difficult to extend hospitality to others when they have so little themselves. People in rich countries fear that the influx of refugees (different languages, different cultures) will become unmanageable. UNHCR works at opening doors and strives to make sure that no refugee is returned involuntarily to a country where he or she has reason to fear persecution. This most important function is known as “international protection.”

The first role of UNHCR is to educate people to understand that due to the enormous sacrifices involved, people only become refugees after long and agonizing appraisals.

There really are only three possible solutions for refugees: voluntary repatriation, integration in the country where they sought asylum, or resettlement to a third country.

Voluntary repatriation is the best solution because the right to return to one’s homeland is as sacred as the right to seek asylum. But return is not always possible because the situation that caused a person to flee often has not changed. So UNHCR’s job is to help build new lives in

There is no greater sorrow on earth
than the loss of one’s native land.

—Euripides, 431 B.C

the new country or to find resettlement in a third country. UNHCR promotes adherence to international agreements on refugees and monitors the behavior of individual states to make sure that these agreements are respected. When refugees are mistreated or forcibly repatriated, UNHCR protests to governments at the highest level.

The UNHCR has helped more than 30 million refugees since its founding and has earned two Nobel Peace Prizes in the process. The current High Commissioner is Madame Sadako Ogata of Japan, who has served since 1991.

We in the United States should be particularly aware of the riches that other people and other cultures bring us. And we should not think just of famous refugees such as Albert Einstein, Corazon Aquino, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, but of the hundreds of doctors, lawyers, teachers, truck drivers, farmers, fishermen, mothers, fathers and children. This country has been much enriched and enlarged by immigrants and refugees.

For more information, contact UNHCR Action, P.O. Box 2500 CH - 1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland.



DEFINING GLOBALIZATION: WILPF's 1998-2001

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Following our 27th International Congress last summer, WILPF has adopted the following program for the next three-year cycle:

1. CLAIMING ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN A WORLD OF LIMITED RESOURCES

- Strengthening peoples' movements by supporting alternative economic networks; outreach to feminist, environmental and peace communities by organizing hearings, briefings and study groups on the impact of globalization.
- Promoting people-centered development with ongoing protests against cuts in social, educational and cultural programs; support of government efforts to meet basic needs.
- Relating to international institutions, particularly: reinstating the U.N. role in the global economy, and watching and responding to business involvement within U.N. bodies; monitoring the International Monetary Fund/World Bank and World Trade Organization and advocating economic, social and cultural human rights; protesting further developments of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment; and supporting the Jubilee 2000 campaign.
- Examining and exposing trans-national corporations directly profiting from war and militarism; supporting ongoing boycott initiatives and exposing unsustainable environmental practices of trans-national corporations; challenging corporate authority to govern.

2. GLOBAL MILITARISM: DISMANTLING THE PERMANENT WAR ECONOMY TO ACHIEVE HUMAN SECURITY

- Continue our Women Insist on Nuclear Disarmament (WIND) campaign, with a focus on weapons of mass destruction, nuclear-free zones, and the effects of nuclear radiation; lobby for a special session on disarmament and against space militarization.
- Inform about the intentions, mission, and mandate of military alliances, such as NATO.
- Promote conversion initiatives; oppose arms exports and strengthen U.N. register.
- Provide specific information on military activities and the environment.

- Monitor and inform about the "The New Security Industry" and the privatization of state functions, e.g., prisons, border control and domestic policing.

- Expose and resist human rights violations committed by state forces.

3. CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Build people-centered governance with participation at the local level, and build perspectives from the bottom up.
- Develop women's leadership in transforming to a culture of peace, and work closely with UNESCO's Women and a Culture of Peace program.
- Promote a holistic global understanding of human rights as a pillar of security.
- Restate the connection between peace and economic justice and promote a holistic understanding of the environment.
- Understand the current global monetary system; encourage local alternatives and promote the Tobin tax.
- Follow the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development and make the link to militarism, environment, and human security.
- Promote education for peace and encourage the development of curricula and of peace camps.
- Press for all educational institutions to begin to redress injustices. Instill respect for indigenous peoples and educate about the true history of the conquest and colonization of indigenous peoples.
- Challenge the media not to promote violence but to protect and promote the diversity of cultures and human rights.
- Genuinely democratize the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, as the world peace organization, and support regional cooperation on security by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organization of African Unity, Organization of American States.
- Promote nonviolent conflict resolution; work with the U.N. and its regional bodies and support the Decade of Nonviolence. ❖

The Hague Appeal for Peace

Barbara Lochbihler
Secretary General

The Hague Appeal for Peace is a major end-of-the-century campaign, seeking to refocus our minds on a vision of the world in which resolving conflicts through military action is seen as illegitimate and fundamentally unjust. The Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP) Conference will complete the extraordinary sequence of world conferences held over the last decade, but will be convened by civil society, not by governments. The conference will be held in The Hague from May 11-16, 1999.

The agenda for the Hague Appeal is very close to us. As advocates for the abolition of violence, the prevention of war, universal disarmament and political, social and economic cooperation of all peoples, WILPF will be actively involved in the conference.

Through our Women Insist on Nuclear Disarmament (WIND) campaign, we will be active participants in the nuclear disarmament debate.

The U.S. WILPF section is presenting a workshop on the developments toward a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the U.S. and reports on such commissions from other countries. This presentation of the issue of racism to the HAP agenda is crucial if we want the next century to have a different peace agenda.

We will have members coming from around the world, discussing and sharing their experiences. The European WILPF sections are having their regional meeting in The Hague. We will have a WILPF table at The Hague with informational material and handicrafts, including a series of beautiful wall hangings from the British section, featuring past and present women peace activists.

We will give particular attention to the themes of "Engendering the Peace Process" and "Globalization." We work for the improvement of the status of women and the promotion and protection of women's human rights.

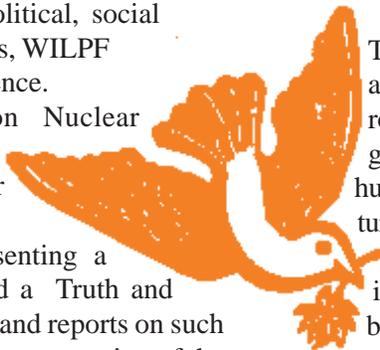
In the field of political decision-making related to peace, security and conflict resolution, women are largely underrepresented at the national and international levels — amounting to an almost complete absence of women. With the exclusion of women from the security debate, half of

the world's population has been omitted from the decision-making processes that immediately affect their lives. From the human rights perspective, it contradicts international standards of equality and prevents women from enjoying their rights as citizens of their countries and full participants in international governance. It also deprives society of women's distinctive perspectives and contributions to the prevention and resolutions of conflicts. We therefore will focus strongly on a gender perspective in all activities within HAP and organize discussions on engendering the peace process.

WILPF works on the root causes of war. This shapes our activities. Today we focus on globalization, an area on which we will organize a roundtable discussion at the HAP. The economic globalization process touches every aspect of human life, from food to health, education and culture. It leads to the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the few and to a lower standard of living, poverty and misery for a rapidly growing number of people, as well as to social and political instability and violent conflicts.

We see now on a daily basis the competition for space in the "free" world market. The real capital of our common heritage has been plundered. The land on which farmers and peasants grow food to feed us, the labor that creates goods to meet the needs of the people and the construction of schools and hospitals are quickly disappearing due to financial manipulation and currency speculation gaining fast and vast profits.

For 85 years WILPF has lived and promoted an international view of the world. We actively support the ideas of globalism and universality when they are approached from a global perspective. WILPF has formulated recommendations aimed at enhancing the quality of life on earth, reducing violence to humans and nature in all its forms, and putting people in charge of policy and institutions. This is globalism to which WILPF subscribes and for which we want to work together with many at the Hague Conference. ❖



MATERIAL AVAILABLE

The U.S. Section Committee on Corporations, Trade & Democracy has developed a packet of materials on economic globalization and challenging illegitimate corporate power. To receive a copy, send \$4 to co-chair Virginia Rasmussen, 320 Wood Road, S. Yarmouth, MA 02664, or let her know if you want information about the committee.



Time to Blow the Nuclear House Down

Felicity Hill,

WILPF Director of Liaison to the United Nations

WILPF women have always known that ending war is about disarmament — actually putting down and taking apart the tools of war. The permanent war economy is built around actual weapons: companies that make the weapons, men that make the weapons, and men — and more recently women — that use those weapons.

WILPF women have done a lot towards disarmament and we will do more in 1999 with two proposed coordinated international responses. First, as usual, WILPF women will lobby and create actions around the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Second, we hope branches and sections will engage in public, media-grabbing acts of civil disobedience, such as Citizens Inspection Teams of nuclear and related facilities during August 1 - 6.

The Women Insist on Nuclear Disarmament (WIND) WILPF campaign is based around the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Why? Disarmament and human security can only be achieved through negotiation, mediation and facilitation. Much of the work outlined in this disarmament agenda requires negotiation. The treaty is the place to negotiate nuclear disarmament. The U.S. government consistently blocks constructive moves towards actually getting down to the business outlined in the first resolution of the U.N. — nuclear disarmament.



WIND was launched in 1997 as WILPF's contribution to the Abolition 2000 Campaign, a network (of which WILPF is a founding member) of more than 1,000 NGOs working for nuclear disarmament. WIND mobilizes women in the peace movement to work towards using international law and the U.N. to achieve disarmament.

Verification, or inspections, are always part of the negotiation of disarmament treaties. The Citizen Inspection Team idea has been used all over the world to expose how nuclear weapons manufacturing, research and development is breaking international law. Even in the U.S., those doing these inspections have received remarkably light sentencing, with one judge sentencing

the inspectors to work off their Community Based Orders in their anti-nuclear organization!

Finding Courage to Use Our Strengths

A uranium mine was recently stopped in Australia. One woman made a pretty huge impact — a 92-year-old woman was arrested. She was able to say, in her own words, in her own way, why she believed uranium mining was wrong.

She was no televangelist, but she moved people because she was speaking their language, because she was one of them. She was on national television, in the papers talking about the cost, the risk and the waste of militarism and nuclear militarism. Because she was cheeky, because she was bold, because she was older, because she represents wisdom, because she made an effort at 92 to speak her truth, because the police were gentle, because older people are invisible in the mainstream media, she inspired people to demand change.

Up against disasters like Y2K, nuclear weapons and Cassini we could become depressed, cynical, defeated and downhearted. It's justified, sure, and every activist spends some time in that hole. But it's so boring — and it's not healthy for children and other living things! The other option is to:

Educate, Agitate and Organize

As WILPF women we know this, but we need to hear it over and over again. We don't have much money in this organization, but we are rich, yes very rich, in one very rare precious element and that is wise, bold, cheeky, clever women. I think we need to start being a little more dangerous. Dangerously funny, dangerously courageous, dangerously strategic about how we spend this precious resource. It takes some training, some talking and some preparation to put your body on the line — to access the media and the legal help necessary to make such actions a success. Your branch will soon receive an information packet on how to make your Citizens Inspection Team action part of an internationally simultaneous outbreak of older women leading the way out of the nuclear age and into the sun. ♦

Living with Y2K

Theta Pavis

Some people are looking at the Y2K computer bug as an opportunity to build community. The publishers of the *Utne Reader*, a bimonthly digest of alternative media, are among those who are trying to see Y2K in a positive light.

“Instead of tumbling into denial or panic or getting pissed off, let’s embrace Y2K,” Nina and Eric Utne wrote in a recent column entitled Y2K & U. “It may be the historic moment when we all finally turn toward environmental sustainability and true community.”

To help make that happen, the Utnes published a 120-page *Y2K Citizens Action Guide* and mailed it, free, to all 260,000 of their subscribers. The booklet, which costs \$4.95, can be found in the magazine section of many bookstores.

WILPF members can also get the booklet by going online to the WILPF website, www.wilpf.org and connecting from there to the Amazon bookstore site. The guide can be ordered online from Amazon and a portion of the proceeds will go to WILPF. You can also order any other book you’re interested in at Amazon and WILPF will benefit. Just be sure to log in through WILPF’s site.

The Y2K computer bug is a small problem with big implications.

To save space, early computer programmers used only two digits to represent a year. This means that many imbedded microchips and computer software programs record years as two numbers. When the year turns to 2000, many computers will see “00” and read it as the year 1900.

Since computers have become an integral part of our lives, the glitch will affect everything from small businesses to large power companies. Electric power failures, for example, could cause all kinds of problems — from

traffic light malfunctions to trouble at chemical manufacturing plants.

Many federal agencies are not expected to be ready by the time December 31, 1999 rolls around.

Others are worried about the impact on poor countries. Bob Adams, the director of The Global Development Center — which has launched a resource and discussion site about Y2K — was quoted in a January interview with the online publication *ShopGuideNews*, saying, “Much of what is written about Y2K is in relation to its effect on



affluent nations. But what about the majority of the world’s population? What will happen if huge urban centers like Mexico City, Dakar, Jakarta, Shanghai, Lagos or Moscow go without electricity or water or telecommunications or transportation, or all of these, for 30 days or 90 days or indefinitely?”

The *Utne Y2K Citizens Action Guide* includes sample speeches that can be made when organizing local community groups to address the problem, as well as information on how to take inventories of households and neighborhoods. Communities that are tackling the problem, including Boulder, Colorado are detailed, with information about how to organize meetings in your own town.

There are also articles on how to question public officials about preparedness.

The *Utne Reader* is also soliciting funding for a Y2K public education campaign and plans on offering an expanded web site with lists of Y2K events and links, according to Kath Delaney, a spokeswoman for *Utne*.

Delaney said subscribers and their friends have already clamored for more than 7,500 additional copies of the guide.

ONLINE RESOURCES ABOUT Y2K

- A toll-free hotline for people seeking information on Y2K has been set up by the federal government: 1-888-872-4925.
- You can read the UtneY2K guide online at: www.utne.com/y2k
- The Global Development Center has launched a resource and discussion site about Y2K. The center’s Y2K website is: www.globaly2k.org
- The President’s Council on Year 2000 Conversion runs a website where you can read its assessment of several industries and governmental agencies: www.y2k.gov/
- The Small Business Administration and Dell Computer Corporation runs a site with information on making computers Y2K compliant: www.dell.com/smallbiz/y2k
- Several pieces in the Y2K Citizen’s Action Guide are written by Paloma O’Riley, founder of the Cassandra Project, a grassroots, nonprofit focusing on Y2K preparedness: www.cassandraproject.org
- To get information on preparedness, check out the Red Cross site at: www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/y2k.html
- One of several sites geared largely to people in the high tech field but with lots of information is: www.y2kinfo.com

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CEDAW: The Push for Ratification

Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Coordinator

The 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights observed worldwide last year may have stirred up more chagrin than celebration among U.S. feminists. This glorious document, a testament to the vision and persistence of Eleanor Roosevelt, lies dormant, little recognized or used. Governing institutions in the U.S. ignore significant dimensions of the human rights embodied in the Declaration, because they are not enshrined in our own Bill of Rights. There is little to no public understanding of the global consensus, in principle at least, that all human beings are entitled to fundamental rights.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), or the Women's Treaty, is one of the major human rights documents women can use to turn the principles of the Declaration into enforceable rights for women in the U.S. and around the world. The international human rights framework elaborated by Elmira Nazombe elsewhere in this issue provides a valuable tool for women organizing to take power over their own lives.

What Does the Women's Treaty Provide?

CEDAW defines discrimination as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

States are required to take "all appropriate measures" to eliminate discrimination. "Temporary special measures" to accelerate equality are also expressly permitted.

CEDAW mandates equality in political and public life, property rights, legal capacity, marriage law, family decision-making, health care services, including family planning and education. It recognizes the right to work as "an inalienable right of all human beings" and mandates equal pay, social security and benefits. The only enforcement provision provided for in the treaty is a review process of national compliance reports, required every four years. An "Optional Protocol," to provide an effective compliant process, has been drafted and is being pressed by women's rights groups.

Why WILPF?

Groups working on CEDAW ratification have stressed

the leadership role the United States can and should play in supporting equal rights for women in other countries. They cite effective use of CEDAW to advance women's rights in Nepal, Japan, Tanzania and Botswana and contrast CEDAW's provisions to the ghastly situation of Afghan women, who are living under gender apartheid.

U.S. WILPF should educate around CEDAW's utility and application to women's lives and peace and justice work in the United States. We can use the opportunity of this growing campaign to generate a new understanding of human rights, new recognition of the importance of the United Nations, and new insistence that the United States pay its outstanding dues to the U.N.

As an international women's peace organization, we have a unique perspective and unique resources to contribute. We should use them to educate and provide leadership in pushing for U.S. ratification. WILPF can work with women from other countries to participate effectively in the CEDAW compliance process, preparing "shadow" reports and speaking up with facts that the reviewing Committee won't get from government reports.

Organizing Around Ratification

Despite the commitment at the Beijing Conference by all participating governments to ratify CEDAW, the U.S. remains the ranking member of a very small group of non-ratifying countries, including: Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and North Korea.

We actively participated in the treaty negotiations in the 1970s. President Carter signed CEDAW in 1980. After long delays in the Senate, the convention was reported out favorably by the Foreign Relations Committee in late September 1994. It fell victim to the Republican take-over in the November 1998 elections. The treaty now languishes in the Foreign Relations Committee, hostage to Sen. Jesse Helms.

A Working Group on Ratification, which has done a headcount of the new 106th Congress and is organizing congressional briefings and visits, coordinates the inside-the-beltway ratification campaign. WILPF participates on the Steering Committee. Kit Cosby of the Baha'is of the United States, and Pat Rangel, Chief Legislative Counsel of Amnesty International USA co-chair the group. Billie Heller, on the West Coast, circulates information to a growing network of local and state coalitions mobilizing support for ratification.

Public programs and media campaigns on gender issues and CEDAW, hearings in city councils and state legislatures, and other events are creating greater public awareness that "women's issues" are very much alive. For example, after an 18-month campaign the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance making CEDAW the law in its jurisdiction. ♦

Hundreds Gather at 50 Years Conference

Njoki Njoroge Njehu

A report on the third 50 Years Is Enough Conference — “Sado-Monetarism: The Other Capital Punishment — the IMF and World Bank in the Global Economic Order.”

The latest Sado-Monetarism conference was our most successful yet, in terms of sheer attendance, the range of subjects covered and the interests and passions stirred up.

The conference was held at the American University in Washington, D.C. in early October, 1998. All told, there were 394 registered participants. We were very pleased to share some of our sessions with the first national meeting of Jubilee 2000, the global movement for the cancellation of poor countries' crushing debt burdens by the year 2000.

Since the conference we have been very busy with the joint annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, other parallel events, and the continued fight to educate Congress on the necessity of not giving the IMF more money.

THE CONFERENCE

On Friday, October 2, we held a press conference. Speakers included U.S. Representative Bernie Sanders (Independent of Vermont), Walden Bello (Focus on the Global South, Bangkok), Brent Blackwelder (Friends of the Earth-U.S.), Robin Round (Halifax Initiative, Canada), and Patrick Bond (Campaign Against Neo-Liberalism in South Africa).

We were covered by a range of media, including: CNN, Bloomberg Financial News, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., and Die Zeit (Germany).

The conference kicked off Friday evening with a plenary analyzing the causes of the East Asia crisis. There were several speakers, including Dennis Brutus, a South African poet and anti-apartheid campaigner, who talked about the continuing crisis in his home country.

Later plenary speakers included Kofi Klu, of Jubilee 2000 Afrika, who spoke about the illegitimacy of the crushing debts preventing any advancement in Africa. Lori Wallach of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch updated us on the nefarious activities of the World Trade Organization and promoters of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. (MAI). Oronto Douglas outlined the history of corporate exploitation and terror in Nigeria. Gustavo Castro Soto talked about resistance to international neo-liberalism in Chiapas, Mexico. Cheri Honkala, a leading welfare rights activist, brought the

talk of global economics back to the streets and the homeless of U.S. cities, and Kevin Danaher of Global Exchange closed the conference with reasons for hope and signs of progress in the struggle.

Some of the workshops at the conference included: sessions on the MAI, youth activism, the Russian financial crisis, questioning standard economic indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), community-based monitoring of World Bank projects in Indonesia, China's Three Gorges Dam project, and the IMF's connection to militarization in Africa.

We also held a rally calling for definitive debt relief and an end to globalization that leads to environmental degradation. We commenced at the White House in Lafayette Park, where we directed our demands to the Clinton Administration and to the Treasury Department for an end to the powers of the IMF in setting economic programs for countries in the Southern Hemisphere. We also called for a denial of the \$18 billion IMF expansion fund.

Later, we continued on our march to the World Bank headquarters and then to the Mexican Embassy, where we heard about the impact of neo-liberal policies on the poor and especially indigenous communities throughout Mexico, and specifically in Chiapas, and the ramifications in the human rights arena. Then we marched to our ultimate destination, the IMF headquarters, where a joint meeting between the World Bank and the IMF's Interim Committee was taking place.

We heard from several speakers who called for cancellation of the crushing debt of impoverished countries and an end to the power of the IMF in designing and shaping economic policies. We created a human chain and surrounded the IMF's main building, then re-gathered at the entrance to the IMF, just as various officials, including the World Bank president, were coming out.

They had to walk the gantlet — it was a poignant hour as the people, mostly men, who make decisions about the lives and futures of the world's poorest people emerged from their meeting and confronted us as we made our demands.

The looks on their faces — arrogance, disdain, embarrassed smiles and grimaces, bafflement — were a sight to see.

A Kenyan national, Njoki Njoroge Njehu is director of the 50 Years Is Enough Network, a coalition dedicated to the profound transformation of the World Bank and the IMF. She can be reached at (202) 544-9355. For a complete list and descriptions of the workshops held at the conference, go to the network's website: www.50years.org

Remembering Rachel Tilsen

Ellie Bluestein

Rachel Tilsen died on March 28, 1998. She was my mentor, sister and dear friend. Forty-five years ago, she introduced me to WILPF. We were young mothers, trying to figure out how to raise our children peacefully in a world of violence. We started a study group of young mothers to discuss this. Out of that experience and friendship, I developed my whole philosophy and approach to raising my own children and my lifelong involvement with WILPF.

Although I left Minnesota a short time later, our connection remained vital, through letters, reunions, and our activities in the world. Rachel continued to be a model for me although I never had the courage to act on my convictions as consistently and fully as she did.

When Viola Liuzzo was murdered, Rachel made provisions for her family and headed off to march in Selma. Her home became a gathering place for freedom fighters who were going to register voters in the South, and the site of numerous fund-raisers. One young freedom fighter from the South came back with her, stayed on, and became a member of the family.

During the Vietnam War, her home was a haven for draft resisters and anti-war meetings.

She and her whole family played an integral part in the Wounded Knee Resistance. Both she and her husband Ken were lawyers, and Rachel started the Wounded Knee Defense Offense Committee and ran the law office for the defense of Indian people who were charged with crimes during the 1993 occupation of Wounded Knee.

She also started the Native American Solidarity Committee, a national organization of non-Indian people working in solidarity with Native People. She went to Geneva as part of the Native American delegation to bring their issues before the U.N.



During this time she was a WILPF National Board member and attended a world peace congress in the Soviet Union, taking with her an American Indian Activist.

Later, she started a small press publishing company, Midwest Villages and Voices, dedicated to publishing works of Midwesterners committed to social change.

In her last years she cared for her mother, author Meridel LeSueur, and arranged for her legacy of writing to be preserved and available. Most important, she raised five amazing children, all active in carrying forward her goals, bringing love, understanding, peace and justice to the world. In addition, she nurtured and influenced 16 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and scores of children and adults. Truly, her life had power and beauty that does not end with her death.

Editor's note: Hundreds of memorial contributions were sent to WILPF in memory of Rachel Tilsen.

Ellie Bluestein is a lifetime member of WILPF and the membership chair of WILPF's Fresno, California branch.

THERE'S A WILL IN YOUR FUTURE! IS IT YOURS OR THE STATE'S?

If you don't have a personal will when you die, state laws will take over and your estate will be distributed accordingly, in ways that you might not have chosen. If you would like to leave a legacy of peace and justice to the next generation, WILPF would be a way to consider doing that — we still have so much to do!

- CONSIDER THIS:**
- If you have certain wishes for your estate and your heirs;
 - If you would like to name your own executor, and a guardian for your minor children;
 - Or, if you want to leave a bequest for WILPF or any other worthy cause— you must say so in a personal will.

Before making or revising your will, be sure to see the free brochure offered here, "Leave a Legacy for Women, Peace & Freedom." Just use the coupon below to request it. No obligation. **Clip and Mail Today**

To: Planned Giving, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107
Please send me a copy of "Leave a Legacy for Women, Peace & Freedom." I understand there is no obligation.

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Groundbreaking Film Addresses Lesbian and Gay Issues

Chris Morin

WILPF Leadership Outreach Coordinator

It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School is an award-winning film about what happens when teachers address lesbian and gay issues in the classroom. With inspiring footage shot in schools across the country, the film takes viewers inside first through eighth grade classrooms to find out what young students have to say about a topic that often leaves adults tongue-tied.

A veteran San Francisco filmmaker, Debra Chasnoff directed and produced the film with Helen Cohen. Chasnoff has also produced the Oscar winning *Deadly Deception*, an exposé of General Electric. Her goal in filmmaking is to get results and her unapologetic intent in *It's Elementary* is to alter school curricula.

Rarely do adults have a chance to see and hear what children already know about gay people or to find out what students want to learn. And rarely do we have an opportunity to see how addressing anti-gay prejudice in the classroom is connected to the commitments all of us share in preventing violence, supporting families and promoting social equality.

Since its release in 1996, *It's Elementary* has had a

phenomenal impact, creating a tidal wave of activism and public dialogue about dealing with lesbian and gay issues in schools. Parents, educators, administrators, counselors, and policy makers have been sharing copies of this video with their colleagues and community members in thousands of diverse settings, both nationally and internationally. The film has been successful in jump-starting the national and local discussions that need to happen if schools are to be truly safe and welcoming environments for all students.

"Schools cannot be neutral when we're dealing with issues of human dignity and human rights. I'm not talking about tolerance. I'm talking about acceptance. *It's Elementary* is a great resource for parents, teachers and community leaders working to teach respect and responsibility to America's children," said Bob Chase, President of the National Education Association.

It's no surprise that right-wing groups and media, including the Traditional Values Coalition, Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council, Phyllis Schlafley's Reports and Concerned Women for America have been carrying out major fundraising drives and anti-gay organizing campaigns, using the film as their call to action. A September 21, 1997 *New York Post* article entitled, "Gay flick sickens kids' minds" misrepresented the video and was chock full of the kind of paranoia and fear that contributes to homophobia. ➤

Finding Her Voice: Helping Your Daughter Speak Up With Confidence

Margaret Broad

As girls grow and develop, their voices need to be encouraged, beginning at least in early adolescence. Learning to articulate thoughts and feelings goes hand-in-hand with developing self-confidence. Do you know whether your daughter speaks up in class? Is she comfortable disagreeing and dissenting? Is she encouraged to express herself clearly and openly? Does she share her thoughts and feelings with you, other adults and peers?

It is a documented phenomenon that, unlike boys, many teenage girls lose their self-esteem and therefore lose confidence in their ability to articulate their experiences. Developmental psychologists Carol Gillian and Lyn Mikel Brown speak about the connection between girls' images of self and girls' voices in a book entitled *Meeting at the Crossroads*. What can you do to help

your daughter develop a strong sense of self and therefore gain a strong voice?

Get to Know Your Daughter's Schooling Experience
Talk to your daughter's teachers. Find out if they encourage your daughter to speak up and be heard in the classroom. Does she respond readily to teachers' questions? Does she initiate discussion? Does she take an assertive

➤ *Continued on page 23*

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

➤ **Film: It's Elementary** *Continued*

My perception of *It's Elementary* was different. The children in the film already had views about gays and lesbians, and the teachers took the opportunity to give them facts and talk about prejudice.

Still, the Chair of the Concerned Women for America, Beverly LaHaye, has written that her group "has uncovered an aggressive new national campaign to put an extremely dangerous pro-homosexual video in every school in America to be viewed by children as young as kindergarten age."

Yet the promotional materials for this video strictly say that it is for educating adults, so they can learn how to introduce this subject to children since it is so vital in the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals who live in fear of hatred.

This film does not teach or promote homosexuality. It looks at homosexuality as a given sexual orientation and addresses the issues of homophobia. The dialogues of the children in the film are touching, matter of fact, sensitive and eye opening. Nobody is judged by his or her knowledge, or lack of knowledge. Whereas the younger students were much more accepting of a gay/lesbian orientation, the prejudice of students was much clearer in eighth grade students.

The film's message is that by changing school curricula, school officials can address homosexuality at a young age so prejudices and fears do not take hold.

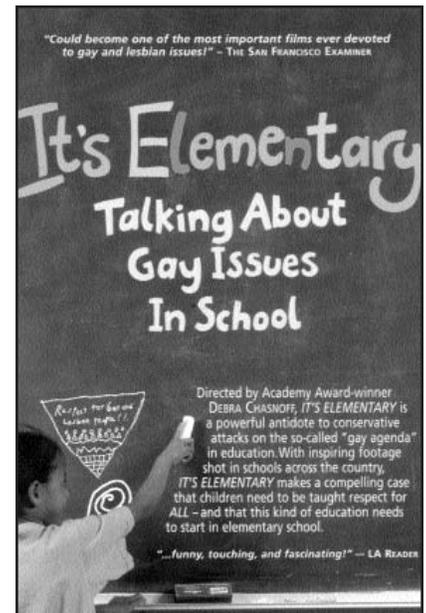
Prejudice and fears lead to violence, whether it is in the form of a homophobic joke or physical battering.

"If schools are serious about preparing students for the future, we have to help them handle the diversity that exists in our communities," said Carolyn B. Sheldon, president of the American School Counselor Association. "By

addressing gay issues, we will prevent violence and foster equality. *It's Elementary* is an extremely moving portrait of how it can be done."

Since WILPF's policies are all-inclusive, this is a must-see film for our work against oppression, specifically concerning homophobia.

To rent or purchase the film contact Women's Educational Media, 2180 Bryant Street, Suite 203, San Francisco, CA 94110 or call 415-641-4616 or e-mail wemfilms@womedia.org ❖



➤ **Helping Your Daughter** *Continued*

role in group work? Does she express what she is thinking and feeling?

Ask your daughter's teachers to describe her. Comments such as, "She's a nice, quiet, conscientious girl," should raise a red flag. Your daughter is probably not speaking up enough in class and her teacher is not expecting enough. Make sure that your daughter's teachers concentrate more on the attainment of skills and refinement of talent, and less on appearance, peer assessment or "ladylike" behavior.

Be aware of the teaching styles used in your daughter's classrooms. Research shows that girls learn best in classrooms where competitive and collaborative learning styles are blended, and where the traditional use of lecturing, listening and imitating is limited. Find out how many opportunities your daughter has to participate in small-group projects and discussions, and to learn using a hands-on approach.

Open Lines of Communication at Home

Build good family communication habits as early as

possible, preferably before your daughter enters adolescence. Establishing open lines of communication early on will pave the way for better communication as adolescence sets in, a time when parents and daughters often have more trouble seeing eye-to-eye. Whenever possible, look for ways to develop mutual interests and to share activities with your daughter.

Listen to your daughter without criticizing her. Let your daughter know her



thoughts, feelings, and experiences are important to you.

Don't be afraid to probe gently and ask, "What do you think?" or "How do you feel?" You may not always hear the answer you want, but it is important that you encourage your daughter to give honest answers and say how she really feels. Remember, if you truly respect your daughter's thoughts and feeling she will grow to respect herself.

Structure family activities, including family meals,

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Girls Research Gender

Jennifer Byrd, Kara Reale, and Lily Thom

Reprinted with permission from a 1996 article in *New Moon, The magazine for Girls and Their Dreams*.

This year girls from all over the world participated in Take Our Daughters to Work Day (April 25). One group of girls went to work at Cable Network News (CNN) and produced their own story. Later, it aired on television throughout the United States. The girls learned about reporting — and much more! Below, a few of the girls tell about their experience. LOVE, LUNA.



The producers of All About Women, a CNN news program about girls and women, wanted girls to make a show for Take Our Daughters to Work Day. Since they did not have daughters of their own, they picked five girls to help produce a show. They found Kara Reale, Aria

Emmanuel, Franchesca Medina, Jennifer Byrd, and Lily Thom, former eighth-graders from the Manhattan Country School (MCS) in New York. We were thrilled at the idea of being on TV.

From the start, the camera was on us. We giggled nervously and tried to look professional. Once the camera was off, we slouched again, had fits of laughter, and then got back to work. First, we met with the producers to think about “girls issues” we could discuss and research. We discussed classroom behavior and how boys tend to be more aggressive, while girls feel more cautious about raising their hands and calling out. We decided to research how girls are treated and behave in coed (boys and girls) versus all-girl classrooms.

We began our reporting by interviewing researcher David Sadker, co-author of *Failing at Fairness*. His book tells how girls are sometimes treated unequally compared to boys in classrooms. This is called gender discrimination.

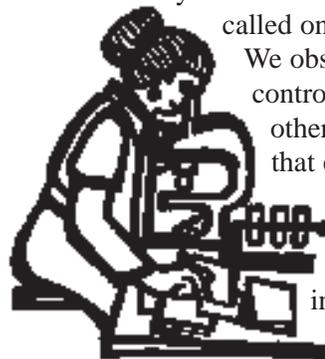
Sadker told us that unless you are aware of the problem of gender discrimination, it is hard to notice. He said that one way to see how boys control classrooms is to give out poker chips. He said that if every student in a coed classroom had two poker chips and had to turn in a

chip every time he or she spoke in class, chances are the girls would probably have one or both chips left at the end of class. He said teachers have the tendency to call on boys more in a coed classroom. He also said that girls may fear the idea of getting the problem wrong, but boys don't have a problem with getting wrong answers. We agree with this point because, from our own experiences in the classroom, we hold back answers because they may be wrong.

Next, we took our cameras to two sixth-grade math classes: MCS and an all-girls' class at the Nightingale-Bamford school. At MCS we observed teacher Junius Harris and his class. In a group discussion about the previous night's homework, a boy was the first to admit difficulty with the assignment. Many girls agreed with him. This surprised us because we expected the boys to deny problems more. But, a little later, we heard the expected, “This was so-o-o easy” from one boy. The boys and girls appeared equally aggressive. Some students were quieter in class, but those were both girls and boys.

When we were in the sixth grade at MCS there was very subtle gender discrimination. In literature we read five books and only one had a main character who was female. But we remember teachers discussing gender issues and working to make school more equal for girls.

When we got to the all-girl Nightingale-Bamford school we sat in a corner and watched the students. Some students seemed confident about what they said. Later, the teacher Mrs. Guggenheimer told us that the point of all-girls' school was for girls to gain confidence and not feel intimidated by boys or be “afraid to appear smart.” Other girls raised their hands shyly and only answered one question. When someone got the wrong answer, girls rolled their eyes and laughed at her. She tried to laugh it off, too, but we could feel her embarrassment. A few of the girls waved their hands wildly, yelled the teacher's name, and were called on right away.



We observed that some girls controlled the classroom, while other girls remained quiet, and that even in an all-girl environment, not all girls spoke up more. We feel that a girl's participation in class depends partly on who she is and how willing she is to speak

up on her own behalf.

We don't believe that single-sex schools are the answer to gender problems. Instead of separating the genders and making them change individually, they

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should be together. Girls do need to learn to be more aggressive and to gain more confidence, but we think that they also need to learn to live with boys. Gender



equity doesn't just depend on girls learning to be like boys.

After finishing our reporting, the cameras stopped, and we watched the editing session. The most important part of this process was the way the editors edit shots. They matched what people said

with a good shot on the camera. Funny twitches and faces vanished amazingly, as if they had never happened.

The CNN project was hard work, but interesting. We learned a lot about the process involved in reporting. Most of all, we learned to be more aware of gender equality and the treatment of boys and girls in the classroom. We also became more aware of our own classroom behavior as girls.

We think that the more knowledge girls have about the problem of gender discrimination, the more it will help us change our behavior in coed classrooms. Eventually girls will demand equal treatment in classrooms. We also think that when teachers become more aware of it, they will change. This will help our chances in the future as women to become equal in all areas of society.

Jennifer Byrd, 14, attends school at Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, New York. She likes to read, hang out, talk on the telephone, and watch TV "quite often." Jennifer would like to study to be a psychologist. Kara Reale, 14, attends The Master School in Dobbs Ferry, New York. She enjoys swimming, drawing and writing. Her nickname is Karita. Lily Thom, 14, attends the Brans High School of Science. She likes dancing, acting, art, and especially loves to write. Besides writing this article, Lily did all the editing for her group.

HELPING YOUR DAUGHTER SPEAK UP

➤ *Continued from page 23*

so that some evolve around conversation. This will help keep the lines of communication open in times of confrontation. Listen carefully to conversations you share with your daughter. Do not be judgmental. Rather, respond logically and calmly.

Explore Community Opportunities

Reach out into the community: get your daughter involved in children's programs at local museums, at the YWCA, at church groups or in other organizations. Mixing with other peers and adults outside of school gives girls greater confidence in social settings.

Join community sports and organizations. Sports teach girls the skills of teamwork, competition and motivation. These will contribute to your daughter's sense of physical well being, as well as to her ability to express herself and take initiative in many other areas of life.

Encourage your daughter to get involved in public service/volunteer opportunities or part-time jobs if she is old enough. Opportunities for girls to work with others and to talk about jobs and responsibilities is important in establishing role models and building aspirations.

Through relationships, schoolwork and community experiences, girls can learn to actively explore their feelings, thoughts and emotions. You can encourage your daughter to come to terms with her own experiences and to know that they are relevant, valid, and meaningful. In order to develop confidence and a strong voice, your daughter must learn to accept and love herself. Helping your daughter to do so is one of the greatest gifts you can give to her.

Margaret Broad is head of St. Margaret's School, a grade 8th through 12th boarding and day school celebrating its 75th anniversary in Tappahannock, Virginia. (Check out their world web site at <http://www.sms-va.com>) Margaret has a master's degree from the University of Virginia, and has lived in England, France and the United States. This article was provided by the National Coalition of Girls' Schools, based in Concord, Massachusetts.

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Be sure to visit the new and improved WILPF website
www.wilpf.org

where you will see more content than ever before. Visit the site to chat, read, research and build community.

Help Increase the Peace

Rick Wilson

The Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) is a fun, participatory workshop developed by the American Friends Service Committee to promote alternatives to violence, reduce prejudice, and create positive social change. The three-day workshops can be adapted to the needs and ages of participants ranging from adults to elementary school students. Once participants have completed the basic workshop, they can move on to other levels, including an advanced workshop and a training for trainers.

HIPP was initially developed in Syracuse, New York in response to the deaths of several young people — including the death of a 17-year-old boy who was shot in the head. Erik Wissa and Lisa Munday, who then worked with the AFSC Youth Empowerment Program, felt the need to help young people learn non-violent ways of avoiding danger and solving problems. The program, which began in 1991, initially was inspired by the Alternatives to Violence Project, which is primarily known for offering workshops in correctional institutions. The project's workshops emphasize activities dealing with affirmation, communication, cooperation, and conflict resolution.

Wissa and Mundy began to make changes in the program to meet the needs of young people attending public school. As the program developed and spread to other areas, its focus was broadened to include exercises and discussions on such topics as; prejudice and intolerance, domestic violence, root causes of violence, economic justice and applying nonviolent skills to work for a better society.

A typical workshop consists of icebreakers, games, small and large group discussions, role-plays, hands-on exercises, and one-to-one conversations. The pace usually strikes a balance between fun and games and serious activities. Even the games tend to promote cooperation and verbal and nonverbal communication as building block of nonviolence.

The features that may distinguish HIPP from other programs dealing with violence are its social approach, its popular education methodology, and its goal of interesting participants in working for positive social and community change.

Many "conflict resolution" programs seem to view all violence as essentially personal. In HIPP workshops, participants as young as elementary schoolers are asked to identify what they consider to be the root causes of violence. Even young students are quick to identify such factors as poverty, racism, sexism, inequality, abuse of

power, and greed as factors which are violent themselves and contribute to interpersonal violence. Most participants recognize that increasing the peace is about a lot more than not fighting; it is about working to make things fairer to everyone.

Popular education is a method of pedagogy developed by Brazilian educator Paulo Freire. It is based on dialogue rather than lecturing and its contents come from those who participate in it. The goal of popular education is an ongoing cycle of action and reflection in which participants critically analyze and change their reality. For example, in HIPP workshops, participants are not told what violence is; they are asked what they think it is based on their own experience. As ideas are shared between diverse participants and trainers, all parties can gain a greater understanding. HIPP workshops accept participants where and as they are and build from there.

Once the workshops are completed, participants are encouraged to put ideas to use in improving the school or community. Students, for example, have organized school wide events or become involved in community service activities. Others have participated in community development and organizing efforts or used HIPP skills to strengthen their ongoing work.

HIPP workshops have been held in a variety of settings, including schools at all levels, colleges, homeless and women's shelters, correctional institutions, churches, summer camps and community centers. Its participants have included young children, educators, prisoners or probationers, homeless people, Americorps volunteers, immigrant communities, organizers and activists. Ideally, the workshops provide the basis for follow-up activities ranging from more training to increased activism in the larger community.

In West Virginia, AFSC and WILPF have joined forces to introduce the program to young people in southern West Virginia. Several workshops have been held and more are planned for elementary and middle school students and juveniles on probation. A current goal is to develop local trainers to adapt the program to local needs.

For more information about HIPP, contact AFSC at 410-323-7200.

Rick Wilson is the Project Director of the West Virginia Economic Justice Project.





Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor

SPECIAL ATTENTION

GLOBALIZATION

Portland prepared informational packets on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment and delivered them along with resolutions passed by a number of outside governmental jurisdictions to the mayor of Portland, city commissioners, the county chair, and county commissioners. They urged these government officials to study the treaty and consider its impact on the ability of governmental agencies to do business. (FFI contact Barbara Drageaux, WILPF, 1819 NW Everett, Portland OR 97209, 503-224-5190.)

RACISM

Boulder's new Task Force on Racism has tackled racist decisions involved in a citywide race, for which they developed a multi-racial coalition that included local runners and raised community consciousness about the issue; school policies about the hiring and retention of people of color, which resulted in the hiring of a Latino administrator and establishment of a district task force to address the issues; and similar police department policies. They also revived the WILPF Reading to End Racism project. This focus has brought much interest in WILPF and desire to work with them. (Contact newsletter editor Susan Constantine, 4305 Whitney Place, Boulder CO 80303-6712, email: constant@spot.colorado.edu.)

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Fort Collins/Loveland worked with the Fort Collins Human Rights Office and other city offices to celebrate this anniversary. Thomas Sutherland, former hostage in Beirut, and his wife were featured speakers. **Detroit** celebrated Jane Addams Day in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary with the theme Turning Words into Actions. **Santa Cruz** looked at the status of women's rights around the world, with a panel focusing on South Africa, Central America, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Iran. **Portland** co-sponsored a celebration that included a slide show on the history of Human Rights documents, a talk on CEDAW, and high school students performing Theatre of the Oppressed, after being taught by Laura Partridge, Master Artist in Theatre and Drama and WILPF member from **Omaha**. Laura has used Augusto Boal's techniques of relaying historical data, communicating positive social values, and eliminating oppressive environments for years.

FOCUS ON WOMEN

MN Metro WILPFers have created a handbook for women about global economics, *Local to Global Economic Literacy*. (To order contact: Sally Flax, 1920 S. First St.

#1201, Minneapolis, MN 55454.) **Detroit** printed a column from *The New York Times* on the situation of women in Afghanistan, especially those dying without health care of



any kind. They note that the Feminist Majority Foundation, with other groups, is beginning a campaign on behalf of the women of Afghanistan, modeling it on the effort against apartheid in South Africa. **Santa Cruz** printed a letter asking for political pressure for Lori Berenson, in prison in Peru since 1995. **Tucson** WILPF member Gloria McMillan has published a novel on the Internet called *Waking the Dead*. It is an historical novel set in 1893 and includes Jane Addams. Read it at: www.mcs.net/~flynn/public/gloria.

USING THEATER FOR JUSTICE

Cape Cod is using Augusto Boal's theories of theater in two projects: a forum theater presentation on classism (where the audience can change the script to rehearse their resistance to oppression) and an invisible theater (where the audience doesn't know the action is theater)



about the effects of war toys on children. The Arts Committee of **MN Metro** has developed a puppet and mask show on female genital mutilation that will debut on International Women's Day.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Detroit printed a holiday shopping reminder about boycotts to remember — items from Disney, Wal-Mart and ABC network-advertised products — and asked readers to let them know about others. Detroit also co-sponsored a Stop War Toys demonstration outside Toys 'R Us. **Fresno** held its annual fundraiser Holiday Crafts Faire. It also participated in the Holiday Season of Conscience Rally in front of Wal-Mart in December.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Catonsville heard about a vivid example of block busting by a speaker on Housing and Race Relations and the history of Edmondson Village in Pennsylvania, established as totally white in the 1940s and which became almost all African American in the 1960s. **Santa Cruz** reported on the



Girls from a Minnesota Peace Choir sing at the School of the Americas Demonstration in Fort Benning, GA.
Photo: Beth Trigg

effectiveness of its and other groups work helping residents of a community have input into the development of their neighborhood. The final result was a win-win compromise.

VIOLENCE

Cape Cod reported on the effectiveness of its Hall of Remembrance, created as a sacred space at its Honoring Our Casualties program in November. Exhibits covered casualties of global war, domestic violence, breast cancer, racism and AIDS. There was room for people to sit and feel the emotions stirred by the exhibit, and journals were provided for sharing thoughts and feelings. (For more information contact Laurie Gates, 38 Dusty Miller Lane, South Chatham, MA 02659.)

OTHER DOMESTIC ISSUES

Fort Collins/Loveland asked for a Christmas pardon for Leonard Peltier, who has spent 22 years in prison. Portland urges contributions for further appeals for Mumia Abu-Jamal, whose last appeal was rejected in October. (Checks to The Bill of Rights Foundation, to The Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, 163 Amsterdam Ave. No. 115, New York, NY 10023-5001.) **Portland** also had a program to recognize and honor SOA protesters and give a send-off to those going to the 1998 demonstration at Fort Benning. Fresno included in its newsletter the National Petition to Protect, Improve and Expand Medicare being circulated by The Health Care for All **Central California** Chapter.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Colorado Cluster gave prominent attention to the need for Jubilee 2000 especially in connection with the devastation of Hurricane Mitch and the fact that Nicaragua is supposed to pay \$2 million per day on its debt. **Catonsville** joined a day of remembrance and prayer for East Timor on

November 12 and urged President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright to act on congressional resolutions calling for support and international supervision of a referendum on self-determination. **Berkeley** gave the basics of several issues (Iraq, Cuba, Indonesia, U.N., SOA, Test Ban Treaty, military spending, Chiapas) and urged readers to ask senators and the president to support peace positions.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Cape Cod produced its January newsletter by having individual members take one piece of news or an event and write up the report.

➤ LIVING WITH Y2K

Continued from 18

The Utnes call the guide the “most non-alarmist, practical, clear-headed collection of articles we’ve seen on . . . preparedness.”

Eric Utne founded the magazine 15 years ago. In the guide, he says Y2K could be “the excuse we’ve all been waiting for” to get to know our neighbors and work together to build community.

Several articles in the guide outline the Y2K problem and stress how intertwined computers have become in everyday life. A section on public citizenship details what people can do to help, such as making sure their workplaces are Y2K compliant and pressing “for much more aggressive leadership at the national level to address the Y2K problem.”



Theta Pavis is guest editor of Peace & Freedom. She is a freelance technology writer based in Philadelphia.



Cuba Action

Lisa Valanti

Sisterhood is powerful, and this year WILPF women across the country will again prove that truth to be self-evident as they work to develop Sister Cities with their Cuban counterparts.

Sister Cities with Cuba are being widely adopted, and have proved to offer networking opportunities for a diverse group of people to work together within their own organizational framework. So far, there are several Sister Cities formally recognized by the Cubans, and many more in developing stages. We hope every WILPF member and chapter will adopt a city.

In addition, a new organization has been developed to try and assist people with the process of building a Sister City, called the U.S.-CUBA Sister Cities Association. It will serve as a nationwide clearinghouse for information about how to get a group started. In March, a nationwide convening of the group was held in Pittsburgh. Stay tuned for helpful guides, contacts and procedures which will be available through WILPF to help our projects get started.

As part of our U.S. agenda, WILPF chapters and members-at-large will seek out Sister Cities where they exist and create them where they do not. As we enter this era of globalization, new challenges have to be faced and creative ways to accomplish our objectives have to be found. Together, we will find the power to meet these challenges.

Sister Cities are perfect tools for the task at hand. It has been said that women are the foundation that holds civilization together. Sister Cities seek to develop human community across all barriers of political, cultural, racial, economic and ideological differences.

Many WILPFers are familiar with the success of Sister Cities, through their participation in developing projects in Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador in the 1970s and 1980s, which exposed the true nature of the covert/contra wars being waged in Central America. Through fostering people-to-people exchanges, public opinion demanded the U.S. Congress cut off funding, and seek settlements through peace negotiations.

At first, Sister Cities International didn't recognize Central American Sister Cities, but they became too numerous to ignore and eventually the organization did reconsider and accept them. Today the group doesn't

recognize Sister Cities with Cuba. Our challenge is the test of future Sister Cities; we will build a nationwide campaign, which will eventually change the current Cold War stalemate.

As we move toward the new millennium, WILPF recognizes it is time to be a healing force of constructive engagement between our two nations. To be the voice of reason, compassion and moderation in finally putting the Cold War to an end, we need to enter respectful diplomatic relations that recognize the sovereignty, dignity and self-determination of the Cuban people. In addition, WILPF wants to see the millions of taxpayer dollars used to maintain the economic embargo used instead for non-military domestic use.

The Sister Cities concept enjoys great public legitimacy, and has set an irreversible precedent for individuals to use their fundamental democratic right to engage in diplomacy and active foreign policy. Through this historic precedent, the citizen has been empowered in this area of public life. Over the last 40 years this has become a publicly recognized right that many, including those in the mainstream of politics, would strongly defend.

Sister Cities International's goal is to foster relations between citizens, communities, organizations and institutions, both non-governmental and governmental, to create opportunities for dialogue. Another objective is to win some space for movement from polarized positions. Historically, Sister City projects have created people-to-people links, which help break down political barriers imposed by special interest groups and government (military) advisors. This is not only a powerful adjunct of state diplomacy — it also allows the average citizen to engage in the usually restricted area of foreign policy debate.

For more information about Sister Cities, please contact: Lisa Valanti, 320 Lowenhill Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216, or (412) 563-1519. E-mail: LisaCubaSi@aol.com

Lisa Valanti is co chair of the Cuba Action Committee.



WILPF 85th Anniversary Celebrations

Rosemary Burke
Development Coordinator

Many activities and events will be happening this year to celebrate WILPF's 85th anniversary — culminating on April 28, 2000. We will need the support and participation of all our members to make this a truly memorable year.

We need to raise significant resources for this year of celebration. WILPF will have a series of special events to focus broad-based attention on the important issues of peace and justice, including: economic justice, nuclear disarmament, racial/ethnic reconciliation, and a response to the proposed massive increase in military spending.

We are calling on you to organize events in your communities — plays, film festivals, speakers, dinners— be creative! We are counting on you — our WILPF members — to make the 85th Anniversary truly A PEOPLES' YEAR FOR PEACE and a time when WILPF will get the visibility it deserves. Join in our action celebrations with your voices, with your resources, with your actions!

Our mission of world peace and justice is still as valid today as it was in 1915, when Jane Addams and more than 1,000 other women formed WILPF at the onset of World War I. Eighty-five years later, we still find our world engulfed in violence and very much in need of peace advocacy. WILPF has a unique role to play in voicing the point of view of women.

Our members are important. We are proud that we have so many experiences and accomplishments to build on. Our vision is the same as expressed by our founders.

“What after all has maintained the human race on this old globe despite all the calamities of nature and all the tragic failings of mankind, if not faith in new possibilities and the courage to advocate them?” — Jane Addams, *Peace and Bread in Time of War*.

There is still so much to be done to make peace and justice a reality. Our children and grandchildren will have to take our place one day, and we must prepare them to continue the struggle for as long as it takes.

The new millennium can be a kinder, gentler era if enough people of conscience make their voices heard through organizations like WILPF. We must spread the message farther than every before — WILPFers UNITE — We have nothing to lose but peace and justice and

everything to gain for our children and our children's children.

“Let us welcome in a millennium of peace despite the present scenario of violence. Let us imagine a world of peace and justice. Let us claim our world in the year 2000. Let us begin now.

We are asking that every WILPF branch have an 85th Anniversary program of action celebration. We will be sending you a WILPF idea cookbook to help you with your event planning. Keep us informed of your plans for WILPF's 85th

Here are nine actions you can take now to promote WILPF's mission in your community:

1. Make a special pledge for peace.
2. Put WILPF in your will.
3. Reduce the amount of your taxes that go to buy military hardware by making tax-free gifts of appreciated stock to the Jane Addams Peace Fund (JAPA), designated to WILPF's U.S. Fund.
4. Memorialize a friend or relative through a gift to WILPF.
5. Talk to friends and community groups about peace action and invite them to join WILPF and participate in WILPF actions.
6. Sign the WILPF petition to stop contributions to political campaigns by military contractors.
7. Talk/write to your political representatives and ask them not to vote for bills that increase military expenditure. Tell them you want to see them propose bills for peace and justice.
8. Show your children and grandchildren what you stand for by telling them about your commitment to WILPF. Include them in the 85th anniversary celebration.
9. Pray for peace or meditate on peace.

A vocal and focused minority can be a powerful change agent. Let's get on with it, now and throughout the year!



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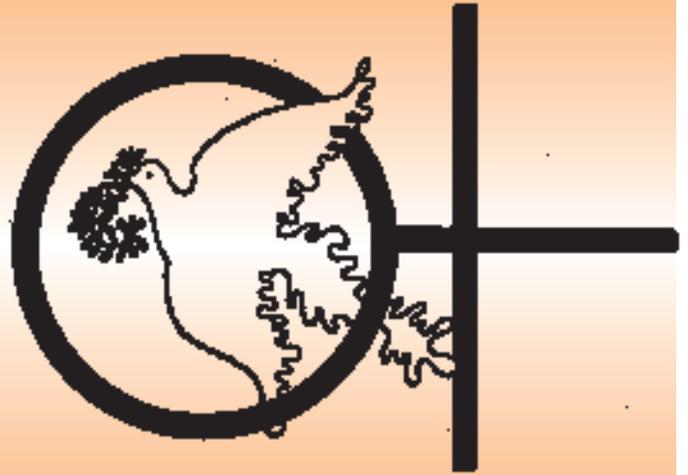
Compiled by Celia Daldy

Save the date!!

U.S. Section WILPF 1999 Triennial National Congress

June 23 to 27

Webster University
Webster Groves (near St. Louis), Missouri



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