

# Peace & Freedom

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

Summer 2001

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**Women's Rights  
are  
Human Rights**



**Cuban children playing at day care center in Cienfuegos, Cuba where WILPF / LELO delegation visited in April.**

Jan Strout

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**Cover Photos:** Top: Linda Chavers, center, with two friends, attending Race Rave in April at Hunter College. Chavers is an NYU student who read her poetry at the Rave. Photo by Charmaine Sprengelmeyer. Center: Burlington WILPF leads a march on International Women's Day, 2000. Board member Robin Lloyd, left, holds the poster. Bottom: Rita Hohenshell, at right, with her daughter and granddaughter at Fort Benning.

## 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 2000-2003 program cycle has four key campaign areas: Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights; Disarmament; Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation (UFORJE); and Women and Cuba. Each campaign area focuses on local and national effectiveness in creating lasting social change.

## WILPF has sections in 37 countries

coordinated by an international office in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches, coordinated by a national office in Philadelphia. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status.

## Peace Work and Women's Rights

*Mary Day Kent, Executive Director*

One of the questions we often get here at the national office is, "Why is it the *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*?" What does it mean that it says *Women*?

As with many other issues, I think the answer to that question is still a work in progress.

Among our thousands of members there must be at least hundreds of different answers.

We frequently say with pride that WILPF is the oldest and largest international women's peace organization. I think part of the pride rightly comes from recognition that in a world dominated by men, the sheer existence of a significant and active 86-year-old organization, created by women, run by women, and to a very large extent, supported by women, is something of a miraculous accomplishment.

Jane Addams and the founding women of WILPF took on the challenge of changing two of humanity's most deeply rooted phenomena — warfare and the oppression of women. Even today, although the women's suffrage and later women's movements have achieved so much, the global panorama of the violence and disadvantages imposed on women is both heartbreaking and outrageous. We see this in the extreme when we look at the news from Afghanistan, where the international community has been nearly helpless to prevent what is essentially the life imprisonment of all women. However, here in the United States where we are much freer in our daily lives, we still live in a country that will not pass an equal rights amendment to the Constitution and will not ratify the Convention for the Elimination of

The United States Section Representative to the WILPF International Executive Committee is elected for a three-year term. The term will end after the IEC meeting this August and the U.S. board will hold an election for the position at the October board meeting.

The incumbent, Joyce McLean, is eligible and willing to run for and serve a second term. However, if there are others who would be interested in being a candidate for this position, please submit your name, address, phone number and e-mail to the National office at WILPF, 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa, 19107. Please also send a paragraph telling about your experience in WILPF and why you feel you qualify for the position.

Send information by September 15, 2001.

Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Following the observation by Eugene Debs that societies should be judged by how they treat their prisoners, we can see in the U.S. treatment of women prisoners a mirror image of our "place" in society. The 148,000 women in jails and prisons across the United States are particularly subject to sexual assault, inadequate medical care, and mistreatment during pregnancy and childbearing, including shackling during labor and delivery.

This issue of *Peace & Freedom* shows that WILPF members, women and men, are still taking on the world's most difficult challenges, and still linking all our work to the needs and rights of women. Jane Addams in her essays on "Pacifism and Pacifists in Wartime" speaks of the demoralization and loneliness of working for peace when all around you are caught up in making war. The strength of WILPF I believe is in the support and power that we can have working together, protesting together, and (very importantly) celebrating together. ❖

### THIS JUST IN

At a retreat held in Vermont during early July, the national Board decided unanimously to add a fourth campaign to U.S. WILPF's program. The Cuba Action Committee will now function as a fourth WILPF campaign. The Cuba Committee already has a structure that resembles a campaign: a diverse volunteer Leadership Team from all over the country, a strategic plan and focus, activities and programs that any WILPFer, branch or at-large member can participate in; large racially, economically, and geographically diverse participation, and a regular communication structure. The Cuba team wants to continue the coalition nature of its work, functioning in partnership with LELO (in Seattle) and Hermanas (in New Jersey). The Women and Cuba campaign has a strong relationship with the Federation of Cuban Women, continues to lead delegations to Cuba (including a recent one in April) and continues to work to end the blockade. Stay tuned for more news on this exciting development. ❖



# Gender Equality, Development and Peace

*Gloria Bletter*

This past March I attended my first event at the United Nations as a representative from U.S. WILPF. It was, appropriately, the convening of the Commission on the Status of Women, which met in New York City from March 6 through 16.

Though this was the 45th session of the Commission, its packed agenda and attendance was evidence of more recent activity, for it was not until the early 1990's that NGOs increasingly utilized the various U.N. conferences to move their objectives forward. The Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women held in 1995 was such a reference point.

A follow-up session to Beijing, the "23rd Special Session of the General Assembly on Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," commonly known as Beijing +5, was held in New York in June 2000. Its purpose was to have U.N.

well as activities connected with International Women's Day on March 8th.

For me, the conference generated several main topics in which NGO participation is crucial. The first is the idea of "gender mainstreaming" and "intersectional analysis" — that the oppression women suffer because of their religion, caste, ethnicity, nationality, or other socio-political categories is aggravated by the discrimination they face due to gender. Also, that the true impact of multiple forms of discrimination or systems of subordination can be revealed only by close and careful observation and study of (and by) marginalized women "in the field," and not merely by compiling statistical data. Finally, that this perspective should be incorporated into governmental, U.N., and inter-governmental policies, agreements and programs.

Existing human rights approaches deal with these problems separately, whereas new structures for collaboration and dialogue, such as between treaty bodies and agencies (Norway mentioned "cross-ministries") and new Special Rapporteurs on these issues within the United Nations, should be established.

For example, structural adjustment policies have an adverse effect on women in

general, but even more so on poor women, because they shift the costs of social protection, social security, and welfare from the public sector to the household, and thereby contribute to the further disempowerment of poor women. Another example is that of immigrant and refugee women, who may be isolated and dependent upon an employer, making them more vulnerable to sexual or other violence. However, despite such abuses, these women often do not have recourse to systems that might provide redress, e.g., legal measures provided by the dominant culture for its "citizens."

Various discussions on how to prepare for the World Conference Against Racism, and how best to integrate a gender perspective into that upcoming meeting took place. NGOs stressed the importance of formal and informal education in combating racism, and urged measures that would decrease violence and hate propaganda in the media, including the Internet.

## In relation to warfare and armed

**conflict, women are generally reported as victims, but it was noted that women have comprised 40 to 60 percent of all U.N. volunteers since 1992.**

member states review what progress had been made towards implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, a major document urging worldwide action on 12 critical issues, including: violence against women; women and armed conflict; women's human rights; trafficking in women; and children and migration.

This year's session was a follow-up to that June meeting, but was also intended to plan affirmatively for the integration of women's concerns into other thematic conferences, such as the upcoming World Conference Against Racism/WCAR (August-September 2001 in South Africa). In addition to many other items on the agenda, "Women, the Girl-Child and HIV/AIDS" received some priority in view of a General Assembly Special Session in June of 2001 on the subject.

Interspersed with "official" proceedings (at which only member government delegates or U.N. agencies read mostly prepared statements) were numerous panels, sessions, caucuses, and receptions called by NGOs, as

## WOMEN AS PEACEMAKERS

In relation to warfare and armed conflict, women are generally reported as victims, but it was noted that women have comprised 40 to 60 percent of all U.N. volunteers since 1992. Even in Rwanda, where women did comprise the majority of those killed in the genocide, there is now an Association of Genocide Widows, which is (along with women in other groups) in the forefront of rehabilitation efforts there.

The importance of the “Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Cooperation” was made explicit as long ago as 1982, in a Declaration adopted by the U.N. General Assembly, and the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) — sometimes called the international bill of rights for women. CEDAW was cited as a way to urge governments to create more peace education and gender-sensitive policies.

Also encouraging on this issue was the unanimous adoption in October 2000 by the Security Council of Resolution 1325, with WILPF playing a major lobbying role. This resolution calls for gender sensitivity and training in all U.N. missions including peacekeeping; for women to participate equally at all negotiating tables; and for the protection of women and girls during armed conflict. It is hoped that the recognition of these concerns at such a high level of the international system will support efforts of women in peace-building work and conflict prevention.

## FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT

I attended a panel entitled “Gender, Race and Globalization” sponsored by the Women’s International Center for Economic Justice. Women from the Philippines, Kenya, and New York City discussed, in the context of their impact on women: labor and leadership; the need for debt-forgiveness and re-prioritization of national budgets; and the interrelationship of resource exploitation and armed conflict.

For example, diamond mining in the Congo not only leads to degradation of the environment. It also leads to competition for quick profits among private companies and often involves governments, especially corrupt ones, to “protect” a particular source of income. This leads to



WILPF participates in a June vigil at the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia.

Terry Foss

the increased use and trade in weapons by opposing factions, and to the displacement of families and villages, as well as other human rights violations.

In Kenya and many other African countries, the diversion of funds from public programs into debt relief payments (as much as 30 to 60 percent of some national budgets) required by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank is leading to increased intra-family violence and illiteracy among women (because if forced to choose, families there will send only their boys to school).

But debt relief without accountability is inadequate; pressure must be maintained upon both governments and corporations to ensure that any funds “saved” from debt payments must be allocated to public services. In order to do this on a global level, women’s groups will continue to network with each other to exchange information on effective tactics and to identify potential leaders from both within and across borders.

The question posed by another panel on economics and development was: is a socially egalitarian market possible? Examples were cited of capacity building among local women producers, and of the need to talk about sustainable “communities” rather than “development” as a way to conceptualize a more holistic perspective.

*Gloria Bletter, along with Gloria Korecki, represents U.S. WILPF at the United Nations in New York.*

# Looking at Welfare Reform: A Prism for the Intersections of Race and Class

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*Charmaine Sprengelmeyer, WILPF Program Coordinator*  
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*“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.”<sup>1</sup>*

**A**s Program Coordinator, I work on U.S. WILPF’s three national campaigns — Challenge Corporate Power: Assert the People’s Rights, Disarm! Dismantling the War Economy, and Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration & Reconciliation (UFORJE). Each campaign is unique in focus and design, yet each is connected to the other in fundamental ways. In searching for these connections, we can see the symbiotic relationships, both positive and negative, that make up daily life. With this awareness, we should be able to increase our understanding of ourselves and engage in our work more openly, helping to foster understanding and cooperation so we can effectively challenge inequality at its roots.

The issues of democracy, racism and militarism intersect in WILPF’s three campaigns and weave themselves through our lives in many ways. One place to see these intersections clearly is by looking at welfare reform.

In 1996, legislation passed that altered the way we treat low-income families, especially low-income families headed by single women. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the federal entitlement program which provided a safety net for those most in need, was abolished and replaced with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). TANF is a federal block grant program that allows each state flexibility to design and structure their welfare program.

As a former social worker in Milwaukee, I worked with people living the reality of welfare reform. In Milwaukee County, all welfare agencies are private, and one of the agencies is for profit. Working in Wisconsin, I saw the contradictory policies and inconsistencies that make up the welfare system.

Mainstream (corporate) media portray Wisconsin as the “model” for welfare reform — President George

Bush II has even appointed Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson to the position of U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The “Wisconsin Works” program, the state’s welfare reform program commonly referred to as W-2, was established in 1995 and went into effect statewide in September of 1997.

To qualify for W-2 cash assistance, a family’s income must be at or below the federal poverty line (\$16,824 for a family of three.) According to 1998 census data, more than 26 percent of African Americans live below the poverty line; 23 percent are Latino.<sup>2</sup> Households headed by women of color are more likely to live in poverty. Forty-six percent of households headed by African American women and 48 percent of Latina-headed households are living in poverty.<sup>3</sup> It is no surprise then that 75 percent of all welfare recipients in Wisconsin are women of color.

The state says that “Under W-2 there is no entitlement to assistance, but there is a place for everyone who is willing to work to their ability.”<sup>4</sup> Individuals enrolled in W-2 are required to participate in the “W-2 employment ladder,” which contains four levels of employment and training options — unsubsidized employment, trial jobs, community service jobs and W-2 transition. The nursing, teaching, mentoring, cooking and cleaning women provide for their own families is not considered work. These tasks are only considered “work” if there is an exchange in currency, which can be quantified and expressed as a contribution to the market economy. This severely undervalues the role of women as mothers and the unpaid work so many women engage in.

Welfare reform has a disparate impact on women of color and immigrant women. As stated above, women of color are disproportionately represented in the welfare rolls. A federal investigation of the W-2 program, for example, found Hmong participants lost or had been denied benefits due to a lack of translated documents and interpreters.<sup>5</sup>

Under W-2, there is a two-year time limit for each work category and a five-year lifetime benefits limit. While enrolled in the W-2 program, participants may be sanctioned for missing work if they can’t show good cause. Statewide, about 21 percent of participants are sanctioned.

While W-2 participants are carefully monitored and subjected to time limits and sanctions, W-2 agencies are

able to keep a portion of unspent contract funds as profits. Under the initial contracts, these profits totaled more than \$65 million. There are restricted and unrestricted profits. Restricted profits must be spent on individuals eligible for TANF funds, while unrestricted profits are self-explanatory, because private agencies are not legally obligated to disclose what becomes of such unrestricted profit. Responding to concerns over distributing \$65 million as profit under initial W-2 contracts, the state made an adjustment for current contracts. Currently, if the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development performance measures are met, \$25.9 million will be available for performance bonuses.

Welfare programs are intended to help those individuals most in need, not for the profit of private agencies and institutions. It was President Eisenhower who said "Every gun that is fired, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." <sup>6</sup>

This past January, the Commission to Assess United States National Security Space Management and Organization issued a report that stated the health of the U.S. economy as well as military effectiveness are inextricably linked to the continued functioning of a vast array of space-based military and commercial assets. <sup>7</sup>

When our economy prospers from the production of war, the U.S. military-industrial complex becomes the thief. Our tax dollars should not be funneled to military corporations for the production of weapons that are used to protect U.S. (increasingly corporate) interests here and abroad.

We must work to decolonize our minds by educating ourselves about the root causes of state and corporate oppression, and how economic exploitation, fueled by

the institution of racism and backed by military aggression, is a fundamental tool used to keep the majority of the world exploited and oppressed. It is through our three campaigns that WILPF works on all of these issues.

We must also work to honor the interconnectedness among ourselves, which takes mindfulness. We must educate ourselves in the democratic arts, and ask, what does democracy look like? We must ask ourselves what it means to be inclusive. How do we define leadership? Who determines and controls the allocation and distribution of resources? How do we ensure we don't have too little and don't take too much? Asking questions is the first step toward finding the solutions.

1. United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

2. Statement to the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, U.S. Welfare Policy Disproportionately Impacts Women of Color and Immigrant Women. Women of Color Resource Center, March 10, 2001.

3. Same as above

4. Division of Economic Support, *Wisconsin Works (W-2) Overview* <http://167.218.251.8/desw2/wis-works.htm>

5. "U.S. Criticizes W-2 Dealings with Hmong" Steve Schultze. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, December 8, 2000.

6. "Space War or Space Peace?" Mike Moore, 31-33 *YES! A Journal of Positive Futures*, Summer 2001.

7. Same as above

This article also drew on the *Wisconsin Works* program report issued in April 2001.



## WILPF at the World Conference Against Racism

The world is going to South Africa to challenge racism and WILPF will be there.

United States WILPF is sending a delegation, co-led by Betty Burkes and Chris Ballin of the UFORJE (Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restorations and Reconciliation) committee, to South Africa to attend the U.N. World Conference Against Racism (WCAR). It will run from August 31 to September 2. WCAR follows the Youth Summit, being held August 26 and 27, and the NGO Forum, being held from August 28 to September 1. Members of WILPF will be at all the conferences.

The U.S. WILPF delegation is made up mostly of members of the UFORJE campaign and committee, ranging in age from 16 to 70 years old. While they are in South Africa they will join up with International WILPF members and representatives from around the world, from Denmark to the Philippines.

Over 10, 000 people from around the world plan to attend these conferences in South Africa, coming together to discuss "a new world vision for the fight against racism in the twenty-first century."

WILPF will have a Women's Peace tent, which we will share with an NGO from South Africa. WILPF's delegates will be able to speak with other NGO's in attendance and provide information about WILPF and issues of peace, women, conflict and racism.

The five main themes at WCAR are:

- Sources, cause, forms and contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance;
- Victims of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance;
- Measures of prevention, education and protection aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance, at the national, regional and international levels;
- Provision for effective remedies, resources, redress, [compensatory] and other measures at the national, regional and international levels;
- Strategies to achieve full and effective equality, including international cooperation and enhancement of the United Nations and other international mechanisms in combating racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.



## Women's Rights and the International Criminal Court

*Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Organizer*

### Women's Caucus for Gender Justice Shapes Rome Statute

It's been several years since the campaign to get women's rights recognized as human rights was won. This concept was pushed into the global conscience at the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights.

In 1998, the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice won another tremendous victory over the patriarchal traditions of war. The Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was negotiated in Rome, recognized rape, sexual slavery (including forced pregnancy, trafficking, enforced prostitution, sterilization and other sexual violence) as war crimes and crimes against humanity. Persistence paid off during later negotiations on rules of evidence and procedure, ensuring protective measures and support for witnesses and victims. Survivors have rights and the Court can establish principles and, in certain cases, award reparations including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation.

### United States Participation

The United States obstructed negotiations all along the way to the Rome agreement, expressing preference for ad hoc tribunals for war crimes and insisting on provisions to exempt U.S. nationals. President Clinton signed the Rome Statute on December 31, 2000, the last day to assure U.S. presence in further negotiations on subsidiary issues and implementation. He declined to recommend or forward the treaty to the Senate for ratification. Early this spring, the administration's foreign policy review of the ICC seemed to be leaning towards recommending that President Bush "de-sign" the treaty. Hope grew however, when the General Affairs Council of the European Union formally expressed a "Common Position on the ICC" in mid-June, supporting it, five days before the President's first trip to Europe.

### Ratification Hazards in Congress

Ratification in Washington still seems a way off, despite Senator Joe Biden's (D-DE) ascendancy to Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee and the opportunity afforded by Senator Jim Jeffords's (now I-VT) party switch on June 5. The bad news is that on May 10, the House passed (without hearing or debate) the American Service Members Protection Act of 2001, which is viewed as an attack on the ICC. It scorns the very concept of international law. The majority switch may derail the companion bill in the Senate (S. 857)

also introduced in May by Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Senators Lott (R-MS), Warner (R-VA), Hatch (R-UT), Shelby (R-AL), Murkowski (R-AK) and Miller (D-GA). It now lies in the Foreign Relations Committee.

The American Service Members Protection Act (ASPA) exempts members of the American military from jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, prevents U.S. participation in any U.N. peacekeeping operation (unless exempt) and prohibits military cooperation or assistance to any country ratifying the ICC. Nine members of NATO have already ratified the treaty. U.S. courts and agencies would be forbidden to cooperate with ICC investigations and proceedings.

### ACTION AND RESOURCES:

For a list of Foreign Relations Committee members and talking points for letters to Senators, op ed pieces, letters to the editor, etc. on ASPA and the ICC, and to learn how your representative voted on the Delay amendment, see the EYE on Congress section on WILPF's website [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org) or call the D.C. office. To connect with working groups of women worldwide mobilizing for ratification and implementation of the ICC go to [www.iccwomen.org](http://www.iccwomen.org).

### Writing Outside the Box

Before Jeffords' changed parties, Ann Fagan Ginger, a WILPF Disarmament Committee member, lawyer and author based at the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute in Berkeley, floated some bold thinking to get around Senator Jesse Helms's lock on human rights and disarmament treaties. GATT and NAFTA didn't have to run the gamut of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee or win a two-thirds vote on the Senate floor. They're called agreements, enforced by sanctions that nations agree to. House members and Senators could signal their strong endorsement and intention to move on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the ICC by introducing them. As Ginger proposed earlier for other treaties which had been held hostage (Convention on the Rights of the Child and nuclear arms control), CEDAW and the ICC could contain the exact wording of the conventions and provide for implementation in U.S. law.

For a copy of Ginger's article in the Spring 2000 News from the Meiklejohn Institute, send request to MCLI, P.O. Box 673, Berkeley, CA 94701-0673 or call (510) 848-0599 or go to [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org), to the WILPF in Washington page.



## Reader's Forum

Dear Sisters,

We have been denouncing the situation with regards to Vieques for years on behalf of its 9,400 inhabitants who have been suffering military maneuvers and abuses by the U.S. Navy for 60 years. As a consequence, toxic substances like depleted uranium have been found in Vieques, polluting the environment and endangering the population.

According to reports from community and religious leaders in Puerto Rico and in Vieques, women have been particularly affected since they have suffered not only dangers with constant bombing and pollution from the Navy but also sexual abuse, forced prostitution and rape. These violations, to say the least, constitute cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, and in some instances even torture. It has been reported by NGOs that "women victims of these abuses are currently undergoing psychological treatment." (Miram Soba and Judith Conde, from *Alianza de Mujeres Viequesenses*, "Conference on Vieques: A Women's Perspective," sponsored by OMED, Nov. 20, 1999. This information was confirmed by Rev. Eunice Santana, in an interview by L. Penchi, *TeleOro*, Feb. 15, 2000, and by a series of hearings from the special government Commission on Vieques, Executive Order 199-21, 1 of May 11, 1999, eff. June 25, 1999.)

The abuse against the women of Vieques constitutes a violation of the human rights treaties ratified by the U.S., i.e., the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), besides being a violation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, and the Vienna Declaration of 1993, both of which condemn all forms of violence and sexual exploitation.

In 1999, a private guard was killed by an "accidental" bombing during the military maneuvers. The U.S. Navy has not offered any convincing explanation of this accident and still denies any harm done to the population regarding the toxic substances present in the food chain in Vieques, nor has it apologized for the violations to women's human rights committed in the previous years. To the contrary, pressure from the government of the United States, especially those conservatives in Congress, on the governor of Puerto Rico, Sila M. Calderon, has increased since she supports human rights for Vieques.

Those practicing civil disobedience have reported that when detained they have been subjected to unreasonable searches and degrading treatment. Consider that the essence of civil disobedience is not to be violent and not to resist arrests. Further, these people were unarmed and posed no threat to the authorities. Still, some women detainees have reported that bodily searches have been performed by men and have been particularly humiliating. Other detainees have reported that they have been arrested without having their basic constitutional rights protected, for example, without Miranda warnings, and without having a speedy trial. Moreover, trespassing is a petty offense, the equivalent of a moving violation. Still, the federal District Court for the District of Puerto Rico imposes disproportionate penalties to protestors who are sentenced to 40 and even 90 days of confinement, besides having

to pay fines of \$500 or more. As an example, 22 days ago, among the arrested civil disobedients there were four women— one of whom is human rights attorney and advocate, Blance Gari Periz. She was sentenced to 40 days and had to pay \$500. Another example reported by the environmentalist organization "Amigos del Mar," states that Tito de Jesus, an environmentalist, suffered solitary confinement and mistreatment while in federal prison.

Different religious, political and civic leaders and groups have joined in civil disobedience to stop the military practices in Vieques. Many have been arrested and accused of "trespassing," a petty offense. Meanwhile, the Navy keeps bombing Vieques, even though the commander in charge knows that civilians are in the area. These past two days, the U.S. Navy reluctantly admitted bombing with conventional weapons. Nevertheless, the Navy is still throwing a large amount of "chaff," enough to cover Vieques and the main island of Puerto Rico.

Chaff is a pollutant that contains aluminum which causes various diseases and allergies since it pollutes the air and water. At least one environmentalist, Jose Fernandez, has said chaff causes pulmonary diseases and even Alzheimer's. In Professor Juan Giusti's opinion, the Navy is experimenting with President Bush's new missile Star War's project and they are covering up the experiments with this chaff substance since it interferes with the signals in the equipment used to detect missiles (Mary Acevedo, Channel 8 News, June 21, 2001). Local meteorologists have confirmed that larger amounts of chaff have interfered with their equipment. Meanwhile the population has been complaining of asthmas, allergies and conjunctivitis.

The military maneuvers and the experimentation with the peoples of Vieques and Puerto Rico is illegal and has to stop, due to the danger this poses to us and the well-being of neighboring islands in the Caribbean. The actions described here constitute a gross violation of human rights and a violation to the regional and international obligations that the U.S. has undertaken. Consequently, the U.S. is not only bound by the regional obligations undertaken in the OAS Charter and in the American Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and by Principle 21 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration and the principles stated in the Preamble to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposals, because they have become customary international law. All of these principles and norms which are part of these conventions and declarations are at the same time part of the general principles of civilized nations. Actually, most of the international instruments if not all, include these general principles and ensure respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Today the U.N. Decolonization committee again urged the U.S. to put an end to these military practices and respect the rights of the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico to peace and to a fair process of self-determination, if it so decides.

I urge WILPF members to denounce these violations in your publications and campaigns, and that each member not be an accomplice to these violations by your silence.

Sincerely yours,  
Dinorah La Luz

*Legal Consultant of public international law, member of WILPF, and member of the Commission on Constitutional Rights of the Puerto Rico Bar*

# Fresno Branch Hits Airwaves

*Zay Guffy Bill*



*“Today’s edition of ‘Stir It Up’ is presented by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, also known as WILPF. Since its inception in 1915 WILPF has worked for peace, disarmament, economic and social justice, and human rights at local and international levels. Our Fresno branch has been active since 1965. Stay tuned to hear why J. Edgar Hoover labeled us dangerous women . . .”*

**S**o starts the WILPF Fresno branch local community radio program, airing every fourth Wednesday. Since July 2000, WILPF member Lauralee Crain Carbone and myself have been co-producing, hosting, and engineering this fast-paced half-hour segment.

For two people who had absolutely no experience in live radio just over a year ago, we’ve exceeded our own and everyone else’s expectations. In early spring of 2000, the opportunity for our WILPF branch to have a half-hour of local radio airtime presented itself. We held our breath and jumped aboard, along with other people from the local peace and social justice community. We’ve had a wonderful journey so far in this fabulous forum for discussing local, national and international issues.

Since the mid 1970s, KFCF 88.1 FM has been an important entity in the social justice community in the Central San Joaquin Valley of California. California State University, Fresno, conceived the radio station in

the late 1960s. KFCF has been run by the board members of the Fresno Free College Foundation with the support of the local community since its inception. For most of its existence, the radio station has been the link for the Valley to Pacifica’s KPFA out of Berkeley, 180 miles away. When the Pacifica board made the unprecedented move of locking out KPFA programmers in 1999, Fresno’s KFCF became the lifeline to listeners across the Valley by adding local programming and updates on the ongoing conflicts between Pacifica and KPFA. During the KPFA crisis, KFCF asked its listeners for new local programming ideas.

Before our first show went on air in July 2000, we had only a one-hour training session. Representatives from the four groups that would be sharing the Wednesday time slots during the month — about a dozen of us — were herded into the recording studio. The room is roughly 8 x 12 feet or the size of a small kitchen. Add to that all the operating and recording equipment, plus the many shelves of records and CDs, and you’re left with an area the size of a small

boat’s galley.

The station manager, a wonderful man named Vic Bedoian, sat down in front of the board and began telling us what everything did and when it was to be done while broadcasting our specific programs . . . live. Lauralee and I cast several sidelong glances at each other over the hour.

A few days later we found ourselves in the studio again, but this time, as WILPF sisters are wont to do, we had a concrete plan. We both knew that if local community programming was to continue and possibly grow in airtime hours, we had to be more than good. We had to be professional. We enlisted a friend of ours, an experienced radio programmer named Gunnar Jensen, to help us out. We wanted not only to actually turn the knobs and dials, but also to learn and understand the radio programming and etiquette techniques of live radio. It was intense and wonderful and the time spent that afternoon reveals itself in the quality and professionalism of the WILPF programs we broadcast. This, of course, is not to say there haven’t been a few meltdown moments. Cassette tapes haven’t played when we needed them to, record players have gotten temperamental on us, the power has gone out— but we have always prevailed and have had fun to boot.

Over the last 12 months we have never wanted for extraordinary and inspirational talent for our programs.

Fresno branch's membership holds a rich and varied pool of knowledge which affords us exceptional show topics such as non-violent conflict resolution in area schools, women's prisons issues (California is #1 in the world for housing women prisoners), racial profiling in the Central Valley, income distribution, and much more.

We encourage you all to look for such opportunities. Some may say "You were lucky to be in the right place at the right time." But we believe luck is just readiness meeting opportunity. As WILPF members, we strive to be ready for any opportunity given us. Our organization's history shows us this again and again. If you're ready and willing to make a difference, you can do it. Community radio is a fabulous vehicle to get you there.

## Two WILPF Members Part of SOA26

.....  
*Susan Whitehead*  
.....

**R**ita Hohenshell, a Des Moines branch member, and Clare Hanrahan, an Asheville member, have been sentenced to three and six months in prison, respectively, for being part of the peaceful protest last fall against the School of the Americas (SOA).

SOA recently changed its name to The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation; although it is still known as "The School of Assassins" to those who work to have its doors closed. At the SOA, "Latin American soldiers are trained in murderous techniques of counterinsurgency," Clare said. It is known for its graduates being linked to horrendous human rights violations in Latin America, including torture, massacre and the disappearance of thousands.

At a peaceful demonstration at Fort Benning Military base last fall, Rita and Clare both became part of the



SOA-26. Out of some 4,000 protesters, 26 people were arbitrarily picked to be indicted. Twelve hundred protesters were arrested that day, 65 of whom had previous "ban and bar" letters, and of that 65, only 26 were sentenced to prison and fines.

Both women call for your support. They ask that WILPF members back House Bill HR 1810, which calls for the closure of the

**Clare Hanrahan**

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*Zay Guffy Bill (right in photo), is co coordinator of Fresno branch WILPF. She teaches college English, is a writer, the editor of several literature and art journals, a stained glass artisan, and a world traveler, all of which ties into her work in the peace and social justice community.*

*Lauralee Crain Carbone (left in photo) is treasurer of Fresno branch WILPF. A 39 year old mother of two with another one due this September, she has worked with La Leche League for over 6 years as a breastfeeding counselor after giving up a career in big business. She is active in the ACLU, and home schools her children.*

Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation and to continue to educate the public about the SOA. During their incarceration, letters of support and care packages would be greatly appreciated.

Rita and Clare were sentenced in mid-July. Rita is at Pekin Federal Prison, Box 6000, Pekin, IL 61555-7000 (ID#90280020).

Clare is at Alderson Federal Prison, Glen Ray Road, Box B, Alderson, WV, 24910-0700 (ID# 90285020).

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*Susan Whitehead is serving as the summer intern for Peace & Freedom.*



**Rita Hohenshell, at right, with Kim Clingman, her daughter, and Tricia Clingman, her granddaughter, who supported her at Fort Benning.**

# What Women Do Right

Molly Morgan

No matter what language we speak, clothes we wear, or food we eat, relationship is at the core of women's cultures around the world. For most women, how we do our work, not just what we do, is of primary importance. Women continue to value process at least as much as outcome, but although we represent 51 percent of the world's population, this is not part of the dominant culture.

Many feminist researchers identify patriarchy as the genesis of the "power-over" model of social structures, believed to have replaced more egalitarian models. At its root is the arbitrary assigning of unequal value to human difference. Women were the original "other," identified as inferior to serve the needs of those choosing to oppress. For some 10,000 years women's cultures and women's work have been variously diminished, ridiculed, pathologized, and removed from the public sphere.

The evolution of the power-over model into its current, most virulent form, is global corporatization. It has brought us to the brink of planetary destruction of life as we know it. WILPF's campaign to Challenge Corporate Power and Assert the People's Rights seeks to change the relationship between human beings and corporations by reconnecting to the deep and radical democracy that generations before us imagined and fought for, versions of which some remaining indigenous cultures live by today.

The vast majority of the world's men are also

oppressed by what author bell hooks calls the white supremacist capitalist patriarchy, a system designed to benefit only a few at the expense of the many. Indeed, when we participate in this system, women are capable of patriarchal attitudes and behaviors, too. Neither gender can achieve truly democratic societies alone. But because women's ways have been so consistently repressed, they should be examined for clues to how we might reclaim sanity and health from this destructive system and make whole what has been divided.

Patriarchy invented the notion that life is organized hierarchically, denying the inherent interdependence of all living things. Nature became a force to conquer to those who pretended that human beings are separate from it. This philosophy has driven the evolution of "civilization," whereby privileged people left the land, oppressed people were forced to work the land under circumstances that made them despise it, and the connection of all people to nature was frayed. But women, tuned to the cyclical rhythms of their bodies, remained closer to the truth that all living things are part of an interconnected web.

Women's very existence bears witness to the lies of patriarchy, so the illusions have been maintained with violence and with separating women's lives from men's. Technology was developed according to this political agenda, and over time further severed the bonds between people and nature and continually eroded women's spheres of

influence. Pagan and goddess religions evolved into monotheism and male gods. Farming became mechanized and eventually corporatized. Women healers were hunted as witches and medicine promoted to men's realm. Food preparation was derided as women's or servants' work and then, as societies industrialized, became the product of factories and finally fast food. Infants were fed by wet nurses and then bottles. Modern-day reproductive research even threatens the need for the womb. As the system evolved ever more sophisticated techniques to prop up patriarchy, most of us have been forced to acquire deep systems of denial in order to survive our colonization.

The past half millennium of conquest and exploitation by European and, later, North American imperialism has been perpetrated via ecocide and the genocide of indigenous cultures. The current escalation in power consolidation, which now prefers the form of the transnational corporation over the nation-state, dares not slow down or stop, risking the exposure of the gaping holes and glaring incon-



WILPFers in Quebec, left to right, Carol Dwyer, Joan Ecklein, Charmaine Sprengelmeyer and Gretchen Klotz.

sistencies in this system. Through the lens of relationship we can focus on what women do right to change course.

- Relationship has been women's realm under patriarchy and is actually pathologized by the corporate business class. Power-over behavior is excused with phrases like, "it's not personal, it's just business." Yet these devalued women's skills are those most urgently needed to replace corporate rule with democratic processes.
- In western countries there's a real tension between those who see women's rights as a list of issues that would give us greater equality in the current system and those who claim the right to create a different kind of world. In a corporatized culture, women's rights are too easily limited to gaining access to an inherently unequal system.
- Resolving conflict through dialogue and honesty has no place in the world of conquest, yet this technique is a staple for peace groups around the world who value sustainable, healthy communities over profits from weapons sales. No matter who "wins," wars always reduce security in the world and produce more conflict.
- Most of women's work around the world is uncompensated even though it is vital to survival. In many societies, men can obtain women's services — cooking, cleaning, childcare, sex — cheaply in the open market. When societal circumstances change, governments often solve their problems without increasing their costs by shifting the burden into women's sphere of responsibility. For example, aging populations result in fewer productive workers and a greater need for geriatric health-care, which is often exacerbated by the decline of state welfare. Global corporatization has created labor demand patterns that favor short-term, temporary employment, particularly in low-visibility locations where workers and the people they care for are easily exploited to improve profitability (think of daycare, nursing homes and in-home medical care, prisons, and institutions for the mentally ill).

What WILPF women and men are doing right is focusing on relationships by challenging the legitimacy of corporate power and exposing how it destroys the very fabric of life. When we declare ourselves sovereign citizens, we assert the right to democratically create the philosophies and institutions that serve the needs of all people without destroying the planet. To that end, the Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights campaign will begin work this fall to eliminate corporate personhood. (Those who have participated in study groups know that the corporation gained legal personhood from the Supreme Court more than 30 years before women received the right to vote.) For more information about this campaign, contact Charmaine Sprengelmeyer in the Philadelphia office.

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*Molly Morgan is a member of the Campaign to Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights.*

## WILPF Works for Women's Rights Worldwide

*Joyce McLean*

### **Buy Fair Trade Coffee**

While gigantic coffee corporations are working to eliminate the small independent growers and cooperatives, Fair Trade Coffee insures that small family plantations can achieve economic security. You can help by looking for the Fair Trade label.

### **Buy Organic Bananas**

Costa Rican women who work in the regular banana packing sheds suffer a multitude of health problems resulting from extensive pesticide use. Help promote the growing movement to end the use of harmful chemicals. Look for the Organic label.

### **Don't Patronize Stores Which Disallow Union Organizing**

Sweatshop workers — mostly women — deserve the opportunity to gain a livable wage and safe working conditions. Spend your dollars in accordance with your ethics.

### **Write a Letter**

The U.S. State Department awarded \$43 million to the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan. This is the same government that has cruelly repressed women — depriving them of employment, education and healthcare. Write to your elected officials. Ask them how they can justify supporting this barbaric regime. What will they do to stop all further funding?

Our WILPF (LIMPAL) sisters in Colombia also need our continuing help in halting the stream of American mercenaries, advisors and helicopter gunships. Under the guise of supposed cocaine eradication (it's opium in Afghanistan) we are supporting government sanctioned death squads. Human rights violations and murders occur daily. Union advocates working for American mining corporations are especially targeted. Write your representatives and ask if they support continuing the U.S. intervention in Colombia.

(Note that handwritten letters get the most attention. Just a few sentences can be effective!)

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*Joyce McLean is a U.S. WILPF member of the International Executive Committee. She welcomes comments or questions at 25080 Skyland Rd. Los Gatos, CA 95033 or [jmclean@jps.net](mailto:jmclean@jps.net).*

# Challenging Corporate Power in Quebec City

Benjamin Sher

I'm not sure which is worse: being exposed to chemical agents at anti-corporate power protests, or exposing my eyes to the invective of media-monopoly journalists after getting home.

While I was in jail for 30 hours in Quebec City, corporate journalists and editors were busy hurling insults at us "protesters" and otherwise completely failing to report what really happened in Canada over the weekend of April 20 - 22.

Tens of thousands of people had peaceably assembled to protest the so-called Free Trade Area of the Americas in particular and the corporate destruction of the planet in general. Meanwhile the hemispheric leaders of this plot to accelerate their illegitimate takings met behind a 4-km chain-link fence. We protesters objected to this violation of our rights of expression and some of us succeeded in breaching "the wall of shame." Others, like me, simply sat down on "our side" and refused to leave when riot police advanced, beating batons against their shields. All of the five men I shared a paddy wagon and cell with were engaging in the politics of personal protest. We were arrested as a result of individual acts of protest. A young radical student from Vermont had climbed the fence and was arrested on the other side. A Quebec trade unionist had simply been in the wrong place at the wrong time when he chose to get close to the fence, instead of being directed by union officials away from it. Another Canadian had dropped his pants in front of riot police to express his opinion of what was going down in his hometown.

But you won't find our stories in any of the mainstream press. I searched in vain in the *Sacramento Bee* and the *New York Times* for interviews and quotations from protesters like us. In general we were lumped together as "anarchists" or "violent protesters" or "anti-globalization activists," or countless other inaccurate broad strokes. (For the record, some of us are not opposed to globalization entirely; we're opposed to *corporate* globalization.)

Over 400 of us landed in jail, yet the corporate media utterly failed to cover our stories and why we traveled at great personal expense and trouble to express ourselves in the ways we did. Just getting into Canada was a major hurdle for many of us; hundreds were turned away if they even so much as looked like a protester.

Instead the corporate media editorialized against us.



Charmaine Sprengelmeyer

Here is the opening paragraph from the *Sacramento Bee* editorial a few days after its editors had time to digest the event: "By now the raucous and often violent disruption of international meetings devoted to trade liberalization has become a useless ritual. The demonstrators ... did not deter governments from pursuing their agenda ... but diverted public attention from the substantive debate."

Notice the awful spin perpetrated here: suddenly it is we, the active agents of the protest, who are being blamed for the corporate media's own refusal to cover our stories and reasons for protesting. It's not we protesters who are diverting public attention from the substantive debate but rather the corporate media's love of spectacular images, which sell newspapers and capture viewers' eyeballs on television. But did the average journalist venture beyond his plush hotel room to ask us why we had come here? To ask us why we would expose ourselves again and again to the stinging clouds of gas? To ask us why we would risk arrest? To ask us why we would give up our liberty and subject ourselves to the arbitrary treatment and shameful indignities of the prison system?

No, the average corporate journalist did not. And so our stories remain largely untold. And the public has not been served. Far from it being a "useless ritual," our protests are generating profound solidarity within the

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# Quebec FTAA

Joan Ecklein

How can I do justice to what I saw in Quebec? So much has already been written. Four WILPFers from Boston — Carol Dwyer, Gretchen Klotz, Ruth Weizenbaum and myself — drove to Quebec for the People’s Summit, as well as for demonstrations against the Free Trade of the Americas meetings. I take responsibility for the emphasis and interpretation of the events as I have written them.

Although some of us are new to WILPF, we are all long-time activists. We are all deeply concerned that the earth is headed toward catastrophe, with the multinationals out of control. The “free trade agreements” negotiated in secret behind a fence are the latest manifestation of the “pincer movement” by the multinationals to abrogate any semblance of democratic control by people in the Western Hemisphere.

This was a week of intense activity and an emotionally intense experience. The People’s Summit as well as all the myriad other activities (the Council of Wise Women, the spectacular Weaving the Web of Solidarity on the Fence led by Starhawk, the cry against Plan Colombia by impassioned people from that country) were overshadowed in the press by the tear gas and drama of the demonstrations over the weekend. From my perspective, the highlight was the march on Saturday in which over 50,000 people from all over the Americas participated. The march took hours to pass one spot and consisted of enormous delegations of Canadian trade unionists, activists young and old from the north, and people from all over central and South America. I was enormously moved to be marching in front of a delegation of Chileans carrying a huge banner with Allende’s photograph on it. It symbolized for me the continuity of our struggle for justice.

There were also delegations of indigenous people. I heard one delegation from Colombia speak earlier in the week on the techniques corporations were using to force them off their land in their mad quest for oil. This included communities that were on the other side of the Colombian border. They were terrified that their communities and culture were being destroyed and they are being made refugees. It is one thing to read about these people. It is another to encounter them face to face.

Such a plentitude of people from such enormous distances had made its way to Quebec City. At what cost and effort it had taken to come all the way up to Quebec! It was a reflection of how deeply people felt the need to protest the strangulation by the multinationals.



At left, Laurel Sprengelmeyer and at right, Joan Ecklein, author.

We had come just from Boston, and it had taken enormous effort to find housing and cross the border. (Incidentally, in comic opera style, we had gone across the border into Canada without knowing it. I kept saying, “Why are all the signs in English and French?” We were picked up by a border patrol, brought back to the border, and had our car thoroughly searched and our passports sent through a security check. We were told that peaceful demonstrators would of course be allowed in Quebec. But then we were crossing the border a week before the big demonstration and were obviously grandmothers.)

I have enormous admiration for the amount of work the organizers had to put into the logistics of the week. Housing and feeding thousands of people was just one of the tasks. The People’s Summit and the weekend demonstrations were the culmination of enormous efforts of uncountable organizations from all over the Western Hemisphere. At every session of the People’s Summit, for example, there was simultaneous translation into English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. The people from Quebec were unfailingly courteous and supportive in every way. We were told repeatedly that it was so “unCanadian” to use tear gas and water hoses on protestors. The people we met were appalled at their government’s behavior.

The weekend, with its empowered direct action campaigns, was carefully thought out. People were given choices of exactly how to be involved. It was quite clear at each stage if one wanted to do disciplined direct action, be an observer or behave otherwise. At all points along the fence, and especially the gate areas, direct action was initiated to take down the fence. I saw the

*Continued on page 27* ➤

# Dismantling the War Economy

Ellen Barfield

By the time this issue comes out the Disarm! Dismantling the War Economy campaign will have held its August planning retreat in Ann Arbor, MI, and will be helping organize the October EYE on Congress Washington, D.C., Lobby Days for all three WILPF campaigns. For the date and final info on October Lobby Days, call (202) 546-6727, or check the Washington section of



[www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org). We want lots of WILPFers in Washington to demand that Congress act to undo militarism, racism, and corporate tyranny.

The EYE on Congress project to galvanize branches with 15 or more members in key Congressional districts got a jolt when Vermont senator Jim Jeffords left the Republican party and gave Democrats the majority in the Senate. Letters had gone out already, with wrong committee chair listings, since Democrats displaced Republicans after Jeffords' move.

Follow-up phone calls, planned anyway, simply adjusted to the changes. The most celebrated change was that Jesse Helms lost control of the Foreign Relations committee, which should mean improvements in how the United States deals with the United Nations. Maybe our deadbeat country will even pay up on the dues it still owes!

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO LIVE FREE OF MEN'S WARS

The painfully slow wheels of international diplomacy turned over a partial victory last October, when the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted S/Res/1325, the resolution on Women, Peace, and Security. WILPF was one of five organizations that pushed for this call to include

gender-sensitivity in U.N. work regarding armed conflict.

The resolution calls for women to have equal participation in all U.N. peacekeeping and peace-building efforts, from decision-making and negotiating to field operations. It calls for the compilation of statistics regarding women's representation on decision-making bodies, and women's and girls' disproportionate harm from armed conflict. It calls for recognition of the special vulnerability women and girls have as refugees and frequent victims of sexual abuse by rampaging troops. It states that the work women do to help resolve conflicts should be recognized and encouraged.

It is undeniably important that the Security Council, the most problematic U.N. group (dominated as it is by the five nuclear-armed permanent member states) has passed this resolution. The ideas in it are nothing new, though. The Platform for Action from the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women contained much of the same ideas in its section on Women and Armed Conflict.

The relatively easy part was getting the resolution passed. In the peculiar verbiage of diplomats, the resolution's 18th and final item announces that the Security Council "Decides to remain actively seized of the matter," but keeping govern-

ments really focused on implementing it will require ongoing vigilance and imagination.

Some gender-sensitive analysis and training have

### MILITARY TOXIC PROJECT

Part of the Healthy Communities Campaign of the Military Toxics Project is to endorse the Military Environmental Responsibility Act, a bill being introduced into Congress by San Diego's Representative Bob Filner. The deal is that military installations have different rules than us common folks. The military is exempt from some Environmental Protection Agency regulations and even if the regulations do apply, the enforcement has often been lacking. A lot of communities have suffered environmental contamination as a result. Filner's bill would require all military installations, contractors and sub-contractors in the United States or abroad, to be bound by all U.S. environmental, worker and public health & safety laws. The Military Toxic Project web site is [www.miltoxproj.org](http://www.miltoxproj.org).

begun in the United Nations since Beijing, but women are still rare in bodies making the critical decisions on war and peace. And until *many* women take these positions, the few token women allowed in them will be like Maggie Thatcher and Madeleine Albright—warmongers who seem desperate to out-gun the men.

The Security Council resolution ignores it, but the Beijing platform calls for reducing military spending. Bush did not start the current rocketing upward of U.S. military expenditures, but he is certainly continuing it. From a low of \$238 billion in 1998, the Pentagon budget leapt to \$289 billion in 2000, and has now soared to well over \$300 billion.

In May, the Center for Defense Information announced in a weekly online update that the supplemental spending request due in Congress would include nearly \$6 billion more for the Pentagon. It was likely members of Congress would add their own pork-barrel projects on top of that.

Bush's tax cut means human needs will suffer even more losses. How much more can we take? Men care about their families, but women are particularly inclined to struggle not only for themselves, but also for their loved ones. Women's peace groups have to do a better job of convincing advocates for human needs that they must, as Jesse Jackson said, "Get the money where the money went!"

I am reminded of the creative actions undertaken by the women of Athens and Sparta to stop war in the classic Greek play *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. Not only did the women prevail on every female (be she a wife, mistress or prostitute) to refrain from sexual relations with the warring men, but the older women seized the treasury at the same time. No sex, no money, no war! Our times require such determination.

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*Ellen Barfield is an Army veteran and the co chair of WILPF's Disarmament Committee and the vice presi*

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## 'Star Wars Returns' is Released

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**S***tar Wars Returns*, a video documentary exposing how the Bush administration is moving to make space a new arena of war, in violation of the intent of international law, has just been released by EnviroVideo.

*Star Wars Returns* was written by investigative reporter and journalism Professor Karl Grossman, directed and edited by Emmy Award-winner Steve Jambeck and produced by Joan Flynn.

The documentary presents U.S. military documents setting forth U.S. plans to control space and from space control the earth below. It reveals the multi-billion dollar U.S. development program underway to produce space-based laser weapons, and that far more than missile defense is involved. It also details the international opposition to the U.S. Star Wars program.

*Star Wars Returns* explores the recently issued report

of the Space Commission, chaired by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, which calls for U.S. "power projection in, from and through space." And declares: "In the coming period the U.S. will conduct operations to, from, in and through space in support of its national interests both on earth and in space."

U.S. Senator Bob Smith, who wrote the legislation establishing the Rumsfeld Space Commission, asserts in *Star Wars Returns* about U.S. control of space: "It is our manifest destiny. You know we went from the East Coast to the West Coast of the United States of America settling the continent, and they call that manifest destiny, and the next continent if you will, the next frontier, is space and it goes on forever."

Also interviewed is Craig Eisendrath, who as a U.S. State Department officer was central in drafting the outer space treaty of 1967. This is the law the U.S. is now preparing to violate, Eisendrath charges. It is the basic law on space, ratified by most countries of the world, and sets space aside for peaceful purposes.

To receive a copy go to:

<http://www.envirovideo.com>.

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## ► CHALLENGING POWER

*from 14*

movement. What was the chant (in French) so often repeated in the streets of Quebec City? "So . . . so . . . so . . . Solidarite!" What we are creating is a broad and expansive movement that is sweeping hundreds of new people into it every day, wherever we go. This is what the corporate media are missing, the real story of a worldwide, profoundly historic movement being born and finding its legs. The question is, can we stand up to

assert our proper authority over corporations and the governments which serve their interests before it is too late to do something about over-development, global warming, genetic engineering and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, women, children, and workers worldwide? As global citizens, it's an immense mission we gladly undertake.

.....  
*Benjamin Sher is a member of the Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights campaign.*

# Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



## CIVIL LIBERTIES Abuses by the FBI

The withholding of 4,000 pieces of evidence by the FBI in the case of Timothy McVeigh is just the tip of the iceberg in a long list of FBI abuses over the past 50 years. The egregious abuse of basic human rights has been common practice by the FBI for years.

The recent conviction of a former Ku Klux Klansman, Thomas E. Blanton, in the brutal church bombing in Birmingham in 1963 which killed four young girls is a sad example of the extent to which former FBI director Hoover impeded justice. Hoover's office had hidden 9,000 documents and surveillance tapes amassed by the Birmingham FBI in the 1960s which were never shared with prosecutors at that time.

In the case of Leonard Peltier, who was sentenced in 1977 to life imprisonment for a murder he did not commit, the FBI has refused to release 6,000 documents about his case, which clearly establish his innocence. In a further act of vengeance, the FBI marched in front of the White House last December to stop Peltier's clemency appeal.

In 1997, Geronimo Pratt was released after 27 long years of unjust imprisonment based on an FBI frame up. Let's look at what happened to Judi Bari in 1990. Bari was an Earth First activist in California who was organizing to save the Redwood forests. After a terrifying bomb in Bari's car crippled her for life, the FBI moved to try to blame her for the bomb attempt on her life, rather than look for the real bomber, who to this day remains at large.

Leonard Peltier ([www.freepeltier.org](http://www.freepeltier.org)) has written about these abuses. "These violations are most serious. There can be no due process, there can be no such thing as an open government or democracy when an agency as powerful as the FBI can, decade after decade, break the laws it vows to uphold with no repercussions."

"There are many, many more well-documented incidences of FBI abuses. It is up to the public to hold the FBI accountable. Clearly, no system of checks and balances is in place and the media rarely reports FBI misconduct unless politicians and judges condemn it first, in which case it is usually too little too late. Don't let these latest disclosures deteriorate into flash-in-the-pan news stories. An effort must be forged to stop FBI abuses, and to gain recognition that these are continuations of an all-too-common pattern.

Contact the Senate Judiciary Committee and ask them to straighten up the FBI and hold it accountable to the Bill of Rights. Call (202) 224-3121 and ask for the Senate Judiciary Committee. If your Senator is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, ask the same of him.

And lastly, don't talk to the FBI. If an agent comes to your door, tell him you will speak to him only in the presence of your lawyer.

— Vivian Schatz

## CUBA ACTION

### The Good News: Bridges to the Cuban People Act

WILPF's Cuba Action Committee wants to especially call your attention to, and ask for your active support for, a much-anticipated bill that would significantly reform U.S. policy toward Cuba. This bill was introduced in both the House and Senate in June 2001, by Representatives Serrano (D-NY) and Leach (R-IA) and Senator Dodd (D-CT). Briefly, the bill includes the following components:

- Expansion of humanitarian trade to include (without licensing or shipping restrictions) food, medicine, agricultural equipment, and goods or services intended for the exclusive use of children.
- Restoration of the availability of American banks and American financing to conduct these sales.
- Importation of certain Cuban medical products which are not available in the United States.
- Increasing of people-to-people contacts by lifting restrictions on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba.
- Provision of scholarships for Cubans to pursue graduate study in the United States.
- Removal of limitations on the amount of remittances that Cuban-Americans may send to their families in Cuba.
- Enhancement of presidential flexibility to include the authority to waive additional titles of the Helms-Burton law.

## Actions

1. Call or e-mail your representative and your senators and urge her/him to become a cosponsor and/or supporter of the Bridges to the Cuban People Act (H.R. 2138 and S. 1017). Senators should call Dodd's office to sign on to the bill. Representatives should call Serrano's or Leach's office to sign on to the bill. You may refer to the Dear Colleague letter that Reps. Serrano and Leach have circulated in the House.
2. Reproduce this to share with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, other social justice and peace activists, newsletter articles and announcements, tabling at events,
3. Educate through the media with Letters to the Editor, Op-Ed articles, signature ads, etc.

This is a very important bill and will be used to assess the strength of support for changing U.S. policy toward Cuba. We want a very strong message to be sent to the leadership of the Congress and to the President: the U.S. people favor ending the embargo on Cuba.

### The Bad News

Oppose the Cuban Solidarity Act (S. 894 and HR 1271). Senators Helm (R-NC), Lieberman (D-CT) and ultra-conservative Cuban-American Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) have introduced a bill to funnel \$100 million of U.S. taxpayers' money to aid Cuban dissidents



The WILPF and LELO / Every Woman's delegation meeting with Cuban lesbians and gay men activists in Havana.

Mallory Clarke

on the island over the next four years. An anti-revolutionary's dream (and the worst nightmare for those who seek a peaceful and just U.S. foreign policy) — immediately endorsed by the Cuban American National Foundation — this bill contains some of the most outrageous aspects of anti-Cuban propaganda that could be codified into law. For example, it is self-described as legislation to “take specific measures to bring about fundamental political and economic change in Cuba.” In addition to the \$25 million allocated each year, the Cuban Solidarity Act calls for the U.S. Attorney General to investigate thoroughly and report to the U.S. Congress within six months of the law's enactment, such extreme allegations of “coercion of certain categories of poor, less educated, and rural women to submit to induced abortions.” As well as “exploitative labor conditions that exist in Cuba.” It includes actions to extradite Assata Shakur, Nehanda Abiodun, William Lee Brant and other U.S. political prisoners (primarily Black Panthers) who live in exile in Cuba, as part of a long list of activities designed to intervene and otherwise encourage the overthrow of the Cuban government.

### Action

It is not clear with the change in Senate leadership (Foreign Relations Committee Chairpersonship has switched from Senator Jesse Helms to Joseph Biden) if this legislation will be taken up. However, be sure to let your Congressperson and Senator know that you oppose this harmful and wasteful bill.

For a full text of either bill, go the Latin American Working Group's web site [www.lawg.org](http://www.lawg.org). You can also sign on to their Action Alerts list regarding upcoming legislation on Cuba.

Reach your members of Congress by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Or you may search for their e-mail addresses on the web at [www.house.gov/writerep/](http://www.house.gov/writerep/) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). You may write to your members at: The Honorable [full name], United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; or The Honorable [full name], United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

For more information or to get involved with the WILPF Cuba Action Committee, please contact Jan Strout, co-chair, by e-mail [janstrout@qwest.net](mailto:janstrout@qwest.net) or by phone (206) 547-0940.

— Jan Strout

### Middle East Submitted by the WILPF Palestine Section

We specifically call for:

- a) An immediate end to Israel's abuse of Palestinian human rights including the “shoot to kill” of Palestinian civilians, including children, by Israel's military forces and settler militias; the deployment of weapons of war including helicopter gunfire, and air ground rockets.
- b) Full acknowledgment and respect by Israel for Palestinian human rights under International Law and human rights treaties, including the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- c) An end to the Israeli occupation. We urge Israel to comply with all United Nations resolutions that pertain to the occupation of Palestine. Above all we urge the withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from all the occupied territories as expressed in U.N. Resolutions 242, 338 and all resolutions pertaining to Jerusalem. Israel's compliance with U.N. resolution 194 which upholds the Palestinians right of return to their homeland.
- d) An end to the current siege of Palestinian towns, villages and roads which violates the territorial integrity of Palestinian lands. The siege severely curtails the movement of Palestinian to their homes, places of work, and the transport of Palestinian produce. The siege brings huge financial losses to the fragile Palestinian economy.
- e) An end to the construction of all Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories and land confiscation; the build-

*Continued on next page* ➤

ing of illegal highways and bypass roads; and the demolition of Palestinian's homes.

We call specifically for immediate international intervention to stop the killing and wounding of Palestinians who are exercising their elementary right to claim freedom.

We call upon you to urge your governments not only to condemn Israeli policies and practices, but also do initiate an international peace force that would to whatever limited measure, help protect the Palestinian population from Israel's military aggression. Finally, we urge Israel to return to the peace negotiations and resume talks on the basis of Oslo, Cairo, Taba's and Sharm Al Sheik Accords as a basis for achieving a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East Region.

### **Demands from the Coalition of Women for a Just Peace/Israel**

Member organizations: Bat Shalom; Maschsom Watch; Mothers and Women for Peace (formerly Four Mothers Movement); New Profile: Movement for the Civil-ization of Society in Israel; Neled: Women for Coexistence; Noga Feminist journal; Tandis: Movement of Democratic Women; Women Engendering Peace; Women in Black; and WILPF-Israel section.

Our Principles:

- An end to the occupation.
- The full involvement of women in negotiations for peace.
- Establishment of the state of Palestine side by side with the state of Israel based on the 1967 borders.
- Recognition of Jerusalem as the shared capital of two states.
- Israel must recognize its share of responsibility for the results of the 1948 war, and find a just solution for the Palestinian refugees.
- Equality, inclusion and justice for Palestinian citizens of Israel.
- Opposition to the militarism that permeates Israeli society.
- Equal rights for women and for all residents of Israel.
- Social and economic justice for all Israel's citizens.
- Cultural, economic and social integration of Israel's citizens.
- Cultural, economic, and social integration of Israel into the region.

### **Memory from a trip to Israel and Palestine**

Recently I went with Aliyah Strauss, the president of the Israel WILPF section, to a conference on Globalization that was held in Northern Israel. The conference was in Givat Haviva, where there is a peace center. Two buses of young Israeli students arrived from Jerusalem and Tel

Aviv. There were many workshops to attend, such as "LETS" (Local Exchange Trading System) and "Nations Without Armies." Israeli women are very worried about the effect of increased militarization of the country.

Strauss spent a good part of the night making boards that showed what globalization looked like visually; she had images cut out from *Time* magazine, explanatory texts and appropriate humor which made the subject understandable and interesting.

Bat Shalom urged us to maintain connections. There have been many demonstrations in Israel, some at check points, some at Women in Black vigils. The signs say "No Occupation" and "Occupation is violence." One placard read "Please make peace so we can go home."

I also met with Hanan Awwad, president of the Palestinian section of WILPF. She was busy writing drafts for the Palestine Constitution. She told me that WILPF Palestine was working very hard on making sure that there would be equal rights and representation for women.

Ramallah was under siege. I visited Al-Maqassed Hospital in East Jerusalem and saw a beautiful 14 year-old with multiple wounds caused by a rubber bullet made in the United States. The size of the bullet was half the size of a wine cork and only rubber-coated, with metal inside.

We were also part of a vigil of Prayers for Peace that meets once a week opposite Temple Mount/Noble Sanctuary. Muslims, Sufis, Jews, Christians and others read the list of all of the dead from both sides of the war and prayed together for peace.

We were also part of a forum that met in Tantur, with Israelis and Palestinian organizers. Members meet every week to advance a non-violent peace strategy. They were working on creating an international peace camp between a Palestinian village and an Israeli military outpost.

— *Odile Hugonot Haber,*  
*Chair of the Middle East Committee*

## **Show Bush You Mean Business**

Spend your tax refund money on social change.  
Donate your federal income tax refund check to WILPF  
and we'll take care of business.

### **Save the Date!**

The next National WILPF Congress will be held at  
Goddard College in Plainfield, VT, June 26 - 30, 2002.  
Watch for registration, program and election information  
in future issues of *Peace and Freedom*.

# Language, Race and Justice

Laura Partridge

During my recent tenure in Geneva, I had the pleasure of staying at the home of WILPF activist Edith Ballantyne. While there, I eagerly accepted her offer to peruse her home library.

The hundreds of books shelved throughout the house offered global philosophy, fact and fiction. As happens when surrounded by such wealth, several books just jumped out and made their way into my hands.

The last book I read was Alice Walker's *Living By The Word*. There were obvious reasons for me to read that at this moment. One, Ms. Walker is a sponsor for the U.S. Section of WILPF. And two, because I truly had been "living by the word" while in Geneva. The following words from this book are appropriate for starting an article commenting on the United Nations Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR).

*"For it is language more than anything else that reveals and validates one's existence, and if the language we actually speak is denied us, then it is inevitable that the form we are permitted to assume historically will be one of caricature, reflecting someone else's literary or social fantasy."*

At the beginning of June, the curtain closed on Act II, the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for WCAR. The "War of Words," as some have called the meeting, accomplished little in its attempt to reach consensus on language. During the two weeks of meetings, the proposed language for inclusion in the official WCAR documents was examined. The two documents are titled, 1) the Draft Declaration and 2) the Draft Program of Action. It is the language contained in these two documents that consumed the days and nights of the meetings. The resulting language will historically reflect the world's commitment to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Or the documents will "reflect someone else's literary or social fantasy."

Throughout the halls of the Palais des Nations, the U.N. headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, everyone speaks of this critical "language." Each of the more than

250 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) present had one goal, to influence the language in the documents. The NGOs have worked diligently over the past year to ensure their presence and, hopefully, impact the documents. Money has been sought expressly for the purpose of assuring the inclusion of the language required to address the needs of their constituency.

Numerous caucuses addressing regional concerns and specific issues have been formed over this past year of planning. New caucuses are developed on the spot, to amend the language in areas not viewed as sufficiently covered by existing caucuses. All groups are created to lobby for the words needed to eradicate racism.

As representatives from the NGOs and caucuses met, the governments also met and debated the language, the words. It is here, in huge domed rooms, that the countries barter for exclusion or inclusion of language to serve their purposes. It is here where the power lies. It is here where the representatives of the people sit on the fringes, watch and listen to this exchange of words.

So slow is the pace of the work that the major conclusion of the

Second Preparatory Committee Meeting is to call for a Third Preparatory Committee Meeting. "At its 9th meeting on 1 June 2001, the Preparatory Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly authorize it to hold a third session in Geneva from 30 July to 10 August 2001, for a total of ten working days, with Conference Services being provided to hold two simultaneous meetings during this period."

What does this mean to the people back home? How will these words affect their daily lives? Will this debate and "strategic lobbying" provide relief for those most deeply impacted by the focus of WCAR? How does one translate the activities of the past two weeks to the women and men around the world who are unable to feed their children or to the children sold into modern-day slavery? These are the questions that haunt this writer and millions of others who are daily affected by



Linda Chavers, center, with two friends, attending a Race Rave at Hunter College. Chavers is an NYU student who read her poetry at the Rave.

Charmaine Sprengelmeyer

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## Violence Prevention in Schools

*Susan Whitehead*

In light of what seems to be a surge of violence among school age children, many schools in the United States have been refining their security and safety procedures. Everything from random locker and backpack checks to mock hostage situations and “lock downs” has become part of the American school experience. While no one can argue that schools shouldn’t be prepared for violent or dangerous situations, some question the methods schools are using for violence prevention.

At many schools around the country, a new drill called a “lock down” has been put into action. In the Tredyffrin/Eastown School District in Pennsylvania, such drills are now in effect. They work basically the same way in elementary and high schools, with one exception. The drill begins when students are informed over the loud speaker that the school must go into “lock down” mode. The reason given to the youngest students for the drill is for them to practice what to do if a bear comes into the school, or if there is a chemical spill. The middle school and high school students are fully aware that the main reason for the lock down is to know what to do in case a gunman or assailant came onto the property.

When this drill was initially done, it extended to over an hour of school time. Students who were in the halls had to go immediately into the nearest classroom. The teacher then locked doors and windows and shut off the lights. Attendance was taken and sent via e-mail, to account for everyone in the school. Students were then asked to sit quietly for the length of the drill. One student, who did not want her name used, said she found the possibility of a gunman coming into their school, or that what had happened at Columbine could happen there frightened her. However, she felt the drill was pointless. She said many high school students giggled and couldn’t stay quiet during the drill. Some used the time to nap, catch up on homework or read. She also said students in the elementary school were frightened at the idea that a bear might make it into the school.

Dr. Lois Heist, supervisor for the Tredyffrin/Eastown School District Safety Committee stated that she was currently unsure how frequently “lockdown” drills would occur.

The school district is not alone in beginning this sort of drill; they are occurring in many districts throughout the country. From Tredyffrin/Eastown school district in Pennsylvania, to the North Shore school district in Washington State, “lock downs” are being practiced.

Some have even gone farther than the typical “lock down.” At Grimsel High School in Greensboro, North Carolina they went as far as to stage an event in which the school is under siege. Hostages were taken and SWAT teams arrived. Students and faculty then followed the new safety procedures for responding to this type of situation.

While it is vital to have an emergency response plan, and for students and employees to be informed of it, is the use of a practice drill of this nature truly beneficial? Having the plan itself is, however, but spending an hour and a half sitting in silence is not. Nor is creating a mock siege and having students spend part of their day pretending to be hostages.

Is America truly in a situation where these drills are necessary? Or is the media creating an inadequate portrayal of what is happening in the schools? Currently, violence in schools and among school age children is decreasing. Statistically speaking, schools are among the safest places for children to be. There is a one in two million chance of a child dying in school, and the number of children killed by gun violence in schools is half the number of Americans killed annually by lightning strikes. With these facts, why do 71 percent of Americans believe a shooting is likely in their schools? The way these tragic school shootings have been reported on gives a skewed version of school safety to the public. These shootings and acts of violence in schools are definitely notable and distressing; fortunately, however, they

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

are not quite the norm the media would have us imagine.

Teachers and other participants in the American education system are concerned with preventing violence and creating new safety measures. However, instead of having drills and mock sieges, perhaps they should look in a new direction of safety procedures. Maybe the new safety measures should entail doing something to stop children from wanting to bring a gun into school and take violent actions. Starting peace and tolerance education from the beginning of a child's life could be the answer.

In Arkansas, a first grader was suspended for three days in compliance with "zero tolerance" rules. He pointed a chicken nugget at his teacher and said "pow, pow, pow." His principal stated "It's not the object in hand, but the thought in mind." Again, the concept is good, as it serves as a watchdog for possible violent behavior in students. But for first grader, who probably has no concept of why his action was wrong, is a three-day suspension a beneficial action? And what action has his principal taken to ensure his students are aware of why a violent thought in mind is not permissible?

It is vital, in the hope of a peaceful society, that children learn at the earliest possible age that violence is unacceptable, and that this idea is reinforced throughout

their lives. However, we must go farther than just that. We need to teach and practice appreciation of diversity; that differences in people are not just OK, but to value and admire diversity. It is a crucial element to achieving peace and tolerance. Another important part of peace and tolerance education would be teaching anger management, impulse control, conflict resolution skills and meditation. The Justice Department's National Institute of Justice stated that "the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP), is widely regarded by public health experts as one of the most promising violence prevention programs now in operation. Focusing on creating school change, both in individual classrooms and in the school as a whole, is consistent with a value system of non-violence." Through programs like RCCP, children then have alternatives to acting out violently. They would know how to peacefully deal with anger and frustration. These peaceful resolution skills would be reinforced frequently throughout a child's education.

Together, all these aspects of peace education, would be the most significant safety measure our schools could take.

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*Susan Whitehead is serving as the summer intern for Peace & Freedom.*

Statistics used in this piece are taken from two articles published by the Justice Policy Institute.

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## RESOURCES FOR PEACE

**The Jane Addams Peace Association's Children's Book Awards** have promoted literature for children which encourages peace, justice and understanding. Contact JAPA.

**The Peace Education Foundation** has "materials that feature articles that foster school norms of cooperation and problem solving, rather than violence and aggression." [www.peace-ed.org](http://www.peace-ed.org)

**The Hague Appeal for Peace** wages a Global Campaign for Peace Education. The Appeal offers a Peace Education curriculum and activities. [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org)

**Peace Builders** is a "long term, community based, violence prevention program conducted in the schools." [www.peacebuilders.com](http://www.peacebuilders.com)

**The World Peace Project for Children** created the "Sadako Peace Project to promote world peace by educating children about global matters that concern them. And by giving them tools to build positive connections with children in other cultures." [www.sadako.org](http://www.sadako.org)

**Educators for Social Responsibility** make social responsibility the core practice in education. Its biggest program is the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program. It is based on "conflict resolution and inter-group relations that provides a model for preventing violence and creating caring, learning communities."

[www.ersnational.org](http://www.ersnational.org)

**Growing Communities for Peace** teaches children valuable lessons in conflict resolution, valuing diversity and caring for the earth. [www.peacemaker.org](http://www.peacemaker.org)

**The Center for Peace Education** "teaches the skills and processes that empower people of all ages, cultures and view points to deal creatively and peacefully with conflict and differences." [peaceeducation.citysearch.com](http://peaceeducation.citysearch.com)

**A Peace Education Links** web site, put together by Laurie Clark, a fourth grade teacher in Bakersfield, CA. It offers links to pages focusing on Peace Education, from lesson plans to activities.

[www3.igalaxy.net/~lauriec/Peace%20Ed.htm](http://www3.igalaxy.net/~lauriec/Peace%20Ed.htm)

— Susan Whitehead



# BranchAction News

*Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor*

## WILPFERS HONORED

Barbara Bair (**Santa Cruz**), who represented WILPF in last year's successful effort for a fair wage ordinance in Santa Cruz, has received a position as U.S. historian at the U.S. Library of Congress. Marcia Berman (**Los Angeles**), Peace Camp co-founder, Peace Camp teacher and children's singer, received the Magic Penny Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Children's Music Network. Pete Seeger presented the award.

## GREAT IDEA

A **Detroit** WILPFer, Margaret Dwyer, asked her branch to begin coordinating efforts to have the mayor proclaim Detroit an International City of Peace. The **Detroit** branch is creating a coalition to make this happen. For further information contact Margaret Dwyer, (248) 545-7129, fax (248) 586-1875.

## REMEMBERING OUR SPIRITUAL SIDE

Ruth Anne Petrak, new president of the **Des Moines** branch, writes: "Our own spirits must be nourished so that we will have resources to give to others. May we remember the importance of finding 'Sabbath time' and 'Sabbath places' in which to renew ourselves for service."

## STAR WARS

At a community event, **Chapel Hill** gathered signatures for a petition opposing the Ballistic Missile Defense system and set up easels for children to draw and write their ideas for peace. It also promoted the International Day of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space—October 13, 2001. **Santa Cruz** agreed to cosponsor this day.

**Cape Cod** is part of a Peace in Space coalition that is designing an action for this day on Cape Cod that will get worldwide attention. **Detroit** cosponsored a talk by Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. **Portland** printed excerpts from the Secretary of Defense's Annual Report to the President 2001: "Space is now part of the tactical battlefield and its use is growing....Space is much like the high seas and international airspace....Purposeful interference with U.S. space systems will be viewed as infringement on U.S. sovereign rights." **Los Angeles** presented Jonathan Parfrey, executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility, speaking on "Ambushed: President Bush's New Arms Race." **Santa Cruz** heard about a variety of approaches to bring a halt to Bush's version of Star Wars. A video illustrated the

tie-in between big corporations and the National Missile Defense system. WILPF members attended a later protest at Vandenberg Air Force Base. **Cape Cod** spent part of a meeting listening to the Air Force present its wish to upgrade its "Phased Array Warning System" so it can play a role in Star Wars.

## ISRAEL/PALESTINE

**Berkeley** urged sending Bush and Powell letters to press Israel to end the violence of the occupation, and noted the "Plant an Olive Tree for Peace" in the Palestinian / West Bank effort; contact Coalition of Jews for Justice in Israel and Palestine, [jewsforjustice@hotmail.com](mailto:jewsforjustice@hotmail.com). **Palo Alto** held a vigil June 8 in solidarity with the Coalition of Women for a Just Peace in Jerusalem calling for an immediate end to Israel's occupation and a Palestinian state based on 1967 borders. **Monterey** reported on its Middle Eastern dinner, with Bruna Nota, international president of WILPF, Barbara Lubin (founder of Middle East Children's Alliance) and Charlie Clements, with Physicians for Human Rights. They have a good-quality video of this event; contact WILPF, P.O. Box 1851, Monterey CA 93942. **Detroit** helped form the coalition for Peace and Justice in the Middle East, which sent a co-signed letter to all members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

## PEACE CAMPS

**Santa Cruz, Fresno, Fullerton, Nevada County, Whittier, and Kailua** WILPF groups met to brainstorm and introduce new curriculum for their camps.

**Peninsula** sponsored a person to attend an interracial camp with the hope that the person would do "peace camp" work at childcare or early childhood education programs the rest of the year. **St. Louis** reported on its 2000 Peace Camp, with the theme "Steps Toward Peace." The children decorated shoes with their personal steps toward peace and the shoes were displayed on the steps of the City Hall. **Detroit** held its 5th Peace Day Camp Workshop. **Los Angeles** is preparing for two, week-long day camps for children 6 - 12.

## DEATH PENALTY AND PRISON ISSUES

**Chapel Hill** is promoting Jubilee 2000, a movement in North Carolina to reform the criminal justice system.

**Des Moines** member Jean Basinger testified before the Iowa House for the Justice Reform Consortium about the effectiveness and need for community based corrections

and argued against cutting the budget for these programs. **Palo Alto** held a silent vigil for an inmate scheduled to be executed. At its annual meeting on “Challenging the Bush Agenda,” **St. Louis** had a panel on the death penalty and prison industry, reproductive choice, education, and the separation of church and state. **Monterey** has joined other groups working on a moratorium on the death penalty.

**Peninsula** reported on a former prison warden’s talk about his 25 years of experience in corrections and involvement in executions, and his subsequent stand against capital punishment. **Los Angeles** heard from Francisco Trujillo, coordinator for Southern California Criminal Justice Consortium, speak on “The New Plantations: Prisons and Prison Labor.”

#### HOT SPOTS SOUTH

**Portland** heard from a member who recently toured Colombia with Witness for Peace, viewed a video produced by another member who visited Colombia in 1996, and is conducting weekly vigils against military aid and U.S. military intervention. **Chapel Hill** included a long excerpt from a moving speech by Zapatista Subcommandante Marcos given in Oaxaca. **Des Moines** alerted members to a remilitarization of El Salvador and Central America, and to the U.N. World Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons held in New York, July 9 - 21.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY EVENTS

**Sacramento** presented Jane Addams Children’s Award books to the county library and got a picture and mention of WILPF in the paper. **Los Angeles** had a panel discussion on “Women and the Growing International Movement Against Globalization.” **Baltimore’s** and **Catonsville’s** celebration was “Women’s Voices Against Violence,” a panel including WILPF U.N. rep Felicity Hill and women from Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, and Colombia. **Palo Alto** used the occasion to present a life membership in WILPF to member Jean McFadden. **Chapel Hill’s** vigil theme was “What Women Want.”



Sacramento Valley WILPF Branch and Sacramento Activists for Democratic Trade held a standing-room only meeting with, left to right, WILPFer Ben Sher; Nancy Price, Alliance for Democracy; and Claude Pillare, Sacramento Labor Council, shown in this rendering by Kloss.

#### RACIAL JUSTICE

**Minnesota** held a fundraiser/panel discussion on white privilege to help send a black member to the South Africa conference in August. **Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Santa Cruz** reported on the highly successful Race Rave at U.C. Santa Cruz. The following week Santa Cruz had a multicultural panel on the connections between racism and health. **Catonsville**

heard from their congressman on “Uniting for Racial Justice: How the Federal Government and Local Communities Work for Racial Reconciliation.” **Cape Cod** is supporting the request by the Mashpee Wampanoag for tribal recognition, and also the national Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, whose main goal is to assure passage of Congressman John Conyers’ bill to study the impact of slavery on African Americans. **Chapel Hill** heard about events on the University of North Carolina campus that culminated in a well-attended discussion, “Is there institutional racism at UNC?” and a panel discussion on the same topic the next day. One event was an action in response to the racist “Horowitz ad” that ran in several campus papers.

#### GLOBALIZATION

**Santa Cruz** heard from Ben Sher of Sacramento WILPF, lead organizer of the WILPF activists in Quebec City for protests against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). **Portland** promoted a public forum on Fast Track and the FTAA and the “Hemispheric Action Day for Global Justice.” **Des Moines’** Corporate Study Committee is monitoring a mega-mall project and providing their comments of concern. **Palo Alto** heard from a member who attended local FTAA protests in southern California and Mexico.

#### MEETING TOPICS

**Sacramento Valley** heard Blanche Wiesen Cook talk on “Eleanor Roosevelt: Activism, Human Rights, and the Future.” **Monterey** saw the film *Paying the Price: Killing the Children of Iraq*. At **Madison’s** annual Peace and Freedom Dinner, Robert McChesney, author of *Rich Media, Poor Democracy* analyzed how we get our news and who owns the press. **Palm Beach County** wound up its season with an afternoon of “open” mike for mem-

#### GET YOUR BRANCH NEWS ON THESE PAGES

Send your newsletters or updates to Leslie Reindl,  
1233 Ingerson Road, St. Paul, MN 55112-3714.

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# Fundraising Ideas for Peace and Justice

Rosemary Burke, Development Director

**W**ILPF depends on its grassroots membership for resources to continue to do our advocacy work. WILPF also performs important educational work with the help of resources from the Jane Addams Peace Association, but these resources also come from WILPF members. Members are the lifeblood of WILPF. Branches recruit over half of all new members. Last year, 334 new members joined WILPF with 51 percent coming from branch recruiting efforts. We need to have more new members to survive into the future.

The best way to raise funds for WILPF is to bring in new members. Ideas to accomplish this include:

- Each member should recruit one new member — membership growth is essential.
- Give a gift of membership for holidays, birthdays and other occasions.
- Honor a long-time member with a gift life membership. She has paid her dues!

Our fundraising benefits branch activities and supports the WILPF U.S. Section National office, enabling services for branches, national and international work.

Here are some fundraising ideas from sister branches around the United States:

- **Asheville:** Holds annual fundraiser selling tickets to a play, with 50 percent of the take going to WILPF. *Grace and Glorie* raised over \$750. A special appeal for \$5 for the branch newsletter was also sent.
- **Baltimore/Catonsville:** Concert featuring Sweet Honey in the Rock held in collaboration with other local organizations.
- **Berkeley:** Holiday Craft Fair/Grants Program for Youth.
- **Boston:** WILPF Winter Retreat.
- **Cape Cod:** Grants from JAPA, peace camp, Jane Addams dinner, workshop fees.
- **Cleveland/Women Speak Out:** Collected local dues as well as national. Held a Women Speak Out Festival (and bazaar) and raised \$2,692, including a raffle of \$795 (theatre tickets, artwork, pottery, painting).
- **Detroit:** WILPF Theater Party featuring *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* for \$20 a ticket.
- **Fresno:** Peace Community Crafts Fair with local artists, raffle, baked items, silent auction.
- **Los Angeles:** Peace table for resource sales at Branch

meetings, also International Women's Day Luncheon.

• **Midwest combined:** Co-sponsor of Lanterns for Peace event with music, dancing, story telling and refreshments. Also celebrate 60th wedding anniversary of members and suggest gift be a contribution to branch or national WILPF.

• **Monterey:** Annual fundraiser with Middle East Tabouli Dinner. WILPF Monterey Branch and Veterans for Peace charged \$10 to reproduce business cards in newsletter.

• **Palm Beach County:** "No Luncheon" luncheon, plus incentive of matching fund up to \$1,000.

• **Palo Alto:** Gift of life membership to Jean McFadden. "Jean has paid her dues to WILPF many times over. Jean is a community treasure and we will love her and treasure her," local members said.

• **Philadelphia:** Annual Branch Luncheon with speaker and a "flea-less" flea market that raised \$535. Also does contributions "in honor and in memory of."

• **Santa Cruz:** Celebrity Auction on eBay raised over \$5,000 for WILPF national office. Jane Podesta Fund - Silent Auction; WILPF Fun Raiser with a \$10 donation (for May Day) and all you can eat bountiful buffet; WILPF/Abolition 2000 tabled together on tax day. The tax day bake sale raised \$158.

• **St. Louis:** WILPF Fundraising Night at Plowsharing Crafts - 10 percent went to branch.

• **Swarthmore-Delco:** Valentine's Party with contributions/exchange of gifts.

• **San Jose:** Holiday Peace Fair, with other organizations raised \$140. Also held a Dinner and Dance Benefit.

These are great ideas from our members and branches— use them and enjoy FUN raising for local, national and international WILPF!

Please send us your fundraising ideas and experiences to share with other branches. Send to Rosemary Burke, Development Director by mail, phone or email: [rburke@wilpf.org](mailto:rburke@wilpf.org).

If you want more information on organizing any of the kinds of events and fundraising ideas mentioned above, contact Rosemary. Your success is our success! With your help WILPF will continue to bend the world towards peace and justice. ❖

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**"It isn't enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it." — Eleanor Roosevelt**

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Peace Camp Retreat in Nevada City, CA in late April. California Peace Camps represented were Santa Cruz, Fresno, Fullerton, Nevada County and Whittier, as well as one in Kailua, Hawaii. For information, contact Susan Hopkins at (530) 274-1862.

## ► LANGUAGE

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racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Our commitment must be two-fold. Our presence and input into the language of WCAR must continue. Although today we may not see substantial progress, we know the work at the international level is important. These words will hopefully serve as a basis for change at some point in the future.

We must place just as much of our energy and resources on what we are doing to rid the world of racism right now, in the place we call home. In *Living By The Word*, Walker referred to a sign she saw at a women's shelter. It read, "Peace on earth begins at home." Days spent sitting and waiting for meetings on language to begin and then sitting more during these meetings, can cause one to question the "activism" of this work. An even more disturbing dilemma is relating the relevance of this work to the situations we'll find when we return home. One NGO representative shared this view, "When you leave these U.N. meetings you have a better appreciation for the work you are doing in your own community."

What will we do with the final language found in the documents produced by the United Nation's World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance? How will this language change the world when the final curtain is drawn? Obviously, only you and I can answer these questions through our actions in the days preceding and following the World Conference.

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*Laura Partridge is a member of the UFORJE campaign.*

## ► BRANCH ACTION

from page 25

bers. **Santa Cruz** heard from a Vietnam vet, president of Vietnam Friendship Village Project, which treats those experiencing lingering illnesses and birth defects from defoliant Agent Orange. **Peninsula** discussed why our health care system doesn't work, and suggested actions.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND MISCELLANEOUS ACTIONS

**Palm Beach County** and **Berkeley** had tables at community Earth Day Celebrations. Berkeley urged letters opposing Arctic drilling. **St. Louis** joined other organizations to stop the construction of a 4,000-acre cement plant near the city, and co-sponsored the MoRAGE (Missouri Resistance Against Genetic Engineering) Roadshow and Anti-Genetic-Engineering theater, on sustainable agriculture, ecological sanity, and justice. **Palm Beach** created an umbrella organization of other peace and justice groups to take united action, the first of which was a vigil against policies of Governor Jeb Bush. **Detroit** joined others in a tour of the underground railroad station there. A **Madison** member attended the two-day trial of two antinuclear protesters in Madison and reported on it in the newsletter. The defendants' case hinged on the illegality of nuclear weapons. They were judged guilty anyway. **Peninsula** called for action to help save Pacifica Radio from the actions of its board.

## ► QUEBEC FTAA

from page 15

fence down in many places. I didn't see any violent behavior by the activists but maybe that is because of where I happened to be.

We had decided not to participate in the direct action phase, but were so caught up by the theatrics that we stayed and watched at quite close range. It had a surreal feeling, like an old Eisenstein movie — billowing tear gas and painful burning eyes, police in Darth Vader outfits with gas masks, helmets, shields and batons. Helicopters were flying overhead. The police were banging on their shields. The protestors were banging on drums and anything that would make noise. The noise and the smoke were deafening. At one point we watched from below the Old City and stood in awe at the swirling gasses, helicopters and drumming. Perhaps, the eeriest feeling and one that filled me with a great deal of foreboding was the scene at one gate. There were only about 12 to 15 people there, just milling around. When I walked alone down a hill, I encountered two contingents of policemen five abreast and 10 deep in their Darth Vader outfits. They couldn't be seen from the main road. I stood next to them just staring. Then the two contingents 100 strong marched up the hill like automatons.

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*Joan Ecklein is member of the Boston WILPF branch.*

## Join your sisters in WILPF to:

- **UNITE** in a worldwide sisterhood of peace and justice;
- **BUILD** a constructive peace through world disarmament;
- **WORK** for the equality of all people in a world free of sexism and racism;
- **CREATE** lasting social change and worldwide peace and justice.



*WILPF, one of the world's oldest, continuously active peace organizations, works in 37 countries, over 100 U.S. communities and on many campuses, and with the United Nations, where it has Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status.*

## Yes! I want to join WILPF to work for peace and freedom.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Member       Renewal

Annual dues include a subscription to *Peace and Freedom*

Individual \$35     Household \$40     Low Income \$15

"More if you can, less if you can't" \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All dues and contributions are payable to WILPF and are not tax deductible. Make tax deductible contributions of \$50 or more to Jane Addams Peace Association Fund.

Mail to:    WILPF  
1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
For information, call: (215) 563-7110

### Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

1213 Race Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-1691

### Time Value - Do Not Delay



WILPFers participate in a June vigil at the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia.

Terry Foss

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