

Peace & Freedom

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

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“We may be a long way from permanent peace, . . .
but . . . I find a rising tide of revolt against war. . . .”

—Jane Addams

**Also Inside: A National Missile Defense System? • Protesting at Vandenberg
Palestine • WILPF Goes to Cuba**



WILPFers dancing and protesting in Havana. See page 20.

Photos by Theta Pavis and Mary Day Kent

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Editor: Theta Pavis
Typesetting: Sigrid Berkner, Judy Mathe Foley/Penitentiary Printing
Editorial Assistance: Ariane Allen, *Peace and Freedom* Intern; Marjorie Schier, Copyediting, Pamela Jones Burnley, Proofreading.



U.S. Section WILPF: 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107; phone: (215) 563 7110; fax (215) 563 5527; e mail: wilpf@wilpf.org; website: www.wilpf.org

Legislative Office: 110 Maryland Ave., NE, Ste. 102, Washington, D.C., 20002; phone: (202) 546 6727; fax: (202) 544 9613; email: ggilhool@ix.netcom.com

President: Phyllis Yingling
Executive Director: Mary Day Kent
Legislative Organizer: Gillian Gilhool



Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA): 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017; phone: (212) 682 8830. JAPA is WILPF's educational fund.

President: Linda Wasserman
Executive Director: Isha Dyfan

International WILPF: 1 rue de Varembe, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland; phone: 41 22 733 6175; fax: 41 22 919 7080; e mail: wilpf@iprolink.ch

President: Bruna Nota
Secretary-General: Michaela Told
WILPF U.N. Liaison: Felicity Hill

Cover photo courtesy of United Nations.

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 three key campaign areas: Challenging Corporate Power, Asserting the People's Rights; Disarmament; and Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation (UFORJE). 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.

Finding Our Power

Mary Day Kent, WILPF Executive Director

“It is not your right to feel powerless.”

This line from a poem by Carolyn Forché haunted me during the endless post-election, pre-presidential period we’ve just come through. Certainly as we work through WILPF we face the challenge of finding our power and finding the way to make our power effective.

In mid-November, right after the election, I was in Cuba with the WILPF Cuba Action Committee’s “Women and the Media” delegation. As part of our time in Havana we joined thousands of international people at the Second World Conference of Solidarity with the people of Cuba. Although there were many participants from the United States, the majority came from the 100 other countries represented and it was a salutary experience of seeing ourselves as others see us. In far too many cases, in speech after speech, the United States emerges as the government responsible for policies that perpetuate and increase poverty, hardship, and injustice.

Most speakers charitably distinguished between the U.S. government and the U.S. people, a distinction I am not comfortable accepting. Of course, WILPF and its individual members have struggled for decades to change the U.S. government. We do live with the possibility of causing change and we need to continue and increase those efforts. One policy that still calls for change is the U.S. blockade of Cuba, a policy that has been entrenched for my entire political life. As long as I have been aware of political issues, ending the embargo on Cuba has been one of the goals held by peace and social activist groups. It is intensely frustrating to realize how much work has been done to challenge and break the blockade over these past decades, but it has not yet been enough.

With this example of our limits fresh in my experience, I do see that WILPF has been in the right places in the recent weeks. For WILPF’s delegation to be in Cuba this November was another exhilarating moment in the 85th anniversary year. Eighty-five and still crossing borderlines for peace! It was with great pride that I read recently of another boundary-breaking initiative, the trip to Iraq by international peace leaders, including International WILPF president Bruna Nota. In early December, WILPF was represented at the U.N. regional prep com for the Americas for the World Conference Against Racism, with Laura Partridge and Adjoa Aiyetoro from the UFORJE committee crossing almost the length of the hemisphere to participate in Santiago,

Chile. And in Washington, D.C., WILPF was a sponsor and co-organizer of a conference on Women and National Security. Board members and staff attended and several WILPF women were speakers and workshop leaders. After an election year in which essential issues of peace, disarmament, and security were given no noticeable attention in the U.S., Washington seems like an especially important place for WILPF to be present.

This range of issues and the many aspects of the challenges we face in this first administration of the new millennium are addressed throughout the following pages. As I look at the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and our many goals for 2001, I do want to make one special plea to all our members and readers. We have many needs for activism, support, contributions, volunteer involvement and all of these are crucially important. However, I would particularly like to ask every WILPF person who reads this to make a personal effort this year to add one or more new members to our rolls. This is the single element that will most change our capacity to make a difference on the issues we care about! We need more strength of numbers and energy to achieve the changes that lead to peace and justice.

Personally, I’m looking forward to a year of working with the dangerous women of WILPF. ❖



Mary Day, far right, visiting with a local Committee for the Defense of the Revolution in Havana.

Photo by Theta Pavis

WOMEN WORKING FOR A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE

July 29 - August 4, 2001

28th International WILPF Congress & International Executive Committee Meeting
Hotel Ambassador, East Jerusalem - Palestine

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW:

July 29: International Executive Meeting & Opening of Congress

July 30: Presentation of International Reports, Reporting by Sections, Opening of Thematic Seminar, Women Working for Just and Durable Peace

July 31: From a Cult of Militarism to a Culture of Peace, Local, Regional & International Initiatives Panel, Working Groups
Session I Issues at Stake for Sections

Aug.1: Working Groups Session II, Strategy and Action, Introduction of Candidates for Election to International Offices

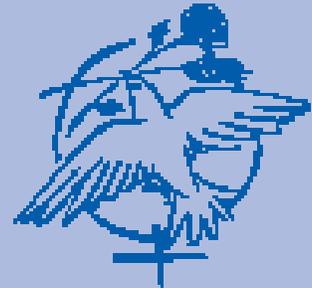
Aug.2: Introduction of Resolutions & Intro. of Program Recommendations, Committee Meetings, Regional Meetings

Aug.3: Elections, Adoption of Resolutions, Adoption of Program & Budget, Closing of Congress

Aug.4: International Executive Committee

Aug.5: Visit to area of West Bank and/or Gaza

There will be a post-conference seminar organized by the WILPF Israeli Section, with visits to historical sites, combined with plenary sessions and workshops.



WILPF 28th International Congress & International Executive Committee Meeting

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline is March 1, 2001

Name _____ Address _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Will attend IEC Congress (Check as necessary)

I will attend as a: Section Delegate Convenor of Committee Officer WILPF Member Guest

Date & time of arrival _____ Date & time of departure _____

Additional information (flight number, etc.) _____ An airport shuttle/taxi is available for an extra charge.

Registration includes IEC and Congress

Registration fee for international participants: US\$65.00

For students/unemployed: US\$20.00

Optional Costs

Congress Report: US\$15.00

Social Evening (costs to be announced)

Sight seeing tour on Aug. 5 (costs to be announced)

Accommodation, including three meals at the Ambassador hotel per day

Single room (taxes included) US\$95/ (dates.....)

Double room, two single beds (taxes included) US\$65/ (dates.....)

Send registration form & payment (check only, no credit cards or bank transfers!) to:

WILPF • PO Box 27235 • Los Angeles • CA 90027-0235 USA

Additional information:

Sharing rooms with (name, arrival and departure dates of roommate should be the same)

Please indicate any special dietary requirements: (Vegetarian, Kosher, Diabetic, Other _____)

The languages of the Congress will be English, Arabic and Hebrew.

The hotel is not wheelchair accessible, but arrangements will be made. (Check if needed.)

Conditions for cancellation will be announced later.

Signature _____ Date _____

STATEMENT OF U.S. WILPF ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE/EAST JERUSALEM

1) We, the United States members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom mourn every death that has resulted from the recent violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2) We condemn the use of all deadly force. Only justice on the ground and negotiation will bring peace. Repression and aggression through the use of arms will only bring on war.

3) The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has for years called on Israel and the international community to take the necessary steps for the Palestinians to establish their own independent state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, within the pre-1967 borders, and with East Jerusalem as its capital alongside the state of Israel. We hope that the two states will live in peace as good neighbors, with each other and with all other states in the region.

4) We affirm that nonviolence and negotiated solutions are the only way for all parties to move forward. Creative peacemaking methods and peace centers exist in the culture of both peoples. (See below.) These methods of conflict resolution must be implemented for all parties to recognize the humanity of the other.

5) We reaffirm the legitimacy of international laws.

We specifically call for:

An immediate end to all violent acts and human rights violations such as the incarceration, expulsion, beating, torturing, shooting, and killing of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli Defense Forces and the settlers' militia. We recognize the Palestinians' right of resistance to the ongoing oppressive and military occupations, but call upon them, as a matter of urgency, to return to the negotiating table.

Full respect by Israel of Palestinian human rights under International Law and human rights treaties, including the Fourth Geneva Convention which protects civilians in occupied territories; full respect for Palestinian rights and the human rights of all citizens inside Israel; full respect for human rights by the Palestinian Authority.

An end to the occupation. We urge Israel to comply with all United Nations resolutions which pertain to the occupation of Palestine. Above all we urge the withdrawal of the Israeli

Defense Forces from all the occupied territories, as expressed in the United Nations Resolution #242 of November 22, 1967.

We call for an end to the closures; an end to the construction of all Jewish settlements in the occupied territories; an end to the land confiscations and the demolition of Palestinian homes in Israel and in the occupied territories; and for an end to the siege of Palestinian towns.

The right of return for Palestinian refugees; and for implementation of UN Resolution #194 of December, 1948, passed 52 years ago affirming the right of return for Palestinian refugees and the right to compensation for their losses.

Peacemaking and conflict resolution organizations in the region:

"Sulha" Palestinian traditional peacemaking process by Elias Jabour (Arab Israeli method). International Peace Center for reconciliation and peace activities. Director Elias Jabour, P.O. Box 272, Shafa'amr 20200. Tel. 04 9868558.

School of Peace in the village of Neve Shalom/Whahat el Salaam, a community of Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel. DN Shimson 99761. Tel. 02 9912222.

Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence. Director, Sami Awad, Abu Obeida Street, Nuzha Building, 3rd Fl., East Jerusalem. Tel. 02 6273275.

An international inquiry into what inflamed this present eruption of violence as part of the process of truth, forgiveness and reconciliation.

New peace negotiations on the basis of all relevant U.N. resolutions. We urge Israelis and Palestinians to resume peace negotiations based on equity in a multi-lateral setting, to work towards just and long-term solutions that would bring an enduring peace to the region.

The participation of Israeli and Palestinian women at the negotiation table.

6) We urge the United Nations to give immediate protection to the Palestinian people and medical assistance to the more than 9,000 injured.

7) We urge the United States to use its leverage to prevail upon Israel to de-escalate the violence and stop the siege. We also urge the United States to end arms sales and transfers to all parties in the region.

8) We acknowledge and support the efforts of the Israeli peace movement; we support the efforts of individuals and groups on both sides that work towards nonviolent resolutions. We feel a special solidarity towards the women in the peace movement in Israel and Palestine and we desire increased communication and to be of assistance in whatever ways they request.

9) Our long-term vision is a demilitarized Middle East in which all citizens of every country can live and prosper in peace and cooperation, feeling safe and being free. ❖

"The only alternative to coexistence is codestruction."

— Jawaharlal Nehru

U.S. Militaristic Domination

Felicity Hill and Soulafreda Valassis

Director, WILPF U.N. Office, and WILPF U.N. intern

In early July of last year, the United States scheduled the third test of the proposed National Missile Defense system using facilities in Vandenberg, (California) and Kwajalein, (Marshall Islands).

National Missile Defense (NMD) is essentially the sequel to the Strategic Defense Initiative, also known as “Star Wars.” The proposed missile shield, which would intercept any incoming missiles to the United States, is not only unnecessary and technologically faulty, but has the potential to create an arms race reminiscent of the Cold War. This proposal contradicts the agreement made by all five nuclear weapon states for the “total and unequivocal” elimination of their nuclear arsenals, as stated in the final document of the 2000 Non Proliferation Treaty Review conference and violates the spirit and letter of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

HISTORY

The history surrounding the NMD is one that began in 1983, when Ronald Reagan launched The Strategic Defense Initiative in order to create a “perfect shield” over the United States from Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles armed with nuclear warheads. Prohibitive costs and failure of the technology made the initiative unattainable, prompting President Reagan to give up the project after the fall of the Soviet Union. In 1996, an election year, President Clinton revitalized NMD efforts by proposing a six-year contract: three years to research and three years to build the NMD system. On July of 1999 President Clinton signed the National Missile Defense Act, which commits to deploying NMD “as

soon as technologically possible.” According to the propaganda, this decision was made in an effort to protect the United States from ballistic missile attacks by so-called “rogue states,” although many wonder if huge military corporations had any part in the suggestion to re-launch Star Wars.

The first test to intercept a target warhead was made in October 1999 and was considered successful, however, it consisted of only one major component of the eventual system. The test was carried out under the most ideal conditions. The second intercept test took place in January 2000. Although the test was done under a similar context as the first, it ultimately failed. The third test was conducted in July, at Vandenberg, California. Once again, the test took place within the same context as the previous one, only to produce yet another failure.

AFTERMATH OF TESTS: NUCLEAR AND MISSILE

The effects of U.S. nuclear tests last much longer than the few minutes it takes to conduct them. The people of the Marshall Islands have castigated the United States for its deplorable role in polluting their homeland. According to the Pacific Concerns Research Centre (PCRC), “For fifty years, nuclear testing in the Pacific by the United States, France, and Britain has polluted our island and our ocean. Now these missile tests are desecrating our skies.” The United States has already been asked to pay extra compensation for the Marshall Islanders, who were irradiated by almost 70 U.S. nuclear tests between 1946-1958. Unfortunately, one-third of these Islanders died before receiving their full payment of compensation.

The United States has played an irresponsible role in the aftermath of past nuclear testing, leaving Pacific Islanders to question any future accountability. According to Mrs. Salabula of the PCRC, “The testing of the NMD system at the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll base can only take place because the U.S. authorities are deaf to our call — we want a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific!”

KEY TERMS

Ballistic Missiles: a delivery vehicle that can carry various types of warheads (conventional or mass destruction) that follows a ballistic trajectory (gravity), unlike a cruise missile which is guided for the duration of its flight.

Kill Vehicle: the self guided component of the interceptor which attempts to collide with incoming warheads destroying them on impact.

Interceptor: the missile that attempts to destroy incoming warheads.

Target Warhead: the warhead the kill vehicle seeks to destroy.

Deployment: putting a weapon system into operational mode

Counter-measures: steps taken to confuse, overwhelm, or deceive the kill vehicle such as foil balloons and decoys

Submunition: smaller packets or bomblets of ammunition, many of which can be carried on a single missile, which can be used in biological or chemical warfare.

Boost Phase: the initial period of powered flight when the rockets thrusters are firing.



Protesting at Vandenberg are WILPF members, *left to right, above, Cappy Israel, Ruth Hunter and Nadine Winslow. Below, WILPF member Bruce Miller.*



SOME ARGUMENTS AGAINST NMD

Technology

The first argument against NMD is the technology itself. It is currently believed, as it was in the Reagan administration, that it's impossible to create the necessary technology within the next few decades. One must be cautious in using this argument, however, for fear that the "lumbering behemoths of the apocalypse" (also known as the billion dollar corporations) will retort that the necessary funding can prove otherwise. The March 7th *New York Times* quotes Nira Schwartz, an ex-engineer of NMD, as stating that NMD is "not a defense of the United States, its a conspiracy to allow them to milk the government. They are creating jobs for themselves for life." The lack of technology is seen as no setback to the corporations, who profit with billions of dollars, assuring the Pentagon that increasing funds can make this dream a reality. However, is the recreation of an arms race and current insecurity worth something that is only profiting Boeing, Raytheon, TRW and Lockheed Martin?

ACTUAL THREAT

In reality, no country has initiated the deployment of ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States. North Korea, a feared "rogue state" is years away from developing a reliable Ballistic Missile system that could deliver any warhead to the United States, and has stated that any attempt to do so would be foolish. North

Korea's current need for support from the international community, but more importantly its action and interest toward the reunification of Korea, seriously undermine the possibility of it launching any kind of attack. In the meantime, North Korea has even halted its missile flight testing, in an agreement with the U.S. to loosen trade sanctions. As for Iran, experts believe it is unlikely that it could begin testing long range missiles within the next 15 years. Iraq is even less of a threat, with most of its missile infrastructure destroyed since the Gulf War. Iraq is also under severe sanctions, which limit its capability to acquire missiles and subsequent technology from other nations.

COSTS

One hundred twenty-two billion dollars have been spent on Theater and National Missile Defense since World War II. Furthermore, the Pentagon believes that it would cost the American people \$26.6 billion dollars to maintain a single missile defense sight in Alaska, with \$4 billion dollars in annual maintenance fees. Each ballistic missile test conducted by the United States has cost over \$100 million dollars, resulting in failures for the most part. In total, the United States has wasted \$5.6 trillion dollars in nuclear arsenals.

AGGRAVATING FRIENDS AND FOES ALIKE

NMD faces grave international opposition from almost every country.

It is viewed as an effort by the United States to enhance its offensive capabilities. According to the Chinese top arms control negotiators, U.S. efforts to deploy NMD will risk collapsing the whole architecture of China's arms control and nonproliferation agreements with the West. Russia has threatened to stop reducing its nuclear arsenals if the deployment of NMD becomes a reality.

CORPORATIONS

Corporations, specifically Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, and TRW have the most to gain, about \$30 billion dollars a year in Pentagon contracts. Interestingly, \$35 billion dollars a year in "black project" budgets is spent weaponizing space without the approval of the American people or Congress! The American public is robbed of necessary social programs and their livelihood (not to mention democratic privilege), as their money is wasted away on unnecessary and dangerous programs without their consent or knowledge. Currently, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and TRW are in the midst of creating

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What if We Had Disarmament?

Bruna Nota, International WILPF President

Recently, a progressive American citizen told me some politicians in the United States do not want to give any more support to peacekeeping efforts around the world. They've grown weary of sending troops across the globe to put out fires.

My response was to say that I have no qualms about the United States not sending peacekeepers abroad, if it also decides not to send its war-makers around the world, and abides by its commitments towards verifiable disarmament for nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional weapons.

What If?

Over the years, I have often played a game with my children at dinnertime called "What If?" It helped fill those long silences teens are known for, but it also had a point.

What if you were born 500 years ago, or at the other end of the world? What if you won a Nobel Prize, or were serving a long-term prison sentence? We always had a lot of ideas and the fears and hopes of each one of us revealed a lot.

With that in mind, I would like to invite you to play a variation of this game: "What if there were no weapons and no armies in the world?"

After all, the Charter of the United Nations starts with language about saving "succeeding generations from the scourge of war." The charter goes on to set up a number of conditions that would facilitate the attainment of this goal.

In 1978, the United Nations held its first session entirely devoted to the question of disarmament. The final document emanating from that session provides a framework for the international community's disarmament efforts.

Fast forward to the Beijing Platform for Action (4th U.N. World conference on Women, 1995). Paragraph 143f (i) commits governments to "Work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

Why is it then that not only have we not progressed toward "complete and total disarmament," but also that world military expenditures in 1995 were double (around U.S. \$800 billion - adjusted for inflation) the amount spent at the height of the cold war in 1982?

Could it be that we, as investors, are asking higher and higher returns, regardless of whose blood pays for these returns? As consumers we protest when the price of oil goes up. We go to war, as in Operation Desert Storm in 1991, for the protection of our oil supply! Similarly, we have our armies, and / or our vassals to ensure the continued supply, at cheap prices, of the necessary bauxite, diamonds, copper, coffee and cocoa. The people whose natural and human richness we continue to exploit and despoil must be kept under control, while the depredation of

Indonesia, the Congo, Colombia and Sierra Leone continues.

The linkage between consumption and military spending is made quite explicit in the following statement by

Thomas Friedman. He is a proponent of the free markets and of unchecked economic globalization.

"The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist — McDonald's cannot flourish without McDonnell Douglas, the builder of the F-15. And the hidden fist that keeps the world safe for Silicon Valley's technologies is called the United States Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps." ¹

The arms industry, apart from being the single largest polluter and waster of resources in the world, is also the most profitable industry. It enjoys high levels of protection. Even the WTO rules state that a country can't be prevented from taking any action "...it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests ... relating to the traffic in arms, ammunition, and implements of war and such traffic in other goods and materials as is carried on directly for the purpose of supplying a military establishment (or) taken in time of war or other emergency in international relations." ²

As an aside, an appropriate subject of a "what if" game could be: "what if citizens were fairly asked to define essential security interests?"

Ambassador Dhanapala, U.N. under secretary general for Disarmament Affairs, has said that there is no progress on disarmament because of a lack of political will on the part of world leaders. Speaking in early 2000, he suggested that there are two key points necessary to effectively mobilize political will:

- Provide factual information, transmitted through effective channels, to avoid the danger of citizens drifting into apathy, and to help them intervene in the priority-setting dialogue in their countries;
- Develop mechanisms to fashion among leaders a shared objective, reflecting these priorities, that is translated into policy.

WILPF is ideally situated to work on these two points. And we WILPF members have an absolute duty to dedicate ourselves to work towards "total and complete disarmament." This duty derives both from our commitment to world peace and justice, and from our own self interest. Our quality of life would be so much improved if even a small portion of military expenditures were re-directed to what the U.N. Charter calls the promotion of "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."³

As you well know, the United States "is number one, among 180 countries, in military expenditures, military R&D



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WILPF In Washington

Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Organizer

Give Peace a Chance

The ImPEACEment group of WILPF's disarmament committee put together voter education materials for the 2000 elections to quiz Senate and House candidates on peace issues and the war economy. The handy flyer, with facts and charts (showing trade-offs in military versus social spending) and questions to pose on key disarmament issues, has been adapted for continuing use in ongoing dialogues with congressional delegations.

"Rap sheets" with candidate and district-specific information (profiles, voting records, top contributors and top 24 defense department contractors in the state or district) were compiled for districts where high concentrations of WILPF members promised the information would be put to good use. Instructions for putting together this critical data are on the flyer. Look on WILPF's website, Disarm: Dismantling the War Economy section, or call the D.C. office for the flyer template, (202) 546-6727. We want all members of the 107th Congress to know there's a strong peace constituency watching what they do. Contact Val Mullen, vmullen@together.net, or Yvonne Logan, (616) 399-4352, for other campaign materials.

RACE OUTCOMES

Among WILPF's focus states — Michigan, Missouri, and Washington — democrats Debbie Stabenow, Jean Carnahan and Maria Cantwell all bested incumbent Republicans and won seats as three of the four new women Senators. With Hillary Clinton in New York, women in the U.S. Senate jumped from nine to 13. The gender gap blessing these four states, according to CNN exit polls, ranged from 7 to 11 percent.

Stabenow, a current House member with a 54 percent 1999 Peace Action rating, beat Spencer Abraham, whose 1999 peace-vote rating bottomed out at 30 percent. Jean Carnahan will be appointed to her late husband Governor Mel Carnahan's newly won seat in Missouri, replacing John Ashcroft, a favorite of Boeing and Monsanto. Maria Cantwell, a former Congresswoman, won over Washington's three-term Slade Gorton. Both Ashcroft and Gorton also had 30 percent ratings.

In other ImPEACEment states, Minnesota incumbent Republican Rod Grams (46 percent rating) was turned out, and in Florida retiring Republican Senator Connie Mack, with a zero rating, will be succeeded by Democrat Bill Nelson, winning over a current House member with an 18 percent record. Among the several House races where ImPEACEment volunteers worked to bring peace concerns to attention, two Los Angeles area Republican incumbents — Jim Rogan with a 36 percent rating and Steven Kuykendall at 27 percent — also lost.

WORK STARTS NOW IN 107TH CONGRESS

To support the hope that these successes will make a difference, we need to play smart with hard work challenging the 107th Congress. Constituents are what count. Well-informed constituents in constant touch, laying the groundwork for reciprocity, are what WILPF's next two years of legislative work must be about. Dialogues with legislators and agency decision-makers, public actions and public information campaigns are mutually reinforcing. WILPF can do all three.

The 106th Congress was on the same page as both major-party presidential candidates — both of whom declared increased military spending a must, planned on a continued reliance on nuclear weapons, and favored one or another form of a national missile defense system. This despite ample public and professional opinion that these policies undermine true security, national and global. Reversing current thinking in Congress requires steady work. WILPF's 107th Congress Watch is forming.

The D.C. office at last has Congressional District breakdowns of our membership to use in strategizing how we can do our work most effectively. Small groups are developing legislative agendas for the Dismantling the War Economy and Uniting for Racial Justice campaigns. Watch for agenda information and ways you can participate in the next *Peace & Freedom*, in branch program mailings and on the website. Or use the campaign and D.C. contact information in this issue to join sooner. ❖

WILPF was very involved with the Conference of Women for Responsible National Security, held in Washington, D.C. in December. Felicity Hill, Betty Burkes, and Pat Birnie presented; Ellen Barfield and Gillian Gilhool moderated sessions. The conference marked the launch of a two-year, national campaign initiated by Peace Links (with WILPF and other partnering organizations) to mobilize new constituencies of women to insist that nuclear weapons and massive military budgets are not the way to a sustainable future. Regional conferences will be held this spring at Notre Dame in Indiana, in March in San Diego, in Atlanta, and in as-yet-unnamed location in the Pacific Northwest.

Building a Department of Peace

.....
Sarah Lockhart
.....

Imagine a United States where bombing campaigns and military deployment were not the only tools available to deal with conflicts. Visualize a nation that fostered peaceful resolution of conflicts at all levels, from the family to the international arena. Now imagine that the concepts were supported by a department in the government on a par with the Department of Defense.

The idea of a “Department of Peace” is one that has been widely discussed. Representative Dennis J. Kucinich (D-Ohio) has created an outline for a congressional bill to establish such a department.

“I am introducing this conceptual framework with the hopes that a Department of Peace can eventually emerge holding peace as an organizing principle in government while coordinating service to every level of American society,” Kucinich says. “The time has come to review age-old challenges with new thinking.”

Representative Kucinich’s voting record on peace issues in the House of Representatives is strong. He was one of only seven congresspersons to receive a 100 percent rating from Peace Action in 1999. The rating was based on eleven key votes, such as voting against a missile defense system, air operations in Yugoslavia, and ground troops in Kosovo. Kucinich also received a 90 percent rating from the Campaign for U.N. Reform’s “Global Statesmanship Rating Guide” (1999) for his steady votes for full U.S. payment of United Nations dues and other measures showing respect for international law.

His proposal calls for a Cabinet-level department in the Executive branch, with a Secretary of Peace appointed by the President and approved by the Senate, that “shall seek to create peace, to prevent violence, to divert from armed conflict, to use field-tested programs and to develop new structures in non-violent dispute resolution.” The department would work closely with non-governmental organizations, religious groups, and local communities to address both domestic and international conflicts. The department would focus on peacemaking and the study of conditions which make peace possible. It would monitor and analyze conflicts, advise on policy decisions and be proactive.

Within the United States, the department would address issues of domestic violence, including spousal abuse, child abuse, and elder abuse. It would find innovative ways to respond to drug and alcohol abuse as well as crime. It would also look at the gun-related violence,



WILPF members joined 40 days of non-violent action in Washington, D.C. last August. They protested at the White House (above), and, dressed as “women in black,” held a women’s wailing at the Pentagon and at the Capitol, (opposite page).

damaged police-community relationships, and hate crimes. It would make recommendations to the department of Justice on civil rights issues and labor laws. The department would foster tolerance and fund community-based violence prevention programs.

Cooperating with the Department of Education, it would also develop a “peace education curriculum” to be made available to local school districts. The curriculum would include the study of the civil rights movement, a focus on the significance of individual action, and a survey of successful peaceful interventions and agreements. The Department of Education would offer grants and training to encourage states to implement such a curriculum. The Department of Peace would provide for the funding of “Peace Studies” programs at universities and establish a “Peace Academy” which would serve as the department’s counterpart to the military academies.

In the international arena, the Department of Peace would work alongside the departments of State and Defense on all matters of national security. It would cooperate with these departments to protect human rights, prevent and halt conflicts, and develop programs to address the root sources of conflicts. The Department would provide training for Americans providing post-conflict assistance, and it would support local peace-building initiatives.

Other duties would include international sister city pairings, training civilian peacekeepers to support police, and hiring and training monitors or investigators to enforce arms embargoes and sanctions against terrorists and human rights abusers. It would confront human security needs and consult with the departments of Defense and State before any armed intervention or conflict. The administration would consult the Department

of Peace on all treaties and peace agreements. The department would report on arms reduction efforts and provide economic analyses of the Department of Defense's activities.

The Department of Peace would be financed by an amount equal to 1 percent of the Department of Defense budget.

Representative Kucinich has pursued the idea of a Department of Peace because he believes there is a significant sentiment in the population for peace and non-violent conflict resolution between nations and individuals. He believes that this sentiment must be represented in government.

Through his experience in Congress and his reading of history, Kucinich writes, he has come to understand that the U.S. is enriching certain special interests, which in turn are playing upon the public's fear that their security is threatened. Left unchecked, this tends to keep the United States on the verge of war. The idea behind a Department of Peace is that it could serve as a balance against the forces that push the U.S. towards violence and conflict.

An advisory group convened by Kucinich last year to comment on the proposed department included WILPF member Joan Drake, of George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Plans are underway to introduce the Department of Peace proposal as a bill during the 107th Congress. WILPF members can urge their congresspersons to be original co-sponsors and support the bill strongly when it is introduced. You can also contribute your comments on Representative Kucinich's website, <http://www.house.gov/kucinich>.



"It is how we treat everyone. It is how we speak to one another. It is in affirming the humanity of anyone we may view as an enemy, whether across the street or over the seas— that we assert our own humanity," Kucinich writes. "None of us will go forward unless we all go forward together," Kucinich has written.

A Department of Peace would be one such step forward. The WILPF Board endorsed Congressman Kucinich's proposal to establish a Department of Peace at its March 2000 meeting.

Sarah Lockhart, a junior at Mt. Holyoke College, was the Jeannette Rankin Intern in the D.C. Office in fall 2000 while she was enrolled in American University's Washington Semester Program, concentrating in peace and conflict resolution studies.

WILPF'S PACIFIC VISION TRACKS ASIA/PACIFIC REGION

Pacific Vision is a periodical published three times a year by the WILPF.

Pacific Vision:

- extends readers' information regarding the vast Asia/Pacific region
- emphasizes women's issues, especially in their own words
- networks with other anti-nuclear and indigenous organizations
- prints WILPF articles and statements by Asian/Pacific leaders from the area.

Now in its 13th year, *Pacific Vision* is produced entirely by volunteer labor - from its editing and formatting in Brisbane, Australia, to distribution by members of WILPF in Santa Cruz. It is financed entirely by donations and subscriptions, which include support from U.S. WILPF and \$500 from the Jane Addams Peace Association. We work hard to print material from a wide range of sources.

"I feel grateful that I have found a community through WILPF where there are others with the same concerns as mine and where I can feel optimistic and therefore motivated to do whatever I can to strive for a culture of peace..."

- from an editorial by PV editor, Elena Marchetti.

Subscriptions are \$12 a year. Members may subscribe by checking the PV spot on the annual dues card, or by sending money to the PV account at: 9666 48th S.W. Seattle, WA 98136, which is the home of former editor and founder, Caroline Canafax.

What's This? Corporations and the U.N. Get Chummy

The connection between governments and corporations has been powerfully evident through the so-called military-industrial-government complex. The corporate manufacture of arms for our own trumped-up “defense” needs and for sales to other nations is a central factor in people’s inability to meet their real needs and build peaceful societies.

Disarmament activism requires us to root out the legal and mental “supply lines” of this insanity. Is it possible that we can begin to take away from *all* corporations their power to wield more legal rights than “We the People”? Their power to colonize our minds? To accumulate untold wealth and exercise illegitimate authority over us? Too many citizens and legislators believe they can’t keep corporations out of people’s deliberations, democratic processes, daily lives or souls! We need to turn such thinking around.

An important opportunity to take on that task can be found in a recent proposal calling for the United Nations to form partnerships with some of the world’s largest and most life-denying corporations. We should not be surprised at this development.

A Return Engagement for the MAI

Remember the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI)? It was concocted by multinational corporations working chummily with the 29 well-off countries that make up the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. Angry people and activist organizations around the world shouted a loud NO to this corporate-government plot that would have let capital and corporate managers run roughshod over national and local laws intended to protect workers, environments and communities.

However, many of us knew the MAI would work its way back onto the scene, and we’ve recently caught sight of it in none other than the United Nations, which contemplates becoming handmaiden to global corporatization. The



Paul Normandia/Corporate Watch

Virginia Rasmussen phrase “globalization with a human face” is a grotesque cosmetic fix, a layer of paint on a rotten structure. Its latest manifestation is a Global Compact announced by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan last July, without public support from the governments of member nations.

It consists of U.N.-corporate partnerships resting on principles drawn from international human rights, labor and environmental agreements. The Compact is “intended to enhance cooperation between the U.N. and

private corporations”... to advance popular social values “as part and parcel of the globalization process,”... and to “ensure that markets remain open” (note the MAI language).

Among the giant corporations endorsing the Compact are those against which activist organizations and communities have waged struggle after struggle over violations of environments and workers the world over: Nike Corporation, Royal Dutch Shell Corporation, DuPont Corporation, Unilever Corporation, Daimler-Chrysler Corporation, Deutsche Telecom Corporation, and Rio Tinto



Campaign members, left to right, Virginia Rasmussen, Nadine Winslow, Ben Sher, Mary Zepernick (seated), Paula Schnepf and son Nicholas, Molly Morgan (seated), and Charmaine

Mining Corporation. These assaulters of land and people are being asked to ensure the “social dimensions of the

global agenda for the new millennium.” They will be joined in this role by other organizations of “civil society,” such as Amnesty International, World Wildlife Federation International, and Save the Children Alliance.

Put simply, this is the latest sell-out of citizen authority and national sovereignty to private corporate behemoths. Long starved for funds, prestige and clout (foremost by the United States), the U.N. is sidling up to ever-fattening corporate coffers for financial viability and a piece of the action. And many a corporation is eager to enhance its tarnished reputation. For a new image, how about United Nations blue stamped on product labels?

“Partnering” on Corporate Terms

One might assume shared values and commitments in a partnership, but don’t believe it. Corporate adherence to codes of conduct is strictly voluntary. The International Chamber of Commerce, a supporter of the Global Compact, has made it clear that lack of monitoring and enforcement is a requirement for its participation. Thus corporations will simply keep tabs on themselves!

Trade unions are welcome to join the Compact so long as they agree to a “non-conflictual approach so that common solutions to the social challenges of globalization can be reached.” What’s wrong with this picture?

Kofi Annan claims that the Global Compact will bring us “sustained economic development, higher standards of living, and increased technological innovation... We have good reason to be satisfied: we can expect to live longer than our parents..., we are better nourished, better educated, in better health...” Has he not read the United Nations Development Program’s Report on Africa, which speaks of a 20-year drop in life expectancy over the next decade if current trends are not reversed?

This maneuver by Annan and the United Nations is a desperate act, flowing from the insidious notion that there is no alternative. Such acceptance reflects a lack of understanding about democracy; about the history of the corporations’ rise to dominance; about the appropriate relationship that people should have with their corporate creations; and about the inevitable outcome for all of us, and the earth, if we do not take charge of these institutions.

It is our responsibility to define corporations and to keep them accountable to that definition. When they harm

the body politic, their privilege to exist must be questioned. This approach is consistent with putting the people in charge of all corporate entities — quite the opposite of cozying up to corporations in hopes that they will pay our way and volunteer for good behavior.



Paula Schnepf’s son helps organize the paperwork during last November’s Challenging Corporate Power campaign retreat in California.

What You Can Do

- For up-to-date information on resistance to the U.N. Global Compact, check the campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People’s Rights page on WILPF’s website, and “The U.N. Global Compact: Tangled Up in Blue” at www.corpwatch.org. If you don’t have access to the Internet, ask Charmaine Sprengelmeyer in the WILPF office for a copy of the campaign update. Send \$3 for a copy of the 18-page corporate watch article.
- Educate your community about this critical issue. Lobby your congresspeople to pay in full the U.S. dues to the United Nations.
- Write to Annan, explaining that the Global Compact violates the United Nations’ basic principles and mandates and should be revoked. Address: Secretary General Kofi Annan, U.N. Secretariat, United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

Thanks to Felicity Hill, International WILPF Liaison to the United Nations, for her hard work with the coalition opposing the Global Compact and her help with this article.

.....
Virginia Rasmussen is a member of the Challenging Corporate Power, Asserting the People’s Rights campaign.

REVISED STUDY PACKETS: After reviewing dozens of evaluation forms from around the country, the leadership team has revised the study group packets to make them more effective. Some readings were eliminated and new ones added, and some questions were revised. We’ve made cosmetic and useability improvements. Some new sessions were added, including one on the economy and militarism, and one on people’s and workers’ resistance movements. A list of resources, including alternative materials like videotapes, was added. We are putting all the materials on the WILPF website for easy access to a wider audience. For a complete revised study packet, contact Charmaine Sprengelmeyer at the office; a \$5 donation is requested to cover expenses. You may also contact Charmaine to obtain only the new study units.

Uniting For Racial Justice

Laura Partridge

The Uniting for Racial Justice campaign looks back at 2000 with satisfaction. The campaign has succeeded in developing a strong committee and creating the structure required to support this critical WILPF work.

The “Truth” part of the campaign’s goals continues to be relentlessly constructed by committee co-chair Chris Ballin. To that end, the country experienced its first “Race Rave” at the University of California-Santa Cruz campus early this month.

The high priority of influencing the plans for the United Nation’s World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Related Intolerance is also well underway. UFORJE Committee member Adjoa Aiyetoro remains a key WILPF player in the international arena.

Victoria Carter is leading the way in the tedious work of documenting racism in the United States. The information compiled will be submitted as a part of the Non-Governmental Organizations’ report to the United Nations on the status of racism in this country.

The effort to examine internal racism, chaired by Elenita Muniz, continues with branch profiles being collected around the country as we work to enhance U. S. WILPF’s own racial justice goals.

UFORJE presented its first national training in October 2000. The information, suggestions and goodwill shared proved most valuable to the training participants and the campaign committee. The affirmations and criticisms provide a basis for revision as the committee moves forward.



Of course, the accomplishments were not achieved without obstacles. In spite of the barriers, the committee and its work have been strengthened and have become even more focused on its purpose. UFORJE committee members understand that the highly sensitive subject of racial justice requires each of us to closely examine our own “soul wounds.”

Below is the UFORJE campaign’s first WILPF U.S. Section Board approved resolution, adopted in October.

Resolution from the Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation Campaign

WHEREAS the membership at the June 1999 WILPF Triennial National Congress held in St. Louis, Missouri selected Truth and Reconciliation: Uniting for Racial Justice (subsequently renamed as above) as one of three national campaigns,

And **WHEREAS** the Uniting for Racial Justice Campaign has devoted a year to the research, formulation, writing,

restoration, and raising the national consciousness toward that end.

One day before the Race Rave in February, UFORJE and racial justice committees from local branches hosted a day of training for WILPF members about the campaign’s goals and programs. The purpose of such trainings is to unite WILPF members in each region around the issues of racial justice and provide information about local, national and international aspects of the campaign.

JOIN THE UFORJE RACE RAVES IN SANTA CRUZ, ASHEVILLE, NEW YORK CITY & OMAHA

Each geographic area will develop its own approach to Race Raves, involving students of color in planning and leadership. For information on how to participate in Race Raves, contact Charmaine Sprengelmeyer, Program Coordinator, in the national office at (215) 563-7110. She will put you in touch with organizers in your area.

RACE RAVES

Definition of rave: To write or talk about with enthusiasm.

Starting at the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), Race Raves began making an eastward sweep early this year. Organized by UFORJE, the Race Raves are being held on college campuses in each of WILPF’s four geographic areas. The first one was held at Santa Cruz during the first week of February. It was cosponsored by the UCSC’s Center for Justice, Tolerance and Community.

Race Raves provide a space for public discussion of racism and its effects so we as a society can move towards reconciliation and racial justice. The one thing that the Race Raves have in common with the more infamous “raves” is that they are intended to emphasize the involvement of youth and be a groundswell of counter-cultural expression. In this case, engaging people of all ages and colors in defining a Truth and Reconciliation process for the United States that involves reparations and

debating and endorsing of the attached statements, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of the WILPF U.S. Section accepts and supports the UFORJE Mission Statement and Year 2000 Affirmation. The Board recognizes the significance of these narratives and understands that they serve as the foundation for the work of the Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation Campaign.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Uniting for Racial Justice Campaign of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is to provide public forums for the purpose of discussing the root causes of institutional racism, including its longtime effects on civil society in the United States; to share individual accounts of contemporary racism and to promote healing by initiating actions designed to redress the harm done by slavery, colonialism and ongoing racism.

YEAR 2000 AFFIRMATION

WILPF's 85 years of promoting peace and freedom around the world has led the organization's United States Section membership to elect RACIAL JUSTICE as one of its three priorities. U. S. WILPF's membership enters the new millennium fully aware of the continuing racial injustice in the United States. Institutional racism continues to inflict consistent, daily adversity upon people of color living in the United States.

The foundation of racial justice work proclaims the equality of all humanity. The past and present harms inflicted by the myth of white supremacy and the reality of white-skinned privilege have not been rectified. The glaring impact of racism is ongoing economic, social and political injustice.

UFORJE LOCAL LOBBY WEEK - APRIL 9-20

During the October retreat of the UFORJE Campaign, the newly formed Legislative Committee proposed a WILPF-wide Local Lobby Week focusing on UFORJE concerns. Members are urged to meet with their congressional representatives while they're at home in their local communities to bring attention to legislation addressing racism and its consequences. Local Lobby Week will take place during Congress's spring break, April 9-20. Call to make appointments now. Consider asking other local groups to join you.

The committee selected two important bills to persuade legislators to support. They were reintroduced in January with new numbers. HR 40 establishes a commission to study reparations proposals for African Americans. The bill's purpose is to study the issue and make recommendations. The forces against HR 40 don't even want the issue to be studied.

HR 906, the second bill, would restore federal voting rights to persons released from incarceration. After the recent presidential elections, several articles in the press noted that

The resulting burdens must be eradicated.

The UFORJE Campaign is structured to provide opportunities for the TRUTH of racism in the United States to be heard; to provide and support methods of economic redress of the historical and contemporary impact of racism. As REPARATIONS and RESTORATION offer means of providing such relief, these instruments serve as the basis for acquiring the redress required.

Steps toward RECONCILIATION of people living in the United States may be taken when programs addressing the above requirements are implemented.

With this new resolution in hand, the UFORJE Campaign Committee forges ahead into 2001 committed to continuing the work of uniting for racial justice into the future.

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



During UFORJE's National Training in Philadelphia, WILPF members (Joyce McLean on right) participated in Theater of the Oppressed workshops.

Photo: Ariane Allen

31 percent of black men were barred from voting in Florida due to disenfranchisement laws.

This exclusion from the democratic process is another disproportionate consequence of the racism endemic to the U.S. criminal justice system.

Branches participating in lobby week will receive a brief guide, with "talking points" on the two bills and a list of the co-sponsors in the new Congress. HR 40 had 48 co-sponsors by the end of the 106th Congress; HR 906 had 37. If your congressperson is not among them, that's your first objective. The second request is for active support to ensure the bills are set down for hearings, reported out, and voted on in the 107th Congress.

Please plan now to participate in Local Lobby Week. For further information, contact Gillian Gilhool in the legislative office at (202) 546-6727 or ggilhool@ix.netcom.com.

— Barbara A. Simmons

For more on HR 906, see the article by Rep. John Conyers in the Fall 1999 *Peace & Freedom*.

WILPFERs Protest U.S. Efforts to Escalate Arms Race

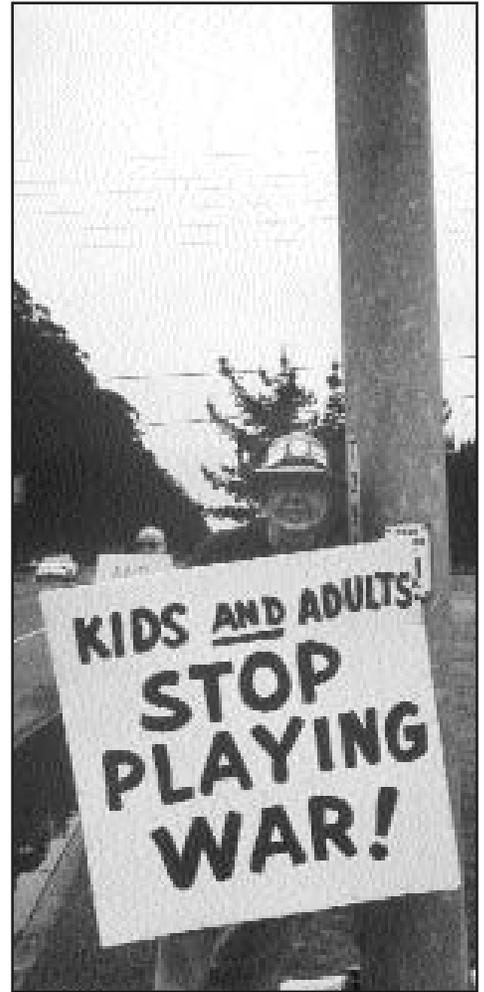
Jan Harwood

This fall, nearly 50 Santa Cruz citizens joined together to caravan down the coast to the Vandenberg Air Force Base. Many were students and other young people, members of the Direct Action Network from the Resource Center for NonViolence. A dozen or so were older folks, members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and veterans of many a rally, march, demonstration, and arrest.

We went to Vandenberg on behalf of people all over the earth who want nuclear weapons to be eliminated. We were acutely aware that these hopes would be destroyed if our new president gives the go-ahead for the deployment of a national missile defense system. Because deployment would abrogate the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty and other agreements (and would appear to pose a threat to any nation which has no such defense) China, Russia and North Korea have already warned that they will build up their nuclear forces in order to feel adequately protected. This could lead to a huge new escalation of the arms race.

On our worldwide day of protest (October 7) similar actions were taking place in 16 countries and 39 cities around the world, bringing attention to the part the United States plays in opening up a whole new area of horrendous warfare. As they test the rockets

that theoretically would knock down nuclear missiles aimed at the United States by some "rogue nation," scientists are learning more with each failed test about putting missiles into the stratosphere. Their intention is "dominating space to protect our interest and investments." These gleeful boasts, garishly illustrated in a brochure put out by the U.S. Space Command, make it clear that the development of a missile defense system is secondary to the actual goal of taking military control of space.





Martin Sheen joined the protest.

At our protest, heavily armed, masked and helmeted guards kept us crowded into a small glade between Highway One and a row of tall eucalyptus trees. That didn't stop us from hearing spirited talks by Bruce Gagnon of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, and Butch Turk, director of Green Peace. Also on hand were Martin Sheen, actor and activist, Marylia Kelley of TriValley CAREs, Medea Benjamin, a Green Party candidate for the Senate, and several musical groups.

Later, the entire crowd snaked its way in a dance to the entrance of the base, where a phalanx of helmeted guards formed a barrier with long nightsticks held end to end. Those of who had chosen to be arrested (and a few who merely stood in the wrong part of the street) were handcuffed, hustled into buses, and taken to a lock-up where they were held for about six hours, before being released with citations to return for trial. Several of the Santa Cruz contingent were thoroughly searched and questioned regarding their affiliations with their own and other



Santa Cruz members Cappy Israel and Emily Maloney.

activist groups, but the prisoners had agreed among themselves to remain silent on these matters.

At this writing, we still don't know who our new President is, but both of the major candidates have announced their intention to deploy the "Star Wars" program. We must continue to exert pressure on the President and Congress, for as long as there are nuclear weapons on the ground or in space, we are only a few minutes away from the final apocalypse.

.....
Jan Harwood is a member of the Santa Cruz WILPF Committee of Abolition 2000.

Celebrity Auction a Hit

What began as a modest fundraising proposal to celebrate WILPF's 85th anniversary has turned out to be a resounding success on many levels.

Not only have we raised funds to support the important work of WILPF, we've spread the word about the organization to a new population of potential members and/or supporters. Initially, we thought we would collect "a few" items from celebrities and conduct an auction using the Internet. We projected two weeks to complete the auction. To our amazement and excitement, we received over 100 items, and the auction on eBay lasted more than two months!

High profile auction items were donated by a diverse selection of luminaries, including Camryn Manheim, Jane Goodall, Pete Seeger, Tom Lehrer, Dolores Huerta and the cartoon artists of *For Better or For Worse*, *Rhymes with Orange*, *Sally Forth*, and *Rose is Rose*.

A generous number of books were donated and signed by distinguished authors such as Isabel Allende, Bettina Aptheker, Elise Boulding, Carolyn Chute,

Blanche Wiesen Cook, Mary Daly, Annie Dillard, Barbara Ehrenreich, Jim Hightower, Barbara Kingsolver, Ursula LeGuin, Philip Levine, Trina Paulus, Marge Piercy, Margaret Randall, Adrienne Rich, Sonia Sanchez, Starhawk, Luisah Teish, Studs Terkel, and Howard Zinn!

Donations from musicians included jazz saxophonist Josh Redman, Michael Alpert (of *Brave Old World*), Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, and the Bluestein family. One of the cast members of the television show *Dawson's Creek* sent us an autographed cast photograph and one of our members sent us a ballet program autographed by Rudolph Nureyev!

Due to the great response and success of the Celebrity Auction, many people want to do it again next year. This project was accomplished entirely by very dedicated, hard working volunteers. Special kudos to Jennifer Pitino, Don Fredrickson, and Roz Hastings for their work. If the auction were to be repeated next year, it would require other WILPF members to step forward to work behind the scenes with the committee to make it happen. To all of you who donated items, made contact with celebrities, or bid on items: great job!

- Sandy Silver

Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



AFRICA

“Where will your two boys sleep?”

Answer: “On the floor.”

“Where will they go to school?”

Answer: “My pastor will arrange that when they come.”

“How will you support them on \$10.50/hr wages?”

Answer: “We will be together and we will be happy.”

“What about your other children, if they can come from Ghana?”

Answer: “We will all sleep on the floor. We will be together.”

— *Interview with a WILPF-Sierra Leone member in exile in the U.S.*

The impact of U.S. policies on Africa has left a legacy that is responsible for many of the problems on the continent. The legacy is one of racism, militarism and economic globalization — all areas of our program work.

Africa may seem far away, but there is room for a sister-to-sister involvement from us. I visited Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zanzibar, and Burundi as WILPF international vice president, and it has been the most significant work I have done with WILPF. You can help the Africa Issues Committee by giving assistance and support to WILPF-Sierra Leone members living in exile in the United States. Members could also consider organizing a small group to visit WILPF-Burundi.

At our International Executive Committee meeting in Berlin this summer, Gloriose Nzinahora of WILPF-Burundi asked us to lobby our governments to support peace in Burundi. “Create sisterly and cooperative relations with WILPF-Burundi in order to transmit WILPF expertise on opposing war, supporting women in war situations, post conflict reconstruction, conflict resolution, poverty eradication and trauma counseling,” Nzinahora said. “Visit Burundi to support, to learn, and to share skills with the women of WILPF Burundi in all their peace activities.”

Other actions include:

- Writing to women who have asked about WILPF in Sudan, Cameroon, Chad, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and elsewhere.
- Following legislation in cooperation with Gillian Gilhool in our D.C. Legislative Office, lobbying and informing members on debt relief, weapon sales, trade issues and the WTO.

- Monitoring United States military training in Africa; researching small arms sales and arm transfers; corresponding with the international WILPF office on the U.N. small arms conference.
- Becoming a specialist on HIV/AIDS in Africa, Ebola virus and other diseases enhanced by malnutrition, homelessness, war, and displacement.
- Assisting WILPF and the Africa Policy Information Center on compiling a database of all the women’s peace organizations and networks in Africa.
- Being a WILPF representative to the Advocacy Network for Africa in Washington, D.C.
- Being involved in preparations for Earth Summit III (2002) by concentrating on Africa environment issues such as food security and climate change.

Contact Mary Day Kent, WILPF-U.S. section executive director, 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107; email: mdkent@wilpf.org or Regina Birchem, international vice president, R.D. 1, Box 134, Irwin, PA 15642; email: rbirchem@a1usa.net.

— *Regina Birchem*

CIVIL LIBERTIES

One of the worst parts of the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 is the provision for the use of secret evidence in deportation proceedings. The United States is going after “terrorists” by targeting individuals for their First Amendment Activity and using secret evidence to deport them. According to David Cole, a Georgetown University Law Professor who has defended 13 immigrants detained on secret evidence, “Essentially the same tactics directed at communists in the 1950s are being directed against alleged terrorists in 2000.”

There are about 12 people presently being held without bail on secret evidence as they face deportation. These people are predominantly Arab and Muslim, though some Irish and Basque are also being held. They have all been targeted for their political or religious affiliations.

SECRET EVIDENCE REPEAL ACT, H.R. 2121

Strong legislation to ban the use of “Secret Evidence” was introduced in the last session of Congress by Representatives David Bonior (D) and Tom Campbell (R) as The Secret Evidence Repeal Act of 1999 (H.R. 2121).

It unfortunately never came up for a vote in the full House. It will be introduced again in this session. Senators Feingold and Kennedy introduced the same bill in the Senate and will introduce it again in this session. According to Mr. Cole, “... the Secret Evidence Repeal Act would simply have required immigration officials to meet the same standards of fairness in using classified

information in immigration proceedings that government officials must satisfy in criminal cases. Under current practices, immigration officials assert the authority to lock up and deport immigrants on the basis of classified evidence, presented behind closed doors to an immigration judge, without any disclosure to the immigrant to his lawyer.” (*The Nation* 11/20/00).

ACTION: Ask your Representatives and Senators to cosponsor the new Secret Evidence Repeal Act as soon as possible. To sign on, they should contact Scott Paul in Rep. Bonior’s office at (202) 225-2106. Call your representative and senators at the Capitol switchboard (202) 224-3121 or write to House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20510.

— Vivian Schatz

DRUG POLICY

The WILPF board unanimously passed a statement on drug policy at its October meeting. It’s interesting to note that we have done this at a time when more and more voters are passing referendums permitting the use of marijuana for medical purposes, while at the same time former White House drug czar Barry McCaffrey was in Bogota predicting heavy fighting in the U.S.-backed anti-drug offensive in Colombia. According to an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, “with ‘vital’ U.S. interests at stake, and insurgents growing stronger through deepening ties to the drug trade, Mr. McCaffrey said he saw no alternative to the \$1.3 billion effort set to get under way in January.”

The WILPF statement, which was sent to McCaffrey, is abbreviated in part below. Email: rlloyd@together.net if you want to see the full statement, but please note that it will also appear in branch packets.

WILPF Drug Policy Statement

- Approved by the National Board, 10/13/00

Today our country is engaged in a “war on drugs” which bears all the hallmarks of war: displaced populations, disrupted economies, terrorism, abandonment of hope by those the war is supposedly being fought to help, the use of military force, the curtailment of civil liberties, the alienation of our youth, racism, and the demonization of “enemies”...

This U.S. Government’s drug policy stands in opposition to the goals of U.S. WILPF...The drug policy as implemented by state and federal authorities is highly discriminatory...U.S. drug policy covertly implements a racist agenda...

Current American and U.N. anti-drug policy is founded primarily on coercion and violence...There are profound international dimensions to this “war.” Illegal drug trafficking finances covert action programs, insur-

gencies, paramilitary armies, and enormous violent criminal gangs. It has become the smokescreen for \$1.3 billion dollars of primarily military aid to Colombia.

The number of addicts needing treatment — the most effective way to reduce the costs and severity of the drug problem by reducing the number of hardcore addicts — has been increasing, yet we are failing to increase our treatment capacity significantly. Almost three million hardcore drug addicts remain untreated each year.

Therefore: WILPF supports the concept that the “war on drugs” is causing more harm than drug abuse itself. Prohibition is an experiment that has not only failed, but is too expensive to further endure. We support a pragmatic regulatory approach to the problem of drugs...We urge WILPF members working on our three campaigns to draw connections between drug policy and racism, disarmament and globalization. We empower our executive director to join coalitions working on alternative drug strategies.

— Robin Lloyd

The Sentencing Project, a national non-profit organization engaged in research and advocacy on criminal justice policy and its consequences, recently published the first national 50-state study on the impact of incarceration on crime in the 1990s. The report found that higher increases in incarceration were less effective in reducing crime; states with the greatest incarceration increases over the last decade had less impact on crime, including violent crime, than states with lower increases. “These findings refute the popular notion about the benefits of increasing incarceration levels and shed serious doubt on the wisdom of continuing to build prisons as a means of controlling crime,” says Jenni Gainsborough, senior policy analyst for The Sentencing Project and co-author of the report.

To read the full report, *Diminishing Returns: Crime and Incarceration in the 1990’s*, by Jenni Gainsborough and Marc Mauer, download it from www.sentencingproject.org or order it by calling (202) 628-0871.

WILPF Visits Cuba

Theta Pavis

Last year I fulfilled a lifelong dream when I got the chance to visit Cuba for the first time, as part of a WILPF delegation.

As a journalist, I was particularly interested in talking with Cuban reporters and I was lucky enough to meet and interview several of them during the trip. I can still remember a long discussion I had with one writer about how the media works in Cuba. During our interview, he pointed out that most people in Cuba aren't exposed to advertising. There are no commercials on the two television stations the average person views, and the magazines, newspapers and radio stations don't carry them either. When walking through the streets of Havana or driving across the island, I noticed something else that was missing: No glaring billboards pushing tobacco, liquor, SUVs or cell phones.

I came home to Philadelphia a few days before Thanksgiving. Back just in time for the pre-holiday advertising blitz and Black Friday. Just in time to see the neon, holiday-themed, beer billboards light up in the working-class neighborhood where I live.

Cuba made many impressions on me, but one of the strongest was spending some time — even a short while — in a country that is for the most part free of incessant advertising campaigns.

The members of WILPF's delegation to Cuba probably had one of their most difficult moments on the last day of the trip.

That was when each woman was asked to cite her favorite highlight of the journey — but choosing just one was nearly impossible.

Was it our meeting with women involved in the resistance during the Bay of Pigs Invasion? The chance to talk with our hosts from the Cuban Federation of Women? Our tour of a new television center? The visit to a maternity hospital? Listening to filmmaker Estela Bravo talk about her work and life in Cuba? What about the block parties thrown in the streets of Havana by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution?



Co-sponsored by
Hermanas: Sisterhood in
Central America and the
Caribbean; the newsmagazine
Sojourner: The Women's

WILPF board member Yoshiko
Ikuta with friend in Cuba.

Forum; and WILPF, the 16-member delegation arrived in Havana on Nov. 8 for a jam-packed schedule, which among other things included attending the Second Annual World Solidarity Conference with Cuba.

The solidarity conference was attended by 4,000 people, with the single largest contingent coming from the United States. Some 600 Americans came to Cuba, a number that seemed even more profound given that much of the conference focused on the 40-year-old U.S. blockade against Cuba. Delegation leaders included Jan Strout, co-chair of WILPF's Cuba Action Committee, Teresa Konechne (who is making a documentary about Cuba's Latin American Medical School), Tamara James and myself. (My personal highlights included interviewing a top Cuban webmaster and revolutionary, hearing Fidel Castro speak on globalization, and having the chance to talk to many Cuban people.)

This WILPF delegation had a specific focus on Women in the Media, and the group included several journalists and media activists. We ranged in age and backgrounds, from several New Yorkers in their early 20s, to a 73-year-old lifetime activist and teacher from Chicago. Several other WILPF members were in attendance, including Mary Day Kent, WILPF executive director, Yoshiko Ikuta, chair of WILPF's Disarmament Campaign and WILPF member Marlene Santoyo.

Several high ranking Cuban officials spoke at the conference, but there was also lots of time made for delegates to speak. Numerous people involved in Cuba support work around the world took the microphone. The Cuban organizers also arranged for several other events, included a stunning cultural gala of song and dance and breakout sessions on disinformation and the history of the blockade. While we were there, the United Nations held yet another vote on ending the sanctions; the only major countries that voted to keep the blockade in place were the U.S. and Israel, something Castro talked about when he spoke for 5 hours on the closing night.

In between, WILPF's delegation had several meetings with Cuban women, including talking with a journalist, representatives from the Federation of Cuban Women and the Union of Cuban Artists and Writers. Delegation leaders also helped arrange for two meetings during the conference of international women media makers. These meetings attracted North Americans, Cuban journalists and many other women from Latin America.

Once the solidarity conference was over, our group headed to Matanzas, where we toured the Bay of Pigs museum and met with women involved with resisting the invasion. We sat riveted as one woman told us about being held for hours by the invading forces. After being incarcerated for most of the day without food and water, she rushed home to her six children, only to have to

evacuate them because the neighborhood was being bombed. She, her mother and the children wound up hiding in a cave until they were helped to safety. When they finally were able to return home they found that their house had been destroyed. Other women told us about getting in a truck and heading out to see how they could help during the invasion, by either aiding the wounded or cooking and caring for resistance fighters. At the time, they said few women were trained in combat, but that's changed now and every adult in the country has been prepared. The women also spoke bitterly about the death of a 9-year-old boy from the area who was refused treatment by a doctor working with the invaders. They pointed out that the U.S.-trained men who were captured during the invasion were cared for and well fed, but the life of the 9-year-old was not saved. Our delegation left that day very eager to help mark the 40th anniversary next year of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

The next day it was off to Cienfuegos, where we toured a sophisticated new regional television production studio and had fun walking the grounds of a botanical garden as well. While in town we also had site visits to a maternity hospital and met with a local family doctor. The regional chapter of the FMC showed us amazing hospitality - with lots of strong Cuban coffee, plates of fresh fruit and open exchange about Cuban society and economy, as well as the status of women.

This was WILPF and Hermanas second delegation to Cuba in 2000. In April a delegation was organized in conjunction with the Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office to bring a group to the Women's International Labor Conference.

Hermanas and WILPF have been organizing annual women's delegations to Cuba since 1990, bringing 1,000 women to the island nation.

Theta Pavis, below with friends, is editor of Peace & Freedom.

Top to bottom at right: 1) Children in Havana. 2) Delegate Kayla Weiner surrounded by children of the CDR. 3) Delegation members celebrate with the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR). Left to right: CDR member, delegate Megan Phillips, tour guide Tatiana Rodriguez, trip leader Tamara James. 4) Women who survived the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Bottom, left: Delegate Rose Meyer.

Bottom right: Trip leader Jan Strout and Estella Bravo.



World March of Women

Elizabeth Leonard

Hundreds of thousands of women (from 139 countries and territories) participated in the World March of Women this past fall.

On October 14 in Boston, the local WILPF chapter initiated “Women Breaking the Shackles of Poverty and Violence,” involving most of the local organizations focused on women’s concerns. In addition to highlighting the long road ahead to equality and liberation, this event was a send off to the women (and men) who were traveling by bus to the national march held in Washington, D.C. the next day.

The October 15 march was something of a disappointment for our local WILPF group, which had put so much work into the organizing for the gatherings. The national WILPF Board meeting that same October weekend meant less participation from WILPF. As it happened, the National Organization for Women took over the Washington march and considerably narrowed its focus. Despite the thousands of women (and men) who had paid their own way to come to Washington, D.C., the main emphasis was on getting Al Gore and his pro-choice stance elected. Not a crucial issue for those who came from Africa, the Far East and Central/South America. (Those folks know much more about the deleterious effects of globalization, war and poverty than we ever will.)

On October 16, delegates from the march met with the heads of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. During these meetings, they reaffirmed their fundamental differences with the economic policies implemented by both bodies, such as Structural Adjustment Programs, methods of debt repayment, and the impact these have had on local populations.

On October 17, more representatives met in New York with the U.N. Deputy Secretary General and the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Women’s Issues. They demanded from the United Nations and its member states the following: equal participation of women on all aspects of war prevention, conflict resolution, disarmament and reconciliation. Gender training for all employees of the United Nations, both here and abroad, was also suggested. These demands were delivered in the forms of petitions (almost 5 million of them) in a moving ceremony that also included the unforgettable testimony of women from countries in conflict.

At the end of these gatherings, World March of

Women participants expressed their wish to create a truly world wide feminist network, including women and men, to create an international civil society that would work for peace and fight against the neo-liberal globalization that makes women powerless and sharpens the inequalities between rich and poor, women and men, and between privileged and less-privileged classes.

A fitting close to these dedicated and tireless activities was the resolution that the Security Council passed

On the U.N.’s birthday, the Security Council unanimously passed a resolution adopting the demands of the World Women’s March. It was an historic day: the first time women, peace and security had ever been discussed in the United Nations Security Council.

one week later (on the U.N.’s birthday) unanimously adopting the demands of the World Women’s March. It was an historic day: the first time women, peace and security had ever been discussed in the Security Council. One hundred women, myself included, were jubilant to be present at that meeting. (The U.N. WILPF office was the greatest help in all of these endeavors.)

Onward and upward to the implementation of our demands.

Elizabeth Leonard is a member of the WILPF Boston branch.



Burlington WILPF leads a march to a speakout at City Hall on International Women’s Day, March 8, 2000. Board member Robin Lloyd, at left, is holding the poster.

WILPF Calendar of Events 2001

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This calendar lists some WILPF-related events planned for the year, as well as other items of interest. If we have missed something, or if you would like us to run an item in the future, please contact Peace & Freedom.

FEBRUARY

African-American History Month
WILPF UFORJE campaign's Race Rave held in Santa Cruz

MARCH

8 - International Women's Day
9 - 11 WILPF board meeting
10 - 11 Women for Responsible National Security, regional conference, South Bend, Indiana. (This is one of four regional conferences WILPF is helping to sponsor in the spring of 2001. More dates and locations to come.)
16 - JAPA board meeting
March 17 - 18 National Space Issues Organizing Conference, sponsored by Global Network Against Weapons

& Nuclear Power in Space. Contact (352) 337-9274; email: globalnet@mindspring.com, or www.globenet.free-online.co.uk
23-26 United Nations Association National Convention - New York City

APRIL

15 - War Tax Resistance day
20 - 22 Summit of the Americas, Quebec City, Canada
24 - International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament
28 - WILPF's 86th anniversary

MAY

Labor History Month
14 - Mother's Day
30 - Final U.N. PrepCom meetings for World Conference Against Racism begin

JUNE

Lesbian and Gay Pride Month
1 - 8 - Final U.N. PrepCom for World Conference Against Racism continues

JULY

28 - International WILPF Congress begins in East Jerusalem/Palestine

AUGUST

1 - 4 International WILPF Congress

continues in East Jerusalem/Palestine
6 - Hiroshima day
9 - Nagasaki Day
26 - Women's Equality Day
31 - World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance begins in South Africa. See: www.ngoworldconference.org

SEPTEMBER

1 - 7 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance continues.
6 - Jane Addams Birthday (1860)

OCTOBER

20 - JAPA Book Awards Ceremony
24 - United Nations Day

NOVEMBER

25 - No Violence Against Women Day

DECEMBER

1 - World AIDS Day
10 - Human Rights Day
United Nations Committee holds meetings on Combating Racism, South Africa.

Jane Addams Children's Book Award

.....
Isha Dyfan, JAPA Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Jane Addams Peace Association and the Jane Addams Children's Book Award Coordinating Committees join me in thanking all WILPFers and friends who attended the Children's Book Award Ceremony held at the Church Center of the United Nations in New York on October, 20, 2000. Particular thanks go to Board members and staff of WILPF U.S. Section and Bruna Nota, President of WILPF International for continuing support of this program.

The event attracted over 80 people, 30 of whom were students from Lenox Hill School in New York. A huge representation came from the publishers — Scholastics, Simon & Schuster, Houghton Mifflin Children's Books, and Hyperion Books. We were lucky to have many authors who graced the occasion and delighted the children: Ruby Bridges, author of the winning book, *Through My Eyes*; Susan Campbell Bartoletti, author of the Honor book, *Kids on Strike!*; Chris Soentpiet, illustrator of the winning book, *Molly Bannaky*; and in the picture book category, and Raul

Colon, illustrator of the Honor book, *A Band of Angels*. We also thank the *Diplomatic Times* and *Peace Matters* for press coverage of the event. The Award gave prize money this year to winners and honorees, a practice we wish to maintain. We look forward to donations for this effort.

Our appreciation also goes to Beth Puffer from the Bank Street Bookstore in New York, who ran the bookstore during the ceremony and agreed to donate 10 percent of sales to Jane Addams Children's Book Award.

You may order books through: Millie Livingston, 11251 Tahoe St. Auburn, CA., 95602. Email: mlivin@mind-spring.com. This year, book award winners will be announced in April, during WILPF's birthday.

Still Pulling Strings

Four new publications on post Cold War, U.S. military policy in Latin America and the Caribbean are available. Published by the American Friends Services Committee, these reports are ideal for activist-oriented community groups, student organizations, human rights activists and more. Go online at www.afsc.org/lac or call (215) 241-7000, or write to Literature Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1479. Copies of the reports cost between \$3 and \$1.50 each.

Stories That Teach

Ariane Allen

As a child, I often stared at the magazines and books my activist parents kept in our house. There was one book in particular that affected me: *American Pictures: A Personal Journey Through the American Underclass*, published in 1985 by Danish author Jacob Holdt. Full of startling photos of poverty and homelessness throughout the United States, it juxtaposed those pictures with shots of glamour. One I specifically remember was of a very rich little girl with golden hair, pictured in her lavish bedroom. The photo angered me, but also, shamefully I felt, relieved my eyes at the same time. The book captivated me and repulsed me so much that I felt uncomfortable having my parents see me pull it off the shelf again and again.

Still, there is one image I can remember even more vividly, from even farther back than my exposure to those stark and uncompromising photographs. It was a watercolor illustration in a storybook by Toshi Maruki called *Hiroshima, No Pika*, depicting the complete, utter rubble of Hiroshima right after the atomic bomb was dropped on the city. In the midst of this blackened waste, the young protagonist Mii and her mother find the child's breakfast bowl bent and broken, but still stuck with sweet potatoes. The ruin of everything colorful and lively in the pages before the illustration of the bomb's flash frightened me, and I remember feeling eager for the sky to return back to blue from its swirls of angry reds and gray. In one illustration, eight colorful kimonos float into the sky like spirits, leaving behind piles of twisted, suffering bodies.

The concept of the nuclear bomb had just been introduced to me, and it's one that I have never been able to forget. Such images can make lasting impressions in the minds of children, and they can also be used to teach. I recently read *Hiroshima, No Pika* to some second and third graders at the Friends Select School in Philadelphia where I work. While one second-grade girl complained that the illustrations were scary and that she was going to have nightmares about the bomb, she was fascinated, and wanted to know just what a "wasteland" was.

"The nuclear bomb burned everything?" asked a third-grade boy, when we got to the page illustrating the grazed town. "Cool," he remarked, but with a disturbed look on his face. He was somewhat awestruck, and I imagine his wide-eyed response stemmed from the same feeling of helplessness that adults experience when faced with the hypothetical prospect of such nuclear devastation. These children have no doubt been exposed to

more graphic and explicit television and movie violence than I had at their age and, yet, after discussing it with them, I knew the two-decade old storybook with simple watercolor illustrations had made an impact.

There are several books that have been written for children about war and more specifically about the nuclear bomb. Most of the ones I've researched were written in the 1980's, although I was able to find some more recent stories. Among those is a 1993 reprint edition of Eleanor Coerr's *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, written for a younger audience and using the pastel illustrations first created for the award-winning video version of the book. There is also a 1999, 80-page re-issue of the 1977 original, with origami crane-folding instructions at the end, as well as a Spanish translation of the original.

A newer book for children ages 4 to 8 is, *I Heal: The Children of Chernobyl in Cuba*, by Trish Marx, Dorita Beh-Eger and Cindy Karp. The photo-essay is about child victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The narrator is 12-year-old Elena, who relates her story and also tells readers about her friend, Lubo. Both children go to Cuba to receive medical care for tumors they developed from radiation. While focusing mainly on the recuperation of the children, the authors also discuss the former Soviet Union's failure to notify citizens immediately about the meltdown, as well as the impact of the U.S.

A member of the WILPF Philadelphia branch, and a recently retired member of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, Marlene Santoyo participated in a Labor Day Parade to show solidarity with the rights of all workers to organize. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court passed Act 46 which takes away teachers rights, including health benefits and class size limits.



Photo: Joe Piette

embargo on Cuba.

In the Dr. Seuss 1984 classic, *The Butter Battle Book*, a young “Yook’s” grandfather takes him out to the wall, as he holds a bomb over the land of the “Zooks,” where they dare eat their bread with the butter-side down. There he runs into his nemesis holding the same bomb over the Yooks’ land. A poignant and creative story that illustrates a pointless and deadly conflict of cultures, *The Butter Battle Book* is always a big hit with children, though the grandson’s ending lines “Who’s going to drop it? Will you or will he?” naturally leave them all with questions. When I recently read it to a group of first graders at the Friends School, one girl wanted to know, “What happens after the end?” Hopefully, we’ll never find out, I answered. She caught on when her friend said, “Yeah, if the story ends, you could die.” This remark sparked an interesting discussion. The children understood quite well that death to the Zooks meant, exactly, death to the Yooks — that a wall couldn’t stop the wreckage.

More recently, Graham Salisbury’s *Under the Blood Red Sun* tells a story from the perspective of a child. The tale is a fictional account, written from the perspective of Tomi, a young Japanese boy born in Hawaii, whose parents have escaped the poverty of Japan only to find themselves caught in a war they do not want to fight. After the Japanese attack, Tomi’s father and grandfather are arrested and deported to a U.S. prison camp, his mother loses her job, and his little sister becomes seriously traumatized. The story is rich in historical detail and deals with issues of identity, responsibility, blame and guilt.

The Bomb, by Theodore Taylor, is a novel for young adults based on the test bombing of Bikini Atoll in 1946. Taylor served as a deck officer in 1946 aboard the USS Sumner during the atomic testing of Bikini, known as “Operation Crossroads.” His memories of the island people and the relocation they had to suffer after inhabiting Bikini for generations, and the loss they still experience today, have haunted him ever since — compelling him to write a story set in 1946 from the point of view of a young boy. At the beginning of each chapter, Taylor interjects into his narrative an important fact about the history of the making and dropping of the bomb, so that the entire novel is suspensefully set in the context of this timeline of information.

As with all of these books, readers here experience the inescapable, true-to-life fear and devastation of the nuclear bomb — this time without watercolor and without photographs — but with words that educate with a “light from a million suns.”

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Ariane Allen is Peace & Freedom’s fall intern.

Disarmament Books for Children

- Hiroshima No Pika*, by Toshi Maruki. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1980.
- Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, by Eleanor Coerr. Putnam, 1977.
- Sadako*, (Coerr’s rewriting for a younger audience) 1993.
- I Heal: The Children of Chernobyl in Cuba*, by Trish Marx; photographs by Dorita Beh-Eger & Cindy Karp, 1996.
- Nobody Wants a Nuclear War*, by Judith Vigna. Albert Whitman and Company, 1986.
- The Butter Battle Book*, by Dr. Seuss; Random House, Inc., 1984.
- The Big Book for Peace*, Edited by Ann Durell & Marilyn Sachs. Dutton Children’s Books, 1990.
- On the Wings of Peace: Writers and illustrators speak out for peace, in memory of Hiroshima & Nagasaki*. introduction by Sheila Hamanaka. Clarion Books, 1995.
- The Peace Book*, by Bernard Benson. Bantam Books, 1982.
- Peace Crane*, by Shiela Hamanaka. Morrow Junior Books, 1995.
- Living Beneath the Atomic Cloud: Testimonies of the Children of Nagasaki*, compiled by Dr. Takashi Nagai. Wilmington College Peace Resource Center, 1984.

For Young Adults

- Under the Blood Red Sun*, by Graham Salisbury, Yearling Books, 1995.
- The Bomb*, by Theodore Taylor. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1995.
- The Bomb*, by Sidney Lens. Lodestar Books, 1982.
- Taking a Stand Against Nuclear War*, by Ellen Thro. Franklin Watts, 1990.
- The Peace Seekers*, (Nobel Peace prize) by Nathan Aaseng. Lerner Publications Co., 1987.
- Woman From Hiroshima*, by Toshio Mori. Isthmus, 1979.
- Z for Zachariah*, by Robert C. O’Brien. Atheneum, 1975.
- First Woman in Congress: Jeannette Rankin*, by Florence White and Julian Messner, 1980.

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

Building a Peace Camp

Lynn Furay

During WILPF's 1998 International Congress in Maryland, I ran into a friend from the Detroit Branch of WILPF, Helga Herz. She had copies of "How to do a Peace Camp," a manual which had been compiled and edited by Helga and Sherry Wells, both Detroit members. Perhaps, I had been thinking in the back of my mind, that a peace camp would be a wonderful thing for Houston, but of course I had no idea how to make it come true. After looking through the 113-page manual, I bought one. And after reading it over, I felt that with the help of the manual and the people it referred to, it could be done.

You might wonder what is in this manual that would give a person the confidence to organize a Peace Camp. The answer is just about everything you would need: personnel forms, legalities, publicity samples, budget fundraising, organizational guidance, conflict resolution materials, peace activities, art, songs, puppetry, books for peace and more. In addition, they have a mission statement and goals and everything can be tailored to your particular area.

In October of 1999, I finally began looking around for support. I contacted a well-known man, who was noted for working with at-risk children in the 5th ward of Houston, an African American community. He liked the idea. He thought that we should have it become an institution in Houston and that we should aim for 25 campers. With these goals in mind, I set about getting endorsers. The political endorsers were asked for their names to be used on our letterhead and when the camp was ready they would notify their members. We got eight endorsers - peace and justice groups, mostly, as well as the WILPF and the First Unitarian Universalist Church, who became the sponsors.

THE NEXT "SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS" will be held in Quebec City, Canada, April 20 - 22, 2001. The goals of the "Free Trade Area of the Americas" (FTAA) are "to promote prosperity through economic integration and free trade" and to eliminate barriers to trade and investment. Born in the mid-1990s, the FTAA is an enlarged version of NAFTA for the entire western hemisphere. A key part is negotiating a "Hemispheric Investment Agreement." The Council of Canadians (www.canadians.org) is playing a major role in organizing another Seattle-scale protest to coincide with the meeting of heads of states. To participate in WILPF's presence, contact Ben Sher, (916) 489-3553; benjmshe@aol.com.

A snag turned up in February, when we tried to get the Unitarian Church. I was determined that the camp not be affiliated with any church — not wanting any religious connotation in connection with the Peace Camp. This took over a month and was finally resolved by the Community Involvement Committee (of which I am a member) sponsoring the camp with WILPF. It was March 9 by the time this was settled and we were able to get started.

Some of the young parents felt it was late, as many had already signed up their children for various camps. However, once we had our space, we felt the Peace Camp had a good chance of happening. We applied for and received a \$500 grant from a JAPA fund. We sent out brochures and applications for teachers and campers. We wrote two articles in our *Peace News*, brought it up to multi-cultural groups and advertised in a few schools. The Gray Panthers agreed to be the "Grannies and Grampies" at the camp.

By the end of June, we had our teachers hired and approximately 15 campers had applied.

Our guests were one of the most successful parts of our program. Each day we had a program, usually including an activity. We heard an American Indian story and learned two dances. We did children's yoga. A storyteller told the tale of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* and then we learned to make origami cranes. A friend from Guatemala told us about peace kites in his country and taught us to make them. We also learned about drums and had a hearing dog and his mistress show us how they work together so she knows when the doorbell rings or her alarm goes off in the morning.

In their small groups, the campers worked on conflict resolution, non-competitive games and accomplished many beautiful art projects. We made a Peace Quilt with index cards, which our volunteers helped put together. We had a diverse group and observed no racism. Peaceful terms seemed to increase as the week went by.

It would be wonderful if every child could go to Peace Camp at least once.

Lynn Furay is an at large member of WILPF in Texas and chairs the Death Penalty issue committee.

WILPF's *Children's Peace Camp Manual* is available for \$15 from Millee Livingston. Write to WILPF Peace Camp Resource Center, 11251 Tahoe Street, Auburn, CA 95602-9235, or call (530) 823-2224, fax (530) 888-0535, email: milivin@mindspring.com.

A Final Gift for Peace and Justice

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WILPF is extremely grateful for all the gifts we receive each year, but we are always especially honored by the last gift many people make to the organization. We would like to pay special tribute to those who remembered WILPF in their will during 2000 and gave a bequest for peace and justice.

AnneMarie Chapin • Joanne Ceraso • Phyllis Grunauer • Harriet Guignon • Frances Hartstein • Marianne Charlotte Littman • Sylvia Major • Joan Patchen • Jane Podesta

Last year there were also some very special members and individuals memorialized through gifts to WILPF made in their memory.

Jeff Boehm • William Camp • Marian Dockhorn • Grace Gainer • Ichiro Hasegawa • Megan McClintock • Leonard Nelson • Caroline Peery • Mignon Thorpe • Sadie Wittenberg

Some members chose to make a final outright gift in their will, or to designate a percentage of their estate for WILPF. Others set up funds that will continue to give year after year. WILPF also has the ability to place these special gifts into an interest-bearing account that can continue to support our peace and justice advocacy work into the future.

WILPF is grateful for the many members who have named WILPF in their wills, or have set up planned giving (trusts and annuities) to support the work that has been so much a part of their lives. Recently, WILPF created a Legacy List to honor these women of vision and thank them for their special commitment to peace and justice. This is not an exclusive “club” and is open to all members and friends of peace and justice. We think it is appropriate to honor those who have this level of dedication. We also respect the privacy of those who desire anonymity.

If you would like to learn more about the Legacy List and its benefits, please send in the reply coupon below or call Rosemary Burke at (215) 563-7110 for details about planned gift options.

- I already have WILPF in my will.
Please add me to the Legacy List.
- I want to remain anonymous but will receive special informational or thank you communications (no solicitations).
- I want to remain anonymous.
Do not send anything.
- I would like information about including WILPF in my will.
- I would like information about other planned gifts (annuities, trusts etc.).

REMEMBERING ERNESTINE

Our much beloved Ernestine Leas of Fresno died last year, leaving us with wonderful memories of her wisdom and humor. She joined the Fresno WILPF Branch soon after it was formed 35 years ago and served as president, before taking over as membership chair for many years. Her numerous letters to our newspaper and to government officials were just the best. She did not hesitate to express her feelings and to stand up for her beliefs, even though she liked to describe herself as a “cowardly radical.” She demonstrated with the farm workers and against the war in Vietnam and made a strong bid for public office herself, narrowly missing out in a school board election. She was an early leader in our peace education work and left us a \$10,000 bequest to be used for furthering peace education. We have used it for our peace camp, and to donate Jane Addams Book Award literature to our schools. The branch honored her with a life membership in WILPF. She was a mentor and a role model to many of us and we are nourished by memories of her.

— *Ellie Bluestein*

The “Regional Conference of Experts for Latin America and the Caribbean on Economic, Social and Legal Measures to Combat Racism” took place in late October in Chile. This meeting was held in preparation for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance. UFORJE members Laura Partridge and Adjoa Aiyetoro were in attendance.

Among the documents issued by the conference was this statement: “The fight against discrimination, racism, and xenophobia must include recognizing and promoting multiculturalism and multi-ethnicism. A negative and opposing attitude to racist practices should be accompanied by a positive look toward the building of multi-ethnic societies, which value diversity and respect the dignity of individuals and peoples to the full. The search for more equitable democracies and social life requires affirming an outlook in which cultural and of course racial diversity is a shared value.”

The World Conference Against Racism will take place in Durban, South Africa from August 31 to September 7. Two sites on the Internet that have information are: <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/index.htm> and <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/index.htm>.

For more information, please contact Mary Day Kent or Charmaine Sprengelmeyer at (215) 563-7110.



Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor

WILPFERS HONORED

Cabrillo College presented Gaby Litsky (**Santa Cruz**) with the Rosmarie Greiner Peace Activist Award for her work with WILPF Peace Camps and her consultations on a nonviolent conflict resolution for the Santa Cruz Department of Parks and Recreation.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Santa Cruz ran an excellent article by WILPF member Elizabeth Jones on the issue of global warming and the need to phase out our dependence on oil. Among suggested actions were: asking the city and county about realistic transportation plans, opposing widening of highways, supporting public transportation, charging the real cost of automobile use and parking, and setting up community car co-ops. Other ideas included asking the President to remove the subsidy on gasoline and asking the public to curtail its use of oil. *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight* by Thom Hartmann was recommended as a good book on the topic. **Portland** delivered a statement at a public hearing opposing a restart of the Fast Flux Test Facility at Hanford, which the Department of Energy has promised to shut down and clean up.

GLOBALIZATION AND CORPORATIONS

The **Philadelphia** Corporate Globalization group is in the process of educating itself and planning actions, such as demonstrating against sweatshops and using existing laws to police corporations. The branch held a recent action outside of a local GAP store. **Cape Cod** began its fall season with four study groups being offered in different areas of the Cape. The September newsletter pub-

lished the first three readings, and the branch's TV program *In Your Face* looked at the history of corporations. **Cape Cod** is also working to stop the use of standardized testing for students, in cases where the exam standards are being set by the business community. (If branches wish to take this on as part of their globalization focus, contact people@poclاد.org for information.) The **Santa Cruz** Challenging Corporations Committee has begun at the Santa Cruz City Council level, using a Pennsylvania ordinance from Wayne Township that prohibits any corporation from doing business in the township if it has a history of consistently violating laws, or if any of its current directors sit on other corporate boards that violate laws.

Los Angeles reprinted an in-depth article by Molly Morgan of the **San Diego** branch on corporate greed and militarism which covers examples of corporate welfare programs and so-called "advisory groups" which work with the defense system. **Fresno** had a program on "Distribution of Wealth" on the new activist radio program *Stir It Up!* which features programs by peace and justice groups. **Minnesota Metro** participated in a panel on "The Impact of a Changing Work World on Union and Corporate Women."

RACIAL JUSTICE

Chapel Hill published "Remarks on Racial Justice" by Yonni Chapman. Chapman has many excellent and widely-applicable suggestions on how to confront racism. Ask Chapel Hill for a copy at WILPF c/o Jean Wagner, 311 Burlage Circle, Chapel Hill NC 27514.

Philadelphia serves on the board of Juneteenth.

Catonsville participated in "A Walk Through Baltimore's Racial History," a sad reminder of the history of this city where slaves were bought and sold. **Santa Cruz** worked on getting out the vote in November in favor of a proposition that mandates drug rehabilitation instead of prison for nonviolent drug offenses, and cosponsored a speaker on the failure of the drug wars and their racial aspects.

CHALLENGING WASHINGTON

Chapel Hill, responding to an ad by Japanese women in the Oct. 1 *New York Times* beseeching the world to make the 21st century nuclear weapons free, asked U.S.

WILPF to consider a response ad in the *Times* and in the Tokyo press, and wrote to the *Times* applauding the ad.

Portland distributed an article from *The Progressive* entitled "Stop the War in Colombia," written by WILPF



WILPF joined People Against Sweatshops and others for a demonstration at the GAP outlet in Philadelphia in late November 2000.

Photos by Libby Frank



member Cecilia Zarate-Laun, executive director of the Colombia Support Network. The piece attacks U.S. meddling in Colombia's civil war, including undermining the efforts of Colombia's president under the pretext of a "drug war." **Palo Alto** sent out a petition saying no to military aid to Colombia. **Cape Cod** urged members to contact the government about aid, loans and military shipments to Indonesia. This was done in response to a letter to the editor in Queensland written by Australian WILPF members. The letter pointed out that the U.S. government's lack of intervention in East Timor is in keeping with the U.S. foreign policy — where interventions are only done in cases that further the economic interests of U.S. corporations.

THE CONVENTIONS AND THE ELECTION

Philadelphia marched in the Unity 2000 March in Philadelphia in July during the Republican Convention. **Peninsula** reported on the Democratic Convention. Events included the Mothers' Convention on Welfare, Mexico/California Border Memorial Candlelight Vigil (in memory of those who have died trying to cross the border) a Free Mumia rally and the Gapatistas "We'd Rather Wear Nothing Than Wear GAP/Human Need Not Corporate Greed" march. (Bet you didn't read about any of this in other media.) **Detroit** included a postcard-size "Peace Voter Guide" in its Oct/Nov newsletter, showing voting records of state senators on several issues and urging members to copy it and pass it on. **Los Angeles** heard about statewide election initiatives and local ballot issues at its Oct. meeting. Many California branches listed statewide initiatives in their Oct. or Nov. newsletters, with recommendations. (**Berkeley, Peninsula, Los Angeles**). **Santa Cruz** created a convention atmosphere at its September meeting (minus the smoke and mirrors) and used a tape from the old radio show *The Shadow Knows* to background its discussion of the issues not covered by either party convention this year.

IRAQ AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Portland reported on the women in black WILPF presence at the Fellowship of Reconciliation's Campaign for Nonviolence in Washington during the three-day focus on Iraq, a very moving drama of grieving, silence, the reading of the poem "We Mourn," and personal testimonies. **Fresno** WILPF members took part in the FOR's Days of Conscience for the Iraqi People initiative by staging a vigil in front of the federal building in Fresno. **Los Angeles** presented a speaker on "Iraq - Sanctions as a Method of Mass Destruction." **Des Moines** showed the

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75-minute video *Paying the Price - Killing the Children of Iraq* and printed a review of the film in its newsletter. It suggests that people ask public television to show this documentary, and ask their congressional representatives to stop linking economic and military sanctions against Iraq. **Detroit** urged people to get the text of Global Exchange's petition addressed to Kofi Annan on the Israeli Palestine crisis (www.globalexchange.org) and use it for emails or letters, and also to protest the fact that our taxes help pay for the military hardware being used against Palestinians.

MEETING AND FORUM TOPICS

Peninsula heard a speaker on Colombia, the military, and the drug scene in November. **Chapel Hill** cosponsored a talk by Robert Meeropol, son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. **Palo Alto** heard a powerful report on the firms that reap profits from American wars and weapons arsenals and provide the campaign and lobbying funds for Congress. **Portland** cosponsored a forum on National Budget Priorities with Bobbie Wrenn Banks from Women's Action for New Directions. **Cape Cod's** November program was "Dismantling the War Economy." **Santa Cruz** protested a new law requiring poor and needy people to be fingerprinted before they can receive food stamps, aid and general assistance with a meeting, panel discussion, and a collective action.

PEACE CAMP AND PEACEMAKING

Minnesota Metro had a press conference with people representing Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch at their 85th Anniversary celebration. **Chapel Hill** participated in the December Holiday Parade in support of peaceful toys. **Detroit** had a how-to-do-it workshop intended to encourage the growth of several peace camps in a single metropolitan area. It has a manual available for \$12, plus \$3 postage, from Detroit WILPF 111 E. Kirby St., Detroit MI 48202. **Sacramento** participated in the August Women's Peace Event that featured Paula Tasso as speaker and presented Jane Addams Children's Book Awards books to several libraries and schools in celebration of WILPF's 85th anniversary. **Detroit** had a panel discussion on "The Status of Women Today" at its annual Jane Addams Day Celebration. **Fresno** participated in a candlelight vigil at Gandhi's 131st Birthday Rally and Garlanding.

FUNDRAISERS

Catonsville sold angel pins at their November meeting and received 15 percent of the price for the branch. **Des Moines** sold nutmeats for the holidays and had a bake sale during nonprofit organization day in October. **Detroit** arranged a theater party to see a Fats Waller musical revue. **Fresno** participated in the Peace Community Craft Faire in December. **Philadelphia** had a flea market.

► U.S. MILITARISTIC DOMINATION

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several space laser weapons; these jobs, however, were not received without effort. The top four corporations have spent \$40 million dollars in lobbying Congress and through campaign contributions. One must question whether NMD is anything more than a means of satisfying the military-industrial sector, which is willing to spend money in order to make it.

WHEN SECURITY BECOMES AN OFFENSIVE ISSUE

What is even more absurd is that NMD is not merely a means to defensive security. Instead, it is one of many steps in the creation of an offensive nuclear regime. According to General Ashy, Commander in Chief of U.S. Space Command, “We’ll engage in two missions because they will become increasingly important. We will engage in terrestrial targets someday — ships, airplanes, land targets — from space. We will engage targets in space, from space.” He continued to state, “We’re going to fight from space and we’re going to fight into space. That’s why the U.S. has development programs in directed energy and hit-to-kill mechanisms.”

The United States Space Command has been developing the concept of “Full Spectrum Dominance,” claiming total domination of space both in terms of weaponization and resources. These plans are detailed in

a pamphlet called “Vision for 2020,” the date by which the United States hopes to have literally seized control of outer space. General Ashy justifies the serious concerns of many countries stating, “it will take our everything between now and 2020 to achieve complete dominance for the U.S. alone — no other nations are invited to be involved.” These statements of abhorrent greed are not those of a nation in defense, but rather another manifestation of the warrior of American egoism. It seems ironic that these statements are coming from not only the signatories, but the initiators of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which claimed the use of space for “peaceful purposes.” Rather than a defensive initiative, the drive to Star Wars is in reality an offensive initiative.

These “new” offensive initiatives emerge out of a long history of U.S. espionage. For decades the United States has been spying on thousands of emails, faxes, and phone calls made all over the world. The United States has set up spy bases via satellite stations in Menwith Hill (UK), Pine Gap (Australia), and the Aleutian Islands (U.S.) — each of which looks over one-third of the world.

Insofar as trust and security is concerned, it seems the United States is suffering from a severe case of paranoia, recreating many of the worries previously left behind in the post Cold War era.

► WHAT IF WE HAD DISARMAMENT?

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expenditures, military technology, military bases world-wide, military training of foreign troops, military aid to foreign countries...”⁴ Unfortunately, the U.S. is also “number one among 19 industrialized countries, in: proportion of children living in poverty (one in five), (...) percentage of population without health coverage, lack of paid maternity leave, (...) emission of pollutants per capita (...) garbage per capita (...)”⁵.

What if the U.S. was without the Pentagon, without an army? What if all these resources were dedicated to “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...”⁶?

¹ Thomas L. Friedman, *New York Times*, March 28, 1999.

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/nations/fried99.htm>

² Article XXI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade — the main WTO governing document

³ Charter of the United Nations - preamble

⁴ Fred Knleman, Founding Director, Whistel Foundation for Sustainable Environment in *Canadian Jewish Outlook* May-June 2000, quoted in ‘*Press for Conversion!*’, July 2000.

⁵ Fred Knleman, *ibid*

⁶ Charter of the United Nations - preamble

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Central Vermont WILPF's "Raging Grannies" performed at a rally to support Vermont's controversial civil unions for same-sex couples on October 15, 2000 in Montpelier. Right to left: Lucy Nichol, Esther Farnsworth, Elizabeth Petersen, and Paj Wadley-Bailey.

Photo by Glenn Russell of the Burlington Free Press

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Time Value - Do Not Delay



WILPFers protest at Vandenberg. (See page 16)

Photo by Sandy Silver

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