

Peace & Freedom

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

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GENERATIONS OF COURAGE



CONGRESS 2002

Top, left: Helga Herz, 90, a member of the Detroit Branch, sits with Adjoa Aiyetoro of the UFORJE Campaign. *Above, left:* Marii Hasegawa. *Above, right:* Marlene Krohn. *At left, below:* Ellen Barfield with 8-month old Audrey Grant, daughter of Stephanie Fraser from the NY Metro Office. *Above:* Tammy James, Noy Thrupkaew and Susan Phillips.

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Cover photos from Congress by Theta Pavis

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

National Program: WILPF envisions a world free of violence, poverty, pollution and domination — a genuine new world order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 2000-2003 program cycle has four key campaign areas: Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights; Disarmament; Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation (UFORJE); and Women and Cuba. Each campaign area focuses on local and national effectiveness in creating lasting social change.

WILPF has sections in 37 countries coordinated by an international office in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches, coordinated by a national office in Philadelphia. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status.

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Inspiration in Faith

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Mary Day Kent, Executive Director
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Sometimes when we are applying for funds to support the work of WILPF, there is a question on the form that asks, "Are you a faith-based organization?" The answer, of course, is both "no" and "yes, absolutely."

WILPF is non-religious and our members represent the full range of faiths and practices, from clergy and members of religious orders all the way to dedicated atheists. However, as we look back on our just-completed Triennial Congress and forward with new energy to the work ahead, the most accurate answer has to be "yes, absolutely." We are a faith-based organization with our faith inextricably rooted in love of life and passionate hope that some day all will be able to live lives of justice, peace, liberty and dignity.

My inspiration in faith comes from so many examples (many of them members of WILPF!). Most recently I have been inspired and moved by the decency of Tatyana Sapunova, a Russian woman who saw a sign along the road outside of Moscow that said "death to yids" and was the first person that day to stop and try to take the sign down. She was seriously injured by an explosive attached to the sign and is still hospitalized as I write this. This spirit of courage and responsibility is the spirit I see WILPF members acting on and encouraging in the world.

There are WILPF members who care for the world in so many ways — vigiling for peace in the Middle East, living in jail after civil disobedience at the School of the Americas, writing letters to the editor, or simply standing up day after day for the right and decent act in any situation where people are being mistreated or deprived of their rights. As our new co-presidents say in their notes in this issue, WILPF is a way for all of us to have support in our efforts and to lift our spirits in hard times. Yes, absolutely we are people of faith!

Some Changes Ahead

At its April 2002 meeting, the Board of WILPF approved some changes and new directions for our communications strategy. Like a lot of other organizations, WILPF is being pulled towards the opportunities presented by electronic communications and pushed by the ever-present need to maximize the use of our financial resources. In order to try out some changes which we believe will give us a stronger voice and our members more effective tools for peace action, we will be shifting our communications work over the next year. This issue of *Peace & Freedom* that you are reading is the third and

last issue you will receive in 2002. In 2003 we will plan for two issues, with a review of the communications plan at the fall Board meeting in 2003. The savings in time and money from less printing and mailing will be directed to a systematic and professional redesign of our web site www.wilpf.org and email outreach. (Over 21 percent of our new members in 2001 joined through the Web.)

Since 1998, WILPF has been handling our Internet presence with the help of wonderful but ever-changing volunteers and interns. We have now reached the point where we need to rebuild our site and create a new Web presence focused on our campaigns. The new site will be a "user-friendly" resource for our members, as well as an exciting resource for those new to WILPF.

The decision to make these changes was not done lightly. We know that there are many WILPF activists who do not have regular computer access. However, we see this as a key challenge for us as organizers. We need to find ways at the local level to help each other gain access and skills, and to share information that comes by computer among the members of branches and groups. At the national level, WILPF joins with coalitions in advocating for technology access bridging the "digital divide" and bringing computer resources to all schools, libraries and community groups.

In order for our voices to be heard and for WILPF to continue playing a key role in U.S. and international mobilization for peace, we need to take these steps away from paper, print, and postage, and towards computer-based communication. Our impact will grow, our outreach will expand, and our dollars will stretch farther. This transition will be challenging but it will also bring in new energy. In the meantime, all of us will need to collaborate to make sure every member is involved and informed.

Theta Pavis, our *Peace & Freedom* editor since 1999, will be leaving us after this issue. She has done a superb job of pulling together a publication that has served and represented WILPF in all our diversity and range. Theta will be traveling and visiting WILPF sections and activists in Europe and Asia during the months ahead. We will be sharing her reports from these visits with you both on the Web and in future issues. We will miss Theta but she has made a tremendous contribution to WILPF in leading us to our next steps. Thank you, Theta. ❖



Blanche Wiesen Cook addresses Congress

Maverick author, historian, and longtime WILPF member Blanche Wiesen Cook delivered the opening keynote address at WILPF's Congress. Her talk was entitled "Searching for Peace in a State of Siege."

As an historian, Cook derided our government's frequent snubbing of historical analysis when deciding foreign policy. "The great scourge is the ignorance of the world's historical reality," said Cook. She urged everyone to study how past wars have changed the maps of the world. In reference to Afghanistan, she said its strategic position provides a route for the world's largest source of untapped oil reserves and mentioned that the entire region is sometimes referred to as "pipe-line-istan." "You see that between the Ural Sea and the Caspian Sea is a great big swath of black gold," said Cook. But we hear no historical background discussed in our media or our schools. "The state of siege is enforced, mandated ignorance. Challenge nothing, ask no questions, trust us."

Cook also spoke on the erosion of civil liberties that has taken place since 9/11. The following is an excerpt from an editorial she wrote that appeared in *The East Hampton Star*, February 7, 2002.

The worst attack on our hard-won heritage of civil liberties was passed by Congress during those first days of horror. The U.S.A.-Patriot Act is an appalling piece

of legislation that redefines American freedom for the next four years.

This many-hundred-page act granted dictatorial powers with seeming bipartisan enthusiasm before it was read, studied, debated. Folks said it was built on a sense of trust that all suspended civil liberties would be suspended with decency.

And so we are now saddled with the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act. It permits breakage and entry, without court orders; expanded wiretaps; black bag jobs; computer raids. No accountability. No oversight. John Edgar Hoover never had it so good.

In her concluding remarks at the Congress, Cook encouraged WILPF members to "think of witty, clever, dramatic responses to this moment of insanity." For if not, history may come knocking on our door once again. "When Nazis come to power," she said, "the first thing they do is close the universities and chop off the heads of intellectuals." — Susan Phillips



Photo by Theta Pavis



MIDDLE EAST PLENARY

Six women shared their diverse experience and knowledge during a Congress plenary on the Middle East. Charlotte Dennett, a former reporter and author now working on a book about Saudi Arabia, oil and U.S. espionage, delivered an authoritative 12-minute history on the Middle East, which focused on three major points:

- View the problem from the point of view of those in power. Women need to look at international politics from a male perspective, in which boundaries are meaningless and natural resources prevail.
- Oil is ammunition. In the "Age of Oil" everyone competes for this scarce resource.
- Access to Oil. This includes controlling access and controlling native populations.

Dennett said Israel and Palestine represent the gateway to the rich oil fields farther to the east. The history of the Middle East oil pipelines informs the current conflict.

Susannah Heschel, a professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College and co-chair of the Tikkun Community, discussed the "struggle over the soul of Jewish people." Heschel

wants American Jews to be more outspoken on criticizing Israel's actions against Palestine.

"The essential issue for Jews in the next 200 years is political human rights," said Heschel. "And it is my hope that Jews will recognize this and deal with it."

WILPF member Kate Sorenson gave an account of her recent trip to Palestine with the International Solidarity Network. Sorenson, who works primarily as an AIDS activist and made headlines during the 2000 Republican National Convention with her million dollar bail, delivered food to Palestinians while dodging sniper's bullets.

"I want the U.S. out," Sorenson said.

A video tape of the Middle East plenary will be available. Please inquire at the National office. ❖



Charlotte Dennett, left, and Susannah Heschel, spoke on the Middle East at a plenary at Congress.

Theta Pavis

Make Headlines: Do you know any WILPFers who have media access? Do you have a radio show, newspaper column, or Public Access television program? We want to compile a WILPF Media list. Send your information to Jody Dodd at the National WILPF office in Philadelphia.

Leader from Netherlands WILPF Attends Congress



Mans van Zandbergen, WILPF's former International Treasurer and an active member from the Netherlands Section, attended the Triennial Congress in Vermont. She brought an international perspective to the meeting at Goddard and took some time to speak with *Peace & Freedom* about her work.

WILPF's Netherlands Section has a long history dating back to the creation of the organization at The Hague in 1915. The Section ground to a halt however in 1945, when many Jewish members and women in the resistance were sent to concentration camps. It took almost 40 years for the Section to be revived.

Mans, who has been involved with the group since it began to re-form in the early 1980s, said today's Section has about 120 members. Section members are involved in many issues, including monitoring their own government. Mans said many right-wing politicians won office during recent elections.

"We are now alert and waiting to see what the government's program will be," said Mans, who is chair of the Section's Political Working Group.

In addition to this work, Section members are also involved in following WILPF's International program. "Disarm and anti-nuclear work is at the top of the list," she said.

Anti-globalization efforts and following the United Nations work of their own government also keeps members busy. Mans said the Section has been organizing around the issue of women in conflict areas as well. The Section (which is on the Board of the National Women's Council in the Netherlands) has begun to do work around Resolution 1325. Members recently put together a workshop on 1325 that was attended by women from other nonprofit organizations around the country.

When Mans is not busy with WILPF, she draws on her background in nursing and teaching by volunteering at a hospice for terminally ill patients.

— Theta Pavis

Carol Urner and Disarm! Campaign members perform a skit on militarism at Congress.



Theta Pavis

ESTABLISH EYE CONTACT: JOIN THE EYE ON CONGRESS PROJECT

Join WILPF's EYE on Congress project and monitor issues in the House and Senate, educate citizens and voters, and change policies in Washington, D.C. Forty-three WILPF members in 29 Districts and 10 states already use EYE alerts, updates and resource materials sent via email to inform their communities and legislative activities. To join, email Valerie Mullen, vmullen@together.net or the D.C. office at wilpfdc@wilpf.org. For information on this joint project of the Disarm! Campaign and WILPF in Washington, download the 2002 EYE on Congress flyer. Just click on the Disarm! logo at www.wilpf.org.

WILPF-INSPIRED ABM TREATY BILL INTRODUCED

At its February retreat in San Francisco, WILPF's Disarm! Campaign launched a special initiative to introduce a bill that would implement and continue the ABM Treaty. Our plan was to use the same legislative strategy as for NAFTA, GATT, etc: To make an international agreement the law of the land through legislation that requires only a majority vote of both houses, rather than relying on the Senate's treaty power requiring a two third's vote.

A small committee and the WILPF in Washington office drafted and circulated a bill. WILPF members Ann Fagan Ginger and Madeline Duckle's persistence with Rep. Barbara Lee's (D-CA) able staff resulted in her introduction June 12 of a revised ABM Treaty bill, H.R. 4920. Reps. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) and Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) joined as co-sponsors. To swell Congressional voices opposing the administration's total embrace of nuclear weapons and disdain for treaties, urge your Congressional representative to co-sponsor H.R. 4920 and join the lawsuit protesting the constitutionality and legality of the U.S. withdrawal.

To phone the Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121. To read the H.R. text or co-sponsor list to date, see: <http://thomas.loc.gov>. To see the Federal district court complaint, Congressional plaintiffs list: www.wilpf.org.

— Gillian Gilhool

A Conversation on Cuba with Lourdes C. Bassue Webb



During a session at Congress on Women and Cuba, Lourdes C. Bassue Webb, 2nd Secretary for the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., announced she had just received word that Fidel Castro was threatening to close the Cuban Interest Section in Havana and recall the Cuban diplomats working here in the U.S. Bassue Webb said Cuba has known for years that the United States uses their office in Havana to illegally recruit Cuban citizens to engage in “counter-revolutionary” or anti-governmental activity. WILPF spoke to Bassue Webb after the session.

and Cuban people. It showed the world that we are able to listen to other points of view, which are not the same as ours. That was the main success.

In light of Castro’s recent announcement, how do you see the embargo ending?

We are working to defuse this situation. I think we have a lot of support among the American people. And your lawmakers agree the embargo is outdated.

After 10 months in the U.S. as a diplomat, what have been your strongest impressions?

I used to think that all Cubans here were anti-Cuban. But I have become convinced that it is only a small group of people who profit from the situation [embargo]. I think that money is the most important thing that keeps [the anti-Castro exiles] from having better relations with Cuba. They want to go back and have what they had before 1959.

How effective is the solidarity movement here in the U.S. toward ending the embargo?

I would say it’s very effective. We have a huge movement that has taken place throughout the United States with the Association of Sister Cities. [Because of Elian] so many people throughout the different [Cuban] solidarity movements have joined together.

Is there anything you want to add to your comments to WILPF members?

I would like to thank WILPF for giving me an opportunity to speak with different people. My first taste of American women was during a summit [held in San Marcos, TX in May]. This [Triennial Congress] has given me the opportunity to meet new people and realize that we still have things to share. Unfortunately, the mass media doesn’t give all the information people need to know in order to relate to the rest of the world.

– Susan Phillips

What kind of things could the solidarity groups do differently?

I don’t want to give recipes as to what could be done. We want to thank WILPF; we do appreciate whatever you do.

What do you think of Carter’s recent visit?

Carter’s visit was welcomed by the Cuban government

STAFF PROFILES



Theta Pavis

Elaine Jones, Data Entry Assistant



WILPF staff from left to right: Amy Kwasnicki, Gillian Gilhool, Jody Dodd, Theta Pavis, Pamela Jones-Burnley, Mary Day Kent.

Dawn Lonsinger

Being Joyful in the Face of Horror

Darien De Lu, WILPF Co president

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I am frequently amazed at the glory of the world. For me, nature speaks deeply and sweetly of life's power; in people's kindness and perseverance, I see a bright spirit. These things nurture me. Yet, in this bountiful world, I am shocked by humanity's brutal existence: nuclear horrors; millions living in the "free trade" squalor of sprawling slums; giant bulldozers, cluster bombs, plastic rifles — human ingenuity producing ever more ways to hurt and destroy.

For people like us, who not only care about the world but also seek to stay aware and — even more — who believe we can influence the trajectory of society, our tasks are great. Besides saving the world, we must care for ourselves, our communities and our organizations. How easy it is for me to forget this! Even U.S. WILPF, which contributes so greatly to my life and my understanding of the world, seems to fade in importance in the face of horrifying headlines. And my needs? They often slip far from the high position they merit!

So, I work consciously to nurture myself — and my community and my organization — by bringing joy into my life and the lives around me. If you met me at the Congress, you may know that color, music, and reconnection to nature are some of the ways I do this. Spending time (even outside of meetings!) with friends also helps me laugh, or cry.

We may well be in for some rocky times in the next decade. It is a revolutionary act to keep joy alive in WILPF and in our lives, even as we build a better world for all. I invite you to join me in this revolution! ❖

Raising Money for Peace

Sandy Silver, WILPF Co president

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There is nothing as invigorating as being among large groups of WILPF women from all over the U.S.! The 28th Triennial Congress provided such an experience in the beautiful surroundings of Goddard College in Vermont.

Jane Addams often said that WILPF was based on "pooled intelligence." The lively discussions in the workshops plus the various programs featured at the Congress, provided ample evidence of her description of WILPF. In addition to the pooled intelligence there was

the excitement of integrating the arts with politics.

Over the past several months, I have been asked how I can remain so "upbeat" when U.S politics has veered so dangerously to the reactionary right, and when war and violence dominate world politics. My reactions at first were of shock and guilt at my apparent lack of sensitivity. But as I thought about the rationale behind my optimism, I realized that part of it stems from being proactive rather than passive. More importantly, my resilience is due to the fact that I am involved with a group of dedicated WILPF women and men who work collectively, creatively and tirelessly to expose the root causes of war and oppression. In the words of the late Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism and militarism."

Peace work is too overwhelming for one person to shoulder by herself. Darien and I are eager partners in a team that includes thousands of WILPF members throughout the world. WILPF branches are well known for working in coalitions and raising funds for different organizations. It's imperative that we focus on raising money for WILPF in order to further our work in overcoming the daily terrorism in people's lives caused by poverty, racism and militarism. ❖

Stop the War at Home and Abroad

About 80 WILPF members joined 100,000 people on April 20th in Washington, D.C. to demand a Stop to the Wars at Home and Abroad.

Many of the people in the streets that day were there to voice opposition to the Israeli invasion of Palestine as well. This was a broad coalition working together for a common goal to speak out against U.S. foreign policies in the Middle East, Latin America, the so-called "War on Terrorism," and the devastating effects of Corporate Globalization. WILPF played a very active role in the planning and organizing for the April 20 Mobilization. I worked on the steering committee that planned the march. I also worked with Gillian Gilhool in our D.C. office to coordinate WILPF's participation. The Raging Grannies performed at the morning rally and then continued to perform for people in the streets. WILPF's newest branch — Florida Atlantic University — sent a wonderful banner with signatures of their members to be carried, along with a new, large banner from the National office. It was so important to have a united voice of resistance to Bush's wars. In fact, in hindsight, it just may have been the "permission slip" that many in Congress needed to speak out against the war and to launch the investigation into what was known before September 11. — Jody Dodd

Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



MIDDLE EAST: LIFE UNDER THE GUNS

Odile Hugonot Haber

In April I went with a group of four people to Israel and Palestine. We were all from Ann Arbor and we brought with us a “Peace Table” that my husband Alan Haber, a wood worker, had made. We brought it as an offering from the U.S. peace movement, to promote the idea that every working person can contribute something to peace and to reinforce the idea of a people’s peace plan.

Once there, we put it in front of the Prime Minister’s house on Israel’s Earth Day where young people wrote their visions for peace on it.

A week later (accompanied by French WILPF Grenoble Branch President Elisabeth Lesage) I attended the WILPF solidarity conference. WILPF members responded to the call for a solidarity visit by Hanan Awwad, president of the Palestine Section of WILPF. Our international delegation included Edith Ballantyne, Canada and Switzerland; Elisabeth Lesage, France; Margaret Turner, UK and Sweden; Kirsti Kolthoff, Chair of the Standing Middle East Committee, and myself.

Our delegation met with President Arafat the day after he had been released. We also met with the director of the Palestinian broadcasting corporation, the director of preventive security, the governor and the mayor of Jenin, and members from the trade unions. We were warmly received and educated about the sufferings of the Palestinian people, who have been living under a long-term military occupation.

We also witnessed the occupation first hand as we crossed checkpoints. (There are 600 - 700 checkpoints in the occupied territories.) We learned that many babies died when they were delivered at checkpoints. It took two and half-hours for us to

cross one checkpoint at Ramallah, and we were traveling as VIPs. Throughout this, we experienced the impatience and fear people are living with. We saw people at their wits end fighting. We bitterly saw the horror of a daily life under the guns.

During our trip, we witnessed the destruction of the refugee camps and also of the basic infrastructure; security compounds, broadcasting studios, pharmacies, and schools were all damaged. We visited Jenin and felt sorrow at the terrible sight of what looks like a man-made earthquake: men, women and children had been killed, and many were taken prisoner. We saw the rubble of some 300 houses destroyed by U.S./Israeli F-16s, helicopters, bombs, tanks and Caterpillar bulldozers.

This destruction is the result of the U.S. foreign policy and we, as American taxpayers, are pawns of it. It hurts me to think that instead of providing weapons we could be building schools and hospitals, water treatment plants and supporting a viable economy.

The Palestinian economy is on the brink of disaster; unemployment ranges from 62 percent in the occupied territories to 82 percent in Gaza. The annual salary in Israel is \$19,000 per capita, while in Palestine it is \$1,000 per capita.

When we went to vigil with Women in Black, the Israeli women reminded us that every person in Israel is traumatized, fearful, and living with heartache and a troubled economy. There are now going to be big cuts in social and environmental programs at a time when they need them most. The occupation is dehumanizing everyone, racism is increasing, and the violence has spilled over into the Israeli society.

The week we were there 100,000 Israelis demonstrated against the occupation in Tel Aviv. Palestinian people are also trying to reach out to Israelis with non-violent solutions, such as creating vigils and “human chains” that stretch from Jerusalem to Gaza.

Israeli and Palestinian women of Bat Shalom and the Jerusalem Center are still making statements together, and we heard of an art project called the Healing Quilt in which women were participating jointly.

The WILPF Palestine section had organized an extraordinary program for us



Left to right: Elisabeth Lesage (French WILPF), Edith Ballantyne (WILPF International) and Kirsti Kolthoff (Swedish WILPF and chair of WILPF Standing Committee on the Middle East) protest together at a Women in Black vigil in West Jerusalem.

and was very encouraged by our visit and the many messages of concern and solidarity received from WILPF sections all over the world.

As a WILPF delegation, we have taken a lot of time to think about what we can do to advance peace in the Middle East. We are focusing on three programs:

- A U.S. tour by Israel Section President Aliyah Strauss and by Palestine Section President Hanan Awwad to visit branches interested in hosting them.
- An International WILPF delegation to meet with heads of states, focusing on visiting Arab heads of states.
- Support for a Swedish project called "The Women's Model For Building Peace and Confidence in the Middle East." Its focus is women from the Middle East sections, but because we have many women from the Middle East among us, it could be used in the United States.

To support any of these projects, contact the National Office or the WILPF Middle East Committee.

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Odile Hugonot Haber is head of WILPF's Middle East Committee. She can be reached at OD4LIFE@aol.com.

LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL/TRANSGENDERED COMMITTEE

Having re-formed in January 2002, the Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual / Transgendered Committee (LGBT) is still in various stages of organizing. At this point, we are communicating via cyberspace and are looking at ways of broadening our membership, as not everyone communicates on the Internet.

As a committee, we have decided our two main goals are: 1) to act as a WILPF resource/liaison for LGBT national legislation and issues and 2) to address internal LGBT issues, such as, homophobic situations, safe space, education and training. We are developing a brochure about the committee and its purpose in WILPF and designing a heterosexism/homophobia workshop for groups and branches.

Our main focus recently was designing a workshop for the National Congress, which was the first time we met together as a group. The goal of our workshop was to be a visible WILPF committee and to have a working place to set up a process and define how we will pursue our goals. For those interested in participating in the LGBT committee please contact Chris Morin, (757) 229-3384, wilpflgbtcom@aol.com, or 507 Capitol Landing Rd. Williamsburg, VA, 23185-4318.

THE FBI CAN SPY AGAIN

Vivian Schatz

The Bush administration issued new directives at the end of May, which gave the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) vast additional powers to spy on people in the U. S. People will be targeted for surveillance because of

their political or religious views or affiliations, and not because of any criminal activity. These directives shred the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights and take us back to the Cointelpro excesses of the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s when the FBI infiltrated, spied upon, and disrupted the civil rights and anti-war movements.

There has been widespread opposition to the unleashing of the FBI, ranging from extreme conservatives like Pat Buchanan to leading newspapers, which have published editorials highly critical of the new guidelines. In an article titled "J. Edgar Mueller," William Safire wrote: "We see the seizure of new powers of surveillance as a smokescreen to hide failure to use the old power . . . Without a scintilla of a crime being committed, the feds will be able to run full investigations for one year. That's aimed at generating suspicion of criminal conduct — the very definition of a 'fishing expedition'." He added that the FBI will also be able to "data mine" the Internet and create instant dossiers on law-abiding Americans. (*New York Times* 6/3/02)

Rep. J. Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R. Wis.) chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the Justice Department had gone too far in giving the FBI authority to monitor Americans and risked a return to the "bad old days" of abuses in domestic terrorism. He asked why surveillance guidelines, which had been in place for a quarter-century and had worked well, had to be changed. There was no need "to throw respect for civil liberties into the trash heap" to improve the FBI's ability to fight terrorism."

Congressman John Conyers, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, issued a scathing statement in response to the new guidelines. "The administration's continued defiance of constitutional safeguards seems to have no end in sight." He said the Bush administration should "immediately halt any efforts unilaterally to expand surveillance authority," and that Congress should be consulted "before implementing further intrusions on our civil liberties."

Newspapers such as the *Philadelphia Inquirer* have also chimed in: "Unchecked domestic spying isn't the best strategy... The Bush administration is trying to fix something that isn't broken by eliminating important protections against infringements on civil liberties." (*Inquirer* 6/6/02)

ACTION: Join with others at demonstrations at federal buildings. Write your members of Congress to urge legislation to undo these new directives and quote Rep. Sensenbrenner (Sensenbrenner@phys.unsw.edu.au).

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Vivian Schatz is chair of WILPF's Civil Liberties Committee.



Hanan Awwad, President, WILPF Palestine Section.
Ellis Boal

A Simple and Complex Truth: One Woman's Trip to the Middle East

Gloria Bletter

My recent trip to Israel and Palestine as part of a lawyers' delegation sponsored by the National Lawyers' Guild (NLG) was so full intellectually and so emotionally heart-breaking that it is difficult to sum it up.

The journey began in Paris, with a meeting of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers [IADL], of which NLG is the U.S. Member Association. This meeting was devoted to the Middle East situation, and held in conjunction with several NGOs, including representatives from Amnesty International-France; Association France Palestine Solidarite; and human rights lawyers from Spain, Belgium, Palestine, Vietnam, and France. We heard several reports, resulting in a set of recommendations that lawyer-members of IADL could undertake—both solidarity-type actions, such as supporting a boycott/disinvestment campaign begun by NGOs, and legal assistance such as establishing a rotating panel of volunteer attorneys who would investigate facts, and assist in documenting abuses for litigation.

After the meeting in Paris our journey began, and we experienced the fear, resentment, and sense of loss which is part of everyday life now in Palestine. It began with our anxiety about being allowed into Israel, and then again, ended with similar uncertainties on our way out, so much so that we planned several discussions within the group about how we would conduct ourselves at the airport in Tel-Aviv. We resorted to mailing home all papers and reports received from Palestinian organizations before leaving, so that they would not be found during the meticulous search of our luggage and persons we had been informed would take place. And this is in a country that the United States calls the major democracy in the Middle East! But maybe you have already heard about the restrictions placed upon journalists and "internationals" going to the area in an attempt to be non-violent witnesses to military abuses. If a delegation voted upon by the United Nations was denied admission, how would we fare?

Some of us were interrogated at the airport, but all 12 of us ultimately made it into Tel-Aviv, and then to East Jerusalem and to our hotel. The hotel was near the busy commercial area of the Palestinian section of Jerusalem and the gates of the old city and market. We stayed there each night, traveling by day to Ramallah, Jenin, Nablus, and Bethlehem, as well as around Jerusalem, and attend-

ing meetings with representatives of many human rights and legal advocacy organizations. While traveling in our van with our Palestinian driver and our guide, we got a taste of the checkpoint harassment and delays experienced daily by all Palestinians in the West Bank, whether professionals or Palestinian Authority officials going to meetings; teachers and shopkeepers going to work; ambulances bringing a patient to a hospital; or family members visiting from another village. Our longest wait was over three hours at the infamous Kalandia checkpoint, the only way between Jerusalem and Ramallah, where the offices of the Palestinian Authority are located (trashed by the Israeli army in May)—a once-thriving city not far from downtown Jerusalem.

But we could distract ourselves from the frustration of waiting to be examined by young Israeli soldiers fingering their rifles—we could get out of the van. And we were there for only one week. What about those who have to endure these humiliating waits every single day?

These checkpoints were established and are administered by military authority, in the name of Israel's "security" and "defense," but contrary to the rule of law or even of regulation, they are often set up at will, without notice. Curfews are imposed at 6 or 7 p.m., or whenever (if the check points are shut down, no one can pass, at risk of being shot, and so cannot leave the place until the next day). Soldiers act upon their whim; by misinterpreting civilians' acts the army's response is not only disruptive, it is also dangerous. A Palestinian who seeks a short cut over the hill, or leaves the line to urinate during a long wait, could be (and have been) killed. Additional curfews have also recently been imposed at the entrances to several Palestinian villages in the West Bank, effectively cutting them off from all contact with each other except for a few hours per day. Since this is primarily a rural agricultural area, where selling of farm products is important for the residents' survival, subsistence is further threatened.

Such measures are only the latest among a long history of acts disguised as defensive and protective of Israelis, sometimes subtle and malignant, sometimes overt and obvious, but always breeding counter-measures which are then, in turn, used as rationalizations for another round of both military and institutionalized repression. I have come to see how the "radical" view, the one espoused by Noam Chomsky and Norman Finklestein, by Edward Said, and by others who speak out against the denial of the Palestinian peoples' land and cultural rights, is actually the one closest to the truth and in greater compliance with international legal standards.

I did not always see this story; my eldest uncle was a Zionist who emigrated from the Ukraine to the colony of Tel-Aviv in the 1920's, and their oldest child, my cousin, was one of very few women officers in the Haganah during the "War of Independence" of 1947. So I grew up hearing the "Jewish people as heroes for a change" side of the picture, and did not absorb the scope of what was being done, in the name of long-time persecution of the Jewish people and of the Holocaust, to another people. Although I had long rebelled against the patriarchy of an Orthodox Jewish state, the wrongheaded view of the Israel government that it is "either us or them," rather than one of democratic accommodation, began to become more and more distasteful with the refusal of Israel to negotiate a real peace, with real concessions, during the Oslo and later "peace" offers. This distaste grew into horror as I heard about more executions of young boys throwing stones, and about pregnant women, their families or newborns dying or being killed trying to reach a hospital during the night to give birth.

In mid-March I attended a meeting of activists in New York City who were planning to go to the area as part of the International Solidarity Movement gathering in various parts of threatened Palestine; what happened to them was a lot more perilous than we imagined at that meeting. The emailed reports of how their lives were at risk merely for standing up against moving tanks and for supporting the Palestinian families they were housed with, moved me to tears and anger. So when I saw the announced emergency delegation of lawyers to the area, I was primed to go.

It is unfortunate that the topic has become so polarized, perhaps even more so in the United States than in Israel, that I was not able to tell all my friends and family of my

plans. Even now that I am safely back, some people I was close to will not speak to me based on my having made this trip and being perceived as "pro-Palestinian." The truth is both simpler and more complex; it is based on history – my own and that of the Middle East; on current aggression and who actually has the overwhelming power there; and on my very secular belief in the paramount importance of upholding human rights standards and the rule of law for the future of humanity.

More details about violations of human rights on both sides, but predominantly and historically committed by the Israeli government and military, are available. I would need several more pages to present them and responding resistance efforts. Suffice it for now to quote from Aliyah Strauss, head of the WILPF Section in Israel: "The main problem is that the Jewish Israelis and the Palestinians are living, thinking and planning the future according to two very different narratives. The narratives give the history and the rationale for everything that's happening here and now. Without recognizing the narrative of the other side there can be no meeting of equals, and no peace."

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Gloria Bletter, along with Gloria Korecki, represents U.S. WILPF at the United Nations.



The author, left, with Aliyah Strauss, President, WILPF Israel Section. Ellis Boal

CEDAW/Women's Rights Committee

Gillian Gilhool, Legislative Organizer

On June 13 the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings on the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Chaired by Barbara Boxer (D-CA), the hearings were packed.

Congresswomen who have been ardent supporters, such as Lynn Woolsey (CA-D-6th) testified, followed by two panels of witnesses, pro and con. With right-wing opposition groups heavily represented in the hearing room, Ellen Barfield, attending for WILPF, urged afterwards that "our work is to see that a recommendation for ratification is reported out from the Committee and favorable action taken on the floor of the Senate before November."

Ione Biggs, the much-honored indefatigable CEDAW advocate and chair of WILPF's CEDAW/ Women's Rights Committee agrees. "The hearings were long overdue. I experienced discrimination in my working years, first as a person of color and second as a woman. Women still are paid less and discriminated against in our country."

Recounting successes in organizing political support for CEDAW in Ohio, she noted working with other

women's groups and the strategic contribution of men who want their daughters to have equal rights.

A new Web site supporting ratification, www.women-streaty.org, has an ACTION NOW button to send emails to the Senate, White House and State Department, along with background information, sample letters, recordings and transcripts of the June 13 hearings, the text of the treaty and talking points, especially those you need to refute opponents' misleading assertions, and links to other resources. For WILPF's written statement to the Committee, go to WILPF's Web site at www.wilpf.org.

A booklet entitled "Human Rights for All" is available from the National Office (215) 563-7110 for \$5. Ione Biggs's Cleveland Branch and WILPF's Boston Branch helped fund this publication put together by the Working Group for Ratification of the Treaty for the Rights of Women, in which WILPF participates.

ACTION: President Bush has not yet made a firm, definitive decision regarding administration support of the treaty. Opposition groups are mobilized against the Treaty. To maximize the possibility that the Administration could decide to support — or at least not oppose — ratification, call the White House switchboard at (202) 456-1111 to support the CEDAW Treaty for the Rights of Women. ❖

Stopping Military Madness

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Carol Urner
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Much has transpired since the St Louis Congress three years ago when we chose the theme of our Campaign. First, a U.S. Administration committed to aggressive militarization came into power, and then the events of 9/11 frightened many of our fellow citizens into accepting the “necessity” of perpetual war. Now both the challenges facing us and our responses are more complex than originally envisioned.

DISARM! DISMANTLING THE WAR ECONOMY CAMPAIGN

Members from 25 Branches across the country met in two retreats (Ann Arbor in August 2001 and San Francisco in February 2002) to consider dangers facing us. At the June WILPF Congress, between 50 to 80 additional members and friends shared concerns, ideas and experiences in three intense workshops. Participants expressed their horror at current U.S. Administration policies blocking the entire structure of international disarmament treaties patiently crafted over the decades, and at Pentagon plans to put weapons and nuclear power in space. There was a strong call for branches to spearhead or join in coalition on actions centered around Hiroshima Day (August 6) and also the Global Campaign Against Weapons in Space actions the week of October 2 - 11. There were calls for a car cavalcade across the United States to highlight the insanity of current Administration policies, or a newer version of the WILPF STAR campaign to alert people to the growing dangers of a new nuclear arms race and global war.

At Congress we also looked at the four evolving projects and at the resources developed by our members and the WILPF U.N. office during the past three years.

1) The MIL-CORP ConneXion: We still believe one of most effective ways to transform our economy and abolish war is to expose the profit hungry military corporations that are greedily gobbling up our tax dollars, spewing toxic wastes into our environment and actively lobbying to push us into ever greater militarization and continuous wars. Thanks to the work of the international WILPF team at the United Nations office we now have a wealth of information on the Dirty Dozen mega-corporations profiting from the nuclear weapons industry, and on the aerospace giants. A research outline and bibliography is also available for branches who want to join Palo Alto, Cleveland and

Tucson in carrying out their own research and action on locally based military industries. Most of this material, including the excellent study of Lockheed done by the Palo Alto Branch, is already available through our own Web site (www.wilpf.org) and through WILPF at the U.N. (www.reachingcriticalwill.org). If there is sufficient interest we can also make it available in a research packet. We hope branches can add to this material — including ways to use funds now poured into weapons industries for feeding peacetime economies at home and abroad — and help us find creative, new approaches for bringing it to public attention. We must awaken citizens to moves by the aerospace industry, in co-operation with the Pentagon, to create of a whole new range of nuclear and space-based weapons that will send the military budget rocketing ever higher and threaten world stability and humanity’s very survival in the decades to come. Join us in this critical, demanding, exciting and evolving campaign project! *Pat Birnie* [birnie@gci-net.com] is volunteer coordinator.

2) Eye on Congress: Dismantling the war economy requires close work with Congress, and the best way to keep tabs and take action on current issues is to link into our EYE on Congress. A small committee works with the WILPF legislative office to put out timely alerts on relevant legislation. At the WILPF Congress they conducted a special workshop on pushing our elected officials.

All branches are invited to receive this committee’s alerts on war and peace issues before the U.S. Congress. Recent alerts (sent to EYE contacts in participating Branches and available on the U.S. WILPF Web site) have featured Congressional legislation relating to the military budget, as well as the ABM treaty and “missile defense,” the Nuclear Posture Review, the International Criminal Court, the Israeli/Palestinian crisis, widening military involvement in Colombia and the threatened invasion of Iraq. You can receive guidance from this committee in tracking your own Congressperson, and in supporting her/him in progressive legislation on disarmament and related domestic and foreign policy issues. The committee also produces flyers suitable for branch distribution in local communities. A popular one (available on our WILPF Web site) is updated yearly. It features charts showing the runaway military budget, and lists health and education projects that could be funded with money now spent on specific military weapons. *Valerie Mullen* [vmullen@together.net] and *Yvonne Logan* [jlogan@thompsoncoburn.com] coordinate this campaign with staff back up from *Gillian Gilhool* in the WILPF legislative office [ggilhool@ix.netcom.com].

3) Abolition of nuclear weapons and reduction of conventional arms manufacture and export:

The Disarmament Committee believes progress on abolition of nuclear weapons and war itself will come only when we reign in the military-industrial complex and begin dismantling the war economy. WILPF must, however, never lose sight of basic disarmament issues, and we continue to press for U.N. treaties and enforceable international law that can help save our planet and its people from the scourge of war.

As those who attended our Campaign overview at the WILPF Congress learned, this portion of our Campaign currently emphasizes Keeping Space for Peace. We are supporting (and seeking to improve) legislation in Congress banning weapons and nuclear power in space. We also encourage branches to participate in the October 4 - 12 global actions to bring the dangers of war in space to public attention.

This committee continues to support existing nuclear weapons treaties and to work for abolition of all such weapons. We also work for enforcement of the chemical and biological weapons treaties as well as the land mines treaty, and others. We have issued a statement, available for branch action, on the controversial U.S. Nuclear Posture Review. In all these areas we seek to expose the pressure military-for-profit industries exert to withdraw from disarmament treaties and to keep our country in the ever-expanding business of war. The Abolition portion of our campaign relies heavily on the Reaching Critical Will Campaign emanating from our International WILPF office at the United Nations. Merav Datan and Emily Schroeder of that office have helped us to comprehend the dangers of U.S. blockage of almost every arms treaty in existence. Our U.S. WILPF site includes links to Reaching Critical Will, or members can access it directly at (www.reachingcriticalwill.org). Carol Urner (turner@qwest.net) is currently volunteer facilitator for the Abolition portion of our campaign.



Puppets and protesters at April 20 demonstration.

Gillian Gilhool

4) Peace policy and the

Listening Project: The committee is now developing a new tool for use during the next three years, including prior to and during the 2004 election campaign. It features a listening project, with training available for branches and individual members ready to use this tool in the community. We hope to listen to our neighbors, and ask how, if we want peace, they think we can move from a military to a peacetime economy. The current hope is to develop a "People's Peace Policy," a formal document to use in the 2004 elections to push candidates to work for peace and human needs. Training in listening skills can help us all as we reach out to people in the difficult days that lie ahead. The Listening Project presented a special workshop at WILPF's Congress with the help

of Joanne Sheehan, who works with U.S. War Resisters League and War Resisters International. *Ellen Barfield* [ellene4pj@yahoo.com] is presently facilitating the *Peace Policy and Listening Project*.

STOP MILITARY MADNESS

We invite all members and branches to join us as we educate ourselves, and as we act together to dismantle this war economy and build the world of peace and freedom we all really want! Please share concerns and action ideas with any of the six steering committee members listed here. Join in our Campaign committee and conference calls. We have faith that the creative input of women can yet change the course of history — and WILPF members include some of the most creative, best and able women around! Campaign co-chairs are *Ellen Barfield* [ellene4pj@yahoo.com] and *Carol Urner* (turner@qwest.net). *Yoshiko Ikuta* [yikuta@aol.com], our former co-chair, continues on our committee and will support us as a WILPF Board member and Campaign Membership Outreach Worker.

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Carol Urner is co chair of the Disarm! Dismantling the War Economy Campaign.

Doing Democracy

WILPF's Campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights is rooted in the understanding that "we the people" must dismantle illegitimate corporate power and constitutional protections if we are to claim our political birthright—democracy.

As we begin the fourth year of our campaign, it is more clear than ever that the work of creating democracy is not about corporate behavior but about *ours*: how we interact to make decisions about our common lives, our communities, our economic and political arrangements. Only human beings can practice democracy; corporations cannot, no matter how many "rights" of legal personhood the federal courts confer on them.

Since democracy is something we learn and do, not have, its conscious practice is inseparable from our studying, planning and organizing for justice and peace. How we do our work *is* our work — in WILPF and in the wider world. In keeping with this conviction, the campaign leadership team continues to evolve our own democratic practice. We have identified seven guiding principles for practicing democracy and intend to follow them as our work continues. [See box.]

Our leadership team formed three years ago from those on the Committee on Corporations, Trade & Democracy who wanted to offer leadership in the budding campaign. Team members have cycled off according to their own situations, and new people have joined WILPF and the Campaign leadership. Study groups continue to multiply and the Campaign's national action to Abolish Corporate Personhood has attracted ever-widening interest, fresh energy, and an expanded leadership team.

The four Campaign goals in the coming three years are to (1) get the ACLU to stop supporting corporate personhood; (2) help organize successful campaigns to pass resolutions abolishing corporate personhood in 50 towns and cities; (3) insert the issue of corporate person-



Jan Edwards, left, and Molly Morgan.

Theta Pavis

hood into the 2002 and 2004 election debates; and (4) publicize the Campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights and the action to the Abolish Corporate Personhood. At our March leadership team retreat, we restructured the Campaign to facilitate achieving these goals through our organizing as well as continued research, analysis, and study.

We have created working groups, including but not limited to: media/publicity, education, outreach, research, resources, planning campaigns, budget & fundraising, direct action, coordination, legislation, and communication with local campaigns. A representative from each will serve on the leadership team, periodically rotating so more people have an opportunity to develop leadership skills in various aspects of the Campaign. The team will also include Molly Morgan and Paula Schnepf, our Campaign representatives on the national board, and the Campaign

co-chairs, who will change at the end of the year.

Before the Congress in June, we invited members of the Committee on Corporations, Trade & Democracy to become part of the newly constituted Campaign Committee, committing to participating in one or more working groups through email, phone, post, and meetings when possible.

PRINCIPLES FOR PRACTICING DEMOCRACY

- In our work we model the kind of democratic process we are trying to bring into being.
- We take ourselves, our work, and our organization seriously; the work we do is important.
- We are responsible for our own personal commitments to each other and to our working groups.
- We are responsible for clearly communicating our needs and expectations to each other.
- We are committed to our own education and to evolving our analysis and strategy as we learn from our research, from each other, and from our experiences.
- We consider process and reflection integral to action.
- We welcome opportunities to remind, review, question, and strengthen our commitment to these principles.

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This article was written by the Leadership Team of the Campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights.

Making Connections at Congress

Abolish Corporate Personhood proved to be a hot topic at Congress! Nearly half of the attendees participated in one of the Campaign workshops, and people chose corporate personhood as a discussion focus during other sessions as well. In a direct action workshop, for example, branch members used it to figure out how to reframe their local work. They realized that they wanted to stop simply protesting against the harms perpetrated by a local weapons manufacturer and instead contest the corporation's authority to pollute in the first place. They developed the idea of holding a mock trial in which they would ask: by what authority does this corporation engage in this destructive behavior?

As a result of sessions at Congress, many branches expressed interest in holding a public forum or workshop to educate their communities about corporate personhood. A number of people signed up to join the working groups, and we invite more people to participate.

The Campaign T-shirts were such a success that we've already sold out of the entire first batch! We are quickly making more shirts, so you can contact the

Philadelphia office now to put in your order. The T-shirts are made of organic cotton and are printed with soy ink in a fair labor shop. On the front they say, "Slavery is the legal fiction that a person is property. Corporate personhood is the legal fiction that property is a person." On the back are "Abolish Corporate Personhood" and WILPF's name and website.

The Campaign has a growing list of materials for popular education, including the 10-session Challenging Corporate Power, Asserting the People's Rights study packet and an Abolish Corporate Personhood organizing packet, which includes a bumper sticker, Santa Clara Blues (a booklet telling the story of the Supreme Court decision giving constitutional protections to corporations), sample resolutions, skits, songs, presentations, and more. We also have an 18-foot timeline as a presentation resource for those who join the education committee and a handout version as well.

To arrange for one or more speakers or workshop facilitators for your branch, contact Jan Edwards at (707) 882-1818 or janedwards@mcn.org. ❖

Authors Night

Joyce Blackwell-Johnson, Ph.D., the author of the forthcoming book *Coloring Peace: African-American Activists in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom 1915 - 1975*, addressed WILPF members at Congress during "authors night." A professor at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina, her book attempts to "rescue black female peace activists from invisibility." Blackwell-Johnson said Jane Addams invited African-American women to join WILPF shortly after the organization was formed. Although the move to diversify WILPF put the organization at the vanguard of American race relations, the group still had problems. Blackwell-Johnson said many white members (particularly those from the south) left WILPF in protest after black women were asked to join.

"African-American women prodded some of the white women in WILPF to look at these issues," she said.

Blackwell-Johnson said other works on WILPF tended to marginalize the black women, so she had to focus specifically on them to give them voice. Doing this, she said, let her look at how each race defined peace and freedom. "Black women's unique burdens of sexism and racism shaped their participation in the peace movement ... WILPF is one of the first organizations in this country that reached out and invited women of color in."

She also noted that "black women in WILPF were among the first to develop an international consciousness." ❖



Joyce Blackwell Johnson, left, and Grace Paley, right. Both read to a packed house during "authors night" at Congress. Also featured was poet and playwright Clare Coss.

Theta Pavis

THE GRACEFUL RESONANCE OF UNPREDICTABLE PROTEST:

How to Summon the Raging Granny Within

Dawn Lonsinger

The Raging Grannies set satirical lyrics to familiar melodies and arrive where the public congregates, where the fine lines beg to be crossed. Where there are the downtrodden, the unjust, the unspoken—they are there. Their image is an inverted exclamation point with a tiara of plastic garland. They converge at an Unconvention. Nothing is sacred. They mimic the outrageous, mind-boggling aspects of world problems, and give them a punctuating comedy. They take the granny stereotype and use it to do political work, gaining entrance into forbidden places — for, as they themselves put it — who would deny access to sweet little old ladies?

Raging Granny Alma Norman of Ottawa finds it “wonderful to be working with older women who jolt the stereotype of the sittin’ and knittin’ ole grannie.”

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have classified the Raging Grannies as subversives. They try their best. They’re street theater, they’re funny, they’re serious, they’re angry, they’re raging. They relentlessly protest.

If ever there was an appropriate place to adjust the terminology we choose to describe a collective past from history to herstory, it is this story, of how the Raging Grannies were born of their own labor, have grown into a compelling aplomb, offering their audiences the harmony of collective dissent, the power of the cacophonous croon, and an intonation of hope.

In 1987, The Raging Grannies began when a group of eight peace activist women (who were also heavily involved in street theater) became worried about nuclear proliferation, and more specifically about ships carrying radioactive material past their province of British Columbia, Canada. They realized the effectiveness of visibility and voice and took to the streets singing songs of protest.

That original Raging Grannies group suspected that they might be a one-day phenomenon, but 15 years later they cannot fill all the requests for their appearance. They began to target other abuses of society, and their repertoire grew to include songs addressing uranium mining, nuclear power, economic injustice, sexism, militarism, racism, pollution, corporate greed. The number of Raging Grannies mushroomed across Canada and there are now about 60



chapters, five of which are in the United States.

Enraged about the conditions in which people are forced to live and about the state of the Earth we are leaving for our grandchildren, these women “rage against a system that has allowed this to happen, and to the institutions that perpetuate the atrocities against our planet, our people.” They wish to provoke change by not only addressing the wrongdoers, but by challenging their audiences to participate themselves in bringing about social change.

Margaret Clare Ford of the Simcoe-Gray group was originally drawn to the Raging Grannies by “the humanizing effect their comic aspect had on both protesters and police.” In 1998, they were refused entry into British Columbia’s legislature to present their briefs. With irreverent delight, they note: “maybe that was because our briefs were an assortment of undies pegged onto a clothesline.”

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York City, the Raging Grannies continued their work. Edmonton Granny Fran Ota says a lot of songs “about the ‘War on Terrorism,’ (and) the nature of terrorism, which includes political agendas of countries such as the U.S. — political, economic, religious terrorism” were created in response to the events and the aftermath of September 11, with a particular focus on “the need to stop violence rather than escalate it, and the effects of war on civilians.”

Though, or rather because, these women’s ages span three decades (49 - 80 yrs.), they have attracted a youth following, and have worked in collaboration with numerous groups such as the “radical cheerleaders” and the “Cleaning Ladies.” Fittingly, the Raging Grannies dedicate their efforts to children, so that they may live in a peaceful and harmonious world, safe from war and pollution. The Saskatoon group explains, “We’re putting a world together before it blows itself apart. Our greatest songs are yet unsung.” Indeed, as the Seattle group puts it, “We would like to sing ourselves out of business.”

Dawn Lonsinger was the spring Peace & Freedom intern

HOW TO START YOUR OWN RAGING GRANNY GROUP

Being a Raging Granny is about “getting out there on the pavement without being asked and belting out songs you’ve written, like the way government uses our tax dollars to get themselves re-elected,” says Rose DeShaw, Editor of the *Granny Grapevine*, the Raging Grannies’ newsletter.

1. Bring together a group of older women who are deeply concerned about the manner in which the world is evolving, and are not afraid to show it. You don’t have to be a biological granny. Treasure the wide ranges of color, size, ethnicity and age of the women’s faces.
2. Shop the thrift stores. Dress up in zany costumes, with plenty of outrageous flowery hats, colorful aprons, sequin Peace insignias, fluorescent running shoes, and pocketfuls of kazooks.
3. Get a Raging Grannies Songbook. Find songs to sing (or give old songs new, meaningful words) and then

practice, practice, practice. Try writing some yourself. Go forth and sing.

4. Make a Granny sign to bring to events. You can use props when appropriate, such as plastic pig noses and snakes-in-a-can. Give out flyers that introduce your Granny Group and speak to the issues of the day. Make eye contact with your audience.
5. Logistics. Have a telephone tree to keep in touch with everyone in your group. Let other Raging Granny groups know of your existence. Designate one Granny to be the “Booking Granny” to avoid double booking. Start a Web site if possible. Submit reports to the *Granny Grapevine*. Try to attend the biennial Unconvention.

As Raging Granny Alma Norman suggests, “It just takes three to four women who dare to get out there and R-A-G-E.”

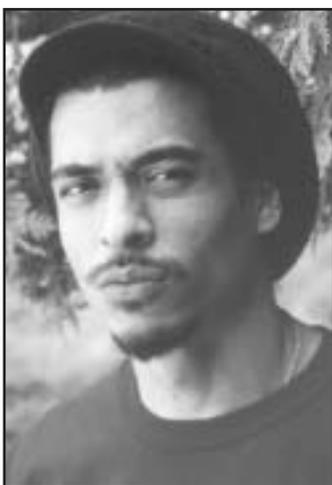
For more information, check out www.raginggrannies.com
Also see the Granny Starter Kit: www.ocl.net/projects/grannies/starter/shtml

Entertainment at Congress

Workshops and entertainment were an important part of Congress.

Bread & Puppet Theatre of Glover, Vermont, did a workshop at Congress on using puppets and then performed on Saturday night. Famous for their large, multi-person puppets and even larger pageants, they are nationally known for their work using theater and puppetry for political education.

The Ruckus Society (www.ruckus.org) which provides training for non-violent civil disobedience to encourage human and/or environmental rights organizations to generate safe and



Above: Bread and Puppets. At left: Kevin Ramirez.

Theta Pavis

effective demonstrations and grassroots mobilizations. conducted several workshops.

As part of AWOL!, a program of The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) and the War Resisters League, Kevin Ramirez, Military Out Of Our Schools program coordinator, CCCO, presented a workshop on youth and militarism. The CCCO is a non-profit organization that works to promote resistance to war and preparation for war. ❖

Seeking Ubuntu

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Gwen Braxton, Evelyn Spears
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Gwen attended the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban and returned to New York on the morning of 9/11. Life took a very different turn and perhaps gave all of us a sense of urgency in terms of the future and doing social/racial justice work.

Ubuntu is a word from South Africa that Gwen used in her article following WCAR. Ubuntu has now become more widely known and used. A more precise interpretation of the word is found in Desmond Tutu's book, *No Future Without Forgiveness*, where he explains it as: "My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours... A person is a person through other persons." He also writes: "It is not I think therefore I am... It says rather: I am human because I belong, I participate, I share."

We viewed the Triennial Congress as an opportunity to share with the rest of the WILPF attendees and the other campaigns the essence of UFORJE so that we foster the spirit of ubuntu. We used our time during the plenary on Thursday to introduce our program and list the goals and activities planned for the next three years.

We had an opportunity to participate in the Wednesday night opening activities. Adjoa Aiyetoro spoke of the victories of WCAR. Specific victories were: the inclusion of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery as crimes against humanity, the continuing consequences of slavery were acknowledged and the statute of limitations does not apply such that the courts can be used to seek remedies, and reparations as the primary remedy was supported by the majority of the NGO caucuses. Promoting HR 40 (Conyer's bill) and participation in the August 12, 2002 reparation march in Washington, D.C. are ways to support the reparation effort.

The first three years focused primarily and successfully on WCAR. Additionally, we had five Race Raves, a retreat, and participated in Theater of the Oppressed Training. We struggled with leadership issues and organizational issues.

Our 2002-2005 campaign vision is to participate in building the beloved community through the transformation of the U.S. economic, political, spiritual, and culture systems. UFORJE is developing study group guidelines and materials for education and action towards racial justice. This includes information about WCAR, reparations, and restoration, WILPF internal racism, and organizing racial justice activities at the community level.

We plan to assist in the development of policy and

procedure at the national level to foster continued structural and spiritual development and to foster closer working relationships with the other campaigns and committees. Another component will be the development of more collaborative efforts with other peace and social justice organizations.

On Thursday we held a workshop for WILPF members who wanted to develop racial justice programs locally. Our afternoon session was a continuation of the morning session. An outline of the structure is below:

1. Started with basic agreements
2. Held paired conversations regarding experiences with racism, definitions of racism; roots of racism
3. Pairs reported back
4. Held a short presentation on systemic racism as well as the connections between campaigns

This was very useful in clarifying concepts and definitions, the pervasiveness of racism, and the difference between racial justice and anti-racism work. It was also helpful in delineating the need to look further than intent and become aware of the outcome of our actions. In other words, actions can have serious, unintended consequences.

5. Pairs also talked about what racial and economic justice would look like (people thought about what kind of world they would like to create and how this world would be different from the world we have now, as well as how their lives would be different.)

The questions focused on the individual, community, and beyond the community (WILPF's work). These were especially helpful conversations. Poll after poll indicates that whites and people of color seem to be on different pages when it comes to racism. Often there is little opportunity to dialogue safely with a person very different from you in terms of race, class, etc.

We were able to provide a safe space; the activities were very interactive and people were encouraged to think, to get in touch with feelings. Our workshop was designed for maximum interaction of all participants.

In the afternoon session we did healing kinds of work, such as emotional work around racism:

1. Pairs telling their stories: what happened to us; what has been good about growing up (for example, black and female); what has been hard
2. Report backs
3. A few brave women were willing to stand in front of

Continued on next page ➤

Race Rave at UCLA

Jen Geiger, Program Coordinator

As a new staff member, I could not have chosen a better way to orient myself with WILPF's campaigns than attending a Race Rave. In late May, I was able to participate in and assist with the "Race Rave @ UCLA," a dynamic event coordinated by Beth Lerch (co-chair of the Los Angeles Branch), Barbara Laval (co-chair of the National UFORJE committee) and Barbara's daughter Nisha.

The conference was dedicated to a "multi-cultural dialogue regarding racism and racial discrimination, its effects on behavior in our society and within each of us, with goals to begin a dialogue, raise consciousness and develop strategies for the future." From my humble perspective, the Race Rave made great strides in opening up space for dialogue, hopefully in a lasting manner.

With participation from LA Branch members, UCLA students, musicians, community organizers, entertainers and others, the event brought together a diverse group of individuals for a memorable and rewarding experience.

Friday evening began with welcomes from UCLA administrators (who are interested in making this an annual event possibly!) and a ceremonial blessing of the conference space by Jimi Castillo, Native American spiritual leader of the Tongva Nation. We were then led in Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed by a professor and his students from Cal. State Northridge. A valuable exercise, this activity allowed Race Rave-ers to interact on a person-to-person basis and get a better understanding of one another's individual experiences. The night was capped off by a reception and discussion with Stephen Last, a composer/instrumentalist who debuted his new album and talked about "music as a cultural bridge."

Starting early Saturday morning, we gathered

together for a panel on the World Conference Against Racism with Barbara Laval, Cherylynn Hoff, and Sha'an Mouliert (UFORJE national committee member) who attended the World Conference Against Racism in Durban last year. We were also fortunate to have 120 students from UCLA (all in training to become residential advisors) join us for the morning's workshops on topics including: racism and the media, white privilege, the prison industrial complex, racism and religion, and child welfare and classism. Hopefully these young people will be able to draw upon this event as they work with other students in the coming years. We spent the afternoon session delving further into the link between racism and issues of homophobia, the United Nations, feminism, and labor. A young man also described his experiences with the California Youth Authority, giving a perspective on race in the criminal justice system.

"Race Rave @ UCLA" framed the discussion of race in the context of a range of topics — making connections across the subjects of WILPF's four national campaigns. It is a great example of the interconnect- edness of peace and justice issues

and the value of WILPF as an organization that works toward peace from a variety of perspectives.

Special thanks to Beth, Barbara, and Nisha for their work in organizing this event. Thanks also go to the LA Branch and the UFORJE campaign for their support. ❖



Left to right: Jen Geiger, Barbara Laval (co-chair of UFORJE); Beth Lerch (co-chair of LA Branch); and Nisha Laval. Sha'an Mouliert

► UBUNTU *continued from previous page*

the group to tell their story

On Saturday two UFORJE members of the campaign, Sha'an Mouliert and Paij Wadley-Baily, did a Theater of the Oppressed Workshop.

UFORJE had another opportunity to lead a discussion for all participants at the morning plenary on Sunday. We used the time to continue the discussion about WCAR, connections between campaigns, next steps for the UFORJE campaign, next steps for reparations, and next steps for restoration:

1. Connections between campaigns

2. Next steps for the UFORJE campaign

3. Adjoa Aiyetoro spoke on the next step for reparations

4. A brief presentation about restorations with respect to indigenous people was also given

The Congress time came and went with great speed. There was so much information to be shared about our campaign, our goals, our hopes and our dreams. We trust our efforts will encourage individuals and branches to take the UFORJE message back to their communities and to become more involved in racial justice work.

Gwen Braxton is the Campaign Representative.

Evelyn Spears is the Membership Representative.



Racism and Reparations

THE TIME HAS COME FOR WHITES TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE LEGACY OF NEARLY 250 YEARS OF SLAVERY
AND ALMOST 100 YEARS OF LEGALIZED SEGREGATION.

Manning Marable

The question of reparations for slavery is more than an intellectual exercise. In 1854, my great-grandfather was auctioned off for \$500. The sale was “business as usual” for his white slave master in Georgia; for my family and for countless other African Americans, it was an affront against our humanity.

What I call the First Reconstruction (1865-1877) ended almost 250 years of legal slavery. But the four million people of African descent in this country anticipated not just personal freedom but also economic self-sufficiency. Thus African Americans clamored for “forty acres and a mule” as part of their compensation for more than two centuries of unpaid labor.

But compensation (“reparations”) never came during this First Reconstruction. And with the rise of Jim Crow and legalized segregation, African Americans were firmly relegated to secondary status.

What I call the Second Reconstruction (1954-1968), or the modern Civil Rights Movement, outlawed legal segregation in public accommodations and gave Blacks voting rights. Yet the damaging legacy of slavery and of a century of legal segregation was never addressed.

Because neither the First nor the Second Reconstruction resolved the issue of compensation, this society has never truly confronted the reality that the disproportionate wealth that most whites enjoy today was first constructed from centuries of unpaid Black labor.

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT COMPENSATION

Demanding reparations is not just about compensation for the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow, however. Equally important, it is an education campaign that acknowledges the pattern of white privilege and Black inequality that is at the core of American history and that continues to this day.

White Americans today are not guilty of carrying out slavery and legal segregation. But whites have a moral and political responsibility to acknowledge the continuing bur-

den of history's structural racism.

Structural racism's barriers include “equity-inequity,” the absence of Black capital formation that is a direct consequence of America's history. One third of all Black households, for example, actually have negative net wealth. Black families are denied home loans at twice the rate of whites. Blacks remain the last hired and first fired during recessions. Blacks have significantly shorter life expectancies, in part due to racism in the health establishment. Blacks, by and large, attend inferior schools.

Reparations don't necessarily mean monetary payment to individuals. A reparations trust fund could be established, with the goal of closing the socioeconomic gaps between Blacks and whites. Funds would be targeted specifically toward poor, disadvantaged communities with the greatest need, not to individuals.

For decades, the call for Black reparations had been a central tenet in the political philosophy of Black Nationalist organizations and leaders, from Marcus Garvey to Elijah Muhammad. Beginning in the 1980s, support for reparations began to build. References to “forty acres and a mule” and reparations became popularized in hip-hop music and culture. Spike Lee, for example, named his production company “40 acres and a mule” to make the political point that African Americans rarely owned the corporations that profited from black cultural production and commercialization. In April 2000, Chicago became the first major U.S. city to hold public hearings on the issue of the damaging legacy of slavery on African Americans. Congressman Bobby Rush spoke, declaring that “the future of race relations will be determined by reparations for slavery.” Noted historian Lerone Bennett, author of *Before the Mayflower*, testified, “We're not talking about welfare. We're talking about back pay.”

THE MOVEMENT'S MANIFESTO

In 2000, Randall Robinson, founder and president of Transafrica, published *The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks*; with the book, the modern reparations movement found its manifesto. *The Debt* warned that if “African Americans will not be compensated for the massive wrongs and social injuries inflicted upon them by their government during and after slavery, then there is no chance that America will solve its racial problems.”

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

New Branches Blossom

Jody Dodd, Leadership and Outreach Coordinator

The national office is pleased to announce the birth of five new branches! The strength of our campaigns and the desire for united action has gone far in inspiring women to not only join WILPF but to start a branch in their communities. So, please give a big hello to the following new sister branches of the U.S. Section. Also, please add them to your U.S. Directories.

Florida Atlantic University Branch, Boca Raton, Florida
Dr. Cynthia Ingram
922 Newlake Drive
Boynton Beach, FL 33426 • cingham@fau.edu

Delaware Branch
Terri Carter
301 W. Holly Oak Rd.
Wilmington, DE 19809
302-793-2535 • Sagewhys@aol.com

Texas Branch
Lynn Furay
5929 Queensloch Dr. #134
Houston, TX 77096 • 713-726-1266

Tulare County Branch, Tulare County, CA
Klara East
803 N. Filbert Rd.



WILPF marchers at April 20 demonstration with banner sent by new Florida Branch.
Gillian Gilhool

Exeter, CA. 93221
559-592-4001 • keast@erclc.org

Columbia, Missouri Branch
Elaine Caputo
PO Box 268
Columbia, MO 65208 • lcaputoc@hotmail.com

As of this writing, we have two “developing” branches, one in Chicago and one in Atlanta. Hopefully, by the time you read this, they will be off the ground with the contact information available in your next updated directory.

Alas, we have also lost a couple of branches. The Tuskegee Branch and the Menominee Valley Branch are no longer active. Please make a note in your directories. ❖

► RACISM

from previous page

This past spring, historian John Hope Franklin wrote an eloquent rebuttal to the argument of right-winger David Horowitz that the idea of reparations is racist. Dr. Franklin observed that all white Americans, even those who had not owned slaves, benefited materially and psychologically from “having a group beneath them. ... Most living Americans do have a connection with slavery. They have inherited the preferential advantage, if they are white, or the loathsome disadvantage, if they are Black; and those positions are virtually as alive today as they were in the 19th century. The pattern of housing, the discrimination in employment, the resistance to equal opportunity in education, the racial profiling, the inequalities in the administration of justice, the low expectation of Blacks in the discharge of duties assigned to them, the widespread belief that Blacks have physical prowess but little intellectual capacities, and the widespread opposition to affirmative action, as if that had not been enjoyed by whites for three centuries — all

indicate that the vestiges of slavery are still with us.”

The racial dialogue in this country has, in recent decades, moved from “civil rights” to “multicultural diversity” and now to “reparations.” In many ways, the first two categories are premised on the belief that racism is a consequence of ignorance or social isolation between groups. Reparations, however, takes a different vantage point: that racism is a logical and deliberate expression of the deep structures of white power and privilege in this country.

“Reparations” could begin America’s Third Reconstruction, a chance to raise fundamental questions about the racialized character of power within our democracy. As scholar Robert Hill of UCLA observed recently, the campaign for Black reparations is “the final chapter in the five hundred year struggle to suppress the transatlantic slave trade, slavery, and the consequences of its effects.”

Manning Marable directs African American studies at Columbia University and writes a weekly newspaper column distributed nationwide. This article originally appeared in Rethinking Schools.

Cuba: Crossing Borders and Building a Movement

Noy Thrupkaew, Jan Strout

National Women's Leadership Summit on Cuba

In early May, progressive women activists from around the country convened in San Marcos, Texas, for the first annual National Women's Leadership Summit on Cuba. Hailing from Washington State to Washington, D.C., the 40 U.S.-based participants gathered at the three-day conference to work towards building a strong women's movement to normalize U.S.-Cuba relations, and to strive towards social and racial justice in the United States. This diverse group of leaders represented over 20 organizations from women's rights and racial/economic justice, to Cuba solidarity.

The momentum for the Summit culminated out of the work of three supporting organizations: WILPF's Women and Cuba Campaign; Hermanas: Sisterhood in Central America and the Caribbean (based in New Jersey); and the EveryWoman's Movement for Cuba/LELO (based in Seattle). For over a year, this collaboration project has consulted with women leaders in the United States to obtain ideas, endorsements, outreach and education about building a U.S. Women's Movement for Normalizing Relations with Cuba. We work closely with the Federacion de Mujeres Cubanas (Federation of Cuban Women or FMC) which represents over 85 percent of Cuban women and girls 14 years and older.

Our vision is to build a multi-racial, multi-cultural network of women to end the blockade and, through this work, contribute to building a women's movement for racial and economic justice in the United States. We ultimately hope to dramatically increase the leadership and public policy roles of progressive, anti-racist women of all races and classes.

Joining the U.S. attendees were four special guests: two Cuban women diplomats from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. and two from the foremost women's organization in Cuba, the FMC. Opening the Summit (and kicking-off their speaking tour of the Western U.S. states) were Alicia Gonzalez Gutierrez and Arelys Santana Bello from the FMC headquarters in Havana. This was Arelys' first visit to the United States. (Our journey to get permission from the U.S. State Department for the FMC to travel proved more harrowing than crossing the Florida strait's ocean of political turbulence!)

Our background of transnational feminism and racial justice work provided the Leadership Summit's three-

part framework of education, analysis, and strategic planning.

On the first day of the summit, Olga Fernandez Rios, 1st Secretary, and Lourdes Bassue, 2nd Secretary of the Cuban Interests Section, offered a historical perspective on the U.S.-Cuba relationship. They also detailed both the military and economic aggression that have typified official U.S. attitudes towards Cuba, and the spirit of collaboration and solidarity that flourishes between U.S. and Cuban activists despite our government's mistrust.

Mavis Anderson of the Latin American Working Group and Maggie Becker from the Free the Five! Cuban political prisoners campaign provided analysis of the U.S. embargo of Cuba and the U.S. campaign against five Cuban men who were sentenced and jailed for being alleged spies. (The Cuban government has maintained that the men were defending their country against hostile attacks from the conservative Miami-based Cuban factions.)

The next morning, the FMC's Alicia Gonzalez Gutierrez and Arelys Santana Bello spoke about the ongoing challenges facing Cuban women; they also detailed the great achievements that Cuban women had made in bettering their lives and those of others since the Revolution. Linda Burnham, director of the Women of Color Resource Center, Nancy Hartsock, founding director from the Center for Women and Democracy, and Andrea Smith, director of Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, then detailed the problems facing U.S. women, particularly women of color. Their overview included harsh welfare reform policies, lack of educational opportunities and access to healthcare, and a punitive justice system.

Participants spent the next day in small workshops and discussion groups, working on analyzing the impact of racism in the United States and in progressive movements. The Summit then concluded with the outline of a three-year strategic plan to increase and amplify the voices of a diverse women's movement dedicated to working towards racial, economic, and social justice in the United States, and towards lifting the embargo against Cuba.

WILPF leaders Gwen Braxton, Marge Van Cleef, Tammy James, Mary Day Kent,

**Arelys Santana Bello
and Alicia Gonzalez
Gutierrez**



and Jody Dodd attended the conference. WILPF members Cindy Domingo, Peggy Edwards, Nancy Hartsock and Jan Strout were also among the participants at the Leadership Summit.

Additional communication and outreach strategies for the Plan of Action include annual women's delegations to Cuba, Cuban women's speaking tours, video festivals, legislative organizing and advocacy, the Free the Five! Campaign, media strategy, women's leadership development and anti-racist training, and finally, a focus on International Women's Day and Mother's Day to increase global sisterhood and solidarity.

FMC Speaking Tour: Woman Power Busts the Information Blockade

Following the Summit in Texas, the two FMC representatives traveled to Seattle to start a 10-day, West Coast speaking tour on "Women's Rights and Development in Cuba." Speaking to hundreds of college students and teachers, labor unions and other economic justice organizations, Alicia and Arelys were kept busy while visiting Seattle, San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland and Los Angeles. Along the way they also met with the media, feminist philanthropists, women's rights and racial justice groups, and Cuba Sister-Cities projects.

We would like to thank the host organizations who, with little time, organized incredible educational programs and many opportunities for dialogue.

While we were planning the FMC Speaking Tour, more repressive legislation was passed by both the Senate and the House using the (so-called) War on Terrorism to deepen the information blockade about Cuba. The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2001 prohibits the issuance of non-immigrant (including tourist) visas to persons from countries that are "sponsors of international terrorism" as defined by the Department of State. Cuba is on the list. This means that any Cuban citizen applying for a non-immigrant visa for a temporary visit to the United States is presumptively inadmissible, unless and until the Secretary of State and the Attorney General waive the ground of inadmissibility on a case-by-case basis. The applications for the visas for our two FMC companeras were held up until the day before they were scheduled to leave Cuba to travel to Texas. We believe that our ability to advocate to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, the State Department and now the Attorney General reflects the strength of women when powerfully mobilized for peace and freedom of expression.

Upcoming Activities

A Women's Rights and Development Delegation (AWID) to Mexico and Cuba is scheduled for October 2 - 14, 2002. As part of the Association for Women in



Left to right: Olga Fernandez, Mavis Anderson and Marilyn McKenna present at a workshop in San Marcos.

International Development (AWID) Forum that will bring together over 1,000 women from around the world, our delegation will begin in Guadalajara, Mexico. We hope to have a good exchange with the Mexican women's organizations working for gender and economic justice through site visits organized by Semillas (or Seeds), a Mexican women's fund. We will participate in the AWID Forum, "Re-thinking Globalization" and present our workshop, "Women's Resistance to Globalization." Then, on October 5 or 6, we will depart for Havana. While in Cuba, we will be hosted by the FMC and will have the opportunity to travel for two nights to the province of Santa Clara, the burial site of Che Guevara. During this time we will explore our delegation theme with site visits to the new School of Social Work, Latin American School of Medicine, Casa de las Mujeres, women's economic development projects and more. Don't forget the music and dancing at night! We will travel legally to Cuba with the WILPF license issued for information gathering and educational purposes. We are still determining travel expenses, however some scholarships will be available to support grassroots women activists. Space is limited and the final deadline is September 1.

For more information about the Delegation or the WILPF Women and Cuba Campaign, contact Cindy Domingo (206-782-2565 or gomojo@earthlink.net) or Jan Strout (206-547-0940 or janstrout@msn.com)

Requests for the "Plan of Action" presented at the WILPF U.S. Section Triennial Congress in Vermont are available to WILPF members by contacting Jan Strout or the WILPF National Office. "Women and Cuba Study Guides" from the National Women's Leadership Summit on Cuba are also available for \$10.

Noy Thrupkaew is a new representative to WILPF's Board for the Women and Cuba Campaign. Jan Strout is the organizer for the U.S. Women and Cuba Collaboration, a multi racial, multi cultural network of women formed to end the blockade of Cuba, and co chair of the National Network on Cuba and a board member of JAPA.

MEET THE NEW NATIONAL BOARD

ELLEN BARFIELD is Co-chair of WILPF's Disarm! Campaign. She has been a full-time peace and justice activist for over 14 years. She entered the movement through anti-nuclear weapons work at the Peace Farm (across from the Pantex nuclear weapons plant near Amarillo, TX) where she joined WILPF. She serves on the National Committee of the War Resisters League and is Vice-President of Veterans for Peace (she served four years in the U.S. Army). She and her husband lived in Leon, Nicaragua for seven months in 1996. She has traveled on multiple peace delegations to Iraq and Palestine.

GWENDOLYN BRAXTON is the Campaign Organizer for UFORJE. Gwen has been active in the WILPF N.Y. Metro branch since 1994 and was a participant in the WILPF Truth and Reconciliation Conference in 1997. She is also the coordinator of the WILPF N.Y. Metro UFORJE committee. She coordinated the North East regional Race Rave in 2001. Gwen has six years experience as Director of the New York Black Women's Health Project and 30 years experience in racial justice, health education and welfare rights issues.

DARIEN DE LU is WILPF Co-President. Darien has over 30 years experience as an activist. She has been a committed board member and served on both the Staff Concerns and Steering Committee since 1999. She was the founding member of the WILPF Sacramento Branch, and participated in both the Helsinki-Beijing Peace Train and the West Coast Peace Train.

YOSHIKO IKUTA has been a National Board member since 1999 and has worked on organizing the Disarm! Campaign. Born in Japan, she has advanced degrees in Social Work and Social Welfare, and has worked for several child welfare establishments. In addition to being a WILPF board member, she is president of Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice, and she attended the 1995 NGO Conference on Women in Beijing.



Yoshiko Ikuta

TAMMY JAMES is Communications Committee Chair

and Women & Cuba Campaign Representative. She became involved with WILPF after participating in the 1999 delegation to Cuba. She has since served on the Cuba Action Leadership Team and was a member of the Wichita, Kansas Branch before moving to Seattle and becoming involved in local organizing efforts.

MARLENE KROHN is Staff Concerns Committee Chair. She has worked devotedly with the East Bay/Berkeley Branch for over five years in a variety of capacities, including the Membership and UFORJE committees. She traveled to Durban for the WCAR conference in 2001. Between 1982 -1984 she worked as a staff member in WILPF's national office.

ROBIN LLOYD will continue with the Board as Development Chair, where she will focus on seeking out foundation grants and building national membership. Robin is also the director of Green Valley Media and has been making films and videos for 25 years. From her early experimental films to her more recent videos on people's struggles around the world, she has sought to bring social issues to life. Her collaborations with non-profit organizations such as the Colombia Support Network, Witness for Peace and WILPF have resulted in the production of documentaries that are used both inside and outside the classroom. She is also publisher of *Toward Freedom*, a monthly international news journal.

JOYCE MCLEAN is the Representative for the U.S. Section on the International Executive Committee of WILPF. A retired Learning Disability teacher, she has served as a Vice-President of the U.S. Board and chaired both the San Jose and Santa Cruz branches. An avid reader and crossword puzzle fanatic, she has a B.A. from the University of Chicago and an M.A. from the University of Santa Clara, and originally joined WILPF in Perth, Australia. Joyce, who ran her own tutoring business, writes a weekly Learn to Read newspaper column and books for newly-literate adults.

CYNTHIA MINSTER is a Membership Representative. She became involved with WILPF over two years ago while studying Peace and Justice at Wellesley College, where she started a WILPF group. She went on to become a Boston Branch member, coordinating the Boston action for the World March of Women. She now lives in California and works as an organizer for the SEIU.

MOLLY MORGAN is a peace and social justice activist in San Diego, California, focusing on the democracy movement, global corporatization, and militarism. She is a member of the national leadership team for the Challenging Corporate Power, Asserting the People's Rights Campaign and has facilitated numerous study groups in Southern California. She is also on the advisory boards of two San Diego peace groups: the Project on Youth and Non-military Opportunities and the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft.

CHRIS MORIN is a Membership Representative. She was a dedicated member of the Hartford Branch for five years, and was Co-chair, Regional Coordinator for the Northeast Region, and appointed Board member for three of those years. She then joined the WILPF staff as Membership Coordinator, and has since served on the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Committee.

JENNIFER PITINO is Treasurer. She became involved with the Santa Cruz Branch four year ago. Later, while studying Women's Studies and Politics, she helped start a University of California, Santa Cruz Branch as a learning device for activism. She has managed the local WILPF Web site, and is currently serving the branch in numerous capacities, including as secretary. She has also acted as treasurer and newsletter editor on the local board of the National Organization of Women.



Jennifer Pitino

PAULA SCHNEPP is a Representative for the Challenge Corporate Power Campaign. She has been a WILPF member since 1996. She has been involved with peace and justice organizations for over 20 years in Minneapolis, Dallas, and now Cape Cod. She's currently Executive Director of the Cape Cod Free Clinic in Falmouth and is also known as Nick's mom.

SANDY SILVER is Co-President. She began her activist work within the Civil Rights movement, the anti-Vietnam War movement, and the anti-nuclear movement. In 1986, she became actively involved with WILPF through the Santa Cruz Branch. At the time she was a re-entry student, writing her thesis on the oral histories of local WILPF branch members. Ten years later she became an active Board member, serving as Treasurer for two terms.

Photos by Theta Pavis



Evelyn Spears

EVELYN SPEARS is the UFORJE Membership Representative. She has been involved with the Greater Lansing Branch of WILPF since 1995, as a branch Board member since 2000 and is currently branch Board secretary. Evelyn went to the women's conference in Beijing in 1995, and produced videos of WILPF activities at the peace tent, the youth tent, and the Michigan WILPFers' activities in the disabilities tent.

She has been a facilitator for the DIALOGUE: RACISM series since 1992 and participates in other racial justice and racial healing activities. She has been active with the National and Lansing Black Women's Health Project since 1989.

NOY THRUPKAEW is a new Representative to the Board for the Women and Cuba Campaign. She is a Writing Fellow for the *American Prospect*. She participated in WILPF's November 2000 Women in Media delegation to Cuba and attended the recent National Women's Leadership Summit on Cuba in Texas.

MARJORIE VAN CLEEF is Program and Action Chair. She has been active in WILPF for 20 years in Philadelphia, New Haven and Harrisburg. She served on the national Board of the Pledge of Resistance, was a coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Trident in New Haven, and is now working on the Connecticut Peace Coalition to stop the sanctions and bombing of Iraq.

LINDA WASSERMAN is serving her second term as President of the Jane Addams Peace Association. She also chairs the Personnel Committee for International WILPF. Linda is a member of the Santa Cruz branch and is a conflict resolution specialist working in California public schools.

PHYLLIS YINGLING, former president of U.S. WILPF and WILPF member for over 20 years, is a member of both the Baltimore and Catonsville branches. She also served on the JAPA Board and WILPF Board for two terms each, and as Chair of the Southeast Region. Beyond WILPF she helped to found a chapter of the Educators for Social Responsibility, and served on a Commission for the Status of Women. ❖



Left to right: Tammy James, Noy Thrupkaew, and Susan Phillips.



National Day of Dialogue Mobilizes Women

Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Organizer

In early May, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) hosted a gathering of women Nobel laureates, international peace activists, leaders and public officials for a National Day of Dialogue on Capitol Hill. The gathering called for an end to war and violence and was designed to get women more involved in the peace process.

The National Day of Dialogue was part of Johnson's new initiative, "A World of Women for World Peace," focusing attention on the unique role of women as peacemakers. Last year Johnson introduced House Concurrent Resolution 290, calling for more women to take part in peace-building activities. The resolution designated the month of May as an appropriate time to hold peace dialogues and events in conjunction with Mother's Day, originally founded to promote international peace.

Johnson called for women to move beyond politics, race, class and geographical boundaries to work together to build a culture of peace. She cited conflicts around the world where women are mobilizing to promote sustainable peace and challenged participants to formulate policy recommendations that would empower women and fight violence around the globe. WILPF President Phyllis Yingling chaired one of four roundtable sessions reporting recommendations at the end of the day.

Jody Williams, founding coordinator of the International Committee to Ban Landmines (ICBM) keynoted, recounting experiences as a woman in peace and disarmament work, and sharing her thoughts on the power of civil society. She called for courage and leadership from the women's community to promote peace in the wake of the post-September 11 surge in militarism around the world. "We must work harder to make peace a 'sexy' concept. As we all know, violence is glorified, and people who work for peace are seen as somehow lacking. We must work harder to make people understand the tremendous courage shown by people working for peace," she said.

Terry Greenblatt, from Bat Shalom and the Jerusalem Link, and Abu Dayyeh-Shamas, of the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling in East

Jerusalem, received a standing ovation. They both spoke powerfully about Israel and Palestine, the Middle East conflict, its impact on women and children, and the much-needed leadership women's participation would bring. The day before, Greenblatt and Dayyeh-Shamas delivered the same message before the United Nations Security Council.

Greenblatt said, "It is scary to me that, as bad as the current situation is, no one is asking what we — the women — think or have to offer. No one has yet realized how critical our contribution is to the [Middle East peace] process."

The roundtable sessions focused on women's participation in government, the role of women in civil society, promoting peace and security, and addressing the human rights of women and children. Greenblatt, Dayyeh-Shamas, myself, and the peace and security group shaped a recommendation insisting to all governments involved that U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 be immediately implemented in Middle East negotiations.

Other members of Congress who spoke during the day were Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI), Donald Payne (D-NJ), Corinne Brown (D-FL), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Julia Carson (D-IN). South African Ambassador Sheila Sisulu was inspirational in the closing plenary.

Congresswoman Johnson plans to incorporate the recommendations from the breakout sessions into a comprehensive peace agenda in the coming months. Serving her fifth term, she is Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and was named by *Ebony* magazine as one of the 10 most powerful African-American women of 2001.

WILPF provided U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 to Johnson's office during the planning of the conference and a copy was in every packet. At the end of the program, we were proud to present her with the poster-sized text of 1325 available through the WILPF U.N. Office and refer those gathered to the WILPF Web site www.peacewomen.org. ❖

JAPA Names New Executive Director

Linda Wasserman

I am delighted to introduce Theresa (Teri) Graham to the membership of U.S. WILPF. Theresa joined the Jane Addams Peace Association as our executive director in April 2002. Our search and interview committee consisted of JAPA Board members and Mary Day Kent. Given the highly interactive relationship between Philadelphia and our New York office, we knew that Mary Day's insight would be of great value.

Teri comes to us with a background in bookkeeping, tax work, publishing and fundraising. Her most recent work was conducting donor research to find the right match of non-profit organizations to potential donors. Teri grew up in Queens surrounded by a close family, and particularly speaks about the guidance and love of her grandmother. Her younger sister is a reporter for the *Boston Globe*.

Teri hopes to help JAPA, U.S. WILPF and International WILPF achieve more effective and efficient communication, total transparency and record keeping that is easily tracked by all three entities.

Teri immediately began working toward these goals. The Board of JAPA has received very good reports from Philadelphia and Geneva about their interactions with



Author Linda Wasserman, left, with Teri Graham.

our new executive director and we are quite thrilled. As WILPF's 501(C)3, we are your Educational (tax-deductible) Fund. Teri oversees our investments, planned giving donations, annuities and much more. During your next visit to New York I hope you will take the opportunity to stop by the office to say hello. Teri is also available to answer any calls or concerns about tax-deductible donations to U.S. or International WILPF.

For those of you who had the opportunity to meet Teri at the Congress, I know that you will agree that our financial future is in good hands. We look forward to a long relationship with Teri and, given the roots that she is currently planting, much abundance for us all.

Linda Wasserman is president of the Jane Addams Peace Association.

Now please welcome . . . Jen Geiger and Merav Datan

Jen Geiger (*shown at right*) joined the WILPF staff in April as program coordinator. She said what attracted her to the job was WILPF's campaigns, the potential for coalition building and connecting with a broad range of constituencies. Jen has a background in activism and working on issues of race. As a student at Williams College, she initiated and led a four-month program exploring the nature of racial identity and its intersection with religion, sexual orientation, gender, class and nationality. Before joining WILPF she served as the development director for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Merav Datan, new director of WILPF's United Nations office in New York, began work in July after attending Congress in Vermont. Originally from Jerusalem, Merav has a long history of working on disarmament issues. She received her undergraduate degree in Physics in 1984 from Swarthmore and was graduated

from Columbia University School of Law in 1994. Prior to joining WILPF she worked at the U.N. office of Physicians for Social Responsibility (located just next door to WILPF's office!). She has also worked for the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.



Merav said she is looking forward to working on WILPF's two main U.N. projects, Reaching Critical Will and Peace Women. While weapons and conflict are usually dealt with as separate issues at the United Nations, Merav said WILPF's two programs make a critical connection between the two. Reaching Critical Will focuses on weapons and hardware and is complemented by Peace Women, which focuses on what's happening on the ground, building peace and conflict resolution. "It's a good balance," she said. "One [program] can inform the other...WILPF is in a brilliant position." ❖

Peace & Freedom Editor

Steps Down

.....
Theta Pavis
.....

There aren't too many jobs like the one I've had at WILPF. One minute I'd be alone in my office editing an article on branch activities around the United States, the next I would be on a plane to Cuba. I've been to Congress in Missouri and Vermont, attended retreats in Philadelphia and Cape Cod, and given my home number to Starhawk and Grace Paley.

WILPF gave me the opportunity to work with some amazing women, including our sponsors, funders and most of all our members. I feel that WILPF has added deeply to my political understanding and philosophy. For me, one of the most important things about WILPF is the connections it makes across issues. Through this deep, political work, the nature of oppression becomes clearer.



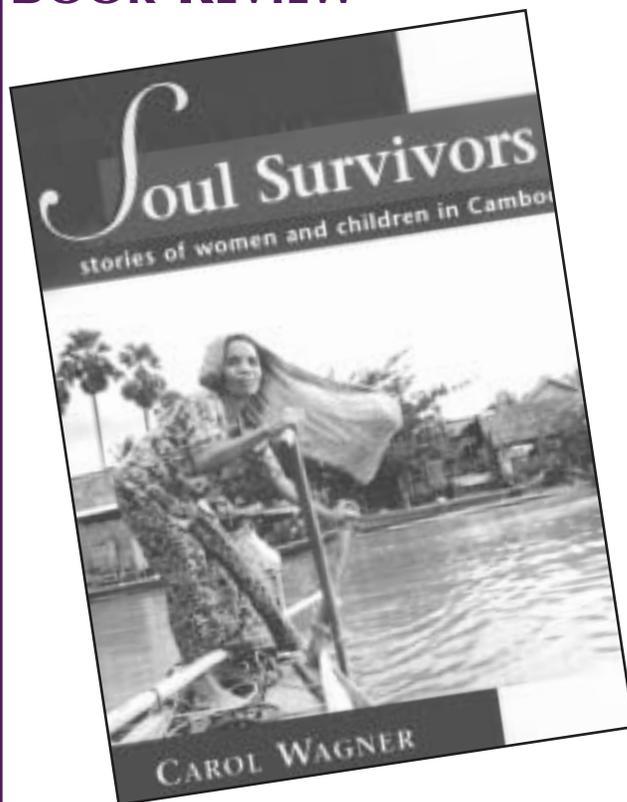
I have learned a lot working for WILPF, and it has been an honor to be a part of it. Although the work is very challenging I have been inspired by the persistence of our members and the enthusiasm of the young, activist women who intern with us every year. I plan on continuing to work with WILPF, and am looking forward to meeting more of our international members as I

travel during the course of the next year.

I'd like to especially thank the staff and board for their support. The National WILPF office is a wonderful place to work. I can't tell you what it meant to me on Sept. 12 to walk into a woman-centered office where people wanted to talk about peace and justice instead of war and revenge. Special thanks have to go to Pamela Jones-Burnley, without whom I would have been lost. I'd also like to thank Tammy James and Betty Burkes for their unending enthusiasm and encouragement, Judy Mathe Foley (our typesetter) for her creativity, humor and friendship and my husband Patrick McGee, who let me run sticky editorial questions past him even at 11 p.m.

One of the interns I worked with at WILPF gave me a handmade card when she left. It had this quote from George Orwell on it: "In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." Publishing *Peace & Freedom* is a revolutionary act, one I've been glad to be a part of. ❖

BOOK REVIEW



Drawing on her five trips to Cambodia, WILPF member Carol Wagner presents the personal stories of 14 Cambodians who endured the Khmer Rouge and found the strength to survive.

The trauma of those years, of living in constant fear, physically ill, exhausted, forever hungry and yet finding the will to live, is a story that we Americans must hear and learn from. Wagner has interviewed Cambodians from all walks of life: among them a Buddhist nun, a Cham fisherwoman, a silk weaver, a women's organization president, a prostitute, a refugee and a computer programmer.

One story, about a boy who came from a refugee camp to the United States and returned, is most revealing about our own culture. Also included is an account of the United States' role in Cambodia. When a Cambodian woman who was interviewed asks, "Why did no country come to save us?" we recognize that the past is very much present, that geopolitics is personal.

Photographer Valentina DuBasky provides a fine complement to the text. *Soul Survivors*, by Carol Wagner, is published by Creative Arts Book Company, 833 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94710; 270 pp., \$15.95. ❖

WILPF ANNUAL REPORT 2001

REVENUE - 2001

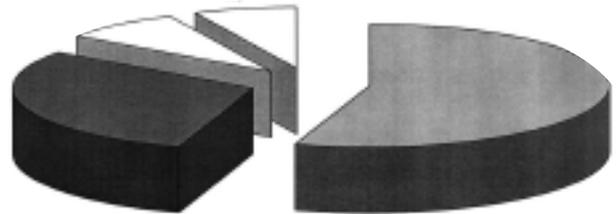
\$486,522

Gifts from Individuals	74%	\$360,026
Bequests/Gifts in Memory	10%	\$ 48,652
Resources, Royalties, Subscriptions	3%	\$ 14,596
Foundation grants	13%	\$ 63,248

HOW FUNDS ARE USED

National program & membership support	55%	\$302,583
General management	30%	\$165,046
Intern program	8%	\$ 44,012
International Assessment	7%	\$ 38,511

How Funds are used
National Program - 55%
General Management - 30%
Intern Program - 8%
International Assessment - 7%



We would like to thank the following individuals whose planned giving gifts received in 2001 helped support WILPF for future generations:

Anne Goodwin
 Mary Lane Hiatt

We would like to thank the following foundations for supporting WILPF's programs in 2001:

Boehm Foundation
 Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes
 Hastings Peace Foundation
 LAGU Foundation
 Pond Foundation
 Samuel Rubin Foundation
 Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust

We would like to thank the following Membership Branches who gave special gifts to support WILPF:

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Chapel Hill	Cleveland
Portland	Philadelphia
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DEAR WILPF WOMEN

From one activist to all of you, thank you for all the wonderful work you do — for persevering when you are tired and need more willing bodies, for keeping your sense of humor in dire times, for being on the cutting edge of so many crucial issues, for remembering and honoring your “wounded” and your dead. Thank you for your notes and encouragement to me — I so much enjoy reading your newsletters and have begun to feel I know many of you personally. You are true patriots and leaders toward a different future. *Salutez!*

YOU’LL LOVE THESE QUOTES

From Joyce McLean (**Santa Cruz**): “Criminal — A person with predatory instincts who has not sufficient capital to form a corporation” — C. Darrow. From **Fresno**: “A woman is like a tea bag, you never know how strong she is until she gets into hot water.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

WILPFERS HONORED

Mez Benton and Shirley Prussin (**Monterey**) were among Outstanding Women of 2002 for the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women. Sherry Hutchison, Jean Basinger, Gwen Peterson, and Marjorie Paris (**Des Moines**) were honored by the Iowa UN Association as Iowa women who have done outstanding work for peace.

SIGNS OF HOPE

Santa Cruz reports that at this year’s Tax Day event at the post office (at which they have a bake sale, petitions against nuclear weapons, graphs on tax money, and penny jars for allocation of tax dollars) they noted the following: donations were double those of the previous year and included paper money as well as pennies, and results were: \$59.18 for education; \$31.10 for health; \$3.06 for missile defense; \$57.44 for environment; and \$63.44 for a Department of Peace! At its weekly demonstration, **Palo Alto** advertises that it is “Listening for Change” and asks people three questions: What do you

think or feel about September 11 and the government’s response? 2. How do you think we could defuse terrorism? 3. How could we create a safer, better world for our children? They write down the responses, and results show little support for Bush’s actions. Palo Alto WILPFer Carol Brouillet has written her senators demanding a congressional inquiry of 9/11, and has been flooded with e-mails supporting her efforts to find out the truth.

SPECIAL REPORTS

San Jose published “Letters from Chechnya” provided by one of its new members, a Russian journalist, which describe systematic genocide of the people of Chechnya under the guise of “terrorism.” (When did we last, or ever, read anything enlightening about Chechnya in our newspapers?) **Cape Cod** and **Monterey** had news of a new national newspaper, *War Times*, being published by people of color in the San Francisco area. It is dedicated to telling the truth about “the war on terrorism.” For more information, contact wartimes@attbi.com.

MORE TAX DAY ACTIONS

Chapel Hill joined others in “invading” the IRS office for 30 minutes protesting taxes used for war and asking for a Peace Tax Fund. **San Jose** and **St. Louis** distributed War Resisters League flyers on government spending, and **St. Louis** called attention to alternative grants made by war tax resisters.

GREAT IDEAS

At their celebration of International Women’s History Month, **Catonsville** members brought photos, articles, and quotations from women who influenced them or worked to oppose violence and oppression. These were then used to make a banner for later use at meetings. A **San Jose** WILPF member suggested always wearing a WILPF button — amazing conversations (and memberships?) can ensue. **Palo Alto** created a committee to draft an ABM Treaty Implementation Act bill to be introduced in the House and Senate..



Sacramento Valley WILPF Members (left to right): Millee Livingston, Sally Duggan, Marjorie Blodgett with Elaine Reed, Auburn-Place County and Meadow Vista Librarian.

FUND RAISERS

Santa Cruz created an event, "Courageous Women Respond to Dangerous Times," that featured academic, professional, artistic, musical, and spiritual women, all advocating resistance and action. **Cape Cod** had its annual Jane Addams Dinner with a playwright performing excerpts from her one-woman show. Members were asked to bring a photo of their mother. **Swarthmore-Delco** sponsored a theater outing, to see "The Angel of History," about the Holocaust, co-authored by WILPF member Roberta Spivek.

GLOBALIZATION

Detroit co-sponsored a seminar called "It's Not Just Enron, It's the System." **Catonsville** reports on one session of the study materials from Challenging Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights at each of its regular meetings. **Swarthmore-Delco** sponsored a workshop given by United for a Fair Economy, with action steps. **St. Louis** offers both study sessions and action, beginning with demanding labeling of genetically modified products. **Fresno** and **Minnesota Metro** held events featuring Molly Morgan and Jan Edwards from the leadership team of WILPF's Challenging Corporate Power campaign. **Madison** heard about "Globalization and Access to Health Care" at its 80th anniversary celebration. **Des Moines** and **Minnesota Metro** have joined WILPF's corporate personhood campaign. **Des Moines** had "corporations in agriculture" as a program topic, and also reported fully on a two-day event looking into the "real" causes of terrorism, among them globalization and world poverty. **Portland** co-sponsored a Globalization Summit with Paul Cienfuegos and Vandana Shiva. Members of **Cape Cod** read their script to Abolish Corporate Personhood, to be taped as a cable TV show.

PROTESTS AND VIGILS

St. Louis protested outside the Boeing Missile Plant, and also participated in a large march against Israeli actions in Palestine. **Palo Alto** joined others in protesting Condoleeza Rice's engagement as commencement speaker at Stanford University, and in a statewide mobilization to protest Bush's decision to withdraw from the ABM treaty. **Los Angeles** and **Santa Cruz** participated in a huge protest in San Francisco on April 20, coinciding with the march on Washington. **Chapel Hill** and **Palm Beach** members went to Washington. **Palm Beach** also participates in the Silent Vigil for World Peace every Friday. **Fresno** helped organize a conference and protest against Star Wars in Berkeley.

Portland and **Cape Cod** join others in weekly vigils, and **Palo Alto** has weekly leafletting against "endless war." **Monterey** continues protesting the real axis of terrorism — war, racism, poverty.

ANTIRACISM

Los Angeles and UCLA's Office of International Students & Scholars sponsored a two-day Race Rave at UCLA.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

St. Louis printed excerpts from Rep. John Dingell's remarks in opposition to House Resolution 392, "Expressing Solidarity with Israel in Its fight Against Terrorism." Only 21 congresspeople voted against this resolution. **Monterey** published a list of Web sites for Israeli-Jewish peace groups. The speaker at a **Santa Cruz** meeting changed topic to address the history and the complexity of the Israeli/Palestinian issue. A report on "The Peace Movement in Israel" by a member who traveled with an international WILPF delegation was featured at the **Detroit** annual meeting. **San Jose** co-sponsored a panel: "Women in Islam: Myth and Reality," which had a remarkable turnout. **St. Louis** co-sponsored an evening with Dr. Marc Ellis and Dr. Julia Chaitin (member of Israel's Women in Black), speaking on "A Jewish Perspective on the Future of Israel and Palestine." **Peninsula** featured a local guest speaker on Israel.

CUBA

Three members of **Chapel Hill** reported on their different trips to Cuba during the past year, and **Minnesota Metro** also heard from members who traveled to Cuba. **Santa Cruz** is seeking ways to involve its branch with local Cuba groups. It co-sponsored a reception for the president of the U.S.-Cuba Sister Cities organization. **San Jose** heard about medical work in Cuba and a visit with women fabric artists from two people just back from Cuba.

MEETING TOPICS:

Pajaro honored local women heroes in labor unions. **Palo Alto** had a program on "Sexuality and Terrorism." Bruce Gagnon, founder and director of Global Network Against Nuclear Power and Weapons in Space, was featured speaker at **Santa Cruz**. **Catonsville** heard from a member about the protest at the School of the Americas and her time in jail afterward, and saw the large puppets she made to carry in the procession. **Palm Beach** listened to a talk on "The Role of Politics in the Failure to Preserve Our Planet's Environment," given by two life members of WILPF. **Santa Cruz** had the topic "U.S. Foreign Policy, Post-9/11."

GET YOUR BRANCH NEWS ON THESE PAGES

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

Join your sisters in WILPF to:

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



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

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

Name _____

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