

Peace & Freedom

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

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Hydropolitics THE FUTURE OF WATER



**WHO HAS IT? WHO DOESN'T?
WHO CONTROLS IT?
HOW DO WE USE IT?**

U.S. WILPF Board Member Joyce McLean being arrested in Capitola, California, during a protest in April. Joyce and other activists blocked the federal government building in protest of the invasion of Iraq. Joyce is also a member of WILPF's International Executive Committee and head of the International Leadership Development Committee.



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Cover photo from South Asia courtesy of the United Nations.

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

National Program: WILPF envisions a world free of violence, poverty, pollution, and domination — a genuine new world order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 2000-2003 program cycle has 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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WILPF, Water and the World Community

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Mary Day Kent, Executive Director
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This year certainly falls under the category of "best of times/worst of times."

In so many ways this has been a year of grief and dismay — a new indecently triumphant U.S. imperialism imposed on both the world and on us, the citizens of the formerly democratic United States of America. Those of us who spent months opposing the U.S. war in Iraq have experienced the classic Cassandra fate — to see the future, predict it accurately, and to be ignored. Now, months after the worldwide effort to prevent the war, the long, slow process of truth seeking is finally getting underway. Someday we will know how many Iraqi civilians died in the invasion and since. Someday we will know, exactly, who lied and how much about the evidence of Saddam Hussein's weapons or his intentions of using them.

On the other hand, this has also been a year of unprecedented achievement for a newly created global movement for peace. WILPF, around the United States and the world, has been at the center of this global movement. February 15, the day 10 million or more people in all continents joined in one global outcry against war, was a groundbreaking expression of world community. Soon after, at the urging of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, several thousand candlelight vigils around the world were organized in less than a week.

Coming out of this year, WILPF is part of this newly strengthened movement and part of a national and global analysis to seek the key issues for our next work. In some ways the U.S. political process has come back to the issues of the 1940s and 1950s: advocating for the United Nations and for civil liberties have now returned to being cutting edge, controversial stands.

This edition of *Peace & Freedom* magazine is centered on another theme, water, which also should not be

controversial but increasingly appears to be the vital link to so many other concerns. In this issue there are articles making the connections between water and the WILPF campaigns, water and the environment, water and corporate globalization, water, most simply, and our survival as humans on our earth.

Next summer, 2004, International WILPF will hold its Triennial Congress in Göteborg, Sweden, with "water" as the unifying theme. We hope this issue of *Peace & Freedom* will help to focus our U.S. section of WILPF on some of the main topics that will be addressed at this next Congress.

About this issue: We are happy to have former editor Theta Pavis back from her international travels and able to edit this magazine. During this year of reduced publication schedule we have worked on enhancing the WILPF resources available online to the membership and the wider public. We encourage you to visit the WILPF U.S. website (www.wilpf.org) and the links it offers to the International WILPF sites as well. The 1915 founders of WILPF would have been astounded to see the organizing resource we now have through our computer connection. (*Please see the web listings on page 25.*) However, we know that the magazine makes a connection that has a special value, so we hope that finances will permit us to continue our web improvements next year while resuming a more frequent publication schedule for *Peace & Freedom*. We can only hope and work toward a year when we will indeed chronicle peace and freedom instead of all the forces that block them. ❖



Sweden Welcomes WILPF's Triennial Congress - 2004

When: August 2 - 8, 2004

Where: 20 km north of Göteborg, Sweden

How much: Basic costs, not more than 430 Euro or U.S. \$490 per person, in two-bed rooms (single rooms available) including three nice meals a day.

Questions? Contact WILPF, Silvi Sterr, CP 28, Geneva, Switzerland. Fax: (41) 22 919 70 81
e-mail: wilpf@iprolink.ch. Or contact WILPF Sweden, Boel Bruce, Syrégatan, SE 413 21 Göteborg, Sweden,
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Water, Women, War and 21st Century Globalization

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Regina Birchem
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We are living in a time when our lives have been profoundly changed by the actions following on the worldview or belief that our security lies in military prowess, using terrifying weapons designed not just to kill, but also to “shock and awe.”

We are horrified at the loss of innocent lives or lives condemned to pain and disability by the products of science, engineering and technology.

We are speechless at the unimaginable loss to humankind of the artifacts and writings documenting the earliest days of written communication, art and culture — destroyed, trashed, burned or stolen from the Iraqi museums, libraries and archives. No technology can replace this loss.

Many reasons have been given for the war in Iraq — liberation is the most recent claim. The fact that Iraq has the second largest reserves of oil in the world and perhaps yet undiscovered oil reservoirs is probably a primary reason.

Another natural resource of Iraq rarely mentioned is water. Two major rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, with the surrounding wetlands are priceless natural resources for the dry, thirsty Middle East.

We can live without oil. We cannot live without water.

Today the region's water needs for agriculture, industrialization, households and many water development projects like dams, canals and pipes are a source of armed conflicts between Syria, Iraq, Turkey and the Kurds. The huge diversion projects of Iraq and Turkey have already vastly altered the unique wetlands around the extensive central portion of the rivers.

Now in post-war Iraq the future remains to be seen. The U.S. water giant Bechtel was awarded major contracts by the U.S. for rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure. Bechtel is also in the energy business.

A Thirsty World and the Global Water Crisis

The world's water situation is fragile. As Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke write in *Blue Gold*, “It is not possible to overstate the seriousness of the crisis.”

The world, not only the Middle East, is facing severe water shortages. It is projected that by 2025 — less than 25 years from now, half of the world's population will not have sufficient fresh water. The World Bank states it even more severely: two-thirds will run short of fresh drinking water by 2025.

Currently, 1.2 billion people have no safe drinking water; 2.4 billion have no adequate sanitation services.

It is estimated that 3.4 million are killed by water-borne

diseases each year [Flecker, Polaris Institute]. Most are children. Every day, 6,000 children die because of water-related diseases. Diarrheal diseases killed more children in the last 10 years than all the people lost in armed conflicts since World War II [U.N. Framework on Water, 2002]. One half of the people in hospitals worldwide are there due to water-borne diseases.

How much water is there?

We use water as if it is an endless supply and will never run out. We are beginning to be confronted with dry wells, rivers that no longer flow, reservoirs that are dangerously low, even the sinking cities such as Mexico City, which now sinks 20 inches a year as the underground water is removed faster than it can be replaced. A 12-month period last August was the driest ever recorded for several states — Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado, Arizona, Utah and Nevada.

China has one quarter of the world's population and only 6 percent of the world's fresh water. Water is critically in short supply in Beijing, in the dry western regions and throughout the country. In 1972 the Yellow River dried up before it reached the ocean for the first time in history. In 1997 it did not reach the ocean for 226 days, as I saw for myself while in China that year as a guest of the All China Women's Federation [Barlow and Clarke, 2002].

We can see these supplies dwindling, rivers going dry, grass turning brown before our eyes. What we can't see is what is happening underground where most of the remaining freshwater is located. Here polluted run-off water, seeping toxic substances and salty water moving into underground aquifers permanently threatens and destroys water sources.

Water, water everywhere and only a drop to drink — literally.

Nearly all the world's water, 97 percent, is in the oceans and too salty to drink or use in agriculture. One percent is locked up in glaciers and icecaps. One percent is locked up in geologic formations deep in the earth. One percent is left for us and other animals to drink, to get our food.

Fortunately, we are not starting from ignorance — we have information on the situation. Researchers, hydrologists, scientists and public policy specialists have given us good documentation on the water situation. Implementing action is urgent.

Water for All or Water for Profit?

Because the problem is known and we are becoming desperate for water, profiteers have seen this as a way to make money. Economic globalization of the 21st century is driving the water crisis. The economic development model based on rules set by corporations and financial markets seeks to form a single global market economy. Economic freedom, not participatory democracy and ecological survivability, define the rules.

In this type of economic globalization everything is for



United Nations Photo from South Asia.

sale, including all goods and services. This includes water. If water is defined as a “need” and not a basic human right, then it is seen as a commodity and a service that can be bought and sold for profit.

The World Bank has called water the “oil” of the 21st century. Major corporations such as French companies, Vivendi Universal and Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, the German giant RWE and Bechtel of San Francisco are vying for the profits. In the United States they operate under various subsidiary names such as American Water Works, United Water (Suez) and US Filter (Vivendi).

Water and the Reality of Women's Lives

In most cultures men and women play different roles and have different responsibilities in the use and management of water.

Women and girls in many countries bear the heavy work of fetching water. In Africa, women and girls spend as much as three hours a day, sometimes 4 or 5 hours, and use up about a third of their energy from food in fetching water. In schools, it is the girls who often have to get the water, taking time from their studies and play. The work at home keeps many girls out of school altogether and the energy they use in doing household chores affects their school-work. If someone falls ill due to water-borne diseases, girls are more likely kept home to care for them. In adolescence girls often stay home from school during their menstruation because of the lack of hygiene facilities.

The role of fetching water keeps women from education, other income generating activities, cultural and political involvement. Carrying the heavy containers causes acute physical problems. In Africa women are responsible also for agriculture; this also requires acquiring water. The role of men is usually in paid labor activities.

Men use water and sanitation facilities but usually maintenance of health is the woman's responsibility.

Women often use vegetation and forests for medicinal resources; the loss of forests and biodiversity is water-related.

For these reasons when water management issues are discussed women should have a voice in the planning and management. Successful projects require women's full inclusion.

Privatization and the Effect on Women

The situation in Ghana, which has had water privatization for more than five years, was studied by UNIFEM and agencies in Ghana. Corporations, in several bidding rounds to their satisfaction, were required to bid only \$30 million dollars with \$350 million expected from the government of Ghana. Privatization of water came as a legacy of structural adjustment requiring Ghana to privatize a number of state entities, including the Ghana Water Company. Privatization and full-cost recovery were also made preconditions for World Bank loans for railways, electricity, education and banking.

It has become clear that these reforms were not aimed at addressing Ghana's national priorities or universal access to essential needs such as water. The companies pre-qualified by donors such as USAID and the British Department of International Development are the well-known major corporations: Vivendi, Suez, Saur, Biwater, Nuon and the American company Bechtel operating in Ghana as International Water.

There was a lack of transparency in the whole process. Opponents of the process argued that something so basic as water could not be decided in corporate boardrooms.

Over 70 percent of the people in north Ghana live below the poverty line. In Ghana, where 50 percent of the people earn less than \$2 a day, increasing water rates to full-cost recovery denies water to the majority of the people.

In some regions 8 to 12 percent of the monthly incomes of the very poor would be spent on water while the non-poor would spend 4.6 percent of monthly income on water. A recent study showed that four communities in Accra spent up to 25 percent of income on water alone.

This has caused a dramatic increase in cases of the guinea worm — second only to Sudan — as people have to get their water from streams.

In addition, more than 2,000 workers were laid off from the Ghana Water Company and not re-hired by the foreign companies.

Selling water on the open market will not meet the needs of the poor, especially women. Women have borne the worst of the impact.

As we move towards Congress 2004, where the theme will be water, we recognize that these are all issues WILPF needs to be addressing.

Regina Birchem is a biologist and former International Vice President of WILPF. She currently serves on WILPF's International Environment Committee and the Africa Issues Committee. She can be reached at rbirchem@a1usa.net.

Myths About Water Privatization

Dr. Vandana Shiva

Throughout 2003, the Year of Freshwater, a *Jal Yatra* (water journey) is being undertaken across India to recover waters and rivers as commons, to conserve water by shifting to water-prudent crops and farming methods, and to resist privatization.

Among the mega projects we have to address is the proposal to link all of India's rivers through super dams and super canals at a cost of \$200 billion, which is 200 times what India spends on education, three times what the government collects in taxes, 25 percent of our GDP and U.S. \$72 billion more than India's total external debt. This mega project offers new opportunities for privatization, but creates heavy costs for our rivers and our people. More than five million people will be displaced and our living rivers will be killed. Ecosystems, people and communities will be deprived of water as it is imprisoned by giant dams and giant canals of cement. Free flowing rivers supporting life will be transformed into captive waters. Free people with free access

to their bathing ghats, their wells, their tanks and ponds will become bonded to giant water companies and water bureaucracies. This is a nightmare of slavery and recipe for extinction of species and cultures.

Our movement to protect water and defend the water freedom and water rights of all people and all species is called *Jal Swaraj Abhiyan* — the Water Democracy, Water Sovereignty movement. It is part of our movement for Earth Democracy, Living Democracy. It is a movement in the defense of life, of the integrity and sanctity of the rivers, of our cultures and our capacities to be custodians of our precious common water heritage. For us, water democracy is necessary for peace because centralized, commodified systems are creating water wars. We want to create water peace — peace with the earth and all her species, and peace between all peoples. We do not want blood for oil. Nor do we want blood for water.

MYTH 1: Privatization is necessary because society and governments do not have the capital to invest in water schemes.

THE REALITY: Water corporations do not bring investment. They use World Bank/IMF loans that have water privatization as a condition built into them. The investment is public, the profits are private. The same mechanisms and policies that privatize water also impoverish municipalities, and local governments by reducing tax collections and revenue generation at local and regional level.

In any case, financial investment is not the only form of investment in water provisioning. The millions of water works — springs, johads, tanks, ahars, pynes — have been built with labor and are the only feasible option when capital is scarce and labor is abundant.

MYTH 2: Water must be priced and made a marketable commodity because water available for free has led to over-exploitation. Commodification will lead to conservation.

THE REALITY: The water crisis results from an erroneous equation of value with monetary price. However, resources can often have very high value while having no price. Sites such as sacred forests and rivers are examples of resources that have very high value but no price. Oceans, rivers, and other bodies of water have played important roles as metaphors for our relationship to the planet. Diverse cultures have different value systems through which the ethical, ecological, and economic behavior of society is guided and



shaped. Similarly, the idea that life is sacred puts a high value on living systems and prevents their commodification.

Conservation is based on sacred values and ecological values. Sacred waters have no price, they cannot be commodified. Market value destroys spiritual and ecological values.

Making the market the regulator means those with wealth and capital can control water, have exclusive access to it, and overexploit it, leaving ecosystems and poor communities and poor people water deprived.

Markets create incentives for overexploitation, not for conservation or equitable distribution.

That is how Coca Cola and Pepsi are mining groundwater wherever they have bottling plants, leaving local women without access to water.

Further, while corporations sell bottled water and piped water at high cost to citizens, they take the water without consent or compensation from water resources that are the common property of local communities.

MYTH 3: Water privatization is necessary to make the water supply more efficient and reliable and increase access to clean water.

THE REALITY: Privatization has reduced water access by increasing water costs. Once the water giants enter the picture, water prices go up. In Subic Bay, the Philippines, Biwater increased water rates by 400 percent. In France, customer fees increased 150 percent but water quality dete-

riorated; a French government report revealed that more than 5.2 million people received “bacterially unacceptable water.” In England, water rates increased by 450 per cent and company profits soared by 692 percent — CEO salaries increased by an astonishing 708 percent. Service disconnection increased by 50 percent. Meanwhile, dysentery increased six-fold and the British Medical Association condemned water privatization for its health effects.

In 1998, shortly after Sydney's water was overtaken by Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, it was contaminated with high levels of giardia and cryptosporidium. After water testing had been privatized by A&L Labs, in Walkerton, Ontario, seven people, including a baby, died as a result of E. coli. The company treated the test results as “confidential intellectual property” and did not make them public, just as Union Carbide withheld information about the leaked chemicals in its Bhopal, India plant while thousands were dying. In Argentina, when a Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux subsidiary purchased the state-run water company Obras Sanitarias de la Nacion, water rates doubled but water quality degenerated. The company was forced to leave the country when residents refused to pay their bills.

Therefore privatization worsens water access both in terms of quality and quantity.

MYTH 4: Water privatization will reduce the power of government and hence increase the role of citizens, thus enhancing water democracy.

THE REALITY: Water privatization is taking place through private-public partnership between large corrupt corporations and corrupt government officials, bypassing all checks and balances of public participation, public planning and public transparency. Private-public partnerships assume the only private is corporations; the only public is centralized governments. However, *private* includes citizens and *public* includes communities.

Privatization allows centralized governments to usurp the rights of communities and local authorities, enclose the water commons and sell them off to private companies who then sell the water back to those whose resource it originally was. Governments start to operate on the eminent domain principle rather than the public trust doctrine, thus undermining and subverting water democracy.

MYTH 5: Privatization establishes property rights to water, which gives water values and helps regulate water use.

THE REALITY: Water is a commons, not private property. More than any other resource, water needs to remain a common good and requires community management. In fact, in most societies, private ownership of water has been prohibited. Ancient texts such as the Institute of Justinian show that water and other natural sources are public goods: “By the law of nature these things are common to mankind — the air, running water, the sea, and consequently the shore of the sea.” In countries like India, space, air, water, and energy have traditionally been viewed as being outside the realm of property relations. In Islamic traditions, the Sharia, which originally connoted the “path to water,” provides the

ultimate basis for the right to water. Even the United States has had many advocates for water as a common good. “Water is a moving, wandering thing, and must of necessity continue to be common by the law of nature,” wrote William Blackstone, “so that I can only have a temporary, transient, usufructuary property therein.”

Private property creates regulation by the market and creates the cowboy economy of “might is right.” This leads to environmental and social deregulation, encouraging non-sustainable use and unjust distribution.

MYTH 5: Water is not a human right, it is merely a human need.

THE REALITY: Water has traditionally been treated as a natural right of dwellers supported by a water system, especially a river system, to use water. Water has traditionally been treated as a natural right — a right arising out of human nature, historic conditions, basic needs, or notions of justice. Water rights as natural rights do not originate with the state; they evolve out of a given ecological context of human existence.

As natural rights, water rights are usufructuary rights; water can be used but not owned. People have a right to life and the resources that sustain it, such as water. The necessity of water to life is why, under customary laws, the right to water has been accepted as a natural, social fact.

That is why governments and corporations cannot justify denying people their water rights. Water rights come from nature and creation. They flow from the laws of nature, not from the rules of the market.

This article first appeared in *Resurgence* magazine.

Dr. Vandana Shiva is a world renowned environmental thinker and activist. A leader in the International Forum on Globalization and Director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and National Resource Policy, she is the author of many books. Before she was an activist she was one of India's leading physicists.

**RECOMMENDED BY
THE WILPF TUCSON BRANCH**

Oasis Under Siege is a film that explores the causes and consequences of disappearing water in the desert. Weaving together personal narrative, interviews with experts, and the story of a couple living on the Cañada del Oro Northwest of Tucson, *Oasis Under Siege* is not only testimony to the significance of water in the desert, but also an urgent call for the reform of water law in Arizona. Produced/Directed by Sonya Angelica Diehn, of Pan Left Productions (a non-profit video collective based in Tucson). For information, or to obtain a copy, contact www.oasis.panleft.org, e-mail sonya@greenbicycle.net, or call (520) 884-0131.

Revolt Against Water Privatization

Sarah Anderson

In the late 1990s the World Bank forced Bolivia to privatize the public water system of its third-largest city, Cochabamba, by threatening to withhold debt relief and other development assistance. In 1999, U.S.-based Bechtel Corporation was granted a 40-year lease to take over Cochabamba's water, through a subsidiary the corporation formed for that purpose ("Aguas del Tunari").

Within weeks of taking over the water system, Aguas del Tunari imposed huge rate hikes on local water users. Families living on the local minimum wage of \$60 per month were billed up to 25 percent of their monthly income. The rate hikes sparked massive citywide protests that the Bolivian government sought to end by declaring a state of martial law and deploying thousands of soldiers and police. More than a hundred people were injured and one 17-year-old boy was killed. In April 2000, as anti-Bechtel protests continued to grow, the company's managers abandoned the project.

Aguas del Tunari subsequently filed a legal action against Bolivia, demanding \$25 million in compensation for the loss of the contract. The company filed the case with the International Center for the Settlement of Investor Disputes (ICSID), a secretive court housed at the World Bank. The firm used a bilateral investment treaty between the Netherlands and Bolivia which includes rules similar to those in NAFTA and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Although Bechtel is a U.S. corporation, its subsidiary established a presence in the Netherlands in order to make use of the treaty.

Activists in the Bay Area, where Bechtel is headquartered, organized a series of protests against the company and in July 2002, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution asking Bechtel to withdraw its legal action. In August 2002, a coalition of citizens' organizations from around the world requested in a letter to the tribunal (View letter at www.earthjustice.org/news/documents/citizensletter.pdf) that the panel make all of the documents and meetings in the case public, that it travel to Bolivia to receive public testimony, and that it allow Bolivian civic leaders to be an equal party to the case. These requests were rejected in early 2003.

Oscar Olivera, a leader of the coalition of Bolivian peasants, workers and others that formed in opposition to Bechtel, responded to the news by stating that "Now the World Bank is not only imposing its ideas and programs on us, it is also preventing the people affected from participating in a case that directly affects our lives. This is profoundly undemocratic."

According to Jim Shultz of the Bolivia-based Democracy Center, "This secrecy is just a preview of what communities in the U.S. can expect under the proposed FTAA. Local governments from Alaska to Chile will be dragged before secret panels as multinational corporations, like Bechtel, seek to undo local environmental, health, worker and consumer protections, branded as barriers to free trade."

Efforts to pressure Bechtel to drop the case against Bolivia continue, while the ICSID case is moving only very slowly.

Activists who have been involved in the campaign around the Bechtel versus Bolivia lawsuit have recently joined with the broader anti-war movement to condemn the award of millions of dollars in U.S. government contracts to Bechtel for reconstruction in Iraq. The initial award from the U.S. Agency for International Development was for \$34.6 million, although the contract could be worth up to \$680 million over 18 months. Based on Bechtel's behavior in Cochabamba and elsewhere around the world, many activists feel there is strong cause for concern that the firm is far more likely to line its own pockets than meet the needs of the Iraqi people. In June 2003, activists in the Bay Area held four days of action against Bechtel's war profiteering, including a sit-in at the corporations' headquarters. In Washington, DC, activists demonstrated outside Bechtel's lobby office and delivered letters from people in communities in the United States and around the world who have been negatively affected by Bechtel's activities. Public Citizen, Global Exchange and CorpWatch released a new study on Bechtel's activities around the world, while Friends of the Earth filed a Freedom of Information Act request for a copy of the USAID contract with Bechtel.

These groups and others are continuing to press Bechtel to drop the case against Bolivia and also urging members of Congress to play a stronger oversight role in the Iraq Reconstruction contracts process. Although everyone wants Iraq to be rebuilt, the people of Cochabamba and elsewhere who have been affected by Bechtel are urging caution. If Bechtel is suing the poorest country in South America over their own fiasco in Cochabamba, what will they do in Iraq?

Sarah Anderson is the Director of the Global Economy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, a 40 year old independent center for research and education in Washington, DC. www.ips-dc.org

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE WATER

KITCHEN

When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.

Only run your washing machine and dishwasher when they are full.

Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator or in the freezer to keep it cold. This is better than keeping the tap running until the water gets cold.

Have your kitchen sink's disposal plumbed to drain into a barrel outside. The nutrient-rich water containing the ground-up vegetable waste is poured onto our vegetable garden and plants in the yard.

BATHROOM

Take short showers! Before you take a shower, install a low-flow showerhead. They aren't expensive and can make a huge difference in your water consumption.

Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave.

Fill a milk bottle with water and put it in the toilet cistern.

This reduces the volume of water used for flushing by 45 liters every day!

SHOPPING

Everything relates to water, water makes up many of your fruits and vegetables, be conscious on a daily basis how much water is important in all elements of your life.



Make environmentally smart choices in your daily life in terms of products. Eat products that come from agriculture that respects the environment and uses little pesticides, chemicals and less water than intensive agriculture.

No matter where you are: Keep your community clean, recycle and do not litter. You will actually save water!

Get your friends and families to be water conscious as well! You make the rules in your house!

In many countries the water is of excellent quality and hence there is no need for drinking bottled water. Drink the water from the tap and save our environment from plastic bottles. If you do buy bottled water, reuse the bottles or buy bigger bottles.

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*This text is from the U.N. website
www.wateryear2003.org.*

RESOURCES

BOOKS

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Ecology of Fear by Mike Davis. Metropolitan Books, H. Holt & Co., 1998. Several references to water supplies and possible disasters in large urban areas, Los Angeles in particular.

Planet Earth by Dr. Rosalie Bertell. A critical study into the military and the environment published by the Women's Press Ltd. in 2000 (www.the-womens-press.com). Included are citations from her extensive research including the effects on water supplies from military development, waste, and the environment in general.

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Water Wars by Vandana Shiva. South End Press, 2002. Multiple copies can be ordered by organizations — five or more at 40 percent discount, www.southendpress.org.

Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource by Marq De Villiers, Mariner Books, 2001.

REPORTS/ INTERNET RESOURCES

Women's Environment and Development Organization, WEDO, with funding from UNFPA, prepared a report, "Untapped Connections," for the 2003 World Water Forum in Kyoto. It is available at their web site: wedo@wedo.org.

IMF/World Bank "50 Years is Enough Network: U.S. Network for Global Economic Justice" (www.50years.org). Publish a monthly newsletter with articles on global issues impacted by IMF/World Bank policies. The privatization of water in Bolivia is covered in Vol. 5, No. 4, October 2002.

Explore the United Nation's rich website organized around 2003 - the International Year of Freshwater, www.wateryear2003.org.

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*Compiled by Marge Van Cleef, National Program Chair,
and Theta Pavis, Peace & Freedom editor.*

Weapons and Water Do Not Mix

Pat Birnie

No human activity causes as much harm to human health and the environment as preparing for war and waging war. The human, social, economic and environmental costs are staggering, but are never included in the financial accounting of the military. One of the most alarming costs is pollution of the world's already endangered water supply.

The Bush administration is aggressively promoting expanded development of nuclear "bunker buster" bombs, renewed testing of nuclear weapons at the Nevada Test Site, National Missile Defense, and military exemptions from all environmental laws. Bush's cut-backs on funding toxic cleanup, combined with de-regulating radioactive waste, further imperil the environment — including our rivers and oceans.

Water contamination (of ground water, rivers, lakes and oceans) from military sources are pervasive in all stages of weapons production, testing and use. This includes activities at bases, practice maneuvers, space launches, and cleanup of toxic and radioactive wastes.

It is important to note that most direct victims of this contamination are predominantly native peoples, minority populations, or low-income people. However, as the water pollution spreads, we all suffer from these military toxins, with children, of course, being the most vulnerable.

Homeland Security officials say they want to protect our waterways from terrorist pollution. Maybe they should start by cleaning up and preventing further contamination from our own military activities! In WILPF we believe no one should be above the law, especially laws that ensure a safe environment and public health. The military is already exempt in too many cases and needs to comply with environmental regulations.

MILITARY WASTE IN PUBLIC WATERS

Hanford Reservation, a military installation in Washington State, is home to 50 years worth of plutonium production used to build nuclear weapons. The area has 53 million gallons of high level radioactive waste stored in 177 tanks underground, many of which are corroding and leaking. Some of this waste has already reached the Columbia River, a source of irrigation for prime farmland and orchards. The river also nurtures 80 percent of the Chinook salmon harvested in British Columbia during the fall. Beneath the 560-square mile Hanford Reservation there is an estimated 100-square miles of contaminated ground water. Tritium (a radioac-

tive isotope of hydrogen) is already measurable in drinking water in Richland, the town Reservation workers live in. Now the affected states are engaged in court battles to stop new dumping of radioactive wastes and to speed the promised clean up.

Similar problems exist at all the other nuclear weapons production sites, including Savannah River (SC); Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory (ID); Uranium Enrichment Facility, Paducah (KY); Uranium Enrichment Facility, Piketon (OH); Fernald Feed Materials Production Plant (OH); Oak Ridge National Laboratory (TN), Rocky Flats near Denver (CO) and the Pantex Assembly plant at Amarillo (TX).

Military bases are another source of water pollution. As some of the bases are scheduled for closure, environmentalists are kept busy overseeing the clean-up to ensure that toxins, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other contaminants are removed, both on land and off shore. One example is Puerto Rico's Vieques. The islanders are jubilant that the U.S. Navy has finally stopped its bombing practices that started in 1941. But of course the Navy has yet to clean up the contaminated island or bays. Fishing used to be a livelihood here, but presence of so much UXO, depleted uranium shells and other toxic wastes dumped in the harbor make the fish no longer edible.

Chemical contaminants to water are also prevalent near military bases or military manufacturing sites. Perchlorate is an explosive salt used by the military in rocket fuel, smoke grenades, and other incendiary devices. It has contaminated more than 300 wells in California, including drinking water supplies for Redlands, Rialto and Riverside. It has been found in the water supplies of 20 states, and also contaminates the Colorado River, which supplies drinking water and irrigation for 20 million people. This chemical can cause damage to the thyroid gland, which controls growth, development and metabolism. Pregnant women and children are at greatest risk. Even small quantities can cause mental retardation, loss of hearing or speech and impaired motor-skills function. Plants growing on contaminated soils can concentrate the toxin. Almost all of the lettuce sold in the country from November to March is grown using water from the perchlorate-contaminated Colorado River, potentially affecting anyone in the nation who consumes lettuce in the winter. Last winter many supermarkets stopped purchasing lettuce irrigated

with Colorado River water. Lockheed is the liable firm and is seeking federal help in fending off litigation.

Trichloroethylene (TCE), an industrial solvent, is the major contaminant of one of the largest EPA super-fund sites in the country, in Tucson, AZ. TCE, a de-greaser, and other toxic industrial chemicals were dumped on the ground for years by Hughes Missiles (now Raytheon Missiles) and other airport-related businesses, contaminating the groundwater in the predominantly blue-collar Hispanic neighborhood of South Tucson. Hundreds of people have died and many are still suffering health effects, huge medical costs and social trauma.

Other toxic chemicals that harm people and have polluted waterways include vinyl chloride, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), chromium, carbolic acid, and phenol acetone.

DEPLETED URANIUM

The fact that aerosolized depleted uranium is soluble in water threatens the water supplies in all the battlefield areas of Iraq, Kuwait, the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. Because it can concentrate in the food chain thousands of times at each step, it can put large numbers of people at high risk of cancers, immune deficiency disorders and birth defects. Medical reports from Iraq indicate that childhood malignancies are seven times more than what they were before the first Iraq war.

Large numbers of Gulf War veterans from the first Iraq war suffer from Gulf War Syndrome (GWS). The President of the American Gulf War Veterans Association estimates that 50,000 to 80,000 veterans are afflicted with GWS. Of these, 39,000 have been dismissed from active duty and 2,500 to 5,000 have died. The Pentagon refuses to require definitive medical and epidemiological studies to determine whether depleted uranium is the cause of GWS, but many independent scientists, including Dr. Helen Caldicott, are convinced it is one of the primary causes. We want the Pentagon to halt the further uses of depleted uranium until it is scientifically proven to be safe.

There are several sites in the U.S. where depleted uranium was processed or weapons were tested, including Jefferson Proving Grounds in southern Indiana,

Phyllis Yingling, former WILPF President, joins others at a Women in Black vigil in Baltimore.

Chino Hills, near Los Angeles, CA, Starmet in Concord, MA, and the Aberdeen Proving



Grounds in Maryland. Runoff from Aberdeen's test firings contributes to Chesapeake Bay's deterioration. A once pristine bay and wetlands area, it is now 80 percent polluted from military and industrial toxins.

WILPF advocates that the huge outlay requested for developing new weapons systems, National Missile Defense and other military development in space, be spent, instead, to advance the environmental cleanup so needed in our country, our bases abroad, and the battle grounds where we have knowingly contaminated foreign soil and water with depleted uranium and other toxic wastes.

We also urge that some of the money spent on the military be shifted to providing safe drinking water to the billions who lack it. The World Game Institute (www.osearth.com) estimates as little as \$10 billion (a small fraction of the \$780 billion world military expenditure) is needed to provide clean, safe water worldwide.

Whatever rhetoric is used to rationalize military activities, the reality is that we are killing and maiming our own, killing and maiming hordes of innocent people, and causing irreparable damage to the environment worldwide.

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Pat Birnie is Chair of the Mil CORP ConneXion, part of WILPF's Disarmament Campaign. References and recommended reading list available upon request: birnie@gci.net.com.

Do you live near a military site? Join WILPF's new Mil-Tox sub-committee (part of the Disarmament Campaign). Contact Sheila Baker at pedal4mother@yahoo.com. Explore WILPF's Mil-CORP ConneXion web site in the DISARM section of WILPF's website (www.wilpf.org) for more information on military toxins and locations of these sites. You can also order your copy of the Mil-CORP ConneXion Manual with research and action ideas: Only \$10, from Jen Geiger at WILPF: 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 or jengeiger@wilpf.org.

UFORJE: Building a Beloved Community

Evelyn Spears

This year is the United Nations International Year of Freshwater (www.wateryear2003.org). What does this have to do with building “beloved communities”? Several elements are required to be successful in building a community. Justice is a primary component: racial justice, social justice, economic justice and, of course, environmental justice. Environmental justice may be the bedrock, the foundation justice. A sustainable way of life is necessary for the continued existence, not just for human beings on the planet, but also for the planet itself.

Water Is Life

Some 70 percent of the planet’s surface is covered by water, but salt water makes up 97.5 percent of that. The remaining 2.5 percent is freshwater, and almost three-quarters of that is frozen in ice caps.

Almost 70 percent of this relatively small amount of available freshwater is used for agriculture. Because of inefficient irrigation systems, 80 percent of that water is lost to evaporation or is returned to rivers and groundwater aquifers.

About 90 percent of sewage and 70 percent of industrial waste in developing countries are discharged without treatment, often polluting the usable water supply.

Freshwater ecosystems have been severely degraded: about half the world’s wetlands have been lost and more than 20 percent of the world’s 10,000 known freshwater species are extinct.

In some areas groundwater is being consumed faster than it is being replenished and groundwater tables are steadily falling.

In a United Nations report issued on World Environmental Day, June 5, 2003, over-exploited aquifers, falling water tables and seawater contamination were found to threaten the natural underground reservoirs that supply 40 percent of the world’s irrigation water and drinking water. Water-related diseases kill a child every eight seconds. More children have died from diarrheal diseases in the past 10 years than all the people lost to armed conflicts since World War II.

Another United Nations reports states that 1.2 billion people are without access to safe drinking water; 2.4 billion people lack proper sanitation, and more than 3 million people die every year from diseases caused by unsafe water.

These United Nations water-consumption facts indicate that there is a wide gulf between the rich and the poor in terms of water use.

- People in the industrialized world use an average of 400-

500 liters of water each day. People in developing countries are considered to have access to freshwater if they are able to obtain 20 liters of water per person a day within one kilometer walking distance from the household. In many areas, people have to live with less.

- One flush of a toilet in the developed world uses as much water as the average person in the developing world uses for a whole day’s washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking.
- People living in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya pay up to five times more for a liter of water than the average American citizen.

In the United States, many of us take freshwater for granted. You turn on the tap or stop at the store for bottled water or even have it delivered to your house. No thought is given to the fact that water is a limited resource whose availability could become very problematic.

In many western states, freshwater is not taken for granted. For example, because of depleted water supplies, the Colorado River no longer reaches the sea at certain times of the year. Virtually the entire flow of the river is captured and used, causing serious environmental consequences for people on land and cutting off nutrients to the sea, resulting in the decline of fish populations. People have become accustomed to water shortages and restrictions on water use.

For western states, much of the degradation of their water supplies comes from toxic waste dumping by the



WILPF member Gerald Martin and Board member Gwen Braxton, at Catonsville’s Racial Justice Conference.

military-industrial complex, as well as corporate agricultural activities.

In the Midwest, the state of Michigan has more fresh water than any other place on earth. The Great Lakes and its waterways are said to be a national treasure and a major tourist attraction, bringing thousands of boaters, anglers

and beach goes to Michigan to enjoy the great outdoors.

More important than the tourist aspect is the role of water in the daily life of the people. Michigan is comprised of two peninsulas (many liken the shape of the state to a mitten). It is bounded by three of the five Great Lakes. It has numerous rivers, streams and wetlands, leading to one of the most elaborate inter-county drainage systems outside of Holland. Michigan has another important lake, Lake St. Clair, on the eastern coast. Lake St. Clair is sometimes called the sixth Great Lake. Lake St. Clair is the drinking water source for roughly half of Michigan's population. An estimated five million people depend on the lake for drinking water.

The condition of this lake is one example of the problems that face all populations around the world. The lake receives billions of gallons of raw and partially treated sewage every year and contains high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pathogens and even mercury. A Canadian and U.S. joint commission that is making comprehensive effort to eliminate toxic substances from the Great Lakes environment has identified the following polluting substances: mercury, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), dioxin and furans, hexachlorinatedbenzene (HCB), benzo(a)pyrene (B(a)P), octachlorostyrene (OCS), and five cancelled pesticides, including aldrin/dieldrin, chlordane, DDT, mirex, toxaphene, and alkyl-lead.

The rivers of Michigan are also under attack. The Rouge and Detroit rivers had a recent oil spill. The source of the oil spill has not been determined. The Chicago office of the Environmental Protection Agency is reviewing reports that an old public utilities storage facility in Detroit is the source of recurring PCBs in a storm drain and boat canals.

On the western side of the state there is an ongoing battle of many years duration to stop offshore oil exploration. Those who support offshore drilling claim it would have no negative effects on the shoreline, the natural flora and fauna or drinking water sources. Another western Michigan problem has been medical waste floating across Lake Michigan from

Chicago. The problem ebbs and flows, dependent on the vigilance of local citizens in monitoring and clamoring for an end to medical waste dumping.

The depleted and degraded freshwater supplies have already caused serious tensions among major water users — farmers, industry and urban users in many areas of Michigan.

An excellent example of this is the Looking Glass River. This river meanders across Michigan from the northeast to the south. It has many short streams and tributaries. At one point on its slow journey south, it passes a dairy farm. This dairy farm is what is called a "feed lot" farm. The dairy cattle do not have a pasture to graze on (the construction of an interstate highway separated the dairy from the associated pastures). The cattle spend their lives in the lot where they are fed, watered and, of course, do what naturally follows: create manure. The lot is regularly scraped and the waste materials disposed of. With the rains and snow runoff, the residue seeps into the ground, gets into the groundwater aquifers and eventually into the Looking Glass River. The people living downstream have a contaminated water source, their quality of life is impacted, and they have to pay to clean up the continued pollution from upstream.

As we build our beloved communities on every level, we must keep in mind that water is life. It must be made

explicit that freshwater is a necessary precondition to all of our human rights. Without equitable access to a minimum requirement of clean water, other established rights, such as the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well being, as well as civil and political rights, are not attainable.

Evelyn Spears is UFORJE Campaign Membership Coordinator. Sources for this article include the United Nations Department of Public Information and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To find out more about the UFORJE campaign contact Jen Geiger, WILPF program coordinator, at (215) 563 7110, or jengeiger@wilpf.org.



Who Governs Water?

Most of the world's people view water as a human right and common resource that no one should own. Peter Gleick, Director of the Pacific Institute, states that access to water is a fundamental human right implicitly supported by international law, declarations and state practice. Multinational profit-making corporations view water like any scarce commodity and want to control it for economic benefit. Rights are enforceable by law, needs are not. Who should make decisions about the allocation of water? Who should govern water?

Clean water is in rapid decline. Only 3/10ths of one percent of the world's fresh water resources are safe for human consumption. Globally more than a billion people lack access to clean and affordable water. This growing scarcity has multiple causes: waste, pollution, deforestation, poor planning, regional political turmoil and climate change. Corporations are aggressively changing local and international law to redefine water as a scarce commodity that should be controlled for the economic benefit of corporate management and elite investors. In *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop Corporate Theft of the World's Water*, Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke identify the root problem: Private corporations, whose main goal is to maximize profit are increasingly monopolizing water services that have tradi-

tionally been provided by state and local governments on a non-profit basis.

Corporate control and exploitation of water resources encompass the purchase of land over aquifers to sell groundwater for agricultural, industrial or residential use. It also includes the purchase of land with natural springs for bottling water for sale. In many countries corporations are seeking permits to transport surface water to sell in markets near and far. Particularly in the United States, agricultural firms are selling water allocated at subsidized rates to industrial and municipal users. They are making huge profits doing this and are using the publicly funded delivery system of pipes and canals to do it, yet there is no return to the public. Additionally, water utility service corporations have positioned themselves to take over management, either by long-term contract or outright ownership of public systems. Through rapid consolidation, fewer and larger multinational European corporations dominate the water services industry worldwide and increasingly in the United States.

THE WATER GRAB

Governance is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage human affairs. Water governance refers to the range of political, social, economic and administrative systems needed to develop and manage water resources and to deliver water services. Market

Members Matter:

How We Can Build WILPF

Jody Dodd, Leadership and Outreach Coordinator

One of my jobs as Leadership and Outreach Coordinator is working with members to strengthen branches and collaborating with the National Membership Committee to develop strategies to "grow" WILPF.

To that end, WILPF is launching a National Membership Drive this fall. A wonderful packet chock full of goodies (bumper stickers, buttons, posters, etc.) is available from the office. We encourage every member of WILPF to get one person to join.

From talking to you, I have discovered that many of you joined because someone asked you. It's that simple. If we all did this, we would have about 12,000 members! So, share WILPF with a friend and/or family member today. Our slogan for this campaign is Make Peace A Reality: Join WILPF!

Below is a look at WILPF by the numbers (as of July 2003):

Members in a Branch:	4855
Members at Large:	1305
New Members 2001	468
New Members 2002	718
New Members (as of July '03)	592

As you can see, we are gaining more new members. But we need all of our members to renew. The renewal numbers are not so great. In 2001, some 1,830 of you renewed your membership. In 2002, only 1,535 members renewed.

So far this year, 1,047 members have renewed. While this number indicates we will do better this year than last, it still leaves about 3,200 of you that need to renew by the end of this year. So, when you get your renewal notice this fall, please, send it in right away. Your support is what makes the work of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom possible. To those of you that have already renewed this year, thank you! ❖

ideology says that economic choices can make all the decisions necessary to allocate water. But, if economic choices make all our decisions, then there is no place for political and social decisions. While market ideologues claim that the market system is a part of democracy, it is clear that the more we base our decisions on markets the less we have democracy. Corporate control of water systems moves us in the direction of having no space for democratic decision-making about water to reflect social and environmental needs and values.

Corporations have powerful partners in their water grab. Recent privatization began under the conservative Thatcher government in England. Beginning in the 1990s, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund made privatization of water services in poor countries a condition for loans and debt relief. Since these institutions are the only source of funding for many poor countries, their governments have no choice but to knuckle under.

As a result, people and ecosystems all over the world are paying a horrific price. In Cochabamba, Bolivia, the Bechtel Corporation was given control of the water system for the area and a guarantee of a 16 percent return on its investment. Even individuals who pumped water from their own wells or collected rain water were required to pay a fee to Bechtel to use their own water. Rates were raised to the point that many people were paying one-third of their income for water. But the people resisted and took back their water system.

Now, the people of Cochabamba, have written an "Open Letter to the People of Iraq" outlining Bechtel's impact on their community; and their struggle and



A young girl in South Asia carries water.
Photo: United Nations

success in regaining local control. They warn the Iraqis "to protect yourselves from the abuse they [Bechtel] are likely to bring with them."

Many international trade treaties aid corporations with their water grabs. Specifically, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), a separate agreement under the World Trade Organization, provides the framework for privatization and deregulation of water services. It defines water as a commodity and the collection, distribution and use of it as environmental services. No longer is it to be taken for granted as a natural resource, a public good, and a human right. GATS is still being negotiated and as part of the request-offer phase completed at the end of March, the European Union requested the United States open its water services sector to competition. This would result in privatization and deregulation should GATS be signed by WTO member nations by the anticipated deadline of early 2005. To date, the United States Trade Representative offered only to open up the wastewater treatment sector to competition by the European Union.

While the Bechtel case in Bolivia was one of the first to claim worldwide attention, there are many other examples where privatization led to huge rate hikes, few improvements to the system or extension of service as promised, and frequent pollution problems. All of this in the attempt to cut cost and generate profits.

Here in the United States, a large number of communities are under siege regarding land sales to acquire ground water rights, river water and springs, and the privatization of public water service. In some U.S. cities, like Stockton, CA, because citizens failed to prevent the city council from signing a long-term contract for corporate take-over of their municipal system, people are now faced with exorbitant rate-hikes. In some other cities, such as Atlanta, citizens succeeded in buying back their formerly public system from private management. But buying back the system originally built at taxpayer expense seems a steep price to pay to regain local democratic control.

Local political control is the best way to assure that all issues are considered in decisions about water. The privatization of water is a corporate move to take away the people's authority over the most important substance to life, community and environmental health. Their current strategy is to manipulate local governments to privatize water. WILPF branches with other grass roots groups need to educate and organize in their communities to keep control over this critical element of the commons — to assure that we, the people, govern water.

This article was written jointly by members of WILPF's Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights Campaign.

Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



Focus on the Middle East

Odile Hugonot Haber

The continuum of death in Iraq, and in the occupied territories and Israel must move us to end the occupation and indeed, all occupation.

At the recent WILPF West Gathering, several important points were made about our work in WILPF around the Middle East.

The first is the education of our branches. Please remember to use the WILPF website; under the Middle East section we have a several links that you can use as tools. The National office also has a copy of the resolutions that WILPF U.S. and WILPF International have passed over the years. There are also booklets of information produced by WILPF such as: *Spotlight on Palestine*, by Paul Berthoud.

We are also promoting the booklet *Remember These Children*, which has a long list of all the Israeli and Palestinian children that have been killed from September 2000 to March 2003. You find more information about the booklet at www.rememberthesechildren.org or call Americans for Middle East Understanding at (212) 870-2053. This a joint project of several organizations.

There has also been a movement around Rachel Corrie's death. On March 16, this American peace activist was killed by Israeli Defense Forces riding a U.S.-supplied Caterpillar bulldozer. Corrie was trying to prevent a home demolition in the occupied territories. At her memorial service, Israeli forces fired tear gas and stun grenades.

Support the Rachel Corrie Resolution (House Resolution 111). Text can be found at www.endtheoccupation.org.

We also are supporting the Campaign For Home Rebuilding as a very good tool for education. This campaign is organized through house meetings and raises money for Palestinian homes that have been demolished. See www.rebuildinghomes.org for more information.

We also want to create more links between Iraq and Palestine. Many of us are still doing weekly vigils against the continuing war in Iraq. Please use the WILPF statement against our continued involvement in Iraq as a tool and pass it out at vigils.

There is a lack of a feminist analysis of the war. We encourage members to write position papers and statements against these occupations that point out the oil inter-

ests at play here: the poverty of the native populations; the key issues of access to — and control of — water and land; and the role of the U.S. military.

We also thought of creating a speaker's bureau on the Middle East within WILPF. Please send names and resources to the national office with "Middle East issue committee" on the envelope. Another goal is to make women in black vigils more visible within WILPF. We invite branches to also send pictures of their vigils.

In Israel and Palestine, members from Norway (working with WILPF Israel and WILPF Palestine) are going to organize a human rights march. The human right march (www.humanrightsmarch.org) is now slated to take place in December. We are hoping that every branch will send at least one member to this march. It is a good opportunity to do education on the Universal Declaration of Human rights.

We thought that the Middle East issue committee should connect and be part of the national campaigns. For instance in corporate responsibility, we can look at the role of Caterpillar.

You can find our special Middle East discussion list at Mideast-WILPF-US-subscribe@topica.com. We must pool our efforts and inspire each other. We must mourn, but we must organize.

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Odile Hugonot Haber is chair of WILPF's Middle East Committee. She can be reached at od4life@aol.com or (734) 761 7967.

Civil Liberties

Vivian Schatz

Lynne Stewart is a well-known, respected criminal defense lawyer who has courageously represented hundreds of indigent defendants in New York City during the past 25 years, including many politically radical and controversial clients.

She was the court-appointed lawyer for Sheik Omar Rahman, a blind Egyptian cleric, who was convicted in 1995 and given a life sentence for "seditious" conspiracy in relation to the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

Lynne continued to visit him in a federal prison in Minnesota as she carried out post-trial legal matters. She required the assistance of an English/Arab translator during their visits. She did not know that all her phone calls, faxes, and e-mails were being monitored by the federal government. The Feds also got permission under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to wiretap the attorney room at the prison. According to Lynne, "It is a violation of the 6th amendment for the government to listen in on attorney-client conversations."

Lynne was arrested in April of 2002 on charges of conspiring to materially aid terrorism for having sent a

press release to Reuters on behalf of her client. This attack on Lynne Stewart was another step in the Bush Administration's strategy to create a climate of fear and isolation in this country in order to stifle dissent.

In a stunning decision on July 22, 2003 a federal judge in New York City dismissed the charges against her for aiding terrorists, although she still faces lesser charges. The judge said that the antiterrorism statute should not be used against a defense lawyer doing her job. Michael Tigar, her defense lawyer, said, "This case from the beginning was an attempt to chill the vigorous advocacy on behalf of people charged with terrorist crimes... The antiterrorist statute violates the First Amendment."

Even with the terror charges out of the picture, Lynne Stewart still has a big fight on her hands to defend herself against the lesser charges. She appreciates all the support she has received. She is anxious to speak to groups all over the country about the profound implications of her case for defense lawyers. To arrange for a speaking date, call Pat Levasseur, coordinator, Lynne Stewart Defense Committee, at (212) 625-9696. Stay up-to-date on her case by visiting her web site www.lynnestewart.org. The Lynne Stewart Defense Committee is at 351 Broadway, Third Floor, New York, NY, 10013.

Vivian Schatz is chair of WILPF's Civil Liberties Committee. She can be reached at: aschatz@temple.edu or (215)843 2051.

Sodomy Laws Overruled! A True Victory?

Chris Morin

The U.S. Supreme Court's latest decision to overrule archaic sodomy laws was greeted with celebration throughout the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered (GLBT) world. Recent events, however, left some individuals wondering how much had really changed.

"One thing that remains the same is the administration's allegiance to the homophobes of the right," Richard Goldstein wrote in *The Village Voice* this July.*

"A day before the ruling, the Washington Post reported on a new White House initiative, calling on Congress to allow religious groups that discriminate in hiring to qualify for federal funding. The president also vowed to petition the courts for a religious exemption to state and local anti-bias statutes. Thousands of gay and lesbian social service workers, newly freed from sodomy laws, could soon face job discrimination."

Some think that this anti-gay wave might go even further and have a ripple effect, with business owners playing the "religious rationale" card to discriminate in hiring.

"The sodomy ruling certainly gives gay groups a weapon to use in challenging federal rules that legitimize bias. But most gay rights cases are decided at the appellate

level and it remains to be seen how these courts will apply the sodomy decision, especially as Bush stacks the courts with right-wingers."

The court's decision was a step forward, but it was also an incomplete victory. Overruling the sodomy laws is the most "momentous gay rights decision in American History." Yet while other parts of the world are deciding on whether or not to give the GLBT community the rights and benefits of marriage, the United States is truly behind in the "freedom for all" category. The recent ruling, handed down by Justice Anthony Kennedy, "explicitly gives homosexuals the right to have intimate relationships." We must remind ourselves that this is not a special right but an equal right. This is not something that the GLBT community earned, but deserved, and like every other group that is different in this country, had to fight for.

"In the midst of celebrating, the police in some states are talking about "changing the wording of sodomy laws so they ban 'lewd conduct.' No one knows yet what 'equal protection' means in homosexual terms. With a new generation of bigots pushing a new kind of government-sanctioned discrimination, it would be a painful irony if this victory made it easier for gay people to form relationships but not hold jobs."

Those of us who are comfortable and safe in our communities must also not forget people who are most vulnerable to sexual bias: the poor, the rural, and the transgendered.

* Quoted sections throughout are from *The Village Voice*, "Free At Last?" by Richard Goldstein, July 2003.

Chris Morin is Chair of WILPF's LGBT Committee. She can be reached at: Funforlife1@aol.com.

WILPF Resource on the Death Penalty

The use of the death penalty has many implications for next year's political climate. With the current Administration's attack on Death Penalty Reform and Abolition through the Patriot Act and Homeland Security Department, we find it more and more important to keep our finger on the pulse of this issue. For these reasons, WILPF has revised its web page on the death penalty to include the history of the death penalty, recent legislation on state and federal level, racial and economic disparities, and the unconstitutionality of executing juveniles and those with mental retardation. Please use this new page as an introductory guide and a comprehensive resource on how to involve your branch on the issue Former Gov. Ryan of Illinois calls, "the great civil rights struggle of our time." See the WILPF website for more information: www.wilpf.org/deathp/deathp.htm.

The International Criminal Court

Gloria Bletter

As a comparative newcomer to the negotiations leading up to the enactment of the Statute of the International Criminal Court (known as the Rome Statute) I was a hopeful observer at several Preparatory Commissions (Oct. 2001 and April 2002) and at the last Assembly of States Parties (Sept. 2002).

Adopted in July 1998, the Rome Statute called for the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) once 60 states had ratified it.

Less than four years after the adoption of the statute, and despite U.S. opposition, the required number of ratifications was received at the United Nations — initiating the establishment of the court on July 1, 2002.

At the same time, the Bush administration was preparing to “unsign” the Rome Statute, a step unprecedented in the history of international law. The administration had already begun a campaign to “immunize” U.S. nationals and U.S.-sponsored agents from the Court’s jurisdiction, even if those persons had committed crimes in states supporting the ICC.

The American Service Members Protection Act threatens to cut off financial military assistance to those countries that do not sign the immunity agreements. It’s also been called the “Hague Invasion Act” because it allows the United States forcibly to go into the court and “free” our citizens. Congress passed the Act a year ago.

As of now, 55 nations have signed such immunity agreements. There is evidence that the U.S. administration has brow-beaten and even bribed many of the poorer countries into signing these agreements by threatening to withhold aid.

SETTING UP THE COURT

The first session of the Assembly of States Parties (made up of those that have ratified the ICC statute) was charged with setting up the framework of the court. This meeting, which took place during September 2002, continued the work of the Preparatory Commissions.

It was announced that a site in The Hague, The Netherlands, had been chosen as the court’s location and 18 judges have been named, seven of whom are women.

Chosen for the key role of lead prosecutor was Manuel Ocampo, an international lawyer and scholar from Argentina.

Preparatory work regarding the process and substance of the Assembly of States Parties was undertaken by the umbrella NGO, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, in a very open and organized process. The Women’s Caucus also advocated for transparency in the nomination and election process of judges and prosecutors; adherence to

the gender balance requirement; issues of privileges and immunities for personnel representing victims; and open meetings and access of NGO’s to the Assembly of States Parties.

To summarize the intent and explicit jurisdiction of the ICC:

- Its jurisdiction is complementary to that of national court systems, i.e., it will not undertake a prosecution or seek extradition if the accused is being prosecuted within the judicial system of the individual’s own state.
- The goal is a permanent institution, capable of investigating and trying individuals (not states) accused of serious violations that fall within definitions of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The legal definition of a fourth crime, that of aggression, is still being considered; other crimes such as terrorism or drug trafficking may be added in the future. Note that crimes against humanity do not have to have been committed as part of a war, and that apartheid, forced disappearances, and a systematic policy and practice of rape, are included in the scope of prosecutable crimes.
- Criminal prosecution and decisions within an impartial court, holding individuals responsible for egregious acts, provides public confirmation that the acts have occurred, and for the first time provides a permanent enforcement mechanism on an international level.
- Jurisdiction is in effect only for criminal acts committed after July 1, 2002.
- Penalties may be imposed which include reparations and rehabilitation for victim-parties, who are able to participate in the proceedings through legal representatives; a Trust Fund for Victims is also to be established, funded from a variety of sources.
- Referrals for investigation of a case may come to the court from the Security Council, from States Parties, or on the Prosecutor’s own initiative.
- States Parties — those that have ratified the ICC statute — are obligated to amend their own criminal laws and Constitutions in order to comply with the ICC’s Statute.

There is a risk that if major powers do not support the ICC, it will be reduced to investigating and then adjudicating only cases deemed politically “acceptable” or those involving weak states because it will not obtain cooperation from powerful non-party-states like the United States or Israel.

At its board meeting in November 2002, WILPF agreed to join the recently formed American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the International Criminal Court (www.amicc.org).

As a liaison/WILPF U.N. Representative, I am now a member of the Victims Rights Working Group. The Group is supporting a Victims Trust Fund Campaign run by the World Federalist Association (www.victimstrustfund.org).

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

The Ruins of War

Theta Pavis

I walked slowly under a hot sun. Behind me, a large, intricately carved and ancient sandstone temple blushed bronze in the heat.

I was in Cambodia, among the ruins of Angkor Wat. But in this country, no matter where I was, I was also among the ruins of war.

On the stone path leading away from the temple, a woman sat on the ground before me. Her face was young and she was smiling. She was missing an arm and a leg. She was begging for money.

Every day approximately three people are wounded by land mines in Cambodia. Many of them are children.

I was halfway through a trip around the world with my husband Patrick when we reached this country, and in some ways it was a turning point.

For us, as Americans, being in Southeast Asia even as our country was preparing to launch yet another war was particularly painful. At every turn we were reminded about U.S. involvement in the region.

In Phnom Penh we visited the high school that had been turned into a torture prison by the Khmer Rouge. Outside, men on crutches without feet swarmed the tourists walking in. Outside the city, we walked on the “killing fields” where men, women, and children were slaughtered. On our way across the grounds we stepped over what looked like a shinbone. The evidence in Cambodia is still coming up; it is being pushed to the surface by the very earth.

From a book on Pol Pot, Patrick read me sections about American foreign policy. About the fact that as our bombs ravaged the Cambodia countryside and killed villagers, the Khmer Rouge increased in power.

Taking a trip like the one we did is bound to change you, but it was not until I came home 10 months later and took off my backpack and hugged my family that I began to see how it had affected me.

I grew up going to anti-war demonstrations and have been arrested trying to block U.S. Pershing Cruise missiles from being sent to bases in Europe. I have stood up for pro-choice causes and protected abortion clinics, marched for women’s rights and for peace and for justice and against discrimination. I thought I was opposed to war.

But seeing the people in Cambodia made me feel anti-war in a new way, on a much deeper level. In WILPF we often hear older members gently remind us not to adopt the language of war. When I edit pieces for this magazine, I have been told to stay away from militaristic language such as “the battle is heating up....” or, “we should strike back...”

or people should “attack the problem.”

Such editorial nuances used to seem somewhat trivial to me. I understood the objections to “war” language on an intellectual level, but not on a gut level. I don’t think my opposition to war has really felt physical or even spiritual until I went to Cambodia.

I have a new sensitivity to what war and oppression mean that I did not have before, even though my parents put their lives on the line to stop the Vietnam War and end racial discrimination.

There are other, smaller changes too. I have surprised myself in my new appreciation for smaller towns and my preference for villages over large, bustling cities.

While we were on the trip, I was lucky enough to meet with many WILPF members and learn about our work around the world. This was a real highlight of the experience and made it much richer. I had tea in Tokyo with members who survived World War II and chai in India with the vibrant women working to build a branch there. (You can read reports of these visits on WILPF’s website, under “WILPF Around the World.”)

One thing that hasn’t been a surprise is how it feels to be back in the United States. While I am thrilled to see family and friends, the Bush regime makes me want to hit the road again.

On the positive side, it has been wonderful to be back working at the WILPF office in Philadelphia. I continue to be inspired by the staff, volunteers and enthusiastic interns that WILPF attracts.

On a recent trip to California, I attended a performance by a troupe of young Palestinian folk dancers with my family. The dancers were from the Dheisheh refugee camp in the West Bank. On the back page of the program was a list of sponsors that made their visit possible, and there, in the middle of it, was WILPF.



A sculpture at Angkor Wat, Cambodia
Photo: Theta Pavis

See Other Photos from Theta’s Trip on page 28 ➤

WILPF National Campaigns Develop Connections

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In a 1999 *Peace & Freedom*, Mary Zepernick described the goals of restructuring WILPF in an article, “Change Mavens on the Move.” The goals were to increase field-work, develop leadership skills, and have a greater focus in the national program. At Congress that year, three new national campaigns were selected: Dismantling The War Economy (DISARM), Uniting For Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration, and Reconciliation (UFORJE), and Challenging Corporate Power, Asserting the People’s Rights (CCP-APR). Each campaign has representation on the National Board. Many details remain to be worked out.

At a national Board retreat in June of 2001 a fourth campaign, Women and Cuba, was added.

In the following year, the question was raised, “What is the connection between these campaigns?” Some of you may recall a big piece of newsprint in the cafeteria at the 2002 Congress. It had circles, lines, arrows, and writing going every which way. WILPFers were invited to give input on how they thought the campaigns were connected.

In 2002, the program committee of the national Board agreed to have a retreat to work out the connections among the four campaigns. That retreat was held this April.

Two members of each campaign, the program chair, the staff program coordinator, and one of the Board co-presidents participated in the April retreat. (UFORJE: Gwen Braxton, Evelyn Spears; Cuba: Tammy James, Noy Thrupkaew; DISARM: Ellen Barfield, Yoshiko Ikuta; CCP, APR: Molly Morgan, Jan Edwards; Marge Van Cleef, Jen Geiger; Darien De Lu.) The retreat was productive, interesting, informative, and stimulating for several reasons.

Small group size led to easy discussion, allowing all voices to be drawn into the conversation. Most campaign representatives were new to the board and new to national work, so we reviewed WILPF’s history, vision, mission, goals, and activities, and were surprised at how many non-campaign related activities the national office undertakes.

As newbies, we had many questions: What? Why? Who?

What is WILPF today? How are we different from other organizations with similar vision? Have we lost track of our grassroots social justice activism? What is the role of “womanism” in WILPF? What of feminism, patriarchy, white privilege, allies? How are we dealing with issues of leadership, sexism, ageism, and all the oppressive behaviors found in the broader society? We filled many flipchart sheets with definitions and clarification of terms.

Young women were a vital part of the retreat. The intellectual input, the competency, and youthful exuberance of the Cuba campaign members energized some of the more sea-

soned (older) WILPFers. As a group we identified elements of a vision statement that reflect the direction we see WILPF going now. We formed a sub-committee, which is working on integrating a modified vision statement, mission statement, and campaign work.

This same sub-committee is developing an “elevator speech,” a concise description of WILPF’s work that can be used to tell an interested person what WILPF is about in 90 seconds or less as we encourage them to become a member. Often we are at a loss for words or may just need a few talking points to get us started.

We also started to work on the development of long- and short-term planning. In order to develop an overall strategic plan, each campaign committed to having a work plan completed by the end of July. Another very positive outcome was agreement on deadlines. We want to have plans in place that will provide guidance through 2005.

In addition to national campaign concerns, we discussed how to transform relationships among national, branches, and at-large members. How can we cultivate relationships, including mentoring, nurturing, supporting, and deepening? How can we work in collaboration with other organizations, movements, coalitions, and individuals?

We know WILPFers are oriented towards education, analysis and action. How do we become agents of change in the transformation of society? How do we evaluate how effective we are?

Of course, none of this work can be done without money. We need to concern ourselves with the sustainability of WILPF: money, people, energy, and balance.

On Friday evening Executive Director Mary Day Kent and Development Director Amy Kwasnicki joined us to talk about the essential element of fundraising. Among topics were creation of campaign budgets that take national program support into account; splitting money between campaigns and the National office; how our work at the program retreat impacts fundraising; what campaigns can do for development and vice versa.

We didn’t have all the answers by Saturday, but felt we had delineated some important questions and started the work in a direction that would lead to our desired outcomes. We are continuing the work via conference calls and e-mail. We plan more face-to-face work just prior to the October board meeting.

We will update you as we continue the process. Your questions and comments about this process are welcome. Contact Jen Geiger, Program Coordinator, at the Race Street office at (215) 563-7110, or jengeiger@wilpf.org.

*** For more on womanism, see the collection of essays *In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens*, in which author Alice Walker defines her own version of black feminism, which she calls *womanism*.**

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This article was a joint effort of those who attended the retreat.

WILPF Interns Work for Peace (Summer 2003)

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LAUREN BURNLEY, administrative intern. Lauren is the daughter of Pamela Jones-Burnley, administrative director. Lauren, 16, attends Fels High School and is going into the 11th grade this year. She plans on studying com-

munications. Lauren looks forward to learning more about the social justice issues WILPF works on.



Left, Lauren Burnley, and right, Aya Osuga.

EMILY NEPON, development intern. Emily brings experience in development and bookkeeping with many smaller grassroots organizations including The Self-Education Foundation (a nonprofit organization of which she is founder and director), Philadelphia Direct Action Group and R2Klegal. Emily hopes to gain skills and knowledge about how larger organizations organize their development efforts. Emily also works for peace and justice by organizing many fundraising events within the Philadelphia LGBT community. She is a member of the Young Donor Organizers Alliance, and volunteers as a trainer for Resource Generation.



From left: Emily Nepon, Caitlin Fouratt, and Farah Marie Mokhtarei.

AYA OSUGA, web intern. Aya is a Computer Science major in her third year at Yale. Aya has held internships in Web Development at JPMorganChase and Disney Online. She has traveled to Senegal and Morocco and is fluent in both English and Japanese, semi-fluent in French and competent in Spanish. She is currently studying Serbo-Croatian and hopes to be interning in Bosnia in Fall 2003. From childhood, Aya was raised to value peace by her grandparents, survivors of the air raids and daily bombings of WWII Japan.

FARAH MARIE MOKHTAREI, program intern. Farah has just returned from a four-month journey with Voices in the Wilderness through the Middle East and Europe. While in the Middle East, she helped to initiate actions at the United Nations from within Baghdad, Iraq, documented the humanitarian crisis due to economic sanctions and worked with peace and justice networks around the world. In England and Ireland, Farah spoke to schools, church groups, peace networks and NGOs about her experiences in Iraq and Palestine, as well as engaging in grassroots activism and organizing, and communicating to Europeans about the peace movement in America post-9/11. Farah has a long history of peace and justice activism, and attended the Peace Studies Program at University of Louisville, KY last year.

CAITLIN FOURATT, leadership and outreach intern. Caitlin is a junior at Villanova University with a concentration on Peace and Justice Studies and Latin American Studies. She is active in many student groups that work towards social justice and against militarism. Caitlin recently worked as part of a group researching deportation procedures in Costa Rica for one of her Peace and Justice courses, and then studied abroad in Costa Rica.

MONIQUE N. ROBINSON, legislative intern. Monique was executive intern for WILPF in the summer of 2002, and returns to WILPF again this year. Also for the second year, she is concurrently holding an internship at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Public Affairs. Monique attended Philadelphia High School for Girls and currently attends Clark-Atlanta University where she is an Assistant RA.



— compiled by Emily Nepon
photos by Theta Pavis



Testifying Against the Nuclear Arsenal

Ellen Barfield

In mid-July, the Department of Energy (DOE) held the last of a series of Draft Environmental Impact Statement hearings regarding the proposed construction of a new plutonium Pit Facility. Among 13 members of the public who spoke, only one was a Chamber of Commerce type. He urged the DOE to bring the jobs and money such a facility could mean to his community in Akin, South Carolina. Akin is upstream from the Savannah River Plant and one of the five candidate sites for the Pit Facility. Georgia State Legislator Nan Grogan Orrocks anticipated this sort of “economic activity” plea when she noted earlier that few people living *down stream* want more activity (and the pollution it would bring) at the plant.

The rest of us testifying that day in Washington, D.C. (activists from various peace and environmental groups) repeated the usual litany of moral, health, environmental, and nonproliferation reasons why more nukes is not a good idea. The DOE flunkies sat politely as we harangued them.

Former WILPF president Phyllis Yingling gave a moving description of her feelings after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Kevin Kamps of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service was marvelously sarcastic as he placed a handful of paper shreds from a huge DOE dumpster on the podium and wondered what the shreds were: the Declaration of Independence? The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty? The 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley with the Shoshone people, whose land unwillingly hosts the Nevada Test Site?

I read a great statement prepared by my WILPF Disarmament Campaign co-chair Carol Urner, noting that the World Court declared threatening the use of nukes illegal, and that promised abolition and cleanup are nowhere in sight. All of us urged the DOE to consider the alterna-

tive of taking no action on making a decision about the Pit Facility— in other words, don’t do it!

INTERN SPEAKS OUT

Like many of the people who traveled in July to the Department of Energy public hearing on Modern Pit Facilities, I am opposed to the construction of these facilities. The men of the DOE seemed very uninterested and were very inattentive. Jay Rose, EIS Document Manager for the DOE, appeared to be an up-and-coming artist. While people were testifying, we could see him drawing airplane missiles on one of the documents that had been handed out.

I got the impression that the only purpose of the public meeting was so that the DOE could claim they showed concern for the public’s opinion. Yeah, right. What really makes me furious is that the locations where the pit facilities are to be sited are in communities of poor and/or minorities. As in past cases (Rocky Flats to name one) the communities would be unaware what lurked there until after the damage has been done through environmental accidents and/or cancers. What scared me even more is that our government has been getting away with this and about 80 percent of the general population has no idea what is happening or is too oblivious to care. The immoral and inhumane intentions of the DOE are against the law, but how much justice can we expect from this government?

— Monique N. Robinson
WILPF Legislative WILPF Intern

Welcome Vicki Lynn Ferguson to Washington

WILPF has hired Vicki Lynn Ferguson as an Interim Legislative Organizer, while Legislative Organizer Gillian Gilhool is on leave in Japan for one year. Vicki will be working part time in the WILPF Washington, D.C. office.

In conjunction with the Jeannette Rankin interns (who will temporarily be working out of the Race Street office in Philadelphia) Vicki and our dedicated volunteers will be keeping our legislative work going.

You can contact her at vferguson@wilpf.org or at the WILPF in Washington office. Vicki brings extensive Washington advocacy experience, most recently as director of Education and Outreach for Africa Action. Welcome Vicki!!



Celebrating 50 Years of Children's Book Awards

Ann Chalmers Pendell, JAPA President

Linda B. Belle, Executive Director

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards. The award has been presented annually since 1953, when Marta Teele of Ithaca WILPF served as the first Chair. Many dedicated



women have chaired this hard-working committee since then, including our present Chair, Ginny Moore Kruse of Madison WILPF.

In 1956, Eleanor Roosevelt presented the Honor Book Award to Arna Bontemps for *The Story of the Negro* at the Carnegie Endowment Center across from the United Nations (see photo; Bontemps at right). Additional highlights of the award ceremony include having Nane Annan as presenter two years ago, as well as Diane McWhorter, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of the book *Carry Me Home*.

The 2003 Award Ceremony will be October 3 in New York at the Church Center for the United Nations. Please plan on joining us as we celebrate 50 years of Jane Addams Children's Book Awards. Please call the office at (212) 682-8830 to let us know if you'll be joining us.

Winners of the 2003 Book Awards were announced on April 28. The winner in the Picture Book category is *Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam*, an unrhymed story-poem written by Vietnam veteran Walter Dean Myers and accompanied by collage artwork created by Ann Grifalconi. *Patrol* was published by HarperCollins Children's Books, New York City.

The winner in the category of Books for Older Children, *Parvana's Journey*, is a novel about an Afghan refugee girl separated from her family by death and war.

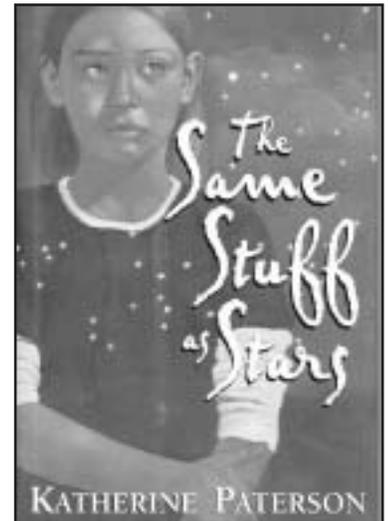
It was written by Deborah Ellis and published by Groundwood Books/Douglas & McIntyre, Toronto, Canada.

One of two Honor Books in the Picture Book category is *Si, Se Puede! Yes, We Can! Janitor Strike in L.A.*, a story based on actual union organizing in 2000. Diana Cohn wrote this bilingual story, which is illustrated with paintings by Francisco Delgado and published by Cinco Puntos Press in El Paso, Texas.

The other honored picture book, *The Village That Vanished*, is an original story set in East Africa during the years when people were being captured by slavers. It was written by Ann Grifalconi, illustrated with paintings by Kadir Nelson and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, New York City.

The Same Stuff as Stars by Katherine Paterson and *When My Name Was Keoko* by Linda Sue Park were named Honor Books in the category of Books for Older Children.

Both books were published by Clarion Books of New York City. As different as these two Honor Books are from the each other, both novels involve a sister and



brother attempting to live within extreme circumstances. Paterson's contemporary story features a girl whose survival depends upon economic and emotional factors. Park's story is set during the Japanese occupation of Korea during World War II.

For additional information about the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards and a complete list of books honored since 1953, see

www.soemadison.wisc.edu/ccbc/public/jaddams. ❖

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

Defending Cuba's Sovereignty

Cindy Domingo

If September 11th taught us anything, it is that hijackings can have dire consequences, especially given the immediate and long-term suffering caused by the loss of human lives. It is no wonder that hijackings are seen as terrorist acts and are deemed unlawful under international law. The norm of a civilized country is to return hijackers and the vehicle to the original country of departure.

Yet many have condemned the Cuban government for its response to the failed hijacking of a passenger ferry on April 2, 2003 (the seventh hijacking in Cuba this year). The six previous hijackings have been successful in reaching the targeted destination of Miami, Florida— home to the right-wing Cuban exile community. Each time the hijackers have been greeted with open arms by the U.S. government with no legal repercussions. Another 29 planned hijackings were learned of and foiled by the Cuban government.

Whether one agrees with the use of the death penalty or not, it is important to understand the historic and current context under which the Cubans arrived at the decision to execute three of the 11 ferry hijackers. They also prosecuted and imprisoned 75 Cuban dissidents that were found guilty of organizing to overthrow the Cuban government.

Regime Change

With the Iraq war, the Bush administration cast off any veiled pretense that the U.S. government was about anything but empire building. Undaunted by international pressures, the U.S. waged its war of terrorism against the Iraqi people stressing that it was time for “regime change.” However, as each day goes by, the “regime change” target shuffles from country to country, depending on who is not cooperating with the current U.S. goals of empire building. Syria, Cuba,

North Korea, Iran and Libya — all countries on the U.S. State Department’s notorious list of terrorist countries — are names that have recently appeared on Bush’s lips.

Bush’s plan to orchestrate a “regime change” in Cuba is a continuation of the U.S. foreign policy that was implemented after the successful 1959 Cuban revolution.

Over the last 43 years, the U.S. unleashed its own war of terrorism against the Cuban people. Tactics have included a harsh blockade forbidding the trade of food and medicine, chemical and biological warfare, diplomatic and commercial isolation, military support to counter-revolutionaries, the Bay of Pigs invasion, and assassination plots against Fidel Castro and other leaders.

But since Bush’s speech in Miami on May 20, 2002, the U.S. has heightened its attacks on Cuba. The assignment of Richard Cason to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana began the Bush administration’s policy of openly using its diplomatic position to organize dissidents within Cuba. In the trials of the Cuban dissidents in April, the evidence revealed that Cason had traveled extensively to meet with dissidents and used his home for their gatherings. Court documents also proved that U.S. taxpayers’ dollars were channeled to fund the activities of the dissidents.

But the hijackings have a more profound meaning in the context of a migration crisis that the U.S. government has provoked. Under the 1965 migratory agreement with Cuba, the U.S. promised to grant 20,000 visas each year to Cubans wishing to immigrate. So far this year, however, the U.S. has granted visas to fewer than 600 Cubans. Together with the U.S.- encouraged hijackings, Cuban officials rightfully worry that the U.S. will manipulate this situation to invoke a portion of the

Actions you can take to defend Cuba:

Visit or contact your congressional delegation to back legislation (Senate Bill 950) supporting the right of U.S. citizens to travel freely to Cuba.

Contact the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets control to protest the new regulations that forbid people-to-people exchange.

Attend educational events on Cuba or hold a house meeting with your friends to organize support for Cuba.

Educate and organize to Free the Cuba Five, five Cuban men who are falsely imprisoned in the U.S. for defending their country against U.S.-sponsored terrorism.

For more information on congressional legislation and what you can do, see the Cuba Campaign section on the WILPF website (www.wilpf.org) or the Latin American Working Group’s website (www.lawg.org).



Mother and child in a doctor's office in Havana.

blockade legislation, Section 101 of the Helms-Burton Act. This section warns that “any further political manipulation of the desire of Cubans to escape that results in mass migration to the United States, will be considered an act of aggression, which will be met with an appropriate response in order to maintain the security of the national borders of the United States and the health and safety of the American people.”

It is this pretext that the Cuban government rightfully feels the U.S. would use to instigate their military “regime change.” This is why the Cuban government felt that they had no other alternative but to crack down on the opposition and execute the three hijackers. Only a strong message would stem the U.S.-created crisis and stop further hijackings.

Our Movement Must Defend Cuba

The peace movement and solidarity activists must make it clear to the Bush administration that any direct military intervention into Cuba will not be tolerated. The Cuban people have withstood 43 years of U.S.-sponsored terrorism that has taken the lives of over 3,000 people. The Cuban people will act to defend their revolution and as a movement, we must act now to defend the Cuban people's sovereignty.

Cindy Domingo is a member of the WILPF Seattle Branch, co founder of the EveryWoman's Movement for Cuba and co chair of the U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration.

WILPF On the Web

U.S. WILPF:

www.wilpf.org

We have been working over the last few months to update and enhance the WILPF-U.S. The site has information about the National Campaigns, Issue



Committees, and upcoming actions. You can also print a copy of the resource catalogue, find contact information for WILPF branches, read the most recent statements on current events or find information about the Jane Addams Peace Association. The web can be a great outreach tool, as well as a source of information about WILPF history, principles, and actions. You can download copies of campaign study materials, fliers, and other useful tools.

INTERNATIONAL WILPF: www.wilpf.int.ch/

International WILPF's website contains links to our sections around the world, as well as addresses and e-mail contact information for offices at the United Nations and in Geneva. The site also has information on international internships.

PEACEWOMEN: www.peacewomen.org

PeaceWomen.org seeks to nurture communication among a diversity of women's organizations by providing an accessible and accurate information exchange between peace women around the world and the U.N. system. This website features information about women affected by and seeking to heal conflicts throughout the world. U.N. resolutions, news updates about regions of conflict, program/campaign and contact information for grassroots organizations and activists can all be found here.

REACHING CRITICAL WILL:

www.reachingcriticalwill.org

Reaching Critical Will addresses the information needs of nuclear neophytes as well as disarmament activists. The texts of major treaties, the positions (and arsenals) of nuclear states, detailed information about defense contracts (and a list of Dirty Dozen) as well as contact information for organizations involved in nuclear abolition can all be found on this site.

Taking Part in International WILPF

Members of the U.S. Section have a number of ways they can be involved in WILPF at the International level. As the summer, 2004, International Congress in Göteborg, Sweden approaches, now is the time to make preparations for many of these. While any U.S. Member may attend the Congress itself, time and money limitations restrict most of us. Some of the options below provide alternative channels for current U.S. WILPF Members to take part in International WILPF.

Nominations for International Officers

The U.S. WILPF Board seeks the names of both U.S. Section Members and International Members from other countries who might consider running for International WILPF office. Additionally, the U.S. Section Membership may nominate International WILPF women for any of the six officer openings. The Officers are President (1), Vice-Presidents (4), and Treasurer (1). When a Member of the U.S. Section is elected to an International officer position, they also hold a seat on the U.S. Section Board, with attendant responsibilities. We welcome your nomination of others from any of our International Sections as well as the U.S. Section and/or self-nomination for any of the International offices. At its fall 2003 meeting October 17-19, the U.S. Board will make decisions about officer nominations. In addition to completing an application form, nominees must provide letters of recommendation from other WILPF Members. Send International Officer nominations to Anne Ivey, 576 Fearington Post, Fearington Village, Pittsboro, NC 27312 by September 17. You can also find more information on the WILPF website. If you are reading this past the deadline, please contact Anne immediately. (If you are applying for other positions, contact the national office.)

Nominations for Delegates to the International Congress

U.S. WILPF will be eligible to send a certain number — probably eight or fewer — of voting delegates to the

2004 International Congress. Although we are seeking some funding to assist delegates with Congress expenses, we cannot guarantee that funds will be available.

Often WILPF U.S. branches help delegates with fundraising. Delegates will be expected to inform themselves on International issues and officer nominees and the U.S. Section perspective on them. We hope to assemble a delegation reflecting the diversity of U.S. Section membership. We ask for your nomination of others or self-nomination for the delegate position.

Nominations for U.S. Section International Executive Committee Representative

Each WILPF Section is entitled to one member on the decision-making body of International WILPF, the International Executive Committee (IEC). IEC Representatives must stay abreast of International WILPF issues and the needs of International. The IEC Representative is also responsible for the yearly sectional report to Geneva. The cost of travel to IEC meetings is paid for by the U.S. Section but accommodations and food are not covered. Additionally, the U.S. IEC Representative also serves on the U.S. Section Board and acts as a liaison between U.S. WILPF and International. We ask for your nomination of others or self-nomination for the IEC Representative position.

Work on International Committees

Much of the work of International WILPF is performed at the committee level, and there is a continuing need for more volunteer WILPF Members' involvement in these committees. Generally, nearly all their work is conducted via e-mail. To qualify to be on an International committee, you must be a dues-paying WILPF Member of the National Section and be willing to move forward the work of the committee. E-mail access is not a requirement, but participation without it is extremely difficult. Attendance at International meetings is valuable but not required, and expenses in order to attend meetings are not covered. ❖

Looking Back at Korea

Ellen Barfield

It is most peculiar to find yourself back again where you were half your life ago, and with an entirely different agenda. I was 23-years-old and quite naive when I traveled to South Korea under United States Army orders in January 1980. This May, at the age 46, I found myself again traveling there— this time to testify at the commemoration of the Gwangju uprising and massacre of 1980 as a guest of the Korea Truth Commission (KTC).

As a newly promoted Army Sergeant I had no idea there had been an assassination and coup in South Korea in 1979, nor that unrest was widespread due to anger at the illegal military dictatorship. I served in the 520th Maintenance Company, 194th Maintenance Battalion, at Camp Humphreys Air Base, Pyongt'aek, 40 miles south of Seoul.

I later learned that in May of that year, the college students of Gwangju (130 miles south of Pyongt'aek) led what was at first a nonviolent uprising against the dictatorship. After some of the rebels were beaten to death, the students armed themselves and it drew the whole city and other cities nearby into the struggle. The people were eventually brutally suppressed by Korean Special Forces and other Korean troops.

It was so long ago that my memories are incomplete, but I do have some strong impressions of my experiences of May 1980. My unit was placed on high alert status at some point during the Gwangju uprising. For several days we stayed in the barracks area instead of going to the Motor Pool to work and we received lectures and viewed films about riot suppression techniques.

One thing I particularly remember is a big discussion by the command structure about whether the women in the Company would also participate in the riot suppression training. As a non-commissioned officer, I was part of the debate. I felt that female soldiers were soldiers too, and should do whatever job the unit was assigned. This attitude prevailed and the women took the riot training with the men.

I find it quite ironic that my experiences in the United States Army can now lend a bit more credence to the contention that our government was deeply involved in suppressing democracy in South Korea. The United States government has always maintained it knew little about what the South Korean government planned or did in 1980. On the flight over this May I read the government's White Paper, over 20 pages denying any responsibility or knowledge by the United States about Gwangju. My experience, as well as growing evidence uncovered by both the KTC and U.S. researchers accessing formerly classified

documents, argues otherwise.

My unit was a rear unit, that is, not intended for front line combat. Riot training for a rear unit strongly implies that the United States was closely involved with events in South Korea in May 1980, that it feared the whole nation might explode, and that it was planning to control the people with U.S. troops if need be.

The number of civilians killed in Gwangju is still in dispute, and will probably never really be known. I remember hearing it reported as over 2,000.

That I and the Korea Truth Commission should find each other, and work together now to demonstrate U.S. complicity with yet another of the world's repressive regimes, amazes me.

Civilian control and moderate democratization of the South Korean government has let some stories finally be told. The No Gun Ri massacre by U.S. troops on July 26, 1950, is the one that got a fair amount of U.S. media attention.

On May 18, I testified at the Gwangju commemoration rally. I spoke just after the mothers of two 14-year-old girls, Shin Hyo-Son and Shin Mison, who were run over and killed last year by a U.S. military vehicle. A U.S. military investigation absolved the driver of any wrongdoing, infuriating the Koreans.

Some of my remarks follow: "I have come to understand that I was an occupier in South Korea. It is stunning now to realize that U.S. troops are stationed in over 130 other countries around the world, but South Korea has experienced one of the longest continuous occupations. I am sorry for my participation in the suppression of your country and your people's right to rule yourselves. I know that my apology does not mean much by itself. Of much more value is my ability to bring you the solidarity of the organizations I work with, especially Veterans for Peace."

On the day we returned to Seoul from Gwangju, I accompanied Yoomi Jeong, who arranged my trip, as she did some more KTC work. We went to a newly discovered massacre site near the city of Masan, in the country outside Oak-Bang village, Yuhyang town, Jinjun township. Floods in early September last year had washed down the rocks covering many remains.



Ellen Barfield (in hat) shakes hands with Sung Joong Soo in Korea.

Photo: Yoomi Jeong

Continued on page 29 ➤



WILPF Gathers in the West

Pat Hollingsworth, Nancy McClintock

The WILPF West Gathering was held in May at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California. Sixteen branches were represented, and nearly 100 members attended. It was a truly momentous occasion since WILPF members in the western region have not met since the last meeting in Portland, Oregon in 1997.

Fran Petschek of the Portland Branch wrote, "As usual the main joy of the gathering was the information exchanges, both in session and in private talks. The workshops were great and it was hard to choose which to attend . . . The weekend was well planned and executed. By talking to new members I feel they were fired up to work in their branches . . . to me that is the main benefit of these gatherings."

Robin Bee, also from the Portland Branch, had this

to say: "Right off the bat all branches reported what they had been doing, what they had been arrested for, or court cases they have won." She said meeting "with Bruce Gagnon of the Global Network of Weapons in Space and connecting with WILPF women working on the same issues I'm working on, Jan Edwards of the Challenge Corporate Power Campaign and Nancy Price of Alliance For Democracy (who joined WILPF while she was there) and really seeing how certain groups complement each other" was a real highlight.

U.S. WILPF National Co-chairs Sandy Silver and Darien De Lu gave an update and were later joined by Jennifer Pitino, national treasurer. We discussed the current national dues policy. Branches will retain \$20 of the \$35. We were also joined by Mary Day Kent and Amy Kwasnicki from the national office in Philadelphia.

Workshops covered the WILPF campaigns as well as other topics, including 9/11 and the Patriot Act, the Nuclearization of Space, the Death Penalty and the Middle East. ❖

Travels with Theta

Clockwise from top: Riding through Mongolia; a child in Longshen, China; Ayako (left) and Yoshiko Mejima of Japan WILPF; camel riding in India; and Theta with children in Yangshou, China.



A Pro-Active Vision

.....
 WILPF has repeatedly benefited from the pro-active vision of our members, whose faith, belief, and commitment have fueled this organization for 88 years. We would not be continuing our legacy of organizing for non-violent social change if not for the vision of those members who have supported us in their lifetime and beyond. We would like to celebrate the following individuals who left a bequest for WILPF, arranged an annuity which benefited WILPF through the Jane Addams Peace Association, and in whose names we received memorial gifts. Please consider making planned gift arrangements to benefit the future generations of peace activists who will find and carry on the legacy of peace, freedom, and WILPF.

Bequests 2001 and 2002 received from:

Barbara V. Ayre
 Sophia Bartell
 Anne Goodwin
 Mary Lane Hiatt
 Alice Lazerowitz

Al Feldman
 Jeanette Gray
 Charlotte Hamlet
 Jean M. Hood
 Violette Kaye
 Anci Koppel
 Beatrice Kornfeld
 Paul Krebs

Annuity 2001 and 2002:

Mildred Hewitt
 Helen Travis

Rose (Terry) Mackenzie
 Jessie Maple
 Carmella May
 Priscilla Mitchell

Memorial Gifts 2001 and 2002

Received in the name of:
 Marcia Ewing Alexander
 Esther Brall
 Bennett Brown
 Manuel Cantor
 Adnee Cleere
 Lucille Corbin
 Maie Croner
 Celia Daldy
 May D'Marie
 Elisabeth Dodds
 Frank Drucker
 Esther Ferrier

Carolyn Mohr
 Herman Nussbaum
 Caroline Perry
 Lora Elaine Podolske
 Esther Richert
 Leonard and Sarah Rubin
 Milton Schreiber
 Hope Shapiro
 Mildred Thierman
 Elizabeth Tolles
 Robert and Sue Alice Turnipseed
 Florence and Frank Wilkinson
 Sadie Wittenberg
 Megumu Yoshimine

If you would like information on planned giving and memorial gifts to WILPF, please contact the U.S. Development Director Amy Kwasnicki through the National Office or via e-mail akwasnicki@wilpf.org.

▶ BACK TO KOREA

from page 27

We sat in the sun on the rocky hillside as an elderly couple gave Yoomi testimony. The woman, Sung Joong Soo, 81-years-old, told of the disappearance of her father Sung Hwan-Young, during the war. She had never known exactly what happened to him. The whole village knew many were taken away and killed, but they had not known where the killings took place. Her husband Kim Kitak, 83, had been the village pharmacist, and from his shop door he had seen truckloads of prisoners pass. He said several hundred people were taken.

After the old woman told her tale, we poured plum brandy on the rocks for the dead, and the old man lit a cigarette and perched it on a rock for them. In respect and

“For nearly 60 years Korean families have been forcibly separated by the division of their country.”

mourning we knelt over and over and touched our foreheads to the ground below the rockslide. Then we noticed pieces of bones on the ground, thighbones and broken skulls. One of the skull bones had a small green sprout growing from it, a poignant reminder of the cycle of life.

Korean families have been forcibly split for nearly 60 years by the division of their country created at the end of the end of World War II, and there is still no peace treaty for a war which was never declared. Many Koreans want to reunify and get the occupiers out. Unfortunately, U.S. mishandling of nuclear weapons disagreements with North Korea and the listing of it as a potential target nation makes it unlikely the Koreans can see their demands met any time soon.

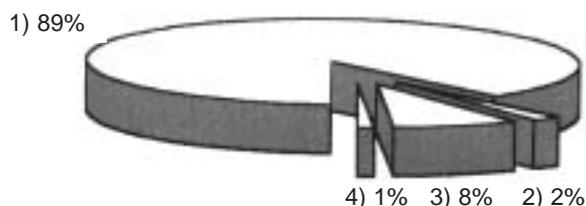
I continue to seek anyone else who served in the United States military in May 1980, in South Korea, especially anyone who was in a combat unit. The KTC would really like to hear your story. Please contact me at ellene4pj@yahoo.com.

.....
Ellen Barfield is an Army veteran, a member of the WILPF Board and co chair of WILPF's Disarmament Committee. She is vice president of Veterans for Peace.

WILPF Annual Report 2002

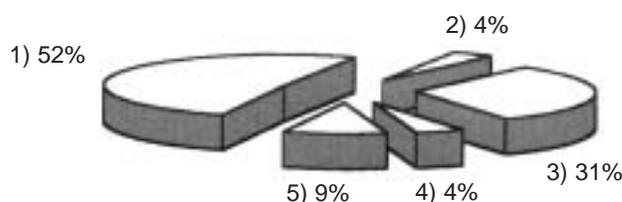
WILPF Revenue 2002 - \$460,471

\$407,604 1) Gifts from Individuals 89%
 \$9,141 2) Bequests/I.M.O. 2%
 \$38,900 3) Foundation grants 8%
 \$4,826 4) Other 1%



How Funds Were Used 2002 - \$539,375

\$274,662 1) National Program & Membership 52%
 \$20,822 2) Intern Program 4%
 \$169,225 3) General Management 31%
 \$24,000 4) International Assessment 4%
 \$50,666 5) Development & Fundraising 9%





BranchAction News

Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor

DEAR WILPFers: With *Peace & Freedom* being produced only twice a year, it is a challenge to go through all your newsletters and pick out just a few among your many activities to report here. Forgive me if what you feel were your most important events are not mentioned here. I try to give a general flavor of your work and then pick what seem to be new approaches or even new issues. Thank you for all you do and for persevering. What would our world be like without WILPF, and the many other NGOs, whose members work so hard against the current tide of selfishness and violence? And which are now under attack by the American Enterprise Institute (they must consider us a real threat). In this context is the following quote (reprinted by **Portland**): “Remember this: We be many and they be few. They need us more than we need them. Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

— Arundhati Roy, speaking at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, January 2003.

URGENT

Rep. John Conyers (D, MI) is tallying opinions about impeaching George W. Bush. **St. Louis** suggests sending a brief message to him, stating your opinion. Fax (313) 226-2085; e-mail john.conyers@mail.house.gov. Make it “Attn: Alexia” on both. **Monterey County** published an article about a campaign against the new touch-screen voting machines and a “Resolution on Electronic Voting” by Prof. David Dill (Stanford University) calling for a verifiable audit trail that cannot be altered. See resolution online at www.verify.stanford.edu/evote.html. Journalist Thom Hartmann’s article at www.commondreams.org/views03/0131-01.htm suggests elections are already tainted.

IRAQ

All branches continue their concern for Iraq. **Santa Cruz** started a campaign to blanket the community with “Peace is Patriotic” signs. In late May **Portland** heard from Father Roy Bourgeois, just back from postwar Iraq. In July, **Los Angeles** heard “Face to Face with the Women of Iraq” from a person who had been in Iraq for 10 days in February and 2 weeks in July. **Santa Cruz** had a program on the use of depleted uranium, and on the use of terror by the United States. **Berkeley** members urged local teachers to participate in a district-wide teach-in. **Los Angeles** had a speaker on the effect of the war on Arab immigrants in the U.S. **Des Moines** wrote the mayor a wonderful letter about their

activism over the last 30 years after he (during a city council meeting that discussed a “cost-of-the-war” resolution) wondered where peace people had been during all those years. (The resolution passed.)

CUBA

Catonsville and **Baltimore** cosponsored a talk by Cuba Ambassador Dagoberto Rodriguez on “Cuba Today.” **Asheville, Portland, Des Moines** and **Santa Cruz** had talks and panels of WILPF members who had recently visited Cuba.

CHECHNYA AND GEORGIA

San Jose is out in front on the issue of the genocide taking place in Chechnya. Last year they had a conference on this topic, and established a small effort to support the Chechens. This year they heard from a young Chechen college student and have published an urgent appeal to create an emergency fund for refugees and to write to both Putin and Bush that the atrocities must stop. The United States is supporting the actions of the Russian government in its “war on terror” in Chechnya. **Berkeley** had an e-mail from a woman in Georgia, reporting the formation of a Women’s Peacemaking Council, part of the Caucasian Women’s Research and Consulting Network. They ask for cooperation with groups in America. E-mail Ruth Yanover (rwjyl@juno.com) for the mail and e-mail address in Georgia.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Minnesota Metro had a panel on the effects of U.S. foreign aid with a member who had served in the Peace Corps in Georgia. **Berkeley** heard from seven women who began a peace walk across America from downtown Berkeley on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on January 21, 2002, and arrived in Washington DC on September 1. **Detroit** had a program on “Witness to Occupation,” with members of the Michigan Peace Team back from a mission to Palestine. **Des Moines** heard about the American Friends Service Committee’s Immigrant Rights Network. **Catonsville** featured an author speaking on “Living as a Foreign Correspondent in a Muslim Land,” and **Baltimore** held a discussion of the Middle East with Physicians for Social Responsibility and Jews for Israeli/Palestine Peace. **Tucson** looked at the sad and ongoing story of Leonard Peltier’s imprisonment, through his prison writings. Barbara Lubin, Middle East Children’s Alliance, spoke on “What About the Children” about the children of Iraq, Palestine and the United States (**Peninsula**).

MORE ACTIVITIES

Fresno heard peace activist and poet Sonia Sanchez (a WILPF sponsor) read her poetry. **St. Louis** heard about “The Continuing Struggle of Afghans in Pakistan” from a

member who spent a semester at the International Center for Psychosocial Trauma in Pakistan. **Greater Lansing** heard from Mary Day Kent on the topic “Does the U.S. Need the U.N. Now?” **Minnesota Metro** had a mini-conference on the media and the need for creating alternative media. **Los Angeles** had a program on “How Five TV Companies Have Destroyed Real Democracy in the U.S.” **Portland** heard “Return to Srebrenica” about the repatriation of Muslim women and their families, by a WILPF member from the Netherlands. **Santa Cruz** heard “Civilization Against Itself: War and Peace in Bushworld,” a program comparing our current situation with the one George Orwell wrote about. **Pajaro Valley** presented “Women Against War.”

PATRIOT ACT AND ITS SUCCESSOR

Cape Cod sponsored a freedom march and rally on Patriots Day, April 21, against the Patriot Act and to preserve the Bill of Rights. **Los Angeles** urged response on HR1157, the “Freedom to Read Protection Act of 2003,” which removes threats to the privacy of bookstore and library records. **Palo Alto** urged members to attend the city council meeting for a vote on a resolution aimed at protecting citizens from this act; heard from member of the National Lawyers Guild describe the dangers inherent in the Patriot Act; and protested detention of immigrants at the INS office. **Portland** and **Peninsula** had programs about the details of the Patriot Act. **Portland** also printed a piece about the defense attorney Lynne Stewart. **San Jose** urged congressional action against Patriot II and participated in protests against INS detentions. **Berkeley** presented a forum on “The USA Patriot Act and Its Impact on Those in the Minority.”

RACISM

In May **Catonsville** held “Creating the Beloved Community: A Conference on Racial Justice,” which included a history of racism in the western hemisphere, defined systemic racism, and discussed how racism relates to all the campaigns of WILPF. **Cape Cod** had “Readings on Race and Racism,” with excerpts from member Helen Helfer’s book *Footprints on the Land: American Stories About Race*, and member Catherine Fosl’s book *Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Social Justice in the Cold War South*. **Santa Cruz** had a program on white privilege, and found it difficult to stop the discussion and get people to leave at the end. **Minnesota Metro** is starting a new racism committee. **Cape Cod** urged action on HR 40, which proposes examining the question of reparations.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

Asheville presented workshops on nuclear issues at the Rolling Thunder event in May. It also urged members to attend a hearing of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on MOX (mixed oxide fuel, which uses plutonium from dismantled nuclear weapons). **Berkeley** urged letters about the

DOE’s plan to examine sites for a new plant for producing plutonium pits.

Portland reprinted a WILPF U.N. e-mail from May 27, 2003, in which citizens of Tierra del Fuego in Argentina demanded cancellation of a

decree granting land to the U.S. for building a base for nuclear testing “for peaceful purposes.” **Des Moines** and **Berkeley** co-sponsored Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorations.



Mary Day Kent and Amy Kwasnicki at a gathering of WILPF in Santa Cruz.

Photo: Jeanette Johnson

POLITICAL ACTION

Branches have worked on: reparations (**Detroit**); the recent FCC decision to allow more concentration in the media (**Peninsula, St. Louis, Berkeley**); the “Clear Skies Initiative” that would weaken the Clean Air Act (**St. Louis**); Senate Res. 81 on Iran, introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden, saying the “people of Iran deserve the support of the American people” (**Portland**); an extra \$12 billion for Israel (**St. Louis, Monterey County**); “Health Care for All Californians” (**Palo Alto, Fresno, Peninsula, Santa Cruz**); “bunker busters” also called robust nuclear earth penetrators (**Portland, Cape Cod, Berkeley, Los Angeles**); investigation of reasons for war on Iraq (**Berkeley**); use of depleted uranium in Iraq (**Fresno**); Central American Free Trade Area (**St. Louis**).

CHALLENGING CORPORATE POWER

St. Louis published an article on the 7th BioDevastation conference held in their city. They are focusing on Monsanto and all the ways it threatens civil and contractual liberties, economic justice, and especially environmental and human health with its genetically modified seeds. **Minnesota Metro** and other groups had a successful Vanishing Democracy Forum, with keynoter John Nichols from *The Nation* magazine, author of “Our Democracy, Not Theirs.” **Cape Cod** is calling for abolition of corporate personhood resolutions for Massachusetts towns. **Minnesota Metro** and **Tucson** have ongoing study groups. **Portland** reprinted news about the III World Water Forum held in Japan and a parallel Peoples World Water Forum held in Italy in March, opposing corporate plans to privatize water everywhere. **Los Angeles** cosponsored “Challenging Corporate Rule/Reclaiming Democracy,” a three-hour teach-in.

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.

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— New Member — Renewal

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“More if you can, less if you can’t” \$ _____

Contribution \$ _____ Total \$ _____

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

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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Women and children at a well in Sarnath, India.

Photo: Theta Pavis

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