

# Peace & Freedom

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

Fall/Winter 2004

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## Make Peace a Reality



At a gathering of WILPF Board and staff members.

**Important: Vote Today**

**WILPF Ballots and Campaign Proposals, page 31**

ALSO INSIDE: REPORTS FROM CONGRESS • WATER & WILPF



WILPF member Emma Fuentes (Chile/Sweden) and Carolina Amador Perez of Cuba at the International Congress in Sweden.

Photo: Tammy James

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

**National Program: WILPF envisions a world free** of violence, poverty, pollution, and domination — a genuine new world order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 2002-2005 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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# Creating a Culture of Peace with Justice

.....  
*Sandy Silver, President*

This amazing planet with its beautiful landscapes, wildly varied life forms and diverse people and cultures is in the midst of some very hard times. As determined and idealistic activists, honoring WILPF's 90th anniversary, we are all asking ourselves — what actions can we take in the face of today's problems?

In an effort to answer this question, WILPF women from around the world gathered at the 28th International WILPF Congress in Sweden this summer. Information on the developments in our respective countries was shared and resolutions passed. In a spirit of optimism, a proposal to hold an International Women's Peace Conference in Cuba in 2006 was unanimously accepted. We are also looking forward to our 90th Anniversary WILPF Congress, which will be held in San Francisco August 10-14, 2005.

In the meantime, we have the opportunity to unify our national work by choosing two campaigns to focus

***Important!***  
**Please see the WILPF  
Campaign ballot  
on page 31.**  
**Your Vote Counts!**

on in 2005-2008. It will be a challenge. Our greatest strength as an organization has always been our dedication to finding connections and interrelationships between the critical issues of the day. Consequently, our activism is widely varied, with individuals and branches finding many different ways to apply the sweeping language of WILPF's mission statement.

You may wonder how it is possible to select just two campaigns when so many issues demand our attention. The answer is clear, although not easy. By choosing only two campaigns, we do not abandon the rest of our work. Rather, we pick two particular areas in which we feel we can make an impact and which will further national WILPF coherence for the next three years. This issue of *Peace & Freedom* outlines the campaign proposals for the year 2005-2008. We look forward to hearing from all

current members of WILPF as to which campaigns you wish to focus on. (*Please see the ballot on page 31.*)

This issue of *Peace & Freedom* also has a list of job descriptions for national Board positions. To serve on the Board and to work with our fine staff is an honor and a privilege. It also involves a great deal of hard work with no financial gain. If you enjoy doing collaborative work with women of diverse backgrounds, cultures, talents and geography, I urge you to apply for a position on the Board. Expect there to be disagreements and conflicts interspersed with intellectual challenges, new ideas and time spent with some of the most remarkable women you'll ever meet.

At the end of Congress, our former Co-President Darien De Lu assumed a new position as a member on WILPF's International Executive Committee. It has been an incredibly wonderful working experience for both of us. Darien and I strongly encourage those of you in branches to experiment with various forms of group leadership as many branches are beginning to do. The unexpected effects of sharing leadership responsibilities are pretty amazing. Darien and I have experienced an increase in our own personal enthusiasm and energy levels, which in turn has led to stimulating others to join WILPF. With more members, we have more people to share the workload — as well as the joys of being in WILPF. ❖



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## NEW INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS SWORN IN



Left to right: Mans Van Zandbergen (Netherlands) Treasurer, Marta Benavides (El Salvador) Vice-President, Samira Khoury (Lebanon), Vice-President, Regina Bircherm (United States) President, Dulcy de Silva (Sri Lanka) Vice-President, Annelise Ebbe (Denmark) Vice-President. Foreground: Aliyah Strauss (Israel).



# Reader's Forum

## Dear Sisters,

The spring issue of *Peace & Freedom* has surfaced on my desk. In the generally excellent article on Jane Addams I was distressed that her ardent espousal of socialism was ignored.

This is the fate generally of Helen Keller — but her recent biographer is so much a product of McCarthyism he speaks of her socialist convictions with disdain.

— *Kate Oser, Clinton, NY*

## Dear Staff,

I enjoyed the “WILPF History Issue” very much! Especially the photos of Mary Day, Kay Camp and Mildred Scott Olmsted and other peace ladies from Philadelphia. What an influence you all had on me, and how I miss a “critical mass” of peace folks.

However, we are doing a few things up here in the far northeast corner of the USA. Our Peace Pole in

Houlton is under the care of the South Aroostook Ministerial Association (which I attend to represent the few local Quakers) and Harry and I take care of the little flower garden around it. For over two years we have had a silent peace vigil every week at the Peace Pole, even when it's 30 degrees below zero.

— *Marilyn Roper, Houlton, ME*

## Dear Friends,

I have so enjoyed reading your spring 2004 issue of *Peace & Freedom*.

Thank you for decades of dedicated work and devotion to the cause of peace with justice on earth.

Best wishes.

— *Laurie Hasbrook, Voices in the Wilderness, Chicago, IL*

Send letters to *Peace & Freedom*, Editor, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-1691 or e-mail: [peacefreedom@wilpf.org](mailto:peacefreedom@wilpf.org). We reserve the right to choose and edit letters.

## Hush The Dead, Hush

It is not acceptable  
to read the names of the  
dead  
out  
loud in America.

Not unless they are the  
long  
dead

in rows with white crosses  
or missing,  
in pieces

or faded  
in pictures  
or smiling from  
the canoe of an old,  
quaint plane.

If they knew a word  
like tyranny  
or fascism

if they smoked  
unfiltered cigarettes  
and their girlfriends  
had small, pinched  
waists

it's acceptable.

Or sometimes, later  
for soldiers whose tongues  
hit the roof of their mouths  
when they said the word draft

and their girlfriends said Canada  
or their fathers said honor.

Then we can say  
their names  
and perhaps even etch them  
in stone  
and run our fingers Braille-like, over  
them  
and cup old medals and touch  
curved scars.

But it is not OK,  
and perhaps subversive,  
to read the names  
out  
loud  
of our recent dead.

Men who left babies  
and cars bought on credit.  
Their girlfriends clutching cell  
phones.

We print their names  
discreetly  
in cursive,  
in italics,  
somewhere off the front page.

On television we  
miscalculate their  
numbers  
and ban the viewing of coffins

open or closed,  
it makes no difference

they must not penetrate our  
minds.

It's crowded in here.

— *Theta Pavis*

*Theta Pavis is a journalist and poet.  
She has been editor of Peace &  
Freedom since 1998.*

# Voting for WILPF's Future

Dear WILPF members,

We'd like to give you a brief introduction to the ballot you'll find in this issue of *Peace & Freedom* inviting you to help select WILPF's national program for 2005-2008.

For decades, members attending WILPF's National Congress every three years could voice their views and vote on what urgent concerns WILPF should concentrate on in future program work. Whether choosing themes or campaigns, the allocation of resources to support what we would all do together was determined by members who could get to Congress.

Now every WILPF member can vote — and we hope you will!

This spring, in revisiting how WILPF determines future program direction, the National Board listened to members and branches about what has worked well and what has not since the decision was made to organize country-wide, all-member program work around our campaigns. There was immediate agreement around the idea that everyone should be able to vote when it came to choosing campaigns.

Joining national campaigns is designed to engage branches and members across the country to do some of their WILPF work together, to enable us to have national impact and to grow WILPF. Having two campaigns, rather than three or four, will concentrate our work. Branches, already doing so much local work, can connect and join in effectively. Staff can focus their support and do more to provide effective resources.

The most urgent WILPF work in the coming three years will now be determined by a vote of our full membership. Please give careful thought to the summaries of campaign proposals on the following pages. Then use the ballot on the inside back page to choose WILPF's program priorities for 2005-2008. Be sure to mail your ballot to the national office before January 31, 2005!

In evaluating the proposals we ask you to think about one overarching question: "Why is it important for WILPF to undertake this campaign at this time?" Subsidiary questions could be: Will WILPF's unique role as an international

women's anti-war organization be brought to bear effectively? How will it strengthen WILPF to become increasingly powerful in determining the future course of our country? Campaign proposals were required to include specific elements in order to address these questions. Check each for the following:

- Does the campaign connect the major themes of WILPF's work: peace; racial, social and economic justice; and radical democracy?

- What potentially achievable goal does the campaign envision accomplishing in three years? What intermediate, measurable steps will be accomplished each year?

- How will the campaign: reach/use existing WILPF membership; bring in new members and reach out to economically and culturally diverse women; involve WILPF's legislative office in Washington, D.C. and; connect to WILPF International's goals and initiatives?

- Who is in the founding leadership group? How will additional interested WILPF members be incorporated into the leadership structure?

Three of the proposals for 2005-2008 were submitted by existing campaigns. What has been your experience with these campaigns? If in a

branch, has your branch participated in these current campaigns? If it has not, ask why, and consider which of the current proposals will best support your branch interests and ability to grow.

U.S. National WILPF is committed to continuing the work initiated by our sisters 89 years ago. Their struggle for a world without wars and exploitation is our legacy to fulfill. We must challenge ourselves and the governing powers in this struggle. Join us in our work. Another world is possible.

Sincerely,

*Marge Van Cleef, Program Committee Chair*

*Gillian Gilhool, Program Coordinator*

## Campaign Opportunities on the Ballot

Check out the bottom box on the ballot and check off how you're going to participate. Say whether or not your campaign preferences are selected. The proposing groups will continue working together as issue committees if their proposals aren't selected. So sign up to work with other WILPF members for change in your greatest area of concern.

Please note: The Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights campaign did not submit a 2005-2008 proposal. They will pursue their work as an issue committee.

### Key Dates

- January 31, 2005 Ballots due in national office on or before this date, accepted via regular or express mail only (no e-mail or fax).
- February, 2005 Ballots tallied. Founding leadership of selected campaigns and other proposing groups notified.
- March 8, 2005 WILPF National Campaigns for 2005-2008 announced on International Women's Day at press conferences across country.
- August 10-14, 2005 Campaigns launched with fanfare at WILPF 29th Triennial National Congress in San Francisco. Workshops and materials for members to get involved.

# Campaign Proposal: Beloved Community

## PROPOSAL: BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

*Submitted by: WILPF's current Uniting For Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation (UFORJE) Campaign.*

This campaign connects all three major themes of WILPF's work — racial, social and economic justice; radical democracy and peace.

Racism's basis is economic exploitation. This global system is created and maintained by corporate power; military, police and civilian violence; criminalization and imprisonment of impoverished people. Racist propaganda is internalized into the spirits of human beings and ensures that all people unintentionally help maintain the systems that oppress us through obedience, ignorance, silence, etc. No one living created any form of oppression. Racism hurts all people, separates different cultures (especially white people from all others). Racism is built into the foundation of U.S. wealth, the war economy and capitalism through genocide, lies and racist wars, theft of land, slavery, the slave trade, colonialism, and the dehumanization of people who are not Christian, West European and white. It separates people from their ancestors' cultures.

Racism is the key and central issue that needs to be addressed in the world. It oppresses the majority of the world's people, is used in the promotion of wars, in the killing of Black and Brown people in the U.S. through the poverty draft, production and distribution of "illegal" drugs and growth and maintenance of white jobs in the prison industrial complex, as well as the separation and destruction of impoverished families and communities.

Racial justice means that all human beings would have enough food, water, housing, clothing, work, spiritual, creative and cultural activities, education, and self-government. Self-government would include making decisions about our lives including the political, economic and military systems and activities.

Corporations would be small, local entities with limited life spans that do not harm life and the environment, and are subject to the people of the state where they are incorporated. Corporations that break the law would die, i.e., lose their incorporation.

Racial justice requires the complete transformation of U.S. systems, institutions, the U.S. Constitution, laws and relations with life and the universe. The global racial justice movement shifts from a focus on individual racial

prejudice to systemic racism and from anti-racism to (individual and community) healing and racial justice. It requires healing from internalized oppressions and reconciliation work within and between our communities.

UFORJE's racial justice program provides educational information about the history and nature of systemic racism, connections between oppressions, internalized oppressions, and the connections between WILPF's three themes. It deals with the struggles for racial justice and includes information about poverty and people who suffer from racism. It encourages WILPF members, branches, interested organizations and individuals to work in coalition with people concerned about racial, economic, social and justice issues, radical (economic and political) democracy and peace.

### Years One Through Three

UFORJE will provide educational materials about the nature of human beings and the diverse peoples of the U.S., including: American Indians, Africans, Asian-Pacific Islanders, Arabs, Jews, all religions, languages, cultural and ethnic communities, racism and other oppressions. We will also provide educational materials about: the 2001 World Conference Against Racism; the Reparations Movement; workshops on systemic racism; racial, social, economic, gender, sexual justice and peace; WILPF's 2005 Conference. We will also solicit information from WILPF members, advocate for legislation to support justice, economic, political democracy and peace; recruit volunteers; organize support groups to help heal from internalized racism and allies to UFORJE; examine WILPF's internal racism (national to branch level).

Our action plan includes: education, coalition building, legislation, community organizing and use of tax money for human needs. UFORJE will provide information about the UFORJE campaign through WILPF's website, mailings to members, articles in *Peace & Freedom* and the *International Peace Update*.

**Founding Leadership:** The founding leadership team includes: Evelyn Spears, African American (East Lansing, MI); Gwen Braxton, African American (Brooklyn, NY); Barbara Laval, African American (LA, California); Lettie Polite, African American (Asheville, NC); Sha'an Mouliert, African American, (Troy, VT). We will seek additional members from WILPF and other interested people.

# Campaign Proposal: Building Peace in the Middle East

## PROPOSAL: WOMEN CHALLENGE U.S. POLICY BUILDING PEACE ON JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

*Submitted by: WILPF's current Middle East Issue Committee*

Our campaign makes important interconnection with other WILPF campaigns:

**Peace** - We will pinpoint the role of U.S. policy in prolonging conflict in this area, expose weapons sales and nuclear proliferation in the region and develop the concept of dual occupation: Palestine and Iraq.

**Social and economic justice** - We will discuss current threats to racial/ethnic groups and the social and economic costs of occupations.

**Corporations** - We will conduct research on multinational corporate involvement.

### Goals

- Develop membership expertise on U.S. policy on the Middle East, and specifically Israel and Palestine.
- Coordinate and strengthen branch actions, recruit new members.
- Advocate for Israel-Palestine issues to be included on the agenda of U.S. peace and justice organizations; develop resources which will help bridge gaps and build sensitive reactions to differing opinions.
- Focus on U.S. foreign policy, pressing to reactivate the peace process.
- Educate members about nuclear weapons development and globalization of the region.
- Examine and expose the role of the Aerospace industry, the Christian right and Zionist lobby.
- Emphasize Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; the U.N. Decade of Building a Peace Culture; adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (article 6) and other relevant international laws and U.N. resolutions.

### Year One/Research and Education

1. The Leadership Team will dialogue with branches and members-at-large to determine what they are already doing and what they need; and will regularly distribute research packets based on branches' expressed needs.
2. Branches will be assisted in holding study/research or cultural events, inviting women from diverse backgrounds. Goal is 50 percent of branches participating.
3. Branches identify a Middle East Liaison. Goal: 50 percent of branches.
4. Leadership Team identifies four regional coordinators (West Coast, North, South, and East Coast). Members-at-

large may serve as liaisons.

5. Start WILPF Speakers Bureau. Research will identify specific focus for actions. Pilot project will develop.

### Year Two/Evaluate, Refine, and Introduce Legislative Actions

- 1) Organize Legislative Seminar in D.C. Lobbying follows the seminar.
- 2) Branches participate in "Wednesdays in Washington," a program of the U.S. Campaign to End The Occupation.
- 3) Congressional action alerts sent to branch liaisons monthly. Branches develop media skills and share results of their work.
- 4) Actions and involvement with the U.N.
- 5) Work with International WILPF. Invite other WILPF sections to join us in coordinated actions such as standing in front of U.S. Consulates or American bases.

### Year Three

- 1) Develop women's vision for U.S. policy. Develop plan in conjunction with women from the Middle East region.
- 2) Host a National Conference.
- 3) Continue previous actions.

### Relation to International Programs of WILPF

We will coordinate with the International Middle East Committee.

- 1) Disarmament: Examine weapons sales to the Middle East and nuclear weapons development. We will indicate alternatives. Strengthen Middle East peace actions.
- 2) Water and environment: We will study the relationship between the military and the environment, especially the issue of water, its scarcity in the region and its role in wars.
- 3) Global justice: As "A Women's Budget" we will develop material available to branches on developing economic perspectives.

**Follow up:** We will send "report cards" for branches to fill out. We will ask branches for their advice and give them support.

**Founding Leadership:** Pat Hollingsworth and Yvonne Simmons (Portland, OR); Katharina Harlow, a school teacher who speaks, reads and writes Arabic (Monterey, CA); Tura Campanella Cook, who has done thesis research on U.S. arms sales to the Middle East (Austin, TX); Marlene Santoyo, retired teacher (Philadelphia); Barbara Taft, retired teacher (Arizona); Libby Frank, retired Jewish school teacher/administrator and past WILPF National Middle East Committee Chair (Philadelphia); Odile Hugonot Haber, registered ER nurse, present Chair of the U.S. WILPF Middle East Committee (Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti, Michigan).

# Campaign Proposal: **DISARM**

## PROPOSAL: CAMPAIGN FOR A SANE NATIONAL BUDGET CONSISTENT WITH RATIFIED U.N. TREATIES

*Submitted by: WILPF's current DISARM Campaign*

This campaign interconnects all major themes of WILPF's work. All issue committees, campaigns and branches can contribute information for the development of a SANE National Budget. Tools developed by DISARM for legislative lobbying and citizen enforcement of international treaties can be utilized by members working on any other WILPF issues.

DISARM'S long-term goal continues to be a world without war in which the U.N. Charter and international treaties on disarmament are observed, enforced and gradually strengthened.

**Specific Goals** for which DISARM would work in the three-year, short-term include:

- Developing and promoting a SANE National Budget.
- Providing legislative lobby training for WILPF members.
- Bringing the U.S. military budget into compliance with international treaties already ratified by the U.S., including the Bio-Weapons Treaty, the Peaceful Uses of Space Treaty, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Land Mines and Small Arms treaties.
- Promoting ratification of additional important treaties, including the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the International Criminal Court and Bio-Weapons inspection.
- Educating WILPF members and communities on ratified U.N. treaties as U.S. law under our Constitution, and on ways WILPF can work for enforcement.

### Action Plan

DISARM's Action Plan and year-by-year outline of specific steps needed to make progress on achieving our goals are given in detail in the four-page plan sent to branches. Only a brief digest is possible here. DISARM will continue to build on foundations already laid (EYE on Congress, Mil-Corp Manual, Listening training, etc.) but with these new emphases:

- A SANE National Budget: Study and promote Black and Progressive alternative Congressional Budgets. Identify needed military budget cuts and collect WILPF suggestions for alternative allocations. Provide

resources for developing alternative budget proposals and framing "model" legislation. Develop a data base on senators and representatives with WILPF constituents. Use EYE on Congress to encourage visits to local delegations regarding legislation on nuclear weapons, space militarization, bio-defense and other military budget items — always offering SANE budget alternatives. DISARM alternatives can include items like SMART Security and a Department of Peace.

- Consistent with International Treaties: Use materials developed by WILPF member Ann Fagan Ginger to educate ourselves and our communities on the role of U.N. treaties and on citizen actions that can aid enforcement. The potential for this approach is enormous. DISARM will introduce these ideas, materials and tools for use in relation to the U.S. military budget in Congress, but members can adapt them for use with any WILPF issue. A few examples for DISARM include fact sheets and shadow reports to the U.N., city council resolutions, legal suits and citizens inspections.
- Trainings and workshops on branch, regional and national levels to develop both legislative lobbying skills and tools for enforcing U.N. treaties.

In answer to questions about building WILPF branches and organizational capacity, the DISARM team hopes our program can be used to raise funds for an expanded Legislative Office, for a permanent Web Mistress and for visitation to existing and potentially new branches. All are essential to our own program development, but will also benefit all of WILPF. DISARM intends to work closely with WILPF Geneva and U.N. offices and hopes to have a campaign member dealing with disarmament issues on each of the three international working groups.

**Founding Leadership:** Ellen Barfield, DISARM co-chair, (Baltimore); Carol Urner, DISARM co-chair (Portland, OR and Los Angeles); Yoshiko Ikuta, Board Representative (Cleveland); Pat Birnie (Tucson); Val Mullen (Vermont); Yvonne Logan (St Louis, MO);

MacGregor Eddy (Monterey County, CA). We've asked Ann Fagan Ginger of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute (San Francisco) to be a consultant. Three others are already joining our team as members or consultants, and we welcome more.

### A CLICK AWAY

The full text of each proposal is available at [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org). Copies of the full proposals were mailed to branches in the October quarterly packet. Activities and resources developed by the three current campaigns which submitted proposals for 2005-2008 are also on the website.

# Campaign Proposal: Water

## PROPOSAL: SAVE THE WATER

*Submitted by: WILPF's Berkeley/East Bay Branch*

Save the Water not only interconnects all three of the WILPF's major themes but, because water is a critical issue with every community in the country, it has the potential of being an exciting outreach opportunity for WILPF. The idea for this campaign grew out of the forum on water at the recent International Congress and is in keeping with WILPF's international goals and initiatives.

**Peace:** U.S. foreign policy wages wars for oil. But U.S. residents are actually more dependent upon (and use more) water than oil. As the scarcity continues and privatization of water increases, U.S. foreign policy will include waging wars for water. Therefore, taking community control of our water is in the interest of peace. By addressing the water issues, we also challenge the weapons industry—a major polluter of water.

**Racial, social and economic justice:** The availability and distribution of water is becoming divided according to class and race in the U.S. Buying up the water from a community and selling it back to them at higher prices is often an example of environmental racism. The bottled water industry exploits the water resources of many communities in the U.S. and abroad, and markets it at great profit.

**Radical democracy:** This campaign is the embodiment of radical grassroots democracy. Given that every person, family and community needs and has a right to water and that the sources and availability of water differ from community to community, the protection and use of water is a community issue. We will campaign branch by branch and community by community.

Our long-term goal is to become catalysts and stewards of a national “take back the water” movement through the education and mobilization of our communities to take responsibility for the quality, availability and cost of their own water.

**Year One:** Set up branch Water Research and Planning Committees to research the condition of water in each community regarding ownership, cost, pollution, condition of infrastructure, conservation and availability now and in the future; including the impact of trade agreements on the ability of local communities to maintain democratic control of their own water. The committee

will record and collate all information gathered about water resources and conditions, and develop media release formats and educational pamphlets and fliers for distribution later. Local experts from public agencies and environmental watchdog groups will give short presentations at branch meetings. The branch, with help from regional leaders, will develop a fundraising campaign to pay for projected costs.

**Year Two:** The committee and each community will define their own most urgent problems and strategies for addressing them. Community education campaigns (in collaboration with other public and nonprofit organizations) might include: forums, debates, events, speaking engagements for branch members in public school classrooms, retirement, community and civic centers. We will also foster communications and meetings with local, state and nationally elected representatives.

**Year Three:** Mobilize community response. Coordinate with other community service organizations and environmental groups to develop direct actions that challenge corporate ownership and polluters, and pursue progressive water management and legislative action.

**Action Plan: Membership:** Send out an announcement (including a questionnaire) about the campaign to all active and inactive members, inviting them to participate in the Water Research and Planning Committee. The purpose of the questionnaire is to gather community input, find experts in the field and do outreach.

The announcement should be also sent to biology, environmental studies and women's studies departments (emphasizing that water is a women's issue), PTAs, day care centers, etc. Most communities are inhabited by people of various economic classes and various ethnicities. All people are affected by the condition and availability of water. Therefore, it should be possible to pull in new, multicultural women from the local communities by merit of the issue itself.

All the start-up and subsequent printed materials and notices to all branches will be channeled through the national office.

**Founding Leadership:** Jacqueline P. Fields (Cape Cod, MA); Yoshiko Ikuta and Linda Park (Cleveland, Ohio); Nancy Price (Sacramento, CA) and Laura Santana (Berkeley/East Bay, CA). The team is a combination of newer and long-time members of WILPF and has the expertise, dedication and passion necessary for the campaign.

# Campaign Proposal: Cuba

## PROPOSAL: WILPF CUBA CAMPAIGN

*Submitted by: WILPF's current Women and Cuba Campaign*

Since 1992, U.S.-Cuba policy has grown from a single issue for WILPF to a national campaign. In the context of the post-9/11 world and a U.S. policy of pre-emptive invasion of countries deemed "threatening," this campaign needs to continue. The U.S. has declared the intent of bringing about a "regime change" in Cuba and is actively engaged in implementing that policy.

The WILPF Cuba Campaign is more comprehensive than a single issue. It interconnects the themes of WILPF's national and international work. It is a popular way for local members and branches to "think globally, act locally" as evidenced by the WILPF-driven, U.S.-Cuba sister cities program, legislative advocacy, media activism, petitions, demonstrations, cultural events, conferences, study groups, bilateral exchanges and the many WILPF members serving in leadership groups, such as the National Network on Cuba, U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration and the U.S. Cuba Sister City Association.

The Cuba Campaign offers immediate ways to address WILPF's major themes: peace; racial, social, and economic justice; and radical democracy. Cuba is the only country in this hemisphere that the U.S. has on its list of "nations that support terrorism." The Bush administration has executed a dramatic change in U.S. policy through stealth and placed U.S.-Cuba relations into crisis without alarming the public. While our eyes have been focused on the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, the Bush administration is financing subversives to create social destabilization, provocatively flying U.S. military planes over Cuba's air space, and has imposed a lockdown on travel, information, humanitarianism, and even family support.

Dr. Wayne Smith, former head of U.S. Interests Section in Havana, says the current Cuba policy "is clearly a precursor for U.S. occupation." This is not solely about Cuba. The U.S. policy of pre-emptive invasion, if executed in Cuba as in Afghanistan and Iraq, could be disastrous for peace in Latin America.

We have much to learn from Cuba about racial, social, and economic justice. Cuba has eliminated institutional racism. Cuba identifies itself as "Afro-Caribbean" and claims its national identity from those brought by slavery rather than from its colonial European heritage. Cuba is a society based on equity,

with free education and universal health care — including full reproductive rights. Cuba offers a model of an empowered citizenry setting social priorities.

The majority of U.S. residents want a different Cuba policy. Cuba is the only country in the world to which U.S. citizens are forbidden by law to travel. Congress has repeatedly voted to amend U.S. policy. However, our fundamental rights have been held hostage by non-democratic extremists within the Bush administration.

### Major Goals

Our goal in the next three years is to change the direction of U.S. policy — both the policy of pre-emptive war and the current policy toward Cuba. This would end the economic embargo and open the possibilities of more effective solidarity with our sisters to the south. We can achieve this goal if John Kerry has been elected in November 2004. Our long-term goal, intermediate goals, and action plans will be completely different depending on which administration is in office when the WILPF campaigns are selected.

If we are working with a Kerry administration, our approach will be to ensure the U.S. repudiates pre-emptive war and deconstructs the Cuba embargo through administrative and legislative action. We will resume sponsoring delegations to and from Cuba, and we will work to apply the lessons of the Cuban Revolution to create a more just and equitable society in the U.S.

If we are dealing with a Bush administration, we will be participating in litigation, legislative advocacy, demonstrations and other avenues to avert what we believe could be a military confrontation.

In either scenario, we will be very involved in International WILPF's "Women's Conference in Cuba" slated for 2006. We will be centrally involved in the planning and fundraising for this huge undertaking and its implementation.

**Founding Leadership:** Cindy Domingo (Seattle, WA); Mary Bricker (Philadelphia, PA); Peggy Edwards (Santa Barbara, CA); Tammy James (Wichita, KS); Victoria Kill (Seattle, WA); Lisa Valanti (Pittsburgh, PA). Most are active members of branches; all are long-time members of WILPF and leaders of organizations in the Cuba solidarity movement. Two are Asian American and three are under 30. The leadership team will be expanded with a call to recruit interested members, especially women of color and young women.

# Water, Women and War

Laura Santina

Water was the biggest buzz at the 2004 Women's International League of Peace and Freedom Congress in the little town of Kungälv, Sweden. Who has it? Who needs it? Who does it belong to? Is it clean enough to drink? Are we running out of it? Will it be the next excuse for war? During the week-long conference, which included official reports from twelve countries, over 300 sisters from 31 countries discussed the condition, distribution and availability of water in their own countries.

There was no question that water is a women's issue. Classically, women are responsible for, and in some countries actually fetch and carry, the water used in households because they do the washing, cleaning, cooking and the bathing of children. The more members learned about the scarcity and misuse of today's water, the higher the steam did rise. Indeed, over the course of the Congress, the picture of world's water took on a grim and dangerous face.

A dramatic shift came with the 1991 U.N. decision — muscled by international corporations and the World Trade Organization — to define water as a human need instead of a human right, meaning it could be bought and sold for profit by private companies. Every WILPF delegate I spoke with disagreed with the U.N. position. Water, they agreed, was the earth's most precious resource and a human right, meaning that all people must have equal access to it on a not-for-profit basis. Late in 2002 the U.N. revised its position and said water was "a human right," however the corporations have already moved into the water market and aren't about to let go just because the U.N. has changed its decision. In spite of the eternal floods and droughts, water was taken for granted by most of world's people until the exploding 21st century demands of population growth, pollution, industrialization, militarization and privatization created the current critical scarcity. The Congress learned from WILPF women in developing nations that the high-yield genetically engineered seeds, developed by the U.S. and forced upon their farmers, had actually created an irrigation catastrophe. Indigenous, drought-resistant crops were replaced with crops that required more water. Rivers began to dry up before reaching the ocean. The previous sustainable irrigation methods were replaced with deep wells and large dams were built to compensate for the lack of water, at a rate of two a day for the last 50 years.

"Sixty-three hundred people in the world die every day from lack of water," announced Regina Birchem, the

newly-elected president of International WILPF.

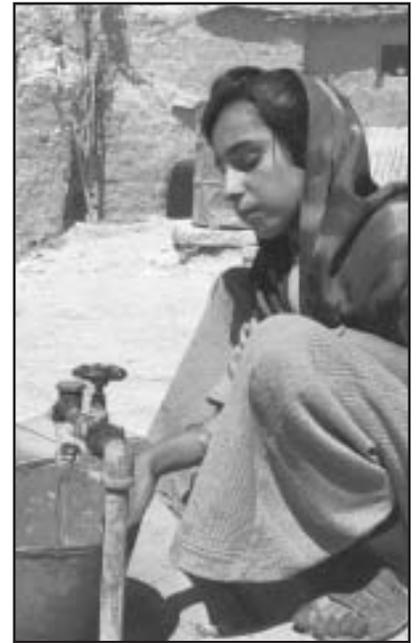
Bolivian delegate Katty Patiño said that "Only three out of five people in my country have access to safe drinking water. The lack of clean water is one of the major causes of our infant mortality and disease." She held up a jar containing water from her home. It was half filled with dirt.

Several presenters confirmed that pollution by industry, herbicides and insecticides is creating serious illnesses such as cancer and birth defects in many countries. "Our rivers, lakes, the surface water and the underground water are 94 percent contaminated," said Leticia Paul de Flores from El Salvador. "There is a completely uncontrolled construction. Industry pollutes our rivers."

There is a high instance of mortality because the contaminated waters are especially dangerous in areas where people have reduced immune systems due to HIV/AIDS. Reports from several countries indicated a critical shortage of safe water in the cities and the rural areas, particularly in the countryside. Liss Schanke reported that cholera, typhoid fever and diarrhea are prevalent in Tanzania, a condition echoed by several other speakers, again due to lack of safe water.

Though there was no official presenter on water from the U.S., the problems there were addressed in continued discussions. In addition to overuse of water, one devastating problem is radioactive waste from years of plutonium production used to build nuclear weapons which is now invading U.S. rivers and streams. Overuse of water was also seen as a problem in Australia, where the average citizen consumes more water than anyone else in the world.

"Just as we fought wars over oil, so will we fight wars over water," was the threatening mantra hanging over the Congress. Dr. Shusma Pankule of India did confirm, "We have disputes with Pakistan on one side and with China on the other over water." Israel has "stolen the Palestinian water" and is selling it back to them at prices they cannot afford," reported Aliyah Strauss of



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# The Gertrude Baer Seminar: An Intimate Forum for Peace

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*Emma Young*

**T**his summer I attended my first International WILPF Congress and participated in the Gertrude Baer seminar.

I am quite an inexperienced WILPFer. Following my mother's example, I joined my local branch about a year ago and have attended meetings and assisted with the most recent project — public discussion sessions on corporate issues. The Congress seemed an exciting opportunity to learn about WILPF at the larger level, meet members from around the world and expand my knowledge of the issues and possible solutions. After deciding to go to Sweden, I enrolled in the Gertrude Baer seminar which is designed to give young women a chance to meet, form networks, discuss their experience as young



**The author, left, with Nirmala Sitaula of Nepal at the Congress in Sweden.**

members of WILPF, and potentially communicate something to the rest of the organization. In the end, meeting the other young women in the seminar was the best part of the experience for me. We came from a dozen different countries and created a wonderful chemistry in a short time. The seminar provided the kind of intimate forum for discussion lacking in the larger Congress activities, and its flexible format and goals provided for more spontaneous exchange than the committees. The first two days we were presented with some useful information about WILPF. The second half was mainly left to us to structure, and besides holding interesting discussions among ourselves we decided to create a presentation for the rest of the Congress. Our presentation focused on issues of multilingualism in the organization, funding, communication, Security Council Resolution 1325, and making new members feel welcome. As a group, we made commitments and suggestions on these topics. I was greatly pleased by how our presentation went. After the stress of putting it together

in such a short time, it was gratifying not only to see it happen, but to feel that we established a dialogue with the rest of the organization through a lively Q&A session.

While I had some good encounters with people at other Congress events, on the whole I was disappointed to find that there was little time for personal exchange, and that organizational problems rather than broader issues or solutions tended to push to the fore.

An organizational difficulty common to many sections seemed to be weak recruitment/retention. I would address this issue by encouraging sections to consider new (and young) members not as “the future” but as “the present,” and to accept them as full partners. It is all too common for WILPF sections to consist of a tight core group, which while eager for newcomers finds it difficult to actually make adjustments for them once they join. Several women in the seminar expressed frustration with this. I believe even a simple shift in emphasis from “How do we hold onto them?” to “What can we do with our new dynamic?” may make retention a less thorny problem.

WILPF appears to be in a phase of questioning its identity. I encourage all members to consider how feminist, how hierarchical or cellular, and how political an organization they want this to be. My impression of WILPF is that it's an organization with a strong reputation and political slant, but it has weak communication and coordination internationally, and a rather weak hierarchical structure.

It would also behoove us to strengthen our environmental consciousness as an organization. Future congress meetings and IEC gatherings are opportunities for us to experiment with more sustainable practices. Plastic cups could be replaced with ceramics, conventional coffee with fairly traded coffee. If were too difficult/expensive as a policy, members could be encouraged to bring their own, or to make voluntary contributions towards partial replacement.

Finally, cross-fertilization is important. We all need to recommit to keeping touch with our fellow members, regionally, nationally and internationally.

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*Emma Young is a member of the Bloomington, Indiana WILPF branch and recently began her freshman year at Indiana University.*

# Notes from a Peace

## Veteran

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*Robin Lloyd*  
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There's something cool about being a member of an international organization — one that is almost 90 years old. This summer I attended the 28th Triennial Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom near Gotenberg, Sweden, and experienced a total immersion in the glories and frustrations of global feminism.

I joined WILPF 15 years ago. My grandmother was one of the many founding mothers of the organization, which started during World War 1.

Attending the congress was a wonderful opportunity to get to know my sisters, and hear from feminists around the world how the "War Against Terror" is affecting them and their communities.

We debated and accepted a comprehensive Program and Plan of Action for the next three years — "Economic and Social Justice, Respect for the Environment and Building a Culture of Peace" — and elected a new slate of officers: a president, four vice-presidents (geographically apportioned) and a treasurer. We said thank you, but not goodbye, to our outgoing President, Krishna Ahooja-Patel.

I asked several of our new officers to tell me what set them on the path of social activism. Why were they committed to leading this idealistic band of women against the scourges of war, racism and poverty?

In her acceptance speech, President Regina Birchem explained her reasons for joining WILPF. She was working as a post-doctoral assistant at Washington University in St. Louis, and one night "was attacked on the street, by someone with a knife at my throat. After that I started having nightmares." A professor at the university suggested that joining a women's group that fought against violence might help her, and he said the best one he knew of was WILPF. So she did. The nightmares stopped some time thereafter.

Vice-president Annelise Ebbe listed fear as a goad to activism. A 49-year-old translator from Denmark, she said, "When I was a child every house got a leaflet entitled "What if War Comes?" I got so afraid. Later I started working in the campaign against nuclear weapons." Handing out leaflets door to door, she realized that when a woman opened the door she often said "I'll call my husband." She realized that women might agree with her but that they were afraid to say so in front of their husbands. "This was the first time I made the connection



**Left to right:** U.S. WILPF Board member Robin Lloyd, former International President Ahooja-Patel and U.S. WILPF member Ellie Bluestein at Congress.

between women's equality and peace work." She joined WILPF prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

For some, peace or justice activism seems genetic. Dulcy de Silva, a 71-year-old vice president from Sri Lanka became a spokeswoman for justice in her high school. On August 12, 1953, she remembers, the price for a measure of rice was raised from 25 to 75 cents across the country. She was 19 and recently married, but she led the protest of women. They sat on the road stopping traffic. "We sang, and cooked. The following day the government dissolved." With her four children now grown, she is actively involved in the peace movement in her country.

Vice-president Samira Khoury, from Lebanon, had the saddest story. "At eight years old I became aware of my mother's pain," she said. She came from a middle class Palestinian family living in Jerusalem. It wasn't the departure from their home in April of 1948 that she remembers, after all, they were expecting to be gone for only a few days; it was her mother's sadness in the days that followed. They were refugees in Jordan but well off enough not to have to live in a camp. "Some landowners who invited my mother to visit said to her 'May God spare you as a refugee,' as if it were a stigma or something. My mother would come home crying." She paused, and shifted gears from the personal to the political. "Is there a worse doom than being a refugee? This pain, this suffering, I want to spare my people." Samira is a professor at the American University in Beirut. Her goal is to assemble a book titled *In Time of War, Women Wage Peace*.

Out of 250 women attending the congress this summer, 60 were from the U.S. Coming from the richest country in the world, more of us could afford to attend than could members from other countries. As feminists,

*Continued on next page* ➤

# A Newcomer's View

*Amy Kwasnicki, Development Director*

I first became aware of WILPF in 2000 when I moved to Philadelphia. In October of 2001, I began working for the U.S. Section. Attending the Congress in Sweden this past August was not only my first opportunity to experience International WILPF, but also my first trip out of the U.S. As a relatively new member of WILPF, as well as being a relatively new staff member of the U.S. Section, and given that at 30 years old I am still a “youth” within WILPF, it was very interesting to experience WILPF at this unique international gathering.

I was deeply heartened to see the diversity of WILPF and to be surrounded by women who were not all white, older or relatively well off. While WILPF's history is that of an organization founded in 1915 by women who were, in comparison, privileged in the society of their times and primarily from the West, this is not what WILPF looks like almost 90 years later. From having breakfast with members in our Lebanese section, having lunch with our delegates from Sierra Leone and sharing dinner with members from both Japan and French Polynesia, I realized that my experiences of the U.S. Section have only given me a fraction of a view of what the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom represents.

As a “youth” I was also honored to participate in some of the Gertrude Baer Seminar, where I got to experience the dynamic force that is the young women of WILPF. This was one of my most deeply valued experiences, sitting in the seminar and listening to the stories of the work that WILPF is doing for peace amongst women my own age and younger.

As a staff person for the U.S. Section, my role is that of development director, which means fund-raising. In my time in Sweden, therefore, I spent a great deal of my

evenings in the Standing Finance Committee meetings, and as much as I was heartened by the social aspects of the Congress, it was disheartening to realize not only how few resources the U.S. Section has, but also that we are “rich” compared to many of our other Sections. WILPF has never been an organization with a lot of money, but this situation continues to be a challenge.

And yet I saw exhibitions of so much wealth at Congress! The number of people attending from the U.S. was higher than from any other section; many were sent by their branches or came by their own means. It was difficult to explain to our international sisters that we as a section do not have many resources when there were so many attendees from our section.

How do you explain to representatives from the world that your section does not have enough resources to stop or at least slow the force of global destruction that is U.S. policy, and yet your individual members and branches seem so wealthy?

How do you explain the U.S. Section has no endowment or reserves and has to struggle week-to-week to meet its basic responsibilities, like paying our international assessment, when you are surrounded by people whose branches are endowed, have reserves and have paid for branch members to come to Sweden?

As I continue to work for WILPF, my goals are to see us behave in a more unified fashion and work together to build the U.S. Section and the entire organization. If the building of WILPF became a priority of every member, think what we could achieve! Being in the Gertrude Baer seminar, realizing the deep commitment and loyalty these “young” women felt to the vision of WILPF, I felt my commitment to build this organization strengthened. ❖

## ▶ A VETERAN

*from previous page*

it's painful to see that inequality exists within our organization. Many beat the drums to raise money for scholarships for women from developing sections. It was thrilling to meet women from Nepal, Bolivia, India and Japan who are actively involved in the struggles against militarism in their countries.

*Robin Lloyd is a member of the WILPF National Board. She can be reached at: robinlloyd@greenvalleymedia.org.*

This article originally appeared in *Vermont Woman*.



**In spite of the rain and winds, Baltimore WILPF branch members, right to left, Linda Brown, Susan De Francesco and Edith Ballard set up a booth for the Baltimore City Book Fair in September.**

# Personal Reflections on Six Years of WILPF Adventures

Joyce McLean

**M**y first hour in Sweden at WILPF's Congress this summer was spent standing on a verandah at the folk high school, overlooking the impressive ruins of a defunct and decaying fortress.

The view made me realize that wars do end, and where once three enemies fought there was now peace. I found myself thinking, "Someday, would there be such a view at Vandenberg?"

Suddenly, the peace was rudely broken by the sight and sound of three hot air balloons being launched in front of us. One by one they blasted into sight and rose over the dead castle. My six years as the U.S. Section Representative to WILPF's International Executive Committee (IEC) have been an equally lofty, though not so noisy, adventure.

Diplomacy and tact are always needed when one is the delegate from the "richest" and "biggest" section. Our influence is encouraged, yet sometimes resented. Our land is not loved among peacemakers anywhere, and sometimes even our WILPF sisters forget that we women struggle as they do to change our country's politics.

I would like to think that my contributions to the IEC and Leadership Development Committee outweigh my failures. I do believe that some of my efforts have contributed to the positive note that Congress ended on — with its new officer slate, programs on women and water, plans for a Cuba Conference and the ever-widening pool of wise and committed volunteers.

Those who helped with fundraising to send our sisters to the Congress should note that three Latin American women who took important roles at the meeting were there because of your donations. The whole organization benefited, and hopefully this will lead to the proper, permanent arrangements we need to keep us as truly international as we wish to be.



Women from Iran spoke at Congress and met with members of the Israel WILPF Section.

Photo: Ellie Bluestein

We cannot work for justice and peace effectively if we neglect our finances in Philadelphia or Geneva. Creative fundraising has to be a routine part of our political lives. WILPF is here between the wars and between elections, and I want it to continue to be so.

Despite our enormous challenges, I rejoice in the large number of peace and justice workers who volunteer their energies and experiences to making WILPF more vigorous and effective worldwide. Many do their work in the most difficult of circumstances.

The opportunity to meet and work with such a beautiful collection of brave, wise women has enriched my life immeasurably. I thank my U.S. WILPF sisters for allowing me this gift.

*Joyce McLean recently finished her term as U.S. section member on WILPF's IEC. She can be reached at: [jmclean@jps.net](mailto:jmclean@jps.net).*

## WILPF GATHERS IN SWEDEN

More than 300 women from 31 countries gathered in Sweden this past summer for the 28th International Congress. WILPF's 90th anniversary will be celebrated in 2005 at the WILPF U.S. Congress in San Francisco, August 10-14.

**Left to right:** Board member Tammy James, Carolina Amador Perez of Cuba, Board member Cindy Domingo and Executive Director Mary Day Kent in Sweden.



# Setting the Stage for WILPF's Plan of Action

Regina Birchem, International President

[Scene: Table at an antiwar rally; two women in purple T-shirts — one wearing a hat, the other holding her small daughter. A curious young woman approaches the table.]

Young woman: Hi! What's WILPF?

Women at table: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Young woman: What do you do?

Women at table: Work for peace.

Young woman: How?

Woman with hat: (Pause. Deep breath.) We stop wars (well, try to), get rid of weapons, clean up the mess after war and making weapons; defend human rights; work against racism and oppression; work for women's rights and protection in war and in peace, in refugee camps, in court, on the streets and on the job; want to eliminate poverty; work for fair trade, fair wages, fair courts; spend a lot of time at the United Nations, want to democratize the Security Council, want to get a few more women diplomats; we sing at demonstrations and organize protests against the World Bank, the IMF, and the WTO; don't want corporations controlling our lives; organize meetings with women all over the world; stand with Indigenous Peoples to protect their rights and land; want to clean up test sites in French Polynesia, Nevada, Vieques — and we don't want any weapons in space either.

Woman with baby daughter: And we want good water everyone can afford and clean toilets, food and air that doesn't make you ill and a safe place for children, trees and animals to live.

Young woman: Cool!

WILPF's greatest challenge as an organization and one of its most appealing characteristics is that it makes the connections on what constitutes a peaceful world that is fair for everyone. To conceptualize a plan of how we do that requires multi-dimensional thinking. Freedom, peace, justice and fairness constitute essentials of a dynamic, organic, ecologically balanced, global vision of the meaning of human security.

As Cynthia Peters wrote in "Talking Back To Chomsky" (in answer to the question "What shall we do?" *Z-Net*, April 27, 2004): "Without a vision you can't have a strategy, and without a strategy, you won't really get anywhere."

We work on the vision while we develop the strate-

gy. What kind of world do we want? What models do the many cultures offer? What kind of trade? What kind of development? What relationship to other living things, the waters, air, soils of the Earth is required?

## WILPF'S International Program and Plan of Action 2004-2007

Our organization is diverse not only in its goals and objectives but also in membership. Our program should make sense to everyone in this politically diverse, culturally rich, financially strained association of women from the North and from the South, from colonized and from colonizing countries, from war-torn countries and from countries that make war.

Our Program is entitled "Economic and Social Justice, Respect for the Environment — the Foundation of Peace." We propose a framework for Building a Culture of Peace that encompasses three main areas:

I. Peace and Security — Disarmament and Demilitarization

II. Environmental Sustainability

III. Global Economic and Social Justice

This Program and Plan of Action for International WILPF will help us coordinate our work in our sections around the world, indicate how we can work together, strengthen your work at home by making international connections, assist our committees and involve the many persons in WILPF with special expertise and interests, help us find the human and financial resources we need, and work closely with our staff.

How can you contribute your suggestions and spectacular ideas for program, action and resources? You can write a One Page Proposal: state the objective or goal, rationale or why it should be done, how, by whom, how much it might cost and source of funds. (Until we have a permanent full time director in the Geneva office, you can send this to me at: Regina.Birchem@wilpf.ch.)

## Evaluation and Assessment of our Plan of Action

A *New York Times* section on food had a story recently in which a woman was describing how she made her amazing pot roast. She starts by cutting off the ends of the roast. When asked why she did that, she said it is how her mother did it. When the mother was asked why she cut off the ends of the roast, she said it was how her mother did it. When the grandmother was asked, she

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# Is Water an Issue Between Israel and Palestine?

*Editor's Note:* This interview was conducted at the WILPF Congress in Sweden. U.S. WILPF member Laura Santina interviewed Aliyah Strauss, head of WILPF's Israel Section, who was also a presenter at the Congress Forum on Water.

**Santina:** Aliyah, what are the primary sources of water for the West Bank?

**Strauss:** There is a mountain aquifer to the east, the ridge that runs down from Lebanon toward Sinai in the south. The ridge is a watershed and the rain that falls on the ridge runs east and west and fills the mountain aquifer. Most of it is under the West Bank.

**Santina:** Is the water under the West Bank distributed equitably?

**Strauss:** No. Since 1967 Israel has been using that water for its own uses even though most of it is in Palestine. The mountain aquifer is the one that concerns me and many other Israelis because it runs along the mountains and through the occupied territory. The majority of the rains fall on the mountains in the occupied territory — the West Bank. The water belongs to the Palestinians.

However, 80 percent of the Occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip renewable water resources are used by Israel. In Hebron alone, 30 liters are allocated per Palestinian and 300 liters per Israeli settler. Three million Palestinians are allowed to use 250 million cubic meters per year, but six million Israelis enjoy 2.0 billion cubic meters.

Large concentrations of Israeli settlements are right on top of artesian wells. Many, many of the settlers are religious U.S. immigrants.

**Santina:** We heard from Awwad Nariman [of WILPF's Palestine section] that many Palestinian people have water only three days a week. She said that every summer Palestinians suffer the severe consequences due to lack of access to water, such as outbreaks of diseases.

**Strauss:** Israel has taken control of Palestinian water, is siphoning it away and then selling some back to them at 10 times the rates they sell it to the Israelis, rates they cannot afford. Many Palestinians, especially those in refugee camps, don't even have pipes for water. What pipes they do have are old and leaking. Israel has done nothing to improve the water system in 37 years of occupation.

**Santina:** Does Sharon's wall affect water distribution?

**Strauss:** Very much so. If you compare Sharon's maps of a wall drawn up long ago — before the first Intifada — when he was an Army General and Minister of Housing, you will see exactly the same wall. It winds through Palestinian villages separating them from their land and water. Sharon's government says this wall is about security, but many people believe that it is really about taking control of the land and water resources.

**Santina:** How strong is the Israeli peace movement today?

**Strauss:** Before the 2002 Intifada began we had broad support, but we lost many people, "the disappointed Left," we call them. We need more support from people in the United States. It is not the Palestinian people who are against peace. If they had a ray of hope of living normal lives, the extremist movement would reduce and be naturally contained.

**Santina:** Do you feel safe in Israel? Do you worry about the safety of your family?

**Strauss:** I moved to Israel when I was 22 years old, just married. I don't think about being safe or unsafe. My five grandchildren in Jerusalem don't go on buses alone. Their parents drive them.

**Santina:** How do you envision the future?

**Strauss:** A few years ago, I would say, "It will get worse before it gets better." I don't dare say that now. France and Germany are neighbors, Canada and the United States are cousins, the Scandinavian countries are sisters and Israel and Palestine are Siamese twins: either both live or both die. There's no way to get around that.



Edith Ballantyne in New York at WILPF's 89th anniversary celebration this spring at the U.N.

Photo: Theta Pavis

# Corporate Personhood on the Silver Screen

Molly Morgan

Have you seen *The Corporation* yet? This Canadian-made documentary is sweeping North America and beyond. Kirsten Lambertsen, a member of the leadership team for the Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights campaign, successfully negotiated with the U.S. distributors of the film to allow WILPF to coordinate all the tabling in the country. As a result, WILPFers throughout the United States have had an unprecedented opportunity to do outreach in their communities:

- tabling in more than three dozen cities (as of Labor Day) with the number growing every week
- gathering thousands of signatures in support of the Declaration to Abolish Corporate Personhood
- handing out thousands of WILPF's brochure, "Why Do Corporations Have More Rights Than People?"
- inspiring people to start study groups using WILPF's Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Right discussion materials
- working closely with Global Exchange, the Alliance for Democracy, ReclaimDemocracy.org, Democracy

Unlimited of Humboldt County, and Amnesty International.

*The Corporation* educates people about the many problems of abusive corporate power – destruction of the environment, alienation of society, muzzling journalism, stifling democracy, amoral pursuit of wealth at all costs – to name but a few. The film describes the legal existence of corporate personhood, asking "what kind of person is it?" and answering: a psychopath. People interviewed include not only Noam Chomsky, Michael Moore, and WILPF's own Mary Zepernick, but also corporate operatives whose unapologetic explanation of their own behavior is astonishing in its exposé of the corporate agenda. Audiences emerge from the theater enraged, shocked, and ready to take action!

*The Corporation* is waking up hundreds of thousands of people to the issues WILPF has been working on for years. If you haven't seen it yet, don't miss it! We've set up a website, [www.corporatepersonhood.org](http://www.corporatepersonhood.org), that links to the WILPF website and lists cities where this documentary is showing. The DVD is due out in the spring of 2005, including supplementary material that WILPF has been invited to help furnish.

Molly Morgan is a member of the Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights Campaign. Reach her at: [morganm@spsc.edu](mailto:morganm@spsc.edu).

# UFORJE at Congress

Gwen Braxton

Despite ongoing global systemic racism — and the many movements pushing for racial justice — racism and racial justice were not originally on the agenda at this summer's International WILPF Congress in Sweden.

Joyce McLean and Annelise Ebbe helped put racial justice on the Congress agenda. The Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation Campaign (UFORJE) presented a workshop on "Building the Beloved Community: From Systemic Racism to Racial Justice."

Some 14 people participated in our workshop, nine from the United States, four from Europe and one from Canada. I was one of two Black women attending the workshop; there were no other people of color present. I distributed copies of UFORJE's systemic racism article, the racialized class chart and the reparations brochure. People who did not participate in our workshop stated afterwards that they'd heard excellent reports about it.

We recommended that WILPF International make racial justice work a permanent part of WILPF work from the international to the branch level. WILPF

International Congress accepted our proposal to become an Issue Committee in order to address racism within WILPF and within the world. This committee is responsible for:

- finding out what work the sections have done about systemic racism, unaware racism and/or racial justice since the founding of each group
- reviewing all racism and racial justice documents previously produced by WILPF and making them available to all branches and sections, and
- implementing activities to make racial justice a priority in all WILPF programs.

We will communicate with branches and sections to determine whether there are materials that have been developed by WILPF International or sections that may be helpful. The Committee is open for additional members.

Gwen Braxton is a member WILPF's Board and a member of the UFORJE Campaign. She can be reached at [visionstoreality@juno.com](mailto:visionstoreality@juno.com).



# Women: World Peacemakers for the 21st Century

*Cindy Domingo and Tammy James*

The Cuban people realize that the outcome of our presidential election may mean the difference between a U.S. military invasion and the lifting of some of the 44-year-old U.S. blockade. Following the leadership of the U.S. Cuban American exile community, President George Bush has further antagonized relations between the two countries, implementing policies that have increased economic and political hardship for the Cuban people.

In April 2004, the Bush administration released its latest economic and political policies towards Cuba with the 500-page "Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba." Under these policies, \$36 million will be funneled to various sectors in Cuba including labor, women and youth for the explicit purposes of organizing dissent within Cuban society. Already, the Bush administration has curtailed almost all legal travel by U.S. citizens as a means of halting the flow of tourist dollars to Cuba. And in an effort to isolate Cuba globally, the United States has orchestrated resolutions within the United Nations bodies hoping to obtain condemnation of Cuba's human rights record.

Ironically, despite the administration's zeal to please a handful of Cuban exile leaders, the Cuban American community has become the most vocal critic of these policies because of the disproportionate impact on their families. In the past, the Cuban American community had been lulled into complacency as their interests seemed to be served by the Bush administration, but the current U.S. policies limit money and goods that families can send to their relatives in Cuba. They also restrict travel to Cuba to once every three years, with absolutely no exceptions.

Cuba remains on the U.S. list of terrorist nations. If the Bush administration is re-elected, it will be up to us to stop the "War on Terrorism" from extending into Cuba. The current international crisis, particularly in relationship to the worldwide "War on Terrorism," demands that women assert their roles as peacekeepers to develop just and peaceful international relations amongst the people of the world

With this in mind, a proposal to hold an international women's peace conference in Cuba in 2006 was adopted at the WILPF Congress in Sweden. The conference will take place in Havana, Cuba in order to highlight the 44-year-old war of terrorism that the U.S. has waged against the Cuban people. The conference will highlight

the advances of Cuban women in their struggle for equality and show how the Cuban people are showing that another world is possible through their advances in healthcare, education and technology. It will provide a forum in which women from around the world will be able to learn from each other, share their experiences and work to develop strategies for change. The objectives of the conference are:

- Education: To increase awareness of the disproportional impact of war on women; to become more informed about the positive history of women crossing borders to make peace and refusing to be separated by national barriers; to highlight and continue WILPF's role in bringing diverse women together.
- Networking: To provide an opportunity for women from around the world to share stories and make connections across movements and borders that will strengthen the worldwide women's movement.
- Leadership Development: To increase the prominence of women in policymaking as mandated in U.N. Resolution 1325, by sharing strategies and tactics used around the world, with a particular focus on women in the Americas.
- Policy Change: To change policies that perpetuate division and injustice by mobilizing women from many nations.
- Media/Public Information: To achieve a solid action plan to work toward amplifying women's voices in all media and public information.

With U.S. intervention occurring globally as we have seen in Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti and the increasing desire by the Bush administration to provoke violence in Cuba, this is not about any one country. This is the modern face of imperialism. Only massive pressure from internal U.S. forces can reverse this policy of preemptive war. WILPF must continue its work in alliance with other progressive forces to reverse this disastrous trend, and re-establish international conflict resolution through restoration of diplomatic engagement and through the United Nations. Working together we must defend the sovereignty and self-determination of Cuba and other nations.

*Cindy Domingo and Tammy James are both members of the WILPF Board and members of the Cuba Campaign. They can be reached at: yoson66@yahoo.com and tsjames@att.net.*

# DISARM: Dismantle the War Economy Campaign

Carol Reilley Urner

Complimentary copies of WILPF's new *A Space for Peace* video have gone to all branches. This introduction to U.S. "global domination through military control of the space program," seen through the eyes of 22-year-old filmmaker Daniel Reilley, should prove excellent for classroom use, organizational showings, coffee houses and public access TV. It was produced by MacGregor Eddy (a WILPF member and Global Network anti-Star Wars activist) and may be freely reproduced. Copies (DVD and video) as well as a discussion guide and other resources, are available from the national office for \$10.

DISARM is also providing every branch with a complimentary copy of the newly revised Mil-Corp ConneXion Manual. The team has begun presenting it to branches — as well as at a variety of international gatherings — and will visit any branch ready to explore the possibility of using it in their own communities. This study/research/action manual provides myriad tools for researching any aspect of the military-industrial complex. Use it to confront and challenge a military corporation in your own community. Notify the national office if

you are ready to receive your copy, or would like an introductory workshop.

Our October DISARM Update features the multi-billion dollar bio-defense program launched by the United States after it torpedoed the Bio-weapons Treaty Inspection Protocol. Some \$6 billion is channeled through Homeland Security to bring deadly pathogens into university laboratories for bio-tech research, including development of new disease strains and vaccines. While some projects could be considered legitimately defensive, others appear more appropriate for offensive use. Another \$6 billion is earmarked for secret Pentagon projects. If you have not seen the October DISARM Update, download it from [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org) (Click Disarmament and then Alerts in the side bar) or request a copy from the WILPF office. Also, please contact [vmullen@together.net](mailto:vmullen@together.net) if you or your branch wants to get EYE on Congress DISARM legislative action alerts.

*Carol Reilley Urner is a member of the U.S. WILPF board and a member of the DISARM Campaign. She can be reached at [curner@qwest.net](mailto:curner@qwest.net).*

## U.S. WILPF AT THE UNITED NATIONS

As of October, the U.S. Section changed the volunteer team of representatives at the U.N. Gloria Bletter and Gloria Korecki have completed their terms after several years serving as U.S. Section representatives. Gloria Bletter continues to work at the U.N. on behalf of international law and indigenous rights issues, and Gloria Korecki continues to be involved in the NY Metro WILPF branch. WILPF deeply

appreciates the work done by these volunteers over the past four years.

Our new team includes Anita Pulier, Jill Strauss, and Jean Verthein, all WILPF members from New York City. They will work closely with Susi Snyder, the International WILPF director of the U.N. office.



*Left to right: Jill Strauss, Anita Pulier, Susi Snyder, Jean Verthein. Photo: Mary Day Kent*

Lawyer Anita Pulier, who recently retired from private practice, participated in the WILPF delegation at the Non-Proliferation Treaty review PrepCom meetings in May 2004.

Jill Strauss, peace educator and activist who studied with Betty Reardon (a WILPF sponsor) at Teachers College of Columbia University, worked with the Jane Addams Peace Association to develop a peace education curriculum for the 2003 JAPA Children's Book Award books.

Jean Verthein is a social worker and supervisor of social work student placements at Long Island University and Columbia University. She has served at the U.N. on behalf of the International Federation of Social Workers, with a particular focus on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and environmental concerns. Jean's travels for human rights and peace have included Vietnam, Nicaragua, Iran, and Northern Ireland.

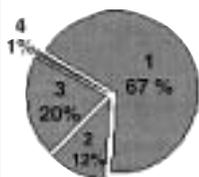
Contact them at [wilpf@wilpf.org](mailto:wilpf@wilpf.org).

—Mary Day Kent, Executive Director

## WILPF United States Section Financial Report FY 2003

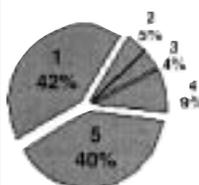
### REVENUE 2003 - \$524,881

- 1 Gifts from Individuals \$354,690
- 2 Bequests & Memorials \$61,795
- 3 Foundation Grants \$105,025
- 4 Other \$3,371



### EXPENSES 2003 - \$491,648

- 1 Program & Membership \$206,088
- 2 Intern Program \$22,216
- 3 International Support \$21,354
- 4 Development \$46,530
- 5 General Management \$195,460



# WILPF in Washington



*Vicki Lynn Ferguson, Legislative Program Consultant*  
*Gillian Gilhool, Program Coordinator*

With the results of the elections to guide us, WILPF is launching a series of advocacy steps this November to let members of the incoming Congress know that WILPF voters count. We will remind them that we expect accountability in their districts and states. No matter what the results of the elections, the 109th Congress and the administration inaugurated in 2005 will need to hear from us more than ever. We will put our new Mission and Vision statements at the forefront of our visibility and education efforts with congressional members, their key staff and federal agencies.

During the past year, WILPF in Washington expanded the Legislative Advocacy Newsletter to three issues a year. Hard copies are sent to all branches in the resource packets the National Office mails quarterly. They're publicized over WILPF's listserves and available to all members by downloading from [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org) or phoning the office. We thank you all for your great feedback and appreciation for this new advocacy tool.

WILPF in Washington is eager to build on this beginning with a year-long, monthly advocacy calendar.

## Groundwork: November, December and January

During November and December we will be making sure that our campaigns and issues are familiar to the Congressional committee leadership in both the House and Senate. These are the most senior decision makers in both parties; they have the power to move or stop any legislation within their committee's control. Once the new administration comes in, we will need to do the same with key contacts in the new cabinet.

In January 2005, as the newly elected "Freshman" class of Representatives and Senators open their district and state offices and report to Washington, D.C. to be sworn in; we want them met and welcomed by WILPF members.

**ACTION:** WILPF's New Member Welcome Kits will be assembled and ready for delivery by our branches and members across the country. Educating the new politicians on our campaigns and issues early on in their tenure is an essential step in building a working relationship with each office. Finding out how they think (and could vote) on

these issues will be even more important for our strategic planning. Contact your branch or watch the website for how to get your kit. (In addition, new tools on the WILPF in Washington section of WILPF's website will help branch and at-large members, whether experienced or just starting to build relationships with their law-makers, to plan effective visits in their home district offices.)

In February the President must submit his budget request for fiscal year 2006 to Congress, and each member of Congress develops priorities for the 13 appropriations committees. This is a crucial time for WILPF to influence the way congressional members think about spending priorities.

## **ACTION:** "Make Peace a Reality" Post Cards - Every Month in 2005

Some months we will have statements from the WILPF U.S. Section on critical issues. Other times, we may piggyback our actions with the WILPF International initiatives, or focus on our U.N. priorities around treaties or Resolution 1325. Members, branches, campaigns and issue committees can suggest topics. WILPF in Washington will prepare issue action briefs to fashion your own post-card messages, or sometimes sign-on letters, to use as organizing tools in your own communities. Supplies of attractive WILPF postcards ready for your hand-written messages will be furnished to each branch and at-large members who want to participate and engage friends to join in, too.

Your postcards and letters will be bundled into a single envelope to mail to the WILPF D.C. office for immediate hand delivery by WILPF to respective offices. This will not only circumvent the delays of Capitol Hill postal security and decontamination procedures, it will create opportunities to set up appointments with members or their key staff. Your elected officials will know that WILPF members' views and votes are backed by the constant presence of an office in Washington. And, vitally important to building the impact of WILPF's advocacy, we will work closely with you to document and — count — the multiplying WILPF efforts over the months.

All branches are asked to incorporate into their program and agenda the new national WILPF Make Peace a Reality Post Card initiative. Simply identify a contact person as liaison to the WILPF in Washington office. Send the name to WILPF's Legislative Program Consultant, Vicki Ferguson, by phone (202) 546-6727, fax (202) 544-9613 or e-mail to [vferguson@wilpf.org](mailto:vferguson@wilpf.org). Not in a branch? Let her know you want to participate.

# WILPF at the DNC and the RNC

Jody Dodd, Membership Coordinator

**W**ILPF was well represented at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions this past summer. The Boston Branch did an amazing job organizing the “Women’s Track” of the Boston Social Forum, which was held the weekend before the Democratic Convention began. Three of our sponsors, Elise Boulding, Vinie Burrows, and Sonia Sanchez gave workshops, performances and presentations. Overall, the Women’s Track offered more than 60 workshops.

WILPF was everywhere at the Social Forum. Mary Zepernick gave a workshop on Corporate Power, WILPF had a table full of our resources and contacts, and I met WILPF members who had traveled from New York, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, California and New Jersey. The Women’s Track also held a Tribunal where women came and testified about the impacts of violence on them and their communities.



Vivian Smith at the RNC protests in NY.

Photo: Jody Dodd

These testimonies were shared at the Final Plenary of the Social Forum. Boston WILPF should be applauded for their wonderful

work on this major project!

At the Republican Convention held in New York City, the New York Metro Branch coordinated the WILPF presence in the huge anti-war march and many other events held over the five days from July 30th through August 3rd. Marilyn Clement, WILPF’s former executive director and director of the Campaign For A National Healthcare Program Now!, very generously hosted a reception for both WILPF members and the Poor People’s Economic Campaign on the Friday evening before the demonstrations. WILPF members carried our banner and sang Raging Granny songs along the long, hot route of the United for Peace March on Sunday the 30th. On Monday, WILPF members marched in the Poor People’s March, which despite having no permit, successfully marched from the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza at the U.N. down 2nd Ave. to 30th

and 8th Ave. Throughout Manhattan, we were greeted by New Yorkers with signs on their buildings, in their windows or yelling on the streets, “No to the Bush Agenda!” Over the course of the five days people held rallies, actions, and marches to address Immigrant Rights, AIDS, Housing, Poverty, Health Care, Labor, Education, and of course Anti-War issues. More than 1,700 people were arrested during the week, over 1,000 of them on August 31st. Many of those arrested were taken to a holding facility called Pier 57. It had been a bus-depot that still had chemicals and oil on its concrete floor. People were held there with no place to sleep (except the oily floor) few bathroom facilities, and were held beyond the legal limit of 24 hours. In fact a judge ordered the city to release them, which the city ignored. Subsequently, the judge fined the City of New York \$1,000 for every demonstrator held over 24 hours. As we go to print, a hearing has yet to be held to determine if this order will be enforced.

The demonstrations made history. According to *The New York Times*, the demonstrations were the largest in U.S. history against a political convention. And, once again — WILPF was there! ❖



Molly Klopot held her banner high at the RNC protests in New York.

Photo: Jody Dodd



Gillian Gilhool, program coordinator, right, visiting with Ngo Thi Phuong Thien, daughter of Ngo Ba Thanh, at their home in Ho Chi Minh City in June. Madame Thanh, jailed many times for her outspoken commitment to peace, and WILPF’s Kay Camp signed the Women’s Peace Declaration at an International Women’s Conference in Saigon in January, 1971. A tribute exhibit to Madame Thanh when she died in February included the *Peace and Freedom* cover from the period proclaiming “Madame Thanh is Free!”

# Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



## Gay Marriage: The Vote is Still Out

Chris Morin

Gay marriage catapulted to the top of domestic issues this year, when President Bush supported a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. WILPF's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) issue committee opposed this amendment because it sets a profoundly anti-democratic precedent by explicitly removing rights from its citizens. Marriage should be a strictly legal matter and licensed by the state.

In 1967, the Supreme Court struck down anti-miscegenation laws. "The freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights . . ." wrote Chief Justice Warren. In 2003, sodomy laws were struck down in *Lawrence vs. Texas* — which established the right to sexual privacy. Five months later, Massachusetts cited the *Lawrence vs. Texas* case in its decision to allow same-sex couples to marry. (1)

For many same-sex couples, marriage is a rite of passage, legalizing a committed relationship. Marriage also gives heterosexual couples about 1,400 financial and legal benefits, which should be available for all same-sex couples living in a committed relationship.

WILPF member Jean Jonah knows too well the joys of being in a same sex relationship and the pain of not having that relationship legally recognized upon the death of her partner, Dina Carbonell. The legal rights of marriage would have helped Jean to have been treated with greater respect by the funeral home director, to have been asked about an autopsy and to have been the unquestioned beneficiary of one of Dina's life insurance policies.

There are, however, same sex couples who do not wish to be married. Since marriage comes from patriarchal, power-driven beginnings, Elenita Muniz and her partner, Judy Fenner, do not want to marry, even though they reside in Massachusetts. As a practical matter, same-sex couples only get 300 of those 1,400 benefits, as 1,100 are federal rights and don't apply. But more importantly, Elenita and Judy want their commitment to each other to stand alone and not be associated with the heterosexual world.

"We are each other's half," said Elenita. "It took years for us to find each other, but we did, and being committed to each other is what makes us a couple."

Gay marriage alters the public meaning of the word, further draining it of its power to reinforce traditional expectations. Contemporary marriage contributes to the decline of the patriarchal legal structure and the rise of self-fulfillment. (2)

What's important is Massachusetts' recognition of equal rights for everyone. Its Supreme Judicial Court has opened the way for further discussion. For now, we all have the option of marriage, at least in Massachusetts.

(1)(2) *The New Yorker*, May 31, 2004, "Love Supreme," by Adam Haslett.

*Chris Morin is a member of both the WILPF National Board and the LGBT committee.*

## ➤ SETTING THE STAGE

*continued from page 16*

said she cut off the ends because the pot was too small.

This story illustrates the fact that we need to build in an assessment mechanism to tell us how well we do our work, is there another way, and are we using our resources to the maximum. We should not keep on doing something because that is the way we always did it. Yet we do not want to throw out the accumulated wisdom of the past only to discover later we made a mistake in doing so.

### Immediate Priorities for International WILPF's Program

- Preparation for and participation in the U.N. Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Process during Spring 2005. This involves interaction with more than 150 NGOs and the U.N. government representatives, coordinated by the staff in the WILPF New York office.
- "Keep Space for Peace Week" (Autumn 2004, plus ongoing future work).
- PeaceWomen project, including work on Beijing + 10 and U.N. Resolution 1325. New York office staff will serve as the focal point.
- Produce a publication on Water with WILPF's analysis and experience of our sections around the world.
- Preparation and planning for an International Women's Peace Conference. Proposed site: Havana, Cuba.
- Organizational development: staff development, fundraising and long-term financial planning, strengthening effectiveness of local WILPF groups and members.

The International Program and Plan of Action 2004-2007 can be found at [www.wilpf.int.ch](http://www.wilpf.int.ch). (If you cannot access the website send a request to me at [Regina.Birchem@wilpf.ch](mailto:Regina.Birchem@wilpf.ch) or by snail mail to: 240 Wolfe Lane, Irwin, PA 15642.)

# Calling All Members

**H**ave you ever wanted to live on the edge? Do you have days when you just don't know how to fill your time? Would you like to fulfill your childhood fantasy and "help save the world?" Do you believe that "it takes a village. . .?" Well, then, you should run for the National WILPF Board!

We are presently seeking applicants to run for positions on the board for the 2005-2008 term. Applications need to be in the office by December 15th. In order to run, you need to be a dues paying member of WILPF for a minimum of two years.

All positions are elected by the membership, except president(s). The president(s) position is elected by the board. If you choose to run for president(s), your name(s) will be given to the board for consideration and decided on by the April, 2005 board meeting. Ballots of the slate will be sent out in early January.

## Board Member Job Description and Agreement

As a board member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, I agree to the following responsibilities and commitments:

- To serve my three-year term, barring unforeseen circumstances.
- To attend two board meetings a year and make an active contribution at meetings.
- To develop a respectful working relationship with WILPF staff members.
- To make WILPF my priority activist involvement during my board term.
- To accept the fiscal responsibility of WILPF and participate in the deliberations and passage of the budget and make subsequent decisions, as needed.
- To participate in discussions and take responsibility for making decisions on issues, policies and other board matters.
- To support and communicate WILPF policy decisions.
- To promote WILPF locally and when other opportunities arise through my professional, personal and social networks.
- As a board member, we are collectively responsible for the fiscal health of the organization. I will work toward my goal of raising \$500/yr, with the assistance of trainings, development staff and other board members.
- To commit to working as a team, following the democratic arts of conflict resolution, facilitation and delegation.
- To be cognizant of integrating fundraising, membership building and program in all of WILPF's work.



Above, left: *left to right*, Board members Cindy Domingo, Noy Thrupkaew and Tammy James. Above, right: *left to right*, Board member Gwen Braxton, former Board member Molly Morgan and former IEC Rep Joyce McClean.



At right: *left to right*, Board members Chris Morin and UFORJE member Lettie Polite.

- To have access to e-mail and be willing to communicate with this technology
- To be cognizant of staff/board communications and send a copy of all staff communications, letters and e-mails to the executive director.
- To carry out my specific duties on the board, according to my job description.

## Board Positions Are:

- President(s) - Oversee the process of implementing all board decisions and policies.
- Treasurer - Oversee the drafting, passing and monitoring of the U.S. Section budget.
- Membership Chair - Oversee the health of the organization with the recruitment and retention of members and building leadership.
- Membership/At-Large Rep - Liaison between At-Large members and the board.
- Membership/Branch Rep - Represent designated branches with input about recruiting, training and maintaining members.
- Secretary - Collect minutes from board meetings, chart board decisions and coordinate and organize all archival information.
- Staff Concerns - Liaison between board and staff, keeping communications open.
- Development Chair - Liaison between board and development staff. Assists development staff and committee with fundraising ideas.
- Program Chair - Oversee the goals and objectives of the Program Committee, including campaigns, issue committees and emergency responses.
- Program Campaign Reps - Represent individual campaign leadership teams and campaign participants.

Send nominations to the National Office. Call (215) 563-7110 if you have any questions. Ask for Pamela Jones-Burnley, administrative director. She can also be reached at [pjburnley@wilpf.org](mailto:pjburnley@wilpf.org).

# Army Recruitment Takes Aim at Young Computer Gamers

Nnenna Okoro

Militarization of American lives reached another level when the United States Army developed and created a new computer game which has already registered two million players.

The game is called America's Army: Special Forces, and it was released in July of 2003, a year after the original game, America's Army: Operations, was released. This PC online action game is in the top five list of popularity, which can be attributed, most likely, to the "authenticity" of the game.

"Nobody knows military simulations like the world's premier land force, the U.S. Army . . . (The game) provides players with the most authentic military experience available, from exploring the development of soldiers in individual and collective training, to their deployment in simulated missions in the war on terror," touts the Army's website, [www.americasarmy.com](http://www.americasarmy.com).

Why would American civilians want to know what it is like to be soldier, to know how it feels to use a M16A2 rifle to kill a person?

Apparently, the U.S. Army felt that Americans would like to experience military combat from a distance. The real reason the Army developed the game is to use it as a recruiting tool for young men between the ages of 13-17, to persuade them to join the military when they turn 18.

How does the game result in obtaining recruits? The game has many attributes that can get people, particularly older boys, interested in joining the army. First, the Army selected to have the game based on the Special Forces, the most celebrated division of the Army. The goal of the game is to earn Green Beret status after completing individual and collective training. Once the player receives the Green Beret, s/he can choose which role of the Special Forces they want to play as, for example — a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, or the 75th Ranger Regiment. The elitism of the Special Forces further glorifies both the Army and war itself.

Secondly, America's Army has the ability to pull people into the game. The virtual simulation was able to make me really want to hit all the targets in a specific amount of time. The game played on the emotional will to compete and outdo your opponent or the computer. The drive to compete

## PeaceEducation



pulled me back to make me want to play the game constantly, but then I would think it was wrong to be playing and enjoying this game, a game in which you are taught how to accurately shoot a gun. But, the virtual reality of the game removes the person from the real consequences of being a Green Beret and fighting in a war.

Thirdly, the game is easily accessible to everyone, in any country. The game is free and can be downloaded from the website or by requesting the game from a local recruiter. Not only is the game easily accessible worldwide, it is also accessible to gamers as young as 13, with a rating of "T" for teen.

In April, the U.S. Army and Ubisoft, a French company that produces, publishes and distributes interactive entertainment products, announced they had reached a long-term agreement, in which Ubisoft can develop and publish more games based on America's Army.

"America's Army is an excellent vehicle through which young adults can discover how soldiers are developed and employed in the defense of freedom," said Colonel Casey Wardynski, the creator and director of the game. "Ubisoft has extensive experience in producing best-selling military games and we're looking forward to seeing the developers in the field with our soldiers."

Ubisoft will also have "behind-the-scenes access to vast resources of the U.S. Army, to continue to give games the same realistic, action-packed, military experience players have enjoyed with the award-winning PC game," an online press release reported. In return, the U.S. Army will review the content of the games for realism, character progression, and Army values.

This is Ubisoft's third acquisition of a military game; they already purchased Brothers in Arms, and Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon, to try and own the military segment of the video gaming market.

Should our tax money be allocated to the Department of Defense in order to fund military games which are further militarizing our youth? Or should our tax money go to teaching peace to young people?

Sources: [www.americasarmy.com](http://www.americasarmy.com), [www.ubisoft.com](http://www.ubisoft.com)

Nnenna Okoro is a first generation American of Nigerian descent. She grew up in New Jersey and is a senior at Temple University. She volunteered for WILPF in 2003 and interned in the spring and summer of 2004.

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

# 2004 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards

Linda Belle, JAPA Executive Director

A joyful ceremony celebrating this year's Jane Addams Children's Book Awards was held in New York on October 22 by the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA). Organized in 1915, JAPA funds much of the educational work of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Since 1953, the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards annually acknowledge books published during the previous year in the U.S. Books chosen for the Awards effectively address themes or topics that promote peace, social justice, world community, and/or equality of the sexes and all races. The books must also meet conventional standards of literary and artistic excellence.

The winner in the Picture Book category is *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*, written by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Yuyi Morales, and published by Harcourt Children's Books. Through engaging narrative and culturally-expressive paintings, Chavez's life is traced from his comfortable Arizona farm childhood through drought, loss, and backbreaking field labor to his adult leadership in organizing migrant workers. The hardships of a grape boycott and a 340-mile protest march led by Chavez result in the 1965 contract for farmworkers, the first in the nation.

In the category of Books for Older Children, the winner is *Out of Bounds: Seven Stories of Conflict and Hope*. South African apartheid and its aftermath are experienced and challenged, decade by decade, by young, courageous protagonists whose portrayals cross races, classes, and genders. These incisive stories were written by once-exiled South African Beverley Naidoo and published by HarperCollins Children's Books.

In the Picture Book category, both Honor Books are biographical portraits of determined and resourceful women, yet the books are wholly different in setting, era, situation, and tone. *Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings* was inspired by the accomplishments of Alta Weiss, a girl with an arm, who at 17 in early 20th century Ohio, pitched her way onto an all-male baseball team and won. The upbeat words by Deborah Hopkinson and the brightly bold pictures by Terry Widener are published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, An Anne Schwartz Book.

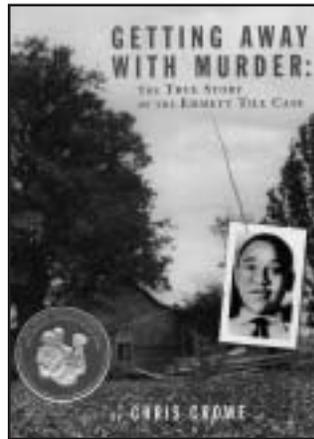
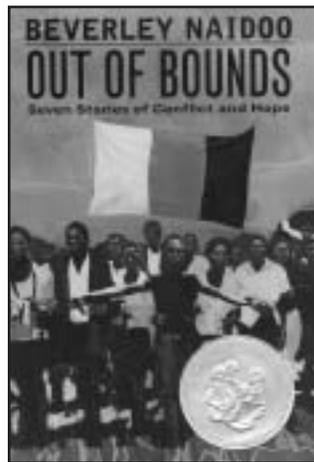
The second honored Picture Book is set within a German concentration camp and tells the true story of a heroic woman who secretly saves the lives of 54 orphaned and imprisoned children. In *Luba: The Angel of Bergen-Belsen*, author Michelle R. McCann movingly recounts the horrific story of danger, suffering, and courage told to her by Luba Tryszynska-Frederick. Accomplished oil paintings by Ann Marshall illustrate this Tricycle Press book.

In the category of Honor Books for Older Children, two books were named: *Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case* by Chris Crowe and *Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York 1880-1924* by Deborah Hopkinson.

Crowe uses telling photographs and meticulously-researched text to rehearse the grisly and shameful 1955 lynching of Emmett

Till, a 14-year-old African-American boy from Chicago. Till was murdered during a summer visit to Money, Mississippi; his killers were acquitted. This almost-forgotten episode of U.S. history was published by Phyllis Fogelman Books/Penguin Books for Young Readers.

Carefully-selected archival photos and thorough scholarship are important elements of *Shutting Out the Sky*. It depicts the lives



of five children who immigrated around 1900, following them from their early tenement lives in New York City to their hard-won status as naturalized U. S. citizens. This chronicle of immigrant life is published by Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic, Inc.

A Special Commendation was awarded to The Breadwinner Trilogy, three books by Deborah Ellis, published by Groundwood Books/Douglas & McIntyre. *The Breadwinner*, *Parvana's Journey*, and *Mud City* are connected realistic novels of children in contemporary Afghanistan, orphaned and displaced by war.

Information on ordering books will be available on our website ([www.janeaddamspeace.org](http://www.janeaddamspeace.org)) beginning in January, and will also appear in a future issue of *Peace & Freedom*.

## ► WOMEN & WATER

*continued from page 11*

Israel. “The situation is explosive.”

Privatization is a grave part of the problem. Vivendi Universal (France), Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux (France), Bouygues-Saur (France), RWE-Thames (Germany) and Bechtel-United Utilities (U.S.) have become the water barons who are taking over public utilities. A common practice is to buy the water from a poor community, bottle it and sell it to consumers in the U.S., thereby leaving the original community without enough water to sustain itself. These corporations also buy up local water rights and sell the water back to the community at much higher rates.

Most WILPF presenters agreed that we must have a sustained investment in water infrastructure in order to protect “safe” or clean water. Private companies’ allegiance is to profit, not to community or to long-term solutions. Upgrading or replacing infrastructures is expensive. In order to upgrade they charge more for water or sell out to the highest bidder. Many companies also have profit guarantees in their contracts giving them the right to raise prices if communities use less water than predicted, a practice which stultifies conservation.

Our meeting did not, due to time constraints and the enormity of the problem, spend much time in evaluation. However, it became clear that the ultimate solutions lie in the hearts and minds of our communities. NGOs and well-funded, well-focused governments can provide technical, legislative and economic muscle, but each community must fuse and fight to save its own water.

There are many, many grassroots communities already engaged in taking back their water and in finding long-term solutions to the water dilemma. They are evaluating the condition and availability of water in their own communities, including ownership; prices; military, industrial or agricultural pollution; condition of infrastructure; purposes for which water is used in a given community; availability now and predictions of availability in the future. They are fighting back.

We can take our inspiration from the protest movements against the rampant privatization of the world’s water. In Sri Lanka, Dulcy de Silva reported that “We are resisting converting water to a commodity for exploitation by international water markets as encouraged by the World Bank. We have established several campaigns to protect our water. We have collected signatures; we have a coalition of 300 women’s groups and NGOs and farmers and everybody who is being affected by the encroaching privatization of water in Sri Lanka.”

The Bolivian people successfully kicked out Bechtel, which bought up the rights to their water and raised the prices higher than people could afford to pay.

“Killer Coke” and global “Boycott Coke” campaigns initiated in Colombia are underway. Citizens of Lexington, Kentucky, have organized Bluegrass FLOW to fight to regain control of Kentucky-American Water Co. which had been bought by RWE in 2003. Nestle’s right to local spring water for bottling is being challenged by local citizens in Mecosta County, Michigan. There are countless other examples of the potential power of a community to save its own water.

On one of the last days of the week-long Congress, I sat with a few new Swedish friends, sipping tea and watching the sun set on an old fortress on the hill across the gently flowing river. I asked them about the availability and condition of water in Sweden, as they had been rather quiet about it. I learned that water is plentiful and clean in this small country. The water supply and sewage disposal are, by law, a municipal responsibility. They are not allowed to operate by a profit margin. Sweden also has sound conservation and recycling policies.

The morning after Congress adjourned and everyone was packing their bags, I went for a walk along the river and up to the old fortress on the hill. The surfaces of the walls facing the sky were covered with grass that had edged its way through the dense rock, living testimony to the decision by the Swedish people — 190 years ago — to eliminate war as a way of solving problems. Perhaps it really was possible for the rest of us to put war behind us, too, including the predicted water wars.

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*Laura Santina (Lindey89@aol.com) is a freelance writer and chair of Berkeley/East Bay branch of WILPF. Her articles have been published in Z Magazine, CommonDreams.org, Counterpunch and The Awakened Woman. This article originally appeared on CommonDreams.org.*



**International President Regina Birchem and U.S. WILPF Executive Director Mary Day Kent in Sweden.**

Photo: Tammy James



## BranchAction News

*Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor*

Members: Please remember to send me a copy of your announcements and newsletters. That's the only way I am able to report on your activities so all the branches know what you are doing. My address: Leslie Reindl, 1233 Ingerson Road, St. Paul, MN 55112.

**MEMBERS HONORED:** Agnes Wilcox (**St. Louis**) received the 2004 Missouri Arts Award for her work as artistic director of Prison Performing Arts, which promotes the arts in correctional institutions. New York's City Council asked Terry Hasan (**NY Metro**) to accept their proclamation in support of a resolution condemning the USA PATRIOT Act, passed after much work by Hasan and the NYC Bill of Rights Defense Campaign. Mary Anne Tweed (**Monterey County**) was chosen as one of 2004's Outstanding Women of the county by the County Commission on the Status of Women. Ruth and George Chippendale (**Palo Alto**) were awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, which recognizes Catholics who show outstanding leadership and service to those in need.

**NEW PROJECTS/COMMITTEES:** **San Francisco** is helping support a young woman's education through the Philippine Scholars Program. This student lives near the former Clark Air Force Base, a community affected by toxic contamination from the base. They invite other branches to join them in this work of ameliorating the conditions the U.S. military has left in the Philippines. Information is available at: Philippine Scholars c/o 1319 Hillcrest Drive, Fridley, MN 55432, [www.philippinescholars.org](http://www.philippinescholars.org). **NY Metro** is birthing a new project, Campaign for a National Health Program NOW!, which grew out of a forum it held on health care at a labor union. Because of events in Haiti, Venezuela, and policies on Cuba, **Santa Cruz** has formed a Latin America committee.

**HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI DAYS OF REMEMBERING:** **Portland** coordinated this year's memorial for all the victims of the nuclear age, which was followed by a program with speakers Brian Wilson (Vietnam vet and peace activist) and Frank Dorrel (producer of the video *What I've Learned About U.S. Foreign Policy: The War Against the Third World*.) The branch also co-sponsored a conference featuring Jonathan Schell of Mobilizing Against Nuclear Weapons and Dr. Helen Caldicott. **Minnesota Metro** brought Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power

in Space, to the Twin Cities for several appearances. A 9-foot-tall puppet of Mahatma Gandhi was present at the **St. Louis** observance. **Des Moines'** Grandmothers Against Wars held a series of antinuclear films, beginning with *The Atomic Cafe*. **Santa Cruz** helped with the three-day commemoration that included a march to Lockheed Corp., a vigil, as well as traveling to Livermore National Labs.

**OTHER NUCLEAR MATTERS:** **Des Moines** reported that Mr. Bush is attempting to gut a new treaty, the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, by striking the provisions for inspection or verification. **Catonsville** heard from Ellen Barfield, national Disarmament Campaign co-chair of WILPF and enclosed a flyer on U.S. military spending. Almost all branches printed materials about the new nuclear buildup by this administration and the need to fight it.

**KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE EVENTS:** **Detroit, Monterey County** and **San Jose** showed the new documentary "A Space for Peace." **Cape Cod** helped plan and participated in an action at PAVE PAWS, part of the U.S. military space effort and early warning radar system. **Monterey** was at the Front Gate Protest Rally at Vandenberg Air Force Base. **Santa Cruz** sponsored a town meeting with Bruce Gagnon, who gave an update on the militarization of space. Earlier in the year, **Palo Alto** participated in a day-long conference, "Resisting Empire: Understanding the Role of Space in U.S. Global Domination," with keynoter Dr. Helen Caldicott.

**ELECTIONS:** **San Jose** requested support for a state bill requiring a paper trail for ballots during the November election. St. Louis hosted a pre-election party at the end of October. **NY Metro** welcomed WILPFers visiting the city to protest the Republican National Convention and also provided homes for them to stay in. **Portland** called attention to the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act, HR 2269, which has been in committee for about a year. It calls for, among other things, a paper record of any vote on a touch screen voting machine. [*Ed note: It won't be passed in time for this election, if ever.*]

**IRAQ AND 9/11:** In June Monterey County courageously gave a public event entitled "Was 9/11 Allowed to Happen? The Still Unanswered Questions" to bring into question the assumption made by the press, Congress, and the 9/11 Commission that the attacks resulted from intelligence and communication failures. **NY Metro** reported on the World Tribunal on Iraq, some sessions of which were held in New York. Both **Berkeley** and **Portland** reprinted the statement of 27 diplomats who requested a change in leadership: "The Bush Administration has shown that it does not grasp these circumstances of the new era, and is not able to rise to

the responsibilities of world leadership in either style or substance. It is time for a change." See [www.diplomatsforchange.com](http://www.diplomatsforchange.com). **San Jose** published the web site of U.S. Labor Against the War, which documents corporate contractors in Iraq: [www.uslaboragainsthewar.org](http://www.uslaboragainsthewar.org). See also a file detailing major contractors profiting from war: [www.labornet.org/news/0603/CorpInvasion.pdf](http://www.labornet.org/news/0603/CorpInvasion.pdf).

**CIVIL LIBERTIES:** "Conscience and Consequence" was the title of a talk by Clare Hanrahan, author of *Jailed for Justice*, at **Asheville's** Sisterhood dinner. **Peninsula** heard a talk on "Safe and Free: Your Rights vs. the PATRIOT Act." "Safe" refers to the SAFE Act (S.1709) that ensures proper checks and balances. **Monterey** County co-sponsored "Dissent Is PATRIOTic" on September 11. In **St. Louis'** program on "The Need for Civilian Oversight of the Police," some shocking reports about police brutality in the African American community in St. Louis were presented. The branch urged members to call their alderperson to support a bill setting up an independent Civilian Oversight Board. **Des Moines** is part of an effort to get a city council resolution regarding the PATRIOT Act. **NY Metro** reported on the trial of long-time civil rights attorney Lynne Stewart charged with "materially aiding" a terrorist organization. Lynne is the lawyer for Sheik Omar Rahman, charged with conspiracy to bomb the World Trade Center in 1993. She was charged under the PATRIOT Act; her trial will last for months. For more information visit: [www.lynnestewart.org](http://www.lynnestewart.org).

**RACIAL JUSTICE:** **Catonsville** followed up on their Conference on Racial Justice: Creating the Beloved Community by giving a program called "Modern Abolitionists: Confronting Trafficking in Human Lives," and states: "If you thought slavery ended in 1865, this program is an important reminder that abolitionists are still needed today." The branch urged support for the Reparations Study Bill, HR 40, sponsored by Rep. John Conyers, Jr. Portland printed an article from 2004 Racism Watch about use by the U.S. military of the book *The Arab Mind* (called the "the bible of the neo-cons on Arab behavior," by Seymour Hersh) and Manning Marable's call that the use of this book be ended immediately and that Congress investigate the curricula being used in the military and government departments interacting with Arab countries. **Des Moines** had a program on DATA: Debt/AIDS/Trade/Africa. **NY Metro** co-sponsored an event informing people about Tulia, TX, where 61 percent of the adult male African American

population has been arrested for selling drugs, with no evidence. All were later found not guilty. **Cape Cod** reported on the case of a Mashpee Wampanoag tribal member falsely arrested for assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, etc. in front of numerous witnesses; its Antiracism Campaign group is helping to collect such personal stories of discrimination to assist the county-wide Working Group on Anti-Discrimination. The latter is trying to establish a County Human Rights Commission. **Cape Cod** also co-sponsored a one-woman play depicting one of 19 journeys of Harriet Tubman through the underground railroad.

**CORPORATIONS AND FREE TRADE:** **St. Louis** got members together to attend a sneak preview of the movie *The Corporation*. **San Jose** tabled at several movie houses showing the film; **Minnesota Metro** tabled on opening day. **Cape Cod** had a facilitated discussion (led by Mary Zepernick, who is in the film) after an afternoon showing.

**Peninsula** reported on a talk about what is wrong with the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and offered the following websites as

good sources: [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org) and [www.witnessforpeace.org](http://www.witnessforpeace.org), which has ballots on CAFTA and the FTAA to be downloaded, distributed, and delivered to members of Congress. Several branches had programs on water, the theme of the international WILPF Congress: **Portland** co-sponsored "Who Owns Water—



Membership coordinator Jody Dodd and Ruth Minter at the March for Women's Lives in D.C.

The People or For-Profit Corporations?" **San Jose's** program was "Hydropolitics: Water, a Public or Private Utility?" It reprinted the *Treaty Initiative to Share and Protect the Global Water Commons*, written by Maude Barlow and Jeremy Rifkin and endorsed by 800 delegates from 35 countries at the summit Water for People and Nature, held in Vancouver in 2001. **Minnesota Metro** invited a panel to speak on privatization internationally, nationally and locally. **Des Moines** heard from an Iowa lawyer who will argue against corporate personhood as part of an appeal against a fed-

### PROGRAM FOR CONGRESS 2005

Elenita Muniz and Laurie Gates, Cape Cod branch, are the program co-chairs for the 2005 Triennial Congress to be held August 10-14, in San Francisco. We are planning a novel and refreshing approach to our Congress, while also celebrating WILPF's 90th Anniversary.

Our theme is "Make Peace a Reality." We are looking for brilliant, fantabulous, not to mention exciting ideas for workshops, content, themes, issues, cultural activities, fundraisers, etc. If you can contribute any ideas to the above please contact Elenita Muniz, Cape Cod WILPF at [elenita@cape.com](mailto:elenita@cape.com) or write to Laurie Gates, Cape Cod WILPF, 38 Dusty Miller Drive, South Chatham, MA 02659. We can also be reached by phone at 508-430-2940 (Elenita) or 508-432-4245 (Laurie).

eral lawsuit by Smithfield Foods, which is using the commerce clause of the Constitution to overcome certain Iowa laws. **NY Metro** is working with the War Resisters League on a program called "Stopping the Merchants of Death," a speaking campaign that exposes war profiteers to public scrutiny and action, and hopes to go national by 2005. See [www.warresisters.org/merchants\\_death.htm](http://www.warresisters.org/merchants_death.htm)

## I want to make PEACE a reality. I PLEDGE TO WILPF!

Your status as a pledging member lasts as long as you wish. Please check which option you would like to use:

- Automatic deduction from your bank account. Send us a VOIDED personal check and we will set up the process for the amount you indicate below to be deducted automatically.

- Automatic charge to your credit /debit card. Your credit card number, expiration date and signature will be processed monthly in the amount indicated.

Credit card #

\_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

My pledge will be on a monthly basis:

\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$20 \_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$5

Option for credit card or debit card only!! Please check here  if you wish to make your monthly pledge to the U.S. Fund of the Jane Addams Peace Association. These gifts are fully-tax-deductible.

for more. And on a brighter note, **Minnesota Metro** learned about a new local think tank, the Center on Prosperity, which works to discover and promote responsible, people- and environment-centered solutions to problems.

### RAGING GRANNIES AND OTHER ARTY NEWS:

**NY Metro, Peninsula, and Palo Alto** Raging Grannies sang at too many occasions to name! A few of the New York ones: the Institute for Senior Action on its Tenth Anniversary, the Clearwater Environmental Festival and on Radio station WBAI. Some of the **Peninsula** ones: with **San Jose, Palo Alto**, and other groups in front of Hummer dealerships on Earth Day, at the **Northern California Cluster** meeting, and at the parade marking the first anniversary of the start of the Iraq war. All reported that many of their listeners expressed interest in joining WILPF. **San Jose** gave a "Dangerous Woman Summer Garden Party," portraying Jane Addams, Dorothy Day, and Dolores Huerta. **Los Angeles** was part of "The Fifth Annual Culture of Peace Arts Celebration."

### IONE BIGGS HONORED

Ione Biggs of Women Speak Out, the **Cleveland** branch of WILPF, was recently honored at a memorable celebration. Ione, a member and former four-term president of the local branch, received the thanks of the Cleveland peace and justice community. Numerous testimonies warmed the hearts of those who came to honor her. In the process, the peace and justice workers heard some of their own stories. Ione was part of all of these tales, as she supported their work, encouraged them and built bridges between organizations for an ever stronger and more effective network. If there was a cause needing support, Ione was there to stand in solidarity.

Ione served on the WILPF National Board. She is a tireless worker for CEDAW, the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. She traveled with WILPF leaders to the Soviet Union and to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Kenya. She is an honorary member of the Cleveland City Club, which is heard all across the country on NPR.

Ione is a part of Cleveland history going back to the early days of the 20th century. Langston Hughes sat in her mother's kitchen and read his poetry. Ione was also instrumental in starting the organization 9 to 5 and has devoted herself to the work of WILPF.



— Louise Lawler

# WILPF 2005-2008 National Program Campaign Selection

## Introduction

Campaigns provide the opportunity for branch and local communities to unify their efforts in concerted work and pursue the vision and mission of WILPF. Every member of WILPF in good standing is invited to use this ballot to participate in selecting the *two campaigns* which will be the focus of national program work for the period 2005-2008.

**Your address label on this issue shows the due date for your membership dues. If the date shown is earlier than 11/04 or there is no date, you are either not current or not a member, and you cannot vote.** However, if you send in your dues with your ballot, your vote will count. (If the address label

says "F" meaning you are a Life Member or "PLDG" meaning you are a Pledger, you are current and may vote.)

Please use this ballot to express your choice among the five campaign proposals submitted for your consideration. Summaries of each campaign are found on pages 6 to 10. Full texts of the proposals are available on the website, from your branch, or from the national office.

The ballot allows each member to rank the campaigns in order of preference from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating your top choice. This method of voting is designed so the campaigns selected will reflect the interests and energies of the broadest possible WILPF membership.

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**To cast your vote, please fill in, tear off, and return this page in the pre-addressed envelope provided in this issue. Remember to enclose your dues if you are not current or wish to join WILPF at this time. Your ballot must be received in the National Office on or before January 31, 2005. Ballots can be mailed in only - no fax or e-mail, please.**

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## BALLOT

I cast my votes for WILPF's 2005-2008 National Program Campaigns in the following order:  
Rank in order of preference from 1 (most preferred) to 5 (least preferred).

- Building the Beloved Community
- Women Challenge U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East
- Campaign for a SANE National Budget Consistent with Ratified U.N. Treaties
- Save the Water
- WILPF Cuba Campaign

Please **PRINT**:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## WILPF Membership Renewal

\_\_\_\_ Yes! I want to renew my membership in WILPF. Enclosed are my annual dues.

I would like to renew at the following membership level: \_\_\_ \$35 Individual  
\_\_\_ \$40 Family \_\_\_ \$15 Limited Income \_\_\_ \$50 Supporting \_\_\_ \$100 Sustaining  
\_\_\_ \$500 Life member \_\_\_\_\_ I want to become a Pledging Member  
(Please see preceding page if you are interested in becoming a Pledging Member.)

Please make checks out to WILPF (membership dues are not tax-deductible)

I would like to use my credit card. (please circle) Visa / AMEX / Mastercard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 2005-2008 Campaign Opportunities

\_\_\_\_ I would like to participate in the leadership of the \_\_\_\_\_ campaign.

Please pass my name on to the WILPF team which submitted the campaign proposal.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to be considered for branch liaison for the \_\_\_\_\_ campaign.

I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ branch.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to be involved in the \_\_\_\_\_ campaign as an individual member. Please add my name to any e-mail list created to keep members up-to-date on campaign activities.

**Return ballot and dues to the national office by January 31, 2005  
in the pre-addressed envelope. Thank you for your vital vote.**

U.S. WILPF National Office 1213 Race Street Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-563-7110

## Join your sisters in WILPF to:

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



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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

New Member       Renewal

Annual dues include a subscription to *Peace and Freedom*

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

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

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

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

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

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

1213 Race Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-1691

### Time Value - Do Not Delay



WILPF at the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C.

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