

# Peace & Freedom

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## Latin America: Building a Peaceful Revolution



# Paz y Libertad

LA REVISTA DE LA LIGA INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES PARA LA PAZ Y LA LIBERTAD



Poet Sonia Sanchez has honored in verse the activism of the Raging Grannies, some of whom were arrested at an Army recruitment station. See page 31.

## Inside This Issue

Another World is Possible .....	3
Water Justice and Democracy .....	4
Israeli Arms Sales .....	6
WILPF (LIMPAL) in the Americas .....	8
The Lessons of Tlatelolco .....	9
29th Congress Held in Bolivia .....	10
WILPF Delegation Visits Colombia .....	12
WILPF Immigration Statement .....	13
Abolishing Foreign Bases .....	14
Leadership Changes at WILPF .....	15
Committee Corner .....	16
Strategic Planning Implications for Board Members ...	18
FOIA Update .....	19
Branch Action News .....	20
Peace Education .....	22
WILPF on the Web .....	23
Membership Page .....	24
Committee Corner .....	25
Middle East Campaigners Mobilize for Peace .....	27
Help Put Peace on the Political Agenda .....	30
Untitled Poem .....	31
Pledge for Peace .....	32

**Cover Photo:** Bolivian indigenous leaders Nelida Faldin (with hat) and Carmen Chuve Casique (holding mike) spoke at WILPF's 29th Congress in July 2007.

Photo by Jane Doyle, Santa Cruz Branch

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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 2005-2008 program cycle has two key campaign areas: Women Challenging U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East and Save the Water.

**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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# Another World is Possible, Another U.S. is Necessary!

By Chris Morin, president, U.S. WILPF

The theme of the first U.S. Social Forum (USSF), “Another world is possible, another U.S. is necessary!” is both true in itself and a call to take the lead in challenging U.S. policies. It is appropriate, then, that the theme of this issue of *Peace and Freedom* is Latin America, for the political events affecting our sisters and brothers of the South offer lessons in specific challenges that need addressing, and where we in WILPF can help.

The USSF, held in Atlanta June 27 – July 1, 2007, was modeled on the World Social Forums initiated by the South American Left. The fora have brought together activists from every corner of the planet to strategize about organizing across borders to promote fundamental change. The USSF, as John Nichols noted in *The Nation* online recently, “says radical reform is both a realistic goal and a reasonable one.”

## The Rise of Polyarchy

In the 1980s and '90s, the U.S. government aggressively intervened in the affairs of numerous Latin American countries, supporting dictatorships to further its own political objectives. Now, in the 21st century, these invasions continue under the guise of “promoting democracy.” This shift coincided with the rise of the neoliberal economic project, which essentially ensures that the world is made safe for the unimpeded flow of capital. Only in the neoliberal model, “democracy” has a new definition — polyarchy.

Polyarchy is a system in which a small group of elites actually rules a country, and the majority can choose only to accept or refuse their leadership. This is already the de facto form of government here in the United States, where only the elite can afford the great cost of running for office. Once in power, our elected officials very often stay in power for decades, leaving little room for “new thinking” and voting for what they, and not their constituents, believe.

The United States government has supported polyarchy throughout Latin America by packaging it as democracy, with rhetoric about promoting “the people’s voice.” In reality, polyarchies co-opt, neutralize, and redirect mass popular democratic movements, and the United States has continually intervened to support them through military action, intelligence operations, and manipulating the media and financial and political channels.

This system was threatened when Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was elected in 1998. The U.S. government responded by backing anti-*Chavista* forces and supporting the unsuccessful coup against him in 2002, an economic sabotage campaign in 2003, and the unsuccessful referendum to oust him in 2004. The United States opposes Chavez because he has created a democratic, sovereign

state that does not need its financial support and openly challenges its policies.

Despite the myths that are generated through the media, under the Chavez Administration, Venezuela’s government is actually more democratic than the United States’. Among the many changes established under the country’s new constitution, civil rights have expanded, and Venezuela has become the first country in the world to offer pensions to housewives. It also boasts one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America, and is a stable oil partner. Despite the constant efforts to defame Chavez, he has emerged as a leader who exemplifies what can be done when a nation is not under the thumb of the United States.



## A Peaceful Revolution

The United States needs a peaceful revolution that mirrors the strides of Venezuela — a revolution in which we are not afraid and believe that we can take back our power. The USSF was the start of such a peaceful revolution. The most diverse gathering of activists ever assembled here, the forum was attended mostly by members of the poor and working class, with women, people of color, and youth well represented. A contingent of more than 30 WILPF members participated in the forum’s Women’s Tribunal, staged and attended numerous workshops, and convened to share what they learned so it can be incorporated in future WILPF work. Indeed, the overall success of the forum lies in the action plans laid out for the “post forum.” Only if we sustain the momentum of that week in Atlanta will we begin to topple the U.S. policies of oppression, racism, and inequality.

Over the past decades, thousands of U.S. groups and organizations have formed to address the many inequities in this country, injustices that affect not just us but the rest of the world. The forum’s organizers focused on supporting and solidifying this scattered social-justice movement, presenting plenaries devoted to building alliances among the many grassroots groups in attendance that culminated in a People’s Movement Assembly at which regional and issue caucuses presented their resolutions. Activists left with a commitment to organize social forums in their regions, cities, and neighborhoods. It is vital to sustain this momentum, and WILPF must be a strong voice in the continued work of the USSF, both here and in Latin America. ❖



# Water Justice and Democracy: From Dream to Reality

By Nancy Price

**A**cross Latin America, as one water-privatization project after another has failed, people from the largest urban centers to the smallest rural communities have continued courageously to assert their right to safe, affordable, and sufficient water — and to exercise direct democracy to ensure that right.

## Commoditizing Water

Beginning in the early 1990s, the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and InterAmerican Development Bank began to force privatization of essential public services as part of the neo-liberal policy of “structural adjustment.” State funds to provide water, health care, education, energy, and transportation were redirected to expand business and the export sector and to increase trade and imports from the global North.

Lenders and corporate executives targeted these mostly poor and developing countries of Latin America. Population growth and urban migration were creating such huge, overcrowded cities — with their vast slums and sprawling suburbs — that cash-poor governments could no longer provide adequate drinking water and sanitation services for all. And, they argued, government officials were corrupt and lacked the technical expertise to run these systems.

Negotiations with local and national officials were conducted behind closed doors, often with 15 percent annual profits guaranteed to corporate executives. As Wenonah Hauter of Food & Water Watch points out: “When contracts fail, as they inevitably do when private corporations are unwilling to provide the needed investment to maintain, build, and expand the water systems, [such] investor protections allow the companies to demand outrageous settlements from the countries they failed to serve.” Argentina alone has 30 pending “investor-state” cases against it for termination of contracts with water corporations, many of which had only met 10 percent of the terms of their contracts! Finally, corporate CEOs assumed public officials would quell popular demonstrations for the right to water by people unable to afford market-rate pricing and high fees for water and sewage hook-ups.

## Resistance Brings Results

The stories below show that despite these challenges, national leaders are responding when the people demand water justice and democracy.

Bolivia, one of the poorest Latin American countries, has emerged as a leader in the global “Right to Water” movement, with two major victories in five years culminating with the election in 2005 of Evo Morales, its first indigenous president. In 2000 in Cochabamba, the third-largest city (pop. 800,000), activists stopped a \$200 million contract by the mayor to sell the public water utility to a multinational-

al consortium headed by the San Francisco-based Bechtel Corporation. People were outraged that Bechtel would control for profit water from local wells and falling rain, and that increased water rates would cost families up to 50 percent of the average national wage per month.

At first, peaceful protest was met with violent response — especially when two days of police and military action left 175 injured, two youths blinded, and one man shot dead.

President Hugo Banzer Suarez placed Bolivia under martial law, suspended civil rights, and set up an emergency government, installing a graduate of the School of the Americas as mayor. General strikes and transportation blockages sometimes brought the city to a standstill. In March, a survey of 60,000 Cochabambans showed 90 percent supported public water. Finally the Bechtel contract was cancelled, and though at first the company attempted to recover costs, it finally dropped its investor suit — the first time a transnational corporation has done so.

The story of El Alto, a poor suburb of 200,000 people above the capital, La Paz, is less well known. Its water system, privatized in 1997, was taken over by the French giant Suez. After facing problems similar to those in Cochabamba, but with peaceful protests, the mayor offered to terminate the company’s contract. After threats of an international lawsuit, and even lobbying by French President Jacques Chirac, the mayor was persuaded to consider a public-private partnership. The people rejected it, fearing Suez would still be in control. After years of protest and a hunger strike by community leaders, Suez was finally evicted from El Alto in early 2005.

## From Collaborations to Constitutional Amendments

As an alternative to privatization, public partnerships have been shown to be mutually beneficial and lead to transparent and democratic management of water resources, with knowledgeable union workers retained. Recently the public water utilities of the cities of Huancayo, Peru, and La Plata,



Argentina signed an agreement for just this type of mutual cooperation based on shared technical assistance.

In Uruguay, years of failed privatization on the local level — especially in the suburbs of the capital, Montevideo — led to a different outcome. Finally, in early 2002, after learning the government had signed a “letter of intent” with the International Monetary Fund to privatize the country’s water and sanitation services, a grassroots network of social and political groups came together to create the National Commission for the Defense of Water and Life. This mobilization led to a campaign for a national water referendum, which passed by more than 60 percent in the 2004 elections.

This measure, the first in Latin America or anywhere, amends the Uruguayan constitution to state that “water is a natural resource essential to life” and that access to piped water and sanitation services are “fundamental human rights.” For-profit corporations are banned from supplying water for human use, which will now be supplied by state-owned entities. Furthermore, water policy is to be based on social conditions and principles of sustainability rather than economic and market factors.

### **Moving Multilateral Agreements**

Uruguay was a strong supporter of the Bolivian vision of water justice presented at the 4th World Water Forum of 2006 in Mexico City by Abel Mamani, a leader of the earlier uprisings in El Alto and the newly appointed Bolivian minister of water.

Because the final Ministerial Declaration stated only that water was a “primary human need” and not a right, Mamani demanded four points be included:

- Water is a human right;
- Water is a social/cultural good, not a commodity;
- Water must be excluded from all trade agreements; and
- Water infrastructure *can* be financed by governments if they do not finance military operations

As expected, Mamani’s move was supported by those nations that had thrown out corporate water giants — Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Paraguay, Venezuela, and Uruguay — as well as by some European countries. Unfortunately, though, because the United States and other nations strongly opposed the addenda, the final declaration did not include water as human right. However, it is expected that the four points will be included in Bolivia’s new democratically revised constitution, to be approved in December 2007.

In Costa Rica, the wealthiest and most democratic of the Central American countries, another kind of debate on privatization is under way. It has yet to ratify the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) due for implementation March 1, 2008. In 2006, President Oscar Arias almost lost re-election to José Miguel Corrales, a fierce critic of CAFTA who, with his allies, has stalled its ratification. By February 2007, mass demonstrations led to the country’s Supreme Elections Tribunal ruling that a national vote could be held. Arias countered by asking the Costa Rican Congress to approve a national referendum on CAFTA

scheduled for October 7, 2007. Polls show that less than 40% support CAFTA. Opposition is increasing — from unions fearing job loss and lowered wages; farmers worried about dumping of agricultural products; increased concern about continued privatization of essential services including water, and the protection of corporate investor rights by such

**As an alternative to privatization, public partnerships have been shown to be mutually beneficial and lead to transparent and democratic management of water resources.**

agreements. As one well-respected Costa Rican lawyer has said: CAFTA “quietly undermines our Constitution.” By the time you read this, results should be in.

### **The Struggle Continues**

Most recently, however, President Antonio Saca of El Salvador, a country where 90 percent of water is contaminated and 50 percent of the population drinks untreated water, has taken a hard right turn. On July 2, he arrived in the village of Suchitoto, north of San Salvador, to announce a new National Policy on Water Decentralization. Fearing this might be the next step to local privatization of essential water services, dozens of social-movement organizations and people from surrounding communities peacefully demonstrated, but were met by the army and police who used rubber bullets, tear gas, and pepper spray. More than 25 people were wounded, and 13 social-movement leaders were arrested, held under deplorable conditions, and charged with terrorism, public disorder, and illicit association. Though they have been released, at this writing the terrorism charge has not been dropped. These charges are possible because Saca, Bush’s main Central American ally, forced an anti-terrorism law through the legislature last year modeled on the U.S. Homeland Security Act. Human rights groups claim the move is a violation of the constitution, which guarantees the right to dissent and protest. It is no coincidence that demonstration leaders and these communities are strongholds of the long-standing democracy movement. It will be important to follow developments closely.

### **Staying the Course on Public Water**

In the United States, “structural adjustment” is not happening, Latin- American style, at the hands of the World Bank

*Continued on page 31* ➤

# Israeli Arms Sales: Latin America, China, and Beyond

By Odile Hugonot Haber

Israel has a history of nurturing relations with Latin American militaries but alienating grassroots organizations and democratic movements that continues to this day.

In the 1970s, Israel began selling weapons to Latin America under the aegis of the United States, explains Jane Hunter in her book *Israeli Foreign Policy, South Africa and Central America*. She writes:

In 1973 Israel took orders from El Salvador for 18 Dassault Ouragan jetfighters aircraft. This was the first step, but then more weapons and military advice followed under the Reagan administration. Israel trained *contra* mercenary forces in Nicaragua and then expanded its mission to participate in the training for the rural “pacification” of the population of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Honduras, under the guise of an innovative technical assistance program.

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**Author Jon Lee Anderson asks, “Is Israel acting as Washington’s proxy in countries where Washington can’t operate openly? What are the costs at home and abroad, in term of international public opinion, of this ‘Uzi diplomacy’?”**

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Hunter defines rural “pacification” as “an attempt to suppress forever a people’s ability to organize against an oppressive order.”

Some were aware of the Israeli role in these operations, as in 1979 the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) of El Salvador kidnapped Israel honorary consul Ernesto Liebes, executing him as a war criminal for facilitating the aircraft sale.

Israel started selling weapons to Guatemala in 1974, beginning with the Arava aircraft, followed by “RBY armored personnel carriers, patrol boats, light cannons, grenade launchers, machine guns, and 15,000 Galil assault rifles,” Hunter continues. “...The aspect of Israeli

cooperation with Guatemala which has the most serious implications is the role played by Israeli personnel in the universally condemned rural pacification program.” In 1982, Israel military advisors had helped develop and conduct the devastating scorched-earth policy that General Rios Montt unleashed on the highland Maya population.

She then quotes the Guatemalan writer Victor Perrera: “Uzi and the larger Galil assault rifles used by Guatemala’s counterinsurgency forces accounted for at least half of the estimated 45,000 Guatemalan Indians killed by the military since 1978.”

The Nicaraguan *contra* leaders said they would obtain weapons from the Israeli embassy in Guatemala; sales also were made in Honduras. Hunter claims these sales were “made by Israeli arms dealers and the documents drafted by Honduras officials who made money on the transactions.”

Of course, we recall Israel’s important role in the Iran-*contra* scandal: Israeli officials were the intermediaries in the Reagan Administration’s covert negotiations with Iran in the infamous arms-for-hostages deal.

## WASHINGTON’S PROXY?

In the prologue of his book *Loose Cannon: On the Trail of Israel’s Gunrunners in Central America*, author Jon Lee Anderson asked questions about the extent of the Israeli-American strategic partnership. “Is Israel acting as Washington’s proxy in countries where Washington can’t operate openly? What are the costs at home and abroad, in term of international public opinion, of this “‘Uzi diplomacy’?”

Writes Anderson: “Significant changes swept Central America in the 1970s in the form of social and political upheaval. Revolutionary movement broke out of quiescence in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala, threatening the US-backed military regimes there and upsetting the status quo.”

He goes on, “Until 1982, a well-connected Israeli defense reporter told me . . . arms sales were around \$1 billion worldwide, since then it soared and arms sales have become a major strategic asset. The sale of Israeli know-how in counter terror, stressed the defense reporter, was also a big part of the business.”

“A veteran Central American merchant sought to explain Israel’s stratagems,” Anderson explains. “Israel has a super production because of its own defense needs, and for Israel this implies a huge investment. Therefore,





Peace sculpture at the United Nations in New York.

Photo courtesy of JAPA.

to sustain this, they have to sell somewhere; as far as Central America, it is an easy market for them.”

### CONTINUING INFLUENCE

But Latin America is no longer the arms market it once was. According to the Arms Control Association, the region’s arms imports “have generally accounted for roughly two to five percent of the world arms market [between 1992-2002].” However, Israel’s military influence in Latin America lives on. As reported by many mainstream and alternative media, Carlos Castaño, the mysteriously disappeared leader of the Colombian paramilitary organization AUC (Autodefensorias Unidas de Colombia) was trained by Israel. AUC, identified by the U.S. State Department as a “foreign terrorist organization,” has been accused of extensive human rights abuses and cocaine trafficking. Jeremy Bigwood, in his 2003 article for Al Jazeera, “Israel’s Latin American Trail of Terror,” explains:

The AUC paramilitaries are a fighting force that originally grew out of killers hired to protect drug-running operations and large landowners. They were organized into a cohesive force by Castaño in 1997 . . . . According to a 1989 Colombian Secret Police intelligence report. . . Israeli trainers arrived in Colombia in 1987 to train him and other paramilitaries who would later make up the AUC. Fifty of the paramilitaries’ ‘best’ students were then sent on scholarships to Israel for further training, according to a Colombian police intelligence report. . . .

Bigwood further reports, “The Colombian AUC paramilitaries are always in need of arms, and it should come as no surprise that some of their major suppliers are Israeli.”

### BUSINESS IS BOOMING

Meanwhile, the military/political marriage of Israel and the United States has continued. As military analyst

Jonathan Reingold writes in an article on the website [Commondreams.org](http://Commondreams.org), “U.S. Arms Sales to Israel End up in China, Iraq”:

From 1990 to 2000, U.S. military aid to Israel totaled over \$18 billion. No other nation in the world has such a close relationship with the U.S. military and arms industries.

All told, Israel is now the fourth-largest global supplier of arms after the United States, and in 2006 Israel’s defense exports hit a record high level. According to Israel’s Defense Ministry, by the end of November 2006, arms firms had sealed \$4.1 billion in new foreign orders surpassing the previous peak — \$4.02 billion — reached in the same period in 2002, writes Dan Williams in his article for Reuters, “Israel Arm Sales Peak Despite Lebanon War Fallout.”

Israel is currently China’s second-largest arms supplier; there is also ongoing cooperation between Israel and China under counter-terrorism programs. “Training programs for . . . China’s People Liberation Army (PLA)

## **All told, Israel is now the fourth-largest global supplier of arms after the United States.**

representative and police at the Israeli Military Industries Academy for Advanced Security and Anti-terror Training are currently under discussions,” states Dr. Eugene Kaplan in an article on [Israelvalley.com](http://Israelvalley.com), the official website of the Chamber of Commerce Israel France.

Beyond this, Israel’s current weapons customers include Cambodia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the South Lebanon army, India, Burma, and Zambia.

### “TRADING” SWORDS FOR PLOWSHARES

It is important for us women activists to understand the complex underpinning of the arms trade, why it is important to work for peace, and that we are still far from swords into plowshares. Arms makers of Israel and the world over must be prompted to move to a peace economy. It is our role to bring the masters of wars to the table and to invite them to change.

*Odile Hugonot Haber is chair of the Women Challenging U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East Campaign. Miranda Spencer contributed additional research and writing.*

# WILPF (LIMPAL) in the Americas

By Mary Day Kent



Although there were no women from Latin America at The Hague in 1915, WILPF connections to the Caribbean and Latin America began very early in the organization's life. In the 1920s the U.S. Section was active in opposing U.S. intervention in Mexico, Haiti, and Nicaragua. A Mexican section was established in 1930. In the 1930s there was a WILPF section in Cuba, with members jailed for opposing the Machado dictatorship. WILPF resolutions against the U.S. embargo on revolutionary Cuba go back to 1962. In 1992 at our International Congress in Bolivia during the 500th anniversary year of European arrival in the Americas, the women of the U.S. and the Latin American sections drafted a Women's Peace and Justice Treaty of the Americas outlining a shared program for the decade ahead. At WILPF's 29th International Congress, held again in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, July 21-27, 2007, the Americas were represented by sections from Canada, the United States, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. Two representatives from the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) participated as observers.

Following are highlights of WILPF's work in Latin America, where it is known as LIMPAL (*Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad*).

## COSTA RICA

With branches in the capital, San Jose, and the city of Heredia, about an hour away, the Costa Rican section hosted an International Executive Committee meeting in 1999 and a hemispheric meeting of WILPF in 2004, both focusing on globalization and trade agreements. It also has a growing youth membership. In addition to tackling trade issues such as opposing Costa Rica's involvement in CAFTA (the Central American Free Trade Agreement), the section has worked on disarmament, supporting Costa Rica's nonmilitary government, and organizing against war toys.

## EL SALVADOR

This small section mostly based in Santa Ana, several hours from the capital of San Salvador, has opposed CAFTA, and El Salvador's involvement in support of the U.S. war in Iraq, along with organizing outreach events on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on the status of women. Its work is infused with a commitment to environmental justice and support for popular culture.

## COLOMBIA

The Colombia Section has members and activity in the capital, Bogotá, and the coastal city of Cartagena. It has an office center in Bogotá, and in both locations supports programs assisting women displaced by Colombia's violent internal conflicts. LIMPAL Colombia produces a monthly electronic newsletter

(*Boletin*, available at the section's website, [www.limpalcolombia.org](http://www.limpalcolombia.org)) and is actively represented in Colombia's networks and roundtables of women for peace. At the initiative of the Colombian Section, a multinational WILPF delegation visited the country prior to the congress to evaluate Colombia as a "case study" of the impact of UNSCR 1325. (Editor's note: See page 12.)

## BOLIVIA

The Bolivia Section is based in the city of Santa Cruz and includes an active wing for younger women, who were very involved in hosting the congress as well as the Gertrud Baer Seminar for youth held at the beginning of the meeting. The section works with national women's networks and has taken leadership in advancing women's rights, organizing for reproductive freedom, and mobilizing to protect women against family violence. Several of the most active leaders are attorneys, who work for change through legal means. The section broadcasts a weekly radio program in both Spanish and Aymara.

## PERU

The section has been at a low level of activity for several years, and some members have been drawn away into mainstream party politics. A new group in the capital of Lima is reenergizing the section and works mostly on rights and empowerment for women in one of the poorest neighborhoods of the city. It has a "sister" relationship with the U.S. branch in Portland, Oregon.

## CHILE

This section is small, with members clustered primarily in the capital, Santiago. It has been active in trade issues, opposing the U.S. trade agreement with Chile and working on behalf of some of the victims of "free trade," such as women who labor for salmon-packing companies. The members find themselves in the interesting situation of having a progressive woman president, Michelle Bachelet, but one whose policies are too militaristic and supportive of corporations.

## CUBA

While WILPF has no section in Cuba, it enjoys a long and close working relationship with the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), the host organization for many of WILPF's delegations and study visits to Cuba. The FMC is Cuba's largest women's organization, and the majority of Cuban women over age 14 are members. In addition to its international solidarity work, the FMC provides education and social services to women, advocates for women's rights and health services, and works for changes in Cuba's family code and culture to encourage the full participation of women and end domestic abuse.

Mary Day Kent is WILPF's outgoing executive director.



# The Lessons of Tlatelolco

## The Rise of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Movement

By Carol Urner

**W**e women in WILPF have much to learn from the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created a nuclear-weapons-free zone (NWFZ) in Latin America. Under this pioneering treaty, the parties agree to prohibit and prevent the “testing, uses, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons” and the “receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons.”

The treaty, along with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT, which came into effect 18 months later), lay the groundwork for a nuclear-weapons-free future. The four additional NWFZ treaties that have followed already cover half the globe, and pressure builds for additional treaties in Europe, northern Asia, and the Middle East.

The treaty’s preamble also reminds us that our ultimate goal is general and complete disarmament, as promised in the United Nations Charter:

That the incalculable destructive power of nuclear weapons has made it imperative that the legal prohibition of war should be strictly observed in practice if the survival of civilization and of mankind itself is to be assured.

The treaty contains two additional protocols: Protocol I binds those overseas countries with territories in Latin America to its terms. Protocol II requires the world’s declared nuclear weapons states to refrain from undermining in any way the region’s nuclear-free status. These protocols have been signed and ratified by the

United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia. In them the treaty again makes clear that abolishing nuclear weapons in Latin America is seen as a first and necessary step toward general and complete disarmament.

### Many Lessons

One of the many lessons provided by the treaty is the continuing importance of WILPF’s disarmament work at the United Nations. In 1982 Alva Myrdal, a Swedish WILPF member, and Alfonso Garcia Robles, Mexican ambassador to the Committee on Disarmament, shared the Nobel Peace Prize for their work on this treaty, and

for their overall contribution at the United Nations for general and complete disarmament. While Myrdal’s achievements were exceptional, many other WILPF members — including the late Kay Camp and the staff of Reaching Critical Will — have also contributed extensively to U.N. efforts, as we all must.



A sign at the Oakland-Berkeley border in California announces Berkeley’s status as a nuclear free zone.

Photo by Nancy Mathe

Another lesson of the treaty is the long-term nature of this work. Even after an auspicious beginning, it takes a long time to achieve our goals. However, we must keep moving forward, never giving up. In 1957, when a nuclear weapons confrontation in Germany between the United States and the then-Soviet Union over the Berlin Wall reached dangerous proportions, with both sides threatening nuclear strikes, the U.N. General Assembly initiated a first call for regional nuclear-weapons-free zone treaties. That same year the first nuclear-weapons-free zone was established by treaty in Antarctica. (WILPF member Emily Greene Balch, another Nobel Peace Prize winner, helped draft the terms of that treaty.)

However, it was the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis that propelled the NWFZ effort in Latin America forward. It was then that Garcia Robles began his work at the United Nations in earnest, with the Mexican government solidly behind him. Other representatives of Latin

Continued on page 13 ►

# WILPF/LIMPAL Hold 29th International Congress in Bolivia

**W**ILPF held its 29th International Congress July 21-27, 2007 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This was the second congress to be held in that nation —the last was in 1992 — and much has changed since then. Over the past 15 years, Bolivia has endured a period of increased poverty, privatization of its resources (such as water), and imposed “structural adjustment” policies that have kept it the poorest country in South America.

Our host city, Santa Cruz, is the country’s financial center, and the deluxe accommodations at the Hotel Camino Real, site of the congress proceedings and lodging, reflected another side of Bolivia. The hotel (complete with a swim-through pool bar and parrot mascots) is located in a beautiful residential area minutes from downtown and its cultural

riches, which participants enjoyed after hours.

As Program Coordinator Kate Zaidan noted on the WILPF blog, “This congress [was] not without difficulties. Participatory decision making is never easy, and we have struggled together around issues of racism, finances, and constitutional amendments. While these discussions can be frustrating at the time, struggling together around key issues ultimately brings us closer.” And everyone took home the gift of a *bolivianita*, a gemstone (a combination of amethyst and citrine) unique to the region.

*On these pages are highlights of the congress agenda and literal and figurative “snapshots” of some participants’ impressions and experiences.*



## Dispatches from Santa Cruz

### BOLIVIA EVOKES MANY IMAGES . . .

the Andes and Sierras mountain ranges...charming farming towns where people with high, round black hats and wide skirts mill around farmers markets where llamas roam. However, it is also true that there are high-rise apartment buildings, and city traffic fights its way on busy city streets where there are no lane markers. Even though there are signs of poverty, people see themselves as the beneficiary of the coming economic upsurge. People I spoke with were not too quick to praise Evo Morales and his revolutionary policies. When questions came up they said the country is in transition and nothing is certain or stable.

— YOSHIKO IKUTA

U.S. SECTION, SAVE THE  
WATER LEADERSHIP TEAM

**“Let us become many and unstoppable!” Congress participants unite for a group photo; some 130 women (and men) attended this year’s congress.**



### WITHIN MOMENTS OF ARRIVING

at the hotel .... I was whisked away to the Gertrude Baer Seminar, a forum for Young WILPF (YWILPF) to gather and network. We have struggled in the United States to organize a youth membership, and it was encouraging to see so many young, active members of WILPF in Bolivia and the world over. About half of the participants were from the global South and half from the so-called industrialized world. We discussed the political realities in our countries and discovered that whatever the hemisphere, all suffer from poverty, domestic violence, racism, and housing and education crises. However, the political consciousness among young women is much higher in the global South,

All Bolivia photos by Jane Doyle  
(except as noted)

*Continued on next page* ➤



The next generation of Latin American peace activists!

whereas we of the North face a largely apolitical and distracted base of youth.

We left the Gertrude Baer seminar with the challenge to go back to our home countries and build YWILPF. From the sections with large YWILPF membership — those in the U.K., Bolivia, and Lebanon — I got the impression that what draws young people to the organization is programmatic work that is relevant to their lives. Each country created youth-specific programming to entice new members to the organization — whether a training program, a trip to the United Nations, or a group that focused on local issues that impact youth — and it worked!

— KATE ZAIDAN, WILPF PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**“IT IS GOOD THAT WE MET IN BOLIVIA.”**

It is a bright spot. Here the people — the most disenfranchised, who have endured the effects colonization for more than 500 years — have organized to take control of their lives and resources. Women have played a major role in every aspect of resisting neo-liberal controls and establishing a peoples’ democracy. Social movements in Bolivia and throughout Latin America are providing models of resistance and basic community organizing.”

— REGINA BIRCHEM, OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Photos of “1000 Peace Women,” women who have been nominated for a Noble Peace Prize. WILPFers visited this touring display on a trip arranged by the El Salvador Section.

Continued on page 28 ➤

**CONGRESS AGENDA (ABRIDGED)**

**July 20**

Officers’ meeting

**July 21**

Gertrude Baer Seminar for young WILPFers  
Meetings: Officers, Finance Committee, International Executive Committee (IEC)  
Welcome dinner  
Informal regional meetings: Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe/Africa, Middle East

**July 22**

Opening welcome from Katia Patino (WILPF Bolivia)  
Introductions from outgoing International President Regina Birchem and Secretary General Susi Snyder  
Seminar and discussion: “Resistance and Challenges: Bolivia, Latin America, and the World” moderated by Marta Benavides, VP (El Salvador).  
Colombia Delegation Report (*See page 12 for more information.*)  
Report: Experiences at Cochabamba from Swedish delegation  
Evening bus trip to House of Culture

**July 23**

Plenary: Official opening of Congress  
Roll call, adoption of agenda, acceptance of 2004 congress report  
International Report by Regina Birchem (USA)  
Plenary: Report of Secretary General Susi Snyder  
Plenary: Treasurers Report and reports from Constitution and Nomination committees; appointment of Election, Resolution, and Program committees, presentation of resolutions and policy statements  
Plenary: “Countering Military Intervention”  
Report on Quito, Ecuador Conference to Abolish Foreign Military Bases (*See page 14.*)  
Y-WILPF (Young WILPF) video

**July 24**

Workshops on (among other things) women’s rights, the struggles of indigenous peoples, the situation in the Middle East.  
Committee meetings  
Forum: Presentation of candidates for election

**July 25**

Plenary: WILPF at 100: Proposal for a manifesto  
Finance Committee report: “Money and Our Politics: Where Do We Get It? How Do We Use It?”  
Plenary: Program and policy issues/decisions/recommendations  
Reports and discussion on the Middle East (*See page 27.*)

**July 26**

Plenary  
Adoption of Resolutions  
Election of officers  
Panel: WILPF International Program and Budget, 2008-2011  
IEC meeting  
Festive dinner and party with music hosted by WILPF Bolivia



# WILPF Delegation Visits Colombia

By Mary Day Kent

During the week of July 12-20, a small delegation of WILPF members from the Colombia Section and five other sections from the United States, European countries, the Middle East, and Latin America journeyed to Bogotá and Cartagena, Colombia for a fact-finding mission. We were there at the request of the Colombia Section to learn the realities of the country's political situation in greater depth and to prepare recommendations to present at the International Congress in Bolivia for WILPF actions concerning that country.

## A NATION IN TURMOIL

Colombia is home to one of the world's longest and most murderous civil conflicts, and to the second-largest number of internally displaced persons in the world (approximately 3.5 million, the majority women and children). One of the striking aspects of the Colombian conflict is that its government insists both that the conflict has been resolved by military force and that it never existed at all. The country also presents a valuable case study for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 1325 on the status of women, both as victims of conflict and agents of peacemaking.

Our WILPF delegation met with many NGO representatives, the staff of UNIFEM (the women's fund at the United Nations), and the Colombian president's advisor on women's equality. We learned the country's tremendously complex history, and the stunning scope of the ongoing violence that has evolved since the 1960s — or depending on your sources, the 1940s.

Despite popular attribution of violence to drugs, terrorism and/or Communism, we came to appreciate that its origin stems in large part from the battle to control natural resources such as oil, gold, and land. We learned about the escalating role of multinational corporations as a key cause of the unrest, due to their displacement of rural populations to make way for economic projects and their subsequent attempts to influence Colombian elections.

## TWO SIDES OF LIFE

Colombia's capital, Bogotá, is a sophisticated, worldly city of art, culture, and beautiful mountains overlooking well-kept parks and elegant buildings. However, to the south of the city one sees the endless haze over the newer sectors of crowded and improvised housing, where many of the nearly four million people forcibly displaced by conflict are living and eking out survival.

In Cartagena, Colombia's tourist mecca, we stayed in the heart of the historic walled center, a few blocks from the beautiful restored Colonial house belonging to Nobel

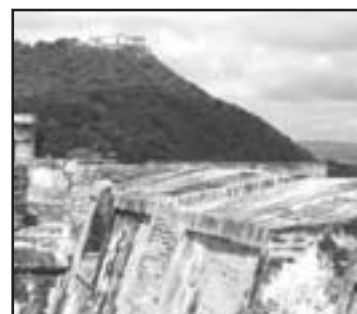
Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Then we traveled just a few minutes away, up a hillside next to one of the tourist sites, the colonial convent of La Popa (*pictured below*), to meet some of the displaced women with whom WILPF (LIMPAL) Colombia works. We visited their two-room cement houses, achieved with years of hard work and savings, perched precariously just over the international airport runway on land owned by the city's mayor (who claims, inexplicably, that it would cost too much to buy it for the displaced!).

The most painful part of the women's testimony was when they described what they had lost: their homes, lands far away that had provided a dignified living, a community of social and family support, the beauty of the countryside. However, they also spoke of their pride in learning new skills and how support from WILPF and other organizations enabled them to learn their legal rights and how to organize with other women to fight for them.

## SPEARHEADING GLOBAL ACTIONS

At congress, after the delegation's presentation and a workshop on Colombia, numerous plans and recommendations emerged. WILPF International has pledged to make Colombia one of the themes at the meeting in March 2008 of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. Among other things, the congress recommended that WILPF sections forge links with existing Colombia-focused groups in their countries to strengthen and share actions, and confront their multinational companies with the devastating impact of their involvement in Colombia. WILPF sections in countries that support financially the ongoing Colombian peace negotiations in Cuba should advocate for participation of women in this process. The congress also passed a resolution to support the boycott of the Coca-Cola Company due to its anti-labor activities in Colombia.

Meanwhile, WILPF Colombia will continue its section work, which focuses on economic and political empowerment of displaced women in Colombia and advocacy at the national and international levels, and will send regular information bulletins to the WILPF sections in both English and Spanish. To learn more about the work of WILPF Colombia, visit its website at [www.limpalcolombia.org](http://www.limpalcolombia.org).



Mary Day Kent is WILPF's outgoing executive director.

# WILPF Immigration Statement

## Adopted Dec.1, 2006 by the National Board of WILPF, U.S. Section

**T**he Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF-US) recognizes that the United States is a nation of immigrants from around the world whose many contributions have enriched our lives and communities from the nation's beginning.

WILPF's first president, Jane Addams, founded and directed Hull House in Chicago for newly arrived immigrants "to provide a center for a higher civic and social life." An immigrant's successful integration will always depend on the wisdom and receptivity of policy makers and the willingness of communities to promote diversity and assist the transition of newcomers. Such efforts should be guided by a commitment to equal protection, along with equal access to health care, employment, education, and legal assistance for all residents.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom/US Section:

- Supports the development of national and international policies to address the underlying causes of global migration that disrupt cultures and local economies. We call for change in a system that allows industry to poison people, communities, and the natural commons while denying people's right to a secure and decent livelihood. We call for the end of corporations that exploit low-wage, no-benefits immigrant labor in a free-market system. We call for all workers' democratic right to travel,

work, and organize for better conditions.

- Recognizes the contribution of immigrants and refugees to our country and advocates for their human and constitutional rights. We oppose those voices that fan the fear and hatred of these newcomers to our land.
- Supports local, state, and national grassroots organizing for immigrant rights.
- Supports effective networking among governments at every level and community-based organizations toward the effective delivery to immigrants of needed human services without regard to documentation or legal status.
- Opposes the policies and trends, some in place since September 11, 2001, that criminalize immigrants and militarize immigration law enforcement.
- Opposes construction of the 700-mile separation wall along the Mexico-U.S. border.
- Supports public-policy measures that allow undocumented immigrants living and working in the United States to become lawful residents and citizens of this country.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has always seen human rights and social justice for all as essential conditions for peace within and among nations. For additional information about the organization, its work and principles, see WILPF's website, [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org). ❖

### ► TLATELOLCO *continued from page 9*

American countries joined him, anxious to shield their nations from the dangerous nuclear confrontations between the United States and the Soviet bloc. The negotiations were completed by 1967 and the Treaty of Tlatelolco was opened for signatures. By 1969, enough Latin American countries, including Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico had already ratified for it to enter into force, but it took 33 more years of pressure, promotion, and common-sense reasoning before all 33 sovereign Latin American countries ratified. In 2002 Cuba — where the nuclear threat began — became the last to officially join the NWFZ treaty.

### A Growing Movement

There is another lesson in the fact that one success, like the Tlatelolco Treaty, can open the way for many others. Additional NWFZ treaties followed it: in the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga, 1986) and Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok, 1997). In Africa, 21 nations have ratified the Pelindaba Treaty (including the Arab nations of Libya and Algeria!), but another seven signatories are

still needed for it to enter into force. In 2006, after eight years of negotiations, the Central Asian Nuclear Free Zone Treaty was signed by five nations, including Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, all formerly nuclearized as part of the U.S.S.R. The United States, which seeks a strong military presence in those states, has objected strenuously to the treaty, even (unsuccessfully) pressuring the United Nations to remove its support for it. Ratification of its additional protocols by all five nuclear powers party to the NPT is necessary before the treaty can come into force.

We also now have treaties that include NWFZs in outer space and in the sea beds. Mongolia and New Zealand have independently declared themselves nuclear-weapons-free zones. Some 4,300 municipalities in the United States, Europe, and northern Asia have also declared themselves NWFZs as part of the struggle to become part of regional zones and to abolish nuclear weapons altogether. WILPF members engaged actively in this campaign in the United States, as New York, Chicago, Berkeley and Oakland, California, Portland, Oregon and

*Continued on page 21* ►

# Abolishing Foreign Bases: Victory in Ecuador, Challenge Around the World

By Mary Day Kent

During the first week of March 2007, more than 400 activists from 40 countries converged on Quito, Ecuador, for the founding meeting of the International Network to Abolish Foreign Military Bases. WILPF was represented by Irene Eckert (Germany), Kozue Akiyabashi (Japan), and me (USA). The largest contingents were from Ecuador and the United States, but significant delegations came from Japan and Okinawa, Europe, the Pacific Island nations, and several countries of Latin America (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico ...)

The meeting opened with a blessing ceremony from the indigenous people of Ecuador, welcoming us to their land, the site of the United States' Eloy Alfaro Air Base at Manta on the Pacific coast. The conferees were also welcomed by members of Ecuador's newly elected progressive nationalist government, led by President Rafael Correa.

## UNWELCOME SITES: UNITING OPPOSITION

The gathering focused on both information and analysis of the scope and impact of foreign bases around the world and the hard work of organizing the new network and agreeing on the key principles of its unifying declaration. (For detailed information, please visit [www.no-bases.org](http://www.no-bases.org)). We learned that of the roughly 1,500 foreign bases in 130 countries, more than half are run by the United States, not counting those in colonized areas such as Puerto Rico and Hawaii (now U.S. territory) that are not recognized as "foreign" by the U.S. government. However, there are also growing numbers of foreign bases operated by the European Union and individual countries of Europe. While WILPF emphasizes the universal harm done by militarism, be it inside or outside national borders, we believe foreign bases exert particularly damaging effects on their host countries. Almost everywhere there exists a foreign base, there is also a resistance movement — and the goal of the network is to link these movements in mutual support.

By the end of the meeting, attendees were exhilarated to see the written commitment by President Correa not to extend the U.S. lease for the Manta base when the

current agreement between the two nations expires in November 2009. Unfortunately, this triumph for democracy was immediately followed by the news that the United States is likely to increase its military presence in Colombia to compensate for the facilities soon to be closed in Ecuador.

## TAKING ACTION, LOOKING AHEAD

The conference concluded on March 8, International Women's Day, with a dynamic bus caravan from Quito to Manta. This all-day expedition by a convoy of eight buses stopped in several towns and cities to greet women's organizations and anti-base campaigners. The refrain in the streets was "*No queremos/y no nos da la gana/de ser una colonia/ norteamericana*" (We do not wish/we do not feel like/being a U.S. colony).

Later, at WILPF's Triennial Congress in Bolivia in July, the WILPF women who attended the network conference presented reports and held a well-attended workshop on the issue of foreign bases. The resolution on the no-bases network presented by the U.S. Section was passed and included the decision that WILPF will continue to participate in the network. Its key elements recognize that foreign military bases: harm women through sexual exploitation; divert funds from programs to meet human needs; facilitate state repression and intervention;

The refrain in the streets was  
"*No queremos/y no nos da la  
gana/de ser una colonia/ norteamericana*" (We do not wish/we do not feel like/being a U.S. colony).

violate national sovereignty; serve as enclaves of impunity to violate international law; make wars and nuclear preparations possible; and cause long-lasting environmental damage. Among other things, the resolution calls on all WILPF sections and the International organization to participate in the network and

charges the WILPF International Peace and Security Working Group to follow the issue of foreign bases.

(For the full text, see [www.wilpf.int.ch/events/2007Congress/Resolutions/No\\_Bases\\_US](http://www.wilpf.int.ch/events/2007Congress/Resolutions/No_Bases_US).)

Mary Day Kent's research on U.S. military bases in Central America and Panama has been published in *The Sun Never Sets* (South End Press, 1991) and *Honduras: Captive Nation* (Praeger, 1985).



# Leadership Changes at WILPF

## Mary Day Kent Steps Down as Executive Director



Dear WILPF members,

One of the joys and challenges of the past eight years of working at WILPF has been writing my occasional column for this magazine. This message will be my last one, an “au revoir” rather than a farewell, I hope. By the time this reaches you, I will have left the executive director position at WILPF. It has been a privilege to share in weaving the fabric of this wonderful and unique organization.

My work at WILPF began in 1999, a political era ago. Since then, we have journeyed through the Republican convention and the “election” of 2000, the crisis of September 11, 2001, the Patriot Act, the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and the ongoing military occupations with their daily bloodshed. Throughout, WILPF has sought to follow our founders’ goals of ending war and uprooting the causes of war. WILPF’s campaigns have also sparked national organizing to challenge corporate personhood, keep space for peace, recognize water as a human right rather than a corporate product, support reparations for slavery, restore freedom to travel to Cuba (and everywhere), and end our government’s blank check for the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

Weekly, if not daily, I have witnessed new history being made through the achievements and initiatives of WILPF women, from Emily Greene Balch to those of the present moment, including some of the writers in this issue.

As I step out of the director’s office, I want to thank WILPF for the opportunities I have had to learn, to serve, to meet, and to work with some of the most impressive, creative, and brave peacemakers in the world. I have been proud to say, “I am with WILPF!”

*Mary Day Kent was executive director of the U.S. Section of WILPF from 1999 to 2007. She is a member of the Philadelphia branch.*

## New Officers Chosen

A new slate of officers was elected to the International Board at WILPF’s Congress this past summer. They will



Photos: Jane Doyle

The new International officers, *l. to r.*: Vice Presidents Amparo Guerrero (Colombia); and Kozue Akiyabashi (Japan); Co-Presidents Annaliese Ebbe (Denmark) and Kirsten Greback (Sweden); Vice Presidents Samira Khoury (Lebanon) and Felicity Hill (Australia). *Front*: Treasurer Tamara James (USA). Tamara has stepped down as co-president of the U.S. Section. Co-president Chris Morin is now president.

## Meet Audley Green

Audley Green is the new U.S. Section representative to the International Board of WILPF for the 2007-2010 term. In this role, she will serve on the International decision-making body and be the liaison between the U.S. membership and global WILPF. A part-time resident of Maine and member of the Boston branch, which she helped revitalize and co-chaired for several years, Audley was formerly WILPF’s membership point person for the Northeast region. Of her new duties, she says, “I have always found that our local branches are mostly involved in local actions and issues. I want to help to broaden the interest and involvement of our local members in the international scene.”

Born in Bundaberg, Australia, and a graduate of Queensland University, Audley moved to the United States in 1962 with her husband. She taught embryology to pre-meds students at Columbia University, and later taught music at Goucher College in Baltimore, where she joined the WILPF branch in 1972. For the last couple of decades she has toured as a concert harpsichordist. ❖



# Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



## Cuban Solidarity Adds Thousands of Doctors to Treat World's Poor

By Lisa Valanti and Shirley Muhammad

While the world learned a bit about the Cuban health care system from Michael Moore's film *Sicko*, WILPF members challenging the U.S. blockade of Cuba this past summer with the 18th U.S.–Cuba Friendship Caravan experienced firsthand an unprecedented demonstration of Cuba's international solidarity during the graduation ceremony of nearly 2,500 physicians from Cuba's Escuela Latino Americana de Medicina, or Latin American School of Medical Science, known as ELAM.

Six women and two men from U.S. ethnic minority backgrounds were among more than 2,470 students from more than 30 countries who received their medical diplomas. "Healthcare is not a business in Cuba," one of the U.S. graduates, Kenya Bingham, 29, told the Associated Press. "Cuba offered us full scholarships to study medicine here. In exchange, we committed ourselves to go back to our communities to provide health care to underserved people," Carmen Landau, 30, also from the United States, told Reuters.

The first class of U.S. graduates started courses in 2001. Ninety more followed. Eighteen are due to enroll in September 2007, making the U.S. students a small but high-profile minority among the student body.

Over 10,000 foreign students attend ELAM, transformed from a military naval base into a medical school in 1999 after hurricanes and mudslides devastated much of Central America, after which Cuba committed to provide free medical training to international youth from economically disadvantaged communities who aspire to serve humanity by becoming physicians. The school exemplifies Cuba's commitment to healthcare as a fundamental human right. Though the Bush Administration bans all Americans from traveling to Cuba, an exemption was made for the students because the Cuban government absorbs all of their expenses.

Cuban degrees are fully accredited by the World Health Organization (WHO). Like all foreign-trained specialists, graduates have to pass equivalency exams to validate their medical degree to practice in the United States. When they pass their equivalency exams, the graduates will be part of just 6 percent of practicing doctors from ethnic minority backgrounds, according to the U.S. Association of American Medical Colleges.

As a result of the almost 50-year U.S. blockade of Cuba, Cuban hospitals — like all of Cuba's infrastructure — are often crumbling and poorly equipped. But the health system, prioritizing its resources and utilizing expert human resources, has produced results on par with wealthy nations. For example, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday is seven per 1,000 live births in Cuba, versus eight per 1,000 in the United States, according to WHO.

This year alone, Cuba graduated a total of 8,884 medical professionals from various nations as doctors, dentists, nurses and health technicians, according to Cuban Health Minister Jose Ramon Balaguer. He noted that at present 53,000 young people from Cuba and 88 other countries are taking medical courses in Cuba, while Cuban specialists are training other students in their respective nations. At the same time, Cuban doctors are currently assisting 60 million people around the world, he said. For further information on ELAM, visit [www.ifconews.org](http://www.ifconews.org).

To learn more about WILPF and Cuba, we welcome you to contact or join the WILPF Cuba Issues Committee. Please contact [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org) or email [Peaceworkswoman@aol.com](mailto:Peaceworkswoman@aol.com)

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*Lisa Valanti and Shirley Muhammad are members of the Cuba Issues Committee. Both participated in International WILPF's women's delegation to Cuba. This article was compiled from material gathered at various press conferences and the most recent graduation ceremonies.*

## Haiti and Latin America

By Shirley Pate, Joan Drake, and Marge Van Cleef

In 2005, several Haitians attended the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil in a desperate attempt to tell all who would listen about the United States-backed coup d'etat just 10 months earlier that led to the ouster of their democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Haiti has always been isolated by both culture and language from Latin America, yet shares many of the same problems. Forum attendees, knowing what U.S. interference has done in their own countries, identified with the plight of the Haitians and established lasting alliances. It is in this grassroots Haitian tradition of reaching out and seeking solidarity that we pursue our work in the Haiti Issues Committee.

Our primary goal in the committee is to keep public focus on human-rights abuses in Haiti and how U.S. intervention there is at the root of these atrocities. Over the long term, we are also concerned that, with Haiti located in the Caribbean Basin, the United States will want to use it for strategic positioning purposes. Solidarity-building with people from Latin America is a key aspect in fighting these kinds of problems.

The committee meets regularly with diplomatic repre-

representatives from Latin American countries that contribute troops to the U.N. “peacekeeping” effort in Haiti, including Bolivia and Brazil. We seek withdrawal of these troops based on our conviction that the U.N. force is maintaining an occupation in Haiti that has led to the death and injury of hundreds of unarmed citizens.

In 2005, the committee presented a workshop at the first Venezuela Solidarity Network conference in Washington, D.C. Workshop attendees readily recognized the similarities between the U.S.-backed coup attempt in Venezuela in 2002 and its coup in Haiti in 2004. This past summer, Marge Van Cleef, representing the committee, held a Haiti workshop at the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta and also presented one at the WILPF Congress in Bolivia. Holding such workshops is important because they help the committee extend its reach to a greater number of Latin American organizations and individuals than it normally can.

Haiti has no better friends in Latin America than Cuba and Venezuela. Cuba’s sending its doctors and Venezuela’s inviting it to join the Caribbean oil alliance Petrocaribe have gone a long way toward breaking Haiti’s 200 years of isolation. The committee meets regularly with diplomatic representatives of Cuba and Venezuela to apprise them of human rights conditions in the country and specific education and health needs.

Haiti Issue Committee members, accompanied by grassroots Haitian representatives, plan to participate in the regional Social Forum to be held in Guatemala in November 2008. We think this will go a long way toward forging lasting alliances between the people of Haiti and the people of Central America.

The committee is committed to creating opportunities for Haitians to meet with Latin Americans — because no one tells the story of Haiti better than a Haitian herself.

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*Shirley Pate, Joan Drake, and Marge Van Cleef are members of the Haiti Issues Committee.*

## **DISARM! Committee Expands International Programs**

*By Carol Urner*

The WILPF Triennial Congress in Bolivia reaffirmed existing international disarmament programs and advanced several exciting new initiatives. Reaching Critical Will (RCW), our program working at the United Nations for the abolition of nuclear weapons and an end to space militarization programs, continued to receive strong support, and we eagerly anticipate more U.S. branches and members joining in this vitally important work.

The U.S. DISARM! project emphasizes that our nation must lead the world in negotiating new treaties and supporting existing ones on these issues, at the same time working with Congress to defeat the current administration’s plans for rebuilding the entire nuclear weapons stockpile, and

for weaponizing and further militarizing space.

The work of Peace Women on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 and gender issues in war and peace-building after conflict was also strongly reaffirmed, although funds for its continuation have yet to be raised.

The new WILPF international disarmament program outlined in Bolivia also calls for joining the NGO coalition supporting the government of Norway and 60 other nations now negotiating a treaty banning cluster bombs. In addition, it encourages efforts to dismantle the war economy, just as U.S. WILPF joins the new Bite the Bullet War Profiteering Education and Action Network. Bite the Bullet grew out of a national conference, Stop the Merchants of Death! in Minneapolis-St. Paul, initiated nationally by the War Resisters League and co-sponsored by WILPF. The DISARM! team, other U.S. WILPF members and RCW remain deeply involved in its development.

Other new resolutions called for active support of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East and of the new No Foreign Bases Network launched last March in Ecuador. (*Editor’s note: See pages 9 and 14 for articles on these topics.*) The first offers members working on nuclear disarmament issues an excellent opportunity to cooperate with the WILPF Women Challenge U.S. Policy Campaign (WCUSP). The second gives us all an opportunity to join with WILPF’s Latin American and other International sections seeking to close down U.S. military bases on their territory.

A challenging and potentially very productive three years lie ahead of us. The DISARM! committee will not only continue providing resources on the above issues, but also act as a clearinghouse for other related member concerns. Some branches are working on getting the U.S. government to establish a Department of Peace, while others (including our wonderful Raging Grannies) focus on counter-recruitment and stopping the Iraq war. Still others are working on issues surrounding the use of depleted uranium (DU), and we aim to link them to one another and to the other WILPF sections (especially Britain and Norway) that are working diligently for a treaty banning DU weapons. The Boston Branch and some California branches are tackling the dangerous new university and military bio-terror labs being built around the country in apparent defiance of the U.N. Biological Weapons Treaty.

On our website at [www.disarm.wilpf.org](http://www.disarm.wilpf.org) you’ll find both resources and information on how to contact our team members and other branches. We welcome input from all members and encourage any WILPF sister who wants to expand her work on a primary concern to the national level to join our DISARM! Leadership Team.

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*Carol Urner is chair of the DISARM! Dismantling the War Economy committee.*



# Strategic Planning and Implications for New Board Members (2008-2011)

By Chris Morin

A dear friend of mine and of WILPF's continues to tell me, "We can't expect a different outcome if we continue to do things the same way." With this statement in mind, the National Board has initiated a strategic planning process.

You may already be aware of this process, described in a letter sent to branches in May by Treasurer Ellen Murtha. This article, in the spirit of transparency and democracy, is intended to further detail the rationale and evolution of this initiative. WILPF's National Board, elected by the membership, is charged with leading the organization and, accordingly, makes decisions on how that mandate is to be achieved. Due to a lack of national recognition and decreasing membership, the board decided to undertake some intensive strategic planning to revitalize WILPF. Having received some unexpected bequest funds, we decided the best use of some of this contribution was to hire an outside strategic planning consultant.

## GOAL-SETTING AND DECISION-MAKING

Board members reviewed the qualifications of several consultants and chose three. Of these, two were interviewed; we ultimately hired Debbie Liardet and Nancy Heischman of the Conflict Resolution Center in Santa Cruz, California. Facilitated by our consultants, we then selected an oversight

committee of eight board members, who met prior to the board meeting to brainstorm priority areas to cover in the strategic-planning process.

**Our charge was to research answers to questions about how to revitalize WILPF. How do we draw new members and keep them engaged? Does our present structure serve our mission?**

At our spring board meeting in April, the committee devoted a day to planning how to strengthen the organization and better transform WILPF's vision into reality. It then presented the board with the draft plan, answered clarifying questions about it, and discussed the work required to implement it. With input from the National Office staff and Executive Director Mary Day Kent, the board then formed four task forces, which focus on membership, finances, board/staff structure, and program. In the spirit of thinking "out of the box," these groups were named (respectively) Pathways to Participation, Resources for Empowerment, Roles, Responsibilities and Balance, and Enacting Mission. Each task group met via conference calls from April to

*Continued on next page* ➤

## Looking for Something? Surf the Net and Fund WILPF Too!

By Kate Zaidan

There's now a painless way to raise funds for WILPF! Each time you search the Internet using GoodSearch, it generates a one-cent donation for JAPA. Then, at the end of the year, GoodSearch sends a check that supports JAPA, U.S. WILPF, and International WILPF. The 2006 check was for \$16.85, but the 2007 check could be for many thousands more!

To use it, go to the search window at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) (or click on the lower-right corner of the WILPF website) and type in JAPA as your "charity." Then type in your search terms and click! The penny

donation will automatically be credited from then on. The actual searching is done by the Yahoo! search engine, so there is no sacrifice in time or efficiency.

Just think — a brand-new source of support that costs nothing and requires no meetings! In fact, if 500 WILPF members use GoodSearch just 15 times per week for the next month alone, it will generate \$300 for



JAPA/WILPF. So while it's not a substitute for organizing, searching with GoodSearch — and encouraging your friends and family to do the same — is another way to mobilize to make peace a reality.

Former Executive Director Mary Day Kent says, "I was skeptical about GoodSearch at first—it seemed too good to be true. Now I am a total convert and hope that we can all take advantage of this resource for WILPF." ❖

September. Our charge was to research answers to questions we created about how to revitalize WILPF, such as: How do we draw new members and keep them engaged? Does our present structure serve our mission? and so on. We sought information from branch members, individuals and staff from other organizations, and outside experts. We also sought feedback from a wider group of WILPF members via a survey created and distributed via Survey Monkey and sent out to our internal email list. The online survey asked questions concerning the future of WILPF and members' willingness to be interviewed further about their thoughts. The survey results were shared at a special September board meeting at which each of the task forces presented three proposals: one "out of the box," one middle-of-the-road, and one conservative.

From each of these three proposals per group, the board will select the best one and develop it further. These decisions will not be definitive, however: We will implement an Inclusion Plan to solicit input from staff and members.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Because the strategic planning process will not be finalized until later this fall, it is uncertain whether or not any changes will occur in the makeup of the present National Board. Because *Peace & Freedom* is our main communications vehicle, we usually announce the nomination process in this, the fall issue. At this time, however, we are encouraging you the members to run for the 2008-2011 board. Below are listed the present board positions and the responsibilities of each board member. These positions and job descriptions may change; specific details will be published as soon as they are defined.

#### Board Positions and Responsibilities

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Program chair
- Membership chair
- At-Large membership representative
- Membership representatives (3)
- Development chair
- Staff concerns chair

Each board member will:

- Attend two board meetings per year
- Make WILPF her priority activist involvement during board service
- Participate in annual budget deliberations and passage, and subsequent decisions as needed
- Participate in making, supporting, and communicating WILPF policy decisions
- Promote WILPF locally and beyond, as opportunities arise
- Be an active fundraiser in WILPF by raising a minimum of \$500/year, with the assistance of our fundraising manual

- Develop a working relationship with WILPF staff members
- Commit to working as a team, following the democratic arts of conflict resolution, facilitation, and delegation
- Be cognizant of integrating fundraising, membership building, and program in all of WILPF's work
- Have access to email and be willing to communicate with this technology
- Copy ("cc") all emails to the executive director

If you are interested in running for a board position, contact Chris Morin (funforlife1@mac.com, 757-229-3384) or Pamela Jones-Burnley (pjburnley@wilpf.org, 215-563-7110) for more information.

Thank you for your patience as we work for a better WILPF!

*Chris Morin is WILPF's president.*

## Where Is the "Information" in the Freedom of Information Act?

More than a year ago (on June 14, 2006), WILPF joined the American Civil Liberties Union and many other organizations and individuals in filing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests as part of the "Don't Spy on Me!" campaign. The FOIA requires the many government agencies that maintain information and surveillance reports on citizens and groups to reveal these activities and release to them the related documents. As of September 2007, neither WILPF as an organization nor any of the individual WILPF staff members and volunteer leaders who made these requests have received any files.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has informed Paul J. Hetzner, WILPF's pro-bono lawyer and counsel for "Don't Spy on Me!," that the FBI does possess documents on WILPF; however, these documents date back to the 1970s. Once the documents are reviewed (and redacted), the FBI says it will release them to WILPF.

Recently the Pentagon announced that it was shutting down its illegal domestic spy program known as TALON and transferring the data it collected to the FBI. (Short for Threat And Local Observation Notice, the program tracked antiwar demonstrations and protests against military operations in the United States.)

Hetzner will initiate a request to obtain any information on WILPF — as well as about other Philadelphia-area peace groups — transferred to the FBI from the Pentagon.

Stay tuned for further updates! ❖



## BranchAction News

*By Dannelle Hauser, Branch Action editor*

**BRANCHES REPORTING:** Ashland, Cape Cod, Central Vermont, Cleveland, Des Moines, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madison, Minnesota Metro, Monterey, Palo Alto, Peninsula, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, St. Louis, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Sierra Foothills, Triangle (North Carolina), West Palm Beach.

Fellow WILPF members: I currently have the privilege of reviewing all of the branches' information and activities. Please continue to send your newsletters to me at the National Office for review.

— Dannelle Hauser, *WILPF intern*

### MAJOR EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS

**Santa Cruz** held an event for International Women's Day, March 8, featuring a Treasure Hunt, a silent auction, and speakers such as human rights expert Rita Maran. **San Jose** held an anti-bottled water action at a local supermarket on World Water Day (March 22) under the theme "Coping with Water Security." **Central Vermont, Fresno, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Cruz, St. Louis, West Palm Beach** (and Palo Alto's and Santa Cruz's Raging Granny counterparts) demonstrated April 16–17 in honor of Tax Day to inform citizens of how the federal government spends their tax dollars. **Triangle** distributed cards for Mother's Day (May 13) in honor of the families and mothers who have been affected by the Iraq war and occupation. Many branches commemorated the 40th Anniversary of Israel's illegal military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem on June 10; **Triangle**, for example, joined the U.S. campaign to end the Israeli Occupation for Peace and Justice at a protest, teach-in, and lobby day in Washington, D.C. On Independence Day (July 4) **Madison** held an "Impeach for Peace Rally" and **Central Vermont** marched from Middlebury to Burlington for a "Nuclear Free Future." **Cape Cod, Madison, Minnesota Metro, and Portland**, among others, promoted the first United States Social Forum, held this year in Atlanta June 27–July 1. **Cape Cod, Minnesota Metro, and Portland** also promoted WILPF's 29th International Congress in Santa Cruz, Bolivia July 21–July 27.

### MIDDLE EAST

**Cape Cod, Cleveland, Fresno, Minnesota Metro, Portland, Santa Cruz, Triangle, and West Palm Beach** are holding weekly peace and/or Women in Black Vigils.

**St. Louis** held a rally at local congressional offices and staged a march on Washington to "Act NOW to End the War." **Santa Cruz** sponsored guest speaker Dr. Stephen Zunes for a discussion on "U.S., Iraq, and Iran: Prospects for Peace and Security." **Portland** held a roundtable discussion on "Women's Visions: A Feminist Policy on the Middle East." **Central Vermont** held a march and rally to "Bring the Troops Home." **West Palm Beach** co-sponsored an event with Code Pink, "Walk in Their Shoes," in memory of the women and children killed in Iraq, and posted a peace/anti-Iraq war ad in a local newspaper signed by WILPF and other peace organizations. **San Jose** held a film night called "Peace Women's Visit to Iran," which presented interviews with Iranians. **Philadelphia's** Military Issues Committee initiated a parade for "Peace Here, There, and Everywhere."

### SAVE THE WATER

**Cape Cod** co-sponsored a "Wastewater Forum" with the League of Women Voters. **Des Moines** held weekly study sessions on "Water Is a Woman's Issue." **Philadelphia** sponsored an event called "Lifting Their Burden: Walk for Water." **St. Louis** held a science seminar on "Navigating Clear Water: Providing Sustainable Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Across the Globe." **West Palm Beach** held a workshop with environmental scientist Donatto Suratt, who explored issues of fluoridation, privatization, bottled water, water waste and its conversion to drinking water.

### LEGISLATION

WILPF branches are currently working on the following campaigns around federal legislation: HR 1415, which would provide for the effective prosecution of terrorists and guarantee due-process rights (**Monterey**); HR 2420, which would ban weapons in space (**St. Louis**); HJM 18, opposing the extension of "fast track" authority on water issues (**Portland**); HR 508, requiring U.S. military disengagement from Iraq and providing U.S. assistance for reconstruction and reconciliation in Iraq, among other provisions (**Minnesota Metro, Peninsula, and St. Louis**); and HR333, to impeach Vice President Dick Cheney (**Madison**). **Santa Cruz** is focusing on HR 770, the Iran Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act; HR 413, to repeal original legislation giving Bush authority to exercise military force in Iraq and to mandate the withdrawal of troops in a safe and orderly manner; and HR 1246, to repeal the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

### DISARMAMENT

Kudos to **Santa Cruz**, which has been tabling in front of Bookshop in Santa Cruz every Saturday for three-and-a-half years. They talk to passersby and ask for their signa-



tures on a disarmament petition to the president; have gathered more than 15,000 names on a petition for the abolition of nuclear weapons; and obtained another 2,000 signatures to end the “Star Wars” space weapons program. **Central Vermont** continued its long tradition of commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6 by gathering for “A Peaceful World for our Children” held in the WILPF-established Peace Park in Montpelier. **Cleveland, Minnesota Metro, Peninsula, Philadelphia, Portland, San Jose, and St. Louis** are promoting “Keep Space for Peace Week,” the International Days of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space, as well as actively promoting involvement in disarmament, anti-nuclear warfare, disposal of nuclear materials, and action in the Reaching Critical Will project.

### OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN

**Cleveland** and **Portland** held actions to urge leadership in resolving the Sudan/Darfur conflict, especially since, as of May 1, the United States has headed the UN Security Council. **Fresno, Monterey, Peninsula, and Santa Cruz** have held actions involving conflict between the United States and Cuba, and raising awareness of and discussion about the Cuban Five. **Cape Cod, Cleveland, Los Angeles, and St. Louis** have pressured representatives on health care. **San Francisco** held a meeting on the federal budget and its impact on daily life. **Sierra Foothills** held a public forum reporting on South Korea and “What the News Doesn’t Tell Us.” **Ashland** sponsored an event featuring songs of peace and justice presented by the Rogue Valley Peace Choir and Peace House.

### RAGING GRANNIES

**Fresno** Grannies celebrated an anniversary and returned to the Peace Community Craft Fair to celebrate a year of singing for peace and social justice. **Central Vermont** Grannies lobbied representatives on the war in Iraq on January 17 in Washington, D.C. **Madison** Grannies held a peace concert on the square at the Corner Farmers Market. **Palo Alto** Grannies joined Code Pink in a peaceful protest outside of the home of Sen. Dianne Feinstein and her husband Richard Blum in an effort to convince the couple to return to the Iraqi people any war profits acknowledged while Sen. Feinstein was chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction Appropriations. **San Jose** Grannies occupied U.S. Rep. Mike Honda’s office; they served tea and cookies while singing “Go Tell Your Congressman to Get a Spine,” set to the tune of “God Bless America.”

### ARTS AND MEDIA

Longtime member and **Pittsburgh** Branch co-organizer Edith Bell was instrumental in bringing the play “Most

Dangerous Women,” which documents WILPF and other women’s involvement in the peace movement, to that city last March. The cast included members of WILPF, the Raging Grannies, and others.

A film of the play “A Single Woman,” about Jeannette Rankin — first female member of the U.S. Congress, who voted against both world wars — is now in post-production. The video version of the show, performed for several WILPF branches as part of a national tour ending last year, will make an excellent fundraising and educational tool. DVDs can be pre-ordered and carry a WILPF discount. (Visit [www.nevada-shakespeare.org/ASingleWomanFilmOrderPage.htm](http://www.nevada-shakespeare.org/ASingleWomanFilmOrderPage.htm).)

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## ▶ TLATELCO *continued from page 13*

many other cities became NWFZs. Now it is time for us to follow the lead of Olympia, Washington and Takoma Park, Maryland in revitalizing the U.S. movement as the current administration presses for dozens of new nuclear power plants and a complete rebuilding of the nuclear arsenal.

Yet another lesson of Tlatelolco is to appreciate the wisdom and determination of the many Latin Americans, both in and out of government, who worked for the realization of this treaty in support of Alfonso Garcia Robles. Now we must work more closely than ever with our Latin American WILPF sisters — and WILPF members everywhere — to keep the vision of Tlatelolco alive.

### A TEMPLATE FOR THE FUTURE

The body of the treaty also provides us with a template for the future. It sets up a regional committee for administration, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANOL), based in Mexico City, and includes extensive mechanisms for monitoring, inspection, and enforcement.

Those of us in WILPF promoting a NWFZ in the Middle East and in Europe, North America, and northern Asia will do well to study the text of this treaty in detail. (The Tlatelolco Treaty does have weaknesses, the greatest of which is its embrace of so-called peaceful nuclear power. History — including Three Mile Island and Chernobyl — has shown us the folly and dangers of even this level of nuclearization.) And with all its lessons in mind, we must continue in the long and arduous work of those WILPFers who came before us to de-nuclearize our world. It is now our turn to translate the promises of the U.N. Charter and Tlatelolco into reality around the globe.

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*Carol Urner is chair of the Disarm! Dismantle the War Economy Issue Committee.*



# Peace Education

The board and staff of the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA) and the officers of International and U.S. WILPF honored this year's winning books, authors and illustrators at JAPA's 54th annual book awards ceremony the afternoon of October 19. The event was held at JAPA's offices at United Nations Plaza in New York.

Here is a list of the winners, illustrated below:

- *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow* by Amy Lee-Tai, illustrated by Felicia Hoshino
- *Weedflower* by Cynthia Kadohata
- *Night Boat to Freedom* by Margot Theis Raven, illustrated by E. B. Lewis

• *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Russell Freedman

• *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom* by Tim Tingle, illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridges

• *Counting on Grace* by Elizabeth Winthrop



JAPA Executive Director Linda Belle at last year's book awards ceremony.

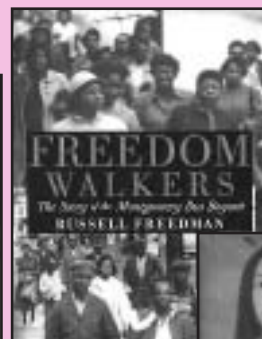
To read more about these books and previous winners, please visit our website: [www.janeaddamspeace.org](http://www.janeaddamspeace.org).

## Order Your Books Today!

All branches that intend to donate JAPA Books to libraries or schools in the name of WILPF and the Jane Addams Peace Association are invited to place their orders with the Jane Addams office. The price of \$70.00 per set includes postage and insurance. (Please note that books will be sold at a discount only to WILPF branches.) Orders will be accepted until January 31, 2008.

Send your check with mailing instructions to:

Jane Addams Peace Association  
777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

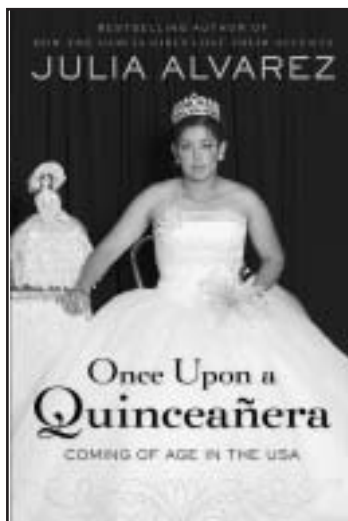


**This Peace Education section is funded by the Jane Addams Peace Association.**

# WILPF Sponsor Publishes New Book

By Sandy Silver

Julia Alvarez, the bestselling author of *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* and a WILPF sponsor, explores the phenomenon of the Latina “sweet 15” celebration in her new book, *Once Upon a Quinceañera*:



*Coming of Age in the U.S.A.* Alvarez weaves together interviews with quince girls, her own memories of coming of age as an immigrant, and the history of the custom itself — how it originated and has evolved as Latinas become accustomed to a “supersized” American culture. After pointing out how a tradition has morphed into a “consumer moment,” Alvarez asks how we can use tradition

to educate our children. “My reason for writing the book,” she said, “is to start the conversation.”

As WILPF members, let’s continue that conversation and join hands in finding ways to honor our cultural roots while resisting the corporate/consumer pressures that weigh heavily upon all of us.



*Sandy Silver is a former WILPF U.S. co president.*

## WILPF on the Web

### U.S. WILPF: [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)

Information about National Campaigns, Issue Committees, and upcoming actions. Find contacts for WILPF branches, read the most recent statements on current events or find out about the Jane Addams Peace Association. Download copies of campaign study materials, fliers, and other useful tools. Join online, buy WILPF resources, and give gift memberships to your friends and family!

### International WILPF:

[www.wilpf.int.ch](http://www.wilpf.int.ch)

Links to our Sections around the world, as well as addresses and e-mail information for offices at the United Nations and in Geneva. The site also has information on International internships, reports on International events, and WILPF statements and resolutions going back to 1915.

### Reaching Critical Will:

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

WILPF’s comprehensive and highly respected disarmament action website, Reaching Critical Will, addresses the information needs of nuclear neophytes as well as long-time disarmament activists.

### PeaceWomen:

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

PeaceWomen.org seeks to nurture communication among a diversity of women’s organizations by providing an accessible and accurate information exchange between peace women around the world and the U.N. system. PeaceWomen works to support the implementation and evaluation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325, the resolution on “women, peace, and security.”

- Subscribe to WILPF e-News! Stay connected to WILPF with our monthly one-page action/resource mailing. If you haven’t done so already, send your current email address to: [jdodd@wilpf.org](mailto:jdodd@wilpf.org)
- Don’t forget to visit the Members Only section of the WILPF website ([www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)). Click on the Members Only image on the lower left of the homepage, then register for access to special resources to enhance your activism!





# Branch Responsibilities and Benefits

(Includes Relevant By-Laws, "Good Standing" Protocols, and Best Practices)

## April, 2007 Board Action

### By-Laws Amendment

#### III.C.

1. Ten or more WILPF members may form a branch.
2. All branches must follow the guidelines included in the Protocol for National-Branch Relations, adopted by the national board and regularly provided to branches. By following the guidelines, a branch qualifies as being in good standing.
3. Only branches in good standing may use the WILPF name in any of their publications or operations.
4. Branches in good standing are additionally eligible for certain benefits, as determined by the National Board.

### Protocol for National-Branch Relations

1. All branches must have at least the following two leadership positions: a mailing contact/liaison and a treasurer, who is responsible for local records and membership information. The U.S. WILPF office will communicate regularly with the branches to provide information on WILPF National and International programs and other facets of the organization.
2. Branches must use "Women's International League for Peace and Freedom" or WILPF (or other language equivalents, such as the Spanish, LIMPAL) in all identity and public materials.
3. WILPF will be the priority identity and focus of branch actions, including fundraising. The U.S. WILPF office will provide branches in good standing with WILPF tools and resources for nationwide activities and events, such as model press releases, sample flyers and posters, and talking points.
4. A person cannot be a branch member unless they are a member of U.S. WILPF. The U.S. WILPF office will communicate regularly with branches to provide contact information on new or renewed WILPF members in the vicinity of branches.
5. Branches must report membership contact information at least annually to the U.S. WILPF Office at 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-1691 (215-563-7110, fax: 215-563-5527; wilpf@wilpf.org). The U.S. WILPF Office will work with branches to correct discrepancies in membership information in a timely fashion.
6. Branches must briefly report at least annually on their local activities, either in writing to the U.S. WILPF office or by participating in phone interviews with the U.S. WILPF Office. The U.S. WILPF Office will communicate regularly with the branches about the activities of other branches and ideas for branch activities through a variety of means, such as the national magazine, the website, the various WILPF e-mail lists, and the branch packets.

7. Branches cannot collect WILPF membership dues unless they do so in accordance with current U.S. WILPF national policies. These dues policies will provide branches with the option of additionally collecting local dues beyond the National dues.
8. Branches must respect and implement the fact that, as a 501C(4) non-profit organization, U.S. WILPF is a non-partisan group. Therefore, branches can neither endorse nor campaign for or against partisan candidates for political Office. Branches can lobby and campaign for legislation and issues, and the U.S. WILPF office will provide advocacy tools.
9. Branches must respect the relationship of the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA) to U.S. WILPF as the only tax-deductible education fund — 501C(3) — for all levels of WILPF (including International, National sections and local branches). The U.S. WILPF office will provide branches with written information on how to work with JAPA and set up branch bank accounts properly.

### Benefits to Branches in Good Standing

Branches in good standing:

- Will have access to the Branch News sections of the U.S. WILPF National website.
- Will have access to *Peace and Freedom* magazine for reporting and publicity on branch actions and events.
- Will receive a branch discount on all purchases of WILPF resource materials for resale and distribution.
- Will be entitled to receive branch mailings, such as the Branch Packet.

### Best Practices Section

(This section will grow over time. You are encouraged to submit your suggestions to the Membership Committee of the National Board for inclusion.)

1. A healthy, active branch will meet at least four times a year in order to maintain connections with members and visibility in the community.
2. A viable branch will change branch leadership at least once every three years in order to encourage leadership development among its members and have the technical knowledge unique to that branch shared by more than one person at a time. This sharing prevents critical loss of capability when key members are unavailable. This should cover access to any computer data (mailing lists, membership lists, newsletter formats, etc.), as well as knowledge of the physical location of any archival materials, banners, filing cabinets, libraries, videos, etc.).

Continued on page 29 ►

## ► COMMITTEE CORNER

*continued from page 17*

### Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights

*By Jim and Tomi Allison*

Last year, several members of the Corporations v. Democracy Issue Committee worked to update the excellent study packet, originally published in 1999, from which many of us learned the essential fundamentals of corporate power. The result is a revised study guide that went on sale last spring at [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org).

As contact persons we have received several requests for information about the resources available to those who wish to organize a study series on the topic of Corporations v. Democracy. These requests, which emanate from New York City to Olympia, Washington, indicate a growing interest in this issue across the country. In Indiana, the Bloomington branch is in the midst of its second study series, and the Des Moines branch has shown great creativity in its organization of an intensive one-day presentation.

Mary Zepernick of Cape Cod WILPF reports that the branch, along with Cape Codders for Peace & Justice, created a group called We the People v. Corporate Rule to do public education on democracy and corporations. Their efforts include staging workshops on "The Democratic Arts: Tools for Social Change." We the People introduced a nonbinding resolution at last year's town meetings for a single-payer health care plan for the Cape. The resolution passed in 11 of the 15 Cape towns, thanks to much support from WILPFers. The first draft model of the plan is available at [www.capecare.info](http://www.capecare.info). WILPF and We the People continue to work on Cape Care, which recently hired an active WILPF member, Candace Perry, as half-time coordinator.

From Tucson, Joyce Smith reports that the local

**One example of the emergence of populist movements in Latin America is the continuing teachers' protest in Oaxaca, Mexico, against the government's insufficient support of education.**

committee has organized many diverse challenges to corporate power, centering on fighting the privatization of Tucson's water, supporting a city council ordinance to deny corporate personhood, and running a free film series (its fourth) whose theme was "The Military-Industrial Complex: Making a Killing." Upcoming Tucson events include a presentation by WILPFer Nancy Price on "Reclaiming the Commons," Thomas Linzey's Democracy School, and the National Convention of the Alliance for Democracy.

On the international scene, everyone concerned with the issue of Corporations v. Democracy should follow with great interest the emergence of populist movements in Latin America. One example is the continuing teachers' protest in Oaxaca, Mexico against the government's insufficient support for education. Other examples are the fights against the privatization of water, and workers' successful management of failing factories in several South American nations.

Almost every day we see unambiguous signs of a burgeoning public awareness that excessive corporate power is a threat to the American democracy. This is a change from which all of those who have taken part in the WILPF Challenge to Corporate Power should derive a sense of accomplishment, pride, and encouragement.

*Jim and Tomi Allison are co chairs of the Corporations v. Democracy Issue Committee.*

More Committee Corner on page 26



Stephanie McMillan

## ► COMMITTEE CORNER

# Gather 'Round the Peace Table

By *Laura Roskos*

Since the dismantling of the President's Interagency Council on Women in 2001 and the downsizing of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, there has been no official means of convening U.S. women on a national scale. As a result, women as a constituency and women's interests become pawns in electoral debates whose victors cannot be held accountable to the promises they have made. But this upcoming election year, we don't have to let the politicians set the terms of the debate on Iraq, nuclear weapons, national sovereignty, or the environment.

Last fall, WILPF's Advancing Human Rights Committee launched A Women's Agenda to Prevent War, a project aimed at reaching out to other women, and other women's organizations, in the spirit of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325. Our goal is to develop a locally rooted and nationally coordinated policy agenda reflecting the concerns and hopes of women across the United States.

To that end, we're calling on WILPF members to reach out to their neighbors this fall — across party, ethnic, religious, and class lines — to convene Peace Tables in their communities where women can come together and hammer out their own priorities and blueprints for governing this country. The Global Task Force of the National Organization for Women (NOW), Women's Alternatives for New Directions (WAND), the Feminist Peace Network, and Peacemakers, Inc. are joining WILPF in this effort.

Preventing war rests on the twin cornerstones of protecting women's human rights and maximizing women's political power. Women's political empowerment, in the

### NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL WATER WORK!

Join with members and branches in building the movement against bottled water from the ground up. Use WILPF's new sticker to declare institutions bottled-water free — make your local restaurants, schools, and governments bottled-water-free zones! To learn more, visit the Save the Water Campaign web page at [www.wilpf.org/water](http://www.wilpf.org/water), or contact the WILPF National Office to place an order: 215-563-7110.



Advancing Human Rights Committee members with Jackie Witherspoon at the U.N. CEDAW sessions this past July. *Left to right: Terri deLangis, Jackie Witherspoon, Tzili Mor, Laura Roskos.*

context of accountability to a participatory women's movement, will ultimately protect the full range of women's human rights by preventing future wars. Comparative studies by UNIFEM (the United Nations Development Fund for Women) and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security on the implementation of SCR 1325 have shown that transformative change through women's political empowerment can be hastened by a robust and inclusive women's agenda, autonomous of existing political parties. Autonomy from partisan politics means this agenda can serve as a resource for politicians within every party, while simultaneously staking a claim for goals and objectives that might remain beyond any single party's platform. U.S. women have not shared such an agenda since the Platform for Action, developed through a series of regional precoms (pre-conference meetings) and adopted at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

The campaigns for the 2008 presidential elections are already in full swing, and the time has never been better to reconnect with the women in your community. WILPF has developed a toolkit with sample materials you can use in organizing and facilitating a local Peace Table gathering. Members of WILPF's Advancing Human Rights committee are available by phone and e-mail to coach you through the process and may be able to help you locate speakers or audiovisual aids to enhance the experience. The timeliness of your actions matters, however, as we hope to compile the findings of these Peace Tables into a candidates' questionnaire and voters' guide by next spring.

To get started, contact Terri deLangis at [tdelangis@comcast.net](mailto:tdelangis@comcast.net) or Laura Roskos at [masscedaw@yahoo.com](mailto:masscedaw@yahoo.com) for more information and/or email Kate Zaidan at [kzaidan@wilpf.org](mailto:kzaidan@wilpf.org) to obtain your toolkit today.

*Laura Roskos is the co chair of the Advancing Human Rights Issue Committee.*



# Middle East Campaigners Mobilize for Peace at Congress

By C.J. Minster

I began my work on the current National Board as the campaign representative from Women Challenge U.S. Policy: Building Peace on Justice in the Middle East (WCUSP). I've also been working for several years (via email) on the International Communications Committee alongside several Lebanese WILPFers. And I've had the honor of meeting the three co-presidents of WILPF Israel when they came to my home city of Los Angeles for speaking engagements. So I was excited to continue these efforts in person at the WILPF International Congress last summer, in my role as U.S. Section program chair. (*Editor's note: See page 10 for more about the congress.*)

International WILPF's Middle East Committee was established to coordinate and expand our international-level work to promote peace in the region. Members from Israel, Lebanon, and Palestine form the core of the group, convened by Heidi Menzolt of Germany. Ten WILPFers attended the committee meeting during congress, including members from Lebanon, Israel, Sweden, and the United States. Unfortunately, the Palestinian section was not represented, nor was Heidi able to attend. At the meeting, we concentrated on translating the statement written by the committee in May (available at [www.wilpf.int.ch/statements/07052007ME.html](http://www.wilpf.int.ch/statements/07052007ME.html)) into a resolution that could be approved by the full congress.

## LIFE ON THE GROUND

My interest in seeing this work move forward stems from the realization that the most important thing I can do for Middle East peace is to challenge U.S. policy — and that is easier to do when you know what the people in the region are thinking. So I was tremendously affected by getting to know Taghrid Shbita and Moran Avital — Palestinian and Jewish Israelis, respectively — who are working together to bring peace to their country. As a Jewish woman, I often have difficulty explaining my antiwar advocacy to other U.S. Jews, so it really helps to be able to say I'm working with sisters in Israel to create stability in the region so that all citizens of Israel can be more secure.

Similarly, meeting Lobna Bou Hamdan, Samira Khoury, Salwa Maasry, and Ferial Mazkour Abou of Lebanon was an extremely important part of my experience. I learned about the great membership-expanding work done by the Lebanon Section, including creating a lecture series for young women that culminated in their inviting the youths to join WILPF. The women also shared their person-

al experiences of the Israeli war on Lebanon last year, and told how their country continues to deal with the after-effects of those attacks.



Salwa Masry and Loubna Bou Hamdan of the Lebanon Section at the Middle East Plenary at congress.

## A PLATFORM FOR ACTION

I facilitated the Middle East plenary, during which Moran, Taghrid, Lobna, and Salwa told the congress about the work of their sections and shared how they've been personally affected by the ongoing animosity in the region. We also outlined the five areas for which we most want to see WILPF action plans developed:

1. Achieving a nuclear-free Middle East
2. Fighting Islamophobia
3. Ending discrimination on the basis of nationality/ethnicity/religion/class
4. Increasing our sections in the Middle East
5. Creating a Y-WILPF conference in Jordan, with the focus to be decided and planning to be done by Y-WILPF members in the region

After presenting this information, we fielded questions from the plenary.

Later during the congress, the delegates agreed to support the Middle East Resolution we submitted on the condition that we would solicit Palestinian agreement with its terms. Among other decisions, the resolution denounces the Israeli war on Lebanon and demands reparations, rejects the "separation wall" and other forms of apartheid that Israel imposes in the name of national security, and promotes international cooperation and humanitarian support for the Palestinians.

As of this writing, that process has not been completed, but we have continued the discussion within the organization. I look forward to being able to share the finished document with my sister members in the United States for use in our work to challenge U.S. policy in the Middle East.

C.J. Minster is program chair of WILPF's U.S. Section. Her blog posts from congress can be found at [www.socialupheaval.com](http://www.socialupheaval.com) (click on the WILPF category in the sidebar).



## Dispatches from Santa Cruz

continued from page 11



WILPF members networked at the Gertrude Baer Seminar.  
Photo courtesy Kate Zaidan

### INDIVIDUAL WOMEN FROM LATIN AMERICA. . .

spoke about their experiences. Adilia Caravaca (Costa Rica) told how the people of Costa Rica are involved in their first major anti-imperialist uprising. They are coming together against the impending “free trade” agreement with the United States. People from all different walks of life took to the streets to protest the agreement. In response, the president went to parliament to ask for a referendum on the agreement. Now a coalition, Women Against the Free Trade Agreement, is dedicated to this struggle. The challenge for WILPF Costa Rica right now is to get people to come out and vote. Osiris Zarahy Bojorque of El Salvador said that El Salvador suffers from extreme violence, but not armed conflict. The problem in Central America is gangs; some children join at the age of nine. They force people to pay a “safety tax.” This is a problem, particularly in the poorest, least industrialized countries.

— C.J. MINSTER, PROGRAM CHAIR, U.S. SECTION



Bolivian section officers receive flowers of appreciation for organizing the event.



Felicity Hill, Australia Section, announces the plan to develop a WILPF Manifesto in honor of the organization’s 100th birthday in 2015.

### EDITH BALLANTYNE’S SPIRIT WAS WITH US . . .

in the draft of the WILPF Manifesto which we read and discussed, and which inspired us as we look towards and plan for WILPF’s 100th birthday. Then we met in small groups to begin the discussions which will continue in our sections and branches for the next few years, so that the manifesto can burst upon the world with suitable fanfare in the Hague in 2015.

There are many different cultures here, such as Aymara, Quechua, and much diversity.... The women from Central America helped us to understand the situation of “free trade” in Latin America: they want *fair* trade, not *free* trade....Members of the Norway and Switzerland sections reported that there is a U.N. panel working on peace, with not a single woman on the panel! Meanwhile, in Aotearoa (New Zealand), the prime minister, the governor general, and the chief justice are all women!

—AUDLEY GREEN, INCOMING U.S. SECTION  
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD

### Order your DVD of the WILPF Triennial Congress in Bolivia!

This two-part DVD, available in November, was filmed by Vermont WILPF members Linda Leehman and Esther Farnsworth. The first part focuses on events at the WILPF Congress, the second on the inspiring work of Bolivian women working with grassroots groups and in the national government headed by President Evo Morales.

Send your name and address with a check for \$35 to:  
Central Vermont WILPF, c/o Linda Leehman, 33 North  
Franklin St., Montpelier, VT 05602.

Continued on next page ►

# Dispatches from Santa Cruz

## THE CONGRESS WAS DYNAMIC, INTRIGUING,

emotional, painful and quite the learning experience.... The effort and energy our Bolivian sisters put into the Congress was evident. It's

amazing what a small group of women can accomplish....

The food was excellent and abundant....

Monday morning (July 23) I showed the video "Making Whiteness

Visible"... The discussion afterwards was wonderful ... many

shared how they recognized themselves and truly learned something about institutionalized/systemic racism....

The highlight of the Congress for me was that I had

the opportunity to meet truly amazing, courageous, caring, compassionate, committed, competent, dedicated, incredible, nurturing, talented, wonderful, loving women.... We networked, cried, laughed, ate, drank, danced and developed relationships.



A woman in traditional dress danced at the after-dinner entertainment on the final evening of the congress.



Congress representatives take a vote.

My experiences at the Congress profoundly affected me...one could say transformed me. I am more committed than ever to racial justice and look forward to working with the BBC, members of WILPF and other organizations to create Beloved Communities.

—SHA'AN MOULIERT, CHAIR, BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY ISSUE COMMITTEE



After business, boogie! L. to r: Carol Urner and Sha'an Mouliert (USA); outgoing International Vice President Dulcy DeSilva (Sri Lanka); K.C. Neelam (Nepal); and Sue Gilbey (Australia).

## ► BRANCH POLICIES *from page 24*

3. An active branch will present or participate in at least two local WILPF-related events/actions each year in order to enhance visibility in the local community, thereby attracting new members and/or invigorating current members.
4. A visionary branch will work to share National and International WILPF information and resources with its members in a timely fashion in order to express the scope of WILPF's work and connect with those women involved around the world.
5. A thoughtful branch will review and consider the WILPF mission and vision statements, as well as any campaigns in order to connect local branch actions to the National and International WILPF programs and themes.
6. A responsible branch will have realistic budget of current finances and an active plan to cover future situations. This might involve fundraising events; appeals for donations; efforts for funding special projects locally, nationally, or internationally; and/or a plan to increase planned giving, life memberships, or shift to monthly support funding of dues. ❖



# Help Put Peace and Human Rights on the Political Agenda in 2008!

By Judy Claude

**A**s WILPF members, we view the upcoming national elections with hope, concern, and anxiety. No doubt many of us have become involved in the presidential candidates' campaigns. Whether by hosting house parties, circulating petitions, or raising and contributing funds, WILPF members are and will be supporting candidates who best express an understanding of, and commitment to, the issues we deem important. Since early 2007 we have listened to politicians from both major parties talk about some of them. For the most part, however, peace, disarmament, racism, and human rights have been absent from the discussion. *WILPF must be the voice that speaks for these vital issues!*

We are now preparing for our National Congress, to be held in late June 2008 at Simpson College in Iowa. At the congress, we will be selecting a new board and officers; choosing or continuing program areas; and actively engaging in working for a new social, economic, and political direction for our nation. As we proceed, we must keep at the forefront our mission to create a world free from war and injustices. *Our work, our programs are not determined by elections or fads but by our vision of a just society.*

So as we work individually to make our voices heard and give support to those who best represent the issues most important to us, let us not forget the importance of having a national voice. Your continued support enables WILPF to provide resources to branches, to work in coalition with other national peace and justice organizations, and to express our concerns through letters, policy statements, and direct action. For example:

- \$5 pays for a branch mailing
- \$15 pays for 500 Middle East Campaign flyers
- \$20 pays for one water study guide
- \$80 pays for a WILPF banner for demonstrations
- \$400 supports a postcard campaign targeting Congress
- \$2000 sends a WILPF member to an international disarmament meeting

Remember that next year will be a pivotal time in our country's history and in the history of WILPF. WILPF really can have an impact and make a difference.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Des Moines (Iowa) Branch invites all WILPF members to join them for the 2008 National WILPF Congress from June 24-29, 2008 at lovely Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

*Through your financial support, you can make it happen!*  
There are several ways to support WILPF:

1. Make a pledge; use the form on the back page of *Peace and Freedom*.
2. Give gift memberships to your family and friends.
3. Donate to the general fund.
4. Establish a trust, annuity, insurance policy, or bequest to benefit WILPF.

WILPF's 2006 audit and IRS 990 forms are available in PDF form online at our website, [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org). To receive a copy via email, contact [jclaud@wilpf.org](mailto:jclaud@wilpf.org).

*Judy Claude is WILPF's development director.*

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS, 2006-2007

Elizabeth Apfelberg	Alice Michael Moser
Christina Brinkley	Nancy Munger
Paul Bundy	Paige Etoile Neumann
Amy Bush	Patricia C. Nottingham
Marian Chatfield-Taylor	Laura Richlin
Vidal Clay	Joan R. Robertson
Harriet Critchlow	Katherine Ronberg
MacGregor Eddy	Jeanne Sears
Joyce E. Ellwanger	Yvonne Simmons
Pamela Fitzgerald	Linda Sorter
Jenifer Goetz	Curtis Eugene Thomsen
Susan Gracey	Shirley Devol Van Lieu
Mares Hirschert	Weavers Way Cooperative Market
Pat Hollingsworth	Judith Wible
Margaret Hudson	Dr. Pamela Wible
Tamara James	Pat Willis
Jeanette & Paul Johnson	Sally Wing
Gwyn Kirk	Deborah Yeakel
Becky Luening	Elizabeth & James Zimmerman
Katherine McCarthy	Edna J. Zucker
Marie Jackson Miller	
Cynthia Minster	

If you would like to become a life member of WILPF, please send a check for \$500 (individual) or \$750 (couple) to the National Office at 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

You will receive a certificate stating that you are now a life member!

# UNTITLED POEM

By Sonia Sanchez

*Read on December 1, 2006 before the court hearing of Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia, arrested in June 2006 at the Philadelphia Army Recruitment Office, where they attempted to enlist for service in the U.S. military action in Iraq.*

In the country  
where history stretches  
in aristocratic  
silence, some women,  
some grandmothers  
have come at the  
beginning of the 21st  
century, carrying  
the quiet urgency  
of a star;

I say,  
who are these  
women, punctual  
with their eyes,  
their hearts, their hands?

I say, I say, who are  
these grandmothers who  
mix poetry and philosophy  
with peace?

Jose Marti wrote:  
In the world there must  
be certain degrees of  
honor just as there  
must be certain  
degrees of light,  
when there are many  
men and women  
without honor, there  
are always others who  
bear in themselves the  
honor of many men  
and women;  
I turn the corner of  
these honor  
driven women, find  
memory beneath our  
doors as we move  
toward a courtroom trial, taste the  
blessings of our  
varied herstories;

Behold the grandmothers:  
question the flesh  
of war;  
Behold the grandmothers  
speaking about our  
children: “how  
many years must  
our children watch/  
the building of caskets,  
the withering of leaves/  
by graveside, by  
tombstone, by the  
wilting corpses/  
of their peers?...”  
our children wail  
shards of glass/  
our youth wear guns for shoes . . .  
Behold the grandmothers  
shaking peace from  
the war drums,  
I say, behold the grandmothers  
shaking peace from  
the war drums  
EBEYIYE/EBEYIYE/EBEYIYE  
(IT’LL GET BETTER  
IT’LL GET BETTER  
IT’LL GET BETTER)

*Sonia Sanchez is a poet and teacher. She lives in Philadelphia and is a WILPF sponsor.*

## ► WATER *continued from page 5*

and the IMF. Rather, what the neo-conservatives and Bush/Cheney could not accomplish in peacetime to shrink government and privatize public services, they are accom-

### RESOURCES:

- Order WILPF’s study guides on Challenging Corporate Power/Asserting the People’s Rights and the Save the Water Campaign. Start a Study Circle now, then move into action. Visit [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org).
- A recent report, “Challenging Corporate Investor Rule” may be downloaded at: [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/pubs/reports/corporate-investor-rule/](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/pubs/reports/corporate-investor-rule/)
- For specific country reports on water issues, visit Food & Water Watch at [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org) and click on the Water tab. Then click Communities and Privatization for maps by country.
- For information on water issues in Europe, visit [www.waterjustice.org](http://www.waterjustice.org)

plishing now by the “War on Terror” — spending billions that should be spent on our decaying water infrastructure and so many other public needs. This is what Bolivia’s Pres. Morales means when he said that water infrastructure can be financed by governments — if they do not finance their military operations.

These water democracy victories show that solidarity is key: among strong neighborhood committees and trade unions at the community level, and among social movement groups at the national level. Solidarity among Latin American countries has also been crucial as each moves in its own way toward participatory democracy. These people are engaged in “radical democracy” as a life-and-death matter. Their courage and sacrifice are inspiring. The social and economic suffering in this country call for nothing less than that we also build and sustain our own radical democracy movement — community by community, coalition by coalition.

*Nancy Price is a member of the Save the Water Campaign leadership team.*

## Join Your WILPF Sisters to Pledge for Peace

*Since 1915, WILPF has been working to create a global, lasting peace.*

*Join us as we make peace a reality in 2008!*

If you pledge to WILPF, your membership status will remain current as long as you continue your pledge. No more renewals!

\* Pledges may be made online. It's easy! Visit [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org) and click the DONATE button.



Or do it the old-fashioned way by completing this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

My pledge will be on a monthly basis: \_\_\$50 \_\_\$25 \_\_\$15 \_\_\$10 \_\_\$5 \_\_Other

Please check which option you would like to use:

Send us a VOIDED personal check and we will set up the process for the amount you indicate above 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. VISA/MasterCard #\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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.

With your pledge of support, you will receive a subscription to *Peace & Freedom*.

Mail to: WILPF, 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia PA 19107

For more information, call 215-563-7110 or email [wilpf@wilpf.org](mailto:wilpf@wilpf.org).

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A banner at the Triennial Congress in Bolivia proclaims: Without women's rights, there are no human rights!

*See Report Page 10*