ONE WILPF All Member Call -- January 12th, 2017  4pm pacific/7pm eastern

35 WILPF Members from 23 branches, and 3 At-Large Members attended the 7th ONE WILPF Call on Thursday, Jan. 12th (list appears at the end of these notes).

The featured speaker was, Margaret Flowers, the Director of POPULAR RESISTANCE.org. Margaret provided a national perspective on the kinds of organizing that is taking place across the US following the Election of Donald Trump, and what kinds of initiatives are being planned.

The two major sections of this call focused on

- Practical actions WILPF members can take together to sustain activism in a post Trump nation and protect immigrants, Muslims, and LGBTQ neighbors. Special suggestions and examples of work being done and initiatives being pursued were discussed.
- Break Out Rooms addressed 2 subjects.
  - Continuing planning for the April 2017 SOLIDARITY EVENT
  - Discussing how WILPF members can continue to together to counter hate and protect the most vulnerable folks in our communities.

HERE IS THE AUDIO LINK if you want to listen to the call again, or if you didn’t get to be on the call.
http://mcrecordings.s3.amazonaws.com/1U51U59CY2C4CZDYAATEQ4U2XG4KGA5A.mp3

CALL SUMMARY IN BRIEF:  (full notes follow for those who wish more detail). 

In an effort to change things up a bit, Call Team Members Anne Henny and Sandy Thacker participated more in facilitating the general portion of the call. We skipped the onboarding green rooms for welcoming callers and moved directly into a segment where

1. WILPF members discussed their own local actions and strategies to stay active and vigilant in protecting the most vulnerable segments of their communities and sustain activism through suggested solidarity work as WILPF. We discussed pursuing SANCTUARY CITY status, a national legislative effort to coordinate a WILPF US response to US policies by responding locally but with a cohesive WILPF voice.

2. FUNDING FOR ACTIVISM: New Funding Source for Branches ($50-$500) MIAMI FUND – for peace education. And WILPF US Mini Grants (up to $2500). Deadlines for both are Feb. 15th. More info at wilpf-minigrants@onlinegroups.net

3. Our special featured guest MAGARET FLOWERS of POPULAR RESISTANCE, presented a national overview of national organizing and actions being planned across the US. She focused on the resources available to WILPF at the Popular Resistance website, and their PEOPLE’s AGENDA which includes so many of the issues WILPF also prioritizes. The full interview appears below.

4. BREAK OUT ROOMS & REPORTS BACK
   - SOLIDARITY EVENT - We set an Interim Maestro Call date of Thurs., Jan. 26th (4pm Pacific/7pm Eastern) to meet before the next (Feb 9th) ONE WILPF Call, in order to work more on specific pieces of Solidarity Event planning including Communications, Logistics and Collaboration. The Jan 20th announcement of the Date & Theme choices will trigger more outreach to participating branches, as well as an effort to connect with those who have not yet been in touch about the SOLIDARITY EVENT, and At-Large Members.

NEXT STEPS – Commitment is ask by Jan. 29th. Cherrill Spencer will be reaching out to participating branches to formulate a national media list built on local media. The TOOL KIT will be sent to all members who commit to some level of participation.

SHARING RESOURCES: We continue to work on setting up a WEBSITE for branches to share RESOURCES for the Solidarity Event and beyond. More work will happen on the Jan. 26th Interim Call. The Pre-Registration LINK for that Interim Planning Call is:
SUSTAINING ACTIVISM POST TRUMP - More discussion about how to take the suggestions made in the early parts of the call and translate them into NEXT STEPS, rolling them out into some kind of proposal across WILPF US. Specific suggestions were made. NEXT STEPS – Break Out Room participants will meet on Jan. 26th to keep developing a formal proposal.

5. Goodnight/Adjournment
6. Soapbox

DOCUMENTARY FILMS DISCUSSED ON THIS CALL:
FIX IT describes National Medicare for all from a business point of view. http://fixithealthcare.com/
NOW IS THE TIME is a sequel to The Healthcare Movie. http://www.nowsthetimemovie.com/

WEBSITES DISCUSSED ON THIS CALL:
- POPULAR RESISTANCE.ORG – a wealth of resources, talking points, and ways to connect to action.
- www.UNGOVERNABLE2017.org – Supporting civil servants who will not inform on scientists, educators, organizers who have been working on energy, climate, civil rights, etc.
- NEW MODE Capability - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ON LINE – via Popular Resistance
https://popularresistance.org/ltte-peoples-agenda/
-TRADE INFO: www.tradeforpeopleandplanet.org

NEXT CALL is Thursday, February 9th at 4pm pacific/7pm eastern.
Cindy Domingo is the scheduled speaker, from WILPF US’s CUBA & The Bolivarian Alliance Issue Committee. Members of the committee will participate.
BOOK DISCUSSION will happen in a Break Out Room.
THIS IS AN UPRISING - by Mark and Paul Engler, sons of a Des Moines WILPF member.
https://www.amazon.com/This-Uprising-Nonviolent-Shaping-Twenty-First/dp/1568587333/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1485183132&sr=1-1&keywords=this+is+an+uprising

CALL DETAILS:
(all the news that fits, and then some!) 
ONE WILPF CALL Team Members were introduced: SANDY THACKER and ANNE HENNY (both of the East Bay CA Branch), MARYBETH GARDAM (At-Large member, Winter Haven FL), and InterOccupy’s MICHAEL IPPOLITO continued as engineer and technical facilitator.

Sandy Thacker welcomed folks and explained the technical instructions for the call, and referred to the TEXT PAD listed CALL NORMS, AGENDA and special links.

The AGENDA appeared on the TEXT PAD, along with CALL NORMS, which appear below.
   a. Be prepared and come ready to engage. Read the agenda and do any preparatory work ahead of time.
   b. Balance your participation—speak and listen—and make sure everyone’s voice is heard.
   c. Look ahead to positive action, not back on shoulda, woulda, coulda.
   d. Everyone is responsible for helping to stay on topic—capture off topic items in a ‘backburner’ and agree to discuss them later at a more appropriate time.
   e. Be concise and to the point.
1. Sandy Thacker welcomed everyone, introduced the CALL TEAM and reviewed the call instructions.

2. Anne Henny introduced Judith Elson (Greater Philadelphia PA) of the Mini Grants Committee who explained that the MINI GRANT DEADLINE has been delayed from Feb. 1 till Feb. 15 and that gives branches more time to apply for grants up to $2500 from WILPF US. The guidelines for these grants, applications and instructions are on the website at: wilpfus.org/resources/minigrant-program.

3. Judith Elson also noted that a NEW FUND available to Branches for Peace Education purposes may be useful for Solidarity Event preparation and expenses. The MIAMI FUND resides at the Jane Addams Peace Association and offers grants of $50 - $500. The application process is simple. The DEADLINE this time is also Feb. 15th, so branches should begin thinking if they need some seed money to proceed. You can contact the Mini Grant Committee for more information at wilpf-minigrant@onlinegroups.net.

4. Marybeth took 2 quick polls of folks who were planning to participate in WOMEN’s MARCHES in their states or communities on Jan. 21st... and those who were planning to head to Washington DC on Jan. 21st. There were 16 callers who are participating in local/state marches. And 4 indicated that their branches would be represented in Washington DC.

5. Marybeth introduced Randa Solick of the Santa Cruz Branch to explain what her branch is doing to work with community allies in pursuing three initiatives: seeking SOLIDARITY CITY Status, working with Latin Learner Associations to promote a KNOW YOUR RIGHTS campaign, and creating a Rapid Response Emergency ROSTER of folks who can be called on in an emergency to offer support services.

6. Randa explained that Santa Cruz’s efforts are being replicated across the US. PROTECTION: They started working on a Sanctuary City Plan, which means the decision is made that NO local resources will be used to assist in Federal Immigration enforcement activities. Their first step was to form a coalition of colleges, school districts and churches to protect local immigrants, refugees and Muslim families from intimidation and threats. WILPF is not the lead organization, but is working with others. The first step was to work with the city and county Police in the event that ICE arrives in the community. The local elected sheriff agreed to engage with the coalition when ICE arrives, and not to provide local resources to aid the Feds. The County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution agreeing to pursue Sanctuary City status. The City Police are under the City Council’s authority and the Coalition asked the City Council to pass an ordinance that they will not assist ICE. The ordinance takes 2 readings before a vote is taken. So far they’ve had 1 reading and they should know in a couple weeks what the result is.

EDUCATION: The second piece is a KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CAMPAIGN that they are promoting through the school parent LATIN LEARNERS ASSOCIATION. In California this association is very strong in all the public schools and Latina organizers present the program to this audience of parents. The information is very practical. For instance they learn never to open their door to anyone who does not have a search warrant and to make sure the warrant is in the correct name and address. Only the person named on the warrant should step outside the house to talk to the officers. You never allow anyone into your house. You have the right to speak to an immigration attorney, and they have lists of immigration lawyers that are handed out. RED CARDS are provided that list RIGHTS in Spanish and English on one side and a list of local immigration lawyers on the other side.

FUNDRAISING: They are starting a community BAIL FUND so people can get out of jail quickly and get help to pay for legal costs. They are looking for community funding for this.

CHILD PROTECTION: People have the right to take their children with them if they are deported, or they can arrange for someone to take them. We encourage people to make a plan in case they are deported with no notice for what will happen to their kids. Who will take them and how will they maintain contact with the family long term?
RAPID RESPONSE TEAM: The Anglo folks are signing up to act when needed in a variety of ways in an emergency when ICE comes. They are signing up to provide transportation services, temporary child care during court appearances, to accompany folks during court appearances, to publicize what happens, and even to show up and stand around as witnesses and bystanders when ICE shows up. When folks sign up using a Google Sheets spreadsheet their information is automatically loaded into a shared document that everyone can access. She said she is happy to send information about this to anyone who wants it: rsolick@gmail.com.

LOBBYING: They are lobbying their state representatives to pass SB54 to make California a SANCTUARY STATE, so these protections are in place state-wide.

LEARN MORE: A WEBINAR is being offered by POLICY LINK on how to pursue Sanctuary City status on Mon. Jan. 30th from 2:30-3:30 eastern. It’s available for free at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5681282513628406019.

7. Questions for Randa & more ideas of WILPF US activism around the country.
   -Nancy Price noted that she has taken the Santa Cruz spreadsheet and Rapid Response concept to a local (Davis CA) Climate Justice meeting. They’ve been talking for a while about seeking Sanctuary City status, and Nancy contacted several churches in Davis to set a meeting to form a committee and begin working on this. They will be involving the local Islamic Center and reaching out to diverse segments of the community.

   -Leni Reeves and Melissa Fry noted that the FRESNO CA branch wants to propose a national solidarity effort involving legislative action. The Fresno branch has a LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE that writes letters to elected officials each month about a particular topic, signed as WILPF members, and copies the DC offices of Congress members. They also meet with their elected officials, or their staff members, on a monthly basis about the same issue as WILPF. They are targeting Healthcare and the ACA for January. Fresno proposes that this be adopted as a NATIONAL EFFORT, so that each branch can use a united WILPF legislative approach each month on the SAME coordinated topic, and hence have more impact while raising WILPF’s visibility nationally. They were not sure how to pursue this across WILPF US. Marybeth suggested they discuss next steps in the BREAK OUT ROOM.

   -Natasha Beck (Portland OR) noted that Portland is already a Sanctuary City and they are busy forming an Immigrant Rights Coalition. They are planning an immigrant rights march at the State Capitol in Salem.

Sandy Thacker noted that one of the East Bay members, a woman lawyer recently attended a workshop of lawyers organizing across the country to be prepared for civil and human rights litigation that may come up. There were about 1250 lawyers preparing to be called on if necessary. It’s the It’s the California Civil Rights Coalition, its website is https://calcivilrights.org/ and if you look at their member organizations, it's an impressive list which includes WILPF.

8. Margaret Flowers of POPULAR RESISTANCE.
Margaret described the POPULAR RESISTANCE organization and website, which offers resources and promotion for organizing nationally and promotes local actions. She also discussed the kinds of strategies being pursued across the US, providing a good national overview. And she suggested ways in which WILPF members might connect with and participate in the broad organizing and strategies coming together in the wake of the Trump election.
Margaret described the organizing philosophy of Popular Resistance and outlined their PEOPLE’S AGENDA, which aligns with most of WILPF’s own issues and can be found here: https://popularresistance.org/peoplesagenda/
Margaret discussed Inauguration protests being planned and important initiatives where WILPF members could engage. She answered questions from members. Her presentation, her responses to Questions and the discussions during Q&A are well worth reading.

The Presentation and Q&A Transcription follows these notes, after the attendance list.

9. **BREAK OUT ROOMS WERE ORGANIZED AND PEOPLE CHOSE WHICH ONES THEY WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN.** The topics for break out rooms (BORs) included:

- **Solidarity Event Planning** with Marybeth Gardam (At Large, Winter Haven FL) as facilitator and Sandy Thacker (East Bay CA) as note taker.

- **Next Steps for Sustaining Activism in a Post-Trump Reality.** Mary H Harrison (Des Moines IA) facilitated and Karen Pope (Madison WI) reported on this working group.

The **SHARING RESOURCES BOR** will convene again next month.

30 minutes were devoted to organizing in each of these Break Out Rooms, and then participants asked for 10 minutes more.

10. **REPORTS BACK:**

**Break Out Room 1 - SOLIDARITY EVENT PLANNING - IDEAS FOR ACTIONS BY WILPF BRANCHES DURING APRIL 2017**

14 of us worked in this BOR. We discussed dividing up the work that needs to be done into 3 categories:
- **Communications/Publicity** – assembling a national media list by getting local media contacts
- **Logistics** – Figuring out directions and instructions for making banners, taking photos and sending them in the correct format to National,
- **Collaborations** – Identifying groups and methods for forming strong and effective collaborations for this EVENT that might remain viable going forward and that keep WILPF visible.

We will meet in an interim Maestro Call on Thursday, Jan. 26th at 4pm pacific/7pm eastern to work some more on these issues. By then we will have the decision on the date and theme to announce and it will make our work easier going forward.

**BREAK OUT ROOM 1 Participants:**
Julie Durgin, Blanca Gerard, Nancy Price, Marybeth Gardam, Jan Corderman, Cherrill Spencer, Sandy Thacker, Edith Bell, Peggy Olsen, Joan Goddard, Floris Freshman, Jean Hopkins, Carol Urner, Margaret Pecoraro. *(see list at end for contact info)*

**Break Out Room 2 – Sustaining Activism After Trump**

**DISCUSSION ABOUT NEXT STEPS WE COULD TAKE:**

**Note - Invitation to continue work on next steps on Jan. 26th Maestro Interim Call... 4pm pacific/7pm eastern.**

About 16 passionate folks met in this break out room to discuss sustaining activism in the face of Donald Trump’s agenda. In the midst of huge problems the consensus was that coalitions are building and working more cohesively. Perhaps Trump will push us together, which will make us stronger.

**White women voted for trump** Post election numbers—
Why? How will we reach out to these women? We need to parse this out (Popaganda webinar on why white women voted for Trump )
Coalitions are KEY
One good thing about Trump, it will push us together
Examples of local efforts: Monterey Peace and Justice Center head is a WILPF member. Melissa Fry of Fresno branch seeks to collaborate nationally with a coordinated letter writing/visiting legislators on the same issues each month.
Madison is a small group but offers collaboration, solidarity, support across city/state. Started a GATHER THE WOMEN quarterly breakfast when Medea Benjamin was there on her Kingdom of the Unjust book tour.
Natasha, Portland discussed problem with local NAACP not taking the women’s march as relevant to black lives.

Membership & Recruitment:
Since this election one new member reported she was looking for a group that she could stand with—

Appealing to young women
Nancy Wrenn Organizing events-promoting, creating banners, has brought in new young members
People are desperate to get involved since the election and WILPF can be a welcoming, active place.
Joyce from Fresno interns from Fresno state are a great way to bring in young women
Judy Karas discussed the women’s march at CalState

Diversity in WILPF is an ongoing issue
Des Moines use/support JAPA books in schools Older children read to younger children
JA books Read in
Madison publicizes the books, authors and themes of JAPA award books by sponsoring book festival appearances, buying books for the local library system and dedicating one set to the Boys/Girls clubs.

Support for s subcommittee on legislation -- accountability for South Sudan (didn’t catch who said this) was a good way to work in coalition.

Tax referendum issue?? (NEED info about this)
Betty SF branch mini grant put on series of events promoting wilpf priorities esp disarmament

A lot many of us can and are doing at the state level
Many questioned how women can become allies: endorsements, marches, letters to the editors, etc.

Important to bring an international connection into our local programing. This is why many joined WILPF to being with.
Primary Push for state/local/diversity issues

UN: WILPF still supports and endorses

Other important voices/efforts:
Leah Bolger of Corvallis OR talked about the World Beyond War conference.
WBW’s 3 goals: 1 Pushing the us to join the international criminal court, 2 Divestment from military companies/contractors, 3 Base closures. Members could coordinate with World Beyond War.

MARY REMINDED US TO MARK OUR CALENDARS FOR Chicago to help plan our own future —

BREAK OUT ROOM 2 Participants:
Marybeth thanked everyone for calling in and reminded them of the next call:

**NEXT ONE WILPF CALL:** Thursday, FEB. 9th 4pm pacific, 7pm eastern.

Featuring Cindy Domingo, Chair of the Cuba & Bolivarian Alliance Issue Committee.

& the **WILPF MOST DANGEROUS WOMEN** Book Discussion… of the book chosen: **THIS IS AN UPRISING** by Mark and Paul Engler.

Reserve it, buy it or borrow it to read and discuss by Feb. 9th.

11. ADJOURNED -- Goodnight All! Everyone said goodnight.

12. SOAPBOX - just a few people remained on the line and spoke about the need to work on branch lists and communication issues.

ATTENDEES OF THE JAN 12th ONE WILPF CALL: (and their Break Out Room Participation)

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8-A Margaret Flowers Presentation:

Margaret explained that Popular Resistance began in early 2016 to call for a “Presidency of Protest” no matter who was elected, because regardless of the election’s outcome the long pattern of eroding individual rights and corporatization of the country would continue. Only by standing together can we continue to ensure each of us has a voice. Margaret pointed to ‘wins’ on the TPP and at the Standing Rock Water Protectors’ camp in North Dakota as examples of what we can achieve when we stand together.

Popular Resistance wants to build off those wins and in 2016 proposed THE PEOPLE’S AGENDA which appears on their website. It includes 15 issues that focus the struggle on where action and change is needed to create a new system. Most of the issues in their PEOPLE’S AGENDA are also WILPF issues. Margaret asserted that these issues are ones which the majority of Americans support, but Congress is not putting into place because of corporate and big money influence. Within those 15 issues, Margaret states that Popular Resistance’s philosophy is to remain flexible enough to be able to respond to arising opportunities for activism and continue to build momentum across the Movement of movements.

She sees the Trump Administration targeting several areas initially:  HEALTHCARE
They will move immediately to dismantle the Affordable Care Act (ACA “Obamacare”) regardless of how it hurts the majority, and to institute changes that further profit the wealthiest Americans. Popular Resistance is NOT mobilizing to defend the ACA, since it was always a flawed system and has been increasingly unaffordable. Instead they are mobilizing around National Improved Medicare For All. They feel that this is the moment to push for Single Payer Healthcare in the US.

THE ENVIRONMENT - Trump’s Administration will take deliberate backward steps on climate and a clean renewable energy plan. We need to mobilize to stop fossil fuels, the build-up of fossil fuel infrastructure, fracking and coal and to promote renewable energy in our communities.

PRIVATIZATION – Trump’s administration will continue to privatize the common wealth and especially up the effort to capture private Native lands to be used for more energy production and damaging fossil fuel infrastructure.
WEALTH INEQUALITY - Trump will immediately pass changes to the tax code that will benefit those at the top of the wage scale even more while continuing to attack our social safety net.

WAR & PEACE - The one area where Trump may offer more hope that Obama or Clinton is his less belligerent position on Russia. However he still takes dangerous positions on China, Israel and nuclear weapons. The Peace community is in the odd position of having to reinforce our approval when he does the right thing and pressure him when he stirs up more military misadventures.

Popular Resistance advocates a system of activism called ICU –
I – INDEPENDENCE --- Politicians have their own agendas, but activists must work on an issues-based path, not tied to either party but holding up the solutions we want and advocating against wrong ones.
C – CLARITY --- Focus specifically and consistently on SOLUTIONS WE WANT rather than the party or political agendas.
U – UNCOMPROMISING --- We need to stay resolute and strong. As Gandhi said, when it comes to compromise on the fundamentals, it’s all give and no take. Insisting on what we want, without concessions or trade-offs is essential.

Margaret asserted that it is important to continue to protest as part of the STOP THE MACHINE initiatives, putting forth positive changes and new systems. And she underscored the importance of SOLIDARITY, working across issues, across organizations, across divisions to stand together, get out of our silos. We must do more than merely defend our own self-interest. All the issues are connected. We’re all in this together. And resolving one issue depends on resolving them all.

Margaret described the actions Popular Resistance was engaging in around the Inauguration, working with other groups on the day before and the day of the Inauguration.

She urged continued support of CIVIL SERVANTS who are working to RESIST the Trump Administration. She cited the example of the Energy Department which was ordered to provide a list of scientists and employees who have been working on Climate Change. The department declined to supply that list and is shipping its records on Climate Change work out of the country to protect them.

Margaret urged WILPF to work locally on worker coops, local food networks, local energy solutions and local clean transportation.

She noted it is important to protect the most vulnerable, and complimented WILPF members who are working locally to do that. But it may be necessary to also be seeking methods of providing mutual aid and alternative funding to people who have lost their safety net services.

IN TERMS OF TOOLS AND RESOURCES POPULAR RESISTANCE CAN OFFER, they have ACTION CALENDARS where groups can post events locally, DAILY E-DIGEST subscriptions for a daily summary of the articles and news Popular Resistance is following, WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTERS you can subscribe to and a TOOL on their website that lets you write LETTERS TO THE EDITOR and LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS easily.

Q&A FOR MARGARET FLOWERS:

Q1 - Judy Karas (Monterey CA) Asked: How feasible is it now for states to pursue single payer plans on their own, as an alternative to ACA?
A1 – States were able to seek waivers under the ACA, and offer separate single payer systems, as long as they met minimum requirements for services. A number of states tried (Vermont, Colorado). These are
difficult to achieve because of local obstacles. Popular Resistance is more focused on a National approach to single payer because ultimately it is simpler and more comprehensive.

Judy recommended the PBS FRONTLINE film SICK AROUND THE WORLD (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/) which compares health systems globally.

Margaret recommended FIX IT, (http://fixithealthcare.com/) a documentary on National Medicare for All from a business perspective, and NOW IS THE TIME, (http://www.nowsthetimemovie.com/) a sequel to The Healthcare Movie.

Q2 Edith Bell (Pittsburgh PA): her branch continues to use Legislative efforts to press their elected officials. She asked if these are still useful and effective.

A2 Yes, legislative pressure is still very effective IF you do it well...

Approach them with a larger coalition of groups, focus on a specific ASK (either a particular vote, a letter to colleagues to generate support for a vote, or a time-limited ask. Be sure you follow up with them afterwards.

Q3 Mary Hanson Harrison (Des Moines IA) said: their branch has just started working closely with Black Lives Matter and they are developing new skills as well as greater understanding through this alliance.

Q4 Nancy Price (At Large – Davis CA): Can you comment on the future of Fair Trade under Trump?

A4 Margaret thanked Nancy for all her work on stopping the TPP and being WILPF’s liaison to the national TPP network calls for over 2 years. She said that Trump is re-negotiating the TPP and renegotiate NAFTA, but we will have to watch closely and press for Trade Justice that includes protections for workers’ rights and the environment. She said that we could keep up on this by consulting www.tradeforpeopleandplanet.org.