

# PEACE FREEDOM

SPRING/SUMMER 2020/VOL. 80, NO. 1

MAGAZINE OF THE US SECTION OF THE  
**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM**



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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.

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**Peace & Freedom** is published twice yearly by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), US Section.

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Cover photo: Bob Freund, Flickr Creative Commons

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# Look to the Persistence of Resistance

By Darien De Lu

President, WILPF US Section

**D**ecade after decade, WILPF has promoted a system of lasting values. Part of WILPF's principles and action is compassion and caring for others, sadly absent from the president and many of the heads of state he feels closest to. Yet they are often called "leaders."

That's a sobering thought. We had hoped for a different world by now. Yet, after more than a hundred years, we see that our road to peace and justice may be longer than we expected. We recognize the *necessity* of shattering our optimistic illusions, though we can hardly help but mourn that. We must, and can, do better.

Around us, so much gives encouragement: medical workers' service, caregivers' commitment, articulate statements from many quarters, masses of people in the streets. Many things buoy our spirits in our communities – helpful neighbors, kind acts, even the renewal of nature.

Still, these times are so heavy. In times of grief and pain, it is good to have a support system. Living with anxieties, coping with new conditions, we feel the weight of so much at stake. Following the news becomes oppressive. An important part of my political support system is WILPF. In the midst of mourning so much, I know that WILPF will stand up for justice and oppose the racist behaviors of our systems.

As I write this, the country is in political upheaval in response to the police murder of George Floyd and to many more deaths – killings under questionable circumstances, by police and others. We are still raw from the despicable three-month delay of charges in the murder of Ahmaud Marquez Arbery. We mourn *and condemn* the continuation of racism in so many ways, causing pain, trauma, damage, and suffering.

And we mourn for the failures of democracy and of the sometimes system of rights in the US – long-standing failures, all the more evident under current DC officials – *not* leaders.

We mourn for the enormous loss of life from COVID-19 around the world. We mourn the tens of thousands of US deaths that were *so preventable*.

Strong, intrepid group that we are, these are profoundly disturbing times, much beyond the threats and losses brought about by the virus pandemic. We are horrified by acts of brutality and racism, and we want to boldly rise for justice.

We want to sustain hope in our own lives and in the lives of others, yet we see the narrow path so many are made to walk.



Darien with her 'Y' for the WILPF Poor People's Campaign banner.

They traverse along the edge of the economic abyss – without job security, without affordable housing, without good health care *or even* sick leave – and without the likelihood of a livable planet! WILPF members suffer from well based fear, depression, anxiety, and uncertainty.

The ability to keep alive a culture of civility, caring, balance, and fairness seems precarious in the immoral media and money/corporate world of today. Our country – and our activism – is at a crossroads. We are called on to honor the solemnity of the choices of this time, the *many* choices that our society and all of us as individuals must make to shape a just and sustainable human culture.

When we ask ourselves what path to choose and how to proceed, let us look to the persistence of resistance. African-Americans have survived over 400 years of oppression in North America. Native Americans faced the collapse of their communities with the influx of European diseases and invaders over 525 years ago, but they endure. Latinxs in the US bring together the experience of dispossession of indigenous peoples and racist oppression of dark-skinned peoples, yet their votes and voices are heard today.

Inspired by these models, we can find the force of will to continue on WILPF's long and difficult peace and justice journey, wisely choosing the way ahead. What will WILPF do? Of course, we'll do what we've done for decades: organize, demonstrate, and lobby – people, Congress, and other institutions. At the same time, we must offer to young leaders what we have learned from other cultures of resistance – and from our own. For WILPF to survive, for a world of possibility to survive, within and outside of WILPF, let us find ways to support and encourage new generations of *authentic* leaders.

# COVID-19 Is Shining a Spotlight on Racial Inequality

When the pandemic is over, all of our lives depend on things *not* going back to normal.

By Dorothy Van Soest

**T**he wake of death and destruction in COVID-19's path leaves us reeling. As this article goes into layout (on June 10th), deaths in the US are estimated to be at least 114,000 with confirmed cases already over two million. In Washington State, where I live, there have been more than 1,175 deaths and 24,354 confirmed cases with nearly half of the deaths (580) in King County. Every day there are new cases and deaths, with experts fearing the actual numbers could be much higher, perhaps by tens of thousands, than what has been reported.

As time goes on, with the unfathomable human suffering that these numbers embody, the calls to open businesses and "get life back to the way it was" are winning the day in many states. A desire to return to normal is natural but, given what we know about the consequences of the pandemic, going back to the same exact systems we had in place before should give us pause. COVID-19 is teaching us many things and pointing to a need to rethink our structures and reimagine our society. Here are some of them.

## COVID-19 is shining a spotlight on racial inequality.

While we are all facing a dangerous situation right now (especially those of us who are over 60), people of color faced a dangerous situation before the pandemic due to inequities such as poverty (54% of the 2.9 million poor or low-income people in Washington State are people of color), criminal injustice (40% of the 19,104 people imprisoned in our state are people of color, almost six times the rate of whites), and health disparities (Black people are 1.5 times and Hispanic people 2.5 times more likely to be uninsured than whites).

## COVID-19 is worsening racial inequality even more.

The virus is hitting people of color hardest. In King County data, Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders and Hispanic people are testing positive at four times the rate of white and Asian people, and Black people are testing positive at twice the rate of whites. In Arizona and New Mexico the coronavirus is taking an astoundingly disproportionate toll on Native Americans while in most other states they're not even being counted. Across the country Black people are dying in staggering numbers compared to their proportion of the population:

in Michigan they are 14% of the population but 50% of deaths, in Louisiana they are 32% of the population but 71% of deaths, in Mississippi they are 38% of the population but 67% of deaths. Eight of the top ten hotspots are prisons and jails with a disproportionate number of inmates of color.

## COVID-19 is exposing the vast disparities of wealth in our country.

Before the pandemic, at least 700 people a day died because of poverty in the United States. In our state, 33% of our population (2.5 million) were already poor or low-wealth people (including 48% or 787,000 of our children), 513,000 were uninsured, over 21,000 experienced homelessness (fifth highest in the country), and over 894,000 used the SNAP food assistance program. One hundred forty million people in the United States (over 40% of U.S. citizens) cannot afford even a \$400 emergency, much less the ability to prepare for this public health crisis. They don't have the resources to stock up on food and supplies, stay home if they're sick or exposed, or take other precautions in order to survive COVID-19. In addition, when people have been unable to address other health conditions, they are more vulnerable to the virus.

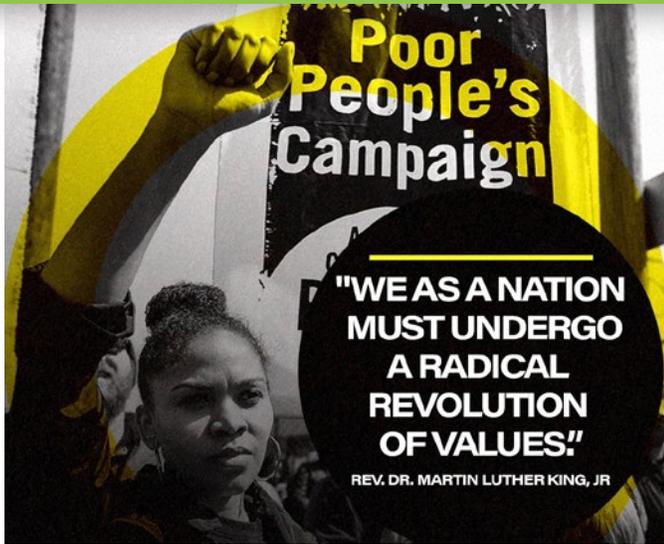
## COVID-19 is worsening economic disparities.

Millions of people have joined the ranks of the unemployed; more people have been thrown into poverty and homelessness and are having to struggle to find a place to shelter. Tens of millions remain without health care in the midst of a public health crisis. Many of the least respected and paid workers have been deemed essential but their wages haven't been raised and they have no access to the personal protective equipment needed to weather this storm.

## COVID-19 is teaching us that poverty is everyone's problem.

It's clear that we are all impacted when we ignore poor and low-wealth people, that it's more expensive to ignore poverty than it is to fix it, and that poverty threatens not only the lives of the poor but the lives of all of us.

Think about it. The most vulnerable among us work in low wage, service industry jobs where coronavirus is most likely to spread. They prepare and serve food, clean hotels and public buildings, and care for children and for the elderly, who are most susceptible to the new coronavirus. And when they go home they don't leave the virus behind at work. 1.2 million workers (37% of Washington's workforce) make under \$15 an hour and more than two-thirds of the lowest wage earners get no paid sick leave so they cannot afford to miss a paycheck by staying home, even with symptoms of coronavirus. Even under



normal circumstances, the uninsured people in Washington State don't have the money to pay for health care. When we ignore and disregard people who are sick and don't have the money to go to a clinic or emergency room, or who cannot stay home from work, this puts us all in danger.

### COVID-19 is showing us that poverty and race are inseparable and that we can't resolve one without resolving the other.

While we know that Black Americans are dying at a rate of more than twice their population share and people of color are disproportionately poor, we also know that, in absolute terms, poor white people outnumber poor Black people and other poor nonwhite people. COVID-19 is ravishing all sectors of the poor and dispossessed, including poor whites. Both racial and economic inequities are worsened by the epidemic. When we ignore the most vulnerable among us, but at the same time count on them to keep our cities and towns running without a safety net, we create a morally unconscionable situation that leads to dangerous public health consequences for us all.

### Poor People's Campaign Calls for a Different Society

If we are to learn anything from this epidemic it is this: **When the crisis is over, all of our lives depend on things not going back to normal.** The violent and exploitative economic and social systems that COVID-19 has laid bare for all to see must be confronted and dismantled.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is doing just that. From Alaska to Arkansas, the Bronx to the border and all across our country, people have been coming together since spring of 2018 to continue the work begun in 1968 by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. WILPF US has been a partner with the PPC from the beginning, and WILPF branches have joined with local PPC chapters and organized

solidarity events, including the "40 Days of Action" in 2018, and WILPF members have attended national events including the Moral Action Congress held on June 17-19, 2019.

WILPFers will be there on June 20, 2020, when the Poor People's Campaign will hold the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low-wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation's history. Voices representing the 140 million poor and low-wealth people across our country will be talking about how the global pandemic is exposing the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. These same forces are responsible for police brutality and the mass incarceration of young men of color.

This is a time of great suffering and danger, but it is up to us to join our voices with those who are insisting that it doesn't have to be this way in the future. The tens of thousands who have taken to the streets to protest police violence in the past two weeks are calling for widespread, deep, systemic change starting now. If we learn from what the past few months have laid bare before us all, we might embrace the real possibilities before us to reimagine our society.

*Dorothy Van Soest, member of the Women, Money & Democracy national committee of WILPF, is a novelist, activist, and retired university professor and dean. [www.dorothyvansoest.com](http://www.dorothyvansoest.com)*

### WILPF International's COVID-19 Resources

For more on how "the COVID-19 crisis serves as an unfortunate example of the fault lines that WILPF has been exposing throughout our history," you can "discover articles written by WILPF members, sections, partners, staff, and guest writers" at [www.wilpf.org/covid-19](http://www.wilpf.org/covid-19). Here are some of the topics covered:

**Foreign Military Bases Spread Violence and Virus** By Ray Acheson

**The Pandemic Reveals a Long-Standing Financial Crisis**  
By Tanushree Kaushal

**WILPF Sections Mobilising to Prevent Pandemic in Africa**  
By Genevieve Riccoboni

**COVID-19: Solidarity as a Political Tool for Radical Transformation** By Nela Porobi Isakovi

**Turning Swords into Ventilators? Or is it Ventilators into Swords?** By Cynthia Enloe

**From Ceasefire to Divestment and Disarmament** By Ray Acheson  
**"Waging War" Against a Virus is NOT What We Need to Be Doing** By Cynthia Enloe

# Why Challenging Nuclear Madness and Militarism Begins

By Helen Jaccard

Disarm/End Wars Committee member and  
VFP Golden Rule Project Manager



**Golden Rule crew with Mauna hands. This gesture has become a symbol of support for Mauna Kea and the indigenous people fighting against TMT and their plan to build a telescope on this sacred mountain.** Photos by Helen Jaccard.

**W**hen the *Golden Rule* peace boat returned to Hawai'i in July 2019, 61 years after her first storied voyage to stop nuclear bomb tests in the Pacific, cheering supporters welcomed her through the channel towards Wailoa Harbor in Hilo on the Big Island. I read a resolution from the Hawai'i State Legislature welcoming the *Golden Rule* and crew, and throughout our coronavirus-extended Hawai'i adventure, our message to "Challenge Nuclear Madness and Militarism" was embraced by schools, Buddhist temples, Friends (Quaker) meetings, community centers, peace and justice groups, and Rotary Clubs.

As a result of the *Golden Rule* Project, on November 6, 2019, the City and County of Honolulu joined the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons "Cities Campaign" in urging the US to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the "Back from the Brink" framework. The same resolution welcomed the *Golden Rule* to O'ahu. We also received welcomes and acknowledgment of the need to eliminate nuclear weapons from Maui County and Kaua'i County, and we garnered radio, print, and TV press coverage, including being featured on the front page of the Sunday edition of the *Star Advertiser*, the largest newspaper in Hawai'i.

It isn't a surprise that the goals of the *Golden Rule* Project resonate in Hawai'i: To support the United Nations Treaty on

the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; to support steps to avert the possibility of nuclear war; and to raise awareness of the dangers of all nuclear activities and militarism to the environment and humanity. Hawai'i is a prime target for nuclear missiles coming from Asia. Hawaiians became acutely aware of this possibility when they experienced the false alarm of a nuclear attack on January 13, 2018. The Hawaiian Islands are home to dozens of military facilities, some of them huge, and military and bombing exercises have caused environmental damage and destruction to Native lands.

## Sites of Resistance

Here are some of the past, present, and future activities at military sites—and the protests and movements resisting them—which help explain why Hawai'i is an important place to begin challenging US militarism:

**Pohakuloa:** Changes are coming to this 22,971-acre live-fire training range after a lawsuit. The Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled 5-0 on August 23, 2019, that the state hasn't properly managed the ceded lands leased to the US Army on the Big Island of Hawai'i. The court ruling asserted that the state failed to prevent the area from "falling into ruin" and that the Army did not "make every reasonable effort to ... remove or deactivate all live or blank ammunition upon completion of a training exercise" or to "remove or bury all trash, garbage or other waste materials" as the lease agreement specifies.

"The Department of Land and Natural Resources failed to live up to this most basic duty at Pohakuloa," said Clarence Ching, one of two Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners who filed the suit against the State of Hawai'i. The state of Hawai'i must now plan to take better care of the land.

**Special Ops Invasions:** The US military is planning Special Operations missions all over the Hawaiian Islands! According to *West Hawai'i Today*, training will occur in the near-shore waters, harbors, bays, and land-based areas on Oahu, Hawai'i Island, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Near Mauna Kea County Park, for example, they plan to conduct "special reconnaissance role-playing scenarios." Using public land to practice military invasions all over the Hawaiian Islands is unacceptable.

**Kaho'olawe:** This tiny island, like so many others, was completely destroyed, having been a US bombing range from 1945 to 1990. Protests starting in 1976 ultimately resulted in the island being returned to the people, and Native Hawaiians are slowly restoring the island. They have recently finished a watershed restoration project. Volunteers planted 20,000 drought-resistant native plants to reduce erosion and carefully moved 120,000 pounds of rock by hand, taking care not to remove cultural artifacts. Unexploded ordinance posed additional dangers.

## The Hawaiian Islands' long history with US military bases and exercises have made them important sites of resistance.

**Depleted Uranium:** The US Army tested uranium-based Davy Crockett nuclear weapons at Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawai'i Island and at Schofield Barracks on O'ahu, contaminating the environment with depleted uranium. The use of DU weapons in military practice exposes military personnel and the public to health risks.

**Mauna Kea Telescope:** Native Hawaiians and allies have been protesting and uprising against the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) planned for the top of Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawai'i, saying it is "One too big, one too many."

Telescope developers are not consulting Native Hawaiians about their sacred mountain and are breaking environmental laws and agreements. This protest is about indigenous rights, and similar to Standing Rock, thousands blocked the road in nonviolent protest, causing a standstill between protesters and state officials. During their time in Hawai'i, Helen Jaccard,



Ninth graders sailing on Hanekunamoku and the *Golden Rule* in Kane'ohe Bay.

Gerry Condon, and Ann Wright presented a VFP flag and message of solidarity to the elders.

Although the threat of COVID-19 caused the mostly elderly native Hawaiians to reduce their presence on the mountain, there is still a *kia'i* (guardians) presence on the mountain and movement spokespeople say the commitment continues.

**Pacific Missile Range:** With the formal US withdrawal from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces agreement on August 2, 2019, the United States has started a new arms race. In Hawai'i, this means that intermediate-range missiles could be tested on Kaua'i.

Reacting to the treaty withdrawal decision, Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawai'i) said, "We face a greater risk of nuclear catastrophe than ever before in history.... President Trump's reckless decision to pull out of the INF Treaty heightens this threat by exacerbating the new Cold War, sparking a new arms race between the United States and Russia, bringing us ever closer to a nuclear holocaust."

China said it "will not stand idly by" if the US deploys intermediate-range missiles in the Indo-Pacific region. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia would deploy new intermediate-range missiles only if the United States does, and called for urgent arms control talks.

## Golden Rule Project Delay

When the Marshall Islands, Guam, Okinawa, and Japan closed their borders to international travel and forbade public gatherings due to coronavirus, the difficult decision was made to postpone the planned voyage that would have put *Goldern Rule* in Hiroshima on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9.

If countries open up and public gatherings are again allowed, *Goldern Rule* will sail sometime between November 1 and February 1 to the Marshall Islands and on to Japan. In the meantime, the boat is on O'ahu and the crew is ready to travel back to Hawai'i for the cross-ocean voyage.

*Goldern Rule* will sail around Honolulu with a giant sign between her masts, "Hiroshima: Never Again" and "Ban Nuclear Weapons" from August 6 to 9. Then she will sail from August 17 to 31 near Pearl Harbor to protest the giant "RIMPAC" war exercises that happen every two years. Coronavirus resulted in the usual six-week program being scaled back to two weeks. But the military still intends to bring this terrible multinational force together to practice their murderous "games."

Fair Winds and Following Seas, *Goldern Rule!*

# Messengers of Peace

Using tiny folded cranes to spread discussions of peace.

By Robin Lloyd

Co-chair, Disarm/End Wars Issue Committee



**I have been folding peace cranes** ever since I went to Hiroshima in 1985, the 40th anniversary of the lawless decision of the United States government to drop two nuclear bombs on civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. You start with a square of paper and fold it in half and then in half again, and by the time you're done, you've told the story of Sadako to a couple of kids who have (maybe) mastered the art of folding and absorbed the frightening significance of a little girl hoping to survive nuclear radiation.

This year, the 75th anniversary of the bombing, AND of the creation of the United Nations, WILPF Disarm has created a timeline and a series of webinars to remind us of that dramatic year of 1945. The end of the most devastating war in history brought forth an outpouring of demands to create a structure that would unite us in cooperative survival.

But that year is also regarded by some as the 'crowning achievement' of the Manhattan Project – where scientists and politicians found a way to kill people on an industrial level by isolating the explosive capacity of a metal and packaging it and sending it across the Pacific to ultimate success. The war ended, the troops came home, and the nature of war changed completely.

Now, 75 years later, nine countries commit their treasure and the skills of their most brilliant scientists to maintaining a nuclear arsenal, in order to claim membership in the most exclusive club in the world. And any country that tries to join that club is threatened and beaten back and condemned to remain vulnerable– i.e., Iran and North Korea.

But, one wonders, how would the world be different if the US had accepted Soviet proposals for disarmament in 1955? What if countries hadn't been competing in an arms race for the last 65 years building up an obscene accumulation of arms and kilotons of violence?



Finally, a movement is growing. Increasing numbers of countries are ratifying the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Hundreds of cities, and local and regional bodies all around the world, have also spoken out in support of the TPNW through the ICAN Cities Appeal.

And these little paper cranes, necks outstretched, crossing the Pacific in the opposite direction from the military airplanes, are flying to us, coming from the people who have witnessed the nuclear holocaust. They give us an answer: Yes, there is a way, if we join together.

The peace cranes come to us via the Ehime Prefecture, near Hiroshima, which has a custom of receiving folded cranes from around Japan and sending them out to the world. "Every year we send these paper cranes to three peace organizations in three different countries as 'Messengers of Peace,'" reports Watanabe Reiko, a member of the organizing committee. "This campaign has continued over 30 years now and so far, we have sent out a total of 4,788,000 (4 million 7 hundred 88 thousand) paper cranes to 88 organizations in 31 countries."

## Here are some ideas on how to use these tiny cranes to spread discussions of peace:

1. Gather friends together to sew loops of string through them so that they can be hung on trees and/or worn as bracelets or necklaces. This Sunday friends at Quaker meeting committed to joining me to do that.
2. Ask folks in your community who run yoga centers, NGOs, or stores, to put out a bowl of cranes with a short description of what they're about, with the suggestion that they take them and pass them on.
3. A friend who runs a rural center wants me to send her some of the cranes, and sheets of origami paper. She has committed to encouraging her clients and friends to fold 75 cranes of different sizes and will take a picture of them to share on the WILPF US Facebook page.
4. Let us know your plans for sending the 'Messengers of Peace' out to your community! Go to the Disarm/End Wars section of the WILPF US website (under "Our Work") to find additional support material and contact information.

# Then & Now: Disarmament Petition Campaigns



**Disarmament Peace Caravan, 1931, at the starting point in California. From left: Mildred Scott Olmsted, Hannah Clothier Hull, Katherine Devereux Blake, Mabel Vernon (director of project), unknown woman, Louise Wier.** Photo from the Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

**W**ILPF was founded in 1915 to work out a plan to end WWI and lay the basis for a permanent peace. Though the brutal war did finally end, the foremothers of WILPF realized that their work had only just begun. During the 1920s and 1930s, WILPF continued to actively campaign for worldwide disarmament. Ahead of the League of Nations World Disarmament Conference in 1932, WILPF circulated a disarmament petition. When the World Disarmament Conference at Geneva was convened, peace advocates presented over 8 million signatures on petitions for disarmament.

Of these, 6 million, for total and universal disarmament, had been collected by WILPF members in many countries. The US Section organized a Peace Caravan from Los Angeles (CA) to Washington (DC) that traveled 10,000 miles across the country, holding meetings and gathering signatures.

The World Disarmament Conference of 1932–1934 (also known as the Geneva Disarmament Conference) was an effort by member states of the League of Nations, together with the United States, to accomplish disarmament. It took place



**Women marching through the streets of Geneva on their way to the League of Nations with petitions in 1932.** Photo from the Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

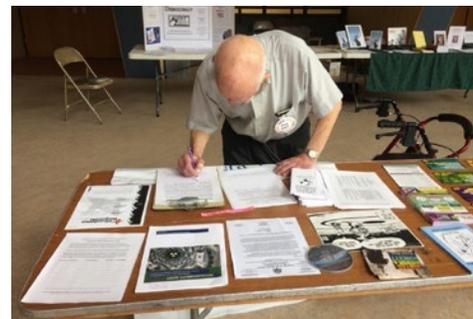
in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1932 to 1934. The talks ultimately broke down, and Hitler withdrew Germany from both the Conference and the League of Nations on October 14, 1933.

WILPF US work for disarmament continues to this day, and now includes the call to stigmatize, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons—the most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. To this end, WILPF International is a partner organization of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

At the WILPF US Triennial Congress in Minneapolis in August 2017, a petition to United States Senators was launched asking for ratification of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). As of May 2020, 37 countries have ratified the Treaty (50 ratifications are required for it to go into effect). Hundreds of cities, and local and regional bodies all around the world, have also spoken out in support of the TPNW through the ICAN Cities Appeal.

Some methods have stayed the same as in the 20s and 30s – tabling at events and talking to people about the catastrophic harm and existential threat posed by weapons and war. WILPF members ask people to sign paper petitions and encourage them to speak to their elected representatives. Of course, today we also use electronic media to raise awareness and we have online petitions as well as paper ones.

The total number of signatures on the paper petition collected by WILPF US members all over the country between July 2017 and February 20, 2020 is 5,688. There is also an online petition which 2,675 people have signed. Eleven WILPF US Disarm/End Wars Committee members were planning to hand-deliver the paper petitions to the UN Secretary-General in New York during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in late April, but the conference was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been tentatively rescheduled to January 2021.



**A Minneapolis Democracy Convention attendee signs the Senate petition at a WILPF table in August 2017.** Photo credit: Ellen Thomas.

# WILPF Recordings & Films Now Accessible in Swarthmore

**W**ILPF US President **Darien De Lu** and some Board members and Issue Committee Chairs joined a Zoom meeting with Wendy Chmielewski, Curator of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, on May 22, 2020. *Peace & Freedom* Editor Wendy McDowell used material from that call, and from an additional interview with Chmielewski, to put together a Q&A about some of the exciting new developments at the Peace Collection that will be of interest to WILPF US branches and members.

## How long have you been Curator of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection? What does your job entail and how has it changed over time?

I've worked at the Peace Collection since October 1986. My first 18 months were spent creating a paper guide on all the manuscript collections (primary records and papers), on women already in the Peace Collection. I became Curator in May of 1988. The job has always been about collecting, preserving, and making materials accessible to the general public. The major part that has changed has been the electronic and then digital component. It is more difficult to collect and preserve electronic and digital formats. We do have the opportunity to make our resources more accessible via the Internet, but the general public doesn't realize how much work goes into making something accessible online.

## What kinds of WILPF materials are available on your site right now?



We don't have paper resources available online. The WILPF records consist of approximately 350,000 pages of documents dating from 1914 to the present. There is information about this paper-based material on our web site in the finding aid for the WILPF records, which is a box by box, folder title by folder title list of what we have. There is also information about WILPF history and what sorts of documents we have on site in the Peace Collection. In addition, there is a photograph exhibit of WILPF photographs, photograph exhibits of Jane Addams, and WILPF bumper stickers, stamps, and buttons are included in our online databases of our stamps and buttons.



**Wendy Chmielewski, the George R. Cooley Curator of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, received the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Peace History Society for outstanding service to the society and for exemplary scholarship. Photo credit: Laurence Kesterson, Swarthmore College. Used with permission.**

## What are you are in the process of digitizing right now?

In 2019 the Peace Collection received a large grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize some of our film, video, and sound recordings on women and peace in the 20th century. Of course this means that many of the 650 items we will be making available are about women and peace, including a lot about WILPF. In February this year we started loading some of the recordings on to the Internet Archive. Different grants allowed us to make some Vietnam War recordings available, and about the anti-nuclear movement. A few of those are WILPF specific, and some are Women Strike for Peace items, though of course there was a lot of crossover in membership between the organizations.

## What is currently accessible from these audiovisual resources that might be of interest to WILPF US branches and members?



**Dr. Flemmie Kittrell**

There are several WILPF films available, including *Crossing Borders*, the history documentary made about WILPF, some international WILPF footage from the 1930s, film footage of the WILPF trip to the USSR in the 1960s, at the height of the Cold War, and other short films.

We also have a film which is a composite of pieces about WILPF history dating from the 1920s-1940s, and includes two sections with Jane Addams talking (with sound), about the Disarmament Campaign. The film is called *Glimpses of the*

*Maison International*, with the section on the disarmament campaign at the end

There are several sound recordings, as well, including interviews with Mildred Scott Olmsted, and with Dr. Flemma Kittrell from the 1940s. Kittrell worked on hunger issues around the world, and was hired by WILPF for her work on these issues. She was also instrumental in the early years of the Head Start program. When we are all trying to make resources on diverse populations available, it is wonderful to find these recordings of an early African American academic and activist.

We have digitized and made available the 1917-1919 issues of *Four Lights*, published by the Women's Peace Party (WPP) of New York City branch. The multiple branches of the Woman's Peace Party were the original US Section of WILPF (the WPP voted to change its name to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Section for the United States, in November 1919). We have also digitized our political button and stamp/bumper sticker collection, which includes many items from WILPF.

## Can you describe the level of time and work that goes into these projects?

It's incredibly time and resource consuming work. So much of what we receive isn't labeled so that means our staff and interns need to watch or listen to the material minute for minute to be able to identify what is on there. When you look on our site, you see that we have carefully entered metadata on each item, which we write ourselves, another time-consuming process. And then there are the various technologies required to digitize different forms. It's not just scanning photos (though someone on our staff needs to do those by hand), but with film and audio, we don't have a lot of the equipment here, so we need to contract with other companies to do the work of turning those older forms of media into digitally accessible files.

So even a big grant like the NEH one will only enable us to digitize about 650 items, though we have 15,000 items in our full Audio-Visual collection from hundreds of peace organizations and activists.

## Has the closure of Swarthmore due to COVID-19 and stay-at-home advisories affected this project?

I am happy to say that even through the current pandemic and the physical closure of the Peace Collection, staff are still working from home, including staff working on the NEH grant. We are struggling to provide materials for our research-

ers and patrons around the world. We can only digitize some of the formats we have, as the professional lab we also use has closed for now.

## How do WILPF members access these items?



There are links to all of this on the following page on our web site: <http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/peace/Digital%20Resources.htm>

If you look at the Internet Archive recordings, I suggest the following strategy, choose Date Archived and then select Date Added. This will sort the recordings with the most recent at the top, especially the WILPF items.

## Do we need to get permission to use this material?

If you just want to watch or listen to these recordings, you don't need permission. But if you want to make them available in some other way, or want to include parts in a new film or website, please contact me to ask for permission. As for the other material, like photos and posters, it's a case by case basis. If you are asking for non-commercial use for WILPF materials such as older posters, I will grant permission if I am able to do so. However, images can be trickier, because the Peace Collection doesn't own the rights for some of them and you would still need to secure the permission of the studio or photographer. Again, you can contact me or the Peace Collection to discuss how to get permission.

## What advice would you give to WILPF branches and leaders about preserving current materials for posterity?

Encourage all levels of your organization to have a good system in place to keep track of and store branch and national materials. Then agree on one centralized person who will gather everything and periodically send it to the Peace Collection. As best you can, please do label and identify your posters, photos, audio recordings, and films with dates, places, and names (the people who are represented in them). Our own processes are constantly changing to keep up with new technologies, but these basic practices of gathering and carefully labeling your materials are always important. We will be better able to preserve your material for future generations of activists and students if you establish organized systems.

# Women Lead Cuba Solidarity Activism

By Leni Villagomez Reeves

Co-chair, Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Issue Committee

**W**omen are leaders in the struggle to end the United States blockade of Cuba and to bring the positive achievements of Cuban society here to the US. This makes sense since Cuba has been a leader in the area of women's human rights. Cuba was the first country to sign and the second to ratify CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Cuba was the first country in the Western Hemisphere to legalize abortion, in 1965 – 8 years before Roe v Wade in the U.S., 23 years before Canada's equivalent decision, and 30 years before any other country in Latin America.

Because these policies are coupled with the human right to health care, women and all genders in Cuba have comprehensive reproductive justice. Women currently represent over 60% of those engaged in professional and technical work and over 60% of government officials in Cuba. Currently, more than half of the delegates to the Cuban parliament, the *Asamblea Nacional de Poder Popular*, are women (53%).

In 1922, Jane Addams's book *Peace and Bread in Time of War* describes the efforts for peace during the aftermath of the war, with starvation in Europe – and how food was used as a weapon: "And even at that moment the food blockade, hitherto regarded as a war measure, was being applied both to Hungary and Russia as pressure against their political arrangements, foreboding sinister possibilities." One hundred years later, blockade as "pressure against their political arrangements" is still in use; indeed the US blockade of Cuba has been in effect for more than half of the intervening century.

This article includes the testimonies of six women who are leading anti-blockade activism, also Cuba solidarity activism, in the spirit of Jane Addams.

## Gail Walker

Executive Director, IFCO Pastors for Peace

"My early years were spent in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where my father, the late Rev. Lucius Walker, was often engaged in civil disobedience protesting injustice. The image of him, in what I would call his 'civil rights uniform' – a black suit, white shirt, and narrow tie and his wing-tipped shoes – being dragged away by the police is seared in my mind. Later in life people would ask me if I was afraid when he was arrested



Cienfuegos, Cuba, January 5, 2019: Vilma Espin image on a billboard at the entrance of the city. The billboard reads: "Honor and Glory to the Cuban Women." Photo credit: BobNoah / Shutterstock.com.

for protesting against the blockade against Cuba, I said 'No, because he'd been protesting since I was a child and he always came back.' I learned from those events at an early age what it meant to stand up and speak out against injustice.

I had a life-changing experience in 1988, when my father and I co-led a study delegation that was on a ferry attacked by US-backed Nicaraguan Contras, resulting in the death of two people and wounding of dozens more including my father. After being rushed to the hospital he announced the formation of a project he called 'Pastors for Peace' – an action/education project aimed at educating people across the US about the brutal impact of US foreign policy in Nicaragua. In 1992, at the request of our faith-based partners in Cuba, we began organizing caravans to Cuba to highlight the brutality of the long-standing blockade of Cuba.

It has been very important, especially in this day and age of increased aggression by the US government led by the current administration in Washington, to lift up examples of countries truly working to put people first and in a multitude of arenas, Cuba has done that – in the area of health, education, sustainable development, and much more.

It has been said that the world needs Cuba and I think through our work we have helped to illustrate why."

## Alicia Jrapko

US Coordinator of the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity and one of the co-chairs of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC)

"Cuba is an example for us and for the world. They have shown us that there are other ways to organize a society. Cuba has shown us how it is possible to survive the attacks of the most powerful empire only 90 miles away. There are no other countries like Cuba in terms of their humanity.

But I didn't know that I could go to Cuba until I learned about it from Pastors for Peace and met Lucius Walker. Then came the struggle for the return of the Cuban Five. Fighting

for the freedom of the Cuban Five seemed impossible, but Cuba made the case a big campaign; they took the lead in the struggle. We became close to the families of the Five, the wives and mothers; we organized '5 days for the Cuban 5' in Washington, DC. We began this in 2001-2002, so we had 12 solid years of organizing before they were all free in 2014. Fighting against the blockade is a long-term struggle."

### **Catherine Murphy**

*Founder/Director of The Literacy Project and an independent filmmaker and producer*

"I was working with a garden therapy program that worked with incarcerated people, and I was hungry for new models – I could see that the US social and economic models were not working – when I heard a report about Cuba's 'impending food crisis.' This was in 1991, at the beginning of the Special Period, and I felt I had something to contribute, since I was working in urban agriculture.

I began seeing the Cuban model of social development – in a country with a history of colonization and historically low resources, how they were remaking the whole society. Food for all, housing for all, education and health care for all. As I was living there, doing research, I met many men and women, but especially women, who had been literacy teachers and they said that this was the most beautiful thing they had ever done, teaching people to read and write. I studied the Literacy Campaign, the struggle to become fully literate. (This became the film *Maestra*.) I began using film to reframe the narrative around Cuba, helping people in the US to know the reality."

### **Cheryl LaBash**

*Co-chair, National Network on Cuba*

"In 1985 I went with the executive board of my union – I was working in the Health Department in Detroit – on a May Day delegation. As a health department worker in Detroit, a Black city, I knew the US statistics on Black infant mortality, which then and now constitute a form of genocide. I saw what Cuba does, how they care for people, how children are considered the priority. It had a profound impact on me. In all my solidarity work, underlying everything, is the knowledge of Cuba's fundamental commitment that every child should have everything they need to live, and that Cuba is the only country that really makes this commitment. I help wherever the solidarity movement needs help. I am currently coordinating the work around City Council (and other organizational) Resolutions against the Blockade and I am one of the co-chairs of National Network on Cuba. The city council resolutions provide a way to take the issue to Congress representing not just an individual but a large group of people – a whole city."

### **Leni Villagomez Reeves**

*Co-chair, Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance, WILPF US*

"When I retired, I started going with Pastors for Peace on the Caravan. Pastors for Peace takes symbolic aid to Cuba, breaking both the blockade and the travel ban. I also go frequently on my own. What Cuba does well – not perfectly, but waiting for perfect could be paralyzing – is commitment to the people. The system is designed to try to meet people's needs to the extent of the available resources. We come from a system which is designed to produce profit, with all else dependent on that. When we see that it is possible to organize things completely differently and put people first, it is actually hard to take in at first.

Another part of Cuba that is hard to realize at first, and especially noticeable for women, is safety. It is ordinary to leave an event late at night, catch the bus, sit in the back, walk home – all without fearing for one's safety. This takes some getting used to. This has been achieved in only 60 years in Cuba. How is complex, but includes creating an intact social network and a culture of cooperation, as well as an ongoing focus on the rights of women and the unacceptability of violence against women."

### **Jan Strout**

*Co-founder, US Women and Cuba Collaboration*

"In August of 2011, a number of us came together with a mission to build a strong US women's movement dedicated to ending the US government blockade of Cuba and to creating mutually beneficial US-Cuba relations, and that work is rooted in the concept of universal human rights, racial and economic justice, and women's rights. We included, among others, WILPF, Working for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE), CODEPink and NOW, which has a global feminist committee. Lots of different groups had either women's rights, social justice, and peace at their core, but we thought we would build a network that would be a movement-building opportunity.

We wanted to accomplish three major Campaigns. One was the Right to Travel for mutually beneficial relations – not only US people's right to travel and discover Cuba for themselves – but also the opportunity for Cubans to come here. We really have seen two kinds of blockades or embargoes: one is the economic – the official US government policy – but another is the information blockade from either a lack of information or really disinformation. Our second campaign was educating about the Reality of Cuban Women's Lives. A lot of folks don't realize the gains of the Cuban Revolution and what it has meant to women's and girls' lives in particular. Last but not least, we wanted to advance what we call Global Feminisms, including the US ratification of CEDAW."

*Continued on page 23.*

# How Twitter Can Grow Activist Movements

By Judy Adams

Peninsula/Palo Alto Branch

I recently finished *#HashtagActivism: Networks of Race and Gender Justice*, co-written by Sarah J. Jackson, Moya Bailey, and Brooke Foucault Welles (MIT Press, 2020). I read this book to learn about how Twitter is used by activists, and to help me consider expanding my own digital outreach beyond our WILPF branch email and Facebook. The Peninsula/Palo Alto Branch entered the COVID-19 era with all its anxieties, but with a readiness to try some new and innovative digital adaptations. It was time to train on Zoom for meetings, and to reexamine our use of social media, texting on our phones, swapping webinar info, and livestreaming conferences. We decided the current reality might also allow us the time to reach out to young social-media immersed activists about what WILPF stands for, and stand with them.

With this in mind, I sat down to read about how other activists have used Twitter effectively. I had reservations about adding Twitter to my routine coordinating branch email and Facebook posts (which I do with a colleague), but a lot of my negative attitude came from Trump's use of the platform—blasting out bullying, misogynist, racist, divisive messages, feeding his ego, and dispensing fake news. Even before Trump, my initial impression of Twitter was that it was a somewhat overblown “blog” used mainly by self-indulgent individuals looking for a public forum. I needed to look past these attitudes and focus on Twitter, and other social media, as tools to share ideas, support each other's efforts, address global and local justice issues, organize and report on protest actions, and foster positive, peaceful social change.

So far WILPF's attempts at “Twitter storms” (tweeting our messages to key “influencers,” hoping they will re-tweet to their large audiences) have petered out due to low participation, but I knew that other organizations have been more successful with these kinds of efforts. So I was eager to learn more about the individuals and groups, including a growing number of “hashtag activists” (so called because of the # tag used), who were using Twitter to tell the stories of their lives and struggles. What were their strategies, successes, and failures? How did they move beyond expressing their pain to building bigger movements? What could we learn from them?

Much of the book focuses on the events that #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo fostered and the powerful movements for change that brought race and gender justice issues to the public eye, inspiring public demonstrations and mainstream media support. The growth of the Black Lives Matter movement that has brought out tens of thousands to



Demonstration in Philadelphia against police brutality and systemic racism, May 31, 2020. Photo by Matthew Ludak.

protest around the world in recent weeks might never have happened if it wasn't for three young black women who met through “Black Organizing for Leadership & Dignity,” a national organization that trains community organizers. Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi initially created “#BlackLivesMatter” to be a series of social media platforms that connected people online to take action offline. WILPFers might be interested to hear that this isn't so uncommon. An April 2019 survey by the Pew Research Center discovered that “the 10% [of U.S. adult Twitter users] who tweet most often focus more on politics and are mostly women” (Stefan Wojcik and Adam Hughes, “Sizing Up Twitter users,” *Pew Research Center*, April 24, 2019).

## Reaching Further and Faster

Although the book features several notable activist, issue-oriented Twitter accounts, and the personal, sometimes gritty comments of those who started them, I will focus here on Genie Lauren, an African American activist who wrote the book's Foreword. I was comforted to discover that at first she shared some of my impressions of Twitter, although I am in my 70s and she was a busy millennial tied to her cell phone. Tweeting didn't come naturally to her when she first tried it in 2008, and when she started exploring Twitter feeds, she found too much superficial, unenlightened “navel-gazing.”

But what galvanized her to action was seeing the impact of Twitter on events in Iran:

When the the #IranElection hashtag dominated Twitter's global trending topics, it was the first time I had a front-row seat to a revolution. Suddenly, this platform, which previously had seemed rather pointless, allowed me to communicate directly with people on the ground.... My Twitter feed ... finally had a reason for being: to spread the word and unpack what it meant with the help of witnesses and experts (Foreword, x).

Lauren then connected with other Twitter feeds, and found herself making common cause with a group of activist tweeters that became known as the “Black Twitter” network. She discovered relevant Change.org petitions, and as her Twitter feed grew she organized her own Change.org petition. Buoyed by Black Twitter, she saw how it had “...tapped into our shared history of resistance and used the technology available to us to reach further and faster...to draw national attention to local problems” (xviii). After her own experiences with persistent, hashtag activism, she has come to see it as “irreplaceable,” because of all the ways to “deliver information, none are as compact, mobile, and easily digestible as a hashtag.” As a result, she writes, it is “the arterial network of any movement looking for national support and impact” (xix). Powerful words!

One advantage Twitter has over other social media is the compact, pithy nature of the tweet text – initially limited to 140 characters (including spaces and punctuation) and later updated to 280. Short, pointed messages travel well and they are easily retweeted by readers to *their* followers, to reach exponentially larger audiences. Retweeting allows messages from marginalized communities about underrepresented issues to reach a larger public, thus democratizing access to mainstream media and the general public. In addition, Twitter users can add “content,” such as video, to enhance their Tweets. Retweeting helped the #BlackLives Matter and #MeToo grow into powerful movements from humble beginnings.

I was impressed by Lauren’s conversion to Twitter. I also discovered a November 2018 report from the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University showing that “engaging in activism using online tools translated to offline activism” for young people. This pre-election survey from 2018 revealed that the percentage of youth who have participated in a protest had tripled in just the previous two years. Contradicting the “navel-gazing” stereotype, among 18- to 29-year-olds, voter turnout went from 20 percent in 2014 to 36 percent in 2018, a 79 percent jump and the largest increase for any age group.

Subsequent chapters address some of the abuses of Twitter experienced by activists. Although Twitter users can protect their tweets with privacy and safety settings, it is still possible for accounts to be sabotaged by “Alt-Right” users who flood sites whose content they oppose with offensive, abusive, and even threatening counter-tweets. Genie Lauren’s account was hijacked and then shut down by Twitter, and it took an intervention by the ACLU to have it reopened. She was not alone in suffering this kind of attack. But other fantastic digital and media tools for activists can also be vulnerable to hacking. It’s a chance we have to take, or miss out on the audiences we want to reach.

## Adding Social Media to Our Toolkits

As Twitter’s recent decision to fact check two of Trump’s tweets illustrates, social media companies are coming under increasing pressure to deal with offensive comments, the misrepresentation of facts, and hate speech. In the current environment of “real” vs. “fake” news, these platforms have enormous power.

Recent controversies aside – or maybe because of them – reading *#Hashtag Activism* inspired me to try Twitter (I’ll be experimenting with #PeaceNowWilpfCA), and I recommend that WILPF US and branch members include Twitter and other social media apps – such as Instagram for photo sharing – in their activist toolkits. **It’s time for us to take action to fulfill the promise of WILPF’s 2019 campaign to increase our social media presence before the 2020 elections.** With less than five months to go before the November elections, it’s time to review our social media strategies, update our Twitter contact lists, and pay attention to which topics of concern to WILPF are trending.

Here are some steps we could take immediately:

- Branches should survey and assess their members’ social media involvement and report to national to see if we have sufficient numbers to resume a Twitter Storm campaign, coordinated by WILPF US. Contact President Darien De Lu at [President@WILPFUS.org](mailto:President@WILPFUS.org) with a subject line like “I’ll Tweet for peace.”
- We still need volunteers to serve on a national Social Media campaign. Contact Darien.
- Visit WILPF’s SMART (Social Media Action Response Team) Facebook page and join the group to contribute posts. The page was started in May 2019 and has 94 group members to date and excellent posts.
- See for yourself how WILPF’s partner, the Poor People’s Campaign, has adapted to social activism in the time of COVID-19 by nimbly transferring energy and resources to social media and re-tooling its 6-20-2020 Mass Poor People’s Assembly & Moral March on Washington into a virtual event on their Facebook page. Tell friends about their videos and other posts and consider reposting on your branch Facebook page.
- Support your branch email and Facebook coordinators’ efforts by letting them know which emails asking for action you have responded to, and sending them good information to post.
- Regularly visit [wilpfus.org](http://wilpfus.org) to see what issue committees are doing, and review new resources for your peace work.

# An Economy of Our Own Shares Women's Ways of Knowing

By Rickey Gard Diamond

Member, Women, Money & Democracy Issue Committee and Founder, An Economy Of Our Own

Last year, I got an important call from some friends who were WILPF women and who wanted to introduce me to Marybeth Gardam, the facilitator of WILPF's recently renamed issue committee "Women, Money and Democracy." She wanted to talk about my then-new book, *Screwnomics: How the Economy Works Against Women and Real Ways to Make Lasting Change*. She was convinced the women of WILPF would be interested, which delighted me. In the second chapter of *Screwnomics*, I had cited WILPF's organizing back in 1915 and how a group of women went to The Hague to protest war threats that escalated into what we now call World War I. I said: Imagine how different history might be if men had only listened!

Kirkus called my book a comprehensive economic guide with a feminist twist. I coined its title to name the unspoken but widely applied economic theory that women, including our Mother Earth, should always work for less, or even better, for free. *Screwnomics'* critique of the economy's opaque realm of numbers and figures is rooted in language. At the same time, it's a satire of an economic system designed and exclusively managed by very privileged men. It's full of stories about women, including my mother and me.

The more Marybeth and I talked, the more I learned about WILPF's recent work exposing the growing dominance of corporate law to the point of corporate personhood in the United States. We both felt strongly about the Citizens United ruling, and the consolidation of a moneyed ruling class indifferent to growing inequality. We both thought gender was too often overlooked.

While the field of economics appears theoretical, abstract, and mathematical, its hyper-masculine assumptions affect every woman of every color in concrete and personal ways. Female exploitation is foundational to typical economic thinking. This is taboo to talk about. Yet to outsmart, cheat, or "screw" someone is not a word that any woman invented. This is man-to-man language that has entered the vernacular to communicate the worst state economically possible: to be female. In a patriarchy, this means to be dominated and owned as property. This term carries the weight of double jeopardy for African American women and people of color.

The word also reveals a baked-in and abusive relationship that women (and most men) have with a system we desperately need to outgrow. Each chapter of my book examines



economic words, metaphors, and assumptions, along with the very male history of waging war to make or break money kings. Illustrations by cartoonist Peaco Todd apply economic terms in context, depicting three women friends and their different values and circumstances.

*Screwnomics* is also a female body of knowledge. It recounts women's personal economic stories and shares the work and writing of women economic thinkers that I wish every woman could know about. Some are little known tales about famous women, like Sheila Bair and Elizabeth Warren, but other figures in the book aren't widely known, like Brookley Born and Wendy Gramm and Lorraine Brown. Marybeth and I wanted them all to become household names, at least for the women who would likely most benefit from knowing their perspectives and their work. We started to brainstorm about what we could do to promote them and help their ideas become better known.

## A New Nonprofit and Ms. Magazine Column

Some of the women who had been important sources for *Screwnomics* eventually joined with Marybeth and me to develop a new alliance for exactly that purpose. Riane Eisler of the Center for Partnership Studies is best known for her book *The Chalice and the Blade*, but she also authored *The Real Wealth of Nations* and was an early supporter. So was Gwendolyn Hallsmith of Global Initiatives, who had co-written

the book *Creating Wealth* with the monetary theorist and banker who helped developed the Euro, Bernard Lietaer. Crystal Arnold, who interviewed me for her podcast, *Money Wise Women*, became an ally.

David Korten, who co-founded *Yes! Magazine* had worked with Marybeth on her corporate activism, and he saw the value of an alliance promoting women's leadership in economics. Ellen Brown, whose books led to the creation of The Public Banking Institute, joined us, unaware at first of WILPF women in California who had worked hard to help pass California's Public Banking Act. Discovering our common ground as allies takes a first step toward women's wider economic collaboration and recognition.

We formed a new educational nonprofit we named An Economy of Our Own, a play on Virginia Woolf's famous 1929 essay, "A Room of One's Own." After decades of pay inequity—only one of women's many economic problems—we clearly needed to organize and make it easier for young women, now expected to succeed and "have it all," to understand why business as usual on Wall Street and K Street endangers all Americans—but especially women.

Later in 2019, Marybeth and I reached out to the Feminist Majority and its New Young Feminist Leadership Conference. One of the conference organizers, Carmen Rios, was also managing digital editor of *Ms. Magazine*. When she learned what we were trying to do, she offered us a column to help get the word out about women economic leaders. "Women Unscrewing Screwnomics" was born, and we found that as soon as we started sharing the stories of women thinkers and leaders, it began opening doors to learning of still more women leaders in this field. (You can find all the columns at: <https://msmagazine.com/tag/women-unscrewing-screwnomics-series/>).

The *Ms. Magazine* column is also the beginning of getting the word out to more women about the connections between debt and war, and the unsustainability of other-worldly numbers. During the first three quarters of 2019, global debt grew to \$253 trillion, a record high, more than three times the global GDP. Unlike debt's exponential growth, the planet and its people have physical limits. The field's obfuscated language is designed to omit our more sensible clarity. I'm happy to report that in February 2020, the board of WILPF US voted unanimously to join with An Economy of Our Own (AEOO) in a clear memo of understanding.

That memo outlined a year's worth of plans to attend key conferences, including a joint workshop proposal for the NOW 2020 conference in early June. Now, of course, all such plans are on hold in the face of the coronavirus and social distancing. Our digital presence has become more important for now, and we think this actually gives us a better chance to widen and strengthen our burgeoning alliances.

## "She-cession" Points to Need for Democracy

It is clear this new virus is drawing us all up short, helping us re-evaluate old habits of mind. And the economic impact of the virus is showing all too clearly that the issues we are focusing on are vitally important. Women in lower-paying services and essential caregiving jobs—especially women of color—are being laid off and furloughed in disproportionate numbers large enough that this pandemic downturn is rightly being called a "she-cession."

We are not the only ones sensing that women's consciousness-raising conversations about the economy grow more important than ever. But if we ask women what they are thinking—this time we must insist they be listened to. We need seats at many more economic tables.

What if government and lack of money isn't the problem, and the lack of *democracy* in economics is? Maybe old metaphors that make every endeavor, election, or difference a fight or a battle could be reframed as something more earthy and productive, possibly nourishing and fertile. Perhaps there's value in uniting instead of always competing, especially from the bottom up. More democracy and greater diversity in private business and in our public connections might just cook up something new and delicious to share more widely together.

For now, despite the pandemic, you can keep in touch digitally with WILPF and AEOO's alliance. Visit AEOO's website at <https://www.aneconomyofourown.org/>. Sign up for our newsletter there, follow our blog, and consider pitching in to foster the alliance. Discover good news about women's efforts growing knowledge about cooperative businesses, values-based local investing, women questioning the GDP and all it omits, and women growing diversity and resilience in economic thought and practice.

You'll also find links on social media to allied organizations and regular memes and hashtags to spark women's economic conversations. Follow @EconomyofOurOwn at AEOO's Facebook page, tweet at AEOO's Twitter page, and see us on Instagram. Join us every **MutualMonday** to value our survival by collaboration, actually embracing the help each of us needs in a lifetime. On **SayWHATWednesday**, we challenge deceptive economic language, and explore better, more truthful metaphors. On **FridayFeels** we add what is left out of economics: songs, poetry, art, the emotions and spirit that make our economic livelihoods more fully human and rewarding. This surely means valuing what is strong and female, caring and male, alike and vital while beautifully different and varied. We need economic outcomes measured by the well-being of our homes, our planet, and all our children.

We welcome your ideas. Join us, share us, and **help us make these conversations go viral!**

# Nancy Price Thirsts for Climate Justice and Peace

Earth Democracy Chair says 'the thread is water' in her activism.

By Wendy McDowell

WILPF US Contract Editor

**T**hough Nancy Price didn't start pursuing an activist path publicly until the 1980s, when she was in her early 40s, it's clear that her political sensibility and moral conscience were formed well before that point.

As a teenager, Nancy would listen endlessly to radio broadcasts of United Nations General Assembly sessions, and she started disagreeing with her father over politics during the McCarthy era. At just 14, she was upset by the United States plots to overthrow Mohammad Mosaddegh, the Iranian Prime Minister from 1951-53. "The US and Brits tried to assassinate him twice, and I thought that was just wrong. I didn't know much at 14, but I understood that Mosaddegh was democratically elected."

For decades her family spent their summers on Cape Cod. "I spent so much time around fresh and salt water, and so water has always been a preoccupation of mine." She also remembers a couple of summers when "plans drenched the woods in DDT to kill the tent caterpillars." She was greatly disturbed by Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* when it came out in 1962.

During her 20s Nancy was focused on pursuing an academic career in Chinese archeology and art history, and won a coveted two-year Ford Foundation fellowship which first sent her to different US museums with Asian collections, and in the second year, she traveled throughout India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and Korea. In Japan, she had another experience that activated her conscience.

"In the spring of 1967," she recounted, "I was staying for several months in a Buddhist Temple in Kyoto, Japan, and would go to a local bath. I would kneel or sit on the floor in this beautiful, tiled room in front of a low water faucet, and sometimes a petite, elderly Japanese woman would sit next to me. She had burn scars all over her body, so I thought she must be a hibakusha. Occasionally, we would be coming or leaving at the same time, and she would bow deeply to me. As an American, I always felt so apologetic and grief-stricken in her presence."

Nancy never forgot this encounter. After marrying, moving to Davis, CA, and having her son, when the Nuclear Freeze campaign took off in the early 1980s, she volunteered to be the Yolo County campaign co-chair. "I learned all the technical details in order to make presentations to groups throughout the county about MAD (the doctrine of mutually assured

destruction)," she says. "This campaign, a precursor to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), was succeeded by many hundreds of cities, counties, and states passing resolutions, so that finally President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPN) on June 1, 1988. Regrettably, Trump pulled out of it in August 2019."

## Save the Water Leads to Earth Democracy

Fifteen years later, after hearing a radio address by Ronnie Dugger about the crisis of democracy and corporate rule, Nancy went to the founding convention of the Alliance for Democracy in 1996 and soon joined the national council. Through this work, she met Jan Edwards, an active WILPF member and principle author of the "corporate personhood timeline" to complement the "Challenging Corporate Power: Asserting the People's Right" study guide also written by the Cape Cod Branch in the early 2000s for the national campaign. Like so many WILPF members, her relationship with another member drew Nancy into the organization.

Nancy soon found that her work challenging corporate power was directly related to the emerging global water justice movement, and she joined up with the national "Save the Water" campaign. "By the early 2000s, the focus was on the privatization of public water systems and the increasing commodification of water by Nestlé and other bottled water corporations," she explains. Nancy remembers this effective study guide also produced by the Cape Cod Branch had a brochure in the shape of a water bottle on blue paper. "I think Earth Democracy should revive this campaign," she says.

Nancy emphasizes that by 2008, California became the focus of the water justice movement. "Farmworkers, poor urban and homeless communities, and tribes had long suffered from drinking water contaminated with cancer-causing agricultural and industrial chemicals and they came together in broad coalition to demand their human right to water. For too long, local officials and small, private water systems had refused to spend the money to address this public health crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of people."

Beginning in 2008, Nancy represented WILPF in the coalition that was demanding action. "It took us four years to get the Human Right to Water bill to guarantee safe, affordable, and sufficient water for personal and household use passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Brown in 2012. It's actually written into the water code," she says. "It was a successful grassroots campaign and a huge win, passing by only one vote in the face of huge opposition."

She notes that WILPF helped fund the short documen-



tary that was produced about this struggle, *Thirsty for Justice* (see [vimeo.com/87513817](https://vimeo.com/87513817)) which has been shown by some branches. "It could serve as an inspiration for activists across the country, yet unfortunately California is still the lone example," she says.

Nancy explains that the Save the Water Campaign led to the formation of the Earth

Democracy issue committee at the 2013 Triennial Congress in Chapel Hill, NC, to expand the range of topics to include climate justice, the right to health and safe food, and food sovereignty. She adds, "Earth Democracy adopted guardianship and the precautionary principle as our framing concepts."

A WILPF contingent attended the huge New York City Climate March in September 2014, carrying the Earth Democracy banner designed for the occasion by a woman in Fresno. Nancy and the coordinating group continue to produce educational materials, such as infographic cards, banners, pieces for the monthly eNews and eAlerts, and it has formed alliances with local, statewide, and national environmental groups around common concerns. For example, last year Earth Democracy and WILPF US agreed to sign on to the Amicus Brief for the landmark youth climate justice lawsuit by Our Children's Trust when it is eventually heard by the Supreme Court.

Nancy was the driving force behind a recent Earth Democracy-sponsored tour to California branches during March 2020 with Pat Elder who has documented and exposed the extensive water and land contamination on military bases and surrounding communities in the US and overseas caused by the use of a highly toxic firefighting foam. The Patagonia Environmental Fund awarded the Earth Democracy committee a \$12,000 grant in 2019 to support this work.

"Since the 1960s, the military knew of this contamination and looked the other way," she says. "It's a nationwide public health crisis, and of course the contamination impacts women and children in unique ways, since these PFAS chemicals ultimately appear in the placenta, umbilical cord blood, and breast milk to negatively affect the development of the fetus and young children."

"Our hope was that these events would help develop the peace movement, to expose what's happening to young peo-

ple and families living on military bases," she says. "They don't need to be in a war zone, but they are already exposed to extensive contamination and having serious health impacts."<sup>1</sup>

"It's like we're back to where we started with 'save the water'," she says. "Now we understand that corporations like Dupont and 3M and the Department of Defense worked for years to avoid accountability and liability and clean-up costs."

## Reimagining WILPF for the Future

In late 2018, Nancy was elected as an at-large member to the WILPF US Board and she began serving in January 2019. She welcomes the opportunity to be part of a board that is "digging in, and working hard to move WILPF into the future with energized program work focused on short and long-term projects with well-defined goals, a redesigned website, updated communications tools, ONE WILPF calls, and grant writing."

"Working in our communities locally has always been WILPF's strength, but it also makes our work difficult to coordinate sometimes," she explains. "We've long had the opportunity of connecting the work of local members and branches to our national and international programs, with the challenge that we are all volunteers. We recognize the need to keep up consistency and to clearly articulate our issue committees' work."

Every established activist organization "has to go through revivals, reconstitutions, and re-imaginings, just as International has done recently," she says. "This is both necessary and what makes WILPF exciting."

Nancy's sense of optimism comes from the breadth and vigor of the youth climate justice movement as embodied by Greta Thunberg, and more recently from the antiracism protests following the death of George Floyd. "At this time in early June, demonstrations have been held in all 50 states and in more than 500 cities nationwide," she says. "Seeing the huge crowds that are multiracial and cross all ages, but are dominated by black youth, raises for me the real possibility that our individual movements might coalesce to bring about needed systemic, transformational change to end racism, defund the Pentagon and militarized police departments, and fund an economy for the common good."

In these times, she says, "WILPF has the opportunity to frame solutions to the crises we face through a feminist lens leading to peace and freedom so all people and the planet can survive and thrive."

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### Notes:

1 Unfortunately, COVID-19 led to the cancellation of all but three of Pat Elder's speaking events in California, but now a tour is being planned for spring 2021 in MA, ME, NH and VT.

# Living and Dying in Paradox

## Hired Hands, Food Security, and the Hidden Epidemic for Women (Part 1)

By Mary Hanson Harrison

Leadership Team, Des Moines Branch and  
Former President, WILPF US

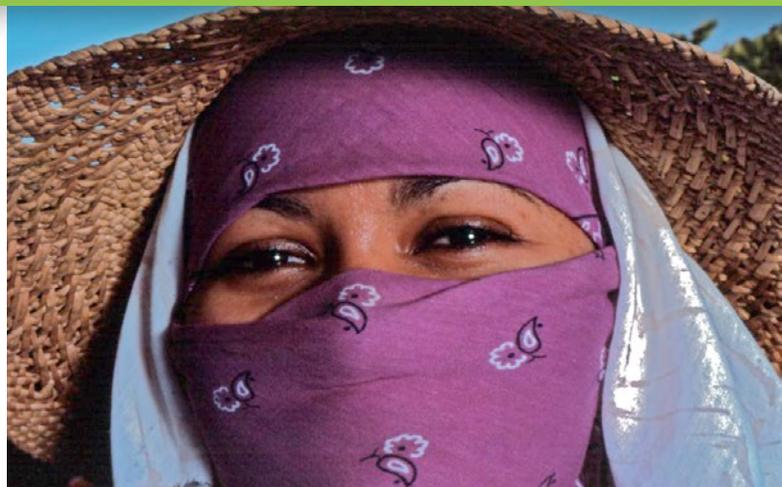
**“Which is more important?** Your pork chops, or the people that are contracting COVID, the people that are dying from it?” These questions were posed by Iowa’s Blackhawk County Sheriff, Tony Thompson, in a *New York Times* article published on May 10, 2020, after the reopening of the Waterloo Tyson meat packing plants by President Trump and his decree that the plant(s) were “critical infrastructure.”<sup>1</sup>

A month before, Thompson and other town officials had pushed hard to close down the Tyson pork plant. The governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds, did not agree. The plant did shut down, but then reopened. Sheriff Thompson was hesitant about the reopening ordered by President Trump, even with the safety measures instituted by Tyson, stating that they “had been too slow to act.”

The indictment of Tyson and other major meatpacking plants, and the relentless rise in coronavirus among workers in the thousands of plants in the Midwest, elicited a searching question by the *New York Times* reporters: “Will America’s appetite for meat be sated without sickening armies of low-wage workers, and their communities, in new waves of infection?” ‘Meat’ is served up cold as a placeholder for cheap food, for corporate money, and for avarice in general. Already we are seeing steep rises in infection where a loosening of restrictions has been the all-too-quick answer to any questions about the balancing act of people vs profit.

Where companies and governments come down on this balancing act will define the lives of farmworkers and other agricultural and frontline workers for the coming months, perhaps years. And these decisions will impact some kinds of workers more than others.

Our appetites are fed and fulfilled by the bending backs and shoulders of workers who often remain nameless and faceless. They include the H-2A foreign “guestworkers,” who are the fear-filled food chain deliverers, the relentless hard-working custodians of the fields and meatpacking houses, and who fill so many other agricultural labor-intensive jobs. They are the most vulnerable employees, many people of color, half of whom are often undocumented. In fact, according to the Agriculture Department, about half of all crop hands in the United States, more than one million, are undocumented immigrants, though those who employ these



**Filipina grape picker in Four Brothers Vineyards east of Delano. July 2009.** Photograph by Richard Street, Social Documentary Network.

workers say it is more likely 75 percent. In Iowa, 46 percent of women workers are undocumented, and women make up about 25 percent of farm hands.<sup>2</sup>

### Women Farmworkers Face Sexual Harassment

While many of us are worrying about our food supply and the spreading of COVID-19, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act does not apply to H-2A workers or undocumented workers.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the H-2A visa does not protect the guestworker from the economic power of farmer owners, overseers, and labor contractors. These workers receive no relief money and health care, and they regularly experience threats of deportation and language barriers.

Women are affected disproportionately because they work in remote places, they are burdened with cultural expectations of their duties, they suffer particular effects from pesticides (particularly during pregnancy), they lack food and proper nutrition because of long hours and little time to buy groceries if there are any, and they make smaller paychecks than male workers. But there are even more horrendous consequences to the female guestworker’s precarious employment situation – the threat of reprisal through sexual harassment and rape.

In a 2018 article for *The Atlantic*, “There’s a Sexual-Harassment Epidemic on America’s Farms,” author Ariel Ramchandani cites Mónica Ramírez, the president of Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, who reveals the hidden, overlooked, and underreported consequence of being an undocumented woman hired hand. Succinctly put: “The history of agriculture in the U.S. always been one of sexual violence.... On farms, conditions are ripe for it.”<sup>4</sup>

This silent epidemic on American farms invades the lives, bodies, and souls of those women and girls who are, according to the Department of Homeland Security, “critical to the food supply chain.” Food security, as defined by our American neoliberal capitalism, depends on women’s and girl’s inse-

curity and too often on their silent suffering. The silence or muted voices of these women are the result of intimidation and repression, cultural stigma, and the burden of being responsible for childcare and for the survival of loved ones as well as themselves.

According to a 2015 OXFAM research report, “Women in Fear: Sexual Violence Against Women Farmworkers in the United States: A Literature Review”: “80 percent of women farmworkers surveyed said they experienced some form of sexual violence on the job (compared to 25-50 percent of all women in the workforce).” As startling as that percentage is, Ramchandani cites a Polaris report “The Typology of Modern Slavery,” which found that “91 percent of the cases involving modern-day slavery in agriculture involved foreign nationals,” H-2A visa or guestworkers. And another Polaris report cited by Ramchandani, “Labor Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at Temporary Work Visas,” “identified nearly 300 H-2A visa holders who had been potential victims of labor trafficking and exploitation in a 12-month period. Eighty-five percent of the victims worked in agriculture, with Florida being the state where the most cases were reported.”

Not coincidentally, Florida and the other “fruit baskets of the states,” California and Texas, have the highest rates of human trafficking.

In a recently released report, “Ripe for Reform: Abuses of Agricultural Workers in the H-2A Visa Program,” by Centro de Los Derechos Del Migrante (CDM), researchers noted the escalation of the numbers of H-2A visas, some 256,667. To put that number in perspective, there were “134,369 visas issued in 2016,” according to the Economic Policy Institute. Given this program’s expansion, CDM explains, “without reform, the number of workers suffering abuse will only get larger and already-anemic government oversight will prove even less effective.” While there was a short reference to the effect on women H-2A workers in the report, their exploitation is often left out of reports and articles.

## Harvesting Grassroots Food Activism

Kathia Ramirez, Food Justice Coordinator for El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (Farmworkers Support Committee – CATA) gives a straightforward assessment of the real cost of our appetites and the ubiquitous presence of food. Presenting at the 2018 UN Commission of the Status of Women (CSW62) as a member of our WILPF US parallel panel, she focused on racism and economic disparities in the US agricultural system. She ended her presentation with these words of deep concern: “In the US’s quest for cheap

goods and labor, we have intentionally created a need for undocumented, low-wage workers. As we pump cheap food into Latin American and domestic marketplaces, it is the workers, who we lure here to help us produce this food, that suffer the consequences, coming up against many barriers to securing their own daily meals.” She offers the solution in the practice of agroecology, based on both ancestral knowledge and scientific research, as the only answer to save the lives of farmworkers and the future of humanity.<sup>5</sup>

“We are all in this together” declare the well-intentioned yard signs lining the sidewalks of well-meaning neighborhoods. The truth is that “we” and “together” are more correctly “us” and “somewhat together.” Even the togetherness forced upon us by the coronavirus excludes people who are crucial to our food production.

We are experiencing a seminal moment. Harvesting the grassroots activism already happening around the world can reap rewards, but we must strengthen our perseverance, resistance, and collaboration with allies. The time is ripe for us and for the United States to embrace the Right to Food and the right for genuine food security for all, including the workers who grow and harvest our food. The power of transformation lies in the hands of women and must include demands for the fulfillment of women’s rights. When crop hands working in our fields and meatpackers working in our factories cannot make enough to feed themselves and their families, and when they fear the reprisal of their supervisors and employers, including sexual harassment and abuse, they are forced to go to work even if they are sick.

The dark and crippling secrets of the true cost of our food are being exposed. What are you going to do about it?

Note: Part II will focus on the strength and successes of grassroots women’s movement organizations to transform the essential work of women.

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## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Ana Swanson, David Yaffe-Bellany and Michael Corkery, “Pork Chops vs. People: Battling Coronavirus in an Iowa Meat Plant,” *The New York Times*, May 10, 2020.
- <sup>2</sup> “Profile of the Unauthorized Population: Iowa,” Migration Policy Institute, *migrationpolicy.org*, accessed 6/10/20.
- <sup>3</sup> Zoe Willingham and Silva Mathema, “Protecting Farmworkers From Coronavirus and Securing the Food Supply,” Center for American Progress, April 23, 2020.
- <sup>4</sup> Ariel Ramchandani, “There’s a Sexual-Harassment Epidemic on America’s Farms,” *The Atlantic*, January 29, 2018.
- <sup>5</sup> See my article on this panel, “Women, Agriculture and the Vital [R]evolution of US Farming,” in the Spring/Summer 2018 issue of *Peace & Freedom*, pp. 6-7.

# Migrants Increasingly Fleeing Climate Crisis

By Pat Hynes

**C**hildren, families, and caravans arriving at our border with Mexico have been labeled “swarms,” “hordes,” “masses,” and “threats to our national security” — epithets that demonize and degrade those fleeing poverty, violence, and now climate crisis in their countries.

Why are they here? In part, because our government has had a master hand in violently replacing democratic governments with right-wing dictatorships, which dispossessed the poor of human rights and land for much of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Why are they here now? Increasingly because they are driven from their land and livelihood by climate crises they have no role in causing.

Migration from Central American countries, specifically Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, to the U.S. border grew from 2007 to 2019. A recent World Food Program study found that nearly half of those leaving their Central American countries leave due to lack of food.

These three countries — referred to as the Northern Triangle countries — are some of the most vulnerable to climate change. They are located in what is designated the Central American Dry Corridor where “hotspot” temperature increases, drought, and sea level rise are driving poor people from their homes, small businesses, subsistence farms, and land.

For the rural poor and indigenous, losing their crops to drought two years consecutively causes immediate food insecurity and hunger, forcing them to migrate to cities, where rates of murder and rape are among the highest in the world — another factor driving them north.

Let’s look with the briefest of snapshots at the plight of the poor in these three countries to understand why they seek refugee status here.

## Guatemala

In 1954 President Eisenhower ordered the overthrow of democratically elected President Jacobo Arbenz in order to protect United Fruit Company’s land interests. Arbenz had issued the Agrarian Reform Law, which redistributed land to some 500,000 landless indigenous peasants. One recent president we championed, Efraín Ríos Montt, was convicted of genocide in 2013 for trying to eliminate Mayan peasants.

One in ten Guatemalans is affected by hunger due to drought-related crop failures in 2018. In some regions, 80



Central American refugees are boarding a truck in Mexico on their way north to the US border. Photo: Saeschie Wagner / Shutterstock.com.

percent of the coffee crop has been wiped out by coffee leaf rust, causing low-wage workers to lose jobs. All while 2 percent of the population controls 70 percent of all cropland.

## El Salvador

Over the last eight decades, US military support for right-wing coups and authoritarian candidates has strangled social movements for self-determination, worker rights, and economic development in El Salvador.

The country is projected to lose 10-28 percent of its coastline by end of century, destroying mangrove forests, marine life in them and the livelihood of fishermen and their families. The country is projected to run out of water in 80 years; yet the biggest industrial users and polluters (among them the Coca-Cola Company) are not affected by water rationing.

## Honduras

In 2009 reform-minded President Manuel Zelaya, on the verge of signing land over to 300,000 small farmers, was kidnapped by the Honduran military and flown out of the country to Costa Rica. The Obama Administration supported the coup, and the Trump administration has continued to approve subsequent illegal presidents who have intimidated and violently suppressed rural and indigenous farmers’ land rights.

The country’s Pacific Coast, once a thriving tourist destination, is losing approximately one meter each year to sea level rise. Tidal surges are wiping out businesses, homes, and roads. The corporate shrimp industry is destroying mangrove forests.

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*Pat Hynes is an at-large member of WILPF and a retired professor of environmental health. She directs the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in Western Massachusetts. This article excerpt is reprinted by permission; read the full article at <https://traprock.org>.*

# Donors Plant Seeds of Peace

**W**ILPF US deeply appreciates the financial donations, large and small, from our members, friends, and sponsors. Interconnection and interdependence have always been fundamental to WILPF, and never have our relationships been more important than in this time of sheltering in place. Your gifts make us stronger!

On this page, we thank by name those who have made bequests and more substantial donations in the last five years. We look forward to recognizing our donors annually in the pages of *Peace & Freedom*.

**Thank you all for sowing the seeds of peace, from your hands to ours.**

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# Treasurer's Report to Members

## WILPF US continues to put Branch and Program Committee needs at the top of our list.

**A**s a not-for-profit organization we wage peace only through the generous support of individuals and foundations. We also recognize our position as a membership organization with members in Branches and At Large who work in community with others holding shared values and interests. These associations have survived because people draw strength from each other to fulfill our mission to "create the peaceful transformation we wish to see in the world."

Our WILPF US Finance Committee and Board adopt a budget using the "Mission through Numbers" process. Guidestar aptly describes this methodology as "No numbers without stories, and no stories without numbers." As you peruse our numbers in the report and charts for 2019, it doesn't take long to see how important our individual members are. Your dues and contributions give us the financial backing needed to let us tackle our mission. We also appreciate the support from our Branches, not just for their everyday activism but also for the additional dollars Branches pass along to help cover the "hard" or "overhead" expenses of our national organization. We do the same thing when we pass along almost \$15 of your annual dues to WILPF International to help with those costs at their level.

The easiest decisions we make when it comes to our expenses are to cover the costs that come up in the work done by our leaders of Issue Committees, Initiatives, and Programs that support our branches and members. Tough times call for tough action, and we honor the work of all of our leaders at the Branch and National Committee levels when we put their budgetary needs at the top of our list.

Thanks also go to those who went before us and started us on the road to setting aside a portion of our income for reserves to cover irregular or unforeseen expenses. In 2008 WILPF US invested \$16,000 with PAX World, which adheres to socially responsible investing principals, and specifically their

*Ellevest Global Women's Leadership Fund.* The fund managers focus on investing in companies that are committed to gender diversity on their boards of directors and in executive management that embraces policies and programs, such as the Women's Empowerment Principles, to elevate women in the workplace.

A couple of years ago our Board decided to begin using one-half of the earnings from the previous year to cover general expenses in the following year. Our net investment after taking \$16,702 from the fund totals \$19,298. While the fund lost ground in 2018 and in the first few months of 2020, we have a balance of \$121,493 today, as I prepare this report to you. In another decision that adds to our reserves, WILPF US adopted a Bequest Savings Policy in 2010 that has grown our savings to almost \$83,000. We're using a portion of these reserves to cover the work on a new website design this year.

In closing, we saw 2019 as tumultuous and challenging, but it in no way prepared us for 2020. Like you, I'm sheltered in place to make sure I can do what I can to keep my family, my neighbors, and myself as healthy as possible.

Stay safe, prepare something healthy and bright, and let the light in!

In Solidarity,  
Jan Corderman,  
*Treasurer, WILPF US, Des Moines Branch*

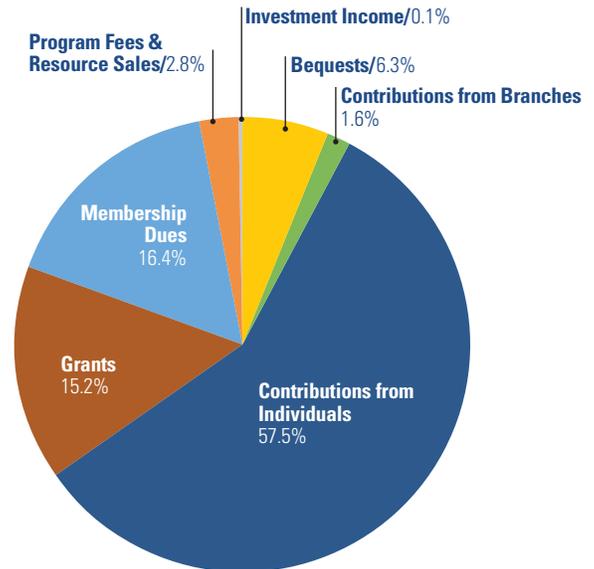
### IRA Charitable Rollover and Satisfying your RMD (Required Mandatory Distribution)

IRA Charitable Rollover is a way for individuals who have reached age 70½ (age 72 for anyone born on or after July 1, 1949) to **donate up to \$100,000 to WILPF US** directly from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA), without treating the distribution as taxable income. Or you can make WILPFUS the beneficiary on an insurance policy. **Contact us for more information or help to make this arrangement: [plannedgiving@wilpfus.org](mailto:plannedgiving@wilpfus.org).**

## 2019 Income & Expenses

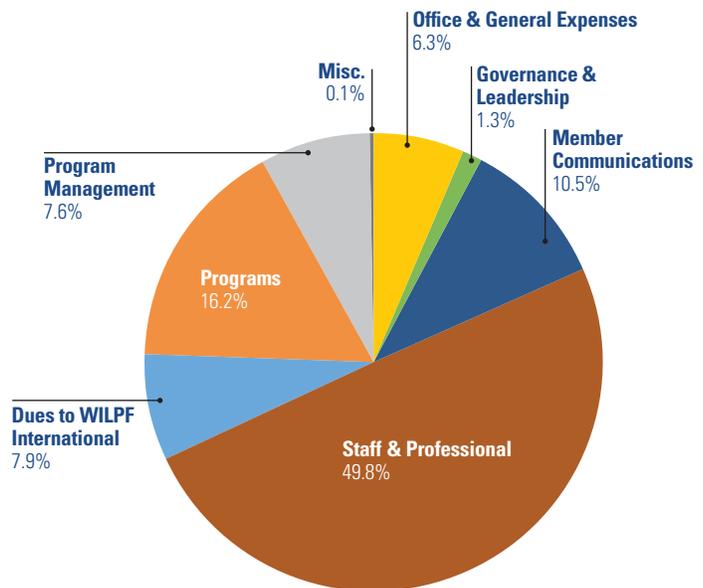
### Income

Bequests	\$11,632
Contributions from Branches	\$2,894
Contributions from Individuals	\$106,362
Grants	\$28,000
Membership Dues	\$30,283
Program Fees/Resource Sales	\$5,131
Investment Income	161
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$184,463</b>



### Expense

Office & General Expenses	\$11,652
Governance & Leadership Expenses	\$2,369
Member Communications	\$18,497
Staff & Professional	\$87,630
Program Management	\$13,293
Programs, Initiatives & Branch/member support	\$28,488
Dues to WILPF International	\$13,957
Misc	\$172
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$176,058</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$77,002</b>



## Cuba Solidarity: *Continued from page 11.*

### Solidarity Is Sharing What You Have

What is solidarity? It implies that our interests are shared, that we act together in important ways, that we need each other, and that we share the risks also. It is very different from charity. In Cuba, people learn that solidarity means sharing what you have, not what is left over. Cuban international solidarity, most notably medical solidarity, has been expressed over the past 55 years in 117 countries. Its very effectiveness has made it a special target for recent US attacks.

Cuba is real and Cuba's accomplishments are inspiring, which explains why there is a blockade and a travel ban. If people see Cuba for themselves, they will be moved and changed.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was built on the peace and justice activism of Jane Addams and others. Addams also said "We do not possess our ideas, they possess us and force us into the arena to fight for them." This is true for the women activists quoted here.

# Leaving a Legacy

**W**e pay tribute to the following individuals who named WILPF US as a beneficiary of their will and whose bequests were finalized in 2018, 2019, and early 2020. Their thoughtfulness and generous support serves as a legacy to the values they held during their lives.



**Wilmer Brandt**, 96, of Marshfield, VT, was not a rich man and lived very simply as a forester, but his generosity to WILPF was part of his estate giving plan. Committed to peace and justice, and a WWII conscientious objector, Wilmer participated in Friday Peace vigils in Montpelier and belonged to the Friends

Meeting House. Even though he had never earned a huge salary, his generosity to WILPF in 2016 provided significant support for ongoing projects.



**Miriam Butterworth** was a regular donor to WILPF for years, and when she passed away in 2019 at the age of 101, she also left a legacy to WILPF. The gift was a part of her overall estate. We were deeply grateful to be remembered. Miriam was a long-time Democratic activist. In the 1940s she campaigned for equal representation of women in the Connecticut General Assembly.

She was a longtime member of WILPF and worked to oppose and end the Vietnam War. Later she acted as a monitor for fair voting in Nicaragua. After teaching at independent schools, Miriam served as chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Control Authority and was President of Hartford College for Women. She also served on the West Hartford Town Council. Miriam was an activist for most of her 101 years. No wonder her heart was moved by WILPF... where sisterhood and solidarity continue to advance important US and international peace, women's rights, and economic justice issues.

**Alice Fisher** of Santa Monica, CA, was a lifetime member of the LA Branch. She always attended WILPF events including the International Women's Day luncheon and was especially pleased when her daughter, Linda, an accomplished singer and guitar player, provided the entertainment for the event. Alice passed in the summer of 2018.

**Conlyn Hancock** was an ardent feminist and a long-time member of the Palo Alto Branch. We're grateful that she remembered WILPF US with a bequest received in 2018.

**Donald Irish**, an intense and energetic man, promoted causes for human betterment and fought despair in the face of many intractable forces. Don loved to talk. It has been said that he could chat up a rock until it turned to sand. His was never idle chatter, though. He put his body where his words were and he put his money where he felt it would have the most impact. He donated enough to minimize paying taxes for the U.S. war machine and, in doing so, provided substantial support for promoters of education and peace with justice. His early academic work was representative of lifelong interests: the sociology of war; anti-Japanese-American sentiment during World War II; cultural and racialized differences across the US; death and dying; and Latin American sociology. His final academic home was Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he taught for 22 years. A member of the Minnesota Metro Branch, Don passed in August of 2017.



We take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the bequest we received last year noted "In Memory of Joni Hoffman" of Seaside, CA. Joni Hoffman was a cardiology nurse practitioner who passed away at the age of 52 in 2015. We were unable to learn more about Joni, but deeply appreciate this gift in her honor.

## New Bequest Brochure

By Marybeth Gardam  
*Development Committee*



This season we're mailing a new Bequest Brochure to all our members. It asks you to consider a painless way to make arrangements now for a planned gift to WILPF later on. Even small bequests have kept our organization strong. See the back cover for more information, look

for the new brochure in your mailboxes, and contact [plannedgiving@wilpfus.org](mailto:plannedgiving@wilpfus.org) if you are interested.

**You too could make a huge difference for the peace activists of WILPF US, now and for years to come.**

# Yoshiko Ikuta: A Dangerous Woman

By Linda Park

Life Member, Cleveland WILPF

**Y**oshiko Ikuta was a World War II survivor, social worker, activist, artist, and world citizen who stood up against war and nuclear weapons through her many leadership roles with the Cleveland Branch, on the national board of WILPF US, and in multiple peace and justice organizations. She was a dangerous woman because she lived life on her own terms and spoke out on a wide range of issues, including disarmament, the rights of immigrants, and ending the embargo in Cuba.

Yoshiko passed away at the age of 90 on June 27, 2019, after suffering a hemorrhagic stroke. She had been helping with a program at her daughter's church in Cleveland and collapsed as they left. Ironically, it was at a similar age and of a similar cause as what had been her mother's demise. A Memorial Concert for Peace and Freedom was held at Denison Avenue UCC in Cleveland on August 3, 2019, in her memory and to remember the war victims of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and everywhere.

Yoshiko was born in Japan on December 5, 1928, where she was a witness to World War II. She graduated from Doshisha Women's College in Kyoto and then came to the United States where she earned a social work degree from Case Western Reserve University. She met and married her husband Frank in the US. They had one daughter, Nozomi, who has two children. She practiced social work until retirement and then directed the local Japan Society.

The center of Yoshiko's life seemed to be working for peace and the rights of immigrants, and against war and nuclear weapons. As part of a group of about 30 attending the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, she helped organize and prepare the group for what they

would encounter. She was also instrumental in organizing the programs that were held to report back on that experience and on women's issues around the world.

Yoshiko truly thought globally and acted locally. She was well known in the Cleveland area. The core of her activism was with Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice, the Cleveland branch of WILPF, where she served as President and was on the newsletter committee. She frequently wrote articles for WILPF and local publications. She was also a member of the national board of WILPF and attended many of the

International and National WILPF Congresses, and also served on the early Water Committee (now Earth Democracy). She served as Chair of the "Disarm! Dismantling the War Economy" campaign, one of three campaigns chosen for US Section work from 2000-2003 at the 1999 Triennial Congress.

She had a particular passion for disarmament. Locally she was active in Middle East actions, and was among the first to organize and demonstrate against the war in Iraq. She had visited Palestine and frequently reminded us of their needs. Back here she was active with the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. She organized the programs of Pastors for Peace as they passed through on their trips to Cuba, and traveled to Cuba herself, making

five trips during the embargo. She regularly gave talks on Hiroshima Day, was a member of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, and was a founder of the local group Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network. If there was a demonstration, she was there. In 2013 she was awarded the lone Biggs Human Rights Award by the local chapter.

Yoshiko did watercolors in her spare time and in her later years took lessons at the local art center. She was an avid reader and deep thinker. She always seemed happy and usually wore red. She had a presence that did not allow her to quietly slip into a room, but she would come in and add her positive personality, engage others in discussion, and elicit opinions on the topic at hand. She was what a feminist looks like.



# In Memoriam

## Pat Birnie: Visionary, Resister, Friend

By Marliese Diaz  
Former Baltimore Branch Chair



**P**at Birnie, Presente! Our dear friend and local peace with justice visionary activist passed on April 15, 2020, at Friends House in

Sandy Spring, MD. Pat returned to this area several years ago after having lived for many years in Tucson, AZ. She had been a member of the Baltimore Branch until leaving in 1993 for Florida and then Arizona. As many already know, her feet were solidly on the ground when she joined with others in protest at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab outside of DC. The Lab was well known for its work on military research and became the scene of many protests and arrests. She also worked with the Howard County Peace Action Coalition with other WILPF members.

In the late 1980s she served on WILPF's National Board as Chair of the Energy Issue Committee. And in September 1990, she served as a Legislative Liaison and reported on the status of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty at the Southern Regional Conference in Miami.

Pat and Helen Hollingsworth (WILPF and AFSC) were critical members of the Maryland Safe Energy Coalition and attended the stockholder meetings of BGE (Baltimore Gas & Electric) offering motions for a certain percentage of monies to be used for renewable energy. Their visionary efforts became the forerunner of the renewable energy opportunity now available in Maryland.

Pat made national TV out of New York in 2005 when she was part of a group appearing with the Raging Gran-nies of Tucson.

While at Friends House, Pat with Ellen Atkinson continued their peace activities around the nuclear issue and brought informative speakers to the area. She was a nuclear resister to the end. Presente!

In the Baltimore Branch we came to depend on Pat's deep knowledge of the issues to educate us on the connections between military spending, energy and the environment. And recently she has reminded us all that the efforts of a few can make a difference as we've learned about her efforts with the Maryland Safe Energy Coalition.

We cannot forget, however, that for Pat Birnie, friendship was a value she lived and worked for. Her quiet strength until the end continues to inspire all who knew her. Pat Birnie, Presente!

## Rose Daitsman: Pioneering Educator and Human Rights Activist



**R**ose Daitsman passed away in late July 2019, in Milwaukee, WI. Described as a "force of nature," Rose's indefatigable energy and strong

sense of justice and equity led her to create social change in an array of fields throughout her long and accomplished life. She mentored the establishment of WILPF US's Advancing Human Rights Subcommittee on Human Trafficking. She was the rudder for the Milwaukee Branch. As a wise and generous leader, Rose provided counsel, mentoring, and discernment for several generations of WILPF US leaders. Her passing was a great loss for WILPF.

Arriving in Milwaukee in 1972 with a background in Engineering (BE, Cooper Union, 1949) and Education (MA, Xavier University, 1966), Rose earned a position at the College of Engineering

and Applied Science at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She quickly realized the dearth of minority students in the school and set out to change it. University administrators soon approved a pre-college program, the Gateway to Engineering, Science, and Technology, which recruited minority students from high schools in Milwaukee to learn about the field in weekend and summer programs. As a result of this program, the College experienced a 20% increase in minority admissions. She led the program until her retirement from the university in the 1990s.

Rose was also a founding member of the Society of Women Engineers, an international organization that has over 40,000 members. She took an early interest in pollution control and proposed air quality regulations as early as 1960.

A committed anti-war activist, Rose protested against the possible use of nuclear weapons in the Korean Conflict. Later, during the Vietnam War, she was selected to serve on a citizens' delegation to the Paris Peace Talks in an effort to jump-start the stalled negotiations between the United States and North Vietnam.

Over the course of her long life, she received many awards and honors, including the Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award by the City of Milwaukee in 2016 and West End Mother of the Year in 1966 for her community work with children in the inner city of Cincinnati.

Among her many activities in Milwaukee, in 2006 Rose founded the Greater Milwaukee Human Rights Campaign, a coalition of 10 organizations which produced a report on the severe racial discrimination in Milwaukee that was subsequently submitted to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This work contributed to the resurrection of Milwaukee's Equal Rights Commission in 2009.

## Nora DeWitt: Steadfast and Loving Mentor



**N**ora was born in Hungary in 1940, and her early years, under Nazi occupation and later as a war refugee, may have been her

impetus for becoming a social justice advocate. Nora's family immigrated to Australia, ultimately buying a farm on the outskirts of Brisbane, where Nora did high school and college, then went on to study for a PhD in microbiology.

In 1975 she moved to Fresno, where her husband Hiram's mother lived. Nora and Hiram had given birth to Sophia, who was born premature and later diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Nora worked in immunology for 30 years at Valley Children's Hospital.

Her involvement with WILPF began with the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. Under Nora and her husband Hiram's leadership as county chairpersons, the Freeze passed in Fresno County. In the early 1990s, Nora became membership chair of WILPF. She stayed in that position for over twenty years, bringing to it her strong, quiet presence. "She did her job without fanfare and not needing praise, but with grace and beauty," Ann Carruthers wrote of Nora.

Under her leadership, she watched membership grow, and saw through Fresno community events such as co-sponsoring speakers, installing the Jane Addams sculpture at Fresno State's Peace Garden, and children's book presentations in branch libraries. Nora also mentored a social work intern.

Nora credited WILPF with the joy of working with like-minded friends. She demonstrated a lifelong dedication to peace and social justice, and others in

the Fresno branch loved being in Nora's strong, quiet presence and learning from her. "She was a loving, steadfast contributor to the strength of Fresno WILPF," wrote Jean Hays.

## Ellie Bluestein: Founder, Go-to Person, Fresno 'Star'



**E**llie Bluestein founded the Fresno Branch of WILPF in 1965. Ellie greeted, welcomed, and recruited members continuously over the years. She was the go-to person for anything and everything.

Ellie also was a founder of the Fresno Raging Grannies group. In a 2018 interview, she said, "I love to sing! I love the chance to challenge the status quo. Raging Grannies is not just a slogan. It's how I feel."

When she was a new mother, Ellie found herself empathizing with mothers and their babies around the world, which ended up merging with her passion for peace, when she learned that in time of war it is women and children who disproportionately suffer starvation and death. These concerns led to multiple efforts: her participation in a Model Cities Program, teaching and mediation work, and her involvement with the Chicano Civil Rights Committee on issues of police harassment, which became an

extensive, years-long effort to bring an Independent Police Auditor position to Fresno.

A woman of strength, power, and compassion, Ellie had a command about her that made you want to do what she suggested. She had a way of being with people of all kinds of backgrounds. She and her husband Gene headed a musical household that hosted many of America's greatest folk performers.

Everyone knew Ellie, and no one could say no to her! At the WILPF table at the Fresno Branch's annual crafts fair, she was an expert at getting members to renew their membership and bring in new members. In 2015 Ellie organized the WILPF exhibit, "One Hundred Years of Dangerous Women" at the Madden Library in Fresno. Another community project that was dear to her heart was the Women's Oral History Project published as "20 Fresno Women Committed to Change," which was replicated by her in Japan as "14 Tokyo Women Committed to Change."

Ellie was also a regular writer of letters and columns in the *Fresno Bee* and her obituary in the paper noted that she advocated for a number of issues, "including the need for an independent police auditor in the city."

Ellie saw her community and activism work as an extension of her family life, saying: "They work together. My attitude towards my family as being a haven for peace and fulfillment, working things out together, living together in a humane way, is extended into the community."

Ellie was born in 1928, and passed away in April 2020 at the age of 91. "She was our 'Star' for a very long time and will continue to shine on the Fresno WILPF Branch forever," wrote Bev Fitzpatrick. Jean Hays expressed a similar sentiment, saying that her "strong and loving way" will continue to guide the Fresno Branch: "For me, Ellie is not gone; I feel her presence daily."

# Branches Organize, Educate, and Demonstrate

Judy Adams of the **Peninsula/Palo Alto Branch** helped organize a July 2, 2019, MoveOn National Action Day to protest immigrant family detention and deportation. The event brought nearly 300 participants to the same Palo Alto street corner where the branch holds weekly demonstrations. These weekly demonstrations continued until the COVID-19 crisis halted them, at which point the branch started stepping up their virtual presence and peace actions with email, Facebook posts, and get-out-the-vote activities that volunteers can do from the safety of their homes. Branch members continue to communicate Poor People's Campaign information, and to work diligently on transferring information from WILPF's petitions in support of the Nuclear Weapons Ban.



On April 27, 2019, the **Pittsburgh Branch** held its 14th annual Tax Day Rally and Penny Poll. Branch members passed out about 200 flyers and engaged numerous people in discussions. And on October 12, the branch organized a showing of *Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives*, a documentary about the environmental footprint of war, followed by a former soldier from Pittsburgh's Veterans for Peace sharing his witness.

The **Triangle (NC) Branch** organized a community vigil on January 8, 2020, calling for: No War with Iran! Money for Human Needs, Not War! More than 50 community members and UNC students rallied at Peace and Justice Plaza in Chapel Hill, historic site of so many protests against the endless wars the US is waging. North Carolina State Representative Verla Insko, Anna Richards, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP, and longtime WILPF member Ruth Zalph addressed the crowd. WILPF members circulated petitions to their NC Congressional delegation to "prevent the offensive use of the military in Iran without prior congressional authorization."



The **Boston Branch** held a fundraiser on April 28, 2019, for a new WILPF branch in Sierra Leone working to improve women's rights and security. The \$500 they raised was matched by the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice. On September 20, 2019, Boston branch members joined their local Climate Strike March, which brought more than 10,000 to Boston City Hall. "The spirit was contagious and the signs were clever," wrote Eileen Kurkoski.



When the **Des Moines Branch** learned that the Democratic Party would be voting at their National Meeting on whether to hold a Presidential Candidates Debate solely focused on climate crisis, they took a resolution to their local Polk County Democratic Central Committee to request they vote yes. On August 20, 2019, ten WILPF members showed up at a Sunrise

Movement rally at the Iowa Democratic Office to provide support for the young climate activists. Throughout the year, members of the Des Moines Branch also actively brought messages of peace and justice to local elementary schools by reading JACBA books to classrooms at Edmunds Elementary School and St. Joseph School, presenting books to the entire Samuelson Elementary community, and donating a set of books to the non-profit EveryStep.

Supported by a WILPF US mini-grant, the **St. Louis Branch** sponsored a Screwnomics Meet-up as a means of bridge-building to the local community, and with the aim of developing leadership skills in young women. The group enjoyed the relaxed book club atmosphere to grapple with the terms and issues raised by the book. One of the young facilitators ended up joining WILPF.



From October 8-11, 2019, the **Burlington Branch** hosted programs on Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at four Vermont

high schools, as well as at Middlebury College and the University of Vermont. Two different speakers participated in the programs: Susan Marie Frontczak, who portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt and her work on the UDHR at four different high schools; and Dr. Blanche Wiesen Cook, a WILPF member and author of three volumes about Eleanor Roosevelt, who spoke to the college students.

The **Tucson Branch's** annual "Challah for Gaza" event in 2019 was a great success! This event has been going for 13 years, and raised more than \$1,000 to send to the Middle East Children's Alliance for a project that installs water purification units in Gaza schools.

The newly revitalized **Westchester Branch** organized an exhibition of peace posters and essays which ran at Mamaroneck Public Library for the month of September. The posters and essays were created by students for the WILPF peace contests in the 1980s and 90s. The branch plans to sponsor another youth peace project for all Westchester students in 2020.



Several members of the **East Bay and San Francisco Branches** of WILPF have joined with other women activists and veterans to form the counter recruitment group "Before Enlisting." The group provides high school students, parents, and teachers with the full picture of what military service is really like. On October 27, 2019, East Bay/San Francisco WILPF held a reception honoring long-term WILPF member Ann Fagan Ginger, a renowned lawyer, educator, and international human rights and treaty advocate. Several speakers spoke about Ann's continued work for peace and justice, which was summed up by the comment, "Ann is a jewel in our midst!"



In August 2019, the **Greater Philadelphia Branch** made two donations of books in honor of Stelle Sheller and her years of staunch devotion to working for the common good. WILPF members delivered the books to the Falls of Schuylkill Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia

and to the Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Justice, where Stelle served as a board member for many years. And with the help of a WILPF US mini-grant, six members of the branch traveled to Brownsville, Texas, in February 2020 where they spent several days serving meals to a tent encampment of 1,000 asylum seekers at the bridge crossing into Matamoros, Mexico. Working with the dedicated Team Brownsville, delegation members also helped at the local school, and received an education in the "subversive act of seeing."



In September 2019, the **Humboldt Branch** participated in two climate events and co-sponsored a proclamation and celebration of the International Day of Peace which included peace-oriented poetry, music (including Raging Grannies), a talk by Sue Hilton, and a candlelight vigil. In early October, branch members met with their congressional representative, Jared Huffman, to discuss the importance of treaties, election security, and immigration and refugee issues. More recently, in April 2020, the branch gave more than \$3,500 in scholarship grants to local projects that "support peace and justice locally or globally." The funds came in part from the branch's eleventh annual "donations only" celebration for International Women's Day held in March.

### 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage

On June 24, 2019, **Pittsburgh Branch** members joined their city's event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Pennsylvania. Edith Bell and Susan Smith attended the events, and the mayor mentioned that Pittsburgh is

a CEDAW city, an initiative which was started by Pittsburgh WILPF.



On August 26, 2019, Women's Equality Day, **Greeley (CO) Branch** members celebrated the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage by handing out WILPF information at the front doors of a large grocery store. One of the branch's members who is also the President of the League of Women Voters stood ready with information to register new voters.

### Hiroshima/Nagasaki 74th Anniversary

On August 6, 2019, 94-year-old **Sacramento Branch** member Esther Franklin was arrested at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Livermore Lab). She joined 42 Bay area peace and justice advocates who offered themselves for arrest. This capped a day of speeches, traditional Japanese bon dance, and somber reflection to mark the 74th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, including addresses by whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg and atomic bomb survivor Nobuaki Hanoaka.

**Corvallis WILPF** hosted the 38th Hiroshima/Nagasaki Never Again memorial on August 7, 2019, and turnout was among the largest in the history of the event. Four speakers presented different views of the nuclear issue and explained why nuclear weapons must never be used again. The ceremony ended with everyone reading the Community Affirmation, and then candles were lit and a procession walked to the bridge over the Willamette River to quietly watch a flotilla of kayaks with lanterns come down the river.



## Legacy S-heroes Keep WILPF Sustainable Plant seeds of peace for the future.



### Your money can work for peace even after you have passed on.

Over the history of WILPF US we've faced hard financial times and enjoyed windfalls too. The wind beneath our wings has often been the way our members remembered us in their wills and final planning. Bequests of all sizes have seen us through all kinds of challenges and they still do.

You don't need to be a millionaire to leave a meaningful bequest. No matter the size of your assets, you can make your money work for peace as you have during your life, by making some simple arrangements now. People just like you have kept WILPF work moving forward by putting simple language in their will or making WILPF the beneficiary of an insurance policy.

You can make this kind of painless arrangement that contributes the 'remainder of your estate' after all

inheritances are distributed and debts are settled. You can designate a specific amount for WILPF, or a percentage of the remainder of your estate.

**The important thing is not to put it off a moment longer.**

### A Charitable Bequest

- Costs you nothing today.
- Can be altered later on if necessary.
- Does not preclude you gifting your heirs as much of your estate as you wish.
- Can help plant seeds of peace for decades to come.

Find more details and download our bequest package at [www.wilpfus.org/bequests](http://www.wilpfus.org/bequests).

### You don't have to do this alone.

It's always a good idea to talk through your plans with your attorney, tax consultant, and, of course, with your family.

**To get started, contact us at:**  
[plannedgiving@wilpfus.org](mailto:plannedgiving@wilpfus.org)

We're ready to help walk you through the options and the process, step-by-step. We can connect you with the experts at our fiscal sponsor, Peace Development Fund.