

PEACE FREEDOM

SPRING/SUMMER 2018/VOL 78, NO. 1

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



In This Issue



From Our President: Sisters! Keep the Seeds in Your Hands.....	1
Pan-Africanism: Toward a Just and Unified Africa.....	2
Women-Centered Climate Change Mitigation	4
Women and the Vital (R)evolution of US Farming.....	6
The History Behind Yemen's Humanitarian Crisis.....	8



The Myth of the Second Amendment	10
Fukushima Stories and the Ghost Towns Left Behind.....	12
The Border as War.....	14
Treasurer's Report to Members.....	16



Then & Now: Peace Camp in Auburn, California	18
Leaving a Legacy.....	19
The Charitable IRA Rollover.....	19
2018 Jane Addams Children's Book Award.....	20
Poem by Martha Stephens.....	21
Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission Announced.....	22



Joan Woolley Bazar, 1934-2017	23
Branches Support Poor People's Campaign.....	24
Fundraising Nurtures Activism.....	back cover

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.

WILPF US Section

President: Mary Hanson Harrison

AFSC House, PO Box 13075, Des Moines, IA 50310
phone: 617-266-0999

e-mail: info@wilpfus.org; website: wilpfus.org

To contact the National Board as a whole, please email:
president@wilpfus.org

WILPF International

President: Kozue Akibayashi

Secretary General: Madeleine Rees

1 rue de Varembe, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
phone: 41-22-919-7080; fax: 41-22-919-7081
e-mail: secretariat@wilpf.ch website: wilpf.org

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

Submissions welcome; please query first.
Contact the editor at editor@wilpfus.org

Editor: Wendy McDowell
Art Director: Glenn Ruga

Opinions expressed in bylined articles are those of the authors.

Copyright © WILPF 2018, except where otherwise noted. For reprint permission, call 617-266-0999.



Cover photo by Mariane Rae Staab from "Women of the Congo: Farmers, Harvesters, Mothers" © 2018

Women are the backbone of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and are examples of strength and resilience. In the fields of the eastern DRC I met women farmers and those who spent their days digging trenches for clean water. In a country where women do the majority of the harvesting, cooking, and cleaning, they also raise children, walk miles to fetch water, and are responsible for ensuring that the family survives. In spite

of these societal norms, what I witnessed were women quietly, and not so quietly, working for change for themselves, the future of their children, and for their country.

Sisters! Keep the Seeds in Your Hands

From West Africa to the US Heartland

By Mary Hanson Harrison

President, WILPF US Section

We are dedicating this issue to the women around the world who plant the seeds—the organic seeds and the ideas—to rise up for freedom and justice across the globe, and who are working to create a radical feminist ecosystem of reciprocity for all creatures living on our Mother Earth.

From a recent **Global Network for the Right to Food & Nutrition report** come the voices of more than 400 peasants from Burkina Faso to tell the now-too-familiar story of a corporate takeover of food, water, and livelihood in their communities. In the following pages we read of the ramifications of climate change, the devastation due to militarization of cultures, and the continuing famine and poverty around the world. However, there are solutions and examples of resilience against all odds. And if our cause of building an international feminist movement is to be an example of hope, then no better place to start than with the women who struggle every day to feed their families and ours.

In Burkina Faso, just north of Ghana, the women, particularly the elders, are the guardians of the web of life, the tenacious threads of genetic material from one generation to the next — their seeds. The traditional ways of African farming and the transmission of knowledge across generations are being co-opted or destroyed by the acquiescence of the US to huge mergers like Dow Dupont and Bayer Monsanto.

The agricultural-industrial corporate structures, with the aid of foundations and private donors, live in the heartland of the US and thrive there. For example, the Monsanto headquarters resides in St. Louis, and more deceptively and discreetly, the World Food Prize headquarters in Des Moines cultivates the illusion of a successful “Green Revolution.” The reality is that children and families continue to go hungry in the US and around the world due to corporate greed; all major agricultural corporations are supporters of the World Food Prize promise... and betrayal of it.

The exportation of this capitalist agriculture is taking over African governing bodies along with the bodies and lands of their inhabitants. It is the familiar pattern of a colonizer but now under the guise of following SDG #2, the development goal that aims to free the world of hunger by 2023. The usurping of seed sovereignty in Africa is an example of the global “corporate coup d’état in slow motion,” as social critic and writer John Ralston Paul puts it.

Yet we have the privilege as the WILPF US Section delegation to attend and contribute to building a global grassroots



Photo by Mariane Rae Staab

organization at the upcoming WILPF International Congress in Accra, Ghana. In order to decolonize our food system we must rethink and reimagine, and enact a radical transformative way of being-in-the-world. To emancipate ourselves means freeing ourselves of boundaries, transcending constructed gender and class distinctions, and nourishing each other in a global neighborhood.

In West Africa, more than 80% of the seed used by peasant communities stems from traditional species and varieties, and are selected, saved, used and exchanged according to customary practices. Despite guaranteeing diverse food systems and rural people’s rights, these traditional seed systems are under attack, as governments, corporations and development agencies proactively promote commercial seeds and intellectual property rights.²

Many of our branches and members-at-large are working with our International Sections, making those indispensable connections all the time. Our Issue Committees: Advanced Human Rights, Corporations v Democracy, Cuba and Bolivarian Alliance, Disarm/End Wars, Earth Democracy, Immigration and Border Rights, and Middle East, all need your ideas and helping hands. Join us and join our Issue Committees to make radical change a reality, to reimagine the seeding of our feminist ecosystem with courage and faith.

¹ The origin of emancipate: Latin *emancipātus* (past participle of *emancipāre*) freed from control, equivalent to *ē* - *e* - + *man(us)* hand + *-cip-* (combining form of *capere* to seize) + *ātus* [*Random House Unabridged Dictionary*].

² From an April 9, 2018, press release at www.righttofoodandnutrition.org about the report “Business Profits or Diverse Food Systems?: Threats to Peasant Seeds and Implications in West Africa,” published in February 2018 by FIAN International for the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition, and the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles—West Africa.

Pan-Africanism: Toward a Just and Unified Africa

By Nancy Price

Understanding Ghana's important role in the early Pan-African movement can help us to assess contemporary initiatives.

Ghana holds a unique place in African history—it is the homeland of Kwame Nkrumah, a leader of the Pan-African movement, the first colony to win independence, and the location of early Pan-African meetings. With the Triennial Congress in Accra at a time of enormous challenge, opportunity, and hope for Africa, “Building a Feminist Peace Movement” is essential for independence, unity, equality, and justice in Africa and worldwide.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the First Conference of Independent States, the first Congress held on African soil in Accra in April 1958, one year after Ghana's independence. In December 1958, the All African People's Conference under the banner “Hands Off Africa” was also convened in Accra to continue the struggle against colonialism. Newly independent and non-independent countries, liberation movements, nationalist organizations, women's, trade union, and youth groups all assembled there to chart the course to continent-wide African sovereignty, economic development, and security.

In 2013, the new, ambitious “Continental Agenda 2063” initiated by the African Union seeks to achieve a comprehensive set of goals in 50 years, including socioeconomic transformation, and to create the governing structures needed to carry out these goals. As Agenda 2063 begins to be implemented, I think it's fair to ask whether it's possible to embark on such a project without replicating the conditions of colonialism and imperialism that gave rise to the early Pan-African movement in the first place.

Part I: Early Pan-Africanism

During the seminal Pan-African Conference held in London in July 1900, W.E.B. Du Bois, a leading African-American theorist of the Pan-Africanism movement, drafted the “Address to the Nations of the World.” He and the participants urged European leaders to struggle against racism, grant colonies in the West Indies and Africa the right to self-government, and advocate for

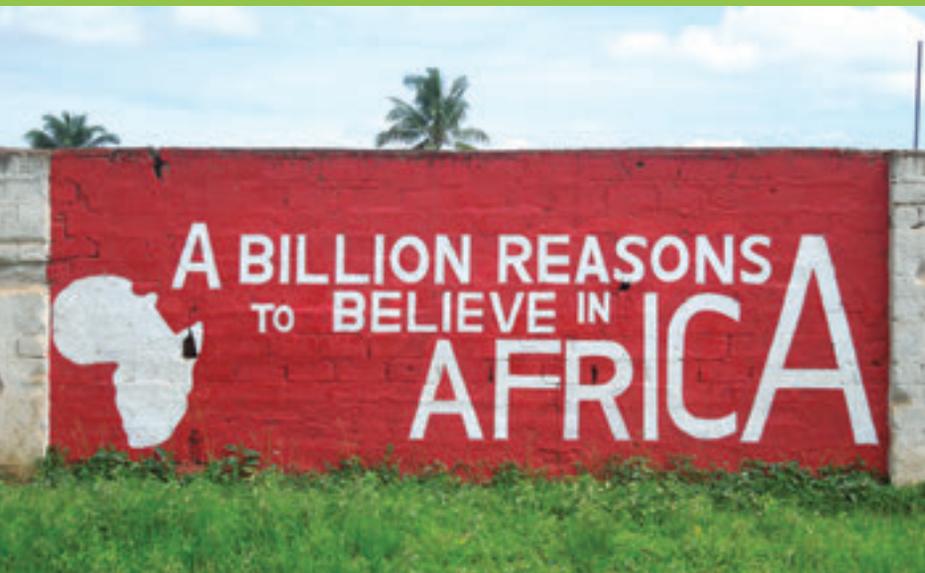
African Americans' civil rights with the goal of uniting Africans of the diaspora with Africans struggling for independence.

This urgent call fell on deaf ears as the British were expanding their Gold Coast colony into the area of today's Ghana, and colonial powers were carving up the continent so that traders and white settlers would continue to profit from Africa's vast mineral and natural wealth produced under brutal labor conditions.

Du Bois and Kwame Nkrumah, also a leader for independence and African unity, finally met at the Fifth Congress—held in October 1945 in Manchester, England. As World War II was ending, Africans saw countries being liberated, while the same Western powers occupied their continent and homelands.¹ The Congress summarized their list of demands in the “Challenge to the Colonial Powers,” calling for freedom, education, “the right to earn a decent living...[and] to adopt and create forms of beauty.” The statement explicitly condemned “the monopoly of capital” and “the rule of private wealth and industry.” In 1947, local leaders invited Nkrumah to come home from studying abroad to help lead the colony to independence. After ten years of nonviolent protests, strikes, and the imprisonment of activists (including Nkrumah), elections were held in 1951, and independence was declared on March 6, 1957.

As President Nkrumah declared “Ghana will be free at last” in front of thousands of supporters, photographers, reporters, and representatives of the British Crown and other countries, Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King were among the guests. When the Union Jack came down and the Ghana flag was raised, King described later how tears welled up in his eyes. Hearing echoes of the Negro spiritual “Free At Last,” while watching Africans “experience those words,” he might have been thinking about how just recently African Americans had struggled for freedom during the brutal 381-day bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. When King returned to Montgomery, he delivered the “Birth of a New Nation” sermon at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.²

Patrice Lumumba, Nkrumah's colleague at the 1945 Congress and a supporter of Pan-Africanism, founded the Mouvement National Congolais within the Belgian Congo, and after elections in 1960 became Prime Minister of the newly independent Republic of the Congo. As Lumumba began to consolidate this regionally diverse colony into an independent state under an African administration, the mineral-rich Katanga province that produced 50% of Congolese revenues under Belgium unilaterally declared independence in July 1960 with Belgian support.



A mural in Ujiji, Tanzania. Photo credit: Michael Branz / Wikimedia Commons.

Intense months of divisive factionalism and military clashes followed, during which international players (including the US, Belgium, and the UN) refused to help Lumumba—the only military assistance provided to him was by the Soviet Union. Lumumba and two of his allies were assassinated by an execution squad on January 17, 1961, and afterward two Belgian police officials hacked up the bodies, dissolved them in sulfuric acid, and burned what was left.³

Many independence struggles in other colonies were just as complicated and bloody. Four other leaders of independence movements were assassinated by their former colonial masters, or their agents, in Cameroon, Togo, Morocco and Mozambique. The February 1966 military coup against Nkrumah, allegedly with US CIA and State Department coordination, took place when he was on a state visit to the People's Republic of China, and he lived out his life in Guinea.

In spite of the difficult circumstances, Nkrumah and others mobilized against colonialism and sought to build a movement to unite their continent and those in the African diaspora around similar goals of political and economic self-determination. After several African states won independence, these leaders realized the need for an integrating organization to continue to rid the continent of colonialism and apartheid, intensify economic development, and safeguard the sovereignty of states. After some fits and starts, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was created in May 1963 with 32 founding states. By 2002, 53 of the 54 states were members.

The early OAU provided assistance to liberation movements and, in later years, encouraged the development of regional economic communities and worked with the UN to ease refugee crises. It tried to create the governing bodies and agencies to build infrastructure such as intercontinental railways, the post, and telecommunications, but less was accomplished

than hoped for due to complex external and internal factors. When effective military intervention was needed to end the bloodshed in Uganda under Idi Amin, the OAU was unable to provide conflict resolution, in part because it did not have a peacekeeping force.

Recognizing the OAU's shortcomings, in 1999 Africans began to form a new body. The African Union, founded in 2002 continues to this day. The AU places a stronger emphasis on economic and political integration of its member states, and takes a more active role in trying to settle internal disputes within or between its states.

Part II: Pan-Africanism Today

May 13, 2013, was a momentous day—the African Union celebrated the 50-Year Golden Jubilee of the OAU, and launched the “Continental Agenda 2063,” a 50-year commitment “Toward a Peaceful, Prosperous & Integrated Africa.” Based on a continent-wide consultative process, this Agenda seeks socioeconomic transformation by “implementing past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development” to “lift many millions continent-wide out of poverty and inhumane living conditions in rural areas and urban slums.”

Agenda 2063 describes a detailed plan for political integration, with a Pan-African Parliament, regional parliamentary assemblies, and an African Continent Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Massive capital inputs will be needed to realize this plan, which brings me back to the question: can Agenda 2063 be accomplished without replicating the colonial, imperial structures that gave rise to early Pan-Africanism in the first place?

In this regard, let's consider these four initiatives:

1. The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa was launched in 2012 by the European countries of the G7 and includes UC Davis in partnership with 10 African countries. The goal is to bring 50 million people out of poverty by 2050 by investment in these countries' agricultural sectors. In return for increased investment, African partners are pushed to implement political reforms and policies prioritizing corporate agriculture over small-scale farmers. This will lead to unscrupulous and profit-driven land-grabbing in countries where land rights are based on tradition and custom, and also will result in GMO crops,

Continued on page 15.

Women-Centered Climate Change Mitigation

By Odile Hugonot Haber

As global climate change advances inevitably over the earth, its effects will become more noticeable to us all. Among them will be new types of storms with very high winds, large amounts of rain that will strike in a flash flood manner with extreme soil erosion, prolonged droughts and wildfires, the progressive death of vegetation, shrinking glaciers, and an accelerated sea level rise, to name just a few. All of these will impact plant and animal life as well as humans.

The extent of these effects will vary by individual region and will continue through this century and beyond. The changing climates will also contribute to resource scarcity (water and food). The damage costs of climate change are likely to be significant and will increase over time. These problems and challenges require urgent attention.

One of the keys to addressing climate change is financing that will allow people to mitigate these crises and adapt to climate change. The amount needed to develop solutions amounts to billions of dollars. The biggest institutions providing these funds are: Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund (AF), and Climate Investment Fund (CIF)

Other institutions include governments and governmental entities such as the European Union (EU) and the World Bank, and nonprofit organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. All are putting out large sums of money to build an infrastructure of grants and regulations for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In the Conference of the Parties (COP), the international meeting held within the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), women's engagement with these institutions led to the adoption of a Gender Action Plan in November 2017. This plan introduced a gender-sensitive approach which demands women's equality and equity in all aspects of UNFCCC work, and supports capacity building for women in these international organizations. Women are the majority of poor people in the world. The agenda of these women promotes participatory platforms and monitoring of projects using specific, gender-sensitive criteria, as well supporting human rights for indigenous communities.

Women have already been embarking on education efforts that would make the language and understanding of these

processes accessible to the women actually doing the work of mitigation on the ground. Agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, and ecosystems will all be affected by climate change, and this, in turn, will affect public health and wealth. Women's work can alleviate water and food scarcity; and can also safeguard the health of the community.

Two organizations stand out for a series of webinars they created to make this information accessible to women and to promote mitigation tools: Women for Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), started in 1995 by Bella Azbug and Mim Kelber, and Both ENDS, which "works in partnership with environmental justice groups from poor and developing countries towards a global economy and society that is inclusive and sustainable" (see www.wedo.org and www.bothends.org).

The work, attention, and presence of women will be the only thing ensuring that a gender-sensitive approach will be integrated into the larger climate change mitigation policies and programs of these international organizations.

Their objectives are to enhance local women's understanding of the climate landscape and to share knowledge on how to access information on the funds flowing into each region/country. They aim to promote local and regional organizing and advocacy so that women will be able to hold governments and agencies accountable. By teaching and supporting women in how to track climate change mitigation finance, and to understand its mechanisms, women can become stakeholders in its development (which is the larger goal).

Keeping Women at the Table

To ensure a women's agenda and participation at the table is never easy, and it has taken heroic and tireless work among women who have pressed for the "Gender Action Plan" in successive COPs.

The work, attention, and presence of women will continue to be the only thing ensuring that a gender-sensitive approach will be integrated into the larger climate change mitigation policies and programs of these international organizations, and will be translated into information sharing, transparency, innovation, and dialogue. Such an approach also leads to the participation of women and indigenous communities in civil society and creates a bottom-up approach.



NAWOU's (National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda) program in Hoima equips women's groups with the skills and knowledge to produce and manage tree seedling nurseries, and promotes tree planting as an approach to combating climate change. Photo: nawouganda.org.

Women's leadership is needed so that a gender perspective will be integrated into the operational designs and policy-making tools of these finance funds, for instance, the Green Climate Fund (GCF). GCF is one of the two largest funds and has 54 approved programs totaling \$2.6 billion (USD).

According to their website, the GCF is focused on a "paradigm shift towards low emission and climate resilient development." The fund is accountable to the COP objectives. To receive money for a given GCF project, there is a process of grant writing and accreditation, and the project must include a wide array of functions ranging from mitigation by reducing emissions, to adaptation to climate change, to increasing the resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services.

According to a Worldwatch Report by Sarah J. Scherr and Sajal Sthapit, "Agricultural communities can play a central role in fighting climate change. Even at relatively low prices for mitigating carbon emissions, improved land management could offset a quarter of global emissions from fossil fuel use in a year." Sustainable land management knowledge is growing around the world, along with ideas and practices related to regenerative agriculture and permaculture.

These agricultural practices include enriching soil carbon by minimizing tillage (Soil is the third largest carbon pool on Earth's surface.) Other techniques include carbon sequestration, farming with perennials, climate-friendly livestock production, protecting natural habitats, and restoring degraded watersheds and lands.

Examples of GCF projects being funded:

- In Ethiopia, a \$50 million program is providing 1,320,000 people in rural communities with drinking water and small-scale irrigation to address one of the worst droughts they have experienced in the last 10 years. The beneficiaries will be mostly women; 30% of households are female headed. Women will also be part of the decision-making process.
- A project in Senegal provides \$10 million and involves building the climate resilience of food-insecure small-holder farmers through the integrated management of climate risks. It is projected to benefit 526,000 people.

Most of these funds will help the developing world, but the projects will benefit all of us. It is important for us to continue networking and to mobilize more women around the world and at home to build these infrastructures in order to move toward a climate-friendly management of food, forests, and water reserves.

The Women's Global Call for Climate Justice states: "Together, we are creating a mass movement for climate justice. Together, we pledge to take action. We call on all women, all girls and all of our allies to join us in this pledge, to join our Women's Global Call for Climate Justice."

It is also up to us, the activists, to apply pressure where we can and to teach the local communities around us. This is one of the highest callings that we face today, to work with all of our might and creativity toward climate justice as we are on other issues such as the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Women and the Vital (R)evolution of US Farming

by Mary Hanson Harrison
WILPF US President

In March 2018, I was one of five women—each with personal experience and knowledge of the farmers, families, and laborers who live and work on our nation's farms—who came together in New York City to share our feminist perspectives on the necessity of a radical transformation of US agriculture. The theme for the sixty-second UN Commission of the Status of Women (CSW62): “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls,” offered us the opportunity to share our experiences and frustrations with the current “bigger is better” mindset of industrialized agribusiness.

Promises and Betrayals

I opened the panel with an analysis of the failings of the “Green Revolution” which was based on Dr. Norman Borlaug’s dream of freeing the world of famine. Borlaug’s quote, “Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world,” is inscribed on the rotunda of the World Food Prize Foundation’s headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa—this was the promise of the Green Revolution.¹ However, our agricultural system of capitalist exploitation and expansion has not only failed to save the world from famine, arguably it has led to dependency on more water, more pesticides, more land under cultivation, and to more hunger.²

Patti Edwardson Naylor, who works alongside her husband George on their organic Iowa farm, explained the pressure of market-oriented industrial agriculture which “has systematically and at an accelerated pace made rural Iowa into a sacrifice zone.” This is the result of the agriculture industry “extracting wealth from our human and natural resources and leaving behind decimated rural communities, polluted waters, degraded soils, and family farms struggling to survive.”³

Patti pointed to the ideology of neoliberalism that supports this exploitation, explaining that “corporations are gaining control of knowledge, seeds, production, and marketing.” Thus, the majority of Iowa farmers have little choice but to raise just two crops—genetically-engineered corn and soybeans—while livestock are crowded into confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). “Iowa has become a comfortable home for this extractive industry that is promoted by scientists, economists, researchers, university professors, politicians,



Mary Hanson Harrison, President of WILPF US; Patti Naylor, farmer and WFAN board member; Kathia Ramirez, Organizer at CATA; and Ahna Kruzic, PAN. Not pictured: Lois Herman, WURN Coordinator.

journalists, and some nonprofit organizations,” she noted. Patti forcefully declared, “To farm is a political act. That is, to farm in an ecological community-based way is in direct contrast to the political structure of capitalism that supports and promotes corporate industrial agriculture with its global power and influence.”

Systemic Sexism and Racism Persists

As Food First Fellow and Communications Director for Pesticide Action Network (PAN), Ahna Kruzic also highlighted the impact of multinational corporations and the ensuing danger of fewer farms and farmers. However, she noted that “the number of women farmers is increasing,” while “they’re fighting against a system that fails to serve them and their communities.” Despite organized efforts for systemic policy changes, there remains the “structural, gender-based oppression, or patriarchy,” that defines the food system. Kruzic sees female inequality as “actually what makes the food system work. Even the much-heralded family farm is mostly dependent on the unpaid or underpaid labor of women—including sexual reproduction and the feeding, clothing, health, and maintenance of households, in addition to the direct planting, harvesting, and caretaking of crops, livestock, and land,” all of which “subsidizes the lucrative profits of the \$6-trillion-a-year industrial food system.”

“US women farm operators receive 61 cents to the dollar made by men,” she explained, among the largest wage gap for any occupation. “This US data is reflective of the wage gap as a whole, where a gendered and racial wage gap persists in which Latina and Black women earn even less than white women.” Ahna emphasized that unless we understand and change the discriminatory practices against women of color, we will have lost before we have even begun the revolution.

Also despairing of the systemic racism and economic disparities in the US agricultural system was Kathia Ramirez, Food Justice Coordinator for El comite de Apoyo Trabajadores Agricolas (Farmworker Support Committee – CATA). She ended her presentation with these words: “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.”

Agroecology, based on both ancestral knowledge and scientific research, is the only answer to save the lives of farmworkers and the future of humanity.

CATA seeks justice for those workers and their families who are indispensable to our food system. Recent political actions against immigrants are leading to a humanitarian disaster that demands community organizing and advocacy. Kathia pointed out that farmworkers experience serious health issues from pesticide exposure, especially pregnant women. She concluded that agroecology, based on both ancestral knowledge and scientific research, is the only answer to save the lives of farmworkers and the future of humanity.

Lois A. Herman, WILPF Representative to FAO-UN Food & Agriculture Organization, and Coordinator of Women’s UN Report Network (WURN), spoke about growing up in the rural Midwest where she witnessed changes in agriculture, the losses of family farms, and the turn to corporate rural food production. Her work for food companies and supermarket chains revealed the business of food production and the disconnect between farm work and the processed food products sold around the world. Herman then spoke about the important work of FAO as it covers multiple agencies.

Herman reminded us that WILPF, with its understanding of the powerful connections between the right to food, nutrition, land rights, freedom, and peace, has a long history at FAO. She explained how food production, distribution, and access are an underlying cause of many of the world’s conflicts, and how food has been used as a weapon of war, resulting in increased malnutrition and hunger. In May, for first time, the UN Security Council unanimously approved a resolution that recognizes the link between conflict and hunger and strongly condemns the use of starvation as a method of warfare.

Feminist Solutions: Food Sovereignty

These women panelists are examples of the diverse women who are passionately working to change this unjust food and agriculture system. With the global population expected to increase to 9 billion people by 2050, we must recognize the need for more equitable, sustainable, and ecological food production where farmworkers are respected. Our current capitalist system of agriculture is built to benefit corporations, not people. The recently approved merger of Bayer and Monsanto consolidates power even more as it will make Bayer the largest seed and pesticide company in the world.⁴

However disheartening these current realities seem, the solution and the hope can be found in the principles of food sovereignty, where every country and region makes decisions on how their food is produced, and what value they place on their own farmers and farmworkers, while protecting their local environment.

As feminists, we must engage in continued collaboration to change the narrative and build an activist community of farmers, farmworkers, and consumers. By developing an ecosystem of consciousness-raising feminists who value seeds, plants, soil, nutritious food, clean air, clean water, and the work of those who grow, process, and distribute our food, we are already creating a revolution in agriculture.

Endnotes

¹ Here is just a sampling of the supporters of the World Food Prize: Archer Daniels, Syngenta, DuPont, Monsanto, Cargill, Dow, Rockefeller Foundation, Howard G. Buffett, Philip Morris, Kellogg Company, PepsiCo, Iowa State University, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Land O’Lakes, Walmart, and the Soyfoods Council. To see the full list, go to the World Food Prize’s “Sponsors” page: <https://bit.ly/2tPfaOy>

² See Vandana Shiva, *The Violence of the Green Revolution: Ecological Degradation and Political Conflict in Punjab* (Debra Dun, 1989).

³ Most of the Patti Naylor and Ahna Kruzic quotes come from an article they co-wrote about the panel that can be found on the WFAN (Women Food & Ag Network) website: www.wfan.org.

⁴ A daily news blog post on beyondpesticides.org explains how this merger will “reduce the availability of traditional and non-GE seed varieties, [and] will permit the new company to increase costs to farmers, giving them few and likely no alternatives in many cases.”

The History Behind Yemen's Humanitarian Crisis

By Valentine M. Moghadam
Boston Branch

It's time to demand an end to air strikes and respond to the profound suffering in Yemen.

In February 2015, a Saudi-led coalition of Arab states launched a campaign of air strikes against Houthi targets that rapidly besieged the entire country of Yemen. The relentless bombardments since then have turned Yemen into one of the worst humanitarian crises of modern times. This horrific situation is the result of Saudi/UAE bombing of roads, hospitals, bridges, water and sewage facilities, and the main port of Hodeida, combined with a Saudi/UAE naval and air blockade that prevents large-scale humanitarian assistance from reaching the Yemeni war victims. The Saudis use sophisticated weaponry supplied by the US, the UK, and France—which is why those countries have not criticized Saudi Arabia's war crimes.

The conflict has been described as exemplifying the Sunni-Shia rivalry, and especially the rivalry between Saudi Arabia, which supported previous president Mansour Hadi, and the Houthi rebels, who are said to be supported by Iran. This is true to some extent, as Saudi Arabia is intent on becoming the major power in the region. But according to one expert, Asher Orkaby, the conflict is “a continuation of a long-standing conflict between the Yemeni government and marginalized northern tribes, which escalated thanks to a gradual decline in the legitimacy and competence of the central government in Sanaa”¹. For this reason, he writes, “only an internal Yemeni political settlement can end the war.” Here I will provide an overview of Yemen's history, the status of women, and how various historical developments led to the current disaster.

Independence – 1970s

After years of colonial rule from Great Britain, in 1962, rebels formed the Yemen Arab Republic, launching North Yemeni independence from Britain and sparking what was known as the North Yemen Civil War. This conflict lasted sporadically until November 1967, when the British protectorate was finally pushed out of South Yemen. The National Liberation Front (NLF) came to power and declared the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY).

The PDRY quickly set about launching a modernization project in a country that lacked a unified national economy, political structure, and legal system. The 1970 constitution called its revolution “an alliance between the working class,



the peasants, intelligentsia, and petty-bourgeoisie,” adding that “soldiers, women, and students are regarded as part of this alliance by virtue of their membership in the productive forces of the people.” The PDRY came to be known as “the Cuba of the Middle East.”

In contrast to the North, the NLF moved to enhance the legal status and social positions of women. The constitution outlined the government's policies toward women, and a new family law passed in 1974 was among the most forward-looking and emancipatory in the Middle East. It established the principle of free-choice marriage; raised the minimum legal age of marriage to 16 for girls and 18 for boys; abolished polygamy except in exceptional circumstances; reduced the dower (*mahr*); ended unilateral male divorce; and increased divorced women's rights to custody of their children.

Women were given the right to vote in 1970, and by 1977 women candidates were competing for electoral office, as well as working in factories, handicraft cooperatives, and local defense militias. The General Union of Yemeni Women, formed in 1968, mobilized women throughout the PDRY and was especially active in monitoring and promoting the family law. A women's conference held 10 years after the family law was passed acknowledged that many women had indeed benefited, but that cultural values and norms remained conservative and more time would be needed for all women to be integrated into economic and political life.

Unfortunately, the PDRY's time and its socialist modernizing project would be limited. North and South Yemen had remained hostile due to political and ideological differences. Fighting erupted between the North and South in October 1972, with North Yemen supported by Saudi Arabia and the South by the USSR.

Unification (1990) and Civil War

The late 1980s brought increasing interest in unification with an eye to oil exploration near the border of the two countries that would enhance both economies. This occurred during the Gorbachev years, when the USSR was seeking changes to its domestic and foreign policies, including a gradual withdrawal of its support for the modernizing, left-wing government in Afghanistan.

The unified Republic of Yemen was declared on May 22, 1990, but it wasn't long before tensions swelled again. After a new oil field was opened up in the South, many southerners perceived unification to have been a Northern conspiracy to acquire the South's land and resources. In addition, Yemen's decision not to support Coalition forces in the US-led Gulf War resulted in an estimated 800,000 Yemeni nationals and overseas workers to be sent home by Saudi Arabia and placed into refugee camps by the Yemeni government, adding to the problems of high unemployment and poverty.

The combination of externally-generated and internal problems resulted in tensions that would jeopardize the country in the years following. An outbreak of fighting between the north and south armies occurred on May 4, 1994. This civil war ultimately ended in July, when Aden was captured by the North and resistance ceased. But this two-month conflict decimated the southern Yemeni Socialist Party and consolidated the power of Ali Abdullah Saleh, head of the General People's Congress Party, who then formed a coalition government with the Islamist Islah party. The global context is relevant. By the 1990s, Islamist parties and movements had expanded throughout the Middle East. In addition, Al-Qaeda had gained momentum following the first Gulf War and the entry of American troops into Saudi Arabia and Gulf countries.

Meanwhile, all of the South's previous legal frameworks, including the family law, were annulled. During the 1990s, when I was attending UN meetings and would encounter the Yemeni women's delegation, I could tell who was from the North and who from the South by their dress. But gradually, most women in the South came to don some form of *hijab*.

Post-9/11: Yemen's Increasing Militarization

Yemen is comprised equally of Shia and Sunni Muslims and is the poorest and least developed country in the Middle East, with a tribal system that has been reinforced due to the state's failures in development and security. After the September 11 attacks, President Saleh announced that Yemen would join the US in its war on terror. Supporters of Al-Qaeda remained,

however, and in 2009 they formed al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). As that group expanded in numbers and operations, the Yemeni government increased military spending, reaching 7% of GDP, one of the highest proportions in the world, and extraordinarily high for a poor country.

In 2009 the Obama administration began to launch drone strikes targeting multiple al-Qaeda locations which resulted in the killing of many Yemeni civilians. Dissatisfaction with the Saleh regime grew, especially but not exclusively on the part of Yemen's Zaidi Shia, whose leader al-Houthi had led a rebellion in 2004 that had been crushed by government forces.

Unified Yemen remained the poorest country in the Middle East, with widespread illiteracy and malnutrition, high adolescent girl marriage and fertility rates, and high infant and child mortality rates. By the time the Arab Spring broke out, almost half of the population lived below the poverty line and one-third experienced chronic hunger. Yemen also has one of the most heavily armed populations in the world, a feature it shares in common with the US.

The Arab Spring, the Yemeni Uprising, and the Houthi Rebels

In 2011, the outbreak of the Arab Spring in Tunisia and Egypt inspired protests in Yemen against the government's failings around key issues including: economic conditions, corruption, and the Yemeni Constitution. The protesters called on President Saleh to resign and step down from power.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) tried to mediate the conflict between Saleh and the people by drafting a proposal for the transfer of powers, but Saleh refused to cooperate. There was an uprising, followed by an assassination attempt at the presidential palace. Saleh was brought to Saudi Arabia for surgery and on November 23, 2011, he signed the GCC document transferring power to Vice President Hadi.

Amidst the turbulent 1990s, a religious-political group called the Houthis had emerged in northern Yemen, and tensions between this group and the Yemeni government grew in the subsequent years. In June 2004, Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi launched a rebellion against the Yemeni government. He was killed and the rebellion crushed, but the Houthis returned after the Arab Spring protests.

In September 2014, Houthi rebels entered the capital city of Sanaa, gaining full control by January 2015. After Houthi forces took the presidential palace along with other key areas, President Hadi and his prime minister resigned, leading to the

Continued on page 11.

The Myth of the Second Amendment

By Christine Nobiss

The Second Amendment is a sacred covenant between the Nation State and settlers enabling land expansion through ethnic cleansing and slavery.

There is a myth that has infiltrated the core of the American imagination. It is the belief that the Second Amendment is a result of the Revolutionary War, and thus is a right to self-defense and to protect the country from any enemies that might arise. It is also believed that if the government fails to protect its citizens, the citizens have the right to revolt. **However, the historical context that led to the creation of the Second Amendment is actually based on the process of land annexation and the mitigation of local populations through assimilation, genocide or slavery—much of which took place at the point of a gun.** The colonists that built this country ousted the British for many reasons, but fundamentally, “what colonists considered oppressive was any restriction that British authorities put on them in regard to obtaining land” (Dunbar-Ortiz, 24).

The Second Amendment is actually a sacred religiopolitical covenant between the Nation State and the settlers of this continent that recognizes the fundamental ideology of land expansion through ethnic cleansing and slavery. It is nothing more than recognition that this country was founded on the actions of generations of Europeans with a maniacal lust for Indian killing and the control of Black people. Men were expected to bear arms (at one point it was the law) in order to protect themselves, their families, the State, and the process of westward expansion. In essence, extreme violence was a God-given right and an obligation of the average “citizen” that took on the singular role of a vigilante and that formed into small groups that cleared the way for the rise of the American government. The average citizen was a raider, a ranger, a frontiersman, a marauder, a pirate, and the average colony was a settler militia, an armed household, and a slave patrol.

The Nation State did not create the Second Amendment to protect its citizens from invasion but to allow its citizens to invade. It is written permission to continue on with the doctrine of discovery, manifest destiny, westward expansion, i.e., the work of the white supremacist. As



Art credit: Jackie Fawn

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz writes in her recent book *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*, “The astronomical number of firearms owned by US civilians, with the Second Amendment considered a sacred mandate, is also intricately related to militaristic culture and white nationalism. The militias referred to in the second amendment were intended as a means for white people to eliminate Indigenous communities in order to take their land, and for slave patrols to control Black people” (57).

This violent approach to Indigenous and Black populations is still practiced in current day American society. For instance, Native Americans have the highest police murder rate per ethnic group in the country and the vast majority of these deaths are through the use of a firearm. According to a CNN review of Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data, “for every 1 million Native Americans, an average of 2.9 of them died annually from 1999 to 2015 as a result of a legal intervention.” For the Black population the number is 2.6, for the Latinx it is 1.7, for Whites it is 0.9, and for Asians it is 0.6. This is a startling statistic because Native Americans only make up 0.9% of the population. However, these deaths are probably underreported just like the other epidemics that Native Americans face, such as missing and murdered women, abuse, rape, stalking, runaway children, and violence committed by non-tribal members. According to Matthew Fletcher, director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center, “The data available

likely does not capture all Native American deaths in police encounters due to people of mixed race and a relatively large homeless population that is not on the grid.”

The notion that there is a rise in gun violence in this country is actually a misunderstanding of history. There was just a period in time in the late 19th and early 20th century where guns were not essential for the coercive control of brown people as the government had created reservation internment camps and implemented Jim Crow laws to segregate “problem populations.” However, the rise of the NRA, gun lobbying, and the mass production of automatic weapons tied to a long held gun fetish in the American imagination has given white supremacists updated permission to dust off their ancestors’ weapon of choice and reenact the violence that this country was founded upon. America is a young country and lacks a distinct culture of its own, but one thing is certain—Americans

covet their sacred right to free real estate, cheap labor, and the gun. Thus, the Second Amendment is but permission to steal, kill, and dominate in order to fulfill this expectation.

For more information on Native Lives Matter, Black Lives Matter, and to challenge racial and economic injustice go to the Equal Justice Initiative at eji.org

To demand that our lives and safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our society, go to csgv.org, marchforourlives.com, sandyhookpromise.org, or momsdemandaction.org

Christine Nobiss is Plains Cree-Salteaux of the George Gordon First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada. She holds a Master’s Degree from the University of Iowa, and is one of the lead organizers with Seeding Sovereignty (seedingsovereignty.org). Christine has been an activist all her life, and fights for a future for her two small children.

Yemen

Continued from page 9.

dissolution of Parliament and the establishment of Houthi militants as the governing body. Contrary to the claims of the Saudis and the Obama and Trump administrations, Iran actually advised the Houthis *not* to seize Sanaa.²

Working to End Military Intervention

US military support has enabled the Saudi coalition’s destruction of Yemen’s civil infrastructure and its cultural heritage sites, exacerbated an already devastating humanitarian crisis, and empowered terrorist organizations. In January 2017, the Trump Administration authorized the US military to launch air strikes, which resulted in the killing of dozens of civilians. The military campaign has been widely criticized by international bodies and human rights organizations. By February 2017, the civilian death toll had reached 10,000, with 40,000 others wounded, the UN reports, and the US-backed Saudi-led coalition is responsible for roughly two-thirds of civilian casualties in the war.

According to the International Rescue Committee, “Yemen is facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world as 17 million people—60 percent of the population—are critically food insecure and require urgent humanitarian assistance.” Children are among the worst sufferers with 2.2 million suffering from acute malnutrition, and more than 460,000 severely and acutely malnourished.

Yemen’s problems originate in a regime that after 1990 failed to provide its citizens with security, economic development, and

social services; squandered its oil wealth on military purchases; allowed US drone strikes; and enabled shifting tribal alliances. These problems have been exacerbated by the Saudi military assaults and blockades. This needs to stop. Yemenis must be able to reconcile their differences without external military interference. If the Saudis withdrew, the Houthis could be persuaded to put down their arms and attend peace talks.

Although America has an abysmal record in the region, it is incumbent upon peace-loving, anti-war citizens to demand that the US government immediately end its air strikes on Yemen, halt its arms sales to the despotic Saudi regime, and provide Yemen with urgently needed humanitarian aid. WILPF should continue to work with Peace Action, Code Pink, other progressive advocacy groups, and progressive legislators, to insist that Saudi Arabia stop its bombardment campaign and make restitution for all the death and destruction it has incurred.

Notes

¹ Asher Orkaby, “Yemen’s Humanitarian Nightmare: The Real Roots of the Conflict,” *Foreign Affairs* (Nov./Dec. 2017).

² Lawrence Wilkerson and Gareth Porter, “Congress, End America’s Role in Saudi Arabia’s War in Yemen,” *The Hill* (Oct. 12, 2017). Orkaby has also written that the Houthis have no interest in confronting the US or Israel. Their main enemies are AQAP, ISIS, the corrupt former government, and now Saudi Arabia.

This is an edited version of a paper originally presented at the WILPF-Boston Branch Retreat, held on December 8, 2017.

Fukushima Stories and the Ghost Towns Left Behind

By Helen Jaccard



Workers coming back from their shift at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, J Village, Naraha. Photo credit: Pierpaolo Mittica

Government lies, propaganda, and pressuring victims to hide the long-lasting effects and dangers of the nuclear disaster.

I toured Japan on December 2-21, 2017, in preparation for the historic visit of the Golden Rule peace boat in 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During this meaningful educational tour, I learned a great deal about World War II, nuclear weapons, nuclear energy, and continued anti-nuclear and anti-war activism in Japan.

That activism has been further spurred by the Fukushima nuclear disaster and the Japanese national government's response to it. As part of my trip, on December 5-6, Masato Nakamura, Yuri Kadoya-Ogata, Hanayo Oyo, and Mera Seijiro accompanied me on a trip to Fukushima, the site of the March 11, 2011, disaster at a nuclear power plant following a major earthquake and tsunami.

All five of us toured some of the devastated areas with Sumio Konno, a Fukushima evacuee. He showed us the abandoned homes and farms, the miles upon miles of contaminated waste (radioactive debris stored in huge bags and giant covered piles), a sea wall made from contaminated dirt to "protect" the highly contaminated tsunami area, and propaganda centers that promote the message "Fukushima is fine." We saw firsthand the ghost towns, roadblocks and

closed gates, and workers with masks.

Konno also took us to his abandoned home and neighborhood, left just as it was in March 2011. His home will never be habitable again, since it is located only 15 km from the nuclear power plant disaster. He pointed out a plant in his yard with branches that have mutated.

We also visited with Masami Yoshizawa, a cowboy who is resisting government orders to kill or abandon his cattle. "I am a cowboy, and cowboys do not abandon their cows," he told us. "I will stay with them until I die." He showed us pictures of cows with white spots due to radiation damage.

Interviews with Evacuees

Four different evacuees granted me interviews. Some families stayed or returned to possibly contaminated areas, while others have separated. The Japanese government is pressuring people to return to areas newly declared "safe," by changing the acceptable level of radiation, "cleaning" some areas, and stopping subsidies for those who evacuated.

According to evacuees, evidence of continued dangers to public health and safety have been overridden because the government is so focused on preparing for the 2020 Summer Olympics and supporting fishers and farmers. They consider the "Fukushima is fine" campaign to be among the many lies and propaganda told to them since the disaster.

MK is part of an evacuee organization in Osaka, mostly mothers and their children. Here is part of her story:

My child was only one year old at the time of the disaster. My home was 60 km away from the Fukushima nuclear power plants. After the big shake, my home was not livable so I relocated with my son to my parent's home...40 km away. My husband was at work. It took us two days to find each other.

Food and water were getting scarce at my parent's area. Then we heard the news about the explosions at the nuclear power plants. I got so scared my body was shaking!

The Japanese government said to stay inside or evacuate, depending on how far away you were. While we were...waiting for evacuation orders, my parent's town decided to distribute iodine pills. There were restrictions—

you had to be under 40, but more critically for my son, you had to be a resident of that municipality. I tried to get an iodine pill for my son, but they sent me away...[so] we decided to relocate back to our home.

We had electricity and could watch television, and the government repeatedly said that there was no immediate health threat. The flip side of that message is that there would be long-term effects. So we decided to relocate as far away as possible. On March 17 we left our home... for Tokyo.

My husband and father remained in Fukushima. Still, I'm separated from my husband.

In Tokyo our health condition deteriorated...my son and I were alternately hospitalized. We tried to wait until our health symptoms calmed down, but [they] never did.

We know that Fukushima Daiichi has been emitting radiation and there is no future for decommissioning so far. Nothing has changed.

We didn't feel secure, even in Tokyo...because we found out that the water supply was contaminated. We [were] wondering is it OK to bathe in the water, is it OK to brush our teeth? We found out that the sandbox in a nearby park had a radiation levels way above the safety limits. They took away the contaminated sand and...brought in fresh sand. We had evacuated, but we witnessed that this new place was not safe, either.

That's how we ended up in Osaka. Since then our health condition improved.

After three years my home in Fukushima received decontamination service, so they measured the radiation level of the soil in our back yard. It was 25,000 Bq/kg, enough to receive an evacuation order. It's supposed to be safe for the kids to go play outside. I'm too scared to go back home. This is f**king ridiculous.

MK's husband is the oldest son, so it is his responsibility to care for his parents, and his job and cultural/language differences make it harder for him to relocate. So twice a month he takes a 10-hour train ride on Friday night, spends the weekend playing with his son, then returns on Sunday night.

Thyroid Cancer in Children: Government Lies and Deception

Naoko Suzuki is a mother of two daughters and an evacuee from Fukushima. She arranged a precious meeting with Motomi Ushiyama, a doctor who treats children with thyroid problems caused by the Fukushima accident. I realized quickly

that Dr. Ushiyama is one of those whistle-blowers whose story needs to be shared.

Rachel, Naoko, and I met with Dr. Ushiyama on December 12, 2017. In addition to her clinical work treating childhood cancer, she also does extensive research about how the government has lied and downplayed the numbers of children affected. Her testimony amounts to crimes against children by the Japanese Government. Here are some of the key points:

- Usually thyroid cancer is very rare, especially in children.
- Thyroid cancer is usually very slow growing and does not usually pose a threat of death.
- However, in both Chernobyl and Fukushima, thyroid cancers developed by those who were exposed to the radiation as children are very aggressive, fast growing, and metastasizing cancers, and they kill at a much higher rate.
- Only children 5 and older were screened, but there are many children who were younger than this at the time of the accident who were never screened nor tracked. These children are even more likely to develop thyroid cancer. The younger a child is at radiation exposure, the more problems he or she is likely to have.
- Those who did not test positive in the first screening may have been dropped from the study, but of course these effects can still show up months or years after the initial exposure.

When I asked MK what she wants the world to know, she said, "First of all, in order to invite the Olympics to Japan, Prime Minister Abe says that the Fukushima situation is under control, but that's not true.... Our national government declared that they are going to bring down to zero the number of Fukushima evacuees by 2020. This means they are going to erase all existence of us. I want people outside to know that the Fukushima situation is *not* under control. [There is] still radiation and it's impossible for us to go back to where we were by 2020."

As we prepare for the 2020 Peace Boat journey, it is important to support the survivors and evacuees of this recent nuclear disaster. Please share this article far and wide, and support the work of the Golden Rule Project.

The Border as War

By Issac S. Villegas

During the first week of May, 2018, Claudia Patricia Gómez González left her hometown of San Juan Ostuncalco in Guatemala, traveling 1,500 miles to Texas, crossing from Mexico into the United States somewhere near Laredo, finally arriving at San Bravo, a little over a mile into the United States. She was on her way to Virginia, to reunite with her boyfriend and find work, but a US border patrol agent killed her.

"She left home 15 days ago," her mother told reporters. "Mamita," Gómez González said to her mother Lidia González Vásquez before she left home, "Mamita, we're going to go on ahead, I'll make money. There's no work here."

Her boyfriend Morales Yosimar, waiting for her in Virginia, was devastated when he heard the news—mi princesita, he called her. That was her nickname, "princesita," little princess. She was nineteen, maybe twenty, years old. We don't know much about the US federal officer who shot her, other than he has been a border patrol agent for fifteen years—a skilled professional, now a killer.

Princesita Gómez González is part of a whole movement of people who have been enslaved by a global economy that keeps them poor, barely alive, desperate for work and desperate to escape the network of US gangs that have migrated to Central America. For example, the infamous MS 13, Las Maras, Mara Salvatrucha, was made in the United States, a product of North American violence, assembled on the West Coast then exported to Central America through deportations, a federal immigration policy that spread the terror of US gang warfare south of the border.

There are all sorts of reasons for migration, reasons as old as the first human beings. Movement is part of what it means to be human: to move with the rhythms of seasonal work, hunters following the migration patterns of animals, searching for food, struggling for their economic well-being, people fleeing famines and wars, migration as survival.

In the case of Gómez González, she departs from Guatemala for work and for love—but she never makes it to the arms of her loved one in Virginia, she never gets to the place where they imagined they could build a life together. Instead, she dies in the desert, and the hope beating in her heart, pulsing through her veins, empowering her journey—that hope leaks into the sand around her body, her dreams seeping from



Procession to the Border Wall and site where Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez was killed by the Border Patrol. Photo: Bob Torrez, Border Patrol Victims Network.

her dead life, pooled around what used to be her.

Memorial Day is about remembering the dead, the casualties of war, of people who have died in their service to this country. It's a strange thing to ask me to reflect on this day—it's strange for two reasons. First, because I'm an Anabaptist, a Mennonite, a member of a Christian peace tradition. We refuse to fight in wars. We are conscientious resisters. On Memorial Day we remember people like Joseph and Michael Hofer, members of an Anabaptist community in South Dakota who refused to be drafted during the First World War, and who were incarcerated at the army facility in Leavenworth, Kansas for their resistance. They were starved to death for their witness against war.

The second reason why it's strange for me to reflect on this country's Memorial Day is because I'm the child of immigrants, from Central and South America, and I've never been able to claim a homeland, a country of my own. I belong between nations, my identity crisscrosses borders, my body an amalgam of cultures, my life bound up with family and communities not here. I live in spite of borders.

As the Chicana poet Gloria Anzaldúa once wrote, "The US-Mexican border es una herida abierta," an open wound, bleeding. The border pierces the land, cutting through peoples and places, severing loved ones who have always been

Continued on page 21.

Isaac S. Villegas is the pastor of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship and serves on the Governing Board of the North Carolina Council of Churches. He is the co-author of Presence: Giving and Receiving God (Cascade, 2011). This address was delivered at the Annual Commemoration of the Victims of War held on May 28, 2018 (Memorial Day) by the Orange County Peace Coalition, of which the Triangle WILPF Branch (NC) is an active member.

Pan-Africanism

Continued from page 3.

extensive use of chemicals and fertilizer, and the private control of seeds—when 90% of African farmers depend on traditional seed saving for their own crops, or for exchange and sale. One critic comments: “Small-scale farmers across the globe...use techniques that are much more sustainable and climate friendly than big agribusiness.” But this New Alliance is “facilitating big agribusiness’ takeover of food systems in different African countries.”⁴

2. UN member states agreed on the “Sustainable Development Goals: Transforming Our World” in 2015, to be implemented by 2030. This collection of 17 global goals, such as water and sanitation systems, education, health care, and transportation, require huge capital investments. Financial obligations of African countries to the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund will be based on terms that include financial restructuring and austerity programs consistent with the hegemonic “neo-liberal” ideology, such as were imposed on Argentina, Chile, and Greece. And we all know how well THAT went!⁵
3. In March 2018, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was launched, modeled on the European Union, to accelerate economic development through intra-state trade and cooperation with the EU. If Brexit showed the cracks in the European Union (with a membership of 28 states), how difficult will it be to unite a trade area of 54 countries? The obligation to harmonize and enforce rules and laws across participating countries may prove tricky as people in any one country experience the impacts of less regulation, higher prices on consumer goods and food, and increased air, land, and water pollution. To date, 10 countries have already refused to join this trade bloc.
4. AFRICOM, the United States Africa Command—one of 10 US Armed Forces regional commands—was established in 2008 despite fierce opposition from many states that forced its headquarters to be in Germany. The military works with different African partners to oversee regional security, help put down rebellions, provide coastal and border security, etc. The mission is said to “enhance [US] efforts to bring peace and security to the people of Africa and promote our common goals of development, health, education and broad-based economic growth for Africa.” But groups like the Black Alliance for Peace emphasize that many Africans and African Americans view this “partnership” to be a cover for US secret missions, covert wars, and the recolonization of Africa through militarization and endless war.

Critics of Agenda 2063—which these initiatives will help to implement—raise serious concerns. “This current neo-colonial economic system yields an Africa that is developmentally incapacitated, dependent, poverty generating and substantively disempowered,” Ehiedu E.G. Iweriebor writes in *New Era Weekend*. “Unless this current...system is...replaced with a new endocentric economic system that is based on African development capacitation, resource-based industrialization and domestic prosperity generation, Africa cannot achieve the objectives of Agenda 2063.”

With this in mind, let’s return to Nkrumah and King. Nkrumah’s original vision was that Africans could develop a unique socialism based on their experience of communal life, and that they need not embrace Western capitalism or revolutionary Marxism to realize their own social and economic development. Significantly, his concept of African socialism embraced the great diversity of languages, religions, cultures, and ethnic and tribal identities as an indigenous strength.

A year after the coup against Nkrumah, in April 1967 Martin Luther King gave his most revolutionary speech, “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence.” King moved from civil rights to a critique of capitalism, questioning the US policy of intervention in foreign countries to defeat “Communist tyranny” and to squash any opposition to the corporate-capitalist system of imperialism.

It is momentous that the first WILPF International Congress in Africa is taking place 60 years after the first Pan-African Congress in Africa. On the cusp of a new phase in the Pan-African movement, “Building a Feminist Peace Movement” offers women the chance to work in areas they are drawn to—education, health, climate, and agriculture, for example—so they can move beyond corporate and military initiatives to share, support, and grow the kind of grassroots, “Hands Off Africa” movements that do not replicate structures of colonialism and imperialism.

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ For a discussion of all the meetings, see Saheed A. Adejumo’s “The Pan-African Congresses, 1900-1945” at www.blackpast.org.
- ² In “What Ghana Taught King,” Josslyn Jeanine Luckett writes, “I think we get a much stronger sense of the inspiration of the liberation movements of Africa as a driving force for King’s dreaming, marching, and freedom visioning... for all people on both sides of the Atlantic.” (*Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Summer/Autumn 2013).
- ³ As early as 1953, the failed CIA/British plots to kill Iran’s democratically elected Prime Minister Mosaddegh exposed what lengths Western imperialists would go to protect their “right” to a profitable resource.
- ⁴ Nora McKeon, “The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa: A Coup for Corporate Capital” (May 2017), at www.tni.org.
- ⁵ Tomás Undurraga, “Neoliberalism in Argentina and Chile: Common Antecedents, Divergent Paths,” *Revista de Sociología e Política* 23, No. 55 (2015).

Treasurer's Report to Members

Fiscal year 2017 (January 1, 2017–December 31, 2017)

Staying on our financial course in the midst of a challenging year with multiple mission priorities.

From a new US President to hurricanes and #metoo, from North Korean missile tests to a new EPA Chief dining with officials from companies he is supposed to regulate but rarely meeting with environmentalists, 2017 was one for the record books! As I pass my one-year anniversary as your Treasurer, I look forward to building on our organization's accomplishments in these challenging times.

Our WILPF US Finance Committee and Board are held responsible for implementing the organization's objectives when we create our fiscal year's budget. By committing to the Accounting Basic\$ of 'Mission Through Numbers,' the system we've learned with the help of our fiscal sponsor, the Peace Development Fund, our budgeting decisions are driven by mission priorities.

We know that passionate volunteers come together in their communities to work for the issues we all care about. How can our Board and Staff provide support to our Branches and our At Large members? What can we do to help celebrate wins at the Branch level? What are good ways to share our successes and find solutions to our challenges?

Our mini-grant committee works hard to analyze requests to find the best ways to support our Branches with small monetary grants. We set aside funds to cover Issue Committee expenses to help them do their work. Our Practicum, along with the Local to Global program, enables WILPF women to participate in the UN's annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women conference (the principal global inter-governmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women). The *Peace & Freedom* magazines and *e-News* are established and they are continually reinvented places to share kudos and inspire each other. Attendance on our ONE WILPF calls is a new and exciting way to gain insights, not just from coalition members who are invited to speak on the calls, but also from each other. Inter-Branch planning for our Solidarity events raises our voice across our US Section.

With our committees and staff hard at work on our regular programs and initiatives—and with a triennial Congress to plan, as well—we knew we were looking at a tough year when we adopted a budget for 2017. It looked like we would have to draw down our reserves.

But we also knew that if we stayed on course, reached out to our friends, and analyzed our expenses, we could figure out how to pay for our priorities.

Budgeting decisions are driven both by mission priorities and fiscal accountability.

As a not-for-profit organization, WILPF wages peace only through the generous support of individuals. We're also grateful for foundations that support programs they and we care so much about. Branches help, too, by sharing their fundraising results and by special contributions. We thank our many friends for making 2017 a year that saw our fundraising surpass our projections!

Another source of income last year was bequests that come about because of the loss of a friend. We remember them in this issue of *Peace & Freedom*. One of those bequests, from Ethel Sanjines, who passed in 2011, was the source of conflict between our Organization and our friends at the Jane Addams Peace Association. We were pleased that a resolution was reached shortly before President Mary Hanson Harrison gavelled in our Congress in Chicago on July 27, 2017. A huge 'thank you' to everyone in both organizations involved in resolving this issue.

On the other side of ledger, with the help of our great staff, we did analyze our expenses and found savings in office expenses, data management, insurance, merchant services, information technology, and more—to the tune of over \$13,000 in annual savings that we will fully realize in 2018. Know that we are constantly searching for the best processes and working to develop the best procedures possible.

In closing, when the books were balanced, we were pleased to have ended 2017 with a \$50,000 surplus (income over expenses)! Add investment income and we ended up over \$75,000 in the black.

More importantly, we've made a difference in our communities. Together we can continue our work to create and realize our vision of a transformed world at peace. Now more than ever, we are grateful for your solidarity.

Allow me to give a shout out to our exceptional staff: Chris Wilbeck, Administrator; Glenn Ruga, IT/eNews/web site Professional; Caitlin Barnes, Graphic Designer; Wendy McDowell, writer/editor. We've added two special projects for the next twelve months and have already started work

with two new staff members: Mary Dooley, Fundraising Consultant; and Michael Ippolito, Capacity Builder and Social Media Consultant.

Feel free, always, to reach out with comments and questions! I can be reached at jancorderman@msn.com.

In Solidarity,
 Jan Corderman, Treasurer
 WILPF US & Leadership Team Member
 Des Moines Branch

Special note: Some of our reserves are invested in **Pax World's Ellevest Global Women's Leadership Fund**, where we have watched our total investment of \$32,000 grow to \$125,000 since our first deposit in 2008. To quote the fund Chair, Sallie Krawcheck, *"This Fund offers the opportunity to invest in the best companies in the world for advancing women, to benefit from their vision and success, and to help close the gender gap in the process. Simply put, investing in women delivers results."*

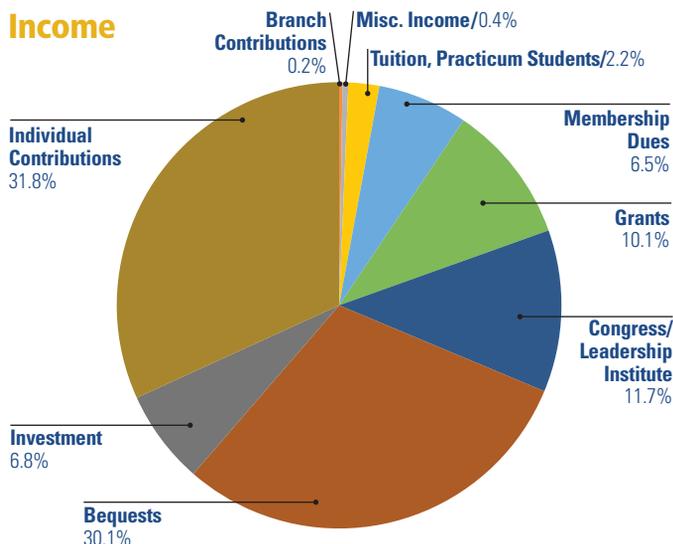
Income

Branch Contributions	\$907
Misc Income	\$1,559
Tuition, Practicum students	\$8,300
Membership Dues	\$24,155
Grants	\$37,283
Congress / Leadership Inst	\$43,341
Bequests	\$111,093
Investment	\$25,207
Indiv Contributions	\$117,420
Total Income	\$369,266

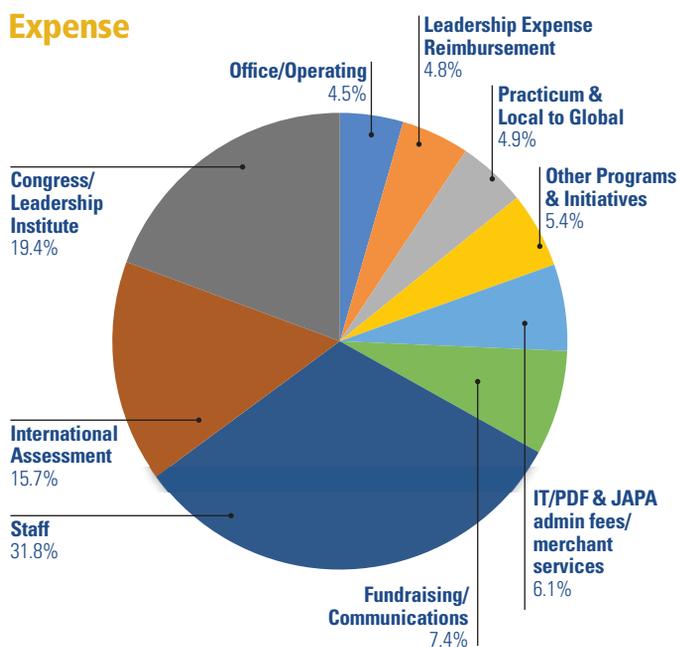
Expense

Office / Operating	\$13,139
Leadership expense reimb	\$14,133
Practicum & Local to Global	\$14,205
Other Programs & Initiatives	\$15,673
IT/PDF & JAPA admin fees/merchant services	\$17,917
Fundraising / Communications	\$21,640
Staff	\$92,988
International Assessment	\$46,000
Congress/Leadership Inst	\$56,570
Total Expense	\$292,264
NET	\$77,002

Income



Expense



Then & Now: Peace Camp in Auburn, California



In 1987, an article by Millee Livingston and Miriam Barsk appeared in *Peace & Freedom* describing the creation of a “Children’s Peace Camp” in Auburn, California. At the time, Millee was a WILPF US Region I Steering Committee Member, and Miriam was a member of the Tucson, Arizona Branch.

After spending a year securing funds and planning the curriculum, the first Peace Camp ran for two sessions in 1987. Demand was so great that the limit was increased from 10 to 14 for each session, and a total of 27 children attended the first camp.

According to the original article, “The purpose of the Camp was to present peace education to a wider community; present the children alternatives to conflict; to present constructive activities such as art work, crafts, songs, etc.; and to present to the public a program on Hiroshima Day.... The activities were designed to create an atmosphere based on mutual respect and to develop an awareness, appreciation, and respect for nature; to discover the biological interdependence of all living things and

to extend this understanding to global interdependence.”

Now in its 32nd year, Peace Camp is still going strong! In 2017, the camp welcomed 106 children and more than 100 campers are expected again in 2018. The mission of the camp remains the same: to teach concepts of peace, justice, and equality through hands-on activities and experiences, and to expand children’s understanding of peace to include environmental, community, and global awareness.

Activities in 2017 included: yoga, art, dance, music, around-the-world food tasting, parkour, debate, drama, music production and video journalism, and an obstacle course challenge. Ten exchange students from France participated in last year’s camp and shared their culture.

A July 17, 2017 article in the *Auburn Journal* quoted Millee Livingston, Peace Camp founder and longtime WILPF member: “It’s more like a peace village than a peace camp,” she said. “This has nothing to do with political or religious lines. It just offers a peaceful alternative to what kids are seeing and doing.”



Peace Camp 2017

Leaving a Legacy

We pay tribute to the following individuals, listed by year of death, who named WILPF US as a beneficiary of their will and whose bequests were finalized and received in 2017.

Their thoughtfulness and generous support serves as a legacy to the values that they held during their lives.

2011 – Ethel Sanjines, 97, San Francisco, CA, a long-time member of WILPF who was active in San Francisco Women for Peace which shared an office with the San Francisco Branch.



2015 – Ethel Tobach, PhD, 94, of Wayland, MA, not a member of WILPF but a pacifist and lifelong peace activist. Ethel was born in the Ukraine but as a baby was brought to the US by her mother, when her father died shortly after the family arrived in Palestine fleeing the Jewish pogroms during the Russian revolution. Ethel earned her PhD in psychology, spent her career as a researcher and curator of the American Museum of Natural History, wrote numerous books and scientific works, and earned several awards including the Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement by a Psychologist in the Public Interest from the American Psychological Association.

2016 – Hazel Virginia Evans, 89, lifetime member, from Woburn, MA, and Philadelphia for 45 years. In addition to the bequest, her family also directed memorials to WILPF, noting that she was an active member for many years.



2017 – Yvonne Logan, 97, of St. Louis, MO, lifetime member and former president of WILPF US. Yvonne joined in 1958, and remained dedicated to the organization throughout her life, serving on the national board for 22 years and as president from 1981 to 1985. She helped to organize countless demonstrations and was arrested many times in the course of her career as an activist.

The Charitable IRA Rollover for Now and Later

When approaching age 70½, you need to contemplate the use of your traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Whether you want to or not, you are now required to start taking distributions and to pay taxes on those funds. What's more, your IRA may not be the best way to leave money to your heirs.

However, there is a silver lining to using your IRA for fulfilling your philanthropic goals regardless of your age. Unlike the standard deductions that have increased twofold under the new tax reform and will allow fewer people to itemize, the charitable advantages of the IRA did not change. You can still make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA directly to the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, US Section. Making a distribution from your traditional IRA through the Peace Development Fund, our fiscal sponsor, allows you to completely bypass taxes on the distribution. Call your IRA custodian for information on how to make this gift.

For later, consider making WILPF a beneficiary of your IRA. This is a wonderful way to make a lasting legacy gift because funds coming directly from your IRA will be tax-free, so more of your savings will support our work. Non-spouse beneficiaries of IRA accounts will have to pay taxes on money received from an inherited IRA at their own tax rate. Note that the new tax reform also increased the estate tax exemption to \$11.2 million for individuals, but this idea may have merit for you.

There will be plenty to consider as we peel back the layers of the new tax reform. But for now, the IRA qualified charitable distribution is still the golden ticket that benefits you and the charities you support—both now and in the future.

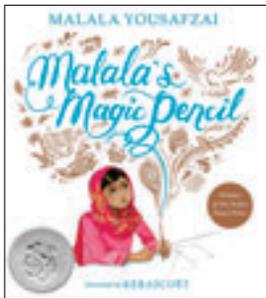
2018 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Winners

Since 1953, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award (JACBA) annually recognizes children's books of literary and aesthetic excellence that effectively engage children in thinking about peace, social justice, global community, and equity for all people. The 2018 recipients were announced in April by the Jane Addams Peace Association.

"Each year WILPF branches, alone and working with other community groups, bring the JACBA winners and honor books to children and their adults," explained Susan Griffith, Vice-President of the Jane Addams Peace Association. "Branches purchase a set of winners and honor books from

a local or independent bookstore if at all possible. They give them to their local public libraries, after-school programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, day care centers or a favorite teacher's classroom library, to name just a few possibilities."

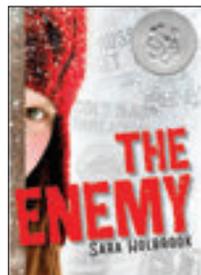
She continued, "Most often, branches present the books to the community agency with flourish and ceremony, including information about Jane Addams, reading the first page of each book, reading aloud one of the picture books and discussing it, for example. The books also make great gifts for the special children in our lives and, as a set, could be a prize for a raffle or other fundraiser."



Malala's Magic Pencil,

written by Malala Yousafzai, illustrated by Kerascoët, and published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Hachette, was the winner in the Books for Younger Children Category. Malala's life story begins with a dream; she wishes for a magic pencil that will draw her heart's desires. When she sees a girl her age working in the city dump, her intentions for that magic pencil become serious. After powerful, armed men prevent some girls from attending school, she knows that dreaming for a magic pencil is not enough. She picks up a real pencil and writes about her life in Pakistan. Her words gain international attention and, at the same time, the attention of dangerous men who brutally attack her school bus in an attempt to silence her. Malala's courageous words rally millions around the globe who join her

campaign for women's rights, equality, and education. Illustrations of her dreams glisten with gold and partner with lyrical text affirming Malala's words: "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world."



The Enemy: Detroit

1954, written by Sara Holbrook and published by Calkins Creek an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, was the winner in the Books for Older Children Category. This is an intimate, textured historical novel set at the peak of McCarthyism. During a snowball fight, spirited, 12-year-old Marjorie Campbell tries to make sense of an unfamiliar figure who is staring at her and her friends. Is he a Nazi, or a Commie? Is he a Red, a Pinko, or a Red Devil? Is he a spy? Fear that feeds hatred of all that is foreign plagues Marjorie's friends, school, neighborhood, and community. It also challenges her relationships with her

father, a World War II veteran, and her mother, a staunch supporter of free speech. When Marjorie's teacher selects her to befriend Inga, a new student who, while recently arrived from Canada, is clearly German, Marjorie grapples with an essential question: Who is The Enemy? This question and the novel's depiction of bullying, PTSD, censorship, and the position of women will seem eerily familiar to readers today.

One Honor Book: Books for Younger Children Category



Before She Was Harriet

by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome, and published by Holiday House, which chronicles the steadfast courage of Harriet Tubman in a cumulative biographical poem that travels both backwards and forwards through her life.

Three Honor Books: Books for Older Children category

Fred Korematsu

Speaks Up by Laura Atkins and Stan Yogi, illustrated by Yutaka Houlette, and published by Heyday, is a fusion of free-verse poetry, Japanese American artwork, short narratives, timelines, and historical photographs that tells the story of Fred Korematsu and his family who are imprisoned in Japanese American internment camps.

Piecing Me Together

by Renée Watson, published by Bloomsbury Children's Books, an imprint of Bloomsbury is the story of a teenager, Jade, who lives in a primarily black and poor neighborhood, and attends a fancy prep school.

Midnight Without A Moon

by Linda Williams Jackson, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, is a poignant novel exposing the personal, heartbreaking costs exacted from those who chose to leave the South during the Great Migration.

Last Day

Poem by Martha Stephens

The Border as War

Continued from page 14.



People accompany the coffin of the Guatemalan migrant Claudia Patricia Gómez González during her wake in San Juan Ostuncalco, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, May 31, 2018. Photo: EPA-EFE/Esteban Biba.

on the move together. The border is a violence that reopens the wounds of war—the border as the legacy of warfare, a marking that justifies unceasing war, violence against people like Gómez González. She’s a casualty of this country’s border war. She died in resistance against the border, against the way borders instigate violence. The U.S.-Mexican border is the continuation of war by other means, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency rather than the Department of Defense.

“We are not going to let this country be invaded,” declared Jeff Sessions, President Trump’s Attorney General, on May 7, 2018, in Scottsdale, Arizona. People like Princesita Gómez González are invaders, according to Sessions, foreign insurgents assaulting his country. He said more than that to a crowd of his supporters in Scottsdale: “We are not going to let this country be invaded. We will not be stampeded.” Stampeded. That’s a word we use to describe cattle—“animals,” as president Trump said about some undocumented immigrants his administration has deported for their alleged gang involvement: “These aren’t people, these are animals,” he ranted at a White House meeting on May 15. They characterize migrants as invaders, as a stampede of animals, as cattle. And the border has become their slaughterhouse.

For this Memorial Day, I remember Claudia Patricia Gómez González, a brave woman, refusing the border, now a victim of this undeclared war against migration. An unofficial war yet warfare nonetheless.

Claudia Patricia Gómez González, whose only weapons were her feet.

Claudia Patricia Gómez González, whose only threat to this country was her hope—her dreams of work and love.

In commemoration of those who died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945—and all who may yet perish in nuclear war.

On the last day
A rabbit came to taste the dandelions
Along the low hedge,
Sent, some might say, to bless us
Though he did not know anything about us
Or what blessings are.

The great cloud of death was drifting on
And we were in its way.
There was nowhere to go
So we simply stayed at home
On the last day,
Not wanting to die underground
Pecking away at a protein bar
In an illusion of safety.

A repast, in fact, was not what we seemed to need
On the last day,
Though it was good to watch the rabbit
Chewing its munchies
Along the low hedge,
Startled a bit, when we appeared
With the shears to clip things,
Showing us for a moment its fat cottontail
In a bobbing burst down the hedgerow.

Yes, we trimmed the hedges
On the last day.
Not thinking anyone would ever see
And yet – who knows –
I suppose we felt.

We liked the yard, the hedge, the rabbit,
A slow walk down the block
To see our bit of woods.
We liked the companionship of other living things
On the last day
And the beauty of them and
The lack of sentience in them and all foreboding.

We went on walking a little
And trimming a little in the yard
And the doomed rabbit supped on its grassy fare
Along the low hedge
And did not know anything at all
Of a cloud of death
On the last day.

Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission Announced



By Marcia Bandes

Chair, Pittsburgh for CEDAW Coalition
(Project of the Thomas Merton Center)

The Pittsburgh Branch recently announced the latest milestone in the execution of Pittsburgh's CEDAW Gender Equity Ordinance. On March 1, 2018, the first day of Women's History Month, Anupama Jain, Pittsburgh's first Executive Director of Gender Equity, held a press conference to introduce the newly formed Gender Equity Commission! The Commission includes 15 amazing, diverse, and experienced women and men.

Speakers at the March 1 event included Ms. Jain, Councilwoman Debra Gross, Janet Manuel, Deputy Director of the City of Pittsburgh and Personnel & Civil Services Commissioner, Mayor Bill Peduto, and Marcia Bandes, WILPF member and Chair of the Pittsburgh for CEDAW Coalition. Other WILPF members who attended the press conference were Edith Bell, the head of our branch, and Mary King.

A Bit of History

The goal of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), passed in 1979, is to establish gender equity around the world. 189 countries have ratified it. The United States is NOT one of them. The Pittsburgh for CEDAW Coalition was launched to participate in the *Cities for CEDAW Campaign* spreading across the United States.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has every reason to be proud of this accomplishment. Pittsburgh has this gender equity commission because the WILPF Pittsburgh Branch, after hearing about the Cities for CEDAW campaign, reached out to New Voices Pittsburgh and the Women and Girls Foundation for help getting started. These organizations jumped in and helped us to build the infrastructure we needed and to spread the word. Soon we had a coalition representing the Zonta Club, Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Women's Law Project, League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, and other college students and individuals all committing themselves to laying the groundwork for gender equity in Pittsburgh. We were endorsed by nearly 30

organizations and 200 individuals, and we had strong support from our sponsor, City Council member Natalia Rudiak.

We are the sixth, but not the last, city to pass a "CEDAW Ordinance," a law that commits the City of Pittsburgh to strive for a more just and equitable city for all of its women and girls, including our lesbian, trans, and queer sisters. This includes people of all colors, religions, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, and abilities.

A total of nine cities and counties have passed CEDAW Ordinances to date, 29 jurisdictions have passed a CEDAW Resolution, and at least 33 additional cities are exploring possible CEDAW Ordinance or Resolution.

Our Next Milestone?

The Commission's next major effort is to issue a Request for Information (RFI) for a city-wide gender analysis, followed by a Request for Proposal (RFP) to execute the gender analysis.

The analysis will gather disaggregated data to address intersectional gender discrimination, including identity, expression, sexuality, race and ethnicity, diverse abilities, education, income, and other factors. Based upon the equity disparities identified in the gender analysis, the GEC will work with the City to create a specific five-year action plan and ongoing plans, then monitor and guide their implementation. Follow the activities of the Gender Equity Commission at www.pittsburghpa.gov/gec. If you don't already know if your city or jurisdiction is considering CEDAW action, check citiesforcedaw.org.

When women succeed, communities thrive!



"Several cities have contacted us for some guidance about how to go about becoming a City for CEDAW. I tell them that we reached this current status fairly quickly thanks to three things: Outreach to other organizations from the very beginning, successful coalition work, and last but not least, the devotion, persistence, and tenacity of Marcia Bandes."

—Edith Bell,
Pittsburgh Branch Coordinator

Joan Woolley Bazar

1934-2017

Joan Bazar was WILPF's most active member for many years, participating in international WILPF activities as well as in WILPF US government and committees, especially personnel. Her work on both international and US WILPF publications was also exemplary. Joan was a journalist, psychologist, mother, and activist with WILPF, the San Jose and Peninsula peace centers, and the US-China People's Friendship Association.

Joan was born July 25, 1934, in Philadelphia, and had a younger brother Ralph (Buzz) Woolley. Her career in journalism and his in business got off to an early start when they published a neighborhood newspaper every week from 1946-1948 for up to 200 subscribers! She was always drawn to the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) principles of peace, equality, nonviolence, justice, and personal responsibility to take action.

After college, a 1957 summer program in International Institutions in Geneva, Switzerland was her first trip abroad. In 1958, she married and had two daughters—Annelise in 1960, Julia in 1962. After 1964, she raised and supported her daughters by herself, working at newspapers.

In May 1968, Joan, Annelise, and Julia tried moving to Japan. Although they loved Kyoto, the reality quickly set in that being a single-working mother in a foreign country was even harder than doing it at home, so the mission shifted to exploring the Soviet Union, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Paris on their way back to the US.

Joan returned to newspaper work for a few years, but chafed at being relegated to the women's section of the paper. She enrolled in UC Berkeley and earned a PhD in Educational Psychology in 1977, which enabled her to work with preschoolers, autistic children, and at a veterans hospital.

Joan was able to combine her love of writing with her interests in psychology and in international issues, by writing for the *APA Monitor*, *Psychology International*, and eventually MSNBC, traveling to China, Vietnam, Spain, and Germany for articles.

After her first trip to China in 1979, Joan became heavily involved in the Palo Alto chapter of the US China People's Friendship Association from 1980-84, making lifelong friends. She studied Chinese language and made a few more trips there, most notably attending the UN International



Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995.

In 1981 Joan was introduced to David Wald, an activist involved in Central American and labor issues, with the line: "This is Joan, she's been to China. This is Dave, he's been to Cuba." They instantly bonded, were married in 1982, and honeymooned in Nicaragua and Cuba. Joan helped David with many of his projects, including USA-Cuba InfoMed. She also worked with various other Central American sanctuary and solidarity organizations.

From 1984 to 1988 Joan was director of the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center in Palo Alto. In 1988, she returned to the newspaper world, as a copy editor at the San Jose *Mercury News* and working part-time for the *San Mateo Times*, where she won an award for her headline writing. She became actively involved in the Newspaper Guild / Communication Workers of America union. She learned HTML and built their first web page.

Her retirement in 2001 gave Joan more time to work with the San Jose Peace and Justice Center and with WILPF (international, US, and San Jose Branch). She was an active board member of both organizations until her very last year. She served for several years as SJPJC treasurer, and also as the last president of San Jose WILPF, which has functioned since with a steering committee, including Joan.

After retiring she found time to study video editing, and she produced and edited a series of videos for SJPJC on topics including napalm and agent orange, drone warfare, Wikileaks, financial justice, sustainable agriculture, GMOs, FBI surveillance, and profiles of activists.

Joan attended several international WILPF congresses, including her last—in India. She also edited and produced several issues of WILPF's last printed international journal. During the successful 2005 WILPF National Congress in San Francisco, she was co-editor and producer of the daily newsletter, and served on the congress planning committee. Since that time, she was deeply involved with WILPF US, assisting in many areas including communication, personnel, and finance. Her commitment to the local San Jose WILPF Branch was monumental!

After a year of declining health, Joan died at home on December 22, 2017, of heart failure. She is survived by her daughters, Annelise and Julie, and Dave Wald's sons, Philip and Keith. Dave died of pancreatic cancer in 2008, after a long illness at home with Joan.

Branches Turn Out to Support Poor People's Campaign

40 Days of Action from Coast to Coast

Branches and at-large members around the country have participated in Poor People's Campaign rallies, demonstrations, and events. The June eNews included reports and photos from Boston, Sacramento, Des Moines, Tucson, Essex County, NJ, Vermont, Triangle Branch, NC, Fresno, and others. What follows are reports from new branches, and weeks 3, 4, and 5 activities.



Karen Pope reported on the previous three weeks of PPC activities by the **Madison, WI Branch**: "WILPF members, friends, and supporters have been present...at the three rallies so far on our state capitol steps in Madison." The first rally "was an introduction of the themes and people chairing the Wisconsin efforts" and the state's campaign advocates shared "some passionate remarks...about the 'Fight for 15' and other economic justice efforts" with women's and children's activist groups. "We then processed to the Governor's offices to present the campaign demands. Unfortunately, the legislature is not in session, but tourists and school tour groups got to sing and chant with us!" The second week's rally was rained out, but WILPF presence was felt at the meeting in a State Assembly committee room during which "immigrants' rights advocates and DACA recipients and defenders shared their personal stories." Karen wrote, "The third week was led by Veterans for Peace and despite 92-degree weather, we all processed down State Street, circled, and sang for nonviolent direct peace action. About 20 people were ticketed for civil disobedience and blocking traffic. It was orderly, but very passionate."



The **Peninsula/Palo Alto Branch** is sponsoring seven weekly Friday peaceful sidewalk demonstrations during the 40 Days of Action. According to Judy Adams, "We stand at the traditional 'free speech' corner in Palo Alto where activists for decades have held small and large demonstrations during the lunch hour." She described demonstrations on May 11, 18, and 25—the 25th "had excellent community participation and heavy pedestrian and auto traffic." She shared, "In our June 8th demonstration...we were able to secure our Poor People's Campaign banner on a wall, and we walked with two-sided signs. We got the usual honks and waves for our signs." A highlight was that "several students lent a hand on their lunch break by joining us, carrying several of our signs, and chanting with us about the PPC. It's encouraging to have young supporters!" The branch also had a table at a local Juneteenth Celebration in East Palo Alto, which commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation, and includes a big "street fair." Judy ended her report by saying, "We do not have a racially diverse branch and the PPC has given us an important opportunity to change that."

Debi Livingston of the **Tucson Branch** wrote to describe a "very special event held on June 12 when the Poor People's Campaign Caravan arrived in Tucson on their way to Washington, D.C.



Branch members and the community were invited to join with the Poor People's Movement and bear witness to the Apache Stronghold's Spiritual Journey of Healing to Confront the Deception of the Birth of America!" The event included a blessing, speakers, and music.

Linda Lemons of the **Des Moines Branch** reported, "The Poor People's Campaign in Iowa continues to grow and WILPF Des Moines continues to help organize and lead the effort." A rally on May 29 held in a park across from North High School "brought together people from various groups to address issues of gun violence, the effects of war, the war economy...while also acknowledging we can create change." WILPF handed out Christine Nobiss' essay ("The Myth of the Second Amendment," in this issue of *P&F*). Mary Ann Koch, a member of the Des Moines WILPF leadership team, led a litany entitled "Our Children Are Being Killed – And



Who is Profiting from That?" About 75 people attended the rally, and attendees were quoted as saying, "the honking and waves of passersby from the street was encouraging," and that they appreciated "the hope brought about in the face of despair." In week five, about 70 people—including several WILPF members—showed up on the west side of the Iowa capitol building. Single mothers and low wage earners spoke about struggling to make ends meet, and a community college student called for equal education, free tuition, and debt relief. The crowd sang songs demanding dignity for all.

The **Triangle Branch** has been regularly participating in PPC events, including a May 14 event outside the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh during which 49 protestors, including three WILPF members—Emily Keel, Liz Evans, and Fran Schindler—were arrested for blocking traffic. On Sunday, May 27, five WILPF members traveled to Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, NC, for an inspiring Mass Meeting with Rev. William Barber and Rev. Liz Theoharis, co-chairs of the PPC. Lucy Lewis reports, "We drove together in Emily Keel's van and had a wonderful spirited discussion on the way... The church service preceded the mass meeting; both were inspiring and powerful." Lucy also shared, "We developed a chant during Forward Together/Moral Mondays arrests, 'Thank You—We Love You!' Supporters yelled this out as arrestees emerged from the legislature basement and were loaded into buses or vans for the drive to the Wake County Detention Center for hours of fingerprinting, mug shots, and finally an appearance before a magistrate.... We now do the same with the PPC."

Three more California branches reported on their PPC activities. Teresa Castillo wrote that the **Fresno Branch** "carried our PPC banner in our local Rainbow Pride Parade and displayed it at our table in the Pride Festival. We also continue to gather on Mondays during the lunch hour in front of our federal courthouse and government building. Each week we are joined by other groups, including AFSC Pan Valley Institute, Veterans for Peace, Brown Berets, the UU Church, Citizens Climate Lobby, and always the Raging Grannies and Peace Fresno." Sue Hilton of the **Humboldt Branch** shared, "We finally got an official WILPF presence at our local PPC rally on

Monday this week (week 4). Our Raging Grannies have been coming every week and singing lots of songs. The gathering is in front of the courthouse,



which is on the main road through town so there's lots of traffic and people honk as they drive by. This week the grannies mostly sang about climate change and the environment, and there was a big contingent from Healthcare for All with signs about taking care of people." Joan Goddard reported on a program on police training and implicit bias that the **San Jose Branch** advertised with their current week's PPC information flier: "Police chiefs, the sheriff, and the district attorney are scheduled to attend—PACT/PICO committee has been working on it for months." Joan noted that their branch "will produce and distribute a fourth flier re: the weekly themes and the PPC in general. We will also include information [about] our local 'Fight for 15' organizer gathering people to go to Sacramento for the June 11 NVDA." And San Jose WILPF is "sponsoring a public gathering/sharing time after people attend the local World Refugees Day program at San Jose City Hall on June 15."

Finally, at-large member **Mary Bricker-Jenkins** wrote about being "the lead-off speaker at the pre-action rally" on May 21 in **Nashville**: "When I introduced myself, I said that I chaired the WILPF4PPC Committee, and WILPF US (not I) got a huge round of applause. After the rally we staged a



'die-in' in front of the state capitol as moral witnesses and victims of the war economy. Lying on the pavement in a driving rain... I waited a long time to be arrested. (Because I was using a walker, the police did not want to arrest me. In fact, they tried to trick me into ceasing my disobedience!) To keep my spirits up, I thought of all the actions taking place around the country by other WILPFers—demonstrations, political education, civil disobedience. The WILPF commitment, ingenuity and wisdom have been breathtaking during this Campaign. You comfort and inspire me—and, I hope, each other." Mary ended with a priceless PS: "Yes, they finally got around to hauling me in. My arresting officer said, 'I feel like I'm cuffing my grandmother.' I replied, 'Well, I'm proud of you, son, but I wish you were in a different line of work.' To which he replied, 'That's what she said to me last week.'"



Fundraising Nurtures Activism... and is about saying YES to our hopes and dreams for peace and justice.



Our annual budget depends on your support.

WILPF's annual \$300,000 budget funds our Issue Committees, printed resources, our Mini-Grants Program and the many efforts across the US that keep us informed and connected. This year it will also cover travel costs for our five delegates to the International Congress in Ghana in July, and scholarships for women in the Global South so that they can attend. Our work supporting the Poor People's Campaign and other Solidarity Events also comes out of our budget.

The remainder of our budget goes to necessary expenses such as insurance, bookkeeping, communications, office expenses, website updating, and the assessment we owe WILPF International (\$15 of every \$35 dues payment goes directly to International WILPF).

If we don't raise money, we won't have the capacity to keep supporting our members, our branches, and our work for peace, justice, and the environment.

Without your gift, we face an unsustainable future.

By now, you've received our spring appeal. If you haven't yet responded, **please donate using the enclosed envelope or visit our website, www.wilpfus.org.**

There are still too many members who do not contribute to WILPF beyond their \$35 dues.

An investment in peace has never been more important as we stretch our budget to expand capacity and meet the increasing demands for response and action!

Join Us!

Your Development Committee at WILPF US is a group of women from all over the US, working hard so that you, our members, can do more and be more supported. We are looking for extra hands with great ideas to work with us!

If you have experience and enthusiasm for funding PEACE, or the time and patience to do some online research, contact Mary Beth Gardam at mbgardam@gmail.com or 863-651-4888.

And please, don't forget to donate and ask others to also donate. *Fundraising at WILPF is everyone's job.*

Investing in peace begins with us.