

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Portland Branch, 1034 SW 13th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205-1702

www.portland.wilpf.org

Georgia Pinkel, convener for January

Continuing officers: Sara Tattam, membership; Anne McLaughlin,
treasurer; Karen James, corresponding secretary

Phone: 503-595-9393

Email: wilfpdx@gmail.com

Co-editors: Celeste Howard, Natasha Beck



December 2012/January 2013

Carol Urner was able to join us at our December 1st meeting, managing her rolling oxygen tank as if it belongs to her walker. She is supposed to work only 20 minutes at a time at the computer, so she has been feeling limited on how much she can turn out. In sending the article below, she wrote, "I am quietly hopeful. This does come at a very bad time for the Administration...but I think there must be those in our leadership who recognize that this is a sensible way to proceed. Let us do what we can and see what develops." She will be on her way to California for the winter as soon as she finds a way she can travel with her oxygen tank.

A MIDDLE EAST WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION FREE ZONE

by Carol Urner

If you are concerned that the drums of war may be beating for military intervention in Iran, you may want to sign an open letter to our President and Congress calling for a nuclear weapons and WMD Free Zone in the Middle East. The letter is at the United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) website <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/2012/10/18/open-letter-to-president-obama-and-the-u-s-congress/>.

That UFPJ letter was inspired by our earlier WILPF statement and work on a nuclear and WMD Free zone in the Middle East. The negotiating conference in Helsinki, of which the UFPJ letter speaks, had been scheduled for December 13-14. However, it was cancelled by the United States in late November. Our government is responding to Netanyahu of Israel's refusal to attend and his strong hostility to the whole concept. Instead, Netanyahu is urging even harsher sanctions against Iran and is continuing to threaten a "preventive" military strike on Iranian nuclear facilities.

There is still hope the conference can be held early next year; UFPJ is continuing to circulate the petition. Plans are now to deliver it to the White House and Congress before Congress adjourns this month. The Arab League nations and Iran are all committed to participating, and they were willing to begin preliminary discussions without Israel in the hope that it would join later. Russia also wanted to proceed. Russia and the United States must also participate as UN recognized guarantors of the negotiations. The White House has indicated that it may be able to support the conference early in the New Year.

For WILPF's position and more background information, read the Iran statement issued in April at http://wilpf.org/Iran_statement_page. Earlier letters sent by U.S. WILPF's Middle East Issue Committee to President Obama and to Secretary of State Hilary Clinton are at <http://wilpfus.org/news/no-war-iran%E2%80%94promote-middle-east-weapons-mass-destruction-free-zone>. Odile Hugonot Haber, co-chair of that WILPF committee, also distributed the statement to delegates and NGO attendees at the 2012 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting in Vienna. (<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2012>)

**NEXT MEETING OF PORTLAND BRANCH WILPF WILL BE ON SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER, 10 AM TO NOON,
AT FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, SW 12TH AVENUE AND SALMON. BRING YOUR BROWN BAG LUNCH!**

BAN WEAPONIZED DRONES FROM THE WORLD

from RootsAction.org

Meticulous researchers have documented that U.S. drones are killing many innocent civilians in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere. Drones are making the world less stable and creating new enemies. Their remoteness provides those responsible with a sense of immunity.

Weaponized drones are no more acceptable than land mines, cluster bombs, or chemical weapons. The world must renounce and forbid their manufacture, possession, or use. Violators must be held accountable.

You can add your name to a petition to ban weaponized drones .

Go to <http://www.rootsaction.org/take-action/461-ban-drones-from-the-world>.



ARMISTICE/VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATIONS

by Barbara Drageaux

On Sunday 11 November, Carol Urner and Barbara Drageaux joined about 20 Veterans for Peace and friends in honoring the commitment to end war that was made on Armistice Day, 11 November 1918. Expressions by participants regarding the costs of war to veterans and their families were followed by a clear and concise explanation of the Kellogg-Briand Pact by Carol. In the tradition of decades of Armistice Day celebration, Carol led in the tolling of hand bells eleven times at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month.

On Monday 12 November, Mary Rose and Barbara Drageaux joined members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) as they rallied to challenge the unfair—even abusive—requirements imposed on the Post Office Department by Congress. We learned that more than 100 routes in the Portland area are “vacant,” meaning there is no permanent employee assigned to them. Only temporary employees have been hired in the past 5 years, only temporary workers, and some have been working that long as temporaries. After short, informative speeches by leaders and members of supportive unions as well as the postal workers we marched with drumming, chanting and many signs to the office of Senator Merkley.

Jim Hightower explained the issues last March: “Since 1971, the postal service has not taken a dime from taxpayers. All of its operations—including the remarkable convenience of 32,000 local post offices—are paid for by peddling stamps and other products...The postal service is NOT broke. Indeed, in [the past four] years, the service actually produced a \$700 million operational profit (despite the worst economy since the Great Depression. What’s going on here?...In 2006, the Bush White House whacked the post office with the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act—an incredible piece of ugliness requiring the agency to PRE-PAY the health care benefits not only of current employees, but also of all employees who’ll retire during the next 75 years...No other agency and no corporation has to do this. Worse, this ridiculous law demands that USPS fully fund this seven decade burden by 2016...

“Producing a profit is not the purpose of government—its purpose is service...In fact, the Post Office Department was considered such an important function of public affairs that it was explicitly authorized by the...Constitution. The founders would’ve laughed their wigs off had anyone proposed that the existence of such an essential civic agency be dependent on its profitability.” (*Hightower Lowdown*, March 2012)

The post office is a constitutionally mandated service. It must not be privatized for corporate profit. Please use its services. Most of all, please write members of Congress, urging them to correct the legislation that created these unnecessary problems!



JOIN or RENEW YOUR NATIONAL WILPF MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORT PORTLAND BRANCH

Name: _____ New Member: Renewal:

Address: _____

City State Zip+4: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes International, US Section, and Portland Branch (including emailed branch newsletter)

National membership annual dues, sliding scale, \$15 to \$150: \$ _____

Contribution to support Portland WILPF activities, including emailed newsletter: \$ _____

Contribution for receiving hard copy newsletter: \$ _____

Other _____: \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed: \$ _____

Send form & check, payable to WILPF, to **Portland WILPF, 1034 SW 13th Ave, Portland 97205-1702**

ABOUT YOUR WILPF MEMBERSHIP

from Anne McLaughlin, treasurer

Is your WILPF membership current?

If you didn't receive the *Fall 2012* issue of WILPF's *Peace and Freedom* magazine in late October, you are probably not a WILPF member. Please contact the national office (11 Arlington St, Boston MA 02116, www.wilpfus.org or 617-266-0999) or mail us the Portland Branch membership form with your dues (see above).

If you did receive your fall *Peace and Freedom* issue, its mailing label should include your membership type and its expiration date. National WILPF in Boston maintains all membership records, and lately it has not sent out the fall renewal reminders that we used to get. If your membership expiration date is past (or coming up), you can also use the above membership form to renew. If the expiration date on your mailing label is not what you think it should be, please contact the Boston office.

Contributions to support Portland WILPF activities do not include or imply WILPF membership, and are accepted from all supporters. Contributions to WILPF, including membership dues, are not tax-deductible, as WILPF is not a 501(c)(3) organization.

SAY NO TO COAL EXPORTS

Hearings for two of the five proposed coal export terminals will be held in early December. These hearings could be our best chance at stopping dirty coal exports through the Northwest.

HEARING FOR COLUMBIA RIVER COAL EXPORT PROPOSAL--Held by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for Ambre Energy's *Morrow-Pacific* proposal to export 8.8 million tons of coal per year. Thursday, December 6th, Rally at 5 pm, Hearing 6 – 9 pm; Ambridge Event Center, 1333 NE Martin Luther King Jr, Blvd, Portland

HEARING FOR COAL TRAINS THROUGH COLUMBIA GORGE AND SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON--Peabody and SSA Marine's *Gateway Pacific (Bellingham)* proposal: 54 million tons of coal per year. Wednesday, December 12th, Rally at 3 pm, Hearing 4-7 pm; Clark College Gaiser Student Center, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver.

Please wear red to demonstrate your opposition to coal exports. For more information visit www.powerpastcoal.org. You can also submit longer comments online.

- Morrow-Pacific DEQ comments due December 20th at 5 pm to fisher.mark@deq.state.or.us
- Bellingham EIS comments are due January 21st to comments@eisgatewaypacificwa.gov

MORE FROM 'YOUTH ENDING SLAVERY' [YES]

by Jane Morgan

Page 3 of Portland WILPF's November newsletter described the October 6 Walk to End Slavery that was organized by a new nonprofit organization, **Youth Ending Slavery**. YES was created last summer by five St Mary's Academy juniors to raise public awareness of basic facts about human trafficking—*modern slavery*.

Two of the founders, now seniors, came to our December 1 WILPF meeting: Allison Nasson, who started the organization, and Olivia Hinerfeld, who soon joined. Their website <http://www.youthendingslavery.org/> is updated weekly with a calendar and information on how to get involved. Expect to hear more from these young activists!

YES will hold a dance at Backspace Café on February 18, 2013, to raise funds for Athens House, a shelter for formerly sex-trafficked teens. Two bands have already volunteered to play at this event because they believe in the cause.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain...
 until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life."*

Jane Addams, 1892

2012 December/January 2013

Calendar/VIGILS

- * **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm** SW 5th & Hall, Beaverton. **Washington County Peace Vigil**
- * **Fridays, noon** Terry Shrunk Plaza. **WILPF Women in Black: Peace in the Middle East**
- * **Fridays, 4 pm** SW First and Madison on Hawthorne Bridge. **Weekly Anti-War Protest** lonevet2008@comcast.net
- * **Fridays, 5 pm** Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill and Broadway. **Portland Peaceful Response Coalition**
- * **Saturdays, noon to 1 pm** McLoughlin and Oak Grove Blvd., Milwaukie, Oregon. **Oak Grove Peace Vigil**

Thursday 6 Dec, 6-10 pm: DEQ Hearing on Ambre Energy's Morrow Pacific Coal Export Project

Rally at 5 pm, hearing begins at 6; Ambridge Event Center, 1333 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. The Morrow-Pacific would send nearly 9 million tons of coal down our Columbia River every year! This hearing could be our best shot at stopping this dirty coal project. More information at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/er/CoalExportProject.htm>

Thursday 6 Dec, 7 pm: Film, *The Wall Street Conspiracy*

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton Street, doors open 6:30. Walks the viewer through the illegal practice of Naked Short Selling, a process through which trillions of dollars have been stolen from hard-working Americans by selling them counterfeit stock that does not exist. Admission: \$6 general, \$4 student/senior (fundraiser for Alliance for Democracy). More information: David Delk, 503-232-5495, davidafd@ymail.com.

Saturday 8 Dec, 1-5 pm: Occupy Portland's Holiday Free Store

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church basement, 1131 SE Oak St. Come/contribute! Bring/get anything that would make a nice holiday gift, from tins of cookies to books or toys. Write a personal gift certificate for whatever you want to offer as a gift. Email freestorepdx@gmail.com for more information.

Monday 10 Dec, 5 pm: National Candlelight Vigil: Say NO to the Grand Bargain! Support Working People!

911 NE 11th Avenue, Senator Wyden's office. Join Jobs with Justice, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon Action, and Northwest Labor Council in a candlelight vigil to tell the senator: **1** End Bush tax cuts for the richest 2% **2** No cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid **3** No cuts to vital services for low income people. *It's National Human Rights Day!*

Monday 10 Dec, 7 pm: Documentary *The Healthcare Movie*, Canadian/American

The real story of how the healthcare system in Canada became universal through political struggle 50 years ago, while opponents have prevailed in the U.S. Your \$5 donation benefits Health Care for All Oregon, <http://hcao.org/>

Tuesday 11 Dec, 7 pm: Race Talks: Opportunities for Dialogue

Kennedy School Gymnasium, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, doors open 6 pm. This free series deals with race in Oregon, historically & presently. <http://www.mcmenamins.com/events/109498-walking-our-talk-a-chance-to-socialize>

Tuesday 11 Dec, 7 pm: Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Grace Paley's Birth

Watch the documentary video *Grace Paley: Collected Shorts* about this author, activist, & former WILPF member. Hear local writers read from her works at the Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton; admission and birthday cake are free. <http://cstpx.com/show/grace-paley-collected-shorts>

Wednesday 12 Dec, 4-7 pm: Public Hearing on Bellingham Coal Export Facility

Rally at 3 pm, hearing 4-7 pm; Clark College Gaiser Student Center, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. See page 3 for more information.

Saturday/Sunday 22/23 Dec 4 pm: Aurora Chorus *Calling My Children Home*

Two afternoon holiday concerts at 4, plus a Saturday evening concert at 7:30, Lincoln Hall, Portland State University. Tickets \$22 advance, \$25 door. <http://www.aurorachorus.org/>