

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Portland Branch, 1034 SW 13th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205-1702  
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## November 2012

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**Mary Bolton** - Devoted, conscientious, always reliable WILPF historian, Mary Bolton passed away Friday, October 26, 2012. Mary and her husband Chuck joined us fifty years ago when we were still Women for Peace, and Mary has been a key WILPF member since we became a Branch in 1963. Mary pushed us mercilessly on race relations, and she tended many aging WILPFers lovingly in their years of decline. Her memorial is at 2 pm November 17, West Hills Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Road.

**Update on Kaye Exo:** Released from 24/7 watch, she now requires daily check-ins from family and friends. She welcomes visits; please call first (503-284-3971).

**Carol Urner reports** she is recovering nicely after almost two weeks in Providence Hospital with pneumonia and atrial fibrillation. She thanks all who have called or taken over her tasks. She is happily alive and enjoying this new phase in the aging process.

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## RING THE BELLS FOR PEACE ON NOVEMBER 11 – ARMISTICE DAY

**On this Armistice Day**, November 11, 2012—celebrating the end of World War I—we invite you to join Veterans for Peace (<http://www.veteransforpeace.org/>) and other organizations, endorsed by WILPF Disarm/End Wars Committee, in an action to call for the end of the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to stop the potential war in Iran. We will be **tolling bells on November 11**, church bells or town hall bells or hand-held bells, in as many public places as we can find. While we are calling for our troops and planes to come home, we should **remind people that the U.S. signed a non-aggression treaty 84 years ago.**



**Remember the Kellogg-Briand Treaty?** At the end of World War I, most Americans rejected war as a way of solving international problems. Signed in 1928 by 15 major powers, this treaty was soon joined by 39 more states. The U.S. Senate voted 85 to 1 to ratify. The treaty renounced the use of war, promoted peaceful settlement of disputes, and called for collective force to prevent aggression. It remains a binding treaty under international law. Its provisions are also in the UN Charter. Although it has failed to end war, the treaty has served as a legal basis for international norms making it unlawful to threaten or use military force against the integrity or political independence of any state. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kellogg%E2%80%93Briand\\_Pact](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kellogg%E2%80%93Briand_Pact))

Legitimate self-defense was allowed under the treaty, but no wars of aggression, and nations were to settle their disputes without war. Although it has not always been respected, **the treaty has never been rescinded**, and it served as the legal basis for creating the notion of crimes against peace, first used at the Nuremberg Tribunal..

**Let's reclaim November 11 for PEACE and put an end to war!** Our government has renamed November 11 Veteran's Day, making it another celebration of the military and militarism. The US failure to join the rest of the world in the League of Nations helped sweep the Kellogg-Briand Pact under the rug. But now, despite frequent U.S. resistance, we have the United Nations, the World Court, the World Criminal Court, and a strong network of international laws building on Kellogg-Briand and other international agreements.

Carol Urner, Ellen Thomas, and Joan Bazar

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

## NOVEMBER HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS

### 64 Day Campaign for Human Rights – October 7 to December 10

The US Human Rights Network <http://ushrnetwork.org/content/campaignproject/64-day-campaign-human-rights> began this year's campaign on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Each week focuses on a different issue: Oct 7-13, Indigenous Rights; 14-20, Poverty; 21-27, State Repression; 28-Nov 3, Immigrant/Migrant Rights.

#### Sunday 11 November – More About Armistice Day

On November 11, 1918, the guns of the “War to End Wars” finally fell silent after more than 29,000,000 soldiers had been killed or wounded. For many years, churches rang their bells 11 times at 11 a.m. on November 11, as at the end of the war. After the Second World War, the dedication of Armistice Day to world peace was lost to public consciousness, and in 1954 Congress changed its name to “Veterans Day.” Veterans Day is a federal holiday, so students and some workers have the day off.

When Veterans Day falls on a Sunday, as it does in 2012, it is typically observed on the following Monday. We have the opportunity to use *both Sunday and Monday* for different kinds of observance.

Armistice Day will be observed with the traditional bell-ringing, as described on page 1. **Move to Amend** (<https://movetoamend.org/or-portland>), working for a constitutional amendment to end the legal fiction that corporations are persons and that money is speech, is an additional partner in restoring the Armistice Day tradition and its connection with the cause of world peace. Such an amendment is essential in the effort to abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

#### Monday 12 November – Veterans Day Holiday

This year, veterans are being honored on Veterans Day through A March to Save the Post Office. The event begins with a rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Veterans need jobs; they could be hired to fill postal vacancies. Some veterans already working for the postal service as “transitional” employees could move into career jobs with USPS. The rally cry is “No more cuts! No more closures!” After a march to 121 SW Salmon (outside Senator Merkley’s office), another rally will be held to *oppose* HR 2309 (Postal Reform Act of 2011) and *support* HR 3591 (DeFazio’s Postal Service Protection Act of 2011). <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas> can be used to find each of these bills by its number.

#### Sunday 25 November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

See <http://www.unwomen.org/infocus/16-steps-policy-agenda/> for the policy agenda of UN Women, the new UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women created 2 July 2010. It combines four former gender agencies: Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), International Research and Training Institute (INSTRAW) and the Office of Special Advisor on Gender Issues (OSAGI). Since September 2010 it has been headed by former Chilean President and physician, Dr. Michelle Bachelet. <http://www.unwomen.org/focus-areas/>

#### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

**November 25** also initiates sixteen days of activism to end violence against women and girls. The 2012 theme is “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World! Let’s Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women.” <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/2012-campaign/theme-announcement>

#### Human Rights Day

**December 10** is the official Human Rights Day and ends the observance of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. Human Rights Day 2012 marks the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, reflecting a significant change from the colonialism that prevailed at the time. <http://www.greeningtheblue.org/event/human-rights-day-10-december-2012>

## October 6 Events: 2012 WALK TO END SLAVERY

**WILPF's Barbara Drageaux** reported enthusiastically about this October 6 event at Director Park in downtown Portland, calling it "A rally that inspired this old activist!" Five St. Mary's Academy seniors shared basic facts about human trafficking—*modern slavery*—which disturbed them so much that last year they collected a group of their peers and created an actual nonprofit organization, **Youth Ending Slavery – YES**. See <http://www.youthendingslavery.org/> for event videos and information about the many forms of modern day slavery and actions we can take action to end it.

The event began with a brief talk by County Commissioner Diane McKeel. In recent months, Portland has made headlines as the second-worst city in the nation, a virtual hub for juvenile sex-trafficking. Commissioner McKeel gave information about Multnomah County's Community Response to Commercial Sex Exploitation of Children (<http://web.multco.us/csec/>), which coordinates the efforts of community members in reporting, investigation and prosecution of crimes; supporting appropriate legislation; and providing support services for survivors of sex trafficking.

After McKeel's talk, about 300 young people walked a one mile loop around downtown Portland, learning that slave labor, often by children, is used to produce many of the favorite brands they buy in local stores. <http://www.free2work.org/> provides a useful guide for conscientious buyers of brand-name products, based on an assessment of company policies, transparency, worker rights, risk data, and reported issues.

WILPF members and friends may not be aware that the UN established a Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (<http://www.ungift.org/>) in 2007. Sex-trafficking of children is the third largest criminal enterprise in the world, according to the FBI. The majority of victims are young people between 18 and 24, but an estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. YES is raising money to assist teens sheltered at **Athens House**, the only shelter for former sex-trafficked teens in Oregon. The five young women who founded YES plan to establish YES chapters at whatever colleges they attend.

## October 6/7 Events: OCCUPY PORTLAND, NOT AFGHANISTAN!

Two days of action under the banner "Occupy Portland, Not Afghanistan" drew the participation of hundreds of people on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The good-natured vibe of Saturday's rally in Shemanski Park bled into an energetic and focused march with stops at the Oregonian, City Hall, the "Occupy" Parks, and the Right2Dream Too camp in Old Town. Thanks to **Dan Handelman** for his detailed report.

At the rally, **Patchwork Family** and the **Raging Grannies** entertained with music as visitors circulated among literature tables and a birthday canopy for Occupy Portland. **Ani Haines** of KBOO hosted speakers marking 11 years since the invasion of Afghanistan: **Saba Ahmed** (Interfaith Council of Greater Portland) and **Karen Boyer** (Code Pink) on how drone warfare is making more enemies of the US in Pakistan and elsewhere; **Brian Willson** (Vietnam veteran, activist & author) and **Madelyn Elder** (Communications Workers of America), on better uses for the money now being spent on wars & occupations; **Charles Beshears** (Freedom Socialist Party) on US attacks on our constitutional rights; **Sindy Avila** on immigration policy changes; and **Ahjamu Umi** (Black Working Group) on achieving equal rights for all.

At its height, at least 500 people were in the streets. With another hundred or so in the park and folks coming in and out over the five hours, the best estimate is that at least 700 people were involved on Saturday. About 70 people attended the teach-in at Portland Community College's Cascade campus on Sunday, where two sets of 90-minute workshops were held during the afternoon. The ten workshop topics were listed on page 1 of the Portland WILPF October newsletter.

See the event's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/276171045822607> for pictures posted by participants. For pictures of the rally: <http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2012/10/418807.shtml>; of the march: <http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2012/10/418781.shtml>

The two articles below are based on presentations heard at Eliot Center, First Unitarian Church, on the evening of 12 October. Ret. Col. Ann Wright shared her speaking time with Trudy Cooper, who had just returned from Pakistan.

## THOUSANDS MARCH IN PAKISTAN IN PROTEST AGAINST DRONE WARFARE

Trudy Cooper was one of three Portlanders in the party of 30 men and women, ages 22 to 80, organized by Code Pink to join Pakistani politician Imran Khan and thousands of Pakistanis on this 230-mile march from Islamabad to South Waziristan, a region that has been particularly subject to American drone attacks for some time now. <http://www.codepink4peace.org/article.php?id=6174>

Trudy confessed to feeling apprehensive as their plane landed in Islamabad. A large crowd was there, chanting and waving signs; she soon realized that they were welcoming the American visitors. Indeed, this scene was repeated throughout her stay. Most people had never seen anyone from the U.S. They saw the visitors as their only hope, since their own government is “unable to stand up to the U.S.” It has done nothing to stop the drone strikes, which amounts to “implied consent” in the eyes of Pakistanis.

The march stopped short of entering the tribal areas when the Army turned Khan and his supporters away. Code Pink turned back even earlier, at Dere Ismail Khan (the last stop before South Waziristan), to avoid making the march a target of violence. Trudy believes the main outcome of their trip was raising public awareness of drone strikes. Her group visited the American ambassador in Islamabad and found that even he was not aware of the number of children killed till they showed him photos of pieces of clothing collected by survivors.

This month Medea Benjamin completes her book tour talking on Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control. <http://www.codepinkalert.org/article.php?id=6064> Code Pink may have been a marginal participant in the protest, but as one Pakistani protester told Khan, “They were older and traveled far to join us. They stood in solidarity with us in our fight against American drones.” <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2012/1008/Code-Pink-joins-Pakistani-political-party-in-anti-drone-protest> .

## FREEDOM FLOTILLAS and GAZA’S ARK

Ann Wright is a retired Army colonel and diplomat who participated in the 2010 and 2011 Freedom Flotillas which tried to break the Israeli blockade and bring humanitarian relief to Gaza. On 7 October 2012 the Swedish boat *Estelle*, flying a Finnish flag, carrying a full load of relief supplies, left Naples on its way to Gaza.

The Israeli navy seized the ship in international waters on 19 October and diverted it to Ashdod in southern Israel. The more than two dozen people on board, including six European and Canadian lawmakers, were taken into custody in Israel. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/oct/20/gaza-ship-estelle-israeli-forces>

Israel’s “Operation Cast Lead” left Gaza in ruins in early 2009, with its 1.7 million people essentially ‘imprisoned’ there. Under present conditions, Gaza will be uninhabitable by 2020. Lacking any water treatment plants, Gaza must dispose of 8 million gallons of raw sewage into the Mediterranean daily. The blockade limits fisherpeople to the polluted waters within 2 miles of shore. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/gaza-blockade/>

The ‘inside-out’ plan to overcome Israel’s blockade of Gaza. The people of Gaza themselves are not calling for aid. They want conditions under which they can use their skills in life-sustaining occupations. The Gaza’s Ark initiative is a response to this desire. Here is the initiative, shortened from <http://www.gazaark.org/>:

*Gaza’s Ark will recondition a boat [already] in Gaza, using Palestinian hands and expertise, with existing resources...[Doing so] will help revitalize the dwindling ship building industry in Gaza and help ensure the transmission of this disappearing expertise (another effect of the blockade) to the younger generations. Through Gaza’s Ark and trade deals secured between Palestinian producers in Gaza and international businesses and NGOs, a channel will be established to export Palestinian products from Gaza. A crew of internationals and Palestinians will sail it out of Gaza, the only Mediterranean port closed to shipping, carrying Palestinian products to fulfill trade deals with international buyers, to challenge the illegal...Israeli blockade.*

As Ann Wright told Portlanders on October 12, this strategy aims to break the Israeli naval blockade by **sailing forth from Gaza**. Should the ship be stopped, the Israelis will be opening themselves to a large number of civil lawsuits brought by international firms and individuals who expect to receive goods for which they have already paid!

**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 and check, payable to WILPF, to **Portland WILPF, 1034 SW 13th Ave, Portland 97205-1702**

**Members of WILPF:** Your *Peace and Freedom* address label includes your Member type and renewal date. If you haven't received the fall issue, probably you are not a current WILPF member. Call 617-266-0999 or mail us the above form.

**Remember to fill out and mail your Oregon ballot by the 3<sup>rd</sup>, or drop it off by the 6<sup>th</sup>!**

**AMY GOODMAN'S TALK IN PORTLAND, OCTOBER 25***by Natasha Beck*

*Democracy Now!* founder and executive producer Amy Goodman spoke at Portland's Bob White Theater during a 100-city tour to promote her book, *The Silenced Majority: Stories of Uprisings, Occupations, Resistance and Hope*, co-authored with Denis Moynihan. Released this fall, the book is number five on the New York Times bestseller list.



Goodman's tour began in August at the Republican National Convention and concludes November 17 in Los Angeles. She took us back to January 2011 by discussing the "globalization of dissent" manifested in huge demonstrations from Tahrir Square to Madison, Wisconsin, and in the growth of the world-wide Occupy Movement. She expressed concern about climate change, the death penalty, militarization of U.S. police, and violence against women. We heard stories from the tour about ways in which ordinary people can change the media and the world. She finds hope in the growth of independent community radio and television since the 1980s, when she started at WBAI-FM (Pacifica). *Democracy Now!* was carried on only a handful of stations when it began in 1996. It is now broadcast by 1118 stations around the world.

Goodman also highlighted her talented, hard-working staff, some of whom have risked their safety and liberty to provide independent, thorough coverage of news events ignored or trivialized by mainstream media. Like many of her appearances on this tour, the evening was a benefit for local community radio station KBOO-FM, which broadcasts *Democracy Now!* at 7 am and 4 pm weekdays. It can also be accessed at [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org).

*Links to some recent Democracy Now! stories:*

Drones in Pakistan: [http://www.democracynow.org/2012/9/26/study\\_finds\\_us\\_drone\\_strikes\\_in](http://www.democracynow.org/2012/9/26/study_finds_us_drone_strikes_in)

*The Color Purple*: [http://www.democracynow.org/2012/9/28/alice\\_walker\\_on\\_30th\\_anniv\\_of](http://www.democracynow.org/2012/9/28/alice_walker_on_30th_anniv_of)

Noam Chomsky hour: [http://www.democracynow.org/2012/10/26/who\\_owns\\_the\\_world\\_noam\\_chomsky](http://www.democracynow.org/2012/10/26/who_owns_the_world_noam_chomsky)

Climate Change: [http://www.democracynow.org/2012/10/29/bill\\_mckibben\\_on\\_hurricane\\_sandy\\_and](http://www.democracynow.org/2012/10/29/bill_mckibben_on_hurricane_sandy_and)

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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 November**  
**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, 5 pm** Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill and Broadway. **Portland Peaceful Response Coalition**
- \* **Fridays, 4 pm** SW First and Madison on Hawthorne Bridge. **Weekly Anti-War Protest** [lonvet2008@comcast.net](mailto:lonvet2008@comcast.net)
- \* **Saturdays, noon to 1 pm** McLoughlin and Oak Grove Blvd., Milwaukie, Oregon. **Oak Grove Peace Vigil**

**Saturday 3 Nov, all day: Actions Against Austerity: Resist Cuts, Strike Debt, Empower Communities**  
 Holladay Park, NE 12<sup>th</sup> & Multnomah. Rally at 1, march at 2. <http://www.portlandactionlab.org/>

**Monday 5 Nov on OPB Channel 10: Independent Lens series, Solar Mamas**

India's Barefoot College solar engineering program for women in poverty is making communities self-reliant.

**Wednesday 7 Nov, 7 pm: Film, The Invisible War, U.S. 2011**

NW Film Center, Human Rights on Film series. A powerful exposé about the shameful and underreported epidemic of rape within the U.S. military. <http://www.nwfilm.org/screenings/43/439/#2604>

**Thursday 8 Nov, 6:30 pm: Bill McKibben's 350.org "Do the Math Tour" in Portland**

A simulcast will be held at PSU's Smith Center Ballroom. <http://dothemathgeneralpublic.eventbrite.com/> for free tickets. *Main venue is sold out. Be sure to check for possible last minute changes in starting time.*

**Friday/Sunday, 9-18 Nov: 39<sup>th</sup> Northwest Film Festival at NW Film Center**

Displaying selected films submitted by regional filmmakers and a new feature, Fresh Film Northwest, by filmmakers ages 13-19. <http://festivals.nwfilm.org/nwfest39/>

**Sunday 11 Nov, 11 am: Eleven Bells for Peace**

WILPF, Veterans for Peace and Move to Amend revive an Armistice Day tradition of bell-ringing for peace (page 1)

**Sunday 11 Nov, noon to 3 pm: Local Artisans' Craft Show at Orenco Station**

Third annual show offering nuts, jams, knitwear, fresh holiday greens, fused glass, pottery, ornaments, cards, fluffy sheepskins, etc. Basement of UU church near MAX station, 22785 NW Birch Street, Hillsboro. Call 503-747-4042.

**Monday 12 Nov, noon to 2 pm: 'Veterans Day' Holiday March to Save the Post Office and Honor Veterans**

Rally begins at Pioneer Courthouse Square, with 12:30 march to Senator Merkley's office, rally 1 pm at 121 SW Salmon. Call National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 82, 503-493-5903 (or see page 2) for more information.

**Wednesday 14 Nov, 7-8:30 pm: The Grange – The Movement Overlooked**

Theresa Thorud, program director of the Washington-Yamhill Pomona Grange, talks on the Grange's 140-year history fighting for farmers and rural America. Room 236, Smith Center, PSU, 1825 SW Broadway

**Friday 16 Nov, 7 pm: Film, WE'RE NOT BROKE!**

How US corporations created an economic panic. Eliot Center, First Unitarian Church, SW 12<sup>th</sup> & Salmon. Donations.

**Sundays, 18 & 25 Nov, 10 pm: PBS Special, Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity**

Re-broadcast of parts 1 & 2 on KOPB TV. Authors Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn have also updated information about the women they interviewed for the program.

**Sunday 25 Nov to Monday 10 Dec: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence**

<http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/> Official site at Center for Women's Global Leadership. Also see page 2 here.

**Wednesday 5 Dec, 5:30-7:30 pm: 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program, UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Collins Hall, First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson. Free and open to all.