

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 March

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April 2013

Natasha Beck will have dental surgery on Friday, April 12, and could use some help. If you want to be part of her support team that day (help with food or transportation), please call her at 503-233-7324.

NEWS FROM CAROL URNER ABOUT **DISARM!/END WARS**

Portland branch member Carol Urner is preparing to travel to Washington, DC, for the **Alliance for Nuclear Accountability DC Days**, Sunday through Wednesday, April 14-17. She writes, "We learn much from these [visits to Congress, the Administration, and the Pentagon, which] also have potential...especially *re* [the] need for a nuclear weapons abolition treaty. **ANA is an important partner in our work for a nuclear free future.**

"We are seriously seeking someone to represent WILPF and **DISARM!/END WARS** in Geneva at the **Non-Proliferation Treaty review**, April 22-May 3....It would also be great if someone working passionately for nuclear abolition could go to the **Abolition2000 meetings in Scotland** April 13-19. Key emphasis is on shutting down the Trident base where British nuclear weapons submarines are stationed. Scotland will be voting on independence [in the autumn of 2014], and an aim of the Scottish parliament is to shut down the base, leaving Britain and the US no place to station US/British nuclear weapons. Activists see this as a giant step toward abolition."

The April e-news from WILPF national (www.wilpfus.org) was emailed April 5. It links you to resources for April 15 Tax Day and for the nationwide actions on drones throughout the month. It also links you to information on the first ever Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the UN on April 2. WILPF's Reaching Critical Will staff facilitated NGO input into the treaty-making process. (reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/) Go to wilpfus.org to subscribe to enews.

April 15 and Global Day against Military Spending: On this day, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute will announce the military spending figures for 2012. It is Tax Day in the US, a traditional day for awareness-raising actions focused on how much is devoted to military spending (about 37% of all federal income, excluding dedicated revenue trust funds like Social Security & Medicare; see www.fcni.org/12taxchart).

Public protests against US overseas drone campaigns: "The protests began on April 3 with a rally in New York, followed by 3 days of protest outside the facilities of companies that make drones, including at San Diego-based General Atomics which makes Predator and Reaper drones....Later in the month, protests will take place at universities and other institutions that conduct research supporting drones or help train drone pilots and operators. At the end of the month, rallies and demonstrations will target military bases in the US from where drones operate, including Hancock air base near Syracuse, New York." (Paul Harris, *The Guardian*) The group behind the effort is the *Network to Stop Drone Surveillance and Warfare*. Its April Days of Action are intended to forge a popular movement for an end to US drone warfare. <http://www.zcommunications.org/zspace/paulstreet>

Text of the Arms Trade Treaty: The treaty prohibits the sale of arms if there is a risk that the weapons could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law. WILPF's campaign to make prevention of gender-based violence legally binding in the treaty was successful. The final UN negotiating conference failed to adopt the text by consensus on March 28 because of objections from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the People's Republic of North Korea, and Syria. In response, more than 100 countries took the treaty text to the General Assembly, where it was successfully adopted on April 2.

*Deadlines: May newsletter articles by **noon Sat, April 27**; for May/June calendar items by **noon Tues, April 30.***

Send to wilfpdx@gmail.com.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING OF PORTLAND WILPF WILL BE ON SATURDAY 20 APRIL, 10 AM TO NOON, AT FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, SW 12TH AVENUE AND SALMON. BRING A BROWN BAG LUNCH!

“NAFTA ON STEROIDS,” also called the TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

The Obama administration is starting the 16th negotiating round for another corporate driven “free trade agreement.” The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is being *secretly* negotiated with 11 Pacific Rim nations, including Mexico, Canada, the United States, Chile, Peru, New Zealand, Australia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam. Because it includes the NAFTA nations, the Alliance for Democracy (www.afd-pdx.org/) is calling it “an expanding corporate bill of rights,” NAFTA on steroids.

Along with the trade representatives of these 11 nations, 600 corporate lobbyists are participating in writing, negotiating, rewriting, and commenting on the agreement. None of the 29 chapters have been released for the public to view, and even our congressional representatives are not allowed to read it. Senator Wyden, chairman of the Senate Committee on Trade, cannot see it. A letter calling for greater transparency, signed by 1/3 of Congress, says, “If Congress and the public are not informed of the exact terms of the agreement until the conclusion of the process, then any opportunity for meaningful input is lost. A trade agreement that cannot stand up to public scrutiny should not be negotiated in the name of U.S. citizens.”

Some text has been leaked. The Oregon Fair Trade Campaign (www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/oregon/) says that its implementation threatens to

- offshore jobs, reduce tax bases and increase austerity, while undercutting worker rights globally
- promote fossil fuel exports and hand corporations new tools for attacking environmental rules
- further deregulate Wall Street financial institutions
- prioritize corporate profits over indigenous rights
- destroy family farmers, force emigration and concentrate global food supplies into fewer hands
- block access to generic medications and limit freedom and innovation on the Internet

The Sierra Club (<http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2013/02/>) focuses its concern on the TPP’s effect on energy policy. “Currently, the U.S. enjoys a surplus of natural gas, which has driven down producer prices. Export of that surplus is seen by the industry as the solution, as they are in a ‘use it or lose it’ bind. Currently, export of natural gas is tightly controlled by the federal Department of Energy, but if the TPP agreement goes through, its likely provisions would prevent the U.S. from such restrictive enforcement rules, much to the joy of the industry. Suddenly, any restrictions on petroleum exports could vanish, and many Pacific Rim countries would be more than happy to buy what we couldn’t refuse to sell. The same situation would apply to other hydro-carbons, some of which, such as coal, we have in abundance.”

It will also further erode our democratic process, especially if Congress continues to give the president FAST TRACK AUTHORITY. Fast Track Authority has been used to enact almost all of the past so-called ‘free trade’ agreements. It allows the president to negotiate and sign an agreement *before* Congress is allowed to vote on it. Then Congress can have limited hearings but cannot debate or amend the agreement. *If Congress gives President Obama Fast Track Authority, they will get to vote only Yes or No.*

Alliance for Democracy and Citizens Trade Campaign are urging us to **call our US Representative and Senators**. Tell them you are concerned about the TPP and want to have a say on what is in it before the writing is complete. Tell them you want full democratic processes to apply in Congress and therefore *do not give the President Fast Track Authority.*

GET READY FOR NEXT TPP MEETING, VANCOUVER BC, IN JULY

Negotiators said they would negotiate in Vancouver BC in July, then they said “maybe.” They don’t want to give us advance notice. The location might be changed, but the timing is crucial. The Obama administration wants the TPP trade agreement completed in October.

If the negotiations do occur in BC, *we need to be ready to go there and mount a large public protest, as we did in Seattle in 1999 to help thwart talks on a World Trade Organization agreement.* The TPP’s environmental, social, and political significance will probably be greater than the WTO’s, since WTO expansion has stalled

It’s already April, so, let’s apply immediately for our passports (\$140) or passport cards (\$30), plus \$25 if it’s your first application. The government says it takes about 4 to 6 weeks to issue them.

***To organize together and get on an email list for ongoing information,
contact Jack Herbert, 971-205-2254, jharlanherb@gmail.com***

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 (all goes to National): \$ _____

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**

ROSALIE RIEGEL IN PORTLAND APRIL 30 – MAY 2

Rosalie Riegel, an oral historian, will be talking about her books, Doing Time for Peace and Crossing the Line: Nonviolent Resisters Speak Out for Peace. She interviewed 173 persons who had risked arrest, and sometimes long prison terms, in order to speak for nonviolence and against US militarism. Rosalie has been an activist for peace and nonviolence since meeting Dorothy Day in 1968.

After 33 years teaching English and Women's Studies at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan, where she published two oral histories of the Catholic Worker movement, she now lives in Evanston and continues her activism in the Chicago area. **Rosalie will be Portland WILPF's guest at a brown bag lunch on Wednesday, May 1, 12 to 2 p.m., at First Unitarian Church.** She is also speaking at PSU (Smith Memorial Union, room 294) 7-9 pm on Tuesday, April 30, and at First Unitarian's Eliot Chapel on May 1, 7 pm.

THOM HARTMANN TO SPEAK HERE APRIL 26

Thom Hartman, progressive author and talk show host, will give First Unitarian's Sewell Lecture: Speaking of Justice at 7 pm, Friday, April 26. His topic is "The Passage of the 28th Amendment: Corporations Are Not People, Money Is Not Speech." His presentation will be followed by a gathering of community-based organizations working for economic and social justice in Portland. Books and refreshments will be available. Doors at SW 12th Avenue and Main will be open at 6:30. Donations of \$5 to \$20 are requested.

Move to Amend has fostered the amendment now before Congress in order to "End Corporate Rule and Legalize Democracy." Its on-page text can be found at www.wethepeopleamendment.org.

Hartmann will speak on the same subject in Salem on April 27, 1 to 3 pm. This Saturday afternoon event will be at the Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE at Court.

COMMUNITY BILL OF RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Paul Cienfuegos and Cindi Fisher will talk about the Community Rights Movement at First Unitarian on Thursday, April 25, at 7 pm. Paul will talk about its development and goals. Cindi will explore the idea of a mental health bill of rights. See <http://paulcienfuegos.com/community-bill-rights-template-portland-oregon> for the draft ordinance the movement is proposing as a discussion-starter.

National WILPF has adopted a curriculum for "Challenging Corporate Power/Asserting People's Rights." It is based on the Democracy Insurgency Curriculum developed by the Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy (POCLAD). See <http://www.poclad.org/DemocracyInsurgencyCurriculum/> for PDFs of recent articles such as "Help! I've Been Colonized and Can't Get Up!" Cindi Fisher will begin a workshop using the WILPF curriculum on **Tuesday evening, April 30, 5:30 to 7 pm at the Vancouver Community Library, 901 C Street.** Cindi has some very flexible ideas about making this 10-week workshop accessible to Vancouver and Portland participants -- and on line.

REGISTER NOW FOR PORTLAND 2013 DEMOCRACY CONVERGENCE

Move to Amend is continuing its regional gatherings across the US in 2013. The Portland gathering, scheduled for May 3-6 at PCC's Cascade Campus, has extended its early registration deadline to April 8. Cost is sliding scale, and payment by April 8 gets you a free copy of the book Corporations Are Not People. To register, fill out the form at http://movetoamend.nationbuilder.com/portland_2013_convergence

GLENN GREENWALD ON DOMESTIC DRONES

adapted from <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/03/29-10>

The use of drones by domestic US law enforcement agencies is growing rapidly, both in terms of numbers and types of usage. As a result, civil liberties and privacy groups led by the ACLU, while accepting that domestic drones are inevitable, have been devoting increasing efforts to publicizing their unique dangers and agitating for statutory limits.

"US law enforcement is greatly expanding its use of domestic drones for surveillance," the ACLU tells us. "Unmanned aircraft carrying cameras raise the prospect of a significant new avenue for the surveillance of American life...Routine aerial surveillance would profoundly change the character of public life in America" because *only* drone technology enables such omnipresent physical surveillance.

Drones make war more likely precisely because they entail so little risk to the war-making country. It remains to be seen how Americans will react to drones constantly hovering over their homes and their children's schools, though by that point, their presence will be so institutionalized that it will likely be too late to stop.

JEFFREY SACHS THINKS 'LONG-TERM' ON THE ECONOMY

adapted from <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/01/opinion/>

Our underlying economic problems are chronic, not temporary; structural, not cyclical. To solve them, we need a systematic long-term approach.

Consider three priorities for this new, long-range perspective: **infrastructure, energy and job skills**. With a smart, ambitious strategy in these sectors we can encourage the creation of good jobs and begin to resolve huge problems of competitiveness and the environment.

Start with the country's crumbling infrastructure. President Obama has spoken eloquently about fast intercity rail, renovated highways, safe water systems and refurbished waterways and coastlines. He has called for a new public-private funding strategy for infrastructure. Yet the private money will move off the sidelines only when there are solid, long-term plans to deploy it. We need strategies that have a 10- to 20-year perspective.

The same goes for our energy system. Given the genuine and increasing impact of climate change, there is no longer any doubt that the world will have to fulfill its energy needs with low-carbon sources — whether solar, wind, nuclear or carbon-capture and sequestration. A clearly laid out program to support large-scale solar and wind energy, electric vehicles and other smart technologies — and backed partly by public money — would unlock hundreds of billions of dollars of private investments, secure our energy future and protect the environment.

The third area is job skills. Let's take a lesson from Germany, which boasts a low youth unemployment rate because of skills training. There, many young people gain a job foothold through an apprenticeship with a private company partly financed by the government.

If Mr. Obama were to stop angling for more temporary stimulus and instead put forward sound programs for job training, low-carbon energy and modernized infrastructure, he would most likely carry the public and eventually win the political battle.

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