

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

www.wilfpdx.org

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August 2013

TWO EVENTS on THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 1

The Grotesque Injustice of Guantánamo: An Insider's Account 7 pm, Buchan Reception area, First Unitarian Church. Speakers include Steven T. Wax, chief Federal Defender for the District of Oregon, who successfully defended Portland lawyer Brandon Mayfield; Laura Sandow, U.S. Navy veteran, who was serving at Guantánamo Naval Base when the first detainees were brought there in 2001-2002; and S. Brian Willson, former Viet Nam commander and long-time peace activist, who participated recently in a Portland hunger strike in solidarity with the Guantánamo hunger strikers. **Location & details in WILPF Calendar, page 5.**

The Almanac Trail Concert Tour with Rik Palieri and George Mann 7 pm, SEIU Hall
In the summer of 1941, a musical group of labor activists known as "The Almanac Singers" climbed into a midnight blue Buick and blazed a trail across the USA, spreading the gospel of unionism and bringing folk music back to the people. The group, with members Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Lee Hays & Mill Lampell, created a new kind of topical music, using old folk melodies to tell the stories of the times. The Almanacs' now almost-mythical journey has become an inspiration for legions of musicians, free thinkers, and gasoline gypsies, and has paved the road for many of today's singer/songwriters. Some seventy years later, with the help and guidance of Pete Seeger and The Woody Guthrie Archives, Rik Palieri and George Mann are recapitulating parts of the Almanac Trail tour. **Location and details on page 5.**

HIROSHIMA - NAGASAKI COMMEMORATION, TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

This year's program will feature the connection between Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, WA, AND the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki. The "Fat Man" atomic bomb detonated over Nagasaki by the U.S. military on August 9, 1945, contained plutonium created at Hanford, now one of the most contaminated places on earth. The 6 to 7 pm program at the Japanese American Historical Plaza will be followed (8 to 9 pm) by a special art exhibition at Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Avenue. **More information on page 5.**

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES with WILPF PDX

At the July 13 annual branch meeting, members were again urged to choose and report on one of the seven National Issue Committees. We now have members keeping in touch with activities of three of these committees: Carol Urner for Disarm/End War; Lucinda Tate for Advancing Human Rights; and David Delk for Corporations and Democracy. We still need someone keeping us informed from month to month about activities of the committees on Building the Beloved Community (BBC), Earth Democracy; Middle East; and Cuba + Bolivarian Revolution. Natasha Beck keeps us closely informed on events and information from Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC). We also need a liaison to the UN group called Peace Women and a representative to International Board Reports.

No business meeting of Portland WILPF will be held on August 24. WILPF members will be taking part in the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington; see Calendar for event details. Send items for the next newsletter to wilfpdx@gmail.com by August 29.

PACIFIC NW SAYS NO TO FOSSIL FUEL EXPORTS!



Hundreds gathered on Saturday, July 28, for the Columbia River Climate Action organized by www.portlandrisingtide.org at Vancouver Landing on the west side of the I-5 bridge. After workshops 10:30-noon and rally speakers 12:30-2:30, boaters embarked in kayaks while pedestrians lined the west side of the bridge with signs, banners, and chants. Kayakers paddled against the current to stay in place while climbers maneuvered to position and display our message to corporations aspiring to export fossil fuels to Asia through Pacific ports:

**COAL OIL GAS
NONE SHALL PASS**

AMERICANS WHO TELL THE TRUTH

Visit the website <http://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/> to see Robert Shetterly's recent portrait of **Edward Snowden**, just added to his gallery of exemplary men and women. You can also see it at <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/07/18-15>, along with Shetterly's essay on Snowden.

The International Peace Bureau (IPB) will award this year's Sean MacBride Peace Prize to **Bradley Manning** for his courageous actions in revealing information about US war crimes. This prize has been awarded each year since 1992 by IPB, which was founded in 1892. Previous winners include: Lina Ben Mhenni (Tunisian blogger) and Nawal El-Sadaawi (Egyptian author) in 2012, Jackie Cabasso (USA, 2008), Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka, 2007) and the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (2006). www.ipb.org

AUGUST IS NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE MONTH

by Carol Urner

We in WILPF **Disarm/End Wars Issue Committee** are working with United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) to develop the website <http://nuclearfreefuture.org>. We hope you will help us keep its [resources](#) page updated for use in August and throughout the year.

WILPF **Reaching Critical Will** staff helped develop this urgent petition to President Obama: <http://www.nuclearfreefuture.org/2013/07/07/tell-president-obama-the-time-is-right-and-the-world-is-ready-to-negotiate-the-elimination-of-nuclear-weapons>. You can sign it NOW. Let's tell President Obama, "*The time is ripe, and the world is ready to negotiate nuclear weapons abolition now!*" Obama needs to know that he has a significant constituency for a nuclear free future and an actual abolition treaty.

After you've signed the petition to President Obama, three more petitions bearing on abolition of nuclear industry projects can also be signed on line. You'll find links to their websites on the back of this page. It's easy to add your voice to the outcry for a nuclear free future.

And we can do much more. We now have two powerful U.S. Conference of Mayors Resolutions calling for global nuclear disarmament by 2020 and transfer of funds to meet the needs of cities. We also have, for the first time, legislation in Congress that seeks abolition by 2020. We should be able to promote all three together—and use them to inform, educate, and help achieve our goal.

In their 2012 resolution, the U.S. Conference of Mayors called for abolition by 2020 (see http://www.usmayors.org/resolutions/80th_Conference/international08.asp). The 2013 resolution can be downloaded at <http://wsifweb.org/docs/uscmres2013.pdf>. And let's all promote HR 1650, introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. She adds, as does WILPF (<http://wilpfus.org/story/promote-norton%E2%80%99s-hr-1650>) the phasing out of nuclear power and the transfer of saved federal funds to dismantlement and human security. All House members will visit their home districts in August, an excellent time to schedule a meeting with those representatives most likely to become co-sponsors.

In WILPF we believe abolition is urgent, and the dangers to our own and future generations posed by the whole nuclear chain increase that urgency. The entire nuclear industry—from uranium mining to enrichment to nuclear power to proposed MOX fuel to weapons production to depleted uranium and nuclear waste with nowhere to go—is a devil's bargain that is already destroying our planet as nurturer of life.

The plutonium and cesium already produced by the nuclear industry during the past 70 years will continue to cause cancers, mutations and destruction of species for many thousands of years, probably long beyond the continued existence of human life on earth. Strontium-90 and tritium have shorter half-lives but nonetheless cause great damage while they last, with women and their reproductive systems 50 per cent more susceptible than men, and with children and unborn fetuses the most vulnerable of all. And the planet itself – the air, soil, rivers and seas – is threatened by radioactive nuclear waste with nowhere to go. WILPF members are working tirelessly to end the dangers that most threaten their own nearby environment, even as we strive to abolish the weapons of death which are their source.

These most powerful, terrifying and destructive weapons of war have been a **Faustian bargain** from the beginning. Those who have developed and used (or threatened to use) them to gain wealth, power, and dominion threaten us all with extinction and appear to have lost their own souls—their capacity for love and compassion—in the process. For their sakes as well as our own we must help them see the urgent need to abolish these nuclear weapons now. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/sg5point.shtm>

BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS NOW! Sign the Trash the Bomb Treaty.

Shall we be Stupid or Safe? A video was posted at the launch of this global petition from I-Can (IPPNW and PSR); you can watch it at this link: <http://peaceandhealthblog.com/2013/05/16/stupid-or-safe>. Sign the petition to ban the bomb now, while we continue to press the nine nuclear powers to support a necessary comprehensive nuclear weapons abolition treaty. Background information and another chance to sign the petition is at <http://www.icanw.org/why-a-ban/the-case-for-a-ban-treaty/#.UfmWhtld51s>

UPHOLD THE BAN ON URANIUM MINING IN THE GRAND CANYON! DON'T ALLOW CANADIANS TO MINE THERE!

SIGN this Working Assets petition on another very bad idea supported by the nuclear industry. Uranium mining is already banned in this precious national park, but a Canadian mining company has been granted an exception. You can read and sign the petition at http://act.credoaction.com/sign/grand_canyon

You can also read the National Geographic editorial on this mine at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/13/130520-grand-canyon-uranium-mine-native-americans-roosevelt>

STOP THE GREAT LAKES NUCLEAR DUMP

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.html>

This is another *bad idea* project promoted by the US and Canadian nuclear industries. The Dump will extend underground to **approximately 400 meters from the Lake**. Some of this nuclear waste remains toxic and lethal for over 100,000 years. **Approval is anticipated within 6 months. *This dump puts at risk the fresh water of the GREAT LAKES, relied upon by 40 million people in two countries.***

August 2013 WILPF Calendar

VIGILS

- * **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm** SW 5th & Hall, Beaverton. **Washington County Peace Vigil**
- * **Fridays, 4 pm** SW First and Madison on Hawthorne Bridge. **Weekly Anti-War Protest** lonevet2008@comcast.net
- * **Fridays, 5 to 6 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**

EVENTS

[see www.Trimet.org to find public transportation to all these locations]

Thursday 1 August, 7 pm: The Grotesque Injustice of Guantánamo: An Insider's Account

Buchan Reception Area, First Unitarian Church, 1226 SW Salmon Street. An examination of the illegality, immorality, and inhumanity of the U.S. Naval Detention Center at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, presented by experts with intimate knowledge of conditions there. Co-sponsored by Veterans for Peace and the Social Justice Council and Economic Justice Action Group at First Unitarian. For more information, see Newsletter page 1.

Thursday 1 August, 7 pm: Almanac Trail Concert Tour, Rik Palieri and George Mann
SEIU Local 49, 3536 SE 26th Ave (south of Powell). The Almanac Trail will be like an old-fashioned "Hootenanny"—an evening of history, music and fun for all generations! See article on page 1.

Friday - Sunday 2 - 4 August: 6th Annual Northwest Permaculture Convergence

Pacific University campus, Forest Grove. Theme: "Hands on! Where We Live." Pacific U and The B Street Permaculture Project will host hands-on workshops, lectures, children's activities, live music, vendors, films and demos all three days. www.northwestpermaculture.org

Tuesday 6 August, 12-2 pm: Robert Blunt on Get Oregon's Money Back; Michael Moore on Homeless Bill of Rights

Grace Presbyterian Church, NE Prescott & Cully Blvd. East Side Democratic Club meeting; all are welcome. Potluck lunch at 11:30. Blunt talk deals with money lost through LIBOR bank cheating. Moore is with Right To Dream Too (R2D2). www.afd-pdx.org/communityevents

Tuesday 6 August, 6–7 pm: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, & Hanford: A Tragic Connection

Japanese American Historical Plaza, north end of Waterfront Park, Naito Parkway at Couch St. Exploring Hanford's connection to the bombing of Nagasaki and highlighting the lethal cycle of nuclear weapons from production to actual use. Concluding with a 3-block walk to see two special art exhibitions on the 1945 bombings, at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave. <http://www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/events/hiroshima-nagasaki-and.html>

Saturday 10 August, 2 pm: Medicare Birthday Celebration

Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 NE 40th Ave. Refreshments and entertainment. Tom Chamberlain, AFL-CIO president will speak. Theme: Protect and support Medicare, work for Medicare for All. Sponsored by activists from at least ten local organizations.

Tuesday 13 August, 7 pm (doors open 6 pm): Race Talks: Micro-aggressions: Small Things Can Hurt

McMenamins Kennedy School Gymnasium, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue. Monthly dialogues on race in Oregon, both historically and up to the present time. Free; food available for purchase. Minors welcome with parent or guardian.

Friday 16 August, 7 pm: Claire Conner, "Wrapped in the Flag: A Personal History of America's Radical Right"

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Salmon. Claire's parents were among the first members of the John Birch Society; they forced her to join it at age 13. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy and the Economic Justice Action Group. \$5-\$20 donation, no one turned away.

Sunday 18 August, all day: 2013 Portland Century Bike Tour

Portland State University, 1791 SW Park, behind Smith Hall (SW Montgomery & SW Park). Scenic routes, well organized and supported, great food and finish line festival. Advance registration ends August 16; www.portlandcentury.com. Children can participate, also non-riding guests and volunteers.

Saturday 24 August: 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington

10 am, March begins from Terry Shrunken Plaza, 1200 block of SW 3rd Avenue.

1 pm, Rally, speakers and music at South Waterfront Park. The 1963 March on Washington brought us the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Sponsored by Albina Ministerial Alliance for Justice and Peace Reform, joined by many other local organizations. <http://www.afd-pdx.org/community-events.html>

Sunday 25 August, 10am–noon: JMJ Trio Sings Labor, Women, & Malvina Reynolds ditties

Anna Bannanas, 2403 NE Alberta. Jane Keefer, Mary Rose & Jim Cook perform here on the fourth Sunday of every month. Food available for purchase. Phone 503-274-2559.

Wednesday 28 August, 7 pm: Summer of Solidarity Tour (Anne Feeney and others)

Location TBA. Union activists and musicians support local struggles and connect them with the broader struggle against corporate power. See www.summerofsolidarity.org to find out who's on the tour and what workshops can be scheduled for the Portland stop.