

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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December 2013–January 2014

REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER WILPF BUSINESS MEETING

Five members attended the branch meeting on the early afternoon of November 16. Lucinda Tate replaced Jill Severson who has stepped down as convener.

Managing branch business this winter: Holly Hansen will collect branch mail from the WILPF mailbox in the First Unitarian Church office when the church office is open and move it to the WILPF office, where Anne will review it. Lucinda and Holly will log incoming phone calls and pass along information that requires a response.

Assisting Rep. Blumenauer's program advocating public and congressional support for HR 1506, the SANE Act: Portland WILPF is joining Oregon PSR (Physicians for Social Responsibility) in helping Blumenauer promote the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act, intended "to reduce the number of nuclear-armed submarines operated by the Navy, to prohibit the development of a new long-range penetrating bomber aircraft, to reduce the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles operated by the Department of Defense." [See www.thomas.gov for details and text.] Blumenauer wants our help in planning a public forum on the SANE act in Portland early next year.

Next Meeting: There will be no business meeting in December. During early 2014 our business meetings will be held on the third Saturday of each month, 1 to 3 p.m.

WILPF US COMMITMENTS FOR 2014

1. Engaging as many WILPF members as possible in supporting the Nuclear Abolition Treaty. It currently has the endorsement of 125 UN member states—but not of the US.
2. Participating in and financially supporting a hemispheric Women, Peace, and Security strategy meeting in Bogota, Colombia.
3. Emphasizing intergenerational mentoring during the next 3 years as we strengthen our programs for involving students and WILPF branch members in Advocacy at the UN.

See highlighted text above re: HB1506 to learn how Portland WILPF is working on commitment #1. See article on page 2 for information on Cuba related to #2. For information related to #3, see <http://wilpfus.org/about/2013-un-practicum-advocacy>. Sometime during 2014, applications for the March 2015 programs will become available.

The next business meeting of Portland WILPF will be Saturday, January 18, from 1 to 3 pm in room A301 of the First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue and Salmon. Join us at noon for a brown bag lunch before the meeting. Enter through the breezeway mid-block between Salmon & Main; the building is unlocked 11:45—12:15 and 12:45—1:15.

Submit articles for the February newsletter to wilfpdx@gmail.com by January 22, calendar items by January 25.

WILPF MEMBERS SPEAK TO GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY CLASSES

by Natasha Beck

On November 11, Lucinda Tate and I gave presentations for two Global Issues classes for seniors at George Fox University in Newberg, OR. The first class was videotaped for use at the university. Lucinda gave excellent handouts with her overview of the history and current work of WILPF, including work toward ending human trafficking and toward Congressional ratification of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps).

I discussed the historical and contemporary status of women in Cuba, after showing the trailer for the film MAESTRA (www.maestrathefilm.org) about the Cuban literacy brigades of the early 1960s. WILPF is promoting the showing of this film and has just co-sponsored a 10-day delegation to Cuba, November 22-December 1, to participate in the VII International Conference on "Women in the 21st Century". <http://www.womenandcuba.org/>

Overall, I feel our time was well-spent, and we provided the students much food for thought. Prof. Paul Otto told us we were better prepared than some speakers in the quarter's series of weekly classes, and two students thanked us for our longtime activist commitments.

ARMISTICE DAY VFP/WILPF RALLY AT PIONEER SQUARE

Portland's Veterans for Peace Chapter 72 members led the rally on Veteran's Day to commemorate the armistice signed on 11 November 1918. VFP continues the traditional Armistice Day celebration in order to proclaim the continuing desire for a world without war.

Holly Hansen heard Lucinda Tate speak at the rally. Holly says she was moved to tears by Lucinda's words about her family's veterans. Here's Lucinda's brief summary of what she said:

A PEACEFUL RESPONSE TO FAMILY VETERANS

A reflection by Lucinda Tate on behalf of her brother Bobby

My dilemma in my family is that I do not believe in war but support my family members who are veterans—father in WWII, brother in Korean War, and brother in Viet Nam. I made a commitment to work for peace in my own life and not discuss the pros or cons of war with my military family members. It was very hard not to express my views when I saw the lies told by the government and social media concerning the reasons why the US was sending troops to the various military campaigns. Now, this year, on January 13, 2013, my last remaining family military member has gone to his final resting place, and I am free of my promise to not speak up against military involvement in countries that have not asked for and do not want our involvement in their internal conflicts. We should be the peacemakers of the world instead of the global police. I respect all veterans for their unselfishness, and I support the work of the Veterans for Peace. Peace be with each and every one of you. Thank you.

DECEMBER 10 IS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

December 10, 2013, is also the 20th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. On this Human Rights Day, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York will join the international movement to call for the release of Nestora Salgado, a brave indigenous woman and naturalized US citizen who has been in prison in Mexico since August 21. Her crime was helping people in her Mexican home town form a community police force to protect themselves from violent drug traffickers, criminal gangs, and unscrupulous officials. Join the 11 to 1 protest at the Mexican Consulate, 1305 SW 12th Ave at Morrison.

WILPF SUPPORTS ACTION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

United Methodist Women (UMW), a faith organization with 800,000 members, is engaged in a campaign to raise awareness of the increased human trafficking activities associated with the Super Bowl. The Human Trafficking Subcommittee of WILPF's issue committee on Advancing Human Rights (AHR) will support this campaign in early 2014. Local actions of distributing flyers and postcards in January will be followed by a main action of leafleting at the Super Bowl site in East Rutherford, NJ, on February 2, 2014. To find out about UMW actions at last year's Super Bowl, see <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/act/alerts/item/index.cfm?id=1001>.

Lucinda Tate is on the National WILPF AHR issue committee, and she reports that information, flyers and postcards will be on the WILPF website www.wilpfus.org in January.

CONGRESS MAY VOTE ON U.S. - AFGHAN SECURITY AGREEMENT

Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Barbara Lee are trying to mobilize antiwar sentiment to force an up-or-down vote on the Afghan agreement. "The possibility of a military presence into 2024 is unacceptable," says Lee. "There is no military solution in Afghanistan. After thirteen years and more than \$778 billion invested in an unstable country and the corrupt Karzai government, it's time to bring our troops and tax dollars home."

"Americans concerned about endless war in Central Asia ought to let members of Congress and the White House know that what's working with Syria and Iran ought to work for Afghanistan too," writes Bob Dreyfuss (<http://www.thenation.com/article/177388/block-us-afghan-security-agreement>).

SPEAK YOUR MIND ON NEW "WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT"

We need a federal law that protects a woman's access to all reproductive health care services, including abortion, and stops politicians from interfering in personal, private medical decisions.

S 1696, the Women's Health Protection Act of 2013, was introduced by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D. Conn) on November 13. It has 32 co-sponsors, including both senators from Oregon. The same bill, introduced as HR 3471, has 77 co-sponsors in the House, including only Blumenauer and DeFazio from Oregon to date. According to the Huffington Post, "Blumenthal's bill wouldn't automatically overturn states' anti-abortion laws, but because federal law trumps state law, it would provide a means to challenge them in court. The bill would direct judges to consider certain factors in determining whether a restriction is legal, such as whether it interferes with a doctor's good-faith medical judgment, or whether it's likely to interfere with or delay women's access to abortion."

The bill is pending committee action in both houses. Let your voice be heard!

THE SAFE SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT ACT of 2013

Many state laws prohibit school-based bullying, but some do not explicitly cover harassment of LGBT students. Harassment or bullying based on sexual orientation is not covered under civil rights laws. To ensure that schools take action to demonstrate their commitment to the wellbeing of all students, the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA) would require that states and school districts develop comprehensive anti-bullying and harassment policies that include all students. Go to www.thomas.gov to follow the progress of S 403 in the Senate and HR 1199 in the House, and urge your members of Congress to support it.

December 2013 – January 2014 WILPF Calendar

VIGILS HELD REGULARLY

- * **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 Blvds., Milwaukie, Oregon. **Oak Grove Peace Vigil**

EVENTS

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

Wednesday 4 December, 7 pm: A History of Free Trade Agreements—Dispossession and Resistance

PCASC office, 2249 E. Burnside. As global elites seek to push through the immense and secretive “Trans-Pacific Partnership” (TPP), it is an important time to look back at the history of other free trade agreements—from NAFTA to CAFTA to the creation of the WTO to the dozens of bilateral agreements imposed in the past 20 years. How have people dealt with the material consequences of “free trade”? What forms has resistance taken? What does effective resistance look like now? Sponsored by Portland Central America Solidarity Committee.

Thursday 5 December, 7-9 pm: Video & Discussion, “Growthbusters: Hooked on Growth”

Multnomah Friends Meeting House, 4312 SE Stark St. In 94-minute video, one man takes on City Hall, Wall Street, and the Pope as he questions society’s most fundamental beliefs about prosperity. Free showing sponsored by Occupy Portland Elder Caucus, donations appreciated. Discussion follows this “amazing rebuke of capitalism.” <http://www.growthbusters.org>

Saturday 7 December, 2-4 pm: Community Forum on the Trans-Pacific Partnership

First Unitarian Church, Eliot Chapel, 1011 SW 12th Ave. Local community leaders share their perspective on how the TPP will threaten democracy, labor, and the environment. Then join a breakout group and create a plan of action to defeat the TPP. Sponsors: Economic Justice Action Group of First Unitarian; Oregon Free Trade Campaign; Portland Jobs with Justice.

Tuesday 10 December, 11 am to 1 pm: Call for Release of Nestora Salgado

Mexican Consulate, 1305 SW 12th Ave. Nestora, a naturalized US citizen and indigenous rights leader, is a political prisoner in Mexico for helping residents of her home town in the state of Guerrero exercise their legal rights. More in Human Rights Day article, page 2.

Tuesday 10 December, 6:30-9:30 pm: No Nukes NW Forum on Nuclear Madness

First Unitarian Church, Eliot Chapel, 1011 SW 12th Ave. We all need to become informed on how radiation from Fukushima, Hanford, and the Columbia Generating Station is affecting us in the northwest. Speakers will include Lloyd Marbet, Charles Johnson, Leslie March, and Dan Serres. <https://www.facebook.com/events/195630960623695/>

Note: No WILPF Meeting or Race Talks in December; see below for January.

Friday 13 December, 9 am to 4 pm: Food Matters Training: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Healthy Food Policy

Kaiser Town Hall, 3704 North Interstate Avenue. Designed to introduce a clinical audience (physicians, nurses, and other community health professionals) to issues related to our current food system and human health. Hands-on training to advocate for healthy food systems as part of a prevention-based agenda in public policy. Event flyer can be found at www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/healthy-food-in-healthcare/food-matters-flyer.pdf. Fee \$50.

Saturday 14 December, 7 pm: Scrooge of the Year Award

Peace House, 2116 NE 18th Ave at Tillamook (97212). Portland Jobs with Justice invites you to vote for your favorite corporate scrooge of the year; bring money to “buy” votes. Entertainment and refreshments. www.jwjpdx.org

Saturday 14 December, 7:30 pm; and Sunday 15 December, 4 pm: Aurora Chorus Winter Concert, "Simple Gifts"

First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Ave. With special guests, Madrona Viola Duo. Tickets: \$22 - 30 advance, \$25 (general, at the door). www.AuroraChorus.org

Monday 16 December, 7 to 9 pm: David Swanson on Abolition of War

Laughing Horse Books, 12 NE 10th Ave at Burnside. Swanson will discuss and sign copies of his new book, War No More: The Case for Abolition. He is the host of [Talk Nation Radio](http://TalkNationRadio.com), Secretary of Peace in the [Green Shadow Cabinet](http://GreenShadowCabinet.com), and has written several previous widely acclaimed books.

Thursday 19 December, 7:30 am to 8:30 am: Breakfast Club Meeting/Forum, The Trans-Pacific Partnership

Tom's Restaurant, SE 39th Ave & Division. David Delk, President of the Alliance for Democracy, will address the impact of past "free trade" agreements and how and why we should oppose the TPP. Question & answer period will follow. www.afd-pdx.org

Sunday 22 December, 10am–noon: JMJ Trio Performing at Anna Bannanas

2403 NE Alberta. Jane Keefer, Mary Rose & Jim Cook sing and play labor, protest, old-time & love songs for people's tips & delight. Lots of singing along, whistles, dancing, friendly talk, good food & drink. Phone 503-274-2559.

Tuesday 7 January, 6:30 to 8:30 pm: Race Talks2: I CAN FIX IT: Five Things White People and Five Things People of Color Can Do to Stop Racism

Jefferson High School, 5210 N. Kerby Ave between Killingsworth and Alberta in the cafeteria. Speakers: Educators Linea King and Paula Dennis. Free. This second Race Talks series is on the first Tuesday, monthly, at Jefferson.

Tuesday 14 January, 7 to 9 pm: Race Talks: NO MORE PUSHOUTS! Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline

McMenamins Kennedy School Gymnasium, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue. Doors open at 6 pm. All ages are welcome. Free; food available for purchase.

Saturday 18 January, 3 to 5 pm: General Meeting of 350 PDX

Multnomah Friends Meeting House, 4312 SE Stark Street. 350 PDX is the Portland-area, all-volunteer chapter of 350.org. Like 350 groups across the world, we work for climate awareness, climate justice, and climate action—and we'd like your help. Gather with us to build this movement! We welcome all who are committed to our mission.

Saturday 18 January, noon brown bag; 1pm WILPF Business Meeting

See page 1 for location, more info.

Thursday 23 January, 7 pm: History of the Gay Press in Portland

Portland State University, room TBA. History of Social Justice Organizing presents a panel (Judith Barrington, Rupert Kinnard, Renee LaChance) examining the power of the GLBT press to inform and celebrate the Portland gay community's history. info@occupyhistory.org

Sunday 26 January, 10am–noon: JMJ Trio Performing at Anna Bannanas

2403 NE Alberta. Jane Keefer, Mary Rose & Jim Cook sing and play labor, protest, old-time & love songs for people's tips & delight. Lots of singing along, whistles, dancing, friendly talk, good food & drink. Phone 503-274-2559.

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