

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

[www.portland.wilpf.org](http://www.portland.wilpf.org)

Georgia Pinkel, convener for February

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

Phone: 503-595-9393

Email: [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com)

Co-editors: Celeste Howard, Natasha Beck



---

*February 2013*

---

### WANTED – WEBSITE HELP

We are no longer able to update our current website, and we need guidance. We may need to hire someone local to help us with this project. Please send your suggestions and recommendations to [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com). Thanks!

### CELEBRATING SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S BIRTHDAY

Portland WILPF will hold a Subversi Tea in honor of Susan B. Anthony on **Friday 15 February** from 4:30 to around 6 at the First Unitarian Church – room unknown at this time. Bring a story, poem, song, or just yourself, and join with us in making merry! If you can help with planning, call Mary Rose (503-230-2835).

### POSTCARDS ON POLICY PROJECT

We have a stunning new version of our local postcards, and each of the 8 WILPFers present at the January meeting received ten of them. Georgia suggests that we send a card to each of our Congress persons on each policy action proposed by the current administration that bears on the agenda of a WILPF Issue Committee.

Georgia suggested that we all start with a thank you card to Senator Merkley for his work toward modifying the Senate filibuster rules. Next, we can tell our senators and representatives how we feel about gun violence and legislation to reduce it. We can write on immigration reform after we hear more about the proposed legislation.

If you would like set of postcards and can't make it to a WILPF meeting, send a message to [glpinkel@gmail.com](mailto:glpinkel@gmail.com), and Georgia will find a way to get them to you in a timely fashion. When you have suggestions about issues to address and/or positions to recommend, send them to Georgia or to our e-mail address: [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com).

### JANUARY REPORT from U.S. WILPF ISSUE COMMITTEES

**Advancing Human Rights:** Prepared a WILPF Policy Statement on Human Trafficking. Now forming a subcommittee on **CEDAW**, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. You can download WILPF's CEDAW statement at [www.wilpfinternational.org/statement-elimination-and-prevention-of-all-forms-of-violence-against-women-and-girls/](http://www.wilpfinternational.org/statement-elimination-and-prevention-of-all-forms-of-violence-against-women-and-girls/). Also preparing a WILPF statement of support for **Idle No More**, the global movement for environmental protection and indigenous sovereignty initiated by Canada's First Nations.

**Corporations versus Democracy:** Move to Amend (MTA) subcommittee is pushing for state ballot initiatives in Oregon, Washington, California and six other states, affirming that corporations are not persons and money is not speech (<https://movetoamend.org/>).

**Cuba, Women, and the Bolivarian Revolution:** Planning for the **UN CSW** (Commission on the Status of Women) annual meeting <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/csw-forum-2013/> in New York on March 5, and arranging US tours by Cuban speakers, Norma Guillard and Norma Vasallo.

**Disarm/End Wars:** See page 3 for Carol Urner's report about the **new campaign for a nuclear weapons abolition treaty by 2020**. Other goals: **Eliminating** nuclear power, uranium mining, and military use of depleted uranium; **ending** the use of weaponized drones in warfare and in extrajudicial assassinations; **dismantling** the war economy and shifting spending from the Pentagon to the people.

**Middle East:** Preparing a WILPF **BDS** (Boycott, Divest & Sanction) campaign against products made in illegal Israeli settlements in the Palestinian occupied territories. Urging all WILPF branches to join the **US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation**, of which US WILPF is already a member (<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/>).

---

**NEXT MEETING OF PORTLAND BRANCH WILPF WILL BE ON SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 10 AM TO NOON,  
AT FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, SW 12<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE AND SALMON. BRING YOUR BROWN BAG LUNCH!**

## HUNGER & POVERTY PROGRAMS STILL AT RISK

Hunger and poverty programs are still on the table, as Congress tries to finish work on the 2013 budget by March 27. Advocacy organizations like Bread for the World ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)) have been on the defensive since 2009 in their effort to save **SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly food stamps), **WIC** (nutrition support for Women, Infants, and Children), **EITC** (Earned Income Tax Credit), and **CTC** (Child Tax Credit) from the budget ax. Bread's Western Field Organizer, Robin Stephenson, told a January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger (OFRAH) that the remaining weeks before March 27 will be critical for protecting these vital programs from federal budget cuts.

WILPFers can help by sending postcards and making phone calls to members of the Oregon and Washington Congressional delegations. Urge them to oppose efforts to cut federal programs that combat poverty and prevent families from going hungry. Our representatives frequently tell us, "Even if you think I already support something, I need to hear from you." Let them know that they have a wide base of constituent support for these programs.

On the local level, you can ask your representatives in the Oregon Legislature to *support the extension and expansion of the Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit* that is included in the governor's proposed budget. Tell your state senator and representative that the EITC often enables working families to **lift themselves out of poverty**. At <http://www.ocpp.org/2013/01/14/fs20130114-eitc-helps-quarter-million-families/>, you can find out how many families in your legislative district have been helped by this tax credit.

## ONE BILLION RISING on VALENTINE'S DAY

The website [www.onebillionrising.org](http://www.onebillionrising.org) invites "ONE BILLION women and those who love them to WALK OUT, RISE UP, and DEMAND an end to violence against women" on 14 February 2013, the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **V-Day**. See the page 4 calendar for times and locations of Portland performances of Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*.

ONE BILLION RISING is

- A call to men and women to refuse to participate in the status quo until rape and rape culture ends.
- An act of solidarity, demonstrating to women the commonality of their struggles and their power in numbers.
- A refusal to accept violence against women and girls as a given.

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL WILPF PHOTO CAMPAIGN SUPPORTING 'ONE BILLION RISING.'

Go to <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/one-billion-rising/> for information and examples from this photo campaign. All the photos now being collected will be published on February 14.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

On Tuesday 29 January, Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) announced legislation reauthorizing the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**.

VAWA, first passed in 1994, was reauthorized twice without drama, but in 2012 House Republicans balked at three new provisions in the Senate bill that expanded protections to gays and lesbians, Native Americans, and undocumented immigrants. Congressional sources say the main sticking point in getting a compromise was opposition to the tribal provisions in the Senate version. Those provisions would allow tribal courts to have jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit crimes of violence on Indian lands.

According to federal statistics, Indian women experience a higher rate of rape and sexual assault than any other racial group in the U.S. A large part of the problem is the ability of non-Indian perpetrators to harm Indians without fear of facing a tribal court. Instead, the federal justice courts are left with the job of prosecuting those crimes, and court officials have said they lack sufficient resources to handle them.

Not all House Republicans opposed the Senate tribal provisions. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Tom Cole (R-OK) pushed for a deal to protect them. "In my view," said Cole, "the best remedy is to provide tribal communities with the same authority granted to every other local municipality to police their communities and protect their residents."

However, the failure to reauthorize VAWA in 2012 indicates how deeply the belief in white supremacy and 'manifest destiny' is imbedded in American culture. The U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand cast the only votes against the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** in 2007. All four of these former English colonies have since signed on to UNDRIP, the U.S. not until 2010. New Zealand has advanced farthest in implementing indigenous rights, and Australian political leaders have proposed steps toward including recognition of aboriginals in the Australian constitution. Implementation of UNDRIP lags behind in Canada and the U.S.

## 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**

### NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION BY 2020

#### Success depends on each of us!

**Join in a new WILPF campaign to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020.** The present Portland WILPF Branch was born out of the 1960s campaigns. The time is ripe now to engage again!

**Our President claims to want abolition**, and so do many in the Pentagon and Congress. But since ratification of the new START Treaty, our nation has been racing in the opposite direction. \$53 billion is already committed for rebuilding the whole nuclear weapons complex. Profiteering aerospace corporations scramble eagerly for contracts. Warheads, and the missiles, planes and submarines that carry them, are being significantly “modernized” as though for Armageddon.

**Most of the world is ready to start negotiations on an abolition treaty NOW.** Despite U.S. resistance, Norway, Mexico and Austria have initiated open-ended meetings on a treaty. All UN members are expected to attend. Our task now is to build strong support in the USA.

**DISARM-End Wars will be working closely with WILPF Reaching Critical Will staff at the United Nations.** They are preparing action tool kits for all of us. It is delightful to learn that NGOs throughout the world will be joining us in demonstrations against bloated military budgets on April 15, US Tax Day. Please help prepare fliers and fact sheets for this and other occasions.

**We will also work closely** with Jackie Cabasso, WILPF member and Mayors for Peace representative in the U.S. WILPFers in Portland and Ashland have helped line up many of our **Oregon Mayors for Peace**. Former Portland mayors Sam Adams and Tom Potter support the Mayors for Peace campaign. In 2012 the US mayors’ national convention voted unanimously in favor of a strong resolution calling for abolition by 2020. We need to publicize and support this resolution in Oregon communities. Surely the Administration and Congress will listen to the mayors, including those of our largest cities. It is time they also “listen to the women for a change.” Join us!

Contact [carol.disarm@gmail.com](mailto:carol.disarm@gmail.com) or 503-320-9108 for more information.

#### EVENTS (continued from page 4)

**Sunday 17 February, 5:15 pm: Film, *The Gatekeepers***

Cinema 21, 616 NW 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. Repeats **Thursday 21 February** at Cinemagic, 2021 SE Hawthorne, 6 pm. Interviews with six former directors of Shin Bet, the Israeli secret service, see <http://festivals.nwfilm.org/piff36/> for ticket info.

**Sunday 17 February, 7 pm: Scott Silber, “Threat to Themselves and Others: The Corporate Addiction to Power”**

**First** Unitarian Church, SW 12<sup>th</sup> Ave & Salmon. Silber leads the Johns Hopkins Center for Constitutional Studies.

**Wednesday 27 February, 7 pm: Film, *Standing On My Sisters’ Shoulders***

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton Street. Film featuring interviews with such remarkable women of the Civil Rights Movement as Unita Blackwell and Fannie Lou Hamer, in honor of Black History Month.

**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE for PEACE and FREEDOM**  
**Portland Branch, 1034 SW 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Portland OR 97205-1702**

*"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

---

## **February 2013 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** [lonvet2008@comcast.net](mailto:lonvet2008@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**

### **EVENTS**

#### **Friday 1 February – Saturday 2 March: 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cascade Festival of African Films**

For complete information see <http://www.africanfilmfestival.org/>. All films are free.

#### **Saturday 2 February, 7 pm: Film, *To Kill A Mockingbird* (US 1962)**

Northwest Film Center, Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 SW Park Avenue. Part of a series celebrating the centennial of Universal Pictures. See <http://www.nwfilm.org/screenings/46/452/>.

#### **Monday 4 February, 11:30 am: Rally for Health Care As a Human Right**

Join [Health Care for All Oregon](#) in Salem on the Oregon State Capitol steps on this opening day of the Oregon Legislature as we ask our legislators what they will do for health care justice. Wear your red t-shirts! For bus info: <http://www.jwipdx.org/jwjnews/news-item-1357323786.71> or <http://hcao.org/feb-rally-for-health-care/>.

#### **Tuesday 5 February, 5:30-8 pm: Film, *Roadmap to Apartheid***

PSU Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway, room 333. Award-winning documentary on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, narrated by Alice Walker; free. For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/PSUSUPER>.

#### **Wednesday 6 February, 6 pm: Alexander Gomez, "Unions and Public Services Under Attack"**

SEIU Local 503, 6401 SE Foster Road. Gomez is a leader in the Salvadoran union movement.

#### **Thursday 7 February, 1:30 pm: Dramatic Reading, *The Vagina Monologues***

WSU-Vancouver, Dengerink Administration Building, 14204 NE Salmon, Vancouver, room 129.

#### **Thursday/Saturday 7-9 February: 2013 Organicology Conference at downtown Hilton Hotel**

Focus on sustainability, farming and seed issues, impact of climate change on agriculture. Tickets and full brochure at <http://www.organicology.org/organicology/Welcome.html>.

#### **Friday 8 February, 12 noon: Ian Haney-Lopez speaks on "Dog-Whistle Racism: Race and Politics"**

Federal Courthouse, Portland; free. Haney-Lopez teaches race and constitutional law at UC Berkeley. His third book on racism is titled [Dog Whistle Politics: How Fifty Years of Race-Baiting Wrecked the Middle Class](#).

#### **Monday 11 February, 7 pm: Miko Peled, "Beyond Zionism: A New Paradigm for Peace in Palestine"**

PSU Smith Memorial Union, room 327/328; free. Peled is an Israeli writer and activist living in San Diego. More info at <http://www.pdx.edu/finaid/events/beyond-zionism-new-paradigm-peace-palestine?delta=0>.

#### **Friday & Saturday 15/16 February, 6 pm: Dramatic Reading, *The Vagina Monologues***

PSU, Smith Memorial Union, 1825 SW Broadway, Ballroom (3<sup>rd</sup> floor).

#### **Saturday 16 February, 7:15 pm: Gershom Gorenberg, "The Crisis of Israeli Democracy: How It Broke, How to Fix It"**

Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane (Dosch & BHH); free. Gorenberg, author of [The Unmaking of Israel](#), blogs at <http://southjerusalem.com/>. More info at <https://www.facebook.com/jstreetportland>.

#### **Saturday 16 February, 7 pm: Reese Erlich, "Middle East and Arab Spring: 10 Years After the Invasion of Iraq"**

First Unitarian Church, Eliot Chapel, 1011 SW 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Poster at [http://www.pjw.info/reese\\_erlich\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.pjw.info/reese_erlich_flyer.pdf).

(continued on page 3)