May 2013

Charles (Chuck) Knapp, tireless advocate for peace, justice and human rights, and father of WILPF member Kristan Knapp, died April 19th at age 91. In the 1970s Charles co-founded Portland PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and the Creative Arts Community at Menucha. A retired UCC minister, he led First Congregational to become the first Open and Affirming congregation in the Central Pacific Conference of UCC churches. A Celebration of Charles Knapp’s life will be held Saturday, May 25, at 2:00 pm at First Congregational UCC, 1126 SW Park at Madison Street. Kristan’s mother, Rita, is also dealing with serious illness. Please hold them in your thoughts.

LETTER FROM CAROL URNER ON APRIL ACTIVITIES

Hello, Portland WILPFers,

I’d hoped to be back with you by mid-May, but now it looks like early June. It has been a busy month for me, with the national DISARM/End Wars Committee and some time for California WILPF. Now I’m representing WILPF in preparing a Berkeley conference on the shift of the US military and NATO to the PACIFIC to surround China and enforce the TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP). That will keep me busy here during May.

I still often wish I were twenty people so that I could do everything I want to do to help the world demilitarize and end wars – yet on the other hand I am amazed at what all WILPFers, including those on our Committee and in the Branches, are already doing. But none of us – neither you nor I – can do everything we want to do.

WILPF women across the country are taking off on SHUTTING DOWN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. They’re meeting with legislators and government officials, holding teach-ins, demonstrating and going to jail again and again. Our WILPFers in New England organized a four-state tour for WILPFer Cecile Pineda, author of Devil’s Tango: How I Learned the Fukushima Step-By-Step, and mid-western WILPFers and friends are still pulling together their report on a successful four-state tour focusing on nuclear poisoning of the Great Lakes. Cecile would like to do northern California, starting with Hiroshima Day. HOW ABOUT OREGON, and HANFORD’S THREAT TO THE COLUMBIA RIVER?

There is much else hopeful these days, re ENDING NUCLEAR POWER. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is holding webinars – LIVE-STREAMED PUBLIC HEARINGS – in which we can all participate. Find the details online at http://www.beyondnuclear.org/freeze-our-fukushimas/2013/4/25/nrc-to-webcast-may-2nd-public-call-to-close-us-fukushima-sty.html. Gregory Jaczko, until recently Director of the NRC, resigned over safety concerns. He has now waid all of the plants are dangerous and should be phased out. This does not please the investors in nuclear power, of course. The full story can be read at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/21/gregory-jaczko-resigns-nrc-nuclear-regulatory-commission_n_1531805.html.

As I write, I am overwhelmed by an amazing article on the PLOWSHARES ACTION last summer of Sister Megan Rice and two Catholic Worker companions at the Oakridge, Tennessee, high security nuclear weapons site. Read it at http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/style/2013/04/29/the-prophets-of-oak-ridge/?hpid=z1.

(continued on page 2)
This year on Tax Day I found it very heartening that people all over the world were also calling for cuts in military budgets. The overall theme for the DAY OF GLOBAL ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING was to shift military spending to spending on human needs and well-being. If you go to http://demilitarize.org/action-events, you can scroll down a seemingly endless list of events around the world.

Many U.S. groups combined NO DRONES ACTIONS with Tax Day events. The whole month of April was designated for actions against drone warfare. The home page at http://demilitarize.org/action-events shows 300 anti-drone war protesters approaching Hancock Field drone control base near Syracuse, NY, on April 28. Thirty of the Hancock protesters were arrested, including two of our DISARM/End Wars committee members – Beth Adams (Massachusetts) and Ellen Barfield (Baltimore). Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, was also among those arrested. [See page 4 for excerpts from his report.]


So at last we have a bill in Congress that calls for nuclear abolition by 2020. This is the same call issued by ABOLITION 2000 and by Mayors for Peace. In the US, many of our peace organizations have adopted this goal and, most significantly, the US Mayors conference in June 2012 made the same demand. The resolution is at http://wslfweb.org/docs/USCM2012M4Presfinal.pdf.

We Portlanders must join with other groups and discuss this resolution with Portland Mayor Charlie Hales before this year’s Hiroshima/Nagasaki days in August. [Photo courtesy of Ellen Thomas; from left to right, Coralie Farlee and Pam, from DC; Ellen Barfield, from Baltimore; Rep. Norton; Ellen Thomas, from North Carolina; in front, Carol Urner.]

TAX DAY SIGNS GREET COMMUTERS ON THREE PORTLAND BRIDGES

By Anne McLaughlin and Celeste Howard

On a surprisingly sunny Monday morning, a dozen activists held signs and waved to commuters coming into downtown Portland. Since twelve of us had shown up, we were able to cover three bridges – Morrison, Hawthorne and Burnside. We spent just over an hour in groups of four on the bridge sidewalks, facing traffic and holding sets of “Burma Shave”-style signs about irresponsible military spending and the costs of war.

On the Burnside Bridge, our four signs read “Let’s not pay for / wars and occupations / Use our taxes / for jobs and education.” John Grueschow of the Portland chapter of War Resisters’ League organized the annual April 15th action.

At noon the same day, about twenty war resisters gathered at Peace House for the annual Redirection and Dedication of resisted war tax dollars. KBOO was on hand to photograph and record the event for presentation on the evening news. After hearing statements of conscience from tax resisters, we listened to representatives of the organizations chosen to receive the money withheld from paying for war. This year’s recipients are Portland Food not Bombs; the Bradley Manning Defense Fund http://www.bradleymanning.org/; and the One Million Bones Project http://www.onemillionbones.org/the-project/.

For more information about war tax resistance, see http://wrlpdx.org and http://www.peacetaxfund.org/.
JOIN or RENEW YOUR NATIONAL WILPF MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORT PORTLAND BRANCH

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Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City State Zip+4: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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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: $ __________

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PORTLAND WILPF and the 2012 JANE ADDAMS CHILDREN’S BOOK AWARDS

by Jane Morgan

Since 1953 the Jane Addams Peace Association has annually recognized children’s books published the preceding year that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and of all races, as well as meeting conventional standards for excellence. Each year Portland WILPF buys and distributes sets of these books to six elementary school libraries in December. Librarians and teachers then have time to share the books with their students during the winter months. Later a group of WILPF members visit each school to talk with the students about the books. See http://www.janeaddamspeace.org/jacba/2012ceremony.shtml for the 2012 list of award-winning books.

This year Kaye Exo, Mary Rose, and I made these visits in March and April. We were warmly welcomed at each school and viewed a variety of presentations. At Arleta Elementary School in SE Portland, 4th and 5th grade students shared their book reports with us. They were especially impressed with the poetry in Inside Out and Back Again.

At Creston Elementary School, 6th through 8th grade Book Club members summarized the books and shared colorful posters. We met with a 3rd grade class in the Sabin Elementary School library. For Black History Month each student had selected a picture from Heart and Soul and related it to a famous African-American. We learned some interesting facts from these kids!

Fifth grade students at James John Elementary School shared poems they had written, modeled on those in Peaceful Pieces: Poems about Quilts and Peace. We talked with several students at M. L. King, Jr. Elementary School in Vancouver about their understanding of why these books had received the JACB Award. A 5th grade class at Woodlawn Elementary School gave an impressive presentation—complete with two confident MCs—describing the books, singing songs, reading poems, and displaying posters.

Students talked comfortably of what they had learned about Jane Addams. They asked relevant questions on the peace and justice theme of the books, which provide some understanding of the Civil War period, Japanese internment during the Second World War, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights Movement.

On April 27, the 2013 Jane Addams Children’s Book Award winners were announced by the Jane Addams Peace Association, Inc. See them at http://www.janeaddamspeace.org/jacba/2013ceremony.shtml. The Portland WILPF chapter will donate sets of these books to local schools next December.
On Sunday 28 April, Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, participated in the Hancock Drone Protest in Syracuse, New York, organized by the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars. After spending Sunday night in jail and making the long eight-hour drive back home to Maine, he wrote his report on the weekend in Syracuse and emailed it to the GN List Serve. You can read the full report on his blogspot. Here are some thought-provoking paragraphs:

The primary reason I went to Hancock was because of the "Orders of Protection" that have been given to everyone arrested there during the last two actions. This ridiculous "Order" says that we must "stay away from Hancock..." But this "Order" is something to worry about because it makes it possible for the State of New York to arrest me and incarcerate me for up to seven years for contempt of court if I return to protest at the base. They are cracking down hard on the protests because they are working. The public is beginning to learn about these killing drones, and minds are changing. The protests must be stopped.

Obama has announced that 30,000 drones will be buzzing around the US in coming years snooping on all of us. Our Attorney General in Maine calls drones "an economic driver" and our new Sen. Angus King from Maine called them "humane weapons" while being interviewed recently from Washington on TV. As the fiscal fabric of America unravels, drones are the latest economic stimulus package from the federal government, and states are now lining up with their empty hands held out in subservient anticipation. Drone protests are obstacles to be dealt with. So rather than protecting the constitution, the lives of innocent people in war zones, and getting serious about real problems like growing poverty and climate change, our political class is working overtime to guard the drone industry and threaten activists with serious jail time if we keep opposing them. [emphasis added]

These twisted drone plans will indeed backfire. Upon returning home I noticed emails flying around raising funds to help people pay for their bail at Hancock. The protests will continue there, as they should. More people will join this Gandhian wave. People clearly understand that we must protect the peace, the innocents, social progress here at home and defend our basic right to protest injustice and wars. We have no other choice.

Courageous Portlanders gathered from noon to 2 on Friday, April 26, to inaugurate a new weekly vigil against drone warfare. It will continue each Friday at that time on the 6th Avenue side of Pioneer Courthouse Square. We talked with interested passersby, giving them OccuCards about the use of drones in Yemen, Pakistan, and Somalia as well as postcards to send to Oregon’s senators. We were visited by the security guards contracted to keep watch over Portland’s Living Room, with whom we talked amicably.

This vigil has now been added to the list of Vigils at the top of WILPF’s monthly Calendar of Events.

DRONES QUILT PROJECT

The U.S. Drones Quilt Project is a work of collaborative art designed to remind us that often the victims of drone attacks are people like us who are afraid, alone and innocent. It was inspired by a similar United Kingdom quilt and initiated during the April Days of Action Against Drones. The Oregon Drones Quilt is planned for completion in June.

Each square of the quilt is made by someone like you who puts his/her name and then the name of the civilian victim on a square of fabric. These squares are then sewn together to create a quilt panel that can be used in many ways. Here’s how to get involved:

1. Contact Leah Bolger at leahbolger@comcast.net. Leah will give you the name of a person whom you will be honoring. There will also be squares honoring the many unnamed victims of drone strikes.
2. Cut out a square of cotton fabric 10 inches x 10 inches.
3. Sew, write, embroider or paint your name and the name of someone killed by a drone onto your square. Be as creative as you want! Leave a margin of at least 1/2-inch around all four edges of the square.
4. Mail it to Leah Bolger, 3740 S.W. Western Boulevard, Corvallis, OR 97333.
5. If you can, please include a donation of $5 to $20 to cover costs for the quilt.
6. Spread the word!
INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE DAY, SATURDAY 11 MAY
from http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/oregon/fair-trade-events/

At 1 pm on May 11, the PDX People’s Assembly on the Trans Pacific Partnership will begin at First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue and Main. We will join cities and towns around the world that are holding community assemblies to discuss the problems with the TPP and the free trade model or staging creative actions or stunts that draw attention to the 17th round of TPP negotiations taking place in Lima, Peru, from May 18 to 24.

We call on the 99% who are harmed by corporate globalization to oppose the TPP. Multi-national community resistance put a freeze on the WTO. It stopped the Free Trade Area of the Americas. It can stop the TPP. Together we can start to bring the anti-corporate globalization movement back to the streets.

If implemented, the TPP 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 attaching 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.

At www.afd-pdx.org/no-fast-track-authority.html, concerned citizens can sign a petition protesting the secrecy under which the TPP negotiations are being conducted. While 600 corporate lobbyists have access to the text and are able to comment on it and influence its writing, US representatives and senators have been barred either from seeing the text or, if they are able to see it, then they cannot comment on it. Even Sen. Ron Wyden, OR, cannot see it, and he is the chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Trade.

Moreover, at that website you can learn what it means that President Obama has called for Fast Track Authority (FTA). FTA allows the president to enter into and sign free trade agreements prior to any congressional approval. These agreements become law when the president signs them.

For all other laws, congress must give its approval first and then when the president signs, it becomes law. FTA turns that standard democratic process on its head… Democracy demands that congress not delegate its constitutional responsibility to negotiate trade agreements to the president. Such delegation is a major power grab on the part of the president. We need to demand that congress not approve Fast Track Authority.

PANEL TO DISCUSS ORIGINS OF PSU WOMEN’S STUDIES PROGRAM
by Sandy Polishuk

Ten years before gaining official recognition in 1980 as a program, female students and professors met to plan and implement the inclusion of Women’s Studies courses at Portland State University. They held an event in the school’s ballroom and began offering ad hoc classes.

Their story will be told on Wednesday evening, May 22, when the History of Social Justice Organizing presents Part 3 of its series on the Portland Women’s Movement. Entitled “Fighting for Ideas and Dollars,” the event will also tell how a law suit filed in 1980 by 22 PSU women helped bring equity for women faculty into the Oregon higher education system.

This free panel discussion will begin at 7 pm in the second floor gallery of the PSU Urban Affairs Building, 506 SW Mill. History of Social Justice Organizing is an ongoing series of presentations by activists and scholars on a wide variety of social justice organizing topics in Portland and elsewhere. This program is co-sponsored by the Center for Women, Politics & Policy, whose mission is to increase women's leadership in public policy through targeted teaching and community service programs. cwpp.pdx.edu/
May 2013 WILPF Calendar

**VIGILS**

* **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm**  SW 5th & Hall, Beaverton.  **Washington County Peace Vigil**

* **Fridays, 12 noon**  East (6th Avenue) side, Pioneer Courthouse Square.  **Anti-Drone Protest**  HeadHeartHandsSpirit@riseup.net

* **Fridays, 4 pm**  SW First and Madison on Hawthorne Bridge.  **Weekly Anti-War Protest**  lonetov2008@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**  

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

**Tuesday 30 April, 5:30-7 pm:**  Opening Session, “Challenging Corporate Power/Asserting People’s Rights”
Vancouver Community Library, 901 C Street. In these 10 weekly sessions using a WILPF curriculum, Cindy Fisher will explore the idea of a mental health bill of rights.  Sponsors:  M.O.M.S. Movement (www.MentalHealthYES.org), Vancouver Community Rights.

**Tuesday 30 April, 7-9 pm:**  Rosalie Riegel, “Crossing Lines and Doing Time”
Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union, room 294. An evening celebrating war resistance, sponsored by Students United for Nonviolence (SUN).  More information from Joy Henry, jmhenry@pdx.edu.

**Wednesday 1 May, 12-2 pm:**  Portland WILPF brown bag lunch with Rosalie Riegel
First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave, Room A303. Enter on 12th between Main & Salmon.

**Wednesday 1 May, 3-6 pm:**  International Workers’ Day Rally and March

**Wednesday 1 May, 7-9 pm:**  Crossing Lines and Doing Time: An Evening of War Resistance with Rosalie Riegel
First Unitarian Church, Eliot Chapel, SW 12th Ave & Salmon. Rosalie’s two new books are oral histories of nonviolent resisters, their communities and families that support them.  More info from Terri Shofner, tshofner@gmail.com.

**Thursday 2 May, 7-9 pm:**  Donna Rosenthal, “Who Are These People?”
Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union, Room 296. A lecture by the author of The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land; with guest Solomon Ezra, who organized the world’s largest airlift to smuggle 13,000 Jews out of Ethiopia to Israel.  Sponsored by With Israel and the PSU Middle East Studies Center.

**Friday 3 May, 12-2 pm:**  Protest Against Drone Warfare
East side of Pioneer Square, SW 6th St at the Milepost Sign.  Share information, stories, feelings with members of Code Pink and WILPF.  Sign postcards to send to Washington DC.  Contact  HeadHeartHandsSpirit@riseup.net.

**Friday 3 May, 6-8 pm:**  Oregon PSR Opening Reception, **Particles on the Wall** Exhibit
Ecotrust Building, 721 NW at Irving.  A multidisciplinary exhibit to explore the lasting social impacts of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and the nuclear age.  Exhibit runs May 3 through June 4.  www.oregonpsr.org.

**Friday 3 May, 7 pm to midnight:**  PCASC Opening Night, ¡Muros Abajo! Walls Down! Exhibit
Casa de Revolucion, 2222 SE Ankeny.  Portland Central America Solidarity Committee’s third annual bilingual community art exhibit.  The display continues throughout May.  www.pcasc.net

**Friday thru Sunday, 3-5 May:**  **Move to Amend’s Portland 2013 Democracy Convergence**
Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, 705 N Killingsworth St.  One of 4 regional gatherings across the US in 2013; see http://www.afd-pdx.org/alliance-for-democracy-sponsored-events.html for featured speakers, registration, and agenda.

**Friday thru Sunday, 3-5 May:**  Labor Under Attack: Learning from the Past and Preparing for the Future
Pacific Northwest Labour History Association Conference.  **Friday 5:30-8:30 pm,** registration & reception at Oregon Historical Society Pavilion, 1200 SW Park Avenue.  **Saturday 8 to 5 & Sunday 9 to noon** at University Place Hotel & Conference Center, 310 SW Lincoln.  Brochure available at http://www3.telus.net/robbgibbs/pnlha/home.html

**Saturday 4 May, 6-11 pm:**  “Basta Ya! Take Back the City!” Dinner and Celebration

(more events on next page)
Saturday 11 May, 9 am-5 pm: Mother’s Day Vigil 2013, Compassionate Immigration Reform
ICE Detention Center, Tacoma WA. Leaving 9 am from Ascension Catholic Church, 7507 SE Yamhill St in Portland. For additional information or to reserve your spot, phone 503-550-3510 or email portlandsanctuary@gmail.com. Co-sponsored by Washington New Sanctuary Movement and Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice.

Saturday 11 May, 9:30-11:30 am: Environmental Summit, “Universal Responsibility and the Global Environment”
Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 300 N. Winning Way. Speakers: His Holiness the Dalai Lama, David Suzuki, Andrea Durbin, Gov. John Kitzhaber; David Miller, moderator. See next item for ticket information.

Saturday 11 May, 1:30 pm: Public Talk, “Inspiration for the Global Environment”
Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Talk by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Admission to both morning and afternoon sessions by a single ticket, http://www.dalailamaportland2013.net/ticket-information/.

Saturday 11 May, 1 pm: Portland People’s Assembly on the Trans Pacific Partnership
First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & Main. Trans-national community resistance put a freeze on the WTO. It stopped the Free Trade Area of the Americas. It can stop the TPP. Community assemblies of the 99% are being held around the world to discuss problems with the ‘free trade’ model, oppose the TPP, and draw attention to the imminent TPP negotiations in Peru. More information at http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/oregon/fair-trade-events/.

Sunday 12 May, 12-5 pm: Green Action Day: A Mother’s Day Event for the Earth
Pioneer Courthouse Square. A venue for local environmental groups and concerned citizens to gather and connect in practical ways to make a difference for the earth. Interactive booths, top local bands, distinguished speakers, and Mother’s Day events. http://www.dalailamaportland2013.net/schedule/sunday-may-12-green-action-day-events/

Tuesday 14 May, 7 pm: Race Talks, “The Law and Racial/Ethnic Profiling”
McMenamins Kennedy School Gymnasium, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, doors open 6 p.m. This free series deals with race in Oregon, both historically and in the present time. Minors accompanied by parent or guardian are welcome.

Tuesday 14 May, 7:30 pm: An Evening with Michael Pollan
Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 SW Broadway at Main. Pollan in conversation with Dave Miller, host of OPB’s Think Out Loud. Tickets ($37.95) include a copy of Cooking: A Natural History of Transformation, Pollan’s new book. http://www.pcpa.com/events/evening-michael-pollan

Saturday 18 May, 10 am to noon: May Business Meeting of Portland WILPF
First Unitarian Church, Room A-301. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us!

Sunday 19 May, 4 pm: Aurora Chorus’ Spring Concert, “What’s Up with That?!”
First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Avenue. General seating tickets are $23 in advance, $25 at door; premium and balcony tickets are in advance only at http://whatsupwiththat.brownpapertickets.com/. Under the Art for All program, Oregon Trail cardholders can have $5 tickets by calling 503-287-6721 & bringing the OT card along.

Tuesday 21 May, 7-9 pm: Hanford Hazards: Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste
Mission Theater & Pub, 1624 NW Glisan St. Ken Niles, administrator, and Dirk Dunning, technical staff, from Oregon Department of Energy’s Nuclear Safety and Energy Emergency Preparedness Division will talk about the contamination, cleanup, and challenges that remain at the mostly decommissioned nuclear production complex. $5 donation.

Wednesday 22 May, 6 pm: Community Dialogue on Worker Rights and Immigration Reform
SEIU Local 49, 3536 SE 26th Ave (south of Powell). Organized by Immigrant Rights Committee of Portland Jobs with Justice. Theme: Labor Rights and Migration, Building Worker Power Through Solidarity. Besides union members and labor leaders, participants include day laborers, farm workers, undocumented workers, domestic workers, immigrant and worker rights advocates. RSVP by Friday, May 17 to Marco, 503-236-5573 or marco@jwjpdx.org.

Wednesday 22 May, 7-8:30 pm: Portland Women’s Movement, Part 3: “Fighting for Ideas and Dollars”
PSU Urban Affairs Building, 506 SW Mill, second floor gallery. Free panel discussion on origins of Women’s Studies at PSU and equity for women faculty. Panelists: Julia M. Allen, Nona Glazer, Marjorie Burns, and JoAnn Reynolds.