

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

[www.wilfpdx.org](http://www.wilfpdx.org)

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*February 2014*

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### REPORT ON THE JANUARY WILPF BUSINESS MEETING

Four members attended the branch meeting on the early afternoon of January 18. Anne reported 43 donations to the branch and 12 contributions toward newsletter mailing since our November newsletter/fundraising appeal. Expenses have included the quarterly office rent and the cost of the JACBA books donated to 5 area schools.

**Forum on Nuclear Issues:** Representative Earl Blumenauer and his staff are scheduling a forum in support of the SANE (Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures) Act, HR 1506, 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, location to be announced. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Portland WILPF and Oregon PSR will help build the audience for the program, during which Rep. Blumenauer will be giving a kind of "lifetime achievement" award to Carol Urner for her tireless work on nuclear issues. Carol is planning to come to Portland for a few days to attend the forum. See Carol's comments on page 2.

#### **Other Actions.**

1. Lucinda is organizing an action in Portland on February 2, Super Bowl Sunday, in support of the "Intercept Human Trafficking" leafleting that is sponsored by United Methodist Women and endorsed by the WILPF-US Advancing Human Rights Issue Committee, of which she is now co-chair with Barbara Nielsen of California. The local leafleting action by WILPF will be at the Marathon Tavern on SW Burnside. See the Calendar entry for details.
2. Portland WILPF will contribute money in support of War Resisters League's counter-recruiting program in Portland area high schools.
3. Portland WILPF will co-sponsor the Peace & Justice Works visibility action on the Burnside Bridge Wednesday, March 19, "An Occupation by Any Other Name: Iraq 11 Years Later." More info in the Calendar entry.
4. Portland WILPF will co-sponsor Portland's May Day Rally and March and support it with a contribution. To help plan details of the event, see the Calendar entry.

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**In memoriam:** Our condolences to the family and friends of **Althea Halvorson**, a longtime Portland WILPF member and activist who passed away in January at age 98 ½. Her family is planning a springtime memorial, and we will announce it in a future newsletter.

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**The next business meeting of Portland WILPF will be Saturday, February 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. in room A301 of the First Unitarian Church, SW 12<sup>th</sup> 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 March newsletter to [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com) by February 22 and calendar items by February 25.**

## FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

*by Lucinda Tate*

On Monday, January 20, 2014, my day started with The Skanner Foundation's Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at the Oregon Convention Center. I have been attending this annual event for over fifteen years. It is a fundraiser to provide scholarships supporting the higher education of young people. Many fellow activists (friends and colleagues) from my multicultural community were also there.

Dr. Bruce Goldberg, Director of Oregon's Health Authority, and of "Cover Oregon," was keynote speaker. Affirming the need of all Oregonians for affordable health care, he pointed to the large numbers of people, formerly uninsured and underinsured, that will now be covered either by publicly funded or by private health insurance. I support access to health care, but I am wary of the emphasis on insurance coverage. I'd rather emphasize preventive care and quality health maintenance.

I spent the rest of my day at the Anthem Center "Oh Freedom" event, where people from the local community performed with songs, drumming, and dance. Some community leaders and elected representatives made speeches. I had a chance to speak with Senator Merkley, expressing my concern about the cuts in our food stamp program (SNAP) threatened by the new farm bill; my support for diplomacy in dealing with Iran, Syria and other nations; and urging that he fight to reduce and eventually eliminate the US stockpile of nuclear weapons and weaponized drones.

I also talked with Mayor Hales and will meet with him soon about joining in actions taken by the Mayors for Peace and about confronting threats to freedom arising from human trafficking and from some actions of the NSA.

It was a good day for practicing my tradition of promoting human rights in everyday living.

### MESSAGE FROM CAROL URNER

Carol writes that she is planning to come to Portland for a few days to attend Blumenauer's forum on March 18. Anyone interested in working on any aspect of the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons, nuclear power, or depleted uranium will have that chance to talk with her.

"Earl Blumenauer, as you know, has become the chief supporter in Congress of Ed Markey's SANE Act, **HR 1506**. It does not mention the goal of abolition of nuclear weapons, although both Blumenauer and Markey have that goal. The steps that the SANE Act would legislate are all steps on the way to abolition." At <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas> you can find the bill's summary, status, and list of co-sponsors, currently at 41.

"WILPF is actually pushing hard with branches to get more co-sponsors for **HR 1650**, the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2013. This bill calls openly for global nuclear weapons abolition by 2020. However, I would not recommend that Portland push hard on this until after the March forum. For now, though, Blumenauer could really use our support. And we could also work with PSR on approaching the Mayor about the US Conference of Mayors." The City of Portland is not yet on board with that Conference's nuclear disarmament resolutions, which call for halting all spending on nuclear weapons modernization and completion of a nuclear weapons convention by 2020.

### THE WAR ON POVERTY AT 50

Date on which President Lyndon Johnson declared the War on Poverty: **1/8/1964**

Percent of Americans who were living in poverty at that time: **19**

Percent living in poverty in 1969: **12.1**

Percent living in poverty today: **15**

Percent living in poverty for at least two months between 2009 and 2011: **31.6**

Percent by which the social safety net reduced the number of Americans in poverty in 1967: **4**

In 2012: **44** [statistics selected from Sue Sturgis, <http://zcomm.org/?s=War+on+Poverty&author=88161> ]

**JOIN or RENEW YOUR NATIONAL WILPF MEMBERSHIP, and/or 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 branch newsletter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution for receiving hard copy newsletter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form &amp; check, payable to WILPF, to Portland WILPF, 1034 SW 13th Ave, Portland 97205-1702

\* Our November appeal for your contributions to support Portland WILPF's activities brought in donations from 43 of the 200+ folks on our mailing list. If you meant to send something but just didn't get it done, your donation is welcome at any time. Thanks! (FYI: When you send your membership renewal – see options above – the entire dues amount goes to WILPF National; they send us just \$1 per renewal. It is your non-dues contributions to our branch that support all our local work.)

**A NEW LEGAL TOOL TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE**

"On Mother's Day, 2011, a legal campaign was launched in fifty states and in Federal court arguing that global warming violated the rights of the plaintiffs — young people and their posterity. The actions were based on an innovative application of an ancient legal principle known in the US as the "public trust doctrine." They asserted that, under the public trust doctrine, governments serve as trustees of the atmosphere for the true beneficiaries, current and future generations, and that they are violating their most compelling duties by failing to protect it from devastating climate change. Successful or not, these cases may transform public discourse on the role of government in protecting the environment. The ideas underlying them, which go far beyond these climate cases *per se*, have now been laid out in a new book by Mary Christina Wood called *Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

"Mary Christina Wood is a professor at the University of Oregon School of Law and founding director of its Environmental and Natural Resources Law program. She has written widely on environmental issues, ranging the gamut from Pacific salmon recovery to protecting the environmental rights of Native Americans. *Nature's Trust* is a comprehensive presentation of a new legal paradigm aiming to extend the public trust doctrine to serve as a foundation for environmental protection. Eloquent and closely but clearly reasoned, *Nature's Trust* requires careful attention but not legal training to understand. . . ." (from a review by Jeremy Brecher, <http://onthecommons.org/magazine/discovering-legal-tool-curb-climate-change>)

**NAME IT FOR A WOMAN!**

TriMet has asked for public input to inform the Bridge Naming Committee's selection of a name for the new transit bridge. While each of the four final names for the bridge is compelling, the fact remains that none of the 11 bridges in the Portland metropolitan area is named for a woman. **Abigail Scott Duniway** worked tirelessly to win women the right to vote. Sign the petition at <http://www.blueoregon.com/petition/bridge/BlueOAction> and encourage the committee to name the new transit bridge for her.

## UPDATE ON PAT/PPS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

*by Natasha Beck*

Ten months of negotiations have not led to a satisfactory contract between the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) and Portland Public Schools (PPS). Contention remains over work load and class size—too many overcrowded classrooms and not enough teachers.

By an unprecedented strike vote on Wednesday evening, February 5, Portland's almost 3,000 contracted teachers have authorized PAT to give PPS notice of intent to strike if continued negotiations do not yield a new contract. Another mediation session is scheduled for Sunday, February 9. Teachers still want a deal to avoid the potential walkout planned for February 20.

About 1,000 substitute teachers are covered by a separate contract which states there can be no retaliation for refusal to work during a strike. They simply need to inform PPS in writing of their intentions. However, on the basis of evidence that PPS had already been threatening retaliation against substitutes who refuse work in case of a strike, PAT filed an unfair labor practices complaint on February 4 charging the district with unlawful behavior.

Several east Multnomah County districts have sustained short strikes in the last 3 years. The longest teachers' strike in Oregon history, held in Eugene in 1987, lasted 3 weeks.

Numerous rallies in support of teachers have been organized by community members, unions and students during the past several months. Your support for Portland's students and teachers will be greatly appreciated at this time.

## EARTH DAY TO MAY DAY, 10 DAYS TO CHANGE COURSE

*by Nancy Price, chair, WILPF-US Earth Democracy Issue Committee*

The Global Climate Convergence for People, Planet and Peace over Profit is an education and direct action campaign beginning this spring, with "10 days to change course," from Earth Day [April 22] to May Day. [<http://globalclimateconvergence.org>]

It provides coordinated action to amplify and build synergy across grassroots justice movements that are sweeping the globe—rising up against the crisis of economy, ecology, peace, and democracy. The accelerating climate disaster, which threatens to make civilization as we know it unlivable as soon as 2050, intensifies all these struggles, and provides new urgency for collaboration and unified action.

The Convergence creates a unifying call for a solution as big as the crisis barreling down on us—an emergency Green Economic Transformation through a Global Green New Deal including universal jobs, health care and education, food and housing security, economic and political democracy, demilitarization and an end to fossil fuel use by 2030. It will occur each year at this time, building capacity for global collaboration—across movements and national borders—to harness the transformative power we already possess as a thousand separate movements. Clearly the time for action is NOW to create an "Earth Day to May Day" Action.

## 57<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UN'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

*from the report by Rita Maran, WILPF-US member*

Evident at the close of 2013's CSW was the strength of the ongoing struggle to prevent knee-jerk characterizations of issues relating specifically to women as "women's issues - and therefore outside of politics." Indeed not. "Women's issues" are "men's issues," and vice-versa, and both are of critical importance politically and otherwise to women and men alike. It matters as much to women's safety, security, and well-being as it does to men's safety, security, and well-being that the Arms Trade Treaty – for one example - is enforced. It matters no less in men's lives than in women's lives that CEDAW [UN Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women] is implemented and enforced in all countries. (See <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm> for more on CSW57, which took place last March at UN Headquarters in New York.)

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## February 2014 Portland WILPF Calendar

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### 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](mailto: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](http://www.Trimet.org) to find public transportation to all these locations]

#### **Sunday 2 February, 3-4 pm: Informational Leafleting, "Intercept Human Trafficking"**

Marathon Tavern, 1735 SW Burnside. Lucinda Tate welcomes all WILPF members and friends to come join her and have fun for 30 to 60 minutes, leafleting to Super Bowl party-goers in front of the tavern. This is a **WILPF** informational action with United Methodist Women.

#### **Tuesday 4 February, 7 to 9 pm: Race Talks 2, "The Latino Experience in Oregon"**

Jefferson High School cafeteria, 5210 N. Kerby Ave between Killingsworth and Alberta, doors open at 6. Presenters are Antonio Lopez, Verenice Gutierrez, and Cesar Hernandez. All ages are welcome; free.

#### **Thursday 6 February 7:30-9 pm: Angela Davis Lecture**

Stoller Athletic Center, Pacific University, 2331 Main Street, Forest Grove. Free, but already 'sold out'. Check at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/angela-davis-lecture-pacific-university-tickets-9641687547> for ticket availability. KBOO may re-broadcast this lecture.

#### **Friday 7 February, 12 – 1 pm: John Kaufmann, "Energy Independence"**

PSU, Science Building 1, 1025 SW Mill, room 107. Part of the 2014 Great Decisions series. Kauffmann, a fellow at the Post-Carbon Institute, discusses whether, in a government with fixed resources, the U.S. should encourage more fossil fuel production or invest in the young technology of renewable resources. [www.worldoregon.org](http://www.worldoregon.org). Free.

#### **Tuesday 11 February, 6 pm: Film, "Freedom Riders, Could You Get on the Bus?"**

North Portland Neighborhood Library, 512 N. Killingsworth. From May until November 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives—and many endured savage beatings and imprisonment—for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South. Produced by award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson. Free.

#### **Tuesday 11 February, 7 to 8 pm: Geoff Dyer, "China & the US: Contest of a Century"**

World Affairs Council, Madison Room, 1200 SW Park Avenue. Dyer, Financial Times' former Beijing bureau chief, presents an insider's analysis of Beijing's quest for influence and how America can come out on top. Tickets \$5-\$10 at [www.worldoregon.org](http://www.worldoregon.org).

#### **Tuesday 11 February, 7 to 9 pm: Race Talks: Where Pushouts Lead: The Prison-Industrial Complex**

McMenamins Kennedy School Gym, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, doors open 6 pm. Presentations by Frank Thompson, Mark Kramer, Jan Slick, and Lurleen Shamsud-Din, with small group discussions facilitated by trained volunteers. All ages welcome; food available for purchase.

#### **Friday 14 February, 12 – 1 pm: Allison Hensey, "Food and Climate"**

PSU, Science Building 1, 1025 SW Mill, room 107. Part of the 2014 Great Decisions series. Hensey, Program Director, Healthy Food and Farms at Oregon Environmental Council, discusses the new challenges that the U.S. faces as food and water become scarce and once fertile land turns barren. [www.worldoregon.org](http://www.worldoregon.org). Free.

#### **Friday/Saturday 14/15 February: "Transformation without Apocalypse: How to Live Well on An Altered Planet"**

Oregon State University Winter Symposium, LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis. Speakers include Tim DeChristopher, Kathleen Dean Moore, Ursula K. Leguin, Kim Stanley Robinson, and Rob Nixon. Info and registration at <http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/centers-and-initiatives/winter-symposium>. Free and open to the public.

**Friday 14 February & Saturday 15 February, 7 pm: A Memory, A Monologue, A Prayer, A Rant, edited by Eve Ensler**

PCC Sylvania, Little Theatre, CT Building, 12000 SW 49<sup>th</sup> Ave. A V-Day program of Writings To Stop Violence Against Women and Girls. Doors open 6 pm. Tickets \$7, students \$5, cash or check only. For info: [wrc@pcc.edu](mailto:wrc@pcc.edu).

**Saturday 15 February, 7 pm, & Sunday 16 February, 2 pm: The Vagina Monologues**

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St. Every year a new monologue is added to highlight a current issue affecting women around the world. Every V-Day thousands of local benefit productions are staged to raise funds for local groups, shelters, crisis centers working to end violence against women. Ticket and other information at [www.cstpx.com/schedule](http://www.cstpx.com/schedule).

**Saturday 15 February, noon: Brown bag lunch; 1 to 3 pm: WILPF Business Meeting**

First Unitarian Church, room A301. Enter through the breezeway mid-block between Salmon & Main; the building is unlocked 11:45-12:15 and 12:45-1:15.

**Monday 17 February, 5 pm: Greg Grandin, "Who Aint a Slave: Slavery in Fact and in Melville's Fiction"**

Lewis & Clark College, Council Chamber, Templeton Campus Center. 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Throckmorton Lecture. Grandin is a history professor at NYU who writes on US foreign policy, Latin America, genocide, and human rights. His new book, *The Empire of Necessity*, is a true history of a slave-ship revolt that inspired Melville's other masterpiece, *Benito Cereno*. Free.

**Monday 17 February, 7 pm: Arthur C. Nelson, "Future Livable Cities"**

First Congregational Church, 1123 SW Park Avenue. Chris Nelson, author of *Reshaping Metropolitan America*, teaches City & Metropolitan Planning at the University of Utah. He will be joined by a panel of regional planning experts moderated by Rex Burkholder. Illahee Lecture series; \$75 for the series of five lectures. <http://illahee.org/>

**Friday 21 February, 12 – 1 pm: Thomas Bartlett, "Islamic Awakening"**

PSU, Science Building 1, 1025 SW Mill, room 107. Part of the 2014 Great Decisions series. Bartlett discusses how the Arab Spring has resulted in unforeseen changes in the political landscape in many countries, especially regarding the role of Islam and democracy. Free.

**Sunday 23 February, 10am to 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.

**Friday 28 February, 12 – 1 pm: Barbara Tint, "Israel and the US"**

PSU, Science Building 1, 1025 SW Mill, room 107. Part of the 2014 Great Decisions series. Tint, Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution at Portland State University, looks at how, after years of unparalleled support, new strains are testing U.S.-Israel relations. Free.

**Friday 7 March, 12 – 1 pm: Ron Tammen, "China's Foreign Policy"**

PSU, Science Building 1, 1025 SW Mill, room 107. Final lecture in the 2014 Great Decisions series. Tammen, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, looks at what the rapid rise of China as a new superpower means for other countries in the region and for potential points of conflict with the U.S. as it "pivots" to Asia.

**Wednesday 19 March, 3:30-6:00 PM: Visibility Action, "An Occupation by Any Other Name: Iraq 11 Years Later"**

NE Couch and Martin Luther King Jr Blvd (east end of Burnside Bridge) Co-sponsored by WILPF. For more information, see [www.pjw.info](http://www.pjw.info).

**Thursday 1 May, time TBA: May Day March and Rally**

WILPF is a co-sponsor of this event, intended as a mass message in support of the right to organize. Details being planned; save the date. Contact [portlandmaydaycoalition@gmail.com](mailto:portlandmaydaycoalition@gmail.com) to help organize this event.