



## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

Officers: Sara Tattam, membership; Anne McLaughlin, treasurer;

Karen James, corresponding secretary/webmaster;

Holly Hansen, office manager

Email: [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com) Phone: 503-595-9393

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

Newsletter editors: Celeste Howard, Natasha Beck, Anne McLaughlin

---

### April 2015

---

## NEWS FROM THE MARCH BRANCH MEETING

**"We've lost another WILPF member,"** announced Barbara Drageaux as we began. Gretchen Kafoury, well-known in the Portland peace and justice community, had died the previous day. ([Gretchen Miller Kafoury's Obituary on The Oregonian](#)) For several minutes we shared memories of Gretchen's vigorous role decades ago in Portland WILPF, in the 1970s women's movement, and on the steering committee of Democratic Socialists of America.

**WILPF relics:** Natasha Beck led the meeting. Also present were Holly Hansen, Celeste Howard, and Anne McLaughlin. Office matters came first, and Holly showed us an array of framed portraits and documents from the WILPF office, which has no wall space for their display. We all agreed that these objects, like many documents in the office file cabinets, have only historical value. Wishing for help from more long-time members, we agreed to set a meeting in June (perhaps our regular monthly meeting on June 11) for evaluating old files and other relics. We expect Carol Urner to be in Portland by then. Attention, retired branch activists! Please watch for an announcement of the event and come help winnow the relics.

**Postcard writing:** We still have a supply of the special Portland WILPF postcards that Georgia Pinkel supplied when she was chair person. Each month Georgia proposed current issues about which we might all write to our elected officials, and one of these issues was selected at the branch meeting. We would like to reinstate that practice. Come to the April 11 meeting, participate in selecting the issue, and carry home postcards to voice your opinion.

**HRHSFC** is the acronym for WILPF's new Human Right to Health and Safe Food Campaign. We voted to order a supply of the campaign's colorful Infographic cards for distribution by our members at farmers markets and other food-related events in Portland. (See cards at <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/human-right-health-and-safe-food-campaign-infographic-cards>). Brandy Robinson has also brought some cards back from her March 7-15 participation in the UN Conference on the Status of Women (CSW59).

**International Water Day** was March 22—too close to our March 14 meeting for us to take action on that day. But the right to water is raising great concern at this time, and there is a good documentary called "Oil and Water." (<http://www.oilandwaterdocumentary.com/>) We would like to sponsor or co-sponsor a showing of this documentary, and we are looking for members with sufficient interest and energy to undertake planning and staging it. Please email [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com) if you are interested.

---

**The next meeting of Portland WILPF will be on Saturday, April 11, from 1 to 3 pm in room B310, First Unitarian Church. The room is available at noon, so come early if you can for a brown bag lunch and conversation. Deadlines:** For the May newsletter, April 22; for the May calendar, April 29. Send all items for publication to [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com).

## MY EXPERIENCE AT C.S.W.

by Brandy Robinson

*[The 2015 UN Conference on the Status of Women, held in New York City in March, included women delegates from many organizations and many countries. Brandy has attended the conference as our Portland WILPF delegate both last year and this year.]*

**CSW59 began** with a general meeting at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. That location was both historic and ironic, considering that Harlem represents so much to so many people. In its heyday it was a center for creativity, for social gatherings and for breaking down barriers. Just the right gathering place for women committed to change!

**CEDAW**, the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, has become my special focus, and of course I went to all the CEDAW-related events. Among other events I chose to attend—or was personally invited to by UN delegates—were those on women's health and education, and the ongoing international conflict over Palestine. I also learned about WILPF's new campaign on the Human Right to Health & Safe Food. CSW week went by too quickly!

**Networking with other organizations**, I was surprised to find that many women in other NGOs had previously been members of WILPF. Once I told them this year is WILPF's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they were inspired to renew their membership. Some may even try to attend WILPF's international celebration in The Hague at the end of April. They saw my presence as testimony to WILPF's diversity. It made them proud to know that WILPF provides a platform for marginalized voices, moving its legacy forward into the next generation of activists.

**My CSW experience** was another great and wonderful one, and it fueled my desire and enthusiasm for the work that all of us are doing to advance human rights.

## NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW BUT WON'T SEE ON TV

*recommended by Barbara Drageaux, Brandy Robinson, Natasha Beck, Dan Handelman*

<http://dahrjamaail.net/> "Domestic Military Expansion Spreads Through the US, Ignites Dissent," posted March 9 on Truthout.

What if you lived in a country that allowed its Navy to fly the loudest aircraft in the world over your home day and night, generating sonic booms that rattled the windows of people living in a neighboring country, and test new weapons in areas that would knowingly harm, or possibly kill, humans and wildlife? Welcome to the United States, which has a military with an increasing domestic expansion that may soon be coming to your town, city or national forest.

<http://www.womencrossdmz.org> "2015 Women's Walk for Peace in Korea"

On May 24, 2015, 30 international women peacemakers from around the world will walk with Korean women, north and south, to call for an end to the Korean War and for a new beginning for a reunified Korea. We will hold international peace symposiums in Pyongyang and Seoul where we can listen to Korean women and share our experiences and ideas of mobilizing women to bring an end to violent conflict. Our hope is to cross the two-mile wide De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) that separates millions of Korean families as a symbolic act of peace.

<http://womenandcuba.org/> Join the US Women and Cuba Collaboration.

**Cuban professor** Dr. Norma Vasallo Barrueta will be coming to the Northwest in May on a WILPF-sponsored speaking tour on the challenges facing Cuban women. We will publicize any regional speaking engagements and/or videotapes as soon as information becomes available.

<http://www.youtube.com/FlyingFocusShows/> Videos recorded at events such as the panel discussion in Portland last September on "US Wars, Climate Change, and the Economy."

The forum was taped by Allen Evans and produced/edited by Dan Handelman for the Flying Focus Video Collective. Its 2 parts will play back at scheduled times on Channel 11, Cable Access Network and on Comcast Channels 22 and 23 during the first 2 weeks of April. The Flying Focus Video Collective playlist on YouTube already contains sets of videos on eight other topics. See what might interest you!

## AURORA CHORUS SINGS "MALALA"

**The story of** Malala Yousefzai, Pakistani activist for female education and youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner, inspired the song "Malala." Aurora's conductor, Joan Szymko, wrote its lyrics and music. She has put it on the Spring Concert program in both 2014 and 2015.

Portland WILPF is one of the organizations having a special connection with this chorus because many of its members are, or have been, among its members. If you are reading this newsletter on line, you can see and hear the Aurora Chorus singing "Malala" at the 2014 concert. Just click this link: [Malala — Aurora Chorus](#)

---

### 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-dues contribution to support Portland WILPF activities, including emailed branch newsletter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra contribution if you want to receive a **hard copy** newsletter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

FYI: When you send your membership renewal – see options below – the entire dues amount goes to WILPF National; they send our branch just \$2 per member per year. It is only your non-dues contributions directly to our branch that support all our local work.

### How to keep your WILPF membership current

Being a WILPF member means joining the national organization. WILPF-US has sent out two members-only mailings in the past few weeks: the Fall/Winter 2014 issue of WILPF's national magazine, ***Peace and Freedom***; and the ballot for WILPF Board Members and a Bylaws Amendment. If you didn't receive those mailings, your WILPF membership is not current. The ballot sheet included a "Contribution/Dues Slip" at the bottom of the page. You can use it to pay your membership dues (but it's too late to cast your ballot).

**For many of us, the easiest way to join, renew or rejoin is online at [wilpfus.org](http://wilpfus.org).** But if you don't do financial transactions on the internet, then send your membership dues check directly to WILPF, 11 Arlington Street Boston, MA 02116. Or you can complete and mail the form above, enclose your dues, and mail it to our Portland office. We will forward your membership dues and info to the national organization. If you do send any membership dues check to us (Portland WILPF), be sure to indicate on the form above – and on the check's memo line – how much of it you want us to forward to National, and how much you want the Portland branch to keep.