WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

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August 2015

70 YEARS AGO IN HIROSHIMA...

Next Thursday evening, August 6, young and old will gather at the Japanese Historical Plaza in Waterfront Park near Couch Street for the annual memorial event remembering the day we employed the first atomic bomb. Although this 70th anniversary finds us still under "the ever-present nuclear threat," everyone who comes to this event will sense the resilience and feel more hopeful because there is movement toward nuclear weapons abolition. Some seating will be provided, consider bringing a folding chair or blanket.

The event is sponsored by Oregon PSR, **WILPF** Portland, and many others. It will be a treat for all ages--outdoors, with music by Portland Taiko (youth performing amazing Japanese ensemble drumming) and Tomodachi Chorus; exquisite traditional Japanese dance by Sahomi Tachibana Dance Group; and short speeches by atomic bomb survivor Michiko Kornhauser, by a Marshall Islander speaking on the US nuclear testing there and their World Court suit against all nine nuclear powers, and by longtime nuclear disarmament activist Carol Urner, a widely known **WILPF**er. See Carol's articles on page 2 for more on nuclear weapons abolition.

OTHER WILPF PORTLAND PROJECTS FEATURED THIS MONTH

The next planning meeting for the **WILPF Portland 100th Anniversary Event** (26 September) will be at First Unitarian Church, room B310, at 10 am on Saturday August 8. See page 3 for tasks identified by planners at the July 18 meeting, and learn how you can volunteer to help.

WILPF Portland has voted to support implementation of the **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** at Portland and Oregon state levels. Brandy Robinson offers more information on page 3.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED at WILPF PORTLAND ANNUAL MEETING

Natasha Beck and Brandy Robinson will share the responsibility of President. Because of her new responsibilities, Natasha is no longer helping to edit the newsletter. Sara Tattam continues as membership chairman till we find a replacement for her this fall. Anne McLaughlin continues as treasurer, and Karen James continues to manage our website. Karen invites you to notice and begin using its social media links.

WILPF Portland will have no business meeting in August. Our next business meeting will be on Saturday, September 12, in room B310 of First Unitarian Church. Brown bag lunch from noon to 1 pm for those who can come early, business meeting 1 to 3. <u>Deadlines</u>: For the September newsletter, Saturday, August 22; for the September calendar, Saturday, August 29. Send all items for publication to <u>wilpfpdx@gmail.com</u>.

THE TRADITION OF HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI MEMORIALS

WILPF Portland has been involved in organizing these memorials since its own reincarnation 52 years ago. For over 30 years Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility has become the lead organizer, but WILPF Portland has never missed a year. Access the 2015 poster at http://www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/assets/pdfs/70-years-after-hiroshima.pdf.

Carol Urner has been asked to be the final speaker at this year's event. She sees new hope for global elimination of nuclear weapons, and she can help us see how to redirect our own nation toward participating in the abolition process instead of leading the modern nuclear arms race. She will suggest practical actions we can take to help us reach our goal of nuclear abolition.

Each of WILPF's three Oregon branches has joined this memorial tradition. **WILPF Ashland** organizes a four-day memorial, from August 6 (Hiroshima Day) through August 9 (Nagasaki Day). The event is held in the City Center at the height of the Shakespeare Festival, and Ashland's mayor participates in the opening ceremonies. This year **WILPF Corvallis**, our newest Oregon branch, will be sponsoring its second Hiroshima Day memorial. This energetic branch ends the event with kayaks pulling lighted lanterns down the Willamette River.

Ashland, Corvallis and Portland are three of the seven Oregon cities whose mayors are members of Mayors for Peace, an official non-governmental organization of cities who have formally expressed support for the Programme to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. There are now 554 Cities for Peace in 107 countries.

STOP A WAR WITH IRAN! SUPPORT THE IRAN DEAL!

by Carol Urner

The five nuclear powers—which are also permanent members of the Security Council—plus Germany, banded together to gain this agreement with Iran. Iran will significantly cut back its uranium enrichment program and submit to inspections and constant surveillance by the *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA*) in return for a gradual lifting of sanctions. Iran can keep its nuclear power plants but has agreed not to develop nuclear weapons. Sanctions can be immediately reimposed if Iran is found to be violating the agreement.

The *Iran Deal* does not affect or limit in any way the new nuclear arms race in which the "Big Five" nuclear powers are themselves currently engaged. All nine nuclear nations (the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) are modernizing and/or enlarging their nuclear arsenals.

The *Deal* is, however, an effort to check those aggressive hawks in the USA and elsewhere who are campaigning for another war of choice in the Middle East. Let those of us in the Peace movement use the *Iran Deal* as a launching pad for a reinvigorated global campaign for nuclear weapons abolition. And let us as WILPFers help build support in the U.S. for a *Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East*. Both UN General Assembly votes and public opinion polls show that Arabs, Iranians and the vast majority of people and governments in the world want such a WMD-free zone to be established in the Middle East.

Carol Urner was one of the WILPF US Section voting delegates to the WILPF International 100th Anniversary Congress held in The Hague last April 28. Immediately afterward, she took part in the UN Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York. All the information on this page comes from Carol, much of it in her own words. She urges all of us to read the WILPF Manifesto 2015 (http://www.peacewomen.org/node/91633) and think deeply about the three themes of WILPF's current program of work, which Carol summarizes as demilitarization, human rights, and care of the earth.

WILPF 100th ANNIVERSARY EVENT in PORTLAND

The event is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, September 26. It will begin with a noontime welcome ceremony at the Portland State University "Walk of the Heroines," where at least 17 current and former WILPF members are listed. A parade follows, passing through the Peace Plaza in the South Park Blocks, and arriving at the First Unitarian Buchan reception hall on SW Salmon at 12th. There round tables will be set up for food, conversation, and participation in a program from 1:30 to 3pm, including historical displays, music by The Raging Grannies and by Beyond Little Boxes, surprise visitors, and brief addresses by Mary Hanson Harrison, president of WILPF US, and Carol Urner, WILPF Portland's 86-year-old veteran of action toward disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons.

Most important: Plan to attend on September 26. Put it on your calendar now and talk to your WILPF Portland friends about it. See calendar page 6 for exact times and locations.

Much work needs to be done to prepare! Volunteers are needed to carry out many tasks. Scan the following list, find the tasks that best fit your skills and energy, and come to the August 8 planning meeting in First Unitarian's room B310 at 10 am, or contact Barbara Drageaux at 503-239-4204 or bjdrgx@aracnet.com.

- ❖ Create banners, flags, bubbles for the parade. Help plan 'ceremonial' action at the Walk of the Heroines and/or at Peace Plaza. Provide transportation for those who need it.
- ❖ Send information about the event to partner organizations. Many are listed on the WILPF Portland website.
- ❖ Make contacts with news media (internet, radio, print publications) and provide text for their use.
- ❖ Help plan refreshments and how to serve them.
- ❖ Help setup the Buchan Reception Area with decorations, name tags, literature tables, etc. between noon and 1 pm on September 26.

INTRODUCING CEDAW in PORTLAND and in OREGON

Brandy Robinson, one of the new co-presidents of WILPF Portland, participated in the January UN Conference on the Status of Women in both 2014 and 2015. She has been working with Elicia Reed (www.motherslegacy.org) in planning a campaign for adoption of a CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) ordinance in Portland to promote gender equality in employment, public budgets and public services, modeled on an ordinance adopted by San Francisco (http://sfgov.org/dosw/cities-cedaw).

Although President Jimmy Carter signed CEDAW within the first year after it was authorized by the UN, the Senate has never ratified it. The U.S. is the only democracy that has never ratified CEDAW. City resolutions supporting the ratification of CEDAW have passed in 47 cities as diverse as Los Angeles, California and Louisville, Kentucky, as well as in 17 states and 19 counties.

New York City is currently working on a city ordinance based on the San Francisco model and adding the principles of CERD (the parallel Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination).

Brandy Robinson is also working on an informal coalition with other local organizations including the Women's Foundation of Oregon (https://womensfoundationoforegon.org/) and MercyCorps to implement CEDAW in Oregon. No report on the status of women in Oregon has been issued since 1998. **WILPF Portland** has voted to support implementing CEDAW at both state and local levels.

TWO MORE AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

On August 26, 1920, the **19th Amendment**, was adopted, enabling women citizens to vote. On August 27, 1928, fifteen nations signed the **Kellogg-Briand Pact**, outlawing war.

TO CUBA WITH LOVE

by Jean Fitzgerald

I've taken part in CODEPINK actions over the years, and I was excited to be accepted to travel with this remarkable group of 150 peace activists on their historic visit to CUBA last February 7-16.

Ricardo Alarcon, formerly President of the Cuban National Assembly, was the first official we met. He retired from his position several years ago in order to work full time freeing the Cuban Five. After spending more than 15 years in U.S. jails on spying charges, the last three were released on December 17. CODEPINK had pushed hard for their release, so when we met with him he teased us for putting him out of a job. "Thanks, CODEPINK!" he teased.

Mr Alarcon told us that in recent years the government has allowed private citizens to open small businesses (like restaurants) and to rent rooms in their homes to visitors. But American investors must get permission from the government to open such a capitalist venture. "Cuba is not for sale!" he said. People in Cuba are not allowed to have guns. He was very proud to tell us that education and health care are free to everyone in Cuba, and we applauded when he told us that 48% of National Assembly members are women. At present Cubans are allowed to receive not more than \$2,000/year from abroad, but he told us they will soon be able to receive \$8,000. What he did not tell us is that whites are 2.5 times more likely to receive this money than blacks. Such money widens the white/black income gap.

We met with **Mariela Castro**, Raul Castro's daughter. She is Director of the National Sex Education Center (CENESEX). LGBTQ folks are mostly free from discrimination, but same-sex marriage is not yet allowed. Mariela spoke of sex education in the schools. Teachers present sex as something to be treated with responsibility—but also as something pleasurable. She says married couples who do not enjoy sex are "really missing out" and can attend a workshop on sexual happiness. Transgender people can receive state-sponsored sex-change surgery in Cuba for humanitarian reasons.

We visited the Latin American and International Medical School, which Ban Ki Moon has called the most advanced medical school in the world. It has trained over 20,000 doctors from 120 countries, including the US, tuition free. Students who do not speak fluent Spanish, have 20 weeks or more of Spanish classes before medical classes begin. A young second-year student from New Jersey told me that US doctors are focused on treatment, whereas in Cuba they are focused on prevention. Cuban doctors are usually the first to respond to a world disaster and the last to leave. They are paid \$75 a month; that is considered a fair wage since most Cuban workers receive only \$25. The focus on prevention means that pregnant women get the very best care from the beginning of pregnancy. Cuba's infant death rate is among the lowest in the world, lower than in the US.

We also met with the Ministry of Public Health and visited a Health Clinic. I asked about autism and ADHD and was told such problems are rare. The health ministry provides support for disabled children being cared for at home and maintains homes for the elderly. The Cuban Women's Federation sponsors a Women & Family Counseling Center for both women and men. It holds workshops and classes and offers outreach programs.

Fernando Gonzales, one of the Cuban Five, met with us. CODEPINKER Cathy McGuire had served as a go-between for him and his family, but she was never allowed to meet him in the Terre Haute prison. It was very heart-warming to see them finally meet. We had time to tour Havana, both on foot and by bus. Art is everywhere in Havana; so are book stalls. Cubans are 99.6% literate; in 1961 Fidel Castro sent 200,000 volunteers out to small towns and villages for one year to teach reading and writing to 700,000 adults and children.

I came away hoping for the best for the Cuban people as negotiations progress. I will always remember their welcome smiles and hugs, and I look forward to returning one day soon.

August 2015 WILPF Portland Calendar

VIGILS HELD REGULARLY

- * NEW EVENT:Tuesdays & Fridays, 2-4 pm East end of Burnside Bridge Alliance for Democracy opposing TransPacific Partnership and other corporate trade agreements
- * Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm East end of Burnside Bridge (NE MLKJr Blvd @ Couch/Burnside) Peace & Social Justice Visibility Action (ongoing since March 2014)
- * Wednesdays, 6:30 pm SW 5th & Hall, Beaverton. Washington County Peace Vigil (ongoing since 2005)
- * Fridays, 12:15 to 12:45 pm SW 10th & Madison, near Art Museum. Women in Black (silent vigil for peace)
- * Fridays, 5 to 6 pm Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW corner. Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (ongoing since 2001)
- * Saturdays, 11 to noon Corner of NE 13th & Multnomah, across from Holladay Park. Lloyd Center Vigil (ongoing since 2004)
- * Saturdays, noon to 1 pm McLoughlin and Oak Grove Blvds., Milwaukie. Oak Grove Peace Vigil (ongoing since 2006)

EVENTS (free unless noted) [see <u>www.Trimet.org</u> to find public transportation to all these locations]

Monday 3 August, 8-9 am: KBOO 90.7 FM Interview on 70th Anniversary Event Commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings

Interview with Sean Tenney of Oregon PSR and artist Chisao Hata on the Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial event (see 6 August, below).

Tuesday 4 August, 12 noon to 2 pm: Paul Cienfuegos on Community Rights and Matt Guynn on Kingian Nonviolence

Grace Presbyterian Church, 6025 NE Prescott St. Open meeting of East Side democratic club. Paul will address how local communities gain control over their futures in a corporate dominated world (www.communityrightspdx.org). Matt will talk about using nonviolence in our social change efforts. Note: This club has no connection with the Democratic Party.

Thursday 6 August, 5:30 to 8 pm: Sundown Concert at Ecotrust

Ecotrust's Natural Capital Center, 721 NW 9th Avenue. Tonight's theme: Forests and Water. Music by Orquestra Pacifico Tropical and Mimicking Birds. More information can be found at http://www.ecotrust.org/project/sundown/.

Thursday 6 August, 6 to 7 pm: 70 Years After Hiroshima and Nagasaki: The Ever-Present Nuclear Threat

Japanese American Historical Plaza, NW Naito Parkway and Davis. This year's memorial event, sponsored by Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility and many partner organizations, including **Portland WILPF**, will feature speakers and performers, including Portland Taiko, and will provide opportunities for attendees to get involved in efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/. Some seating will be provided, consider bringing a folding chair or blanket.

Friday 7 August, 5 pm: Rally & March—Iraq War III, One Year Later

Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill & Broadway. Join community groups rallying and marching against the third US-led war on Iraq in 25 years. Launched on August 8, 2014, the US "war on ISIS" has included thousands of bombing runs and untold deaths of civilians in both Iraq and Syria. At this event, we will also connect the war to police brutality and racism in the US. *Peace & Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group, Portland Peaceful Response Coalition*.

Saturday 8 August, 10 am: Planning session for WILPF 100th Anniversary

First Unitarian, room B310, SW 12th & Salmon St. See article on page 3. If you would like to help but can't attend this planning session, please contact Barbara Drageaux at 503-239-4204 or bjdrqx@aracnet.com.

Sunday 9 August, 7 pm: Portland Rally with Bernie Sanders

Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 300 North Winning Way; doors open at 6 pm. Admission is first come, first served. Tickets are not required, but an RSVP is strongly encouraged; RSVP at https://go.berniesanders.com/page/event/detail/rally/4jgdq. Members of the public are encouraged to use public transportation. For vehicular traffic, adjoining parking garages will be open with a fee of \$10 per vehicle.

Tuesday 11 August, 6 to 8 pm: Kristin Ohlson, "The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers and Foodies Are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet"

Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison St. Thousands of years of poor farming and ranching practices—and, especially, modern industrial agriculture—have led to the loss of up to 80 percent of carbon from the world's soils. The author of <u>The Soil Will Save Us</u> will talk about the ways we can turn atmospheric carbon into beneficial soil carbon—and finally get some traction on reducing the load of greenhouse gases that are warming the planet. Sponsor: *350PDX.org*

Tuesday 11 August, 7pm: Films: "Mothering Inside: The Family Preservation Project" and "Finding Normal"

NW Film Center, 1119 SW Park Ave. at Madison St. The Family Preservation Project at Wilsonville's Coffee Creek Correctional Facility works to keep imprisoned mothers in contact with their children, based on a common-sense theory that the family that stays together stays out of jail together. The State of Oregon is phasing out the program later this year. The filmmaker hopes to reverse that decision by publicizing the program and its benefits, which include a recidivism rate of zero percent (30 mins). "Finding Normal" documents Central City Concern's recovery mentor program, which connects former addicts with addicts beginning recovery. With a 70% success rate, the program's strength lies in its ability to promote a strong sense of community and connectedness (77 mins). Filmmaker Brian Lindstrom will speak after the films. \$8-9. www.nwfilm.org

Wednesday 12 August (Note date change from 5 August), 2 to 4 pm: WILPF Free Film, "This War We Are Living"

Multnomah County Central Library, 801 SW 10th Avenue. Part of the summer series of free films honoring the 100th anniversary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. In Cauca, a mountainous region in Colombia's Pacific southwest, two extraordinary Afro-Colombian women are braving a violent struggle over their gold-rich lands. http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/about/

Friday 14 August, 7 to 8:30 pm: Should the Left Support Bernie Sanders?

Musicians Union Hall, 325 NE 20 Ave at Sandy Blvd. Can an independent candidate maintain integrity within the two-party system? Can the Democratic Party be reformed from within? Is Socialism a viable political alternative? Join us for an evening of debate and discussion, featuring Chris Zimmerly-Beck (International Socialist Organization), Melissa Vollono (Socialist Alternative) and Nick Caleb (past independent candidate for City Council). www.portlandsocialists.org & www.socialistalternative.org

Sunday 23 August, 10 am to noon: Justice, More Justice (JMJ) Trio Performing

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

Friday, August 28, 1:30 to 4:30 pm: The Wake of Vanport

Downtown Portland location provided after RSVP. This multimedia work is dedicated to collecting and preserving Vanport survivors' stories. It honors the death of what was Oregon's second-largest city till it was flooded in 1948, with a population that was 40% African-American. The work is also a celebration of the survivors' lives after loss. After the screening there will be refreshments and discussion with survivors and producers. Admission is FREE, but space is limited and reservation is required. Invitees limited to two per family. RSVP at http://thewakeofvanport.eventbrite.com.

Thursday 3 September, 5:30 to 8 pm: Sundown Concert at Ecotrust

Ecotrust's Natural Capital Center, 721 NW 9th Avenue. Tonight's theme: Food. Music by Horse Feathers and School of Rock. See http://www.ecotrust.org/project/sundown/.

Thursday 17 September, 8 to 10 pm: Michael Milligan Performs "Mercy Killers"

Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta Street. Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) brings Milligan to Oregon to perform his one-man play. Joe is a blue collar mechanic with a red state perspective. "Mercy Killers" is his emotional journey as he fights for his wife's life using every resource, personal and otherwise, he can muster. Tickets: \$20 at door, \$15 online; buy at http://www.albertarosetheatre.com/?Page=https%3A%2F%2Fpublic.ticketbiscuit.com%2FAlbertaRoseTheatre%2FEvents%2F239331 Benefit for HCAO.

Saturday 26 September, Noon to 3 pm: Celebrate 100 Years of Peace Activism with Portland WILPF

Noon gathering at PSU Walk of the Heroines, SW Harrison @ 11th Ave, then walk or carpool to 1:30 pm event at First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & Salmon. Keynote speaker Mary Hanson Harrison, president of national WILPF US. Portland WILPF member Carol Urner, US delegate to the WILPF International Congress held in The Hague last April, will be honored for her leadership in action toward disarmament, nuclear abolition, and ending war. Food, music, visual displays, branch history.

Tuesday 13 October, 7:30 pm, The Nation Live! John Nichols, Naomi Klein, and Other Writers from The Nation Magazine

Newmark Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway at Madison St. Writers for The Nation Magazine on a national tour. Other speakers include The Nation's editor and publisher, Katrina van den Heuvel, Walter Mosley, Ursula Le Guin, Sherman Alexie, Dave Zirin & Zoe Carpenter. Tickets \$15 to \$65 plus service charge, http://www.portland5.com/newmark-theatre/events/nation-live.

SUPPORT YOUR PORTLAND WILPF BRANCH

Being a WILPF member means joining the national organization. If you haven't received recent mailings from WILPF US (through the Spring/Summer 2015 issue of *Peace and Freedom*, the national magazine), your WILPF membership is probably not current.

To join, renew or rejoin: For many of us the quickest, easiest way is online at www.wilpfus.org. But, if you don't do financial transactions on the internet, please send your membership dues check directly to WILPF Membership, 11 Arlington Street Boston, MA 02116. Please indicate new or renewal. Dues are on a sliding scale, \$15 to \$150 per year. Membership automatically includes International, US Section, and local Branch.

The form below is not for membership dues; it is for non-dues support for our Portland Branch. It is only these <u>non-dues contributions directly to our branch</u> that support all of our local work. When you send your <u>membership</u> dues to WILPF-US, the entire dues amount – except \$2/year – stays with the national organization. They send our branch \$2 per <u>paid</u> member per year.

Name:		New Supporter: ☐ Already a Supporter: ☐
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip+4:
Email:		Phone:
No	n-dues contribution to <u>sur</u>	port WILPF Portland's activities: \$
Extra contribution if you want to recei	ive <i>hard copy</i> newsletters,	rather than email (\$10 suggested): \$
		TOTAL Enclosed: \$

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