WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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June 2015

NEWS FROM THE MAY BRANCH MEETING

Nine WILPF members and one guest attended the Portland WILPF business meeting on Saturday, May 9. We took the following actions:

- ❖ Voted unanimously to endorse the Multnomah County Initiative entitled <u>A Fair Elections</u> and Clean Governance Charter Amendment." David Delk led our discussion preceding this action. See his article on page 2 for more information about this initiative.
- ❖ Voted unanimously to support a Resolution Regarding Guantanamo Detainees that is being developed for submission to the Portland Human Rights Commission. Our guest, Kevin Martonick of Vets for Peace, is working with Brian Willson, Megan Harrington of Amnesty International, and others on getting support for this resolution. It will call on the Human Rights Commission to take the lead in opposing the ban on transfer of any of the detainees onto our own soil, even though they have been approved for release but cannot be resettled in their home country or allied countries. http://www.nogitmos.org/news

We heard reports on (1) our annual <u>Jane Addams Books Project</u>, which provided award-winning books to school libraries at Ockley Green, Arleta, Sabin, and Lent Elementary schools last December and is being capped off this spring with a series of visits to each school by Jane Morgan, Kaye Exo, and Mary Rose; (2) our CEDAW project, inspired by Brandy Robinson's participation in the 2014 and 2015 UN Conferences on the Status of Women, in which Brandy is working with Elicia Reed (www.motherslegacy.org) in planning a campaign for adoption of a <a href="https://center.org

Barbara circulated a design for unique Portland branch WILPF buttons. She then shared with us a long message she had received from Carol Urner just before the meeting. Key parts of Carol's message are included on page 2.

Save the afternoon of Saturday, September 26, 1 to 4 pm for our 100th Anniversary Celebration at First Unitarian Church! Next planning meeting is Saturday, June 20.

The next business meeting of Portland WILPF will be on Saturday, June 13, 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. <u>Deadlines</u>: For the July newsletter, Monday, June 22; for the July calendar, Monday, June 29. Send all items for publication to <u>wilpfpdx@qmail.com</u>.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT INITIATIVE

All candidate elections conducted by Multnomah County for both county and cities would be covered by the "Multnomah County Fair Elections and Clean Governance" charter amendment endorsed May 9 by WILPF Portland. The amendment contains three major sections:

- ❖ Limits on campaign finance—no corporate money, individuals limited to \$200, candidate self-funding also limited; public funding allowed
- ❖ Strong disclosure requirements—five largest contributors must disclose their names and their primary business on both written and video advertisements
- Conflict of interest clause—elected county & city officials must not engage in official discussions or votes on matters which would benefit themselves, their relatives or their major contributors

Join this grassroots effort at www.mult.fairelection.org. (David Delk, 503-232-5495)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNIVERSARY EVENT THIS FALL!

Portland WILPF's celebration of the WILPF 100th Anniversary will conclude with an afternoon event, 1 to 4 pm, September 26. Starting with a joyous peace march from PSU's Walk of the Heroines through the Peace Park to First Unitarian Church, it will feature round table seating for friendly talk and food; historical reflections by Mary Hanson Harrison, president of WILPF US, and Carol Urner, Portland WILPF's best known disarmament advocate; musical interludes; and many displays or activities designed to be surprising, informative, and memorable.

We will get our Portland community ready for this event by sponsoring a series of free films on "Women's Power to Stop War," the WILPF anniversary theme. <u>All this summer and early fall activity requires lots of volunteer work!</u> Here are some opportunities & people to contact:

- ❖ Join the planners—3 pm Saturday, June 20. Call Barbara at 503-239-4204.
- ❖ Bring purchased finger-food to film series events in June, July, and August. Call Brandy at 971-226-0193 or Mary Rose at 503-230-2835.
- Help identify and contact persons and organizations who might be interested in coming.
- ❖ Talk to Jean Fitzgerald (503-484-8206) about ways to enliven the peace march and accommodate those who want to attend but cannot march.
- Call Barbara or Mary Rose with suggestions about decorating the space at First U.
- ❖ Sign up to help set up and decorate at First U, noon to 1 on September 26. Call Celeste at 503-648-7759.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP!

CAROL URNER RETURNS FROM INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

(from Carol's message sent May 9)

First, I will be delighted to participate in the planning and celebration of our first 100 years of WILPF work on September 26. That day is very special to me. I marked it as the turning point <u>back in 2013</u> when, after months of campaigning to get the US to the UN high level meeting on nuclear disarmament, the US sent only a low level delegation. However, miracles happened on that day. The biggest were Hassan Rouhani, President of Iran, and his powerful speech at that conference and then the opening of negotiations between Kerry and Iran on nuclear issues.

And it has proven a real turning point for the whole world. Now that day, in response to Rouhani's call for nuclear weapons abolition at the UN conference in 2013, has been named United Nations Nuclear Weapons Abolition Day and there has been much progress ever since. The role of WILPF in all of this is really significant.

(continued on page 3)

I was excited to be part of the Hague WILPF Centennial Congress this year as an official voting delegate.

For me the most significant outcome was the Manifesto with which we start our second century and the rejuvenation of our international Disarmament, Demilitarization, and End Wars working group. That group has been dormant since 2011 when no one stepped forward to take my place as co-chair. Now it is taking off again with a young Tahitian woman as chair. . . And we already have representatives from over a dozen Sections [countries] eager to join the group.

I am now spending two weeks at the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] NPT sessions in New York. . . WILPF is actively helping non-nuclear powers develop a ban treaty which will finally make nuclear weapons illegal in all situations. At present the nine nuclear nations, led by the USA, are spending billions each year modernizing and/or expanding their nuclear arsenals and showing no signs of giving them up during this century or the next. They declare nuclear weapons are legal as deterrents for self-defense but of course that means non-nuclear nations exist at the mercy of nuclear ones.

Anyway, I am looking forward to being back with all of you in Portland. . . Love and peace, Carol.

Note: The NPT sessions ended May 22. "The final document of the NPT Review Conference was prevented from being adopted by Israel—a country that is not even party to the Treaty. The US, UK, and Canada issued statements refusing to accept the proposal on convening a meeting about potentially developing a <u>Middle East weapon of mass destruction free zone</u>, thus preventing the adoption of what would have been the weakest disarmament outcome in the Treaty's recent history. Instead, the outcome from this Conference is the Humanitarian Pledge, representing a commitment of more than 100 states to <u>work for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons." http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/</u>.

IMPLEMENTING CEDAW LOCALLY

by Brandy Robinson

The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. It is a kind of international Bill of Rights for women, ratified by 189 nations. All but six UN member states have ratified CEDAW. The United States has signed but not ratified it; the others are Iran, Palau, Somalia, Sudan, and Tonga.

States and local municipalities can implement similar laws with similar principles. San Francisco did so in 1998. After formally agreeing to implement CEDAW, San Francisco studied the status of women's rights in its jurisdiction, then adopted laws designed to formalize and protect these rights, created a dedicated oversight body, and provided funding for enforcement. It is reported that the rate of domestic violence homicides in San Francisco fell to zero during a recent 44-month period since CEDAW's implementation.

Cities for CEDAW is a campaign to get 100 cities to sign up by the end of 2015, expressing their intent to implement CEDAW legislation. Portland has expressed support for CEDAW implementation but has taken no formal action through legislation. WILPF is working with other women-focused organizations to advance this campaign in Portland and throughout the state of Oregon. However, the most recent available data on the status of women's rights in Oregon were collected in the 1990s!

To learn more about this campaign, visit http://citiesforcedaw.org. Learn from the Blog that Los Angeles implemented CEDAW in 2004. Louisville KY did so last November (see under About Us). WIN (Women's Information Network) and DOSW (San Francisco Department on the Status of Women) are sources of information about the formal implementation process. Ask your local, county, and state officials to make CEDAW part of the legislative landscape!

LINKS FOR PEACE ACTIVISTS

- •Slide show of 30 women peace activists crossing the DMZ between North and South Korea <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/25/world/asia/peace-activists-cross-demilitarized-zone-separating-koreas.html?ref=todayspaper&r=1#slideshow/100000003701591/100000003701603 http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/28/opinion/talking-about-peace-when-despots-dont-care.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0
- •**Highlights** from WILPF 2015 Women's Power to Stop War Conference https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2RkoKplCv0
- David Swanson on some "surprising acquittals and dismissals of charges"
 http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/30091-kathy-kelly-freed-convictions-of-oak-ridge-3-overturned

https://transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com/

•Rasmea Odeh is a 67 year old Palestinian American community leader who was tortured by the Israelis in 1969. She was sentenced in March to 18 months in prison and deportation, after an unfair trial that her attorneys and the Rasmea Defense Committee are filing her appeal on June 10. WILPF member Jack Herbert suggests donating to her defense.

http://www.stopfbi.net/

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 contributions to 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 paid member per year.

Name:		New Member: Renewal:
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip+4:
Email:		Phone:
Non-dues contribution to support Portland WILPF activities, includes emailed branch newsletter: \$ Extra contribution if you want to receive a hard copy newsletter: \$		
	·	TOTAL Enclosed: \$

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

June 2015 Portland WILPF Calendar

VIGILS HELD REGULARLY

- * 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 1 June, 7 to 9 pm: Documentary Film "COINTELPRO 101"

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St. Produced by The Freedom Archives, this one-hour film explains the FBI Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) headed by J. Edgar Hoover. Co-sponsors (KBOO Community Radio, Critical Resistance Portland, and others) will talk about ongoing local work and the legacy of COINTELPRO. Discussion and Q&A. For more info: http://cstpdx.com/schedule

Tuesday 2 June, 12 to 2 pm: Eastside democratic Club, Topics--Bioregionalism and \$15 Minimum Wage

Grace Presbyterian Church, 6025 NE Prescott St. Jeff Mocniak from Cascadia Education Project will address bioregionalism and how it might affect political and other organizing activities. Justin Kertson from the 15 Now campaign will talk about the current status of efforts in the Oregon legislature and possibility of moving forward with a statewide initiative.

Wednesday 3 June, 6 to 9 pm: Race Talks 2, Community Police Forum to Improve Relationships

Wilson High School Cafeteria, 1151 SW Vermont St. in Hillsdale neighborhood. One of several forums offered by the Portland Police Bureau in partnership with Albina Ministerial Alliance, City of Portland Human Rights Commission and Community Police Reform Committee, RACE TALKS and Portland Public Schools. Come give your input. Be part of the solution in Portland.

Friday 5 June, 7 pm: Film, "Arresting Power: Resisting Police Violence in Portland, Oregon"

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St. First of three screenings in June of this locally produced, award-winning documentary. Arresting Power provides a historical and political analysis of the role of the police in contemporary society and the history of policing in the United States. Tickets are \$5 to \$10 sliding scale; no one turned away. See Saturday 6 June and Sunday 7 June below for other screenings. www.afd-pdx.org/events

Friday 5 June, 7 to 9:30 pm: 350PDX Benefit Concert, "Variations on a Theme of Extinction: Rage, Rage Against the Dying"

Central Lutheran Church, 1820 NE 21st Ave at Schuyler. On-rushing extinctions, the coming storms, and the moral necessity of safeguarding Earth's abundance of lives—words alone cannot express the urgency of action, and so we turn to music. Kathleen Dean Moore & Rachelle McCabe (OSU) present a program of words and music, based on an interpretation of Rachmaninoff's "Variations on a Theme of Corelli." www.350pdx.org

Saturday 6 June, 2 to 4 pm: Annual Protest of Militarism at the Rose Festival

Waterfront Park CityFair, near military recruiters' booths. Bring your own sign or use ones provided by local activists.

Saturday 6 June, 7 pm: Film, "Arresting Power: Resisting Police Violence in Portland, Oregon"

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St. Another opportunity to see this locally produced, award-winning documentary. Reviewers have called the film "an acute and compassionate look at the realities of police brutality in Portland, Oregon." Tickets are \$5 to \$10 sliding scale; no one turned away. See also Sunday 7 June below.

Sunday 7 June, 3:15 to 4:45 pm: WILPF Free Film, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell"

St. Johns Library, 510 N. Charleston Ave. First of a summer series of free films honoring the 100th anniversary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. This film tells the astonishing story of the Liberian women who took on the regime of dictator Charles Taylor during a brutal civil war and won an unlikely peace for their shattered country in 2003. www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/full-episodes/pray-the-devil-back-to-hell/.

Sunday 7 June, 4:30 to 6 pm: Screening and Panel Discussion of "Arresting Power: Resisting Police Violence in Portland, Oregon"

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St. Panel on "Building Resistance" follows this film screening. Members of the Portland chapter of the All African People's Revolutionary Party, the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform, and the African Hip Hop Caravan will discuss options for community control. \$5 to \$10 donations suggested; no one turned away. Refreshments will be provided. www.afd-pdx.org/events

Tuesday 9 June, 7 pm: Robert Putnam, "Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis" First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park Ave, doors open at 6:30. Putnam's new book looks at the growing barriers to upward mobility faced by unprivileged children and families. Hosted in Portland by SAGE (Senior Advocates for Generational Equity) as their 2015 Visiting Sage, he is author of Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. Tickets \$20 at http://putnam.brownpapertickets.com/.

Tuesday 9 June, 7 pm: Katherine Stewart, "How Religious Fundamentalism Threatens Oregon's Public Schools"

Eliot Chapel, First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & Salmon. Presented by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Columbia Chapter, and sponsored by the Center For Inquiry–Portland, and Protect Portland Children. Don't miss this talk by one of our nation's leading writers on church/school separation. Stewart is the author of *The Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Assault on America's Children*. www.thegoodnewsclub.com

Saturday 13 June, 10 am to 12 pm: Youth Ending Slavery's Community Brunch

Tabor Space Dining Room, 5441 SE Belmont St. An opportunity for YES's supporters and community members to network with each other and with YES members. The Board will recap the year, introduce new board members, introduce chapter leaders, explain future projects and then open the floor for discussion. Free; donations recommended. Please RSVP at http://www.youthendingslavery.org/upcoming.html.

Saturday 13 June, 1 to 3 pm: Portland WILPF Branch Business Meeting

Room B310, First Unitarian Church. Come early (noon or later) to join brown bag lunch and conversation.

Saturday 13 June, 2 pm: 2015 Portland Trans Pride March

North Park Blocks on NW Park Avenue & Everett, near Old Town. http://pridenw.org/, www.thegoodnewsclub.com

Sunday 14 June, 11 am: 2015 Portland Pride Parade

Parade forms in North Park Blocks, W. Burnside at NW Park. See http://pridenw.org

Thursday 18 June, 7 to 9 pm: "ALEC Exposed Workshop" Video and Discussion

Eliot Chapel, First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & Salmon. Learn about the American Legislative Exchange Council and how it undermines democracy while empowering corporations. This DVD prepared by the Center for Media and Democracy will be followed by a panel discussion including Kate Titus, Oregon Common Cause; Lauren Regan, Civil Liberties Defense Center; and others TBA. www.afd-pdx.org/events Admission \$5 to \$20; no one turned away.

Saturday 20 June, 3 pm: Planning Meeting for Portland WILPF Celebration of WILPF's 100th Anniversary

708 SE 19th Avenue, 503-239-4204. Volunteers needed to sign up for helping with the summer free film series WILPF is sponsoring on women as peacemakers. Volunteers needed to plan food and decorations for the September 26 event—please also sign up to help decorate the space. Tell Barbara, Jean, Brandy, Mary Rose, and Natasha what you like to do!

Saturday 20 June, 7 pm: Dr Jonathan Simon, "Election Theft In America, from 2002 Till We Stop It: What Happens When Our Votes Become 0's and 1's?"

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & Salmon. Simon is author of <u>CODE RED</u>: <u>Computerized Election Theft and The New American Century</u>. Casting votes is a very private act, but counting them must be public and observable. It's critical to recognize that what happens inside a computer is neither public nor observable. Co-sponsored by Alliance for Democracy and KBOO Community Radio. Admission \$5 to \$20; no one turned away. <u>www.afd-pdx.org</u>

Thursday 25 June, time TBA. David Korten

The prominent critic of corporate globalization will speak at First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & Salmon. http://davidkorten.org/ and www.afd-pdx.org/events.

Thursday 25 June, 7:30 to 9 pm: Service of the Living Tradition

Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. Members of the public are welcome to attend this service, part of the 2015 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly meeting this week in Portland. Led by the Ministry and Professional Leadership Staff, this service honors fellowshipped and credentialed religious leaders. www.uua.org/ga

Saturday 27 June, 4:45 to 6:45 pm: Public Witness: Commit2Respond to Climate Change

Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. This event will begin in the General Session Hall and will progress to the plaza directly outside the convention center. It is fully accessible to people of all abilities and open to the public. Read about the theme and the speakers at http://www.uua.org/qa/justice/witness.

Sunday 28 June, 9 to 10:30 am: Sunday Worship

Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. Members of the public are welcome to be present for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. For more about the General Assembly program, see http://www.uua.org/ga/program/schedule.

Sunday 7 July, 2 to 4 pm: WILPF Free Film, "Peace Unveiled"

Belmont Library, 1038 SE Cesar E. Chavez Blvd. Part of the summer series of free films honoring the 100th anniversary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. This film follows three women in Afghanistan risking their lives to make sure that women's rights don't get traded away in any deal with the Taliban.

Sunday 19 July, 8 pm: Teamsters and Turtles - Together at Last! with Anne Feeney and Dana Lyons

Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta Street, 97211. More details will be available in the July newsletter. Tickets: http://albertarosetheatre.com. "Anne Feeney is the greatest labor singer in North America." -- Utah Phillips. www.annefeeney.com

Tuesday 21 July, 2 to 4 pm: WILPF Free Film, "I Came To Testify"

Musicians Union Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave. Part of the summer series of free films honoring the 100th anniversary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. How a group of 16 women imprisoned and raped by Serb-led forces in the Bosnian town of Foca broke history's great silence and stepped forward to take the witness stand in an international court of law. http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/about/

Thursday 6 August, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: WILPF Free Film, "War Redefined"

Hollywood Library, 4040 NE Tillamook St. Part of the summer series of free films honoring the 100th anniversary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. This film includes incisive interviews with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee; Bosnian war crimes investigator Fadila Memisevic; and globalisation expert Moisés Naím. http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/about/

Saturday 26 September, 1 to 4 pm: Celebrate 100 Years of Peace Activism with Portland WILPF

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & Salmon. Keynote speaker Mary Hanson Harrison, president of national WILPF US. 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. See page 2 for announcement and summer film series leading up to this event.

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.