

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 Phone: 503-595-9393

Website: www.wilfpdx.org

Newsletter editors: Celeste Howard, Natasha Beck, Anne McLaughlin



March 2015

NEWS FROM THE FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

Barbara Drageaux, who served as our branch co-chair in past years and retired as newsletter editor in 2012, served as convener for our February 14 meeting, our first since convener Lucinda Tate's untimely passing. The rest of us—Holly Hansen, Rajni Kini, Natasha Beck, Anne McLaughlin, Celeste Howard, Lily Roselyn, Brandy Robinson, and Ezelma Ann Obuhoro—also felt inspired to carry the work of our WILPF branch forward in some way. Lily renews her participation, now that she is again living in Portland. Rajni wants to draw our Washington County members into more WILPF activities. Both Ann and Brandy spoke poignantly of their gratitude for the sense of personal empowerment Lucinda has fostered in them, and they are full of ideas for taking up the challenges now before them.

Natasha told us briefly about the February 7 conference on Women in Prison which she, Karen James, and Brandy attended. Her written report is on page 2 of this newsletter. Watch for another opportunity to see Brian Lindstrom's documentary, "Mothing Inside," which was featured at that conference.

Ann and Celeste brought news about plans for the International Women's Day program at New Hope Baptist Church on the afternoon of Sunday, March 8. Lucinda had been asked to speak at this program, and she will be memorialized there by a moment of silence and words of appreciation from Ann. The main speaker will be Jo Ann Hardesty, president of Portland's chapter of NAACP. WILPF members and friends are invited to be present for this program. The church is located at 3725 N. Gantenbein, one block west of Vancouver Avenue between Beech and Failing streets. The program begins at 3 p.m.

Also on International Women's Day, our branch will have a WILPF information table at the 4 pm Aurora Chorus concert, "Dare To Be Powerful." Two WILPF members, Kaye Exo and Natasha, will be singing in the chorus. Ticket and location information on Calendar (page 5).

March Action #1: Join the anti-war Visibility Action by PJW/**WILPF** on March 19 (see p. 6). *Watch for the e-Alert about a sign-making party earlier, at Barbara Drageaux's place!*

March Action #2: Visit www.everywomaneverywhere.com/policy and learn why we need an international treaty making illegal all forms of violence against women, to ensure that CEDAW is enforceable. *You can sign onto the campaign for such a treaty at the same site.*

The next meeting of Portland WILPF will be on Saturday, March 14, from 1 to 3 pm in room B310, First Unitarian Church. The room is available at noon, so come early if you can for brown bag lunch and conversation. Deadlines: For the April newsletter, March 22; for the April calendar, March 29. Send all items for publication to wilfpdx@gmail.com.

REPORT ON FEBRUARY "WOMEN IN PRISON" CONFERENCE

by Natasha Beck

Sponsored by the Portia Project and the Oregon Justice Resource Center, the twelfth annual Women In Prison conference was Saturday, February 7, at Lewis and Clark Law School. The free event drew law students, social workers, attorneys, and community activists. WILPF members Brandy Robinson, Karen James and I attended. The highlights for me were the keynote address, a film about a parenting project at Oregon's Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), and a panel presentation by three women currently incarcerated at CCCF.

Dr. Emily Salisbury, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, gave an excellent keynote speech, "Gender-Responsive Strategies in Prison." Currently, U.S. prisons operate on a gender neutral system as a nod towards equity, but in reality it is a system based on controlling violent male inmates. In reality, clear differences exist between female and male prisoners: women are much more likely to be incarcerated for non-violent offenses, to have significant mental health and substance abuse issues due to prior abuse, and to have a greater need for contact with their children and other relatives.

Salisbury argued that a gender-responsive system, which some states are starting to adopt, would be relationship-based and trauma-informed. In addition, both strength-based and culturally-sensitive strategies would be used. Nationally, women are the fastest-growing prison population, and women of color are disproportionately represented. Most have been convicted of drug and property crimes because of the 'war on drugs' and mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

Portland independent filmmaker Brian Lindstrom presented his 2014 documentary, **Mothering Inside**. Filmed primarily at CCCF in Wilsonville, Oregon's only female prison, it highlights a pilot project designed to give mothers more contact with their children in order to preserve the bonds and ease transition after the mothers' release dates. Some footage also included the children at their caregivers' houses. The project was quite successful in reducing recidivism, but unfortunately it ended on February 8 for budgetary reasons. Some of the women and children featured in the film were present in the audience and asked to stand or come forward.

The day's final presentation set a precedent: Three current CCCF inmates appeared and told their uncensored, candid life stories. All were bright and articulate mothers in their thirties who had experienced prior significant trauma through sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse. Two have contended with life-long racism. All are making major efforts to improve their lives through participating in counseling, classes in life and job skills, and enrichment activities.

The U.S. prison industrial complex, to use Dr. Angela Davis's term, is an entrenched, punitive system. Some activists including Davis advocate prison abolition, considering the system beyond reform. Others advocate slow but steady reform. Whatever their perspective, the conference participants and presenters seemed realistic yet cautiously optimistic about humanizing and improving the treatment of incarcerated women, taking into consideration today's social and political realities.

THE DYNAMICS OF POSSIBLE HUMAN EXTINCTION

If you missed hearing this symposium, live-streamed from the New York Academy of Medicine on the weekend of February 28/March 1, the recorded 20-minute speeches are now archived online. Access the 2015 symposium at www.helencaldicottfoundation.org/news, click on the symposium title, then scan down to the blue line 'THE EVENT WILL BE LIVE STREAMED' at: <http://totalwebcasting.com/live/hcf>. Click on that link, then on the first 'Play' icon, and you can choose the name of any speaker you want to hear.

'DOOMSDAY CLOCK' RESET TO 11:57 PM

In the February 10 issue of Washington Post, Katrina vanden Heuvel began her column "An Arms Race Won't Help Ukraine" by observing that the Doomsday Clock maintained since 1947 by a group of Nobel Laureates was reset to three minutes to midnight in January, "denoting the closest we've been to doomsday in more than thirty years. Their reasoning is based not just on the world's inaction on issues like climate change, but on its provocative march toward a new Cold War. Indeed, as humanitarian catastrophe engulfs eastern Ukraine, the United States continues to stoke tensions with Russia, most recently by considering providing lethal military aid to the government in Kiev. . . The U.S. interest should be avoiding another arms race with Russia — nuclear or otherwise — and rebuilding the trust that will be necessary to stabilize Ukraine. . . The sooner the U.S. accepts that a diplomatic resolution is the only option, the sooner we can take a step back from the cliff. The clock is ticking."

These excerpts are from www.commondreams.org/views/2015/02/10/arms-race-wont-help-ukraine; the column is reprinted in the March 2/9 issue of The Nation.

S. 452, Defense of Ukraine Act of 2015, is "A bill to provide lethal weapons to the Government of Ukraine." The United States is the leading provider of weapons to the world, and the practice of providing weapons to countries in crisis has proven disastrous, including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Expanding NATO to Russia's border and arming Russia's neighbors threatens something worse than disaster. Doing this is toying with nuclear war.

If you want the Senate to reject S. 452, make your voice heard by signing onto the petition at <http://diy.rootsaction.org/petitions/no-weapons-to-ukraine> .

WORK ON LITERACY IN EL SALVADOR THIS JULY WITH CISPES

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador – CISPES – is mobilizing people in the US to join its 3rd Literacy Brigade to El Salvador to learn from the country's inspiring process of people-centered transformation and what we can do to help defend it. If you want to make a concrete contribution to the people's liberation through education, please join us this summer!

- Spanish proficiency required
- Cost is \$1400 – 1950 total: \$850 for in-country costs + \$150-300 sliding scale registration fee + \$400-800 plane fare
- Fundraising support and limited scholarships are available

<http://www.cispes.org/travel-to-el-salvador/delegations/summer-2015-literacy-brigade/>

TO APPLY, [submit an application](#) by May 1 and [let your local](#) CISPES chapter (PCASC) know you are interested in the brigade.

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 _____: \$ _____

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. 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.

March 2015 Portland WILPF Calendar**VIGILS HELD REGULARLY**

- * **Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm** East end of Burnside Bridge (NE MLK Jr 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 www.Trimet.org to find public transportation to all these locations]

Wednesday 4 March, 2 to 4 pm: Film, "Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria"

PSU Women's Resource Center, Montgomery Hall Basement, 1802 SW 10th & Montgomery. Women's History Month Film Series documentary about transgender women and drag queens who fought police harassment at Compton's Cafeteria in San Francisco's Tenderloin in 1966. The film will be followed by a short discussion.

Wednesday 4 March, 4:15 to 6:15 pm: Film, "A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde"

PSU Women's Resource Center, Montgomery Hall Basement, 1802 SW 10th & Montgomery. Women's History Month Film Series. A Litany for Survival features interviews with many of Lorde's fellow poets and activists, including Adrienne Rich, Sapphire, and Sonia Sanchez—all of whom pay tribute to Lorde's impact as a mentor and inspirational force.

Wednesday 4 March, 7 to 9:30 pm: KBOO Benefit, "Evening with David Barsamian"

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St. One of America's most tireless and wide-ranging investigative journalists, David Barsamian has altered the independent media landscape, both with his weekly radio show *Alternative Radio* -now in its 29th year- and his books with Noam Chomsky, Eqbal Ahmad, Howard Zinn, Tariq Ali, Richard Wolff, Arundhati Roy and Edward Said. \$10-20 suggested donation; no one turned away for lack of funds.

Thursday 5 March, 4:30 to 6:30 pm: Film, "Rhymes for Young Ghouls"

PSU Native American Student & Community Center, SW Broadway at Jackson. Women's History Month Film Series; free, snacks provided. The film is set in 1976 at the fictional Red Crow Reserve, a Mi'kmaq Indian reserve. A Mi'kmaq youth loses her mother to suicide and her father to a prison term then assumes her father's drug dealing business while in the care of her uncle. Contains graphic violence. Post-film discussion led by Dr. Brook Colley & Melissa Bennett, M.Div.

Friday 6 March, 6 pm: Free Documentary, "Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek"

Market Center Building, 1600 SW 4th at Market, room 123. Sponsored by Sierra Club and other organizations. Turkey Creek is a historic black community in coastal Mississippi. Derrick Evans and his neighbors stood up to powerful corporate interests and faced Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil disaster in their struggle for self-determination and environmental justice. Free admission, snacks provided. Email info@groundworkportland.org to reserve a seat.

Friday 6 March, 7:30 pm: Book Launch, "Behind the Badge in River City"

St Johns Booksellers, 8622 N. Lombard. Don DuPay's police memoir gives a first-hand account of the Portland Police Department in the 1960s/1970s. Enjoy treats and hear Don's anecdotes about St Johns forty years ago.

Saturday 7 March, 2 to 4 pm: Open House for People Interested in Tax Re-Direction

St Johns Booksellers, 8622 N. Lombard. Portland Re-Direction offers information, discussion, and a basic workshop for anyone considering re-direction of federal income taxes. If you have experience in re-direction, come share your experience and support others who are fed up with their tax money being spent on weapons and war, instead of on the needs of people.

Sunday 8 March, 4 pm: Aurora Chorus Concert, "Dare to Be Powerful"

First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park. In its Second Annual International Women's Day concert, Aurora celebrates the power and strength of women such as Malala Yousafzai, Ella Baker, and Audre Lorde. Special guest: Portland singer/songwriter Kelly Bosworth. Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at door. (www.aurorachorus.org) WILPF members Natasha Beck & Kaye Exo will be singing in the chorus, and **WILPF** will have an information table post-concert.

Sunday 8 March, 4 to 6 pm: International Women's Day Poetry Reading

Taborspace, 5441 SE Belmont St. Ellen Goldberg is organizing this event to initiate the new Soapstone program of grants (see <http://www.soapstone.org/index.html>), "Events Celebrating Women Writers." Free and open to the public. To submit your feminist poems, contact Ellen through info@29thStreetWriters.com.

Monday 9 March, 10:15 to 11:30 am: Liz Carlisle & David Oien Talk About "Lentil Underground: Renegade Farmers and the Future of Food in America"

PSU Urban Center Building, 506 SW Mill St, Parsons Gallery (2nd floor). Liz Carlisle is a fellow at the Center for Diversified Farming Systems at UC Berkeley. David Oien, a Montana farmer, is co-founder of Timeless Seeds and one of the farmers who have defied corporate agribusiness by launching a unique sustainable food movement. Carlisle appears in a short video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9D5QdCXIs-k>. Go to lentilunderground.org for more information about the book. Presented by the PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions.

Monday 9 March, 7:30 pm: Author Liz Carlisle, "Lentil Underground"

Powell's City of Books, 1005 W. Burnside. Sponsored by Edible Portland. In her new book, Carlisle shares the inspiring story of a little-known group of farmers who have successfully bucked the chemically-based food chain and the entrenched power of agribusiness's one percent, by stubbornly banding together.

Tuesday 10 March, 6 pm: Film, "The Koch Brothers Exposed: 2014 Edition"

North Portland Neighborhood Library, 512 N. Killingsworth St. Part of Jefferson High School's annual Multicultural Film Festival, this film covers where Koch brothers' money is going, who

it's hurting, and how much they were making during the process leading up to the 2014 Elections. Info at <http://www.bravenewfilms.org/koch2014>. Free; post-film discussion.

Tuesday 10 March, 7 to 9 pm: Race Talks: "Learning to Be White: The Unwritten Rules"

McMenamins Kennedy School Gym, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue at Jarrett, doors open at 6 pm. Presented by Kate Lore and Preston Lore, Unitarian ministers. "A roadblock to racial justice...is the damaging racial training imposed on whites as part of their path to adulthood." For all ages; food available for purchase.

Wednesday 11 March to Friday 13 March: 34th Annual Gender Studies Symposium

Templeton Campus Center, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road. Free and open to the public. See college.lclark.edu/departments/gender_studies/symposium/ for the event poster. Keynote speeches at 7 pm: March 11, Inderpal Grewal (Yale), "Towards a Feminist Critique of the Advanced Neoliberal Security State"; March 12, Tracey Deutsch (U. Minn.), "Putting Consumption in Its Place: Gender, Labor, and Politics in Complicated Times."

Saturday 14 March, 1 to 3 pm: Portland WILPF Branch Meeting

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th and Salmon, room B310. We will look ahead to a future meeting in Corvallis with the WILPF branch there (and a possible visit to the display of Ava Helen and Linus Pauling papers in the OSU library). We will also discuss plans for a local event celebrating WILPF's hundredth year. Brandy will be attending the UN conference of the Commission on the Status of Women, March 7-15. Natasha will be in Ashland. Join us!

Thursday 19 March, 4 to 6 pm: Visibility Action, "End the Re-Invasion of Iraq—12 Years Later"

Intersection of NE Couch & MLK Jr Blvd, near east end of Burnside Bridge. Led by Peace & Justice Works' Iraq Affinity Group (IAG), whose "Tower of Peace" will remind motorists, cyclists and pedestrians heading in three directions about the ongoing effects of US policies in Iraq. The event will also draw attention to the US bombing of Syria and to the similarity of the alleged withdrawal from Iraq in 2011 to the "end of combat operations" in Afghanistan last December. Co-sponsored by **Portland WILPF**.

Sunday 22 March, 10 am to noon: JMJ Trio Performing

Anna Banana's, 2403 NE Alberta. Jane Keefer, 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. Phone 503-274-2559.

Thursday 9 April, 6:30 pm: PSU Confucius Institute Lecture, "The Greening of Chinese Literature: Shanshui Aesthetics and the Environmental Crisis"

PSU Smith Memorial Union, 1825 SW Broadway, room 238. Dr. Andrea Riemenschneider, Professor of Modern Chinese Studies at the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich, currently focuses on social issues and environmental aesthetics in contemporary sinophone literature, theatre and digital media. Her talk will explore the agency of an "ecological unconscious" in contemporary Chinese poetry. Free and open to the public.

Saturday 11 April, 6 pm: HCAO Benefit, "Healing the Healthcare Blues"

Eagles Lodge, 7911 N. Exeter between Lombard and Willis. Norman Sylvester and a host of NW Blues stars perform at this 4th annual benefit for Health Care for All Oregon. Food for sale, plus full-service bar (21 and over). Admission: \$2. Tickets at Music Millennium, Musician's Union, Geneva's and www.tickettomato.com. More info at www.hcao.org.

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, now on sale at <http://www.portland5.com/newmark-theatre/events/nation-live>.