

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

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May 2015

NEWS FROM THE APRIL BRANCH MEETING

Nine women attended the Portland WILPF business meeting on Saturday, April 11. Dana Henderson is joining our branch, bringing her experience from active participation in the Santa Cruz branch some years ago. Maureen Long, roused from 'inactive' status by the chance to attend the Centennial Congress in The Hague, came to tell us her plans for the trip. Kathryn Kendall visited us to bring news from the Buddhist Peace Fellowship and invite WILPF members/friends to join their monthly half-hour of outdoor meditation in Director Park (see Calendar entry for Sunday, May 10). Mary Rose, Holly Hansen, Anne McLaughlin, Ezelma Ann Obuhoro, and Celeste Howard participated, with Barbara Drageaux presiding.

WILPF's 2015 Centennial was high on the agenda, and we made some progress in setting mileposts for centennial events in Portland.

- ❖ May 24 is International Women for Peace and Disarmament Day. On May 24, 2015, 30 women, including Gloria Steinem and two Nobel Laureates, plan to walk across the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea, 62 years after the armistice. (www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/dmz-walk-organizers-hope-to-reinvigorate-efforts-for-more-lasting-korean-agreement/article24041562/?cmpid=rss1) Look for at least one WILPF film showing on that day.
- ❖ Our major event will be in middle to late September or early October. Barbara offered her home as a meeting place for the initial planning meeting, and she wrote an open invitation for posting to our email newsletter list. Notes from that April 25 meeting are below.

NOTES FROM THE EVENT PLANNERS

Anne McLaughlin, Barbara Drageaux, Brandy Robinson, Jean Fitzgerald, Mary Rose, Natasha Beck

Brandy and Mary Rose will plan a series of films leading up to the fall event and reaching out especially to younger people, times & locations TBD. The fall event will require a venue for around 100 people, with food (catered), music (Beyond Little Boxes, Raging Grannies?), speaker (from WILPF leadership), and a brief drama/skit (about Grace DeGraff). It will include an interview booth (Karen James interviewing and recording participants); posters to browse with photos & quotes from Portland WILPF members; a rotating loop of silent photos, projected digitally, showing Portland branch history; and perhaps a "joyous, lively parade" with signs from the Walk of Heroines to the venue. All ideas, still tentative! **Bring your ideas** to the next planning meeting, 3 pm Saturday, May 23, at Barbara's home, 708 SE 19th Ave. **More of you are needed** if we are to create a truly memorable event!

The next business meeting of Portland WILPF will be on Saturday, May 9, 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 June newsletter, Friday, May 22; for the June calendar, Friday, May 29. Send all items for publication to wilfpdx@gmail.com.

WILPF 2015 CONGRESS

On Friday, April 24, during the last day of the WILPF 2015 Congress in The Hague, **Kozue Akibayashi** from WILPF Japan was elected as the new WILPF International President. Asked afterward why she became active in WILPF, she replied,

“I always wanted to be a peace activist, and a feminist, since I was 10 years old. I started to work with WILPF because of its perception on root causes of war. There are not many organisations that do that. But that is what WILPF started articulating, the connection between gender discrimination and war.”

Kozue told the interviewer that the highlight for her of the two-day Congress in the Peace Palace was the discussion of the WILPF 2015 Manifesto, adopted on the previous day to renew WILPF’s hundred-year-old commitment to peacemaking. The root causes of war are identified on the Manifesto’s first page:



- Militarism as a way of thought, and the militarization of societies, such that perceived threats are likely to be met with weaponry rather than words.
- The capitalist economic system, involving the exploitation of the labor and resources of the many by the few, wantonly harming people and the environment, generating conglomerates of global reach and unaccountable power.
- The nation-state system as it is today, involving dominant states, imperialist projects, inter-state rivalry, occupation, contested borders, and, inside those borders, all too often, failure of democracy, political repression, and intolerance of diversity.
- Social systems of racist supremacy, cultural domination, and religious hierarchy.
- Patriarchy, the subordination of women by men, in state, community and family, perpetuated by the social shaping of men and women into contrasted, unequal and limiting gender identities, favoring violent masculinities and compliant femininities.

The 16-page WILPF 2015 Manifesto will soon be posted on our website (www.wilfpdx.org).

WILPF 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Following the Congress, WILPF held a 3-day conference under the new title of its Global Movement, “Women’s Power to Stop War.” Each session, plenary, and speaker is listed day by day at <http://www.womenstopwar.org/daily-programme/>. All sessions were recorded. To listen to any of the recorded sessions, go to <https://voicerepublic.com/venues/wilpf-2015-conference-women-s-power-to-stop-war/>. Click on a session’s title to select it, then play it by clicking the white “play” triangle. For example, you can hear the Grand Opening session, in which Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Laureate from Iran, gave her short opening address in Farsi, with English translation, followed by Mairead Maguire, Nobel Laureate from Ireland.

ACTION ITEMS

Fast Track and the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) multilateral trade agreement continue to be a major threat to our economy and to our democracy. For more info, see www.alternet.org/economy/video-robert-reich-explains-worst-trade-deal-youve-never-heard. This trade deal designed by corporate lawyers will transfer power from national governments to global corporations, marking a sea change in exercise of power that is being compared to the power shift from Church to Nation States in the late Middle Ages.

Endorsement of the Multnomah County “Clean and Fair Elections” initiative will be on our agenda for the May 9 branch business meeting (see above), when WILPF member David Delk will be present to talk with us about its details.

(continued on page 3)

Mumia abu-Jamal, the world renowned author and radio journalist, is reported to be in critical condition. He may die in prison if medical specialists do not treat him immediately. "In the past three months, [he] has lost 65 pounds, fallen into diabetic shock, and developed gall stones. Black crusting lesions cover his entire body, his extremities have swollen, and blood taints his urine. Prison neglect and mistreatment have caused his undiagnosed illness to worsen, and Mumia now languishes in his prison cell, barely able to eat, stand or keep awake. He is just 61." (New York Times, April 29)

Call Secretary John Wetzel (717-728-2573) at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Urge him to allow Mumia Abu-Jamal to receive medical attention from volunteer specialist doctors who stand by ready to assist. To obtain updates on his condition, check <https://www.facebook.com/.../Committee-to-Save-Mumia-Abu-Jamal/12> or inquire at committeetosavemumiabujamal@gmail.com.

"A rare and courageous voice speaking from a place we fear to know:

Mumia Abu-Jamal must be heard...

Losing that voice would be like losing a color from a rainbow."

- Alice Walker

SUPPORT YOUR PORTLAND WILPF BRANCH

Being a WILPF member means joining the national organization. If you haven't received any recent mailings from WILPF US (including 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 non-dues contributions directly to our branch that support all of our local work. When you send your membership 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

May 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]

Friday 1 May, 2 pm: May Day! Rise Up in Solidarity!

South Park Blocks, SW Salmon & 9th Avenue. Gather at 2 pm, rally at 3 pm, march at 4:30pm. Originally a celebration of the coming of summer, in the 1800s May Day became part of the labor movement's fight for an eight-hour day and fair working conditions, now celebrated in other countries as International Workers' Day. Today, working people are still denied basic rights; many live in poverty, enduring houselessness, food insecurity, and lack of access to health care. This year our call is to reflect on these injustices, find common ground, and Rise Up In Solidarity!

Monday 4 May, 6 to 9 pm: Race Talks 2, Community Police Forum to Improve Relationships

Grant High School Cafeteria, 2245 NE 36th Avenue. 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.

Tuesday 5 May, 7 to 9 pm: The Quest for Peace with Justice for Palestine/Israel

Channing Room, First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & SW Salmon. The first session of a short course with guest speakers, facilitated by First Unitarian members Dick Adams and Curt Bell. Subsequent sessions will be on Tuesday evenings, May 12, 19, and 26. There is no fee for the class. Focus will be on justice, human rights, and international law and the role of America/Americans, with significant class time devoted to discussion. For registration or information: Curt Bell, 503-232-7018, curt.c.bell@gmail.com

Saturday 9 May, 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.

Sunday 10 May, 1 to 1:30 pm: Meditation with Buddhist Peace Fellowship

Director's Park, SW Yamhill at SW 9th Ave. Wear blue. If it's not raining, we will sit/stand/walk around the Teachers Fountain. If it's raining, we will gather under the roofed part of the park. www.BPFPortland.com, www.Facebook.com/bpfportland

Sunday 17 May, 4 pm: Let the River Run: Aurora Chorus Joint Concert with Con Brio Women's Choir

First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park at Madison, downtown Portland. The concert explores the images and metaphors of flow, energy, journeys, dreams--the river of life itself--as the two choirs "go with the flow," each presenting a set and also sharing the stage for several pieces. Guest director Kathleen Hollingsworth leads Aurora in the season's final concert. Con Brio, from the Seattle area, is led by Dori Baunsgard. Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1474614

Monday 18 May, 6:30 to 8:30 pm: Phyllis Bennis, "Resolving Iraq and Syria Through Diplomacy, Not War": A Video Teleconference Forum with Q&A

Multnomah Friends Meeting House, 4312 SE Stark. Bennis will focus on the US-led War on ISIS (Islamic State), in which Iran is playing a key role; the debate over the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF); and effects of the war on the people of Iraq and Syria. She will also give brief updates on Israel/Palestine and on Yemen. The event is coordinated by the Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group and co-sponsored by Occupy Portland Elder Caucus, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Jewish Voice for Peace-Portland, Portland WILPF, American Friends Service Committee, and others.

Friday May 29, 6 to 9 pm: 2015 Portland Jobs with Justice Annual Dinner

PSU University Place, 310 SW Lincoln Street. See www.jwjpx.org for tickets and more information about actions to protect the rights of working people and support the transition to a more just economy. Tickets start at \$65.

Saturday 30 May, 9 to 5 pm: Labor Notes Troublemakers' School

UA Local 290 Hall, 20210 SW Teton Avenue, Tualatin, 97062. Calling all troublemakers, from teachers to bus drivers, retail workers to government employees, farm workers to nurses! This school is a place for troublemakers of all kinds to come together for a day of skill-building workshops and strategy discussions to create a stronger workers' movement in Portland. For more information, see www.labornotes.org/pdx#sthash.u9cC3weH.dpuf and register now for \$10 at www.labornotes.org/pdx#Register

Sunday 31 May, 5:30 pm: Youth Ending Slavery's 5K Run

Forest Grove High School Track, Forest Grove 97116. The race will commence at 5:30, starting at the track and weaving through beautiful Forest Grove. Following the race, there will be food, anti-trafficking booths and resources, as well as a guest speaker. Sign up with your friends today! \$20 students. \$30 adults. If you sign up by May 8th, you will also receive a t-shirt with your registration fee. <http://www.youthendingslavery.org/upcoming.html>

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

Wilson High School Cafeteria, 1151 SW Vermont St. 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.

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> .

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

Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta Street, 27211. More details will be available in the June and July newsletters. Tickets: <http://albertarosetheatre.com>. "Anne Feeney is the greatest labor singer in North America." -- Utah Phillips. www.annefeeney.com

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