

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

Officers: Co-presidents: Natasha Beck and Brandy Robinson;

Corresponding secretary/webmaster: Karen James;

Recording secretary, vacant; Membership, vacant; Treasurer, Anne McLaughlin

Newsletter co-editors: Celeste Howard, Anne McLaughlin

[www.wilfpdx.org](http://www.wilfpdx.org) -- [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com) -- 503-595-9393 (for messages)



---

## April 2016

---

### Updates on our members:

**Celeste Howard** is recuperating quickly from hip surgery and has returned to editing this newsletter!

**Jean Fitzgerald** passed away in March. A celebration of her life will be held at 5 pm on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. See calendar listing for more info.

---

## NEWS FROM THE MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

Members Present: Natasha Beck (presiding), Brandy Robinson, Gloria Deodato, Holly Hansen, Teisha Parchment, Jack Herbert, and Anne McLaughlin

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards Project: Every year the [Jane Addams Peace Ass'n](#) selects children's books that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and equality of the sexes and all races, in addition to meeting more conventional standards for excellence. Our branch has ordered several sets of the 2015 award winners and is setting up presentations at Lent, King, Sitton and Lincoln Park schools.

May Film Event: Brandy Robinson is organizing a screening and discussion of [Sista in the Brotherhood](#), a short about a black Portland tradeswoman who faces contempt at a new jobsite. "Sista" won both top audience awards for short subjects in the 2016 Portland International Film Festival. The event is tentatively scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in helping on this event should email [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com); please include "Sista film" in the email subject line.

Central America Update: Jack Herbert reported on recent developments in Honduras and El Salvador. Honduran human rights activist Berta Cáceres was assassinated in early March. He suggested WILPF members take action by contacting the members of the Appropriations committee, and by signing the online petition at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org).

The Beaverton Police Department is currently accepting applications for **Victim Advocate Volunteers**. Applications are due by Friday, April 8, 2016 at 4:00 pm. Applicants are not required to be Beaverton residents. More information, including a position description, expectations, requirements, and application can be found online at the Beaverton Police website, [beavertonoregon.gov/index.aspx?nid=1659](http://beavertonoregon.gov/index.aspx?nid=1659), or by calling Katrina Rodriguez, Victim Services Coordinator, 503-526-2205.

---

The next business meeting of WILPF Portland is Saturday, April 9, 12:30 to 2:30 in room B310, First Unitarian Church. Doors open at noon. See calendar for more info.

**Deadlines:** For the **May newsletter:** Monday, April 21; for the **May calendar:** Saturday, April 26. Send articles and event information to [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com)

You are invited to a **WILPF webinar** on **12 April 2016 from 4:30 to 5:30 a. m. (PDT)**. Every day around the world, conventional weapons exacerbate power differences and facilitate acts of violence, including those rooted in gender discrimination. Effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the UN Programme of Action on small arms (UNPoA) presents a unique opportunity to prevent gender-based violence (GBV).

WILPF is now publishing a report that seeks to provide tools and guidelines for effective implementation of the ATT and the UNPoA, including how to conduct an export risk assessment on GBV and how to enhance gender mainstreaming in disarmament and arms control. **Ray Acheson**, Director of WILPF's Disarmament Programme, will introduce the work WILPF has been doing over the past year to strengthen the implementation of the ATT and UNPoA. Further, the author of WILPF's new report, **Rebecca Gerome**, will present her findings.

Sign up at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3328597004045311746>

## **GLOBAL DAYS of ACTION on MILITARY SPENDING (APRIL 16-18)**

Each April since 2011, at the time of US Tax Day, people around the world have joined with the International Peace Bureau to organize [Global Day of Action on Military Spending \(GDAMS\)](#) events. Tax Time also coincides with release of the annual world military expenditure figures by the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#), so it's a good time to pay close attention to US military spending. Besides the Pentagon budget request for nearly \$600 billion this year, our government is planning to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years (about \$30 billion per year) to modernize its nuclear arsenal and its delivery systems!

At a time when the case against the nine nuclear powers, brought before the International Criminal Court by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), is still in progress (see [www.nuclearzero.org](http://www.nuclearzero.org)), and when **WILPF** and many other organizations are pressing for *abolition of nuclear weapons* on behalf of the peoples of the world, it is unthinkable that the US should further increase its military spending—already greater than that of the rest of the world combined—in pursuit of new nuclear weapons small enough to be actually *usable* in conflicts anywhere in the world!

"Spending for nuclear weapons modernization is obscene, legal but criminal. If even a tenth of the military's 7,200 nuclear weapons were used, the result would be nuclear winter, ending all life as we know it...Yet, even if we accept the flawed logics of deterrence and mutual assured destruction (MAD), this spending is a boondoggle, a windfall for the military-industrial complex....A quarter of the projected spending for modernization could provide free college education, for all who are qualified in America, for a decade. Spending to contain and reverse climate change and to repair the nation's crumbling infrastructure would meet essential needs while creating jobs and providing greater economic opportunity and security." (<https://www.afsc.org/story/gdams-issues-nuclear-modernization-spending>).

**You may be a person who would like your tax payments to be spent for peaceful purposes, not for weapons.** If so, you should know about the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act of 2015 (HR 2377), introduced into the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA). Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR4) has been a co-sponsor of this bill, which "provides a way for Americans who oppose war to pay their taxes with a clear conscience. It protects both freedom of religion and freedom of speech." ([www.peacetaxfund.org](http://www.peacetaxfund.org)) The Peace Tax Foundation is affiliated with the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee; see <http://nwtrcc.org/programs-events/tax-day/action-calendar-2016/> for 2016 Tax Day events including those in Portland.

## WILPF PORTLAND IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

by Brandy Robinson

Find our page, and like it, at [facebook.com/WILPF-Portland](https://www.facebook.com/WILPF-Portland).

**We are seeking assistance** in maintaining this social media presence. If you are interested (the time commitment is minimal), you may have ideas for creating a better, more visible and transparent page to represent the essence of WILPF-Portland, past, present and future.

**If you have photos** that you would like to have posted on our Facebook page, but you aren't a FB "member" and can't post them yourself, please email those pictures to us at [wilfpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com). Don't have email? Just mail a copy to us; we will scan and upload it onto Facebook. (No originals, please; we may not be able to return photos.) Note that if you send a photo, you are giving WILPF Portland permission to use it on our Facebook page.

### MARCH HIGHLIGHTS for WOMEN

**This year's theme for International Women's Day (March 8)** was [Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality](#). Women farmers' yields, for example, are often 20 to 30 percent lower than men's because of a lack of access to banking, financial services, and inputs. But filling this gap—and helping women get the same resources as male farmers—could lift 100 to 150 million people out of hunger worldwide. See Danielle Nierenberg's article on "The Fight for Equality in Farming", <http://foodtank.com/news/2016/03/celebrate-international-womens-day-2016>.

**On Tuesday, March 22, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs** held the first-ever full committee hearing on the role of women in peace and security. In her March 21 article for the Congress Blog, Allison Peters (Institute for Inclusive Security) wrote,

"Decades of research show us: From negotiating a peace agreement in Syria to combating the spread of ISIS, women's inclusion must be a core priority.

"Don't believe me? Between 1992 and 2011, only [nine percent](#) of negotiators at peace tables were women. The outcome of this low representation: Nearly [half](#) of all peace agreements collapse within ten years. On the other hand, women's inclusion leads to greater success and long-term sustainability of an accord. In fact, new research compiled by the [International Peace Institute](#) has found an accord is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in its creation.

"...The horrendous violence and human rights abuses inflicted on the Syrian people have been documented on Capitol Hill through numerous hearings and closed-door briefings. Yet with little attention, scores of Syrian women have been fighting for peace since the conflict began. Risking their lives, they've helped to secure local ceasefires, mobilized campaigns for reconciliation, and opened secret schools in ISIS-controlled territories."

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/273587-time-for-congress-to-take-the-lead-on-inclusive-security>.

For more on the Congressional hearing itself, see <https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/>.

### LINKS TO EXPLORE

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/03/opinion/what-the-election-means-for-reproductive-rights.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0> Prospects, in light of political aspirants' positions on reproductive rights of women.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/03/honduras-berta-caceres-murder-environment-activist-human-rights> Life and death of slain Honduran woman activist.

[https://youtu.be/FEpfmHdl\\_s](https://youtu.be/FEpfmHdl_s) Full show chronicling the January 25 Peace & Justice Works demonstration "25 years working for peace in Iraq."

<https://youtu.be/SoNHpUqeC6s> Special film screening "Lessons from Basketball & War," Race Talks discussion held March 8 with director Ron Bourke & Kevin Bacon, PPS principal.

## SUPPORT YOUR PORTLAND WILPF BRANCH

**Being a WILPF member means joining the national organization.** If you haven't received recent mailings from WILPF US, your WILPF membership is probably not current. Their most recent mailing was the Member Ballot to elect WILPF-US Board members and set the minimum for member dues at \$35/year. It was mailed out in February. To confirm that your dues are up to date, please contact the national office at [info@wilpfus.org](mailto:info@wilpfus.org).

**To join, renew or rejoin:** Pay dues to WILPF National in Boston. For many of us the quickest, easiest way to join, renew or rejoin is online at [www.wilpfus.org](http://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, check payable to WILPF-US. Sliding scale dues are now \$35 to \$150 per year; your amount is up to you. Membership automatically includes International, US Section, and local Branch.

**To contribute to WILPF Portland:** Use the form below. It is not for membership dues; it is for non-dues support for 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 Supporter:  Already a Supporter:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-dues contribution to support WILPF Portland's activities, automatically includes emailed newsletter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra contribution if you want to receive *hard copy newsletters*, rather than email (\$10/yr suggested): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

### *April 2016 WILPF Portland Calendar*

---

#### **VIGILS HELD REGULARLY**

**Tuesdays & Fridays, 2-4 pm** East end of Burnside Bridge **Alliance for Democracy** opposing TransPacific Partnership (TPP) and other corporate trade agreements

**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, 5 to 6 pm** Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW corner. **Portland Peaceful Response Coalition** (ongoing since 2001)

**Saturdays, 11 to noon** Corner of NE 13<sup>th</sup> & 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](http://www.Trimet.org) to find public transportation to all these locations]

**Saturday 2 April, 10 am to 1 pm: Signature Gathering by "A Better Oregon"**

Meet at the Hatch, 2420 NE Sandy Blvd. A Better Oregon is working on an initiative petition to raise revenue for schools, senior services, and healthcare, by getting large corporations to pay their fair share in taxes. The day begins with coffee, donuts and training. RSVP to [reyna@ouregon.org](mailto:reyna@ouregon.org). More info at [abetteroregon.org](http://abetteroregon.org)

### **Saturday 2 April, 3 to 7 pm: Community Air Forum with Erin Brockovich**

Revolution Hall, 1300 SE Stark St. Hosted by Eastside Portland Air Coalition (EPAC), the forum will devote the first hour to Q&A from residents dealing with the impact of Portland's air pollution. Advocacy groups, doctors, and environmental consultants will be present to respond. Well-known environmental activist Erin Brockovich will deliver the keynote address at 4 pm. More information follows from a panel of experts, with open mic Q&A. Free and open to the public. [www.eastsideportlandair.org](http://www.eastsideportlandair.org)

### **Saturday 2 April, 6:30 to 11 pm: "Justice within Reach 2016" Dinner**

Portland Art Museum, SW Park and Main, 97205. Dinner, stories, dancing and silent auction, annual fundraiser for Mackenzie River Gathering. For 40 years, MRG has supported social justice and social change organizations in Oregon. \$50 - \$100 sliding scale. For info, go to [mrgfoundation.org/event/justice-within-reach-2016/](http://mrgfoundation.org/event/justice-within-reach-2016/)

### **Sunday 3 April, 5 pm: Celebration of Jean Fitzgerald's Life**

Mazama Clubrooms, 527 SE 43<sup>rd</sup> at Stark. Jean was a dedicated WILPF member and local activist who died March 14<sup>th</sup> of cancer. Her most recent WILPF project was helping organize our wonderful 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event last September.

### **Saturday 9 April, 12:30 to 2:30 pm: WILPF Portland Monthly Business Meeting**

First Unitarian Church, room B310; enter from 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue through midblock breezeway between Salmon and Main Streets. On the agenda is a presentation by/about YES, [Youth Ending Slavery](#), local high-school activists fighting human trafficking. All members and interested people are welcome.

### **Tuesday 12 April, 4:30 to 5:30 am (PDT): WILPF Webinar on Preventing Gender-Based Violence through Arms Control**

Every day around the world, conventional weapons exacerbate power differences and facilitate acts of violence, including those rooted in gender discrimination. Effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the UN Programme of Action on small arms (UNPoA) presents a unique opportunity to prevent gender-based violence (GBV). Speakers: Ray Acheson, Director of WILPF's Disarmament Programme, and Rebecca Gerome, author of a new report on WILPF's work to strengthen implementation of the ATT and UNPoA. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3328597004045311746> to join.

### **Saturday 16 April, 10 to 11:30 am: David Swanson on [War Is A Lie: Second Edition](#)**

Eliot Chapel, First Unitarian Church, SW Salmon & 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Swanson, campaign coordinator for [www.RootsAction.org](http://www.RootsAction.org), has updated his 2010 book. He will speak about the latest developments in the telling and debunking of lies about wars. Q&A, book signing. **Also at Hoffman Hall, PSU, at 1:15 pm**, sponsored by Students United for Nonviolence.

### **Saturday 16 April, 6 pm to 12 am: Inner City Blues Festival—Healing the Healthcare Blues**

Eagles North Portland Lodge, 7611 N. Exeter at Lombard; doors open 5 pm. Come see some great musicians and support Healthcare for All Oregon ([hcao.org](http://hcao.org)). Silent Auction, dinners and drinks for sale, dessert & coffee bar, community Village of Information tables. For venue map, tickets, more info: see <https://www.tickettomato.com/event/3526/the-5th-annual-healing-the-healthcare-blues-festival/>. \$20 advance; \$25 at the door; age 21 and over only.

### **Sunday 17 April, 12 to 1 pm: Impressions of the Current Israel/Palestine Situation**

First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St. Josh Hauser, freshman at Pacific University, was among 12 United Methodists from across the United States who visited the Holy Land in February. Josh is an Alternate Lay Delegate to the upcoming United Methodist General Conference. He will show photos and share what he learned from local experts about the Israel/Palestine conflict and possible paths to peace. Free and open to the public.



### **Sunday 17 April, 7 pm: Poetry Readings by Marilyn Stablein and David Oates**

Holy Names Heritage Center, 17425 Holy Names Drive, Lake Oswego. Marilyn, an author and visual artist, reads her poetry. David, an environmental author, presents his latest publication, *The Heron Place*, selected by Swan Scythe Press. Hosted by **WILPF** member Joan Maiers, this event is free and open to the public. Donations of canned goods or cash for the Food Bank are most welcome.

### **Thursday 21 April, 6:30 to 8 pm: Reading and Presentation, Wild in the Willamette**

Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center, Ecotrust Building, 721 NW 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Special evening of story and celebration featuring contributors (Henry Hughes, Abby Phillips Metzger, Michael Pope, and others) to *Wild in the Willamette*, a new literary compendium and unique guidebook to the natural treasures of the mid-Willamette Valley. Sponsors: Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Greenbelt Land Trust, and OSU Press. Tickets can be purchased for \$3 to \$5 at [oregon-wildlife.org/#!wild-in-the-willamette-april-21/ov24s](http://oregon-wildlife.org/#!wild-in-the-willamette-april-21/ov24s).

### **Friday 22 April, 11 am to 3 pm: Student Craft Market at the PSU Earth Day Festival**

PSU Park Blocks. Join us at PSU's outdoor Student Craft Markets to find and sell student arts, crafts, and reused goods. The market provides an opportunity for students to earn money while promoting the values of repurposing materials and creating quality handmade goods. Student Craft Markets are organized and hosted by PSU's Student Sustainability Center.

### **Sunday 24 April, 10 am to noon: JMJ Acoustic Trio at Just Bob's**

NE Alberta and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Joined by WILPFer Laura Webb, the trio sings their favorite songs (& maybe yours), labor songs, Malvina Reynolds, and 'old but always still relevant.' The food is tasty, drinks refreshing, lively folk singing along, whistles, dances, fun, fun, fun. All ages welcome, tips only, no cover, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday every month. Jim Cook, Mary Rose, Jane Keefer & friends.

### **Friday 29 April, 6 – 8 pm: Oregon PSR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship Awards Ceremony.**

[First Unitarian Church, Buchan Reception Hall](#), 1226 SW Salmon St. Cosponsored by **WILPF Portland**. Featuring keynote speaker, journalist [Dahr Jamail](#), and the high school student winners of the 2016 [Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship](#). This year PSR asked students to respond to "How would a successful movement to confront climate change help create a more just and peaceful world?" Light hors d'oeuvres, tabling by cosponsoring groups.

### **Sunday 1 May, 6:30 to 8 pm: Pete Seeger Birthday Celebration and Tribute**

Clinton Street Theater, 2522 Clinton Street. Jam Session featuring [Joe Hickerson](#), concert, sing-a-long and more. Pete lived along the Hudson River with his wife, Toshi. Pete's passion for that River helped spawn the cleanup of that industrialized river and a whole organization to protect and restore rivers around the globe. Tickets \$15 at the door and \$10 in advance at [https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50797/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event\\_KEY=5529](https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50797/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=5529). *All proceeds benefit Columbia Riverkeeper.*