

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

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April 2014

NOTES FROM THE PORTLAND WILPF GATHERING IN MARCH

Only four of us—Georgia Pinkel, Barbara Drageaux, Lucinda Tate, and Celeste Howard—attended the branch meeting scheduled for 1 to 3 pm on March 15. Lacking a quorum for conducting business, we reviewed how Portland WILPF had functioned before Georgia and Barbara retired from leadership in July 2012, then evaluated our past two years' experience.

WILPF actions in recent decades. Portland WILPF has always depended on the initiative of its individual members to stir up actions on local and national issues. Members who become involved on WILPF-US issue committees have inspired branch participation in actions promoted by DISARM/End Wars and Advancing Human Rights issue committees. Portland was one of several locations participating in international action around the passage of Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" in 2000.

Portland WILPF regularly sponsors or co-sponsors many local annual events: May Day, Remembering Hiroshima/Nagasaki, Women's Equality Day in August, Keep Space for Peace (early October), Human Rights Day (December 10), and anniversaries of various US invasions. WILPF members have also made presentations or led workshops at PSU and PCC campuses on International Women's Day. For many years WILPF members held a weekly vigil on Pioneer Courthouse Square at noon on Wednesdays, and Barbara recalls preparing informational hand-outs on the issue of the week to engage passersby there in conversation.

Portland WILPF today. The Portland branch wants to maintain the branch's mission and continue our supportive relationships with KBOO, Jobs with Justice, Peace & Justice Works, Alliance for Democracy, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, War Resisters League, other local activist groups, and Jane Addams Peace Association. However, there are now few "active" members, and we are all past our "peak energy" time of life. Seldom does anyone new attend meetings or come forward to volunteer, and for several years it has been very difficult to fill leadership vacancies.

Looking toward a Planning Retreat. Many WILPF branches create their action plan for the coming year at a day-long or weekend "retreat." Georgia shared with us materials used by the Cape Cod WILPF branch at their 2013 planning retreat. We believe such a retreat is needed to enliven our Portland branch, and we look forward to the April meeting as an opportunity to start planning the time, place and program of an early fall WILPF retreat. We invite those who have been attending the branch's July Annual Meeting to join us at the April and May branch meetings to help prepare for this retreat. Please also reach out to others with peace and justice concerns, and invite them to come get acquainted with WILPF.

The next meeting of Portland WILPF will be Saturday, April 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. in room A301 of the First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue and Salmon. Join us at noon for a brown bag lunch before the meeting. Enter through the breezeway mid-block between Salmon & Main; the building is unlocked 11:45—12:15 and 12:45—1:15. Submit articles for the May newsletter to wilfpdx@gmail.com by April 22 and calendar items by April 25.

LUNCH IN HONOR OF CAROL URNER

WILPF members Georgia Pinkel, Lucinda Tate, Anne McLoughlin, Barbara Drageaux, and Celeste Howard invited Kelly Campbell of Oregon PSR and her young son, Finn, to join us on Tuesday 18 March as we welcomed Carol to Portland for a brief visit with her local family before returning to California for the rest of the season. Kelly is helping Representative Earl Blumenauer's staff prepare the June 4 forum on nuclear disarmament legislation at which Carol is to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award.



We had lunch together at Old Wives Tale. Carol, Georgia, and Barbara are seated on the right, facing Lucinda, Anne, Celeste, Kelly and Finn. [Another patron shared our table, seated beyond Carol.]

TALKING OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Fourth and fifth graders at Arleta Elementary School are pictured here with books chosen from the Jane Addams Peace Association selection of books for the 2014 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards. Arleta Elementary is one of five area schools that received these five books as a gift from the Portland branch of WILPF last fall. They have been reading and talking about the books, and on Monday, March 17, three WILPF members visited Arleta to hear their insights about how the stories connect with their lives. Pictured with the children are Jane Morgan, Kaye Exo, and Mary Rose from WILPF, teacher Tony Clouse, Multimedia Specialist Melinda McCrossen, and Library Assistant Dena Chaffin.

"Students continue to check out these life-changing books, year after year. They represent an excellent selection of genres: picture books, young adult novels, poetry, and non-fiction. The content is deep and moving." *Melinda McCrossen*



April 2014 Portland WILPF Calendar

VIGILS HELD REGULARLY

- * **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm** SW 5th & Hall, Beaverton. **Washington County Peace Vigil**
- * **Fridays, 4 pm** SW First and Madison on Hawthorne Bridge. **Weekly Anti-War Protest** lonevet2008@comcast.net
- * **Fridays, 5 to 6 pm** Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill and Broadway. **Portland Peaceful Response Coalition**
- * **Saturdays, noon to 1 pm** McLoughlin and Oak Grove Blvds., Milwaukie, Oregon. **Oak Grove Peace Vigil**

EVENTS (free unless noted)

[see www.Trimet.org to find public transportation to all these locations]

Tuesday 1 April, 7-9 pm: Race Talks 2: "Local Color," A History of Racism in Oregon
Jefferson High School cafeteria, 5210 N. Kerby Avenue, between Killingsworth & Alberta. Doors open at 6. All ages welcome. Presented by Portland Public Schools Office of Equity & Diversity, this second series of Race Talks is held on the first Tuesday of every month.

Wednesday 2 April, 11:45 am to 1 pm: Visibility Event in Opposition to Vancouver Oil Terminal

Clark County Public Services Building, 1300 Franklin Street, 98660. Prior to The Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) Workshop, gather at the public plaza in front of the building with banners (available, or bring your own), spread out along the sidewalk during lunch hour. We plan to be visible but not crowding the entryway. Public is invited to observe the workshop that begins at 1, but no public comment will be received. For more info, email Don Steinke, crvancouverusa@gmail.com

Thursday 3 April, 6-8 pm: Discussion, "Should Oregon Take the Lead on Carbon Taxes?"

PSU Market Center Building, room 123, 1200 SW 4th Ave. Institute for Economics and the Environment (www.pdx.edu/econ/iee). Panelists: Michael Armstrong, City of Portland Senior Sustainability Manager; Yoram Bauman, economist, CarbonWA.org; Jackie Dingfelder, Policy Director, Mayor's Office, and former state senator; Jenny Liu and Tom Potiowski, Northwest Economic Research Center.

Friday 4 April & Saturday 5 April: Friends of Sabeel Regional Conference, "Seeds of Justice for Palestinians/Israelis: What is Required of US?"

First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St. Friday 8 am to 9 pm, Saturday 8 am to 5 pm. Speakers include Naim Ateek, Max Blumenthal, Miko Peled, Phyllis Bennis. \$25 - \$85. Information and tickets at http://mideastpeace.net/Portland_Sabeel_Conference_2014/

Friday 4 April to Sunday 6 April: Becoming 'We the People': Finding Our Voices As Citizens

Tryon Life Community Farm, 11640 SW Boones Ferry Rd. Paul Cienfuegos provides the workshop content, Laurence Cole leads singing, Kelly Hogan uses Theatre of the Oppressed techniques in 'games of dialogue.' Healthy vegetarian meals. Fee \$100-\$300, according to ability to pay. Register at www.MotherEarthSchool.com/adult_education.shtml.

Saturday 5 April, 3 pm: Rally Advocating for Deferral of Detention/Deportation

Northwest Detention Center, 1623 E J Street, Tacoma WA. Coordinated by UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Program. Immigration detention and deportations are at an unprecedented level; families are separated, and people are locked up for months, even years, without due process. Call on Pres. Obama to grant deferred action, as he did for DREAMers. Click [here](#) for more info.

Saturday 5 April, 7 pm: Inner City Blues Festival, "Healing the Health Care Blues"

Melody Ballroom, 615 SE Alder Street, doors open at 6 pm. Benefit for Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) with Norman Sylvester and a host of NW Blues stars performing. Sponsored by Cascade Blues Association & KBOO. \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. www.hcao.org

Monday 7 April, 7 pm: Free Artist Talk, "Theatre in Uganda & Rwanda: Commemoration, Complexity, & Collaboration"

Fir Acres Mainstage Theatre, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd. US-based director Emily Mendelsohn and her collaborator of seven years, acclaimed Ugandan playwright Deborah Asiimwe, discuss their five-year, binational creation process for *Cooking Oil*, a play exploring the grassroots politics of foreign aid, as well as the upcoming work *Maria Kizito*, being developed in Rwanda by US, Rwandan, and Ugandan artists on the subject of the Rwandan genocide. RSVP at <https://www.artful.ly/boom-arts/store/events/2763>

Tuesday 8 April, 7-9 pm: Race Talks: "Playing the Race Card: An Interactive Game Teaching about Racial Biases"

McMenamins Kennedy School Gym, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, doors open at 6 pm. Speaker: Keisha Edwards, Race and Educational Consultant. For all ages; food available for purchase.

Tuesday 8 April, 7-9 pm: Emira Woods, "U.S. Militarism and the New Scramble for Africa's Resources"

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Salmon. Emira is co-director of Foreign Policy in Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies, a community of public scholars and organizers working with social movements to challenge concentrated wealth, corporate dominance and military power. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy & the Economic Justice Action Group at First Unitarian. See www.afd-pdx.org for more information.

Friday & Saturday 11 & 12 April, 7 pm; Sunday 13 April, 2 pm: Workshop Performance, "Appointment with gOD"

Lincoln Hall Studio Theatre, 1620 SW Park Ave. Boom Arts presents Ugandan playwright Deborah Asiimwe's funny, insightful exploration of the US visa process from an African perspective. Tickets \$12-\$20 at <https://www.artful.ly/boom-arts/store/events/2762>, free with student ID.

Sunday 13 April, 9 am and 11 am: The Climate Crisis: Going Public with an Unapologetic Civic Spirit

West Hills UU Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Rd. Early service is recommended as less crowded. Lenny Dee (Onward Oregon) and Rick Brown (350.pdx) will explore how we can change ourselves, sloughing off our political passivity, and become individuals who see the value of common endeavors and find in them a source of self-fulfillment.

Wednesday 16 April, 6-9 pm: Discussion, "State of the Hanford Site"

Double Tree Hotel, Halsey Room, 1000 NE Multnomah St. Join Hanford decision makers from the US Department of Energy, Washington State Dept of Ecology, and the US EPA; part of a regional series of meetings sponsored by these Tri-Party Agreement agencies. They say they want to hear from us. Discuss the Hanford clean-up progress, challenges and priorities. To suggest topics for discussion, send an email to: Stateofsite14@rl.gov. More info on the Hanford clean-up at www.hanford.gov. Comment deadline 4/18/14.

Saturday 19 April, 1 to 3 pm: Portland WILPF Meeting for Retreat Planning

Room A301, First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue and Salmon. More info in April newsletter. Join us at noon for a brown bag lunch before the meeting. Enter through the breezeway mid-block between Salmon & Main; the building is unlocked 11:45—12:15 and 12:45—1:15.

Friday/Saturday 25/26 April: 7th Annual Lane Peace Symposium, "Awakening the Dreamer—Move to Action"

Lane Community College, Longhouse, Building 31, Eugene OR. Transforming the destructive and oppressive dream of the modern world into a dream informed by indigenous peoples' relationship to the earth. Registration at <http://www.lanecc.edu/peacecenter>; symposium will be live-streamed at <http://www.lanecc.edu/it/media/live-streaming> Speakers: Caitlin Sopoci-Belknap (movetoamend.org), John Perkins (dreamchange.org), Jon Symes, Monica Beller.

Saturday 26 April, 10 am to 7 pm: Earth Day 2014, Theme "Reverse Migration"

Kenton Park, N. Delaware Ave & Argyle Way. The theme refers to a returning of people to the land from the cities. See http://earthdaypdx.com/category/earth_day/ for more info.

Saturday 26 April, 7 pm: Raging Grannies and Film, "Inequality for All"

West Hills UU Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Rd. Sponsor: Portland chapter of "Move to Amend." Raging Grannies will open this event with songs. Robert Reich's film is widely acclaimed as critically important in understanding the economic problems that threaten our democracy. For more info, contact janweston@comcast.net.

Sunday 27 April, 10 am to noon: JMJ Trio Performing at Anna Bannanas

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

Wednesday 30 April, 7 pm: Film, "The Healthcare Movie"

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Salmon, doors open 6:30. Provides the real story of how the health care systems in Canada and the United States evolved to be so completely different, when at one point in history they were essentially the same. Canadians now have access to universal health care because of the heroism of people who took a stand nearly 50 years ago. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy, Economic Justice Action Group of 1st Unitarian Church, KBOO Community Radio. \$5-20 donation requested; no one turned away.

Thursday 1 May, 2-9 pm: May Day March and Rally

South Park Blocks, Shemanski Park, SW Salmon & Park. Theme is workers' right to organize. See <https://www.facebook.com/portlandmayday> for more info. Tabling begins 2 pm, rally 3:30, march 4:30-6:30, Open Mic & music till 9.

Friday 2 May, 7 pm: Thom Hartmann and Community Friends: The Crash of 2016 & the transformational opportunities it will provide

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Main, doors open at 6:30. Thom's presentation will be followed by reception & discussion with local individuals and groups that are creating organizational models embracing the moral motive over the profit motive. Donation \$5-\$20; no one turned away. Sponsored by the Economic Justice Action Group of First Unitarian Church.

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: \$ _____

Contribution to support Portland WILPF activities, including emailed branch newsletter: \$ _____

Contribution for receiving hard copy newsletter: \$ _____

Other _____: \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed: \$ _____

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 above – the entire dues amount goes to WILPF National; they send us just \$1 per renewal. It is your non-dues contributions to our branch that support all our local work.