

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

Officers: Lucinda Tate, convener; Sara Tattam, membership; Anne McLaughlin, treasurer; Karen James, corresponding secretary/webmaster; Holly Hansen, office manager

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August 2014

ANNUAL MEETING FOCUSES on the PORTLAND WILPF WEBSITE

The ten of us who met at the Tattam home in Raleigh Hills on July 12 enjoyed beautiful weather, delicious food, and a fascinating update on www.wilfpdx.org from our webmaster, Karen James. Karen reported that during its initial year the site has had increasing numbers of visits from all over the world. Use it to find back issues of the branch newsletter, WILPF positions on major world and US issues, and basic information about peace and justice activism locally and elsewhere. We also affirmed branch leaders for the coming year and directed Karen to write a letter to President Obama on the humanitarian crisis of children fleeing their homes in Central America. This letter was posted July 15 in the 'blog' section of the website.

WILPF US TRIENNIAL CONGRESS JULY 31-AUGUST 3, DETROIT

Two members of the Portland branch will be leading workshops at the national WILPF Congress. Lucinda Tate, co-chair of the Advancing Human Rights issue committee, leads one on "Violence against Women: Women against Violence." Carol Urner, co-chair of the Disarm/End Wars issue committee, leads a panel on "Abolishing Nuclear Weapons in Our Lifetimes." Lucinda and Carol will bring home reports on these and other panels that deal with drones, peace education, Middle East issues, and restorative justice.

PROTEST RALLIES ON JULY 26

A nationwide boycott of Staples office supply stores is the latest move in a campaign to challenge the privatization of the people's Postal Service. At issue is a current proposal to locate Post Office counters in every Staples store in the United States. Postal workers have expressed concern that the long term effect of this expanding USPS partnership will be to eventually close existing post offices near Staples stores, eliminating public service jobs that pay a living wage (about \$25/hour) while transferring the workload to Staples retail associates who receive as little as \$9/hour. To learn more go to www.stopstaples.com.

Members of a local coalition, Portland Communities and Postal Workers United, have been actively promoting the boycott in the Portland/Vancouver area. They are also challenging efforts to close post offices and mail processing facilities in Oregon, cut postal services, and privatize postal trucking. PCPWU members including John Schwiebert and **WILPF** member Jack Herbert held a rally at the downtown Post Office at noon on July 26 to protest these privatization measures.

At the same hour, **WILPF** members Lucinda Tate and Celeste Howard joined the No More US Bombs on Iraq rally at Terry Schunk Plaza, organized by Peace & Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group. Signs also protested the Gaza crisis and Nestora Salgado's imprisonment in Mexico. See www.wilfpdx.org for the WILPF US statement on Gaza. See Calendar, 8/21, on Salgado.

There will be no WILPF business meeting in August. Submit articles for the September newsletter by August 22 to wilfpdx@gmail.com and calendar items by August 25.

The next Portland WILPF business meeting will discuss plans for 2014/15. Join us Saturday, September 13, from 1 to 3 pm in room A301, First Unitarian Church. Come early for a brown bag lunch together.

On Visiting Cuba

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We've just returned from ten inspiring days in Cuba, through the "Cuba AyUUda" person-to-person program (www.cubaayuuda.org) of Portland's First Unitarian Church. We interacted informally with many strangers in the street, every one of whom responded warmly to our greetings. We spent a great deal of time on our own, simply walking and looking. We spent more than twenty hours in thoughtful conversation with people in positions of responsibility in the arts, radio/television/film, politics, health care, education, neighborhood development, and community advocacy: from a 69-year-old revolutionary who had fought side by side with Fidel Castro and then served for many years as a government official to a 29-year-old artist and fine art conservationist. We stayed in a private home and talked almost every day with the owner and an English-speaking neighbor. We sang, we danced, we ate fresh produce bought from street vendors, we visited museums and markets, we did a lot of listening, and we got a lot of hugs.

What did we experience, see, and discuss? What did we learn?

In our own personal experiences during these ten days, we found that at the same time that the spirit of the revolution is alive and well, changes are occurring in Cuban life faster than they can be recorded in newly published American books and magazine articles. There are vast expansions of the private sector in the delivery of products and services to Cubans as well as to visitors to Cuba. Examples: People working in newly formed agricultural collectives deliver fresh produce from farm to city daily, and sell directly from carts, open air markets, and covered markets. We saw many private sector just-off-the-sidewalk beauty parlors, snack shops, and book stalls. People in newly formed private sector work team collectives repair streets, restore buildings, maintain outdoor parks. Artists sell their own paintings, wood carvings, and wall hangings to Cubans and to tourists. Local people and visitors eat in private sector restaurants as well as state-owned restaurants.

What about the spirit of the revolution? We learned this: At every level of social organization, from national government to block committees, continuing intentional activities are under way to support people's inborn capacity to be sensitive, caring, respectful, and committed to protecting the well-being of others, rather than people's inborn capacity to be insensitive, selfish, abusive, and greedy. This is evident in soap-opera entertainment television programs as well as public service announcements; popular magazines for teenagers and for adult readers, as well as physician-led parenting classes; school-based activities at all education levels, from preschool to graduate school.

We learned of Cuba's 99.8% literacy rate, the highest in the world (documented in the CIA World Factbook); and of Cuba's universal access to free medical care, strong community-doctor relationships, low infant mortality rates, and high life expectancy (documented by the Pan American Health Organization). So why is Cuba a poor country, so short of equipment and supplies for health care, education, building renovation, auto repair? And what can we do to help?

We know of the well-documented U.S. economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba; CIA involvement in many military invasions of Cuba and assassination attempts on Cuban leaders; and ongoing coordinated U.S. program of political, psychological, and military sabotage designed to destabilize and impoverish Cuba. We think that every American visit to Cuba, like ours, brings us all closer to the ending of these hostile actions and to the establishment of lawful and mutually caring relationships between our countries and our people.

What do you think?

WILPF Member Imprisoned for Anti-nuclear Activism

WILPF member Sister Megan Rice, 84, is now in the Brooklyn Metropolitan Detention Center after conviction for activism against anti-nuclear weapons. For more, see page 2 in our July 2014 newsletter & www.popularresistance.org/sister-megan-writes-from-prison-urges-you-to-spread-the-word/

If you wish to write to her, your envelope must include a return address, and the letter should include both addresses. Correctional officers will open and read all correspondence; be judicious in your wording. Her address is:

Megan Rice 88101-020
MDC Brooklyn
P.O.Box 329002
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Open Call for Art! - ¡ Llamado a las artistas anti-imperialistas !

The Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC) is currently accepting submissions for its annual art-show and fund raiser. This year's theme is inspired by Yanira Obando, a Chilean artist whose work is a response to the long history of US intervention in her country, where in 1973, the U.S. government funded a military coup that led to decades of disappearances, mass killings, and violent repression. For submittal information, contact claire@pcasc.net. Submissions welcomed until **August 15th**. Show opens **September 5th**.

August 2014 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**
- * **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, 11 to noon** Corner of NE 13th & Multnomah, across from Holladay Park. **Lloyd Center Vigil**
- * **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]

Early August: Open Call for Art! – ¡ Llamado a las artistas anti-imperialistas !

The Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC) is currently accepting submissions for its annual art-show and fund raiser. For info, contact: claire@pcasc.net. Submissions close **August 15th**. Show opens **September 5th**. See article on page 3.

Tuesday 5 August, 5 pm: Paul Cienfuegos Commentary on KBOO Evening News

KBOO, 90.7 FM, weekly on Tuesdays starting August 5. Each commentary will be about four minutes long and will loosely resemble Jim Hightower's regular commentaries—but from a Community Rights perspective. Listen, and send feedback to paul@100fires.com

Tuesday 5 August, 7-9 pm: Race Talks 2, "Race Relations and Community Policing"

Jefferson High School cafeteria, 5210 N. Kerby Avenue, between Killingsworth & Alberta. Doors open at 6, newcomers' introduction 6:30, program at 7. Sponsored by the City Auditor's Independent Police Review/Citizen Review Committee (CRC). Meet the CRC and share your thoughts about the Portland Police Bureau's engagement with the community. All ages welcome. Raffle prizes; BBQ available for purchase.

Tuesday 6 August, 6-7 pm: The Old and New Faces of Nuclear Weapons

Japanese American Historical Plaza, Portland Waterfront Park at NW Naito Parkway and Couch Street. Commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and exploring the changing nature of nuclear weapons. Sponsors: Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, **WILPF**, Japanese Ancestral Society, American Friends Service Committee, Peace & Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group and others. Chair seating is limited; bring your own chair or blanket.

Wednesday 7 August, 7-9 pm: Community Forum, "Real Talk on Drones: What Will Oregon Decide?"

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Salmon. Oregonians for Drone Control has begun a campaign to enact laws and regulations for the operation of drones in Oregon. Panelists will include Col. Ann Wright and Peter Lumsdaine (Global Exchange; Resource Center for Nonviolence). Sponsors: Alliance for Democracy, Oregonians for Drone Control, **WILPF** and others.

Saturday 9 August, 7 pm: Zaher Wahab, "Afghanistan on the Brink"

Peace House, 2119 NE 18th Ave at Tillamook. Back in Portland briefly from his most recent visit to Afghanistan, Prof. Wahab will speak about the current situation there; Q&A will follow. For more info, see <http://www.pjw.info/afghanistan080914.html>.

Tuesday 12 August, 5:30-8:30 pm: Portland Premiere, "Terra Firma: A Film about Women, War, and Healing"

Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison. Terra Firma is a documentary about 3 women healing their war traumas through farming. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with Oregon rancher and veteran Mickey Clayton of Dot Ranch and the filmmakers Christine Owens and Anthony Masterson. More information at <http://www.friendsoffamilyfarmers.org/?p=3419>. Watch the trailer at www.terrafirmafilm.com.

Tuesday 12 August, 5 pm: Paul Cienfuegos Commentary on KBOO Evening News

KBOO, 90.7 FM, weekly on Tuesdays. See 5 August above.

Tuesday 12 August, 7-9 pm: Race Talks, "Race Relations and Community Policing"

McMenamins Kennedy School Gym, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, doors open at 6 pm. Same program as Race Talks 2 on August 5, sponsored by the City Auditor's Independent Police Review/Citizen Review Committee. All ages welcome; food available for purchase.

Friday 15 August, Final Day to Submit Anti-imperialist Artwork for PCASC Show

For September show. See article on page 3.

Saturday 16 August, 11 am-5 pm: 2014 Green Neighborhoods Festival

Peninsula Park, 700 N. Rosa Parks Way. The Green Neighborhoods Festival brings neighbors together to share in the creating of green spaces in their neighborhood. Come and plug into great projects that are in progress in any neighborhood in Portland. Great environmental speakers on the main stage, organic food booths, crafters, native plants for sale, great musicians and a kids activity area. Organized by The Center for a Sustainable Today. Learn more at <http://greenneighborhoodsfestival.org/>.

Tuesday 19 August, 5 pm: Paul Cienfuegos Commentary on KBOO Evening News

KBOO, 90.7 FM, weekly on Tuesdays. See 5 August above.

Thursday 21 August, 12 noon: International Protest to Free Nestora Salgado

Mexican Consulate, 1305 SW 12th Ave at Jefferson. Nestora Salgado is an indigenous leader, a naturalized U.S. citizen and political prisoner in Mexico. Last August she was seized without an arrest warrant by Mexican federal soldiers as a result of her leadership role in community policing against organized crime. Portland Freedom Socialist Party, www.socialism.com.

Sunday 24 August, 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.

Sunday 24 August, 4-6 pm: Missa Gaia/Earth Mass, sung by Community Choir PDX

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Main St. Composed by members of the Paul Winter Consort as a contemporary ecumenical mass to celebrate the sacred beauty of Mother Earth and all her creatures, the work blends a variety of pop, jazz, new-age styles. Susan Peck conducting. **Tickets are \$15 in advance** (Ctrl+click for link), **\$20 at the door**. Supported by the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC); proceeds benefit Friends of the Gorge.

Tuesday 26 August, 5 pm: Paul Cienfuegos Commentary on KBOO Evening News

KBOO, 90.7 FM, weekly on Tuesdays. See 5 August above.

Thursday 4 September, 7 pm: Echoes of the Vietnam War

Oregon Historical Society Pavilion, 1200 SW Park Ave at Madison. Featuring Christian Appy, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Daniel Ellsberg, who released *The Pentagon Papers*; and Lt. Colonel Thuy Tran, Oregon Air National Guard. Co-sponsored by the ACLU of Oregon. Free and open to the public; registration required at www.worldoregon.org.

Friday 26 September, evening; Saturday 27 September, all day: Pacific NW Social Forum People's Movement Assembly

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Main St. The Pacific NW Social Forum (PNWSF) is a convergence of people's movements working in northern California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Hawaii and Alaska to build solidarity and unified action for social, economic and environmental justice in the Pacific NW. Sliding scale registration is now open at www.pnwsf.org.

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