

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

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December 2015

NEWS FROM THE NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

At the November 14 meeting, seven WILPFpdx members welcomed Katie Krueger to membership in our Portland branch. Our guests were Tom Hastings, peace activist, and Jo Ann Hardesty, Portland NAACP president, who told us about the need for short powerful nonviolence training videos, freely available online, and gave us details of their plan to co-produce and promote such a series of videos on topics such as working in teams; intercultural conflict de-escalation; police & media liaison; and civilian-based defense alternatives to armed police. For more information please contact Tom at hastings@pdx.edu.

WILPF member Jack Herbert reported on his visits to Honduras (2014) and Colombia (2015). His written account can be found online at www.wilfpdx.org. Brandy brought a document received from the City of Eugene indicating their intent to begin implementing the UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in the city administration. She left it with Elicia Reed, co-chair of Oregon CEDAW Coalition. Barbara Drageaux drew our attention to the growing pressure from fossil fuel interests to use the Columbia River and northwest ports as a major route for exporting these products to Asia (www.sightline.org, www.columbiariverkeeper.org).

WOMEN AT THE PEACE TABLE

Barbara Drageaux sent this transcript from Amy Goodman's conversation on Nov. 23 with Peter Bouckaert, Human Rights Watch's emergencies director: **Peter:** You know, two years ago, I helped organize a conference for women from Syria in Geneva, together with women's rights activist Madeleine Rees. And it was really the first time that women had had a voice in the peace process. You know, we brought this proposal to the diplomats, and they were like, that's a great idea. **Amy:** And what was the proposal? **Peter:** It was to have a conference of women to talk about their vision...that women had to be around the table, that we could not just have men with guns around the table. But up to that stage, 50 percent of the population of Syria, their voice had been completely ignored in the peace process for Syria.

*Rep. Diane Russell (D, Maine) sent this email on Oct. 3 from a conference, "Women at the Tables of Power" in Washington, DC: "Help me thank a woman at the tables of power who is being hailed as the key negotiator who averted another war in the Middle East and got the Iran nuclear deal across the finish line, **Under Secretary of State, Wendy Sherman**. . . Secretary of State John Kerry had this praise: Her 'mentoring of colleagues, her experience, her passion for diplomacy, her calm in the storm set her apart as a great Under Secretary of State.' Please e-sign this thank you letter to applaud [her] efforts and success as a leader at the peace building table" [You can sign here: <http://www.congressweb.com/wand/75>]*

December business meeting cancelled (Sat 12/12). The next business meeting of WILPF Portland will be Saturday, January 9, 2016, in room B310 of First Unitarian Church. Brown bag lunch from noon to 1 pm for those who arrive early, business meeting 1 to 3. **Deadlines:** There will be no January newsletter; for the January calendar, Monday, December 28. Send events for inclusion in the calendar to wilfpdx@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Practicum at UN – Application Deadline Friday, December 11

submitted by Dixie Hairston (WILPF US) via Brandy Robinson

Each year WILPF US selects a group of individuals enrolled in universities and colleges around the country to serve as our delegates to the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

As part of our delegation, students will contribute to the official documentation of both formal and informal meetings that will take place during the first week 60th Commission on the Status of Women. (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>) The Practicum will provide ample opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and exploration of career opportunities in international relations and advocacy work.

To complete the application process, you must complete both the application and the faculty recommendation form by the deadline, **Friday, December 11, 2015 at 8:59pm PT**. Email me at practicum-mail@wilpfus.org to obtain electronic copies of these forms. (Brandy also has copies; call her at 971-226-0193)

Join a NOW Task Force – Deadline January 8

submitted by Brandy Robinson

Calling all activists! The NOW Racial Justice Task Force and Young Feminists Task Force will soon be appointed by the NOW President with the advice and consent of the NOW Board. (NOW = National Organization for Women. See noworegon.org) Both task forces are charged by the National NOW bylaws to advise the NOW Board and National Conference on matters of agenda, leadership recruitment, and issue prioritization regarding feminists of color and young feminists in NOW. Please note that the Young Feminists Task Force is composed of individuals aged 30 or under.

Racial Justice Task Force: Please submit (or encourage any interested applicant to submit) an application through this [RJTF application form](#). Note: To be eligible to serve, you must be a NOW member.

Young Feminists Task Force: Please submit (or encourage any interested applicant to submit) an application through the [YFTF application form](#). Note: To be eligible for the YFTF, you must be a NOW member **age 30 or under**.

NOW is committed to diversity and requires that every committee represent a variety of voices, so please note any diversity that you bring to the committee. Some examples of diversity are race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and socioeconomic status, but you are not limited to those categories. Please let us know if you identify as a woman of color. The deadline to apply is **Friday, January 8, 2016**.

Western States Center Job Announcement: Racial Justice Program Director

submitted by Natasha Beck

The Western States Center is located at 310 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 1140. The job announcement at this link, http://www.westernstatescenter.org/about/opportunities-1/racial-justice-program-director/at_download/file, gives full details about responsibilities, qualifications, salary & benefits, and how to apply. Interviews will begin in December. Western States Center is an EEO employer and encourages applications from people of color; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; and women.

WILPF-PDX Internship

This is an unpaid internship with potential for academic credit, depending on the parameters and design of internship goals and program. Time commitment is minimal and will involve assisting members in performing outreach tasks for the Jane Addams book project and various local and organizational human rights initiatives. Ideal candidate should be creative, have good time management, communication and organizational skills, and be an undergrad or grad student in fields related to women's studies, sociology, public health, social work, political science, law or legal studies, etc. If interested, email resume, internship goals & availability to wilpfpdx@gmail.com; include the word 'Internship' in the subject line.

LINKS FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

http://www.icip-perlapau.cat/numero25/articles_centrales/article_central_3 This link, submitted by Natasha Beck, is an excellent follow-up on the article "Women at the Peace Table" (page 1). Abigail Ruane, WILPF PeaceWomen Program Manager, begins her article on "Creeping Militarism" with these words: "On 11-13 January 2014, 50 diverse Syrian women devised a peace plan to end the conflict in Syria." That may have been the very 'conference' that Peter Bouckaert told Amy Goodman he had helped to organize!

<http://worldbeyondwar.org/war-peace-guide-next-hundred-years/#comment-3152> Sent by Jack Herbert, this link brings a review of Kent Shifferd (2011), From War to Peace: A guide to the next hundred years, based on notes by Russ Faure-Brac, author of Transition to Peace (2012) who died in 2014. Carol Urner also recommends World Beyond War's website.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/11/19/why-climate-deal-best-hope-peace> By Naomi Klein and Jason Box. "A climate summit taking place against the backdrop of climate-fueled violence and migration can only be relevant if its central goal is the creation of conditions for lasting peace." Read further to find out what that requires, and what it would mean!

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/11/18/can-we-afford-future> Richard Heinberg tells us why 'the affordable future will be slower, simpler, and less mobile than Futurama daydreams of the 1960s' and what it will entail.

December 2015 WILPF Portland Calendar

VIGILS HELD REGULARLY

- * **Tuesdays & Fridays, 2-4 pm** East end of Burnside Bridge **Alliance for Democracy** opposing TransPacific Partnership 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 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]

Tuesday 1 December, Noon. East Side Democratic Club: Two presentations: (1) When the FCC Sells the Public Airwaves, and (2) Effects of new City of Portland Socially Responsible Investment Policy and companies doing business with Israel.

Grace Presbyterian Church, 6025 NE Prescott St. Enter on the church's east side. First topic: Dave Twedell, Biz Rep of International Cinematographers Guild, and Diane Winther, General Counsel of IBEW Local 48 representing engineers and technicians at KGW, "Who wins and who loses when the FCC sells the public's airwaves". Second topic: Rod Such, former journalist and editor for World Book and Encarta encyclopedias and currently a contributor to The Electronic Intifada on "Why the City of Portland's Investment Portfolio Should Be Aligned with Human Rights." Specifically, why the human rights criteria of the city's new socially responsible investment policy applies to four corporations--Caterpillar, G4S, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions--that are complicit in and profiting from Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands. Not associated with the Democratic Party. Bring food to share if you are able.

Tuesday 1 December, 7 pm. Locked Up and Shut Out: A Panel Discussion on Mass Incarceration In America

Eliot Chapel, Reed College, SE Woodstock at SE Reed College Pl. With only 5 percent of the world's population, the US incarcerates 25 percent of the world's prisoners. This panel seeks to reveal the racism, injustice and corruption within the criminal justice system and police force that has caused the wrongful destruction of millions of lives. Four speakers will analyze the issues and help us figure out how we can stand up against mass incarceration. Speakers include Teresa Raiford Mazique (Portland based citizen activist and leader of Don't Shoot PDX), Dean Smith (Washington County Public Defender), Pancho Savery (Reed Professor of English and Humanities) and Ron Louie (PSU Professor of Government Relations and former Hillsboro Police Chief). Open to public.

Thursday 3 December, noon; PSU Rally Against Racist Fear and Violence

PSU Park Blocks, in solidarity with Lewis & Clark students and others affected locally and nationally by racism and anti-immigrant feelings. Sponsored by Portland International Socialist Organization and others.

Thursday 3 December, 5 to 8 pm: Symposium on Gender Injustice: System-Level Juvenile Justice Reforms for Girls

Union/Pine, 525 SE Pine St (between SE Grand & 6th Aves). Registration (\$45) and networking 5 to 5:30, with hosted appetizers & wine. Keynote speakers: Francine Sherman, Boston College Law School Juvenile Rights Advocacy Project; Jeannette Bai-Espinosa, National Crittenton Foundation president. Panel responding to "Gender Injustice report on girls in Juvenile Justice": Fariborz Pakseresht, director, Oregon Youth Authority (OYA); Nan Waller, Multnomah County presiding judge; Faye Fagel, director, Marion County Juvenile Department; and Renee Hernandez, OYA Youth Services Coordinator, former OYA youth. Presented by Coalition of Advocates for Equal Access for Girls equalaccessforgirls.org. For more information contact pam@equalaccessforgirls.org . See <http://tinyurl.com/oxahke4> for advance registration [and online payment](#).

Thursday 3 December, 6 to 11 pm: 350PDX Climate Confessional Cocktail Party

The Church Bar & Restaurant, 2600 NE Sandy Blvd. Eat, drink, and support 350PDX, an awesome, agile, and effective climate justice organization. Happy Hour all night, DJ and dancing starting at 9 PM. The first 60 people who donate \$10 or more will receive a \$5 bar coupon good for food or drinks. Includes a confessional/photo booth to share your repentance, with special guests to bear witness. In collaboration with the Willamette Week Give Guide, donors may be eligible for gifts and incentives, including an E-Bike! Bring friends and party for climate justice! 350pdx.org

Friday 4 December, 7 pm: Portland Jobs with Justice, Annual Scrooge Party

Peace House, 2116 NE 18th Ave. Scrooge of the Year is an annual award the community (you!) vote on and award to the year's worst Portland-area player. It can be a corporation, a politician, or someone completely different. Come along for the usual mix of entertaining skits, food, drink, celebration, and of course the crowning of our Scrooge of the Year 2015! See www.jwjpx.org for tickets. Each ticket is good for 20 votes & 1 free drink and can be purchased for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Benefit Portland Jobs with Justice.

Saturday 5 December, 12 pm: WILPF Lunch and Conversation

Thanh Thao Restaurant, 4005 SE Hawthorne Blvd (on #14 and #75 bus lines). All WILPF members and friends are invited for friendly conversation and a delicious no-host meal -- Vietnamese, Chinese and Thai cuisine at reasonable prices (<http://www.meal-menus.com/thanhThaoRestaurant>). Attendees should please **RSVP by Thursday, December 3**, to Natasha Beck at nbeckpdx@yahoo.com .

Tuesday 8 December, 7 to 9 pm: Steven Hill, Raw Deal: How the 'Uber Economy' & Runaway Capitalism Are Screwing American Workers

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Salmon, Buchan Reception. Hill's book shows how Silicon Valley technology and Wall Street greed is thrusting upon us the latest economic fraud: the so-called "sharing economy." Admission \$5 to \$20 sliding scale; no one turned away for lack of funds. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy, KBOO, Economic Justice Action Group.

Thursday 10 December, noon: Rally: #StopTPP PDX – Road Through Paris Action

Portland City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Avenue at Madison. During the week of NAFTA's anniversary say NO to new free trade agreements that threaten people and climate. Short rally then an action to go after a local champion of the TPP right here in our own backyard. Wear blue! <http://www.facebook.com/events/720356791432359/>

Thursday 10 December, 7 to 9 pm: Raise Your Voice for Peace!

St David of Wales Church, 2800 SE Harrison. This free singing event on Human Rights Day is wheelchair accessible, and all ages are invited. Please contact Anne Weiss with questions (or answers): likapika@aol.com or 914-924-2574.

Thursday 10 December, 6:30 to 9 pm: UN Human Rights Day—Education As a Human Right

PCC Cascade, Student Union, N Albina north of Killingsworth, 2nd floor. Learn about Education as a Human Right from a panel of local experts: Dr. General Johnson, PCC Faculty in Health Education and Leadership Development; Koffi Dessou of the TOGO Core; Alisha Zhao, founder of Kids First Project; Deidre Schuetz, founder of Lanyi Fan, and Nikki Gillis, Officer of Equity, Access, and Inclusion at Mt. Hood Community College. Focus will be on accessibility and affordability of education in Portland and around the world. Hosted by the UNA-USA Portland chapter and other local nonprofits, this is a free event with light refreshments and snacks. <http://www.una-oregon.org/activities.htm>

Saturday 12 December, noon to 1 pm: Paris Closing Mobilization

March across Tillikum Crossing, the People's Bridge across the Willamette, to mark the closing of the Paris Climate Change talks. Watch for specific location info as December 12 approaches.

Sunday 13 December, 4 pm & 7 pm: Aurora Chorus, "Grace Before Sleep"

First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Avenue at Madison St. This annual concert is a celebration of peace, built around a French song titled Amani (Swahili for "peace"). The lyrics translate as "Sing strongly for peace, Sing for peace throughout the world. With one voice, we all sing together." Tickets (\$22) at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2406316> are likely to sell out early.

Wednesday 16 December, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: The Rent Crisis, a People's Perspective

Community Warehouse, 3969 NE MLK Jr Blvd at Shaver, childcare provided, doors open at 5pm. Portland is in a Renter State of Emergency. No-cause evictions and rent increases are at record levels. Landlords and developers are forcing responsible and reliable tenants out of their homes and communities, into one of the worst and most aggressive rental markets in history, without consideration of the impacts on tenants. Know Your City and Portland Tenants United (Portland's new tenant union) convene this community dialogue about how skyrocketing rents impact our communities, and what we can do about it. Panelists are Katrina Holland of Community Alliance of Tenants, Margot Black of Portland Tenants United, Vahid Brown of Hazelnut Grove, Josh Alpert, Chief of Staff for Mayor Charlie Hales, and Meg Guerra of Hacienda CDC. Moderator is Michelle DePass, Portland Housing Bureau. Group breakout sessions after the panel will give every attendee a chance to have their voice heard.

Thursday 17 December, 7:30 to 8:30 am: Nicholas S Reed, "The Innocence Project"

Mt Tabor Presbyterian Church Library, 5441 SE Belmont Street. Nicholas S Reed has been a law student volunteer with the Innocence Project. He will talk about his experiences with this program which has found hundreds of people improperly convicted of crimes. Bills supported by the ACLU of Oregon in the 2015 legislative session will also be discussed. Open to the public. Brown bag breakfast.

Sunday 20 December, 7:30 pm: Living Earth Winter Solstice Celebration

Yoga Shala, 3808 N. Williams. Join us for an evening filled with the sensuous fire of Gypsy Heart Tribal Belly Dance, music from Sky in the Road, and Dances of Universal Peace. This annual event is a fundraiser for Living Earth. Sliding scale \$25-\$15. Advance tickets recommended! <http://livingearthoregon.org/wintersolstice2015> Children under 12 free, over 12, \$5. Proceeds benefit Living Earth programs to serve those in greatest need in our community.

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 Fall/Winter 2015 issue of *Peace and Freedom*, the national magazine, delivered in late October.

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. 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. Dues are on a sliding scale, \$15 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