

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

[www.portland.wilpf.org](http://www.portland.wilpf.org)

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*June 2013*

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### KEEP SENATOR WYDEN THINKING ABOUT HANFORD!

“Senator Wyden has worked for more than 20 years to hold the Department of Energy (DOE) accountable for the cleanup of hazardous nuclear waste from Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington State....As Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Wyden continues to press the Department of Energy for a comprehensive plan to safely treat and manage the high-level waste tanks on the site and build a treatment plant to permanently dispose of the high-level waste contained in them....Managing the cleanup at Hanford is critical to maintaining the health of the Columbia River – the largest river in the Pacific Northwest and it runs through the Portland-Vancouver metro area.” (*quote from Wyden website, <http://www.wyden.senate.gov/priorities/hanford>*)

Ultimately, the 56 million gallons of highly radioactive nuclear waste now held in 177 steel tanks at Hanford is to be put inside glass (vitrified) for stable permanent storage. A vitrification plant has been under construction since 2000, with many delays; its cost has risen from \$4.6 billion to \$13 billion. Now construction cannot resume until safety problems in the basic process design, recognized in 2010 by a senior research engineer, have been fully resolved. With at least 20 tanks leaking toxic waste into the groundwater, the Hanford Concerns Board has called for *construction of new tanks* into which the waste in leaking tanks can be transferred till the safety concerns are met.

This is where YOU come in. Dana Gold, director of the American Whistleblower Tour ([www.WhistleblowerTour.org](http://www.WhistleblowerTour.org)), appealed urgently to a large PSU audience May 22, “**Keep Wyden on the job!**” On that day a petition went up on <http://www.change.org/petitions/urge-congress-and-the-secretary-of-energy-to-protect-us-from-nuclear-waste-contamination#>, where concerned citizens may add their signatures. Please make this action a priority!

The Tour audience heard Dana’s definition of ‘whistleblower’ (“broadly, people who use their free speech rights in the workplace when they see serious wrongdoing”) and learned about the Government Accountability Project (GAP) which supports whistleblowers with resources and attorneys. PSU was the 24<sup>th</sup> campus on the Tour, and whistleblowing at Hanford was the topic. Tom Carpenter, executive director of Hanford Challenge, gave background facts on the production of plutonium at Hanford during WWII and its use of Columbia River water for cooling the reactors. He told us that the main source of information about problems at Hanford has come from whistleblowers.

Walt Tamosaitis came to Hanford in 2003 and became Research and Technology Manager at the Waste Treatment Plant for Bechtel Corporation, the main contractor. You can read about the Tour and Walt’s role as whistleblower at <http://www.whistleblower.org/blog/44-2013/2473-whistleblower-vs-the-most-contaminated-nuclear-site-in-the-western-hemisphere>. –Celeste Howard

### SUPPORT SOCIALLY JUST HOUSING POLICY

Go to [www.unitedforhomes.org](http://www.unitedforhomes.org) and read about how changing the mortgage interest tax deduction to a tax credit would improve tax fairness. Then urge your Congressional representative to co-sponsor HR 1213.

HR 1213, introduced by Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN), would modify the mortgage interest deduction (MID) in a manner consistent with the United for Homes campaign proposal. The bill would apply most of the revenue raised through those MID changes to the National Housing Trust Fund. See [www.nlihc.org/issues/nhtf](http://www.nlihc.org/issues/nhtf).

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The annual meeting of Portland branch WILPF will be at noon on Saturday, July 13 (see Calendar for location). Please send any requests for sponsorships and other branch actions to [wilfpdx@gmail.org](mailto:wilfpdx@gmail.com). Deadline for the July newsletter is Friday, June 28.

## DISARM UPDATE from CAROL URNER

*DISARM/End Wars Issue Committee, May-June 2013*

**Remember, the goal of the United Nations is still general and complete disarmament, and only the determined work of people like ourselves who share that goal can make it a reality.**

In WILPF DISARM/End Wars, we continue to work primarily toward a nuclear free future and on related issues of space demilitarization—in particular, elimination of satellite-guided, weaponized drones.

### I. BANNING MILITARIZED DRONES

- **Marjorie Van Cleef continues to represent WILPF in the *Know Drones* movement.** Marge has chaired the national *Know Drones* committee on university drone research and training. Just now there is plenty of Pentagon money available for work on drones and other weapons for robotic warfare. Marge is also gaining expertise in relevant law. In May she attended a forum for WILPF in Washington, DC, on legal issues pertaining to drone warfare, and she is speaking on a panel for Amnesty International. See <http://www.knowdrones.com> for resources and continuing updates of action. Also see Marge's contributions in *Peace and Freedom*.
- **Members from** Boston, Fresno, Los Angeles, Missoula, Monterey, Philadelphia, Portland, Sarasota, St. Louis, and Tucson are known to have participated in events or vigils protesting militarized drones. Send reports on individual, branch-sponsored or coalition actions in April/May, or planned for June, to Marge at [mvc@igc.org](mailto:mvc@igc.org).

### II. ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS:

- **The best US good news** is that Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's new version of her Nuclear Free Future Act (HR 1650, <http://prop1.org/prop1/HR1650.htm>) was introduced April 17. We now have copies of her *Dear Colleague Letter* and an action strategy with which we are proceeding. You will hear from us soon about helping to enlist your representative as a co-sponsor of this bill.
- **As a first step**, Norton has just informed us that she is joining *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament* (PNND, <http://www.pnnd.org>). We should be recruiting other progressives in our Districts to join, for PNND brings them into closer relationship with the United Nations and other Parliamentarians from around the world working for nuclear weapons abolition.
- **The bad news** was another nuclear missile test on May 20. We were unable to do much without MacGregor Eddy, who is currently recovering from back surgery. We supported the letter-writing campaign of our close ally, *Nuclear Age Peace Foundation* (NAPF, <http://www.wagingpeace.org>), and we will seek to stay alert for the next test, together with NAPF and the UFPJ working group (<http://www.unitedforpeace.org/2011/12/09/nuclear-diaarmament-redefining-security-working-group>). Such tests must be publicized and stopped, as well as any rebuilding of the entire nuclear weapons complex and its thousands of warheads. Most US citizens seem blithely unaware of these grave new nuclear dangers.
- **More good news** is the proposed Nuclear Free Future Resolution to be considered at the US Mayors Conference this June. The Mayors share with Norton the same time frame: *Nuclear weapons abolition by 2020*. Together with Norton's bill and other legislation introduced by Representatives Ed Markey and Barbara Lee, we should have clear voices the Administration cannot ignore.

### III. SHUTTING DOWN NUCLEAR POWER

- Action on shutting down nuclear power continues, inspired by the continuing disaster at Fukushima. Hundreds have showed up at Nuclear Regulatory Commission public hearings. Gregory Jaczko, former chief of that agency, has declared that all existing US reactors are unsafe and should be phased out.

### IV. ELIMINATING THE WHOLE NUCLEAR CHAIN

- **Of course it is difficult to abolish nuclear waste.** What already exists will be with us for many thousands of years, a threat to future generations and life on earth. But we must prevent the continuing generation of deadly nuclear waste and the creation of any more harebrained schemes to blend radioactive residue with other materials for commercial or military use.
- **Michigan WILPFers** are now deeply involved in efforts to stop massive Canadian waste dumps on the shores of Lake Huron that could endanger our largest fresh water supply. They are also resisting transport of liquid and solid radioactive waste from Canada to the United States.

- **WILPFer Charmaine Whiteface** is temporarily in Geneva, bringing her plea for a moratorium on uranium mining on Native American lands to the United Nations. See the video at <http://youtu.be/3-aEheBZ-JI>. Please ask Congress for a moratorium on uranium mining at least until thousands of abandoned mines on Native American lands are properly cleared of radioactive materials and sealed. Of course, in WILPF we support a complete ban.

### MOANA NUI #2, A "TEACH-IN" AT BERKELEY

Portlanders who participated in the so-called "battle in Seattle" (November 1999) will recall the "Teach-In" that went on simultaneously, organized by the International Forum on Globalization (<http://ifg.org>). Many of us got our basic education about the WTO and the devastating consequences of international "trade agreements" at that teach-in. The Seattle protest involved many Third World participants. We stopped the WTP there, and Third World people stopped them again at Doha in 2001, Cancun in 2003, and so on. Since 2009, the WTO agenda has been carried forward through "free trade agreements" between smaller numbers of countries.

In November 2011, Hawaii was selected to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit meeting, intended to define the future of private sector engagement in the Asia-Pacific. Simultaneously, the IFG held a teach-in to which representatives from all Pacific Rim countries were invited, including indigenous people from all Pacific islands. This gathering, also in Honolulu, was called Moana Nui ('Great Ocean' in Hawaiian). It provided an opportunity for all these indigenous leaders to meet together, share their knowledge and skills, and bond in unity to preserve their cultural heritage against threats of corporate domination through neoliberal economic policies of globalization.

**Moana Nui 2 in Berkeley, June 1-2, was exhilarating** because it brought the message of Moana Nui 1 **to the North American continent for the first time**. Pacific Islanders from Borneo, Easter Island, Fiji, Guam, Hawaii, Jeju, Okinawa, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuata were present. They told us about lands and cultures already lost to military bases and bombing ranges; how the TPP imperils indigenous lifestyles; and how the Pentagon's "Pacific Pivot" is bringing both NATO and 60 percent of the US military into the Pacific, adding more military installations and increasing the frequency of war games.



**By asking the final question in the final Q&A period of the teach-in, Carol Urner caught the spirit of Moana Nui 2:**

"I noticed that others who asked questions here have often cheated and asked two instead of one! So I will also cheat and ask two. I want to be sure I understand the import of what we have been discussing here.

"First, I understand from listening to you that you are from many diverse cultures and that you recognize that diversity but do not feel the need to dominate or change or convert each other. You accept your differences but also recognize what you have in common -- an alternative way of looking at the world. It is a way different from that of the Americans and Europeans who are moving more and more of their military and economic resources into the Pacific. You love the islands where you dwell but you do not seek to exploit them. You guard their sacred spaces and hold them in trust for future generations. Your wealth is not in money or in resources under the soil. Your wealth is in your families, your customs, your ceremonies, your relationships with one another. And now you seek to build bridges of love between your diverse cultures so you can work together to survive, to continue caring for our earth and for each other and for the generations you hope will follow. Is that what you are saying to each other and to us?"

*(The answer was strong affirmation from those on the panel who spoke in response)*

"And the second question is shorter and simpler. Are you also trying to build bridges of love to the rest of us, to help us learn the same lessons you have learned through the millennia -- to love the earth and care for it and to love and care for each other. Are you saying we can build a better world together, but we cannot go around killing each other, or lying, or stealing from one another. Is that what you are saying to us?"

*(And again the answer was a strong yes from the panel, indeed, from all those who heard.)*

## **MONSIGNOR OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO: CONVERSION AND MARTYRDOM**

A Bilingual Play, reviewed by Natasha Beck

Portland Central American Solidarity Committee (PCASC) hosts a DVD and discussion night once a month at the Red and Black Cafe. This month, on May 20, PCASC members and friends watched a play about El Salvador and Oscar Romero, written and acted in Spanish by a group of Salvadorans (plus one Mexican) now living in the Portland area. Most of the actors left their native countries for political reasons in the late '70s and '80s. English supertitles were projected on the wall. Musician Lolo Cutumay showcased his talents by singing and playing the guitar during the performance. (Photo by Claire Flanagan.)



In the 1970s, a very powerful oligarchy of 14 people exerted major influence in El Salvador, no matter what political party was in power. At first, Monseñor Oscar Romero sided with the oligarchy, but his compassion and understanding of poor families led him to embrace liberation theology. Liberation theology recognizes the root causes of poverty and upholds *poder popular* (people power), threatening the oligarchy to its core. The *Guardia Nacional* attacked poor people and nuns who supported liberation theology. Romero was targeted for two years and then assassinated in his church in March 1980, on the day after a sermon in which he had called on Salvadoran soldiers, as Christians, to obey God's higher order and to stop carrying out the government's repression and violations of basic human rights. Afterward, the oligarchy held on to its power through death threats and intimidation, but *poder popular* continued to gain strength.

Having been on two solidarity delegations to El Salvador, I felt special meaning in this play. Despite the past repression and civil war, I had seen liberation theology in practice. Our delegations saw many tributes to Romero and participated in marches commemorating the anniversary of his death. We also learned about Comunidad Oscar Romero, part of a confederation of autonomous communities on the Lower Lempa River, and we stayed several days with members of Comunidad Octavio Ortiz.

During the post-play discussion, we heard that the oligarchy continues to exert considerable influence in El Salvador, despite the election of a progressive president. Mauricio Funes is the first leftist to be elected president in recent memory. Some of the actors expressed anger and bitterness about the oligarchy's continuing power under Funes. That power, along with a violent drug trade, perpetuates an atmosphere of ongoing threat and danger, to which youth ('gang') violence is a normal but troubling response. I spoke then about my visits to the Lower Lempa communities, where people have taken hope from Funes' election and have begun applying new ideas like a women's cattle cooperative and a peer sexuality education program for youth.

**JOIN or RENEW YOUR NATIONAL WILPF MEMBERSHIP, 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 newsletter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution for receiving hard copy newsletter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send form & check, payable to WILPF, to **Portland WILPF, 1034 SW 13th Ave, Portland 97205-1702****WARNINGS ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)**

From [Wenonah Hauter, "Starved of democracy and the fight against corporate 'Foodopoly'," commondreams.org, May 8](#): "...This summer, President Barack Obama will attempt to fast-track two trade deals — the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement. Both favor the interests of corporations and their financiers over consumers..."

"These trade deals would increase export-oriented natural gas fracking, boost our food imports, undermine yet more domestic laws, and increase the corporate control of our natural resources. They will forever enshrine the very economic system that has led to an ever greater imbalance in income and wealth and increasingly frequent economic crises."

From <http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/TransPacificCorporations.pdf> : "A wide range of transnational corporations, including those in extractive industries, have pushed for investment provisions in the TPP that would enable them to challenge virtually any new law, regulation or even court decision that adversely affects their expected profits as a "regulatory taking" through international tribunals that circumvent domestic judicial systems. Similar provisions under past trade pacts have already been used to weaken portions of the Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act in the United States, as well as the environmental and consumer safety protections of developing countries throughout the world."

"Many corporations are looking for ways reduce labor costs and undercut worker power in the United States, China and throughout the world. The TPP would grant corporations easier access to labor markets in countries such as Vietnam where workers are paid even less than Chinese sweatshop workers. Whether or not corporations decide to move production to these lower-paid countries, the threat of moving there (or of being undercut by competitors who have already done so) can be used suppress employee compensation virtually anywhere in the world."

From [New York Times op-ed by M.T. Anderson, April 30, on Bangladesh textile factories disaster](#): "For the last 200 years, garment manufacturing has flowed from ethnicity to ethnicity, as well as from region to region, from New England to the Middle Atlantic states, from North to South. Each group, when it begins to demand more accountability and a living wage, is discarded. Manufacturing change flows quickly to stay ahead of legislative change. Like water, industrial management seeks a route of least resistance — eventually flowing out of our shores altogether in the 1990s and, finally, flooding (among many other places) the alluvial plains of Bangladesh..."

"It's well past time for all of us to reflect on this cycle and how cheap it would be to break out of it if only there were enough public pressure on the apparel industry. The cost for us is minimal; the cost for others is great. Bargain-hunters at Wal-Mart and *haute couture* customers on Fifth Avenue alike should shame those companies that pass the savings on to us as they pass the suffering on to others we never see.

"This is not a remote or distant problem.

"Take a look at the tag on your shirt. The problem is as close as your skin."

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## June 2013 WILPF Calendar

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### VIGILS

- \* **Wednesdays, 6:30 pm** SW 5th & Hall, Beaverton. **Washington County Peace Vigil**
- \* **Fridays, noon to 2 pm** East (6<sup>th</sup> Ave) side, Pioneer Courthouse Square. **Anti-Drone Protest** [HeadHeartHandsSpirit@riseup.net](mailto:HeadHeartHandsSpirit@riseup.net)
- \* **Fridays, 4 pm** SW First and Madison on Hawthorne Bridge. **Weekly Anti-War Protest** [lonvet2008@comcast.net](mailto:lonvet2008@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 Blvd., Milwaukie, Oregon. **Oak Grove Peace Vigil**

### EVENTS

[see [www.Trimet.org](http://www.Trimet.org) to find public transportation to all these locations]

#### **Friday 31 May, 7 pm: Film, "Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home"**

First Unitarian, Buchan Reception Room, SW 12<sup>th</sup> & Salmon. A riveting story of transformation and healing, the film explores the awakening conscience of several people who grew up in traditional farming culture and who have now come to question the basic assumptions of their way of life. More at [www.peaceablekingdomfilm.org](http://www.peaceablekingdomfilm.org).

#### **Saturday 1 June, 11 am to 4:30 pm: Tenth Annual Buddhist Festival in the Park**

Colonel Summers Park, SE 17<sup>th</sup> & Taylor. See [www.portlandbuddhistfestival.com](http://www.portlandbuddhistfestival.com) for schedule.

#### **Saturday 1 June, 9 am to 4:30 pm: Voices on the Ground: Resistance and Resilience Conference**

PSU ASRC, 1800 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave at Harrison, 6th floor, [www.pdx.edu/ssw/voicesontheground](http://www.pdx.edu/ssw/voicesontheground). 9 am keynote by Ethel Long-Scott, executive director, The Women's Economic Agenda Project. Challenges and opportunities of community-based social work practice, with focus on human rights, criminalization, revolutionary tools and margin to center.

#### **Monday 3 June, 6 pm: KBOO Members Only Meeting**

KBOO studio, 20 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. If you are a KBOO member, please consider attending this board meeting. More info at [www.savekboo.org](http://www.savekboo.org); petition at <https://www.change.org/petitions/to-the-kboo-board-dump-bullard-law>.

#### **Friday 7 June, 5-6:15 pm: Rally in Support with Walmart Workers on OUR Walmart National Day of Action**

Walmart on SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue & Holgate (4200 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave). With hundreds of OUR Walmart members arriving at Bentonville AR from all over the country, Walmart associates will call on board members and shareholders to address poverty wages, healthcare, retaliation against workers, & scheduling that hurts workers, customers, & the economy.

#### **Sunday 9 June, 7 pm: "Wake Up Call" House Concert by Roy Zimmerman**

Address and reservations (\$20) by email from [vicki@vickiambinder.com](mailto:vicki@vickiambinder.com). Roy is an excellent political satirist, singer/songwriter, and entertainer. Include your full name, phone number, and number of tickets needed.

#### **Monday 10 June, 5:30-7 pm: Unequal Pay, (Un)Happy Hour**

The Mint, 816 N. Russell. When Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act in 1963, women received 58¢ and men \$1 for equal work. Now the ratio is 78¢ to \$1, so women will get 22% off all drinks at this event. Long-time equal pay advocate Brad Avakian will be a special guest in celebrating Oregon's passing SB 744. [www.familyforwardoregon.org](http://www.familyforwardoregon.org)

#### **Tuesday 11 June, 7 pm: Race Talks: Interracial Couples**

McMenamins Kennedy School Gymnasium, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, doors open 6 p.m. Monthly dialogues on race in Oregon, historically and present-day. Free; food available for purchase. Minors welcome with parent or guardian.

#### **Friday 14 June, 7 pm: Pride Month Concert, "The Gay Songbook"**

Cedar Hills UCC, 11695 SW Park Way (east side of Cedar Hills Blvd). Portland, Seattle, & New York performers share songs by some of classical music's greatest past and present gay composers. [www.chucc.org](http://www.chucc.org)

#### **Friday 14 June, 7 pm: David Cay Johnston, "Rise of the Monopolists: Why the Few Get Rich While Your Paycheck Shrinks"**

First Unitarian Church, SW 12<sup>th</sup> & Salmon. Johnston, author of Perfectly Legal and Free Lunch, is introducing his book, The Fine Print: How Big Companies Use Plain English to Rob You Blind. \$5-\$20 donation, no one turned away.

#### **Saturday 15 June, 7 pm: Portland Gay Men's Chorus sings Broadway Show Tunes**

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, SW Broadway and Main. Tickets \$17 to \$45. [www.pdxgmc.org](http://www.pdxgmc.org)

#### **Sunday 16 June, 11 am: Annual Pride Parade**

W Burnside from NW Park Ave to Broadway, north to Davis, east to Naito Parkway, ends at Festival site, Pine Street.

**Saturday 22 June, 5 pm: John Prine At the Oregon Zoo Amphitheater**

Limited parking; public transportation recommended. Doors open 5 pm. Prine sings about love, home, and politics, often with humor. Accessible to all ages; \$32.50 to \$52.50. [www.zooconcerts.com](http://www.zooconcerts.com) .

**Sunday 23 June, 10 am to noon: JMJ Trio (Jane Keefer, Mary Rose, Jim Cook)**

Anna Bannana's, 2403 NE Alberta (formerly Rexall Rose). Hear songs about workers and by women singer/songwriters, like Malvina Reynolds. Free; food available for purchase.

**Saturday 13 July, noon: Annual Portland WILPF Potluck Picnic**

At the home of Sara and Bill Tattam, 4602 SW 55<sup>th</sup> Place. Bring a potluck dish and your table setting; beverages provided. From SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy and 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue (signal just west of Albertson's/RiteAid), north on 56<sup>th</sup>, curve right as 56<sup>th</sup> becomes Seymour Street, then left on 55<sup>th</sup> Place. 503-297-4338.