

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

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June 2014

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS REDUCTION JUNE 4

Congressman Earl Blumenauer invites you to a forum on "The Risks and Costs of Nuclear Weapons" in the early evening of Wednesday, June 4. Come to the Buchan Reception Hall, First Unitarian Church, at 5:30 pm for a half-hour Information Fair featuring **WILPF**, Oregon PSR, and other organizations. The program will begin at 6 pm with a welcome from First Unitarian and Congressman Blumenauer's opening remarks about the legislation he has introduced in the US House of Representatives to "rein-in" nuclear weapons spending.

HR 4107, the Reduce Expenditures in Nuclear Infrastructure Now (REIN-IN) Act, would save \$100 billion over the next 10 years by reducing or eliminating unnecessary nuclear weapons programs, and the act will increase Americans' safety by cutting from 450 to 150 the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles currently on 24-hour high alert. HR 4107 has 13 co-sponsors, including Rep. **Peter DeFazio** of Oregon. Senator **Jeff Merkley** is co-sponsor of the companion bill, **S 2070**, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

After outlining the benefits of this legislation, Rep. Blumenauer will honor WILPF member **Carol Urner** with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her activism on nuclear weapons with the WILPF-US DISARM/End War issue committee and the Oregon PSR Peace Work Group.

A panel discussion on the fiscal, humanitarian, and environmental legacy of US nuclear weapons programs will follow. Panelists are Kelly Campbell (Oregon PSR), Rick Wayman (Nuclear Age Peace Foundation), Dr. John Pearson (Oregon PSR), and Dan Serres (Columbia Riverkeeper). The final half hour will be devoted to Q&A between audience and speakers.

REP. BONAMICI TOWN HALLS JUNE 6-14

Voters in Oregon's 1st Congressional District will have ample opportunity this month to urge Representative Suzanne Bonamici to become a co-sponsor of Blumenauer's REIN-IN Act. Bonamici has scheduled town halls in Portland, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Gearhart, Vernonia, McMinnville, Newberg, and Scappoose during the first half of June. Dates and times can be found in this newsletter's Calendar section and at www.bonamici.house.gov.

SUPPORT THE MARSHALL ISLANDERS

From 1946 to 1958, the Marshall Islands were subjected to 67 US nuclear tests, with lasting health and environmental impacts. This small island nation is now suing the 9 nuclear powers under international law, seeking their compliance with Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that requires these nations to rid themselves and the world of nuclear weapons. To help this modern David transform the nuclear Goliaths into responsible world citizens at last, go to www.nuclearzero.org and sign their petition! –*Carol Urner*

There will be no WILPF business meetings on June 21 and July 19. Deadline for the July newsletter is June 25.

The annual meeting of Portland branch WILPF will be at noon on Saturday, July 12, at the home of Sara and Bill Tattam, 4602 SW 55th Place, 503-297-4338. From SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy and 56th Avenue (signal just west of Albertson's/RiteAid), north on 56th, curve right as 56th Avenue becomes Seymour Street, then left on 55th Place. Limited parking, carpool if possible. Potluck; bring a dish and your table setting.

350PDX INVITES YOU TO THE "CRUDE AWAKENING OIL TRAIN TOUR"

We all need to wake up and see what's threatening our beautiful, bountiful northwestern states!

Two years ago in the Pacific Northwest, there were no terminals prepared to handle mile-long trains of crude-oil-filled tanker cars. Today, four terminals are operating in Washington and Oregon, with six more in various stages of permitting and construction.

These terminals are designed to handle volatile Bakken crude—noted for having exploded last year in North Dakota, in Alabama, and in Quebec, where 47 people lost their lives—as well as Alberta tar sands bitumen, phenomenally difficult to clean up from watery places. Add the push by the American Petroleum Institute to lift the ban on US crude exports, and it's clearly past time to address the question posed by the tour: Is this really for us?

On Friday, June 13, 350PDX.org is bringing us Matt Krogh, ForestEthics West Coast Campaigner and author of "Off the Rails: The Fossil Fuel Takeover of the Pacific Northwest" (<http://www.forestethics.org/sites/forestethics.huang.radicaldesigns.org/files/Off-the-Rails-Ultimate.pdf>). He will bring with him alternative folksinger/songwriter Dana Lyons for an evening of entertainment and education at the 18th Avenue Peace House, one of Portland's most unique venues (2116 NE 18th Avenue at Tillamook). Come at 6 pm for potluck, and the program begins at 7 pm. \$10 to \$25 donations welcomed; no one turned away.

Cosponsors: Columbia Riverkeeper, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and Greenpeace USA-Western Division

HELP PUT GMO FOOD LABELING ON THE OREGON BALLOT

Oregon Right to Know is circulating petitions to qualify its GMO Labeling Initiative for the November 2014 ballot, and you can actually submit your signature on an E-Petition. Oregon law allows a voter to download and print a special single-signer initiative petition, fill out and sign the petition, and then mail it to the chief petitioner of the measure. Find your petition and full instructions at <http://www.oregonrighttoknow.org/e-petition/>. No postage needed!

PROTEST THE USDA RULE CHANGE THAT WEAKENS ORGANICS

"**The growing organic market** presents a temptation for business interests in the organic industry to look for ways to lower costs and gain bigger market share, including by lowering standards. Organic pioneers and watchdog groups like the Organic Consumers Association and the Cornucopia Institute allege that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is capitulating to corporate interests and reversing 20 years of precedent by removing the ability of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to effectively decide the working definition of the organic food production system." (*Rebekah Wilce, "Are Organic Standards in Jeopardy"*)

The 1990 Organic Foods Production Act (written by Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative Peter DeFazio) authorized NOSB to allow certain synthetic or non-organic materials (such as use of antibiotics like tetracycline on apple and pear trees) to be included in organic agriculture on a temporary basis. These "exemptions" were reviewed every 5 years and automatically removed unless the NOSB voted to retain them for another 5 years.

Last fall, without any process of full public notice and comment, the USDA changed the rules to allow such "exemptions" to continue permanently unless the NOSB intervened with a supermajority vote of 2/3 of its members. Senators Leahy and DeFazio, along with three former chairmen of the NOSB, have protested the Department of Agriculture that this policy change is "in conflict with the letter and intent" of the original 1990 statute.

"Organic watchdog groups like the Organic Consumers Association and Cornucopia Institute are asking supporters to tell Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to reverse the rule currently weakening organics." Click on that link in the quotation from Wilce to protest the rule change. For more insight into the role of corporate interests in this rule change, see her full article at <http://prwatch.org/news/2014/05/12480/organic-standards-jeopardy> .

June 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]

Sunday 1 June, 5-6 pm: Performance by Visiting Soochow University Art Troupe

Portland State University, Hoffman Hall, 1833 SW 11th Ave. Ten pieces reviewing China's major art forms in their cultural and geographical diversity, employing traditional and modern musical elements. Presented by PSU's Confucius Institute. Free; donations welcome.

Monday 2 June, 6:30 pm: Vancouver City Council Public Hearing on Resolution Opposing Oil Terminals in the Pacific Northwest

Vancouver Hilton Ballroom, 301 W. 6th St. Vancouver WA is at the hub of one of the largest increases in carbon pollution ever proposed, and the City Council is poised to make history by opposing all new Oil-By-Rail infrastructure which would increase oil train traffic through Washington (and sometimes Oregon). Please be there to, by your presence, show opposition to the oil terminals at the Port of Portland, Clatskanie, Vancouver, and Grays Harbor WA. See <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/citycouncil/page/city-council-meeting-55> for more info.

Tuesday 3 June, 12-2 pm: Alison Weir, "Against Our Better Judgment: The Hidden History of How the U.S. Was Used to Create Israel"

Eastside Democratic Club meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church, 6025 NE Prescott St. Weir is executive director of Council for the National Interest and founder of If Americans Knew, headquartered in Vancouver WA. She is on a national book tour. Eastside Democratic Club is not associated with the Democratic Party; public welcome. Free.

Tuesday 3 June, 5:30-6:30 pm: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Town Hall in Portland

Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital Auditorium, 1015 NW 22nd Avenue. Rep. Bonamici will hold 8 town halls in Congressional District 1 between June 3 and June 14. See below and next page for day, time, and location of those in Hillsboro, Beaverton, Gearhart, Vernonia, McMinnville, Newberg, and Scappoose.

Tuesday 3 June, 6:30-8:30 pm: Race Talks 2

Jefferson High School cafeteria, 5210 N. Kerby Avenue, between Killingsworth & Alberta. Doors open at 6. This second series of Race Talks is held on the first Tuesday of every month. All ages welcome. Raffle prizes; BBQ available for purchase at sidewalk cart.

Wednesday 4 June, 5:30-6:30 pm: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Town Hall in Hillsboro

Hillsboro Main Library, 2850 Brookwood Parkway, Hillsboro.

Wednesday 4 June, 5:30-7:15 pm: Earl Blumenauer, "The Risks and Costs of Nuclear Weapons"

First Unitarian Church, Buchan Reception Hall, 1226 SW Salmon Street. Congressman Blumenauer has introduced [HR 4107, the Reduce Expenditures in Nuclear Infrastructure Now \(REIN-IN\) Act of 2014](#). Reducing unnecessary nuclear weapons programs and reducing the number of ICBMs currently on 24-hour alert saves \$100 billion over 10 years. A panel of experts from Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation Program, and Columbia Riverkeeper will discuss the fiscal, humanitarian, and environmental legacy of US nuclear weapons programs. Before the panel, Congressman Blumenauer will recognize WILPF member, Carol Urner, with a Lifetime Achievement Award. RSVP requested, <http://www.blumenauer.house.gov/index.php/nukesforum>.

Thursday 5 June, 5:30-6:30 pm: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Town Hall in Beaverton

Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW 5th Street, Beaverton.

Thursday 5 June, 7-8:30 pm: NARAL Pro-Choice America Zine Release Party

In Other Words Bookstore, 14 NE Killingsworth, 97211. NARAL is releasing the Third Edition of *Repro Heroes*. \$5 includes a copy of the zine and snacks.

Thursday 5 June, 7-9 pm: Voz Workers' Rights Education Project's Fourth Annual Dinner

First Unitarian Church, 1226 SW Salmon. Music by Bajo Salario, food from Por Que No Tacqueria. Tickets \$35; contact Ranfis Villatoro at development@portlandvoz.org or at 503-233-6787.

Friday 6 June, 6-8:30 pm: Making Oregon the Next State to Enact Single Payer Healthcare

SEIU 503 Ballroom, 6401 SE Foster Road. James Haslam, executive director of the Vermont Workers Center, will be present at 6 pm for informal discussion and framing of our questions. At 7 pm he will address how the Vermont experience can inform and inspire Health Care for All Oregon in its activism for healthcare reform. More information can be found at <http://www.jwjpx.org/jwjevents/event-1400610967.32/view>.

Saturday 7 June, 10-11 am: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Town Hall in Gearhart

Gearhart Elementary School, 1002 Pacific Way, Gearhart.

Saturday 7 June, 2:30-3:30 pm: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Town Hall in Vernonia

Vernonia High School, 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia.

Sunday 8 June, 12-1 pm: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Town Hall in McMinnville

Chemeketa Community College, 288 E. Norton Lane, McMinnville.

Sunday 8 June, 2-3 pm: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Town Hall in Newberg

Portland Community College Newberg, 135 Werth Blvd, Newberg.

Monday 9 June, 7:30 pm: Illahee Lecture Series, "The Future of Oregon's Forests"

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th and Main St. Rob Lillieholm, School of Forestry Resources, University of Maine, will be joined by a panel of regional thinkers in looking at the future of Oregon's forests alongside projects from other regions. Tickets: \$20, www.illahee.org.

Tuesday 10 June, 7-9 pm: Race Talks, "Interracial Couples"

McMenamins Kennedy School Gym, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, doors open at 6 pm. Donna Maxey moderates discussion with two interracial couples, Drs. Dalton and Cynthia Miller-Jones, retired educators; Sandra and Anthony Jackson, mediators. All ages welcome; food available for purchase.

Thursday 12 June, 5:30-10 pm: Barbecue and Local Hero Awards Ceremony

Ecotrust Natural Capital Center, 721 NW 9th Avenue. Nell Newman, of Newman's Own Organics, will keynote Edible Portland's 7th annual Local Hero Awards to honor outstanding members of our local food community. Doors 5:30, Nell Newman at 6 pm, awards at 6:45, feasting 7:30. Tickets \$65; eats only, \$50. <http://ecotrust.ticketleap.com/localhero/>

Friday 13 June, 6 pm (potluck), 7 pm (program): Crude Awakening Tour

18th Avenue Peace House, 2116 NE 18th Avenue at Tillamook St. Music and advocacy meet for the (Crude) Oil Train Show. Music by Dana Lyons (www.CowsWithGuns.com), advocacy by Matt Krogh, author of "Off the Rails: The Fossil Fuel Takeover of the Pacific Northwest." Oil train transport is growing rapidly, often with no public notice of the risks that come with this increase of traffic moving through communities. The Crude Awakening Tour seeks to engage, entertain, and educate the public. www.350PDX.org

Saturday 14 June, 10-11 am: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici Town Hall in Scappoose

Scappoose City Hall, 33568 E Columbia Ave., Scappoose.

Saturday 14 June, 10:30 am-4 pm: Third Annual Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) Membership Meeting

First Unitarian Church, Fuller Hall, 1211 SW Main St. Sign-in at 10 am. Representatives from Mobilization, Education, Communication, Organizational Development, Equity (ad hoc), Finance and Legislative committees will offer opportunities to engage as volunteers in this growing coalition of single payer supporters and local chapters. Lunch will be provided; please pre-register at www.hcao.org.

Thursday 19 June, 7 pm: Community Forum on the TPP and GMOs

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th and Salmon. Speakers: Julia DeGraw, Food and Water Watch; Madelyn Elder, Communication Workers of America Local 7901. Even as we struggle to have GMO foods labeled, the TPP—TransPacific Partnership—threatens to undo any such local laws. Also sponsored by Oregon Fair Trade Campaign and Alliance for Democracy (www.afd-pdx.org).

Saturday 21 June: No Portland WILPF Business Meeting in June or July

Please come to the Portland WILPF Annual Meeting on Saturday 12 July at the home of Sara and Bill Tattam, 4602 SW 55th Place, 503-297-4338. From SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy and 56th Avenue (signal just west of Albertson's/RiteAid), north on 56th, curve right as 56th Avenue becomes Seymour Street, then left on 55th Place. Limited parking, carpool if possible. Potluck at noon; bring a dish and your table setting.

Sunday 22 June, 2-5 pm: Portland Folk Music Society Annual Strawberry Social

At the home of Jinx Kuehn and Barry Gorden, 8912 NE Russell. This free event features strawberry shortcake, beverages, and song circles. RSVP by June 20: 503-238-0613 or cek@spiritone.com.