

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

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May 2014

The memorial service for long-time WILPF member Althea Halvorson, who died January 10, 2014, will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 24, 2:30 pm, at Ainsworth United Church of Christ (UCC), 2141 NE Ainsworth Street. Her daughters, Carol Halvorson and Roberta Halvorson-Colas invite you to join them after the ceremony for refreshments at the church. For more information you may call Carol at 503-201-0006 or Roberta at 503-453-2559.

WILPF CELEBRATES ITS 99th ANNIVERSARY!

This anniversary of WILPF's founding on April 28, 1915, was celebrated by launching the Anniversary Atlas at <http://atlas.womenstopwar.org/>. You'll be able to page through the decades of WILPF events from 1915 to 2014, clicking on geographical markers to learn what WILPF was doing there and then. A new website <http://www.womenstopwar.org/> has also been launched, with the heading "Women's Power to Stop War: a global movement of WILPF." At this site you can sign the Anniversary Pledge and learn about the new WSW blog series.

Now that we are in the 100th year of WILPF, WILPF-US has begun a series of Webinars leading up to the centenary celebration next April. For Episode 1 and access to later episodes, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WG7h42PIIRI>.

WILPF ACTION ALERTS

WILPF-US Earth Democracy's Global Climate Convergence: People Over Profits continues through May 1, when **WILPF Portland** co-sponsors the May Day Rally and March. The Community Commons event with Thom Hartmann on May 2 carries this theme forward by featuring groups "embracing the moral motive over the profit motive." This will also be a good occasion to learn about the Young WILPF Network (<http://wilpf.org/ywilpf>). See the Calendar for details on these coming events, and see <http://globalclimateconvergence.org/> for pictures of events that have occurred during the Climate Convergence.

WILPF-US Corporations vs Democracy has called for action April 22 through May 7 to end expansion of the Corporate Empire and Corporate Rule by 'Free' Trade Agreement. See co-chair Nancy Price's article at <http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/pdf/AfDJR6105.pdf> on the three phases in development of Corporate Rule. The third phase will culminate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), unless we are able to stop the TPP by preventing Congress from granting it 'fast track' and letting it become law without public or Congressional scrutiny.

To help you understand 'corporate personhood' and why it is important to abolish it, see <https://movetoamend.org/what-could-change-if-corporate-personhood-were-abolished>. The famous 1971 'Powell Memo' played a significant role in establishing corporate personhood. See <http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/pdf/powellmemo.pdf> for a delightful play script, "Mr. Powell Writes a Memo," created by James Allison in 2011 at Nancy Price's suggestion.

The next meeting of Portland WILPF will plan a fall retreat to discuss events for 2014/15. Join us Saturday, May 17, from [note change] noon to 2 p.m. for a brown bag lunch in room A301, First Unitarian Church. Submit articles for the June newsletter to wilfpdx@gmail.com by May 22 and calendar items by May 25.

Note: If you missed the Conference "Seeds of Justice and Hope for Palestinians/Israelis" held April 4-5 at First Methodist Church by Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA), <http://fosna.org/content/portland-or-conference-0> has 11 videos of the plenary sessions, with more to be added as editing continues.

JOHN NICHOLS and "PAY2PLAY" PREVIEW AT PSU on MAY 4, noon-5

Hosted by OSPIRG and sponsored by the [Oregon Democracy Coalition](#), the 28th Amendment National Roadshow will address the impact of money and corporate constitutional rights on the American political system. The show will feature policy experts such as noted journalist John Nichols, author of [Dollarocracy](#), Dave Rosenfeld of [OSPIRG](#), Kate Titus of [Common Cause Oregon](#), David Delk of the [Alliance for Democracy](#), Lloyd Marbet, [democracy activist](#), Michele Sutter of [Money Out Voters In](#), among others. Later in the 5-hour event will come a sneak preview of the new feature documentary film [Pay2Play: Democracy's High Stakes](#), with director John Wellington Ennis in attendance, music by recording artist [Catherine Feeny](#), and an organizing training session with Amanda Knief, author of [The Citizen Lobbyist](#).

Registration & tickets: <http://www.oregondemocracycoalition.org/> . \$12; students free.

"JUNK FOOD NEWS" DOCUMENTARY on MAY 9, TABOR SPACE, 7-9

"Project Censored the Movie: Ending the Reign of Junk Food News" is an award-winning 2013 documentary film taking an in-depth look at what is wrong with U.S media today. It highlights the 38 years of work by Project Censored (www.ProjectCensored.org) since its founding in 1976 at Sonoma State University. With commitment to media literacy education as an antidote to top-down-managed news propaganda and censorship, its Campus Affiliates Program now connects hundreds of faculty and students at colleges and universities across the US and around the world.

Nolan Higdon, a history professor at multiple Bay Area colleges, is currently faculty adviser and research fellow for the project. He will be present for discussion plus Q&A at the 7 to 9 pm, May 9, event in the Tabor Space Annex Room, 5441 SE Belmont Street.

MOVING TOWARD NUCLEAR WEAPONS REDUCTION/ABOLITION

At 5:30 pm on June 4 Representative Earl Blumenauer will lead a Portland forum on "The Risks and Costs of Nuclear Weapons." WILPF member Carol Urner will receive a lifetime achievement award for her tireless work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons as a member of the WILPF-US issue committee DISARM/End War. Details about this forum are included in the Calendar at the end of this newsletter.

Legislation now in Congress to limit nuclear weapons expenditure. On February 27 Rep. Blumenauer introduced **HR 4107**, the Reduce Expenditures in Nuclear Infrastructure Now (REIN-IN) Act. A companion bill, **S 2070**, the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act, was introduced in the Senate by Senator Ed Markey (D-MA). These bills would save \$100 billion over the next 10 years by reducing or eliminating unnecessary nuclear weapons programs, and they will increase Americans' safety by cutting the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles currently on 24-hour high alert from 450 to 150. **HR 1650**, the Nuclear Weapons Abolition & Economic & Energy Conversion Act of 2013, was introduced in April 2013 by Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (Delegate-DC). It calls for nuclear weapons abolition by 2020 and for replacing nuclear power with truly renewable energy.

Calls for abolition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been on record since 2005 affirming the role of cities in advancing this goal. See http://usmayors.org/resolutions/77th_conference/international05.asp for the resolution. See also <http://wmdfz.org/> to learn about the call from the Haifa Conference, held last December, for a "weapons of mass destruction free zone in the Middle East."

TAKE HEART FROM THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT

An Earth Day Message from Bill Bigelow

On this Earth Day, those of us fighting for climate justice and an end to the world's fossil fuel domination should take heart from the struggle against slavery.

[In 1858 abolitionists] were waging not just a moral struggle against the enslavement of human beings. Slavery was the largest industry in the United States, worth more than all the factories, banks, and railroads combined. In effect, the abolition movement aimed to expropriate without compensation the wealth of the most powerful social class in the country.

After about 30 years of antislavery activism, twice as many people were enslaved, more U.S. territory was dedicated to slavery, slaveowners possessed more wealth, and the federal government's commitment to slavery was greater than ever before. Yes, talk about grounds to be discouraged. Which brings us to today's climate crisis and the many reasons for despair.

Recently, I taught a unit on climate change at a local high school in Portland. I began by introducing students to the "[three scary numbers](#)" featured in Bill McKibben's important Rolling Stone article from last summer, "[Global Warming's Terrifying New Math](#)."

The first scary number is 2 degrees Celsius. . .McKibben acknowledges that even a 2 degree rise in global temperatures is fraught with danger, but it's the only international consensus on a climate target—"the bottomest of bottom lines," writes McKibben. . .The second scary number is 565 gigatons. According to the best scientific estimates, that's the amount of additional carbon that we can pour into the atmosphere and still hope to keep the rise in temperature to 2 degrees. Five hundred and sixty-five thousand million tons of carbon. It seems like a lot, until we hear that projections call for humanity to blast through our 565 gigaton quota in less than 16 years.

Which brings us to the final number that makes the other two numbers so frightening: 2,795 gigatons of carbon. This number represents the stored carbon in reserves held by coal, oil, and gas companies, and the countries that act like fossil fuel companies, like Kuwait.

Yes, 43 years after the first Earth Day, there are abundant reasons to be discouraged—and frightened, too. . .Every Earth Day, some of us are tempted to say things like "We live on the same planet; we're all in this together." But no, we're not. . .As the journalist and activist Naomi Klein has said, "[W]ith the fossil fuel industry, wrecking the planet is their business model. It's what they do."

In history we find hope—if we look for it. Our opponents today are no more reckless and ruthless than the people who made their living enslaving others. But they still measure life in dollars. This Earth Day we need to recognize that the fossil fuel industry is waging war on the planet—and on the future. And, like the abolitionists before us, we need to act accordingly.

Abridged from <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/04/20>. Bill Bigelow is a retired Portland high school teacher, curriculum editor of [Rethinking Schools](#) and co-director of the [Zinn Education Project](#)

JAMES HANSEN'S SENATE TESTIMONY on CLIMATE & ENERGY

On March 13, 2014, James Hansen, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, gave oral testimony on the Keystone XL Pipeline before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The video at <http://www.c-span.org/video/?c4487288/statement-dr-james-e-hansen> records his testimony. You will find Hansen's answers to questions, submitted at the hearing by Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ), posted together with Hansen's answers at http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/2014/20140417_Menendezquestionstohansen.pdf .

Read about the legal case that young people have filed against the United States federal government at http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/2014/20140414_DayInCourt.pdf , and find the "trust" basis for the amicus brief filed by Hansen at http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/2014/20140429_DayInCourtPartII.pdf .

May 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]

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

South Park Blocks, Shemanski Park, SW Salmon & Park. Co-sponsored by **WILPF**, this May Day event's theme is workers' right to organize. Tabling begins 2 pm, rally 3:30, two mile march 4:30-6:30, Open Mic & music till 9. Come out this May Day, and stand united for social & economic justice. People over profit!

Thursday 1 May, 6:30-8 pm: Patricia Allen and Lisa Weasel, "Engendering Food Justice"

Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway, room 327/8. Second Annual Walk of the Heroines Lecture, a conversation on gender and food justice between Professor Patricia Allen, chair of the Department of Food Systems and Society at Marylhurst University, and PSU Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies professor Lisa Weasel. Free, refreshments to follow.

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

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Main, doors open at 6 pm. Community Tabling 6-9:30 pm. Thom's presentation will be followed by a panel 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.

Sunday 4 May, 12-5 pm: 28th Amendment Tour—Money Is Not Speech, Corporations Are Not People

Portland State University, Hoffman Hall, 1833 SW 11th Avenue. Keynote by John Nichols, author of Dollarocracy. Other confirmed speakers: Kate Titus (Oregon Common Cause), David Delk (Alliance for Democracy), Amanda Fritz (Portland City Council). Special sneak preview of documentary, "Pay2Play—Democracy's High Stakes," to be shown after 2:30. \$12 (free for students). Hosted by OSPIRG, tickets at www.oregondemocracycoalition.org.

Sunday 4 May, 5 pm: House Concert, Beyond Little Boxes Trio

Subud House, 3185 NE Regents Drive. Acoustic trio—guitarist Mary Rose, mandolin player Mark Loring, and bassist Jim Cook—sing and play Malvina Reynolds songs. Come sing along with them. Donations requested.

Tuesday 6 May, 6:30-8:30 pm: Race Talks 2, "The African American Experience in Oregon"

Jefferson High School cafeteria, 5210 N. Kerby Avenue, between Killingsworth & Alberta. Doors open at 6. Speakers: Lorenzo Poe, Portland Public Schools Chief Equity & Diversity Officer; Carl Talton, Executive Chair, Portland Family of Funds; and Lavert Robertson, Principal, Cesar Chavez. This second series of Race Talks is held on the first Tuesday of every month. All ages welcome. Raffle prizes; light snacks available for purchase.

Thursday 8 May, 7 pm: David Cay Johnston, "Divided: The Perils of Our Growing Inequality"

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Salmon, doors open 6:30 pm. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy, Oregon Center for Public Policy, KBOO, Economic Justice Action Group of First Unitarian Church. Suggested donation \$5-\$20; no one turned away. <http://www.afd-pdx.org/community-events.html>.

Friday 9 May, 7-9 pm: "Project Censored the Movie: Ending the Reign of Junkfood News" with Nolan Higdon

Tabor Space, Annex Room, 5441 SE Belmont Street. Nolan Higdon is faculty adviser of Project Censored, a media democracy organization at Sonoma State University since 1976. The award-winning 2013 documentary examines what is wrong with the U.S. media today. Film showing plus Q&A.

Tuesday 13 May, 7-9 pm: Race Talks, "Ending the School to Prison to Death Penalty Pipeline"

McMenamins Kennedy School Gym, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, doors open at 6 pm. With retired Oregon State Penitentiary Superintendent Frank Thompson; Mark Kramer, Attorney; Janvier Slick, MSW; and Dr. Lurlene Shamsud-Din. All ages welcome; food available for purchase.

Thursday 15 May, 7-9 pm: Film, "A FIERCE GREEN FIRE: The Battle for a Living Planet"

PSU Academic and Student Recreation Center, room 001, 1800 SW 6th Avenue. The first big-picture exploration of the environmental movement, spanning fifty years from conservation to climate change. Directed and written by Mark Kitchell, narrated by Robert Redford, Ashley Judd, Van Jones, Isabel Allende and Meryl Streep. Sponsored by Institute for Sustainable Solutions, Neighbors for Clean Air, Portland City Club. <http://www.afiercegreenfire.com/>

Saturday 17 May, 12-2 pm: Portland WILPF Branch Meeting for Retreat Planning

Room A301, First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue and Salmon. Notice the earlier time: Join us at noon for a brown bag lunch during this meeting. Enter through the breezeway mid-block between Salmon & Main; the building is unlocked 11:45—12:15 and 12:45—1:15.

Saturday 17 May, 2 pm: Youth Ending Slavery (YES), "Walk to End Slavery"

Director Park, 815 SW Park Ave between Taylor & Yamhill. YouthEndingSlavery.org sponsors an annual march to raise awareness about modern day slavery around the world. Hear speakers on local human trafficking, sweatshop workers, and girls trafficked for sex.

Saturday 17 May, 4-6 pm: Conference on Economic Benefits of Single Payer Healthcare for Unions, Low Wage Workers, and Community Groups

AFL-CIO Meeting Room, 3645 SE 32nd Avenue. Featuring Gerald Friedman, economics professor at Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst; Fernando Gaspasin, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance; Janet Bauer, Oregon Center for Public Policy. Sponsors: Physicians for a National Health Plan, Health Care for All Oregon, Alliance for Democracy. Free; refreshments.

Saturday 24 May, 11 am: March Against Monsanto

Holladay City Park by Lloyd Center, NE 11th Avenue & Holladay. Join the global protest against Monsanto to stop the destruction of the food supply and the hostile takeover of the global seed supply. Support local farms, promote organic solutions, expose the cronyism between big business and the government. <http://facebook.com/566004240084767>

Sunday 25 May, 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 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](http://www.congress.gov/bills/113/hr4107), which would save \$100 billion over 10 years by reducing unnecessary nuclear weapons programs and significantly reduce the number of ICBMs currently on 24-hour alert. 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. To attend, RSVP at http://blumenauer.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2346.