

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

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November 2015

NEWS FROM THE OCTOBER BUSINESS MEETING

At the October 10 meeting, Natasha Beck, Brandy Robinson, Carol Urner, and Celeste Howard heard Mayra Martinez (ouregon.org) talk about the campaign *A Better Oregon*. Oregon levies the lowest business tax in the US. Our Oregon proposes to raise it in the interest of funding K12 education, healthcare, and senior citizens. The campaign is now in its first stage—collecting sufficient signatures on the petition for a 2016 ballot measure that would **increase the corporate minimum tax *only* for corporations whose Oregon sales exceed \$25 million each year**. Copies of the petition can be printed out online at www.abetteroregon.org.

Brandy reported that the Coalition to promote CEDAW in Portland and in Oregon has found that there has been no up-to-date report on the status of women in Oregon since 1998. Therefore, The Women's Foundation of Oregon is undertaking to do the research and write such a report and release it for circulation in the coming months.

Our branch is cooperating with the national office in an effort to bring local and national membership records into alignment. We are also offering a training internship for a graduate or undergraduate student to assist our branch in outreach and human rights initiatives.

WILPF-PDX Internship

Portland, Oregon branch internship opportunity (administrative, program and outreach support). 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 and have good time management, communication and organizational skills and be an undergrad or grad student in related fields of women's studies, conflict studies, sociology, public health, social work, public policy, international studies, political science, history, human rights, law or legal studies, etc. If interested, email resume, internship goals and availability date to wilfpdx@gmail.com; include the word Internship in the subject line.

NOVEMBER 11 ARMISTICE DAY CELEBRATION

"Ninety-seven years ago, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, fighting ceased in the "war to end all wars."...Believe it or not, November 11th was not made a holiday in order to celebrate war, support troops, or cheer the 15th year of occupying Afghanistan. This day was made a holiday in order to celebrate an armistice that ended what was up until that point, in 1918, one of the worst things our species had thus far done to itself, namely World War I." Read David Swanson's essay at <http://www.vfpchapter72.org/> and join the celebration Wednesday, 11 am, at Pioneer Courthouse Square! See page 4.

The next business meetings of WILPF Portland will be Saturdays, November 14 and December 12, 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: For the December newsletter, Tuesday, November 24; for the December calendar, Saturday, November 28. Send all items for publication to wilfpdx@gmail.com.

eNEWS from WILPF US

Statement Calling on US Government to Apply Pressure to End Middle East Crisis

WILPF US asks the US government to halt the sale of penetrator bombs to Israel, and to cease all military aid to Israel until it ends the occupation of Palestine. The statement also calls for an international conference to be convened by the UN Security Council.

Letters containing the statement are being sent to President Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. *WILPF US Middle East Committee urges US members to write to Congress and send letters to the editor pursuing these steps toward peace.*

The full statement is at <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/wilpf-steps-end-middle-east-crisis>.

Panel Represents WILPF US at UN Peace Forum, October 29

by Melinda Torres

Our panel, 'Strategic Re/Engagements: Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda over the Next Fifteen Years and Beyond,' explored the role of local efforts, policy analyses, and men's engagement. The panel aimed to create a dialogue in which individuals from multiple perspectives can share and learn from one another.



Each of us spoke from our different fields of expertise: Kristin about WILPF US's pre-NAP [National Action Plan] consultations and the focus on human security; Brandy about the need to redefine the concepts of violence and armed conflict in order to maximize strategic engagements with UN Security Council Resolution 1325; Melissa about looking at immigration and human trafficking through the lens of 1325; Rachel about racial violence in inner cities, food security, and budgeting; and Altaira about women and mediation.

PHOTO: Top row: Deputy Foreign Minister of Republic of Macedonia, Dragana Kiprijanovska; WILPF US International Board Representative Dr. Melissa I. M. Torres; Portland WILPF Co-President Brandy

Robinson; Rachel Nagin. Bottom row: Kristin Alder and Altaira Hatton.

Excerpt from Statement on Gender and Disarmament to the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament & International Security

The negative impacts on our society of patriarchy and male privilege are perhaps nowhere more pervasive and pernicious than in the field of weapons, war, and militarism. By consequence, much of the discussion on disarmament perpetuates the highly problematic gender constructions of men who are violent and powerful and women that are vulnerable and need to be protected. Gender perspectives in disarmament, peace, and security must be about exposing and challenging this state of affairs, not about including more women in the existing systems of structural inequalities and violent masculinities.

Find the complete statement at <http://reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/10407-statement-on-gender-and-disarmament-to-the-un-general-assembly-first-committee>

For more details on this topic, see <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/publications-and-research/publications/10441-women-weapons-and-war-a-gendered-critique-of-multilateral-instruments>. The full publication can be downloaded from this website.

Reaching Critical Will has also published a briefing paper, "Trading Arms, Bombing Towns." <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/publications-and-research/publications/10184-trading-arms-bombing-towns> It looks at the lethal connection between the international arms trade and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas

This statement was coordinated and drafted by WILPF's Reaching Critical Will program, and endorsed by over 85 other international organizations.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED WITH WILPF US

- WILPF International Internship (deadline is 11/20): <http://tinyurl.com/qd537ap>
- Reaching Critical Will Internship (deadline is 11/10): <http://tinyurl.com/pjz39pm>
- PeaceWomen Internship: PeaceWomen, WILPF's UN Office in New York, is looking to hire for two intern positions: Research Assistant, and Communications & Research Assistant. Visit peacewomen.org for more information on how to apply.
- WILPF-US (NYC) Internships: To apply, send a resume writing sample, internship goals, and date available with desired internship placement to Internship Coordinator, WILPF National Office, 11 Arlington Street, Boston MA 02116, or email to internships@wilpfus.org. Please see wilpfus.org for internship descriptions.

LINKS TO EXPLORE

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/11/05/worse-we-thought-tpa-total-corporate-power-grab-nightmare>. Good source for comments from leading civil society organizations on the newly divulged text of the proposed **TransPacific Partnership** agreement. Go to www.afd-pdx.org to join in the opposition to TPP.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/11/02/our-nation-needs-balm-single-payer-action-surges-forward> Donna Smith, exec dir Healthcare for All Colorado. Oregon and other states are also pushing for **Medicare for All**. See <http://hcao.org/>.

<http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/> **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**

http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/remembering-grace-lee-boggs-and-the-revolution-she-inspired-in-us-20151009?utm_source=YTW&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=20151009

<http://www.robinmorgan.net/books/> A founder and leader of contemporary US feminism, **Robin Morgan** has also been a major presence in the international Women's Movement for more than 30 years.

November 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, The Women in Black** silent vigil **has been discontinued**.
- * **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]

Early November to Sunday 6 December: Free Online Course, "Climate Change Policy and Public Health"

This MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) originates at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is recommended by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR). Conducted in English by Jonathan Patz (professor and director, Global Health Institute, UWM), the course takes 4 to 8 hours of study during each of its 4 weeks. It will feature input from experts across the globe. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with the current scientific and political literature, and discuss course content with peers worldwide. For introductory video, details and enrollment, see www.coursera.org/course/ccandph. Free; OK to start after the Nov. 9th first class.

Tuesday 10 November, 7 pm: Coal and Oil Transport: Business Boom or Public Liability?

Multnomah County Building, 501 SE Hawthorne. Speakers: Catherine Mater from Oregon Transportation Commission and Global Warming Commission; State Representative Barbara Smith Warner; and Laurent Picard, fire lieutenant and Hood River City Councilor. Both Smith Warner and Picard are members of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance. As a longtime Gorge resident with 20 years of firefighting experience, Picard will speak about the hazards of oil trains to public safety. Presented by LWV of Portland Civic Education Program.

Wednesday 11 November, 11 am: Armistice Day/Remembrance Day

Pioneer Courthouse Square. Please bring a bell or a sign, and arrive by 11:00 a.m. At 11:11 everyone will chime bells in unison a total of 11 times. Then Veterans for Peace and other folks will have a chance to speak their peace, and to sing—music provided by members of "Soldier Songs & Voices." Sponsored by Veterans for Peace Chapter 72 and **WILPF**.

Thursday 12 November, 5 to 8 pm: Climate Solutions 7th Annual Dinner, "Regional Leadership—Global Impacts"

Hilton Portland, 921 SW 6th Ave. Keynote speaker will be Danny Kennedy, managing director of the California Clean Energy Fund (CalCEF), and president of CalCharge, a public-private consortium to drive breakthroughs in energy storage technology. Individual registration is \$125/person (<https://climates.ejoinme.org/AnnualDinner2015>) and includes a seated dinner.

Friday 13 November to Saturday 14 November: The Climate Reality Project, "24 Hours of Reality—The World is Watching"

Watch [24 Hours of Reality and Live Earth: The World Is Watching](#), about a day of planet-wide climate action and music hosted by former US Vice President Al Gore and streaming live from cities around the world. This live broadcast event features global artists and opinion makers, and inspiring stories of progress around the world, setting the virtual stage for a breakthrough climate agreement at the UN climate talks in Paris beginning on November 30.

Saturday 14 November, 1 to 3 pm: WILPF Portland Monthly Business Meeting

First Unitarian Church, room B310; enter from 12th Avenue through midblock breezeway. Tom Hastings (Peace Voice/Portland Peace Team) will talk about a film series proposal. Come early between 12 and 1 for a brown bag lunch and conversation.

Thursday 19 November, 10 am to 6:30 pm, seminar; 7 to 9:15, 2015 Collins Lecture: "The Gospel of Conquest: Native Americans, Christianity and the Doctrine of Discovery"

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave. Guest lecturers will include [Robert Miller](#), [George "Tink" Tinker](#), and [Kim Recalma-Clutesi](#), who will discuss the 15th-century basis for European Christian claims to the Americas and examine its continued influence on relations among church, tribe and state. See www.emoregon.org/2015_collins_lecture.php for details and tickets: lecture, \$25 general, \$15 students; seminar (includes lunch & dinner), \$60 general, \$30 Native Americans and students. Scholarships available.

Thursday 19 November, 7:30 pm: Benefit Concert, "Joe Hill Centennial Tribute"

Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta St, doors open 6:30 pm. Featuring Anne Feeney, Citizens Band and General Strike and Mark Ross as MC. Benefit for Sisters of the Road and KBOO. Tickets \$15 at door or online at www.albertarosetheatre.com. Sponsored by NW Oregon Labor Council, KBOO, and local unions and friends of labor. "Don't mourn, organize!" (Joe Hill)

Thursday 19 November, 6 to 8 pm: Forum "Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Minors: A Dialogue between Students & Policymakers"

Ecotrust, Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center, 721 NW 9th Avenue. This is a student-led forum organized by Youth Ending Slavery (YES). www.youthendingslavery.org/upcoming.html

Friday 20 November, 7 pm: Free Concert, "Songs of the Labor Movement"

American Federation of Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave (1 block south of Sandy). *Beyond Little Boxes*, including WILPF's Mary Rose, will sing important songs by and about Joe Hill, women in Portland, IWW members and the Labor Movement.

Sunday 22 November, 10 am to noon: "Justice More Justice" Musical Morning

Just Bob's, 2403 NE Alberta St. Laura Webb will join the JMJ musicians for a sing-along, good food, conviviality, and tips.

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

Peace House, 2116 NE 18th Ave at Tillamook. Scrooge of the Year is an annual award the community (you!) votes on for 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 the Scrooge of the Year 2015! See www.jwjpdx.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.

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. E.G., the Fall/Winter 2015 issue of *Peace and Freedom*, the national magazine, was delivered this past week, in late October.

To join, renew or rejoin: Pay dues to WILPF National in Boston. For many of us the quickest, easiest way 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. 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: The form below 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, 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

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