### WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

Officers: Co-presidents: Natasha Beck and Brandy Robinson;

 Treasurer, Anne McLaughlin; Membership chair, Sandra Oberdorfer;

 Corresponding secretary: Karen James; Recording secretary, Celeste Howard;

 Web manager: Brandy Robinson; Newsletter: Celeste Howard, Anne McLaughlin

***November - December 2016***

**NEWS from the WILPF PORTLAND MEETING on NOVEMBER 12**

**Our photograph** of the 29 American women who sailed in 1915 to attend the Women’s Peace Conference in The Hague has been reframed beautifully (and durably). It was on display for our meeting. Natasha Beck deserves our thanks and commendation for her service in taking on this project, finding the right place, and conveying a sense of its importance.

Membership Directory: Sandra Oberdorfer raised some questions about the format of a new branch directory. Is it safe in these times to include all the contact information about our members that was in the last (2012) directory? Or, as we confirm details like address and phone number, should we keep such details confidential? After some discussion, Anne McLaughlin offered to meet with Sandra and Barbara Drageaux and help decide what goes into the new directory, case by case. We anticipate that one or two other members will join this directory subcommittee.

Branch Internship: Dr. Tom Hastings is advertising our internship offer again to women students at PSU. It carries a stipend ($300 to $500) and will not involve a large time commitment. Since the next UN Conference on the Status of Women (CSW) will be heldnext March, the internship is a good opportunity to gain knowledge of WILPF’s role at the UN.

Newsletter: Newsletter publication is now occurring about 10 days after each business meeting. Information can be submitted as late as the following Saturday after the meeting.

Action: We voted unanimously to send a letter of commendation to WILPF member David Delk for opposing TPP supporter Earl Blumenauer in the race for District 3 representative. He is to be congratulated for getting 6.5% of the vote. Each of us voiced deep concern about viewing Donald Trump as President-Elect. Yet we look ahead to working during 2017 on the issues that concern us, mentioning organizations that we consider key allies: On issues of reproductive justice, Western States Center [www.westernstatescenter.org/](http://www.westernstatescenter.org/); on ending war, Veterans for Peace at [www.vfpchapter72.org](http://www.vfpchapter72.org); on issues intersecting racial discrimination, Portland NAACP Branch 1120, <https://portlandnaacp.wordpress.com/>.

**A message from Senator Elizabeth Warren,** sent widely by email early on November 10, was distributed at the meeting. These excerpts may convey her tone and sense of purpose:

“The deep worry that people feel over an America that does not work for them is not liberal or conservative worry. It is not Democratic or Republican worry. [Trump] promised to rebuild our economy for working people. **If Trump is ready to go on rebuilding economic security for millions of Americans, so am I and so are a lot of other people—Democrats and Republicans.”**

**Next Branch business meeting:** Saturday, January 14, 2017, 12:30 to 2:30, in room B310, First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Ave & Salmon. Doors open at noon. **Deadline:** for the January newsletter, including calendar, Saturday, January 21.

**ON THE ROAD TO BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

[*http://reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/11295-november-2016-e-news#nov2*](http://reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/11295-november-2016-e-news#nov2)

**On 27 October**, the UN [adopted](http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com16/votes/L41.pdf) a [resolution](http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com16/resolutions/L41.pdf) establishing negotiations next year on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons! This is the opportunity we’ve been working for. As expected, most nuclear-armed states voted no, and some tried to bully other states into rejecting it as well. But 123 states voted in favor, which means negotiations will go forward!

The act of prohibiting nuclear weapons is an act of nonviolent, positive, courageous revolt. “Will this process be the most efficient way to achieve the goal of full nuclear disarmament?” asked Sweden after supporting the resolution in the vote. “The fact is that we do not know today. But given the stakes involved, we believe we have an obligation to try, mindful of the challenges involved.”

How we arrived at this point: In December 2014 Austria called upon all states that are parties to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) “to identify and pursue effective measures to fill the **legal gap** for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.” Nuclear weapons are currently limited only by the NPT and by treaties establishing Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones (NWFZ). The five NWFZ treaties are: Tlatelolco (covering Latin America and Caribbean NWFZ), Rarotonga (South Pacific), Pelindaba (Africa), Bangkok (Southeast Asia), and Semipalatinsk (Central Asia). Mongolia has also declared itself a NWFZ.

The NPT makes nuclear weapons manufacture illegal only for non-nuclear-armed states; there is no comprehensive prohibition, and only the production of a fully assembled nuclear weapon by these states is explicitly prohibited. The NPT prohibits transfer of nuclear **weapons** to non-nuclear-armed states, but not nuclear **delivery systems**. However, the US had already stationed some of its nuclear weapons in NATO countries before the NPT took effect, and between 1959 and 1962 “nuclear sharing” agreements were concluded that gave these countries “control” over their deployment in times of war.

The NPT does not prohibit the possession and stockpiling of nuclear weapons by NPT nuclear-armed states. Deployment of nuclear weapons is not prohibited by the NPT or by any other instrument beyond NWFZ treaties. There is no explicit treaty prohibition or universally accepted rule of customary international law on the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons.Neither the NPT nor any other agreement prohibits consultation or planning on the use of nuclear weapons. Moreover, NATO’s nuclear planning group involves non-nuclear-armed states as well as nuclear-armed states. *(*[*reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/filling-the-legal-gap.pdf*](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/filling-the-legal-gap.pdf) *)*

The open-ended working group (OEWG) on disarmament met in Geneva from August 5 to 19. The 2016 session of the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security began on October 3. The OEWG brought its recommendation to that session, at which the October 27 vote came out 123 in favor, 38 against, 16 abstaining. “We have a big task ahead of us. The first bold step, establishing negotiations, has been taken. The struggle will continue next year—but it is a struggle that states, civil society, and the world are ready for.” *(*[*reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/11272-revolt-against-nuclear-weapons*](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/news/latest-news/11272-revolt-against-nuclear-weapons)

WILPF Disarm co-chair Carol Urner tells us that we can learn more about the negotiations, which will begin next March, at <http://www.icanw.org/>, the website of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Carol leaves Portland on November 22 to winter in California with her daughter.

**WILPF US STATEMENT ON SYRIA**

**On November 9,** WILPF members learned by email that a WILPF US statement on Syria could be found at <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/wilpf-us-statement-syria>. We are encouraged to read it, share it widely, and send a copy to our Congressional representatives. It begins with a thorough examination of this long conflict in its historical and social context. The following excerpts give a ‘take home message’ from the statement:

**We recognize** that the intervention of foreign powers in the fighting within the nation of Syria has served to escalate, rather than to diminish, the level of hostilities….Our hope, indeed, our demand, is that the Syrian people themselves will be able to decide who should be their legitimate leadership. The rights of the Syrians to engage in self-determination without outside interference, as set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by the Syrian Arab Republic on April 21, 1969, need to be recognized and protected.

**Therefore,** we urge the USA government to take the following actions:

1. **Withdraw from all fighting** within Syria and elsewhere that is having an impact on Syria and work for a ceasefire there; and under no circumstances attempt to undertake a "no-fly zone" of any kind over or around Syria;
2. **Work in coalition** with other nations to agree not to provide military support of any kind to or for Syria;
3. **Provide humanitarian aid** and allow medicine and food and supplies to be delivered via air or other means to the Syrian people (which also means choosing not to establish or utilize any USA-devised "no-fly" zone);
4. **Take** no action that would impede the safe passage or movement of Syrians who have left Syria and/or are returning to Syria and/or those Syrians who wish to leave;
5. **Immediately allow** large numbers of displaced Syrians into the USA for refuge, and provide the federal financial and infrastructural resources necessary to assist localities in sheltering and sustaining these refugees;
6. **Encourage**, without attempting to co-opt, the process of bringing the Syrian parties to peace negotiations;
7. **Assist** in the rebuilding of Syrian infrastructure - its buildings and public works systems in particular - by providing material support, with "no strings attached;" and
8. **Reaffirm** the human and sovereign rights of all Syrians and act accordingly toward them.

**LINKS TO EXPLORE**

*from Natasha Beck*

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/if-youre-overwhelmed-by-the-election-heres-what-you-can-do-now_us_5822c7d0e4b0e80b02cdf133> All is not lost; consider these actions.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/627719347400380/> “Water is sacred, because it gives life to everything and without water there is no life.” Thunder Rain Woman, Anishinaabe Nation. “Moccasins on the ground protect sacred water.”

*Natasha adds: ‘Among my favorite writers, Marge Piercy, Toni Morrison, Louise Erdrich, and Amy Tan have all committed themselves to continuing to speak their truths and tell their stories in light of the Trump selection, as Jewish, Black, Ojibwe, and Asian-American women, respectively. Amy Tan wrote on Nov.9:"I am scared. But I will never give up my values and simply let it be when it comes to racism, sexism, equal marriage, women's**reproductive rights, Muslims, refugees, global warming, and so many other concerns, social and environmental. The arts may lose its funding but I hope our expression will be not of just despair."*

**MORE LINKS**

<http://www.capenews.net/mashpee/news/us-house-passes-women-peace-and-security-act/article_aae3ab07-742c-5bc4-bb77-b5091e4ae17e.html> Passage by the US House on November 15 of the Women, Peace and Security Act, HR 224, ensures that women have a seat at the table when the US is working towards greater peace and security in the world.

[thenation.com/article/inequality-between-women-is-crucial-to-understanding-hillarys-loss/](https://www.thenation.com/article/inequality-between-women-is-crucial-to-understanding-hillarys-loss/) Kathleen Geier, Chicago writer & public policy researcher. Stimulating.

[commondreams.org/news/2016/11/11/naomi-klein-delivers-sydney-peace-prize-lecture-against-backdrop-trump-win](http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/11/11/naomi-klein-delivers-sydney-peace-prize-lecture-against-backdrop-trump-win) Klein called Trump's plans to double-down on domestic fossil fuel production while cutting aid to poor nations impacted by rising sea levels as "immoral and atrocious." Video of speech included in this link is rather poor.

[commondreams.org/views/2016/11/13/lawsuit-could-save-planet](http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/11/13/lawsuit-could-save-planet) A very good summary by John Light of Judge Ann Aiken’s recent decision allowing the Our Children’s Trust lawsuit to proceed to trial. The suit alleges that the government has known about climate change for decades but failed to address it, denying these children and teenagers their right to a safe future. Light discusses the case’s impact and how Obama can respond.

*A note from Sandra Oberdorfer, sent after showing us her profound feelings about the impact of Trump’s election at the November 12 business meeting:* A year ago I was at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, after coming down the stairs from visiting the outside courtyard of the Al Aqsa Mosque. I'd closed my eyes to absorb the positive energy of it all, and when I opened them, this white dove was perched right near my feet.”

**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER - JANUARY WILPF PORTLAND CALENDAR**

***VIGILS HELD REGULARLY***

***Tuesdays & Fridays, 2-4 pm*** East end of Burnside Bridge **Alliance for Democracy** opposing TransPacific Partnership (TPP) and other corporate trade agreements

***Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm*** East end of Burnside Bridge (NE MLKJr 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*](http://www.trimet.org/) *to find public transportation to all these locations]*

**A new source of info on upcoming “Resistances and Rallies” events**

The Portland Mercury (weekly newspaper) is now publishing an online calendar of these events, and they may have some events that we don’t list here. For that list, go to [**www.portlandmercury.com/events/resistances-and-rallies**](http://www.portlandmercury.com/events/resistances-and-rallies). Thanks to Natasha Beck for pointing out this link.

**Saturday 26 November, 6:30 pm: “Not My President” Protest**

Pioneer Courthouse Square. For more info, see [facebook.com/events/1772680706327538/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1772680706327538/)

**Sunday 27 November, 10 am to noon: JMJ Acoustic Trio at Just Bob**

NE Alberta and 24th Avenue. Mary Rose, Laura Webb (members of WILPF Portland) with Jane Keefer, banjoist, & Jim Cook, bassist, all love to bring live acoustic music to informal audiences. Enjoy breakfast; favorite songs, original & old-time, lots of sing-alongs, good food & drink, community-spirited folks from the neighborhood & beyond. All ages welcome, tips only, no cover, 4th Sunday every month. Jim Cook, Mary Rose, Jane Keefer & friends.

**Monday 28 November, 7:30 to 8:30 pm: Matt Hern, “What a City Is For: Remaking the Politics of Displacement”**

Powell’s City of Books, Burnside St. Over the last two and a half decades, Albina – the one major Black neighborhood in Portland – has been systematically uprooted by market-driven gentrification and city-renewal policies. In [What a City Is For](http://www.brownbearsw.com/book/what-a-city-is-for-9780262034883/1-3) (MIT), Matt Hern uses the case of Albina (and others) to investigate gentrification in the 21st century.

**Tuesday 29 November, 5:30 to 8:30 pm: Forum: The Fight to Protect Oregon from Factory Farms**

Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison St. Join Friends of Family Farmers for an informative discussion on the environmental and social impacts of mega-CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) in Oregon. Learn all about pasture-based, socially responsible alternatives for dairy and meat production; find out what you can do to help prevent the spread of new mega-CAFOs across Oregon. More information can be found at the Friends of Family Farmers’ website, [www.friendsoffamilyfarmers.org/event/portland-infarmation-2/](http://www.friendsoffamilyfarmers.org/event/portland-infarmation-2/)

**Tuesday 29 November, 6 to 8:30 pm: Film, “13th,” by Ava DuVernay**

First Unitarian Church, room B202-203, SW 12th & Salmon. Part of First U’s discussion series “The New Jim Crow, this documentary is about the prison system and the economic forces behind racism in America. It takes its title from the 13th amendment, which outlawed slavery but left a significant loophole. The discussion following the film will feature Orentheo Rivers, who works with clients in reentry at Volunteers of America. Free; please bring a finger snack or beverage to share if you can. For more information, email Kathryn Scotten at Kathryn@withyscott.com.

**Wednesday 30 November, 2 to 5 pm: Portland City Council Hearing, Standing for Human Rights**

Portland City Hall, 1220 SW 5th Ave. Occupation-Free Portland invites everyone to attend the City Council Hearing on the recommendations of the Socially Responsible Investments Committee. Hear testimonies on why the City of Portland should place companies (such as Caterpillar, Wells Fargo, Bank of NY Mellon) that violate human rights and destroy the environment on the DO NOT BUY LIST. Be there to support City Council in doing the right thing.

**Thursday 1 December, 6:30 to 9 pm: World AIDS Day Keynote and Forum**

First Unitarian Church. SW 12th & Salmon. Celebrate our progress in addressing the global AIDS pandemic and find out how we can work together to end AIDS — and the extreme poverty often a contributing cause of it—by 2030. Dr. Scott Leckman (a surgeon in Salt Lake City, former Utah and Salt Lake County Doctor of the Year, recipient of the Utah Minuteman Award from the Utah National Guard and the Gandhi Peace Award, and former Democratic candidate for the US Senate) will be the keynote speaker, followed by a panel of local experts. Participating organizations include Africa Connections and Results, The Imani Project, Zimbabwe Artists Project, the ONE Campaign, the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign, Health Care for All Oregon, and Cascade AIDS Project. There will also be time for informal conversation and refreshments. For more info: Ann Pickar at apickar@cs.co.

**Thursday 1 December, 7 pm, United Against Trump Panel & Discussion**

PSU Smith Memorial Union, 1825 SW Broadway at Montgomery. Sponsored by the Portland State International Socialist Organization. For more info, room number, and speakers, see [facebook.com/PortlandISO/](https://www.facebook.com/PortlandISO/).

**Friday 2 December, 7 to 10 pm: Jobs With Justice 2016 Scrooge Party and End of Year Celebration**

Sunnyside Community House, 3520 SW Yamhill St. Scrooge of the Year is an annual award the community (that's you!) vote on to honor the year’s worst Portland-area player. It can be a corporation, a politician, a boss, a landlord, or someone completely different. We here at Portland Jobs with Justice think it’s important that the voting process for this award is true to our American democratic system. That’s right – this election is for sale! You may purchase as many votes as you wish to decide the worst boss in town. $15 admission ticket includes 20 votes. Buy your admission and extra tickets ($5 for 5) [here](https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed_events/2016-scrooge-party-end-of-year-celebration)!

**Tuesday 6 December, 12 to 2 pm: Eastside democratic Club Monthly Public Meeting**

Grace Presbyterian Church, 6025 NE Prescott St. Public always welcome. Not affiliated with the Democratic Party. More information at [the](https://www.facebook.com/events/958379144270088/) group’s Facebook page.

**Thursday 8 December, 4 pm: One WILPF Conference Call, Medea Benjamin**

This month’s WILPF membership conference call features Medea Benjamin of CODE PINK discussing how WILPF and Code Pink can work more closely and strategically in collaboration. Pre-register at: [myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN](http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN)

**Thursday 8 December, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Reviving Hope: Stories from Gaza and Lebanon**

Nicholas’ Restaurant, 3223 NE Broadway, 97232. Dinner and presentation to benefit ANERA (American Near East Refugee Aid) programs. ANERA has helped Palestinian families, poor communities and refugees in Palestine and Lebanon since 1968. See [anera.org](http://www.anera.org/) for info on ANERA. Tickets $40 advance, $45 at door, order at [anera.org/Portland](http://www.anera.org/Portland).

**Saturday 10 December: No WILPF Business Meeting this month.**

**Saturday 17 December, 7:30 pm, and Sunday 18 December, 4pm: Aurora Chorus “Sure On This Shining Night”**

First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Ave. Aurora Chorus opens its silver season “A Place Where You Belong,” with a winter concert. Hear favorites from a diverse repertoire that has made Aurora’s winter concerts an enduring and beloved holiday tradition for the past 25 years! Tickets ($10 to $22) and more info at <http://www.aurorachorus.org/>

**Wednesday 11 January, 4-5:30 PM: "15 Years of Human Rights Abuses at Guantanamo-- Shut It Down!"**

SE Hawthorne & Grand (East end of Hawthorne Bridge) Visibility Action featuring the "Tower of Peace" to mark 15 years since the prison camp opened. Cosponsored by Amnesty International Group 48 and the Portland Close Guantanamo Coalition. For more info, see [pjw.info/Iraq.html](http://www.pjw.info/Iraq.html).

**Thursday 12 January, 4pm: ONE WILPF Conference Call on Reaching Critical Will**

January’s One WILPF call features Ray Acheson of REACHING CRITICAL WILL, the Disarmament Program at WILPF's United Nations Office, discussing how WILPF US members can work more strategically and collaboratively with RCW's upcoming calendar of events and objectives. See <http://reachingcriticalwill.org/> about RCW, and preregister for the call at [myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN](http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN)

**Saturday 14 January, 12:30 to 2:30 pm: WILPF Portland Business Meeting**

First Unitarian Church, Buchan Bldg room B310, SW 12th Ave and Salmon St. Enter mid-block walkway from 12th Ave. Door on right is open around 12:30. Take the elevator to 3B.

**Thursday 9 February, 4 pm: ONE WILPF Conference Call: Most Dangerous Women Books**

February’s call features the MOST DANGEROUS WOMEN Book Group Discussion. See the upcoming [Winter 2016 Peace & Freedom](http://wilpfus.org/resources/publications) for more about choices of books and authors. Pre-register for call at [myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN](http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN)

**SUPPORT YOUR PORTLAND WILPF BRANCH**

**To contribute to WILPF Portland**: Use the form below. Our branch does not have membership dues; we ask for non-dues support for our Portland Branch. It is only these non-dues contributions made 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 us $2 per paid member per year. In 2015 we received $52 from national.

**Being a WILPF member means paying annual dues to the national organization**. If you haven’t received a recent mailing from WILPF US, your WILPF membership is probably not current. Their most recent mailing was the ballot for WILPF US Board members. **To confirm whether your membership is current**, contact the national office at info@wilpfus.org.

**To join, renew or rejoin WILPF**: Pay dues to WILPF National in Boston. For internet users the quickest, easiest way to join, renew or rejoin is online at [www.wilpfus.org](http://www.wilpfus.org). If you prefer not to do financial transactions on the internet, mail your membership dues check directly to: WILPF Membership, 11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116. Please indicate new or renewal, make check payable to WILPF-US. Sliding scale dues are $35 to $150 per year; your amount is up to you. Membership automatically includes International, US Section, and local Branch.

**Form for non-dues donations to WILPF Portland Branch**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ New Supporter: ❑ Already a Supporter: ❑

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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 this form & check, payable to WILPF, to Portland WILPF, 1034 SW 13th Ave, Portland 97205-1702**

**Contact us: To submit items for an upcoming WILPF Newsletter and/or Calendar, to be removed from our distribution list, and for any other messages:**

Email to wilpfpdx@gmail.com