

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

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November 2014

JOIN WILPF AND PDF on NOVEMBER 11 for ARMISTICE DAY!

More commonly known as Veterans Day in the United States and as Remembrance Day in Great Britain, many in the world peace movement prefer to remember November 11 as Armistice Day, a day that commemorates the end of "the war to end all wars," WWI.

On Tuesday, November 11, we urge you to join us in Portland's Pioneer Square at 10:30 a.m. Bring a bell if you have one. At 11 o'clock we will circle around and ring bells together—11 chimes, as in the traditional Armistice Day observance—to celebrate the end of one of the bloodiest wars in history and to call for cessation of today's hostilities and for the end of all war. Let's turn this military holiday into a call for a World Without War.

This year, for the third time, Portland **WILPF** is co-sponsoring the event along with Veterans for Peace Chapter 72, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Code Pink, Recruiter Watch, Living Earth, and St. Luke Lutheran Peace & Justice Group. This is at least the tenth year VFP groups across the country and their friends have thus remembered Armistice Day, in the hope that future young citizens will no longer be called to fight wars for empire, especially now that wars with nuclear and robotic weapons threaten to destroy all life on earth.

This is a very solemn commemoration for many of the veterans. No formal speakers have been invited. Anyone may speak out of the circle, sharing feelings inspired by this day.

WILPF BRANCH NEWS

Brandy Robinson joined the October 11 business meeting to tell us about her careful study of CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, inspired by her participation in a session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Although CEDAW has been in force since 1981, the US has not yet ratified it.

Brandy made us aware that cities can take action to comply with CEDAW—indeed, San Francisco has become the first city to pass an ordinance patterned after CEDAW. Its WILPF branch and other women's and social justice organizations organized and encouraged this city council action. Brandy urges WILPF-PDX to follow this example, and she has provided us a two-page summary of the implementation procedure used in San Francisco. Lucinda Tate agreed to work on this project with Brandy and will keep us informed of progress. For a copy of Brandy's summary, contact Lucinda at lucindatate46@gmail.com or at 503-283-3477.

Lucinda encourages all members to recruit one new person to join WILPF and become active. Lucinda is contacting the colleges with women's studies programs, requesting time to speak and give out brochures with WILPF membership applications.

Following its annual tradition, the branch is purchasing four sets of the 2014 Jane Addams Children's Book Award books for distribution to four area elementary school libraries.

The next Portland WILPF business meeting will be on Saturday, November 8, from 1 to 3 pm in room B310, First Unitarian Church. Join us to discuss plans for 2014/15, and come early for a brown bag lunch together. Submit articles for the next newsletter by November 22 and calendar November 29. Email them to wilfpdx@gmail.com.

SAVE THE GOOD OLD HOUSES: The 1989 Struggle in NW Portland

by Sandy Polishuk

Join the History of Social Justice Organizing series for a timely presentation on **Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7pm**, at the Architectural Heritage Center, 701 SE Grand Avenue. The event is free and open to the public.

From Eastmoreland to Kenton to Ladd's Addition and Northwest Portland, Portlanders are now fighting to save good old houses and maintain the character of their neighborhoods. The City of Portland has called it a "demolition uproar." Others call it a demolition epidemic.

As neighbors and neighborhood associations enter the fray, few are aware of a similar conflict not that long ago in NW Portland and the events of May 23, 1989, when townhouse developer Philip J. Morford's bulldozer attacked on NW Overton and twenty-three neighborhood residents were arrested when they put their bodies in the way.

The 1989 clash had been brewing for months; a hearing was scheduled for the next day with the City's Landmarks Commission. When Morford sent in the bulldozers early in the day, they were quickly noticed, a call went out, and a crowd of protestors arrived. A number sat down on the porch of a targeted house and were dragged away by police.

In the aftermath, the Northwest District Association (NWDA) and a neighborhood negotiation committee managed to get agreement that a grand Overton house designed by Whidden & Lewis would be saved on site and that two other houses would be moved nearby. A few years later, the Alphabet District (an area zoned for historic preservation, extending roughly from W Burnside to NW Marshall Street and between NW 17th and 24th Avenues) was approved by the Landmarks Commission and the Portland City Council.

The panel on November 18 will feature five central participants in the struggle:

- Nancy Nesewich, the leader of the grassroots movement to save the houses, was one of the first arrested that day.
- Ruth Roth, the first to occupy the porch, was dragged off a few minutes later and arrested. At the time, she was chair of the NWDA Historic Resources Committee, and she spearheaded efforts to get the Overton Pettygrove houses declared historic landmarks.
- As staff to the neighborhood association, Joleen Jensen-Classen coordinated the negotiation process.
- Frank Dixon and Rick Michaelson were lead negotiators on the neighborhood negotiation team that reached the settlement.

History of Social Justice Organizing is an ongoing series of presentations by activists and scholars on a wide variety of social justice organizing topics in Portland and elsewhere. See www.historyofsocialjustice.wordpress.com and www.facebook.com/historyofsocialjustice.

WILPF MEMBERS SUPPORT SANCTUARY FOR FRANCISCO AGUIRRE

by Kaye Exo

On September 30th, some five hundred supporters and more than fifty organizational leaders packed Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland, in solidarity with Francisco Aguirre, a labor activist and human rights advocate who is in sanctuary at the church. He has applied for a special U-Visa, but ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) authorities attempted to detain him because of his undocumented status. Born in El Salvador, Francisco has been an activist in Portland for over 20 years.

The leaders, among them many pastors, priests and rabbis from local congregations, publicly declared their support of the young man. Natasha Beck, Jack Herbert, Ann Huntwork and Kaye Exo, all from **WILPF**, participated in the historic event. There is an ongoing need for volunteers to accompany him at the church; shifts are four hours or overnight. Contact Rae Anne Lafrenz at portlandsanctuary@gmail.com.

REPORT: NORTHWEST TEACHING for SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

by *Natasha Beck*

On Saturday, October 19, eleven hundred persons, including educators from all levels, parents, grandparents, community activists, support staff, students, and administrators, came to Madison High School for a full day of interactive workshops and meaningful discussions related to the theme, "Rethinking our Classrooms, Organizing for Better Schools." Participants came from the Portland area as well as other major cities in the Northwest. Conference organizer Linda Christensen announced that all those involved in planning and presenting at the conference were volunteers. She further emphasized that funding for miscellaneous expenses came from Washington and Oregon teachers' unions, to which the crowd responded with resounding claps and cheers. Workshops covered a broad range of social, economic, and environmental justice and equity issues, and all offered participants some time to talk with each other. Some were offered in Spanish.

Veteran educator and keynote speaker Enid Lee, University of California at Santa Cruz, spoke about ways to disrupt systems of racism in entire school systems, classrooms in particular. She described racism as a "ladder with rungs" and asked us if we were "dismantling the ladder and making a circle of equity." She said we need to recognize the reality people have grown up with and address the assumptions of dominance inherent in a Eurocentric curriculum. In other words, change comes in three steps: recognize, reclaim, radicalize.

I attended three workshops: "Restorative Justice in Schools," "The Mexican Teachers' Movement," and "The Other Internment: the Japanese/Latin American experience."

Restorative Justice as practiced in public schools seeks to address the disproportionate rate of suspension and expulsion for students of color by adopting cooperative, rather than punitive, methods. We saw a video illustrating how restorative justice worked for an African American male high school student returning from incarceration. A circle of adults who cared about him, including his parents, teachers, administrators and community members, spoke about how they would support him to achieve his educational and future goals. Portland Public Schools recently adopted the Restorative Justice model.

We learned in the second workshop how teachers in Mexico have been organizing against mandatory testing and increased corporate control and in support of teachers' training colleges in rural areas which serve an indigenous population. U.S. teachers have organized test boycotts and strikes to deal with mandatory testing and privatization. Mexican teachers have been more militant, supporting their cause with many mass demonstrations.

In the third workshop, we learned about Japanese/Latin American people's World War II experiences with abduction, internment and deportation. Thousands of Japanese, Germans and Italians were deported from Latin American countries and forcibly interned in camps in the U.S. ([Japanese Latin Americans | Densho Encyclopedia](#)). We viewed historical photos and engaged in role plays which showed how the Japanese/Latin Americans have sought an official apology and reparations from the U.S. government.

I joined with an informal group during the end of the lunch break to sing union and solidarity songs, which was fun and uplifting.

I was glad to see so many younger educators and student teachers committed to social justice, and I was also glad to talk with friends who are veteran teachers and activists dedicated to the same principles. The overall mood was realistic about the challenges we face, but optimistic about the future.

ALSO IN THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Women in Black has been added to our list of weekly 'Vigils.' After vigiling in Chapman Square (also known as 'Women's Park') since 2001, this vigil for peace and justice continues on Fridays, 12:15 to 12:45, on SW 10th Avenue & Madison.

JOIN or RENEW YOUR NATIONAL WILPF MEMBERSHIP, and/or SUPPORT PORTLAND BRANCHName: _____ 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: \$ _____Non-dues contribution to support Portland WILPF activities, including emailed branch newsletter: \$ _____Extra contribution if you want to receive a **hard copy** newsletter: \$ _____

Other _____: \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed: \$ _____

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

FYI: When you send your membership renewal – see options above – the entire dues amount goes to WILPF National; they send our branch just \$2 per member. It is only your non-dues contributions directly to our branch that support all our local work.

How to keep your WILPF membership current

Being a WILPF member means joining the national organization. The best way to join, renew or rejoin is to go to wilpfus.org. If you don't do financial transactions on the internet, send your membership dues check directly to WILPF, 11 Arlington Street Boston, MA 02116. Or you can mail us the above form with your dues, and we will forward your membership dues and info to the national organization. If you send your check to us (Portland WILPF), be sure to indicate on the check's memo line how much of it you want us to forward to National.

November 2014 Portland WILPF Calendar**VIGILS HELD REGULARLY**

- * **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, 12:15 to 12:45 pm** SW 10th & Madison, near Art Museum. **Women in Black** (silent vigil for peace)
- * **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]**Wednesday 5 November, 7 pm: Human Rights Film Series, "Seeds of Hope"**

Whitsell Auditorium, Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue. Great Britain, 2013; director, Fiona Lloyd-Davies. In a region known as the most dangerous place in the world for women, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, one woman shines a beacon of hope to dispel the despair of survivors of rape. Trailer & review at www.nwfilm.org. Tickets \$5-\$9.

Thursday 6 November, 7 pm: Human Rights Film, "Nelson Mandela: The Myth & Me"

Whitsell Auditorium, Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue. When Mandela was released from prison in 1990, director Khalo Matabane was a teenager with fanciful ideas about post-apartheid, freedom, and justice. The film is a personal odyssey in which Matabane questions the meaning of these ideas and challenges Mandela's legacy in today's world of conflict and inequality. Trailer & review at www.nwfilm.org. Tickets \$5-\$9.

Thursday 6 November, 7 pm: Film Screening "DamNation"

Keen Garage, 505 NW 13th Avenue, doors open at 6:30. Presented by Keen Footwear, Save Our Wild Salmon, and American Whitewater. Post-film Q&A will feature DamNation's Tom O'Keefe (American Whitewater) and Jim Waddell, a retired Army Corps engineer. Suggested donation \$5. RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/278864878980840>.

Friday 7 November, 6 to 9 pm: Sisters of the Road 35th Anniversary Celebration

133 NW 6th Avenue at Davis in Old Town. Sisters' co-founder, Genny Nelson, will tell the story of its origins. Musical performances by Casey Neill (writer of the song, "Sisters Of The Road") and local Nepalese musical artist, Gauri Raj. Dinner provided by one of Sisters' favorite local restaurants. This event is free and open to the public.

Saturday 8 November, 9 am to 3 pm: Veterans for Peace, Fall Planting Party

Peace Memorial Park, east end of the Steel Bridge, NE Oregon St and NE Lloyd Blvd. VFP Chapter 72's third & final planting session of its restoration project. Snacks, coffee, & tools available. Help get 40+ plants in the ground! Info: www.vfpchapter72.org or 206-484-3385.

Saturday 8 November, 10 am to noon: Documentary, "The Healthcare Movie"

First Unitarian Church, Buchan Reception room, SW 12th Avenue & Salmon. Documentary narrated by Kiefer Sutherland tells the real story of how the healthcare system in Canada turned out so differently from that in the US. Admission \$5 - \$20, no one turned away for lack of funds.

Saturday 8 November, 10 am to 4 pm: Oregon UU Voices for Justice Annual Meeting

Corvallis UU Fellowship, 2945 N.W. Circle Blvd, Corvallis. Come exchange justice action information with those from other UU congregations around Oregon. Hear highlights of the Justice Summit in Olympia, and help choose actions for the coming season. For carpool info, call the church office (503-228-6389) 9 am to 4 pm Monday-Thursday, or call 503-946-6266. <http://www.uuvoicesoregon.org/index.html>

Saturday 8 November, 1 to 3 pm: Portland Branch WILPF Business Meeting

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue and Salmon, Buchan Bldg B310; enter from 12th Avenue breezeway (unlocked 11:45 to 12:15 and 12:45 to 1:15). Brownbag lunch and conversation from noon to 1.

Saturday 8 November, 2 pm: Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza, "Mexico & the United States: Challenges and Opportunities"

Vollum Lecture Hall, Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. Mexico's ambassador to the US opens Reed's Public Policy Lecture Series. Open to the public; info at www.reed.edu/ppls/.

Sunday 9 November, 7 pm: Play, "My Name is Rachel Corrie"

Eliot Chapel, First Unitarian Church, SW 12th & Salmon. An award-winning play based on the diaries of the American activist who was killed in 2003 by an Israeli-operated Caterpillar bulldozer as she defended homes being demolished in Gaza. Performers are on tour from the University of Central Connecticut, raising money for Jenin Freedom Theater. Rachel's parents Cindy and Craig Corrie, the actress, and the producer will be present for discussion after the play. Suggested donation \$10, no one turned away. Come early to secure your place.

Monday 10 November, 7 pm: Portland Premier Screening, "The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation"

Aladdin Theatre, 3017 SE Milwaukee Avenue. Part of a nationwide launch event and public education campaign. The documentary will be followed by a discussion of local issues and ways to improve Oregon as a place for young families to grow and prosper. Sponsors: OHSU Department of Family Medicine, Multnomah County Health Department, PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions. Tickets \$5 at www.aladdin-theater.com.

Tuesday 11 November, 11 am: Celebrate Armistice Day with WILPF and Veterans for Peace

Pioneer Courthouse Square. *Bring bells to ring for peace at 11 minutes after 11.* For the past two years **WILPF** has co-sponsored this attempt to reclaim Veterans Day as a holiday for peace. The 1918 Armistice ended World War I, "the war to end all wars". We urge peace builders to recall that the Kellogg-Briand Pact, also called the General Treaty for the Renunciation of War, has been part of US and international law since its ratification July 24, 1929.

Tuesday 11 November, 7 pm: Discussion on Displaced Persons in the Middle East

Mercy Corps Action Center, 45 SW Ankeny St. Craig Redmond, Mercy Corps senior vice-president of programs, moderates a discussion with the Middle East team about the millions currently displaced in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, the West Bank and Gaza. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday 11 November, 7 to 9 pm: Race Talks, "Race in the Workplace"

McMenamins Kennedy School Gym, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, doors open at 6 pm. Speakers: Brad Avakian, Oregon Labor Commissioner; Vanessa Savage, survivor of workplace racism; and guest speaker from PSU Office of Global Diversity and Inclusion. All ages welcome; food available for purchase.

Thursday 13 November 7 pm: Klaus Botzet, The European Union Working with the US for Resolution in World Conflict Hot Spots

Concordia University, Luther 121, 2811 NE Holman Street. Botzet is a 2012 Nobel Laureate and head of the Political, Security, and Development Section of the EU delegation to the US. His talk will culminate a day long series of activities free and open to all. For more information, call Gary Spanovich at 503-314-5955.

Friday 14 November, 12 noon: Rally and March, "No Fast-Tracking the TPP!"

Begins at 729 NE Oregon St outside Rep. Blumenauer's office, then moves to Sen. Wyden's office. Join fair trade, human rights and climate justice advocates in addressing two of Oregon's key targets in the fight to stop Fast Track for the TPP, which will attack policies aimed at reducing global warming. Part of an international week of action to [#StopFastTrack](#).

Saturday 15 November, 2 pm: Vanport Media Project, "The Wake of Vanport"

Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3138 N Vancouver Avenue at Fargo St. "The Wake of Vanport" honors the death of a city. It presents the city's history through collecting Vanport stories told by the voices of those who lived there. The presentation is also a celebration of life after loss. Vanport is a lost city of Oregon with a rich history for all Oregonians.

Saturday 15 November, 11 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 16 November, 12:30 to 6 pm: Climate Leadership Summit

Concordia University Library, 2811 NE Holman St. This event is part of a new program from Rainforest Action Network (RAN), "Change the Course: People-Powered Strategies for a Stable Climate"—an "invitation to dig deep and think hard about what it would actually take to stabilize the climate and create a just transition to a post-carbon future." Info & RSVP at www.ran.org/ctc_summit_portland_nov_15-16_2014. Similar events are happening in most major US cities.

Tuesday 18 November, 7 to 9 pm: Race Talks 2, "Ferguson, Missouri: Could Portland Be Next?"

Jefferson High School cafeteria, 5210 N. Kerby Avenue, between Killingsworth & Alberta. Doors open at 6, newcomers' introduction 6:30, program at 7. All ages welcome. BBQ available for purchase.

Tuesday 18 November, 7 pm: Reese Erlich, "Assad, ISIS, Obama, and US Middle East Policy"

PSU College of Urban and Public Affairs, Second Floor Gallery, 501 SE Mill St. Investigative reporter Reese Erlich recently returned from northern Iraq. He will discuss the growing influence of extremist rebel groups and why the US bombing campaign will hurt both Americans and people of the region. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by PSU Middle East Studies Center (<http://www.pdx.edu/middle-east-studies/>) and World Affairs Council of Oregon.

Tuesday 18 November, 7 pm: Save the Good Old Houses: The 1989 Struggle in Northwest Portland

Architectural Heritage Center, 701 SE Grand Avenue. Join History of Social Justice Organizing for this timely presentation on the events of May 23, 1989, when townhouse developer Philip J. Morford's bulldozer attacked a house on NW Overton and twenty-three neighborhood residents were arrested when they put their bodies in the way. See article on page 3.

Wednesday 19 November, 7 pm: Oregon Beyond Coal to Clean Energy Campaign

The Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Avenue. Sierra Club forum: Oregon still gets one-third of its energy from coal plants, even though clean energy has already brought over \$9 billion of investment and an estimated 5,000 jobs to Oregon. This campaign urges the Oregon State Legislature to pass legislation that transitions Oregon off coal power to clean energy by 2025.

Thursday 20 November, 5 to 7 pm: American SPCC's Youth Forum (Universal Children's Day)

Mercy Corps Building, 45 SW Ankeny Street. Portland's Youth Ending Slavery (YES) has been invited by the American Society for Positive Care for Children to present and hold a resource table at their Youth Forum on Universal Children's Day. State Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer is guest speaker. Enjoy refreshments and learn about youth work in the Portland area from local youth groups.

Friday 21 November, 2 to 4 pm: PSU Social Sustainability Colloquium

Portland State University, Rec Center Bldg (ASRC) room 660, 1800 SW 6th Ave. Kim Smith and Jamie Stamberger, representing the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN), will talk about the launch of the new U.N. Global Action Programme. It looks to our region as one of several to help implement strategies leading toward a healthier, just, and sustainable future through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Free, open to all.

Sunday 23 November, 10 am to noon: JMJ Trio Performing

Anna Bannana's, 2403 NE Alberta. Jane Keefer, Mary Rose & Jim Cook sing and play labor, protest, old-time and love songs for people's tips and delight. Lots of singing along, whistles, dancing, friendly talk, good food and drink. Phone 503-274-2559.

Friday 28 November, 7:30 pm: Black Friday Benefit for Citizens Climate Lobby

Kells Brew Pub, 210 NW 21st Avenue. Enjoy conversation, open bar, dancing, and music featuring DJ Anjali and the Incredible Kid. Tickets \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Contact hcodystudio@gmail.com for more info.

Saturday 6 December, time TBA: Annual Scrooge Party

Metanoia Peace House, 2116 NE 18th Ave at Tillamook St. Jobs with Justice invites you to vote for your favorite corporate scrooge of the year. Your ticket "buys" 15 votes; you can buy more there. Advance tickets \$15; \$25 at door. Food & entertainment. www.jwjpx.org

Friday/Saturday 19/20 December, 7:30 pm, and Sunday 21 December, 2 pm: "Black Nativity: A Gospel Song-Play by Langston Hughes"

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC), 5340 N. Interstate Avenue at Emerson. Presented by PassinArt (A Theatre Company); a retelling of the classical Nativity story with gospel music. Directed by Shalanda Sims; musical director, Willie Binns. Tickets: \$25 donation requested at <https://www.boxofficetickets.com/go/event?id=292923>.