

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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

Officers: Natasha Beck and Brandy Robinson, co-presidents;

Sara Tattam, membership; Anne McLaughlin, treasurer;

Karen James, corresponding secretary/webmaster

Email: wilfpdx@gmail.com Message phone: 503-595-9393

Website: www.wilfpdx.org

Newsletter editors: Celeste Howard, Anne McLaughlin



October 2015

HONORING THE PAST, ADDRESSING THE FUTURE

Portland WILPF members, family, and friends gathered at the Walk of the Heroines on PSU campus before noon on Saturday, September 26, to see the engraved names of women from our community who have been leaders for peace and justice during the past hundred years. Many WILPF members are among them.

After viewing the inscriptions and hearing some of their stories, the group paraded north along the South Park Blocks to Salmon Street, joyfully celebrating WILPF's first 100 years with banners, balloons, and cardboard doves fastened to poles (see page 3), and pausing at the SW Jefferson Peace Plaza (<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMKR3>).

Arriving at First Unitarian, they joined others already seated at colorfully decorated tables or milling around historical and contemporary displays in the Buchan Reception Area. Shortly after 1 pm, the program began with music by member Mary Rose and "Beyond Little Boxes." Karen James recounted what is known about Grace De Graff, the Portland educator who traveled with Jane Addams' U.S. delegation to the April 1915 conference of women peacemakers at The Hague, Netherlands and returned to help found Portland's first WILPF branch.

After more talk and comments from the audience, refreshments were served, the Raging Grannies sang several of their cleverly radical songs, and Mary Hanson Harrison, president of WILPF US Section, delighted us with pictures from the April meetings at The Hague and her vision for WILPF's next 100 years. Those of us who were still around after many had left were happy to have a place in the picture below. Table decorations shown on the right side include the Mayor's Proclamation of September 26, 2015, as **Portland WILPF Peacemakers Day**.



The next business meeting of WILPF Portland will be on Saturday, October 11, 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 November newsletter, Tuesday, October 22; for the November calendar, Tuesday, October 29. Send all items for publication to wilfpdx@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM WILPF PORTLAND'S SEPTEMBER MEETING

Two new WILPF members, Teisha Parchment and Elicia Reed, joined our branch meeting on September 12. Barbara Drageaux handed out copies of a letter from our friend Mariko Morita in WILPF-Japan, who sent a donation and a copy of the picture book published by the Higashi-Hiroshima branch to celebrate WILPF's centennial. Children ages 5 and 6 at the Mizuki Nursery School made a field trip to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum; the book, Good to be Friends, shows their imaginative and creative response to what they had seen.

Co-president Brandy Robinson reported that she has succeeded in forming a coalition of local organizations working to get CEDAW officially implemented in Portland and in the state of Oregon. It is called the Oregon CEDAW Coalition; she and Elicia Reed are its co-chairs. Find it on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/oregoncedawcoalition>. The Coalition has drafted a resolution for implementing CEDAW in Portland. Elicia is looking into possible mini-grants for CEDAW outreach and marketing efforts. On October 1 Brandy will be speaking at the UN Day program at Rose Villa Retirement Community in Milwaukie. Talking about her training at the UN Commission on the Status of Women gives Brandy an opportunity to inform community groups about CEDAW and about WILPF.

Brandy shared with us that one of our members left a recent meeting feeling disrespected. She suggested that we consider how to ensure a climate of mutual respect and sensitivity during all our meetings.

We voted to co-sponsor the "Call Out for Justice: End the Wars" rally and march on October 11. Read about the set of issues to be addressed at that event in the article below.

Kevin Martonick (Veterans for Peace) brought us news about a resolution to facilitate closure of Guantanamo, which we had endorsed at a previous meeting. One of the roadblocks to Guantanamo's closure is lack of destinations for those who have been cleared for release. The resolution would commit our city and county administrations to sign on as willing to welcome a released prisoner and offer that person a new start in life. Kevin invited WILPF to send a representative to participate in an October 21 "brain-storming" meeting of all supporting organizations. We accepted the invitation and suggested some locations. Carol Urner expressed interest in attending, and we agreed to look for another member who can join her. Please contact Carol at carol.disarm@gmail.com if you might be interested.

Reyna Lopez, outreach director for Our Oregon (www.ouroregon.org), will make a 15-minute presentation at the beginning of our October meeting to acquaint us with her organization and its goals.

"CALL OUT FOR JUSTICE: END THE WARS"

The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan began October 7, 2001. Now, 14 years later, it is clear that these wars will not end until the people of this nation rise up in resistance with one voice: End the wars overseas! Stop the drones!

On Sunday Oct. 11th, gather with Peace and Justice Works, Portland Jobs with Justice, Living Earth, **WILPF Portland**, and 35 other local organizations at **Shemanski Park** (South Park Blocks at Salmon) at 1 p.m. for a mobilization marking the 14th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. Speakers and music will call for justice on five major issues. After the Rally, we will March toward the North Park Blocks, carrying banners and signs, and chanting. Marchers will return to Shemanski Park for more music and to pick up information from tabling organizations.

Issues: (1) Free Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine; (2) Redirect Money for Human Needs; (3) Support Women, Sexual Minorities, Youth, Immigrant and Racial Justice; (4) Resist Police Violence and State Surveillance; (5) Stabilize the Climate. Bring signs for your priority issues, or choose a sign at the rally. Draw inspiration for action, be empowered by the presence of others. We are the ones we've been waiting for.



Barbara Drageaux's work is recognized with flowers



Carol Urner with Eleanor Davis, who revived our branch in 1962



Brandy Robinson, branch co-president, with Mary Hanson Harrison, WILPF US president



Banners in entrance hallway

WILPF IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Amazing, knowledgeable women and men become WILPF members in their prime and devote their skills and insight with passion to the issues of peace and justice throughout their lives. Even when their bodies slow them down, they find ways to exert their influence on the pressing issues of the moment through letters to elected officials, letters to the editor, articles in the branch newsletter and more.

Portland WILPF members who steadfastly worked on the effort to celebrate 100 years of dedication to peace were no exception. We owe a debt of gratitude to Karen James, Anne McLaughlin, Gloria Deodato, Sara Tattam, Jean Fitzgerald, Bill Tattam, Carol Urner, Mary Rose, Celeste Howard, Kirby Urner, Linda Schmoltdt, Natasha Beck, and Holly Hansen for continuing the tradition of commitment to the project of the moment. Even Mariko Morita, our member in Japan contributed to the Portland celebration! (I hope I didn't leave anyone out . . . know we appreciate you all). We once again realize it takes a "team".

And who can forget the legacy of WILPF members who are no longer among us?

The staff of the First Unitarian Church was most helpful. Mary Hanson Harrison graciously devoted several days of her time to Portland as leader of WILPF US.

Thank you all for your devotion of time and energy to Portland WILPF's 100 year celebration. You are a living example for the future 100 plus years.

--Barbara Drageaux

SUPPORT YOUR PORTLAND WILPF BRANCH

Being a WILPF member means joining the national organization. If you haven't received recent mailings from WILPF US (through the Spring/Summer 2015 issue of *Peace and Freedom*, the national magazine), your WILPF membership is probably not current.

To join, renew or rejoin: 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. Membership automatically includes International, US Section, and local Branch.

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: \$ _____

Extra contribution if you want to receive *hard copy* newsletters, rather than email (\$10 suggested): \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed: \$ _____

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

October 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)
* On **Friday 11 October**, this Rally expands to proclaim "**End These Endless Wars: Afghanistan 14 Years Later**"
- * **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]

Saturday 3 October to Saturday 10 October: Keep Space for Peace Week

This International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space is sponsored annually by Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (www.space4peace.org) and **WILPF**. This year's theme is "Cyberwar: The Next Round of the Arms War." Visit the Global Network website to learn how deterrence and missile defense strategies are being replaced by Global Strike capability.

Thursday 8 October, 7 to 9 pm: Films "50 Feet from Syria," & "The Wanted 18"

Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 SW Park Ave. Director Skye Fitzgerald will introduce "50 Feet from Syria." Hisham Bismar, a successful hand surgeon in the United States, decides he cannot continue to watch images of wounded Syrian refugees flow across international borders without acting on his impulse to help. (39 min.) Through a clever mix of stop motion animation and interviews, "The Wanted 18" recreates an astonishing true story: the Israeli army's pursuit of 18 cows, whose independent milk production on a Palestinian collective farm was declared "a threat to the national security of the state of Israel." In Arabic, English, Hebrew, and French with English subtitles. (75 mins.) Directed by Amer Shomali and Paul Cowan; sponsored by Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights. Tickets \$6, \$8, \$9 at <https://11099a.blackbaudhosting.com/11099a/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=3fad38b8-cde9-4969-8463-60eb85749049>

Saturday 10 October, 1 to 3 pm: Portland WILPF Monthly Business Meeting

First Unitarian Church, room B310; enter from 12th Avenue through midblock breezeway. Reyna Lopez, outreach director for Our Oregon (ouregon.org), has been invited to start the meeting with a 15-minute presentation. Come between 12 and 1 for a brown bag lunch and conversation.

Saturday 10 October, 6:30 pm: Joe Uehlein, "An Evening of Music and Dialog with Labor Activists on Climate and Jobs Crises"

AFL-CIO Hall, 3645 SE 32nd Avenue (just south of Powell Blvd). Joe is Founding President and Executive Director of the Labor Network for Sustainability. He is also a musician and band leader, a 40-year member of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM), and co-founder of the Labor Heritage Foundation (LHF), a working class arts organization. Sponsored by Climate Jobs PDX (see www.climatejobspdx.weebly.com).

Sunday 11 October, 1 pm: "Call Out for Justice: End the Wars" Rally and March

Shemanski Park (South Park Blocks at Salmon St.) **WILPF** and over 35 other Portland peace and social justice groups are mobilizing around the 14th anniversary of the US invasion of Afghanistan. Issues to be addressed: FREE Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine—STOP the Drones; REDIRECT Money for Human Needs; SUPPORT Women, Sexual Minorities, Youth, Immigrant and Racial Justice; RESIST Police Violence and State Surveillance; STABILIZE the Climate. <http://www.pjw.info/afghanistan14yl.html> lists all cosponsors and endorsers.

Monday 12 October: Film, "This Changes Everything," with Author Naomi Klein and Director Avi Lewis in Person. SOLD OUT. See Tuesday 20 October

Hollywood Theatre. Theatre hotline 503-281-4215.

Tuesday 13 October, 7 pm: Is Justice Blind? Racism in Oregon's Criminal Justice System

Multnomah County Building Board Room, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. This is a civic education program from the League of Women Voters of Portland. A video of "The Resurgence of Hate Crimes in America" (Race Talks, 9/8/15) is posted online at <https://youtu.be/qwn6iBuhX2I>.

Tuesday 13 October, 7:30 pm: "The Nation Live!" John Nichols, Naomi Klein, and Other Writers from The Nation Magazine

Newmark Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway at Madison St. Writers for The Nation Magazine on a national tour. Other speakers include The Nation's editor and publisher, Katrina van den Heuvel, Walter Mosley, Ursula Le Guin, Dave Zirin & Zoe Carpenter. Tickets \$15 to \$65 plus service charge, <http://www.portland5.com/newmark-theatre/events/nation-live>.

Friday 16 October, 7 to 9:30 pm: "Roadmap to Apartheid" Film and Discussion

First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park Avenue. An award winning 2012 documentary (<http://roadmaptoapartheid.org>), narrated by Alice Walker, about why many Palestinians feel they are living in an apartheid system today, and why an increasing number of people around the world agree with them. Opening event in this weekend's "Eyes on Gaza" Conference. <http://gazaconference.brownpapertickets.com/>

Saturday 17 October, 9 am to 5:30 pm: Eyes on Gaza Conference

First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park Avenue. Presentations, films, and workshops. Learn about opportunities here in the Northwest to work for peace and justice in Gaza and in all of occupied Palestine. <http://gazaconference.brownpapertickets.com/>Go to Tickets \$30 (students \$10) and schedule at <http://gazaconference.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Saturday 17 October, 6:15 to 8 pm: Fundraiser for Gaza Community Mental Health

First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th Avenue, Buchan wing, first floor. Following the day's events at the Eyes on Gaza conference, a reception and fundraiser welcoming Dr. Yasser Abu Jamei, psychiatrist and Executive Director of The Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP). <http://www.gazamentalhealth.org>. Donations are tax deductible. Reception sponsored by: Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights, Friends of Sabeel North America, Jewish Voice for Peace-PDX, OR Physicians for Social Responsibility, The Tree of Life Educational Fund, and Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, and many others groups.

Sunday 18 October, 3 to 5 pm: Benefit Concert for Middle East Children's Alliance

First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park Avenue. Free admission, donations invited. Featured singer David Morgan, Los Angeles singer/songwriter, with a presentation on the Middle East Children's Alliance, mecaforpeace.org, by Barbara Lubin, MECA's founder and director.

Tuesday 20 October, 7:30 pm: Film, "This Changes Everything," by Author Naomi Klein and Director Avi Lewis

Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd. Filmed in nine countries and five continents over four years, "This Changes Everything" is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change. Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Tickets \$10. <http://www.portlandecofilmfest.org/schedule/> Theatre hotline 503-281-4215. [The Oct 12 screening, which Klein and Lewis will attend, is sold out.]

Thursday 22 October, 7 to 9 pm: Come Celebrate United Nations Day 2015! Can We Create a "Sustainable" Future?

World Forestry Center, Cheatham Hall, 4033 SW Canyon Rd. UN Day 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945. Eric Vines, Executive Director of the World Forestry Center; Kim Smith, coordinator of the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network; and Kyoko Shiota, from United Nations University, envision a sustainable future and highlight actions being taken in Oregon and Washington. Register for this **free** event at <http://www.worldoregon.org/events/programs/headline-and-cultural-forums/2015-united-nations-day-can-we-create-a-%E2%80%9Csustainable%E2%80%9D-f> .

Tuesday 27 October, 6:30 to 8 pm: Study Group, "Sylvia Plath's ARIEL POEMS"

Multnomah Friends Meeting, room 23, 4312 SE Stark. This study group is led by Kate Gray. It will meet four times (October 27, December 8, January 5, February 9), and it is limited to 15 people. Series fee: \$35. For more information, email info@soapstone.org.

Wednesday 28 October, 6:30 to 8:30 pm: Queen of the Night—An Evening in Shirley Jackson's World

Glyph Café, 804 NW Couch. An evening of uncannily great stories by Shirley Jackson, master of the eerie and the mundane. Reading begins at 7:30 pm, raffle follows. Free; beverages for purchase. <https://www.facebook.com/events/465673300271855/.glyphpdx.com>