### 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

***October 2016***

**NEWS from the WILPF PORTLAND MEETING on OCTOBER 8**

Members Present: Carol Urner, Anne McLaughlin, Celeste Howard, Barbara Drageaux, and Natasha Beck, presiding.

Treasurer’s Report: Anne reported income and expenses since the September meeting. No donations were received this month. Expenses included office space rent for the rest of 2016, the cost of repairing a poster frame in the office, and a donation to KBOO-FM. We will seek Yvonne Simmons’ thoughts on the use of funds received recently from JAPA because she had originally raised the funds for her “Peace Journey” trips to Bosnia. In any case, the use of that fund must be for charitable purposes.

Endorsement: We supported the Interfaith Dialoguing Event planned for the morning of Friday, October 14, by offering to secure space at First Unitarian. However, Dr. Amanda Byron (PSU Conflict Resolution program) decided to hold that event at the Muslim Educational Trust (MET) in Beaverton. We endorsed it as an event that strengthens intercultural understanding.

Membership List: The WILPF US national office has sent us its official list of Portland branch members. It shows that our branch has about 33 members who are current in their dues.

Notable Woman Report: In honor of Latino/Chicano month (9/15 to 10/15), Natasha spoke about Dolores Huerta, co-founder with Cesar Chavez of the National Farm Workers Association, known since 1965 as United Farm Workers. Natasha heard her speak in November 2000.

Announcements:

* Carol told us her plans for the **October 21 “Carol Urner evening”** at Multnomah Friends Meeting, 4312 SE Stark St. She intends to focus on her time in South Africa, when conditions were similar to the US situation right now. In her view, the ending of apartheid depended on one person, Hendrik W. van der Merwe, who for the previous 30 years had gone from person to person on each side, looking for common ground. See calendar and enclosed flyer for more info on this celebration.
* Barbara reminded us that December 10 we celebrate the 68th anniversary of founding of the United Nations. This year, the Portland UN Association for UNO (UN Organization) will hold its annual celebration early, on **Sunday, October 23** (see Calendar).
* Natasha reminded us about the monthly **ONE WILPF** conference calls. These calls began in June, and all WILPF members are invited to participate. They provide opportunity to get to know members in other branches and to hear about what those branches are doing. Find out more about the way these calls work by going to <http://wilpfus.org/documents/eNews/8-ONEWILPFCall_Link-Instructions.pdf>. All the information there is still correct *except that* the calls now begin at 4 pm Pacific time. See calendar for specific dates. Every month on the 2nd Thursday at 4 pm. Preregister for the next call at [myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN](http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN)

**Next Branch business meeting:** Saturday, November 12, 12:30 to 2:30, in room B310, First Unitarian Church. Doors open at noon. **Deadlines:** for the next newsletter, Tuesday, November 15; for the calendar, Thursday, November 17.

## 2016 CONFERENCE on WORLD BEYOND WAR

**23-26 September, American University, Washington D.C.**

**Portland member and worldwide activist Carol Urner** had planned to attend this conference, but realized a few weeks ago that her health no longer permits much travel. She was excited to learn that the major speeches would be live-streamed online, so she was able to hear them all without leaving home. Carol was especially moved by Kozue Akibayashi, president of WILPF International, whose talks centered on the role of patriarchy in promoting war and on the need to close U.S. military bases located on the soil of other nations. “When Kozue was talking of the base on Okinawa, she was in tears—and so was I,” said Carol.

At least 23 WILPF members were among the 220 attendees at this conference. Videos of the main speeches have been posted online at [http://worldbeyondwar.org/NoWar2016](http://click.actionnetwork.org/mpss/c/1QA/ni0YAA/t.20y/_H8bysl8R7OkWdGoyaw_IQ/h1/Jb9ZUZ-2BHBLFAkQw-2FQ1kTOhLY27C-2B-2B668bnd5UV-2FoU5Rb2UC1lAyELL-2FpWlshpay6ojV-2FWh0RE3NMFkKeXavlCT2X9kKRYKiukT8Suaq4hb3Q5b9AwB8ChiRDPtoOE5RZBydgVKGHOtGmVZOOew03m507daRckpA01aqvledNYKOUWiiB-2FHfIjJlaaHWx7hiiTpwfi1sidRwFJmls-2BEP2QvqsIQiD8rTTPu0KOIzCqVQM2uXM6n9arI2l2XU30ZyUgMgrAxy3Nwwn3BtIjcmcnA-3D-3D), along with a full agenda of the proceedings. Viewing the introductory video of excerpts from main speeches gives a feeling for the range of topics discussed and conveys the powerful ideas behind work in progress, as well as the passionate commitment of those deeply involved. This video is almost two hours long, with clips on the same theme collected together and themes then organized progressively. Viewers unfamiliar with the peace movement can watch parts of the video a little at a time to identify speakers from whom they’d like to hear more. Almost everyone, though, will find some names on the agenda that are already familiar and can view that person’s speech by clicking on the nearby word ‘video’.

The conference was organized around a new 2016 edition of the 2015 book, A Global Security System: An Alternative to War. This 90-page report, based on the work of many experts in international relations and peace studies and on the experience of many activists, is available at <http://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative/>. “It is intended to be an evolving plan as we gain more and more experience. The historic end of war is now possible if we muster the will to act and so save ourselves and the planet from ever greater catastrophe. World Beyond War firmly believes that we can do this.”

## LINKS TO EXPLORE

<http://www-dev.usip.org/olivebranch/2016/10/01/the-accord-colombia-s-commitment-peace> Written by Virginia (Ginny) Bouvier, senior advisor for peace processes at the US Institute for Peace (USIP), this article explains that the recent peace accord in Colombia includes groundbreaking innovations and can be used as a model in other conflicts also called ‘intractable.’

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/10/08/still-no-woman-helm-un> This recent article, on the appointment of António Guterres of Portugal as the next United Nations Secretary General, is a good introduction to the writing of Anne Marie Goetz (Center for Global Affairs, New York University). She sees his selection as a “stark illustration of how male-dominated decision-making means that female leadership is not just rare, but virtually inconceivable.” See <https://www.opendemocracy.net/author/anne-marie-goetz> for more of her writing on the need for women’s empowerment in all stages of global development.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/13/world/americas/wonder-woman-united-nations.html> Perhaps in awareness that feminist reform in the United Nations is a pressing problem, on October 21 the UN will officially announce the appointment of Wonder Woman as an honorary ambassador “for the empowerment of women and girls.” Wonder Woman will be used on social media to promote important messages on ending gender violence and increasing the participation of women in public life.

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/09/26/new-report-finds-people-powered-energy-revolution-very-possible> A report by Friends of the Earth Europe (FOEE) has found that “overall, 83 percent of European households, whether individually or as part of a utility collective, have the potential to help create, store, or help provide [renewable energy](http://www.commondreams.org/tag/renewable-energy).”

**OCTOBER 2016 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]*

**Tuesday 18 October, 7 to 9 pm: Voices in Action: Human Rights on Film, “Do Not Resist”**

Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 SW Park Avenue. Director Craig Anderson and producer Laura Hartrick will introduce the film and lead a post-film Q&A. The film begins in Ferguson, Missouri, as the community grapples with the death of Michael Brown. It offers a look at the current state of policing in America and glimpses into the future of increasingly militarized forces. Tickets $6-$9 at <https://nwfilm.org/films/do-not-resist/>.

**Tuesday 18 October, 7 pm: Book Talk: Nuclear Heartland, Revised**

PSU Smith Memorial Union Room 333. In 1988, Nukewatch published the definitive guide to the 1,000 land-based nuclear missiles of the United States as a tool for peace activists. Because 450 land-based missiles still remain, they have revised and updated ***Nuclear Heartland*** as a renewed call for their abolition. Senior Nukewatch staffer and *Quarterly* editor John LaForge will be speaking about this new publication. See <http://nukewatchinfo.org/>

**Thursday 20 October, 6 to 9 pm: Race Talks 2, “Meet the Chiefs of Portland Police Bureau at the Community Police Forum & Voice Your Opinions & Suggestions to Local Police Officers”**

Lincoln High School Cafeteria, 1600 SW Salmon St. Co-presented by Donna Maxey of Race Talks, Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform, the Portland Police Bureau and Portland Public Schools Office of Equity and Partnerships. Doors at 5:30 pm. Free; all ages welcome.

**Thursday 20 October, 7 to 9:30 pm: Walt McRee, “Affording the Portland We Want”**

First Unitarian Church, SW Salmon & SW 12th Avenue. The too-big-to-fail banks that dominate the American banking system have virtually unchallenged control in financing the future fiscal prospects of America’s cities, counties and states. McRee, chair of the Public Banking Institute, discusses how a public bank of Portland could free up enormous new financial resources to build the Portland we all want with the money we already have. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy, KBOO, Portland Public Banking Alliance, Economic Justice Action Group of First Unitarian Church. $5 to $20 donation requested, no one turned away.

**Friday 21 October, 6 pm: Supper & Stories from Around the World with Carol Urner**

Multnomah Friends Meeting House, 4312 SE Stark St. Longtime WILPF activist Carol Urner will talk about her lifelong work for peace and justice across our planet. With her late husband Jack, Carol spent over 35 years abroad, in Libya, the Philippines, Egypt, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lesotho and many other countries. She has served the cause of world peace in small African villages and at the United Nations. International supper provided at 6 pm, program at 7 pm. Potluck food welcome but not necessary.

**Friday 21 October, 7 pm: Film, “Paying the Price for Peace, the Story of S. Brian Willson”**

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue & Salmon. Vietnam veteran S. Brian Willson paid the price for peace when he was run over and nearly killed by a military train during a non-violent protest in 1987. Since then, he has continued to call attention to the US government's defiance of international law through its waging endless illegal wars. For more info, contact Marcia Meyers [marciameyers68@gmail.com](mailto:marciameyers68@gmail.com) or Michael Wade [wade.michael@comcast.net](mailto:wade.michael@comcast.net).

**Sunday 23 October, 1 to 3 pm: 2016 UN Day, “With Refugees — One Humanity, Shared Responsibility”**

First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park Ave. An immersive, audience-engaged program which includes (1) “Living on a Dollar a Day,” a gallery exhibit from Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Renee Byer; (2) a virtual reality experience that allows viewers to the see the world through the eyes of a teenage Syrian girl living in a UN refugee camp; and (3) a program of speakers including Yashar Vasef, President, United Nations Association of Portland; Grace Wong, national adviser for the UN Foundation's Girl Up campaign; and Jana Mason, Senior Advisor, U.S. Government and External Relations with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). It will close with an audience-engaged discussion sponsored by Oregon Humanities' Conversation Project. Please RSVP at [unapdx.org/refugees](http://www.unapdx.org/refugees).

**Sunday 23 October, 7 to 9 pm: Bill McKibben, “Climate Action Beyond Paris”**

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue & Salmon. McKibben, world-renowned environmental activist, is founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots, climate change movement that has organized 20,000 rallies around the world and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement. Sponsored by 350PDX. Tickets at [www.350pdx.org](http://www.350pdx.org/), $10 for low income/students, $20 general, no one turned away for lack of funds.

**Wednesday 26 October, 7 to 9 pm: Voices in Action: Human Rights on Film, “After Spring” and “The Crossing”**

Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 SW Park Avenue. Two films about Syrian refugees. The first documents the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, the largest gathering spot in the Middle East for these refugees. The second is a first-hand account of a group of refugees on their way to Europe. See <https://nwfilm.org/films/after-spring/> for tickets ($6 to $9) and the trailer.

**Tuesday 1 November, 7 to 9 pm: Voices in Action: Human Rights on Film, “The Road”**

Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 SW Park Avenue. Director Zanbo Zhang’s 2015 film, four years in the making, chronicles how the effort to build a superhighway in Hunan province forced villagers to leave their homes, migrant construction workers to accept hazards and low pay, and project managers to negotiate with Communist Party members, careless employers, and local gangsters. See <https://nwfilm.org/films/the-road/> for tickets ($6 to $9) and the trailer.

**Thursday 10 November, 4 pm, PST: ONE WILPF Conference Call**

The monthly ONE WILPF calls are a great way toconnect with other WILPF branches and members, plan collaboratively across all of WILPF US, get to know one another better, and share solutions and resources. And the technology is easy to use! Pre-register at [myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN](http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/418WA2WJTL328PEN)

**Thursday 10 November, 7:30 pm: Meeting, Public Banking Alliance**

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue & Salmon. The "Great Recession" financial crisis of 2007/8 showed Americans the necessity of taking a critical look at the too-big-to-fail banks and developing local financial institutions which support the financing of local needs. Portland is joining Seattle, San Francisco, Santa Fe and other cities in a movement to form municipal banks. For more info: <http://www.afd-pdx.org/public-bank.html>

**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)

**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 and more info at <http://www.aurorachorus.org/>

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 Summer 2016 issue of ***Peace and Freedom*** magazine. **To confirm whether your membership is current**, contact the national office at [info@wilpfus.org](mailto:info@wilpfus.org).

**To join, renew or rejoin**: 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](mailto:wilpfpdx@gmail.com)