

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



September 2016

Carol Uner has experienced another round of ill health, and she says her body is telling her that her "traveling days are over." She will stay home and carry on her advocacy for Disarm/End Wars by way of telephone and written word. The Peace and Social Justice Committee of the Multnomah Friends Meeting has invited Carol to present an evening of Stories from Around the World on Friday 21 October at their Stark Street meeting house. See Calendar for details.

NEWS from the WILPF PORTLAND MEETING on SEPTEMBER 10

Members Present: Barbara Drageaux, Celeste Howard, Anne McLaughlin, Sandra Oberdorfer, Teisha Parchment, and Brandy Robinson, presiding.

Treasurer's Report: Anne reported income and expenses for the past two months, including an unexpected sum from the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA), a non-profit affiliate of WILPF US to which tax-exempt donations were formerly sent. The money was donated to support WILPF peace work led by Portland member Yvonne Simmons during the Bosnian War (1992-1995). Though designated for the Portland branch, it was never mailed to us.

Endorsement: A two-page summary of the Multnomah County Measure 26-184 (Honest Election) was given to everyone. After discussion, we agreed to sign WILPF Portland on as an organizational endorser of this measure. Its summary can be found online at http://mult.fairelection.org/uploads/1/3/4/0/13403615/mult_cfr_measure_summary_2.pdf. To sign on individually, see <http://mult.fairelection.org/be-an-individual-endorser.html>.

Clarifying Our Membership List: The WILPF US national office has sent us its official list of Portland branch members. It will help us identify the newsletter recipients who have become WILPF members by sending annual dues to the national office in Boston. **Sandra** is getting ready to create a new branch directory, and she will have help from Anne, Brandy, and Teisha in bringing local information up to date. She hopes we can schedule at least three social events a year for outreach to membership. The membership list from WILPF US will also assist us in sending a fall fundraising appeal letter to past and present supporters.

Proposed Branch Internship: Brandy has talked with Dr. Tom Hastings in the PSU Conflict Resolution Program about offering a paid internship to a student for working a few hours a month during the academic year on a WILPF Portland project. He will contact potential candidates and coordinate with the branch.

Notable Woman Report: Brandy heard Monique Morris, co-founder and president of the National Black Women's Justice Center in Berkeley, at a recent Portland event. Dr. Morris talked about her new book, *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* (<http://www.moniquewmorris.me/>). Brandy found Dr. Morris extremely impressive and recommends the book to everyone.

***Natasha Beck** attended Western States Center's Reproductive Justice Conference at First Unitarian Church in August. Participants from several western states included social service workers and activists from Planned Parenthood, NARAL-Pro-Choice, and other groups. Talking about Reproductive Justice provides a broader focus than talking of Reproductive Rights.*

Next meeting: Saturday, October 8, 12:30 to 2:30 in room B310, First Unitarian Church. Doors open at noon. **Deadlines:** for the next (mid-October) newsletter, Thursday, October 6; for the calendar, Thursday October 13.

AUGUST 6 WEBINAR on NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION

WILPF AUSTRALIA originated the webinar “A Nuclear Weapons Free World” on the morning of August 6, the 71st anniversary of Hiroshima Day. For European participants it was 9 pm on August 5, for WILPF Portland it was noon. The recording of this webinar is now available on line at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgELote_Ptc. In the lower right corner of the youtube video screen, click on “CC” if you wish to display closed captions. The captions are helpful, but not perfect.

Helen Caldicott is the first speaker (minutes 3:50 to 15:30 on the recording). Listen to her carefully, for she describes the present wide distribution of deployed ‘nukes’ and the devastating effects of firing any one of them. “If America doesn’t do the right thing,” she says, “I think we are doomed,” after explaining how the US is provoking Russia in the Ukraine, how both the US and Russia are nervous about a first strike advantage, and how the US is planning to spend \$1 trillion to ‘modernize’ its nukes and their delivery system.

Daniel Högsta is Network Coordinator for ICANW, International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, in Geneva. Listen to him (minutes 17 to 33:30) for awareness of what is happening now in this very active campaign—a shift toward humanitarian considerations in talking about nuclear weapons has drawn political support from 155 nations, spurring civil society to find new legal pathways to nuclear disarmament. Humanitarian initiatives have led to the banning of land mines and cluster bombs. A new treaty which prohibits the possession, deployment, stockpiling and threat of use of nuclear weapons could ban these weapons.

Such a treaty must be achieved by a process “open to all and blockable by none.” Therefore, formation of an Open Ended Working Group (OEWG), open to all governments was proposed by a UN resolution and authorized to identify provisions and norms for effective legal measures. Its recommendations have been compiled in its report, and the OEWG voted its majority approval on September 6, as shown in this photograph. Next step: The



report goes before the United Nations General Assembly where a majority vote would start the negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Those negotiations could begin as early as next year. Go to www.goodbyenuk.es to urge US government support for this ban!

Ray Acheson is Director of Reaching Critical Will, WILPF’s disarmament programme. At the UN she is also the NGO and WILPF liaison and coordinator for nuclear disarmament. She talks (minutes 35 to 53) about the broad context surrounding talk about nuclear weapons. The resistance of nuclear states in the OEWG (they call themselves “progressive”) to a ban usually comes from the desire to retain power, exercise political advantage, or support particular money interests. Cultural inequalities based on class, race, and gender often play an unconscious role. We need to “make the playing field level for everybody!” She then focuses on the role of sex and gender in talk about nuclear weapons, views on their contribution to security as deterrents, attitudes toward their potential use, and differential effects of their detonation on male and female bodies of survivors.

A Q&A session follows in which each speaker was invited to suggest ways to support the ban. Questions from webinar participants were then discussed, ending at 1 hour, 32 minutes.

See <http://wilpfus.org/news/updates/historic-vote-ban-nuclear-weapons> for Ray’s report for WILPF on the historical vote. It contains details and many links for finding out more about the role played by WILPF and by Reaching Critical Will. The ICANW website can be found at www.icanw.org. The same webinar recording can be found on Dr. Caldicott’s web-site, <http://www.helencaldicott.com/webinar-nuclear-weapons-free-world/>.

OCTOBER 1-8 IS KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK
Theme for 2016: CHOKEHOLD ON RUSSIA AND CHINA
Why is the U.S. Provoking Global War?

This Map and Text come from the 2016 Keep Space for Peace poster. Commentary is below.

KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK • OCTOBER 1-8

Legend:

- U.S./NATO BASES & MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENTS
- U.S. ASIA-PACIFIC BASES & MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENTS
- 🚢 U.S. & UK "TRIDENT" NUCLEAR-MISSILE SUBMARINE OPERATING AREAS

The U.S. & NATO are increasing their military encirclement of Russia and China. After the fall of the former Soviet Union the U.S. promised not to expand NATO toward Russia. That promise has been repeatedly violated by the west.

Today U.S. 'missile defense' systems (MD), key elements in Pentagon first-strike attack planning, are being deployed on the ground and at sea around Russia and China. Nuclear disarmament negotiations have ground to a halt due to these U.S. MD deployments.

Help stop this new dangerous Cold War from igniting into a deadly hot war. Join us by holding local events during space week. Demand true peace and conversion of the military industrial complex to help deal with the coming reality of climate change.

Tension between US & Russia has grown since the 2014 coup in Ukraine. Margaret Kimberley (<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/02/12/us-war-peace-ukraine>) tells how the 'new Cold War' started in her article from *Black Agenda Report*. The map above shows both why disarmament negotiations have stalled and why a treaty to ban nuclear weapons is essential for a secure and lasting peace.

LINKS TO EXPLORE

<https://theintercept.com/2016/08/19/nato-weapons-industry/> Writing for *The Intercept* (a self-designated 'unofficial source'), Lee Fang sheds more light on the 'new Cold War' in his article "U.S. Defense Contractors Tell Investors 'Russian Threat Is Great for Business.'"

<http://www.commandandcontrolfilm.com/news/> The new documentary by Eric Schlosser, "Command and Control," premiered in New York September 14 and will eventually be shown in the "American Experience" series on PBS. The 90-minute thriller focuses on the 1980 nuclear armed Titan II missile accident in Damascus, Arkansas, which threatened death and destruction across much of the Midwest.

<https://zcomm.org/sendpress/eyJpZCI6OTg5ODA5LCJ2aWV3IjoiZW1haWwifQ/> Commentary by Aislinn Pulley, leader of Black Lives Matter Chicago, "We Will Create Our Freedom: The Importance of the Movement for Black Lives Platform."

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/08/08/2020-vision-four-steps-get-there> Paul Buchheit writes on the progressive vision for 2020. His four steps: Empower youth to build progressive leaders. Build a sharing economy. Push for creating more jobs in the renewable energy industries. Remember/re-read *The Jungle* and *Grapes of Wrath*.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/08/10/free-people-dictatorship-001> Vandana Shiva memorializes Mahaswetadi Devi, a woman who said, "*The time is ripe for a planetary freedom movement that defends and protects the freedoms of all beings.*" Mahaswetadi "remained the voice of the earth, of the marginalised and criminalised communities."

<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/08/12/our-greatest-national-security-threat-perpetual-war> William Astore, retired colonel and history professor, "Why military dissent is not an oxymoron." *'To heal our increasingly fractured democracy, we need to empower liberty and nurture integrity within the institution that Americans say they trust the most: the U.S. military. Dissenting voices must be encouraged and dissenting thoughts empowered in the service of rejecting the very idea of war without end.'*

SEPTEMBER 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 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, 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]

Monday 19 September, 4 pm: ONE WILPF All Member Call

This monthly call is an opportunity to connect with WILPF members all over the country. Our International President, Kozue Akibayashi, will be featured on Monday's call. Here is the [pre-registration link](#). When you use it and register, even if it's just before or after the call begins, you will immediately receive an email with a PIN and dial-in instructions. You can join using just your phone, or for a more interactive experience, join the call with your phone and your computer. You'll be able to see the notes and instructions on your computer screen if you use both the phone and the computer.

Monday 19 September, 7 to 9 pm: Palestinian Childhood under Occupation

First Unitarian Church, 1211 SW Main Street. Featuring by video from Gaza Dr. Mona El Fara, physician and human rights activist, Middle East Children's Alliance and the Palestine Red Crescent Society; Dr. Sami Oweida, child psychiatrist, Gaza Community Mental Health Center (GCMHC). In person, Jennifer Bing and Brad Parker, national organizers of the "No Way to Treat a Child" campaign; Marlene Eid, psychology professor at PCC; and comments by several local youth from Gaza. Donations for Defense of Children and GCMHC are welcome.

Wednesday 21 September, 5:30 pm: Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIRJ) Fundraiser and Dinner

First United Methodist Church, Collins Hall, 1838 SW Jefferson St. "Celebrating Radical Hospitality" and 10 Years of Immigrant Justice and Sanctuary in Oregon. Special guest speaker Rev. Noel Andersen, CWS Grassroots Coordinator for Immigrants' Rights based in Washington, D.C., & Coordinator for the [National New Sanctuary Movement and initiative](#). Information and tickets \$35 online at <http://imirj.org/imirj-annual-dinner>.

Friday 23 September, 5 to 6 pm: Rally and March, "2 Years of US War on Syria"

Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill and Broadway. After the people rose up against a US invasion of Syria in 2013, American warplanes (and drones) began bombing that country to attack members of the Islamic State, with the US and its allies overtly and covertly trying to undermine Syria's existing government. Tensions with Russia over US policy have led to a de facto new Cold War. Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group is co-sponsoring this rally with Portland Peaceful Response Coalition. For more info see www.pjw.info.

Friday/Sunday 23/25 September: "No War 2016: Real Security without Terrorism," Conference in Washington DC

Friday and Saturday events will be livestreamed at TheRealNews.com and videos posted there within three days after. All events, including Sunday's, may possibly be livestreamed by American University, where the conference is being held. For the agenda (in Washington time), see <http://worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2016agenda/>.

Wednesday 28 September, 2 to 4 pm: WILPF Book Group

First Unitarian Church, SW 12th Avenue & Salmon, room B310. Discussion of Mary McGrory: The First Queen of Journalism by John Norris. Future books will be proposed at this time. New members welcome. Email bjdrgx@aracnet.com for more information.

Thursday 29 September 4:30 to 6 pm: Rally to Defend At-the-Door Mail Delivery

Main Post Office, 715 NW Hoyt at Broadway. Support At-the-Door mail delivery services and avoid privatization. Congress is about to vote on elimination of at-the-door delivery, forcing residential & business customers to use "cluster boxes" down the block(s). Tens of thousands of living wage, union letter carrier jobs would be lost. The frail, elderly, and customers with mobility disabilities would suffer.

Saturday 1 October to Saturday 8 October: Keep Space for Peace Week

Sponsors: Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, WILPF. Theme for 2016: Chokehold on Russia and China – Why is the U.S. provoking global war? See page 3 for more information. See www.keepspace4peace.org for a list of events worldwide.

Friday 7 October, 5 to 6 pm: Rally and March, "The Afghan Invasion 15 Years Later"

Pioneer Courthouse Square, SW Yamhill and Broadway. Even though the government of Afghanistan had nothing directly to do with 9/11, the US began bombing the impoverished nation less than a month afterward. The war has never ended, with ongoing US military operations including airstrikes and drone raids, and a promised withdrawal of troops that has been scaled back and cancelled. Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group is again co-sponsoring this rally with Portland Peaceful Response Coalition.

Friday 7 October through Sunday 12 November: "Hold These Truths"

Portland Center Stage, Ellen Bye Studio, 128 NW 11th Ave. at Davis St. A play inspired by the true story of University of Washington student, Gordon Hirabayashi. As the U.S. joins World War II, Hirabayashi agonizes over government orders to forcibly mass incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. As he fights to reconcile his country's betrayal with his passionate belief in the U.S. Constitution, Hirabayashi journeys toward a greater understanding of America's triumphs — and a confrontation with its failures. Tuesdays through Sundays, evening and matinee performances. \$30 – \$55. Tickets at pcs.org/truths.

Sunday 9 October, 10 am to noon: "Vision and Vigilance: Minoru Yasui, an Oregonian Civil Rights Hero"

Portland Center Stage, 128 NW 11th Ave. at Davis St. Selected scenes from Holly Yasui's play "Citizen Min," about her father, Minoru Yasui, a Japanese American born in Hood River in 1916. He was the first Japanese American to graduate from University of Oregon School of Law and to pass the Oregon bar. During World War II, he challenged the first military proclamation discriminating against Japanese Americans, a curfew authorized by President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the forced removal of 120,000 Japanese Americans from their homes in western Oregon and Washington, and the entire state of California. He was imprisoned in the Multnomah County Jail for 9 months in solitary confinement awaiting his appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled against him in 1943. This reading will be followed by roundtable discussions. Also on display will be a photo exhibit entitled, *Never Give Up – The Minoru Yasui Story*. 'One person's vision inspires our vigilance, actions and greater understanding of each other' Presented by Oregon Nikkei Endowment and co-sponsored by the Minoru Yasui Tribute Committee and Portland Center Stage. Free but reservations encouraged: pcs.org/blog/visions-vigilance-with-the-oregon-nikkei-legacy-center

Tuesday 11 October, 7 pm: Race Talks – "Produced by Her with Girls Inc: Portland Documentaries"

McMenamins Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, doors open at 6 pm. This monthly series provides presentations and discussions on ethnicity and race in Oregon, given by educators and experts to provide intercultural learning experiences. Food/drink available for purchase.

Friday/Sunday 14/16 October: International Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague

The Monsanto Tribunal is an international civil society initiative to hold Monsanto accountable for human rights violations, for crimes against humanity, and for ecocide. Eminent judges will hear testimonies from victims, and deliver an advisory opinion following procedures of the International Court of Justice. A parallel People's Assembly provides the opportunity for social movements to rally and plan for the future we want. Go to www.monsanto-tribunal.org/ for information about the Tribunal, its simultaneous People's Assembly, and watching the live stream on web TV. (Central European time is 9 hours ahead of Pacific Daylight Time.)

Thursday 20 October, 6 – 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.

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 6pm, program at 7pm. 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 or Michael Wade wade.michael@comcast.net.

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 joining 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.

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. 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 donations to WILPF Portland Branch

Name: _____ New Supporter: Already a Supporter:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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 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 wilfpdx@gmail.com