

Peace & Freedom

MAGAZINE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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*THEY CAME
TO COSTA RICA TO*
**Link Globally and
Create Peace**

pages 4 to 12

*WILPF AT WORK
AROUND THE WORLD*
**Middle East
Japan's Article 9**

ON ISSUES SUCH AS
**End Corporate Rule
Human Rights
Earth Democracy
Human Trafficking**

PLUS:
**JAPA's Book Awards
Branch Action**



**INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS
¡EXIGIMOS RESPETO!**



Helping put the fine points on a peace agenda at the 2011 International Congress are Ferial Abu Hmdan of Lebanon, holding paper, and Molly Cyr, U.S. WILPF intern. See full reports on International Congress beginning on page 4.

Photo: Jane Doyle

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Cover Photo: The cover image displays a design by a LIMPAL volunteer that WILPF Costa Rica sponsored as part of its ongoing work to address violence against women. It reads, "Our body is the first place to exercise our sovereignty. We demand respect!"

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The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

has been working since 1915 to unite women worldwide who oppose oppression and exploitation. WILPF stands for equality of all people in a world free of racism, sexism, and homophobia; the building of a constructive peace through world disarmament; and the changing of government priorities to meet human needs.

WILPF has sections in 42 countries

coordinated by an international office in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (non-governmental organization) status.

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WILPF ¡Presenté!

By Laura Roskos, U.S. WILPF President

When you hear the word “disarmament,” do handguns and rifles come immediately to mind? For many women and children around the world facing daily violence in their homes or neighborhoods, this is exactly where the idea of disarmament, so central to WILPF’s overall program, seems most relevant—and most motivating. While WILPF is working to ensure that controls on small arms and light weapons are included in the Arms Trade Treaty currently being prepared for ratification, the International Action Network on Small Arms is working to take guns out of the hands of those who perpetrate domestic violence. As Sarah Masters pointed out during her talk at WILPF’s International Congress, even in the U.S., where the legal framework empowers law enforcement to remove guns from homes where domestic violence has been reported, it is not customary to do so. Yet having guns in the home makes it three times more likely that abuse will escalate to murder (<http://iansa-women.org/node/236>).

Sarah’s talk was pivotal – one of several “aha” moments at the Congress where the transformative potential of WILPF’s work as an integrated whole came into view. Reading through the reports submitted by WILPF sections around the world, I am struck primarily by the differences among us. Nepal reports intense work on securing women’s political rights in the newly emerging governance structure following years of armed struggle; Costa Rica shares its efforts to combat deadly manifestations of machismo in daily life (*see tee shirt image on the cover*); our newly admitted Nigerian Section describes their members’ work with grassroots women to teach basic skills of economic empowerment and promote the development of producer cooperatives. But, what emerged through the series of plenaries organized by Ray Acheson, Maria Butler, and Madeleine Rees was a powerful picture of both how WILPF might work in a more integrated way across offices and locales and of the unified outcome toward which we all work.

At the international level, WILPF’s advocacy campaigns, strategic interventions, and enduring projects are all directed at reducing military spending. Using the familiar tools of documentation, monitoring, and convening, WILPF works to hold national governments and the United Nations itself accountable to the aspiration of the U.N. Charter, in particular Article 26, which requires U.N. member states to spend the least amount possible on defense. Restricting military spending lessens the hold of arms-producing corporations over civic life, while releasing more of the public treasury to meeting human needs. Reducing the amount of weapons produced and traded increases the physical security of women (and everyone), enabling the development of a more complex and vibrant civil society.

Conceptually, it all works, but we need to continually strive to increase the transparency of our analysis so that everything WILPF does in the world conveys this message. In other words, a transparent program would mean that anyone attending a WILPF-sponsored meeting; signing a WILPF-sponsored petition; or participating in a WILPF-sponsored rally or other activity – focused on however narrow a slice of our rich multi-issue platform – would be able to also glimpse the “big picture.” It was thrilling to learn how the Swedish Section captures this mandate in its “elevator speech,” which always begins, “WILPF works to prevent war by focusing on the effects of militarization in our society,” before it goes on to describe any specific initiative. The section presented data documenting how sending a unified message has increased membership, capacity, and the political impact of their section.

WILPF’s federated structure of mostly-autonomous sections and branches governed by a single constitution provides a fertile opportunity structure for the development of feisty,



Now is the time when it makes sense to listen for the harmony in the chorus of our many strong, feisty voices, and amplify it.

independent leaders. But is it well suited to supporting internationally coordinated collective action? Ray and Maria were brilliant in demonstrating how the work they do at Reaching Critical Will and Peacewomen, respectively, is both fed by WILPF sections and supportive of sections’ autonomous work through a relay of information and expertise.

After a period of rapid staff changes at both the national and international levels, and the seating this summer of a new International Executive Committee and a new National Board, WILPF U.S. must turn its attention outward. Now is when we must think together about how WILPF’s mission can best manifest in the world at this time. Now is the time when we must strategically choose one or two meaningful changes we want to make in the world over the next few years and dedicate ourselves to pursuing them. Now is the time when it makes sense to listen for the harmony in the chorus of our many strong, feisty voices and amplify it.

As WILPF nears its centennial, it is imperative that we try to understand not only the history of our organization but—perhaps more importantly—our impact, and potential impact, on the present. ❖



2011 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

A Talk with Ferial about Lebanon

By Morgan Richter

In Costa Rica, we identified ourselves by our nationalities (Pakistani, Nigerian, Nepali), our professions (doctor, writer, lawyer), our roles (mother, wife, sisters the lot of us). We brought our insights and wisdom, wishing to connect, wanting to share our stories, valuing each experience as relevant. We are individuals, streaming our pasts into a united chord to work for a peaceful future. We are WILPF women representing the new front line in the need for change.

I am a senior at The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) in Minnesota, studying copywriting. The Integrated Advertising student collective, known as “Team15,” selected Alicia Reyerson and myself to present a membership campaign that the group created for WILPF U.S. This integrated campaign was designed to engage a younger generation in activism and to portray WILPF as an important channel for making a difference in the world. Our team first presented to the WILPF U.S. Presidents in New York; we then brought our work to the National Congress in North Carolina. Our presentation in Costa Rica marked the deepest part of our evolution. There, we truly experienced global citizenship. Our minds and hearts were enlightened by the stories of women from all over the world who shared their wisdom with us. One meaningful conversation is all it takes to change another person’s life. In my case, I met Ferial, who shared her history and her hopes for the future.

Ferial Abu Hmdan is from Lebanon. She graced me with her smile every time we saw one another. After our presentation, she came up to me and told me that she was an architect, that she had gone to design school in the United States, and that she appreciated my team’s creative work. Right away we began discussing what it was like to go to school in the U.S. versus Lebanon. Ferial described to me what it’s like to be a woman in Lebanon and how its culture influenced the woman she became.

Ferial grew up in Jordan and moved to Lebanon when she married. She described Lebanon as exquisitely beautiful and how for Lebanese people family is essential. From your immediate to your extended family, you are always connected and forever linked. Ferial affirmed that essential human rights and meeting basic human needs are at the core of the belief system of her people: one must always be honest, and place one’s faith in God. In essence, one’s religion should teach one how to treat others. “To be fair and



Ferial casts her first vote as a WILPF member with Aliyah Strauss looking on.

Photo: Jane Doyle

just is our religion,” she said, “human rights are our religion. You must always speak the truth, protect your friends and be strong for your family.”

Ferial was raised to appreciate education by her mother, who would make her read aloud and repeat sentences over and over until she pronounced them correctly. Ferial sounded words out, always assured of her mother’s guidance.

However, her mother was not proficient in reading. Ferial’s recitation actually enabled her mother to continue learning alongside her daughter, though Ferial did not learn this until years later. In Lebanon, only 55 percent of the women are educated. Many girls do go to school and continue on with college and graduate school. Yet, women hold almost no positions of law making.

Ferial and I discussed how important it is that women have a role in the decision-making processes. She holds an elected post in her municipality; she has been re-elected twice. Any woman in Lebanon who runs for office is heavily scrutinized for having a degree and other qualifications, whereas a man running for a position is not questioned at all about education or about having leadership experience. Many women are educated and independent, yet are not claiming their space as leaders, as Ferial hopes they one day will. She wishes to set an example for other young girls in her community by being a strong leader and by making decisions that positively affect women and children.

She believes that all young Lebanese women should be WILPF members, that to be a woman means to stand up for what you believe in. Ferial believes that the next step for WILPF Lebanon is to urge educated women to come forward and demand that their voices be heard. It is time to be on the front line of discussion and action. Ferial hopes to continue working to empower the women around her by building self-esteem. The Lebanese have a strong oral tradition and Ferial uses this to draw in young members. She presents the history of Lebanon from a woman’s perspective, showing how violence and war have greatly changed the course of women’s lives in their country and arguing that all women need to stand as a united front to demand change.

WILPF Lebanon has been lobbying internally for military disarmament. The members are centrally concerned with the use of cluster bombs and the possession of nuclear weapons. Ferial explained that these are realities that the

Congressional Glimpses

by Jane Doyle



Annie Matundu Mbamba from Congo and Gabriela Rivera from Mexico.



Ila Pathek from India and Ferial Abu Hmdan from Lebanon.

Below, left to right: Kristin Knowles, Cape Cod, and Virginia Pratt, Boston, who reported from Congress (pages 6 and 11). Christina and Lotta Hyllner of Sweden were among four mother/daughter teams who attended Congress (page 6). Bottom row, left to right: Linda Belle of JAPA; Patricia Shroeder, Santa Cruz, and Joan Bazar, San Jose; and a meeting of U.S. WILPF.



Photo: Kristin Knowles



children of Lebanon have grown up with; they do not necessarily know how dangerous such things are. WILPF Lebanon advocates a nuclear-free Middle East, continues to train the younger generation as peace activists, lobbies for resolutions in the United Nations, and works to educate their people about the rights of women and children in war.

I asked Ferial what has affected her most while in Costa Rica. She smiled the most radiant smile. "All of the women here, we all are united. We all have the same goals. No matter our race or location, we have all decided what needs to be done and it is a beautiful thing. The next step is working even harder to make it happen. To make sure that women are heard all around the world, we women here are very fortunate, we are able to participate and communicate our ideas here in Costa Rica. We must enable other women to feel how we feel, this wonderful power of all women together. We will make a difference if we want to, and we

all want to! That is what is so great about being here, we all want the same things."

As I spoke with Ferial during the International Congress, I was most moved by the power of her voice and the conviction of her beliefs. As global citizens, we are all united in our respect for life. Her idea that human rights are a kind of religion in itself is so wonderful. Never had this idea been spelled out so clearly to me. I believe this is what all children should hear: to love another person means to accept them because they deserve it. We work to empower others through our own positive examples and strive to make the road for future generations lead in the direction of peace.

Morgan Richter is a Team 15 Representative, from Minneapolis, MN



2011 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Passing Activism Along

By Kristin Knowles

Christina Hyllner's grandmother broke all the rules. Born in Sweden in 1895, she married but refused to stay at home and be a housewife. She cut her hair, wore pants, found a job, and went to school at night. Growing up in her home, Christina says "she showed me that women can do everything."

The apple didn't fall far from the tree.

Christina Hyllner and her daughter, Lotta, came to the 2011 International WILPF Congress in Costa Rica from Sweden. Their story is illustrative of the profound transformation that comes with stepping out of line and for going one's own path, beyond the boundaries of all that is safe, familiar, and socially acceptable.

Christina spent her early adulthood working in retail at a well-known corporate chain. She raised her daughter and, once Lotta had finished school and embarked on her own journey toward adulthood, Christina woke up one day, looked in the mirror, and asked, "Is this it? Is this what I'm going to do with my life?" She knew the answer. She just needed to figure out what to do next.

After many months of research, planning, and fundraising, she manifested her heart's desire and set off for an epic adventure: she rode a bicycle from Sweden to China. This was in 1996 and her trip lasted the better part of a year. She visited many countries, crossing every conceivable type of terrain. Along the way, she fell in love with Pakistan.

Upon her return, she told everyone about this amazing country she had visited: the stunning, rugged beauty of the land, and the way the people always seem to have smiles in their eyes, full of warmth and generosity, despite extreme poverty and oppressive militarism. She made a vow to herself to return and began to work on convincing Lotta to join her.

Lotta was 19 at the time and very much engaged in her social life, working in a popular bar and taking classes. Such a trip wasn't high on her list of priorities, but Christina kept at her until she agreed. They found sponsors and got clothes, tents, and gear from several outdoor sports companies. It was a huge undertaking.

The plan was to begin in Islamabad and ride camels across Pakistan, then cross the border into India, exploring the countryside and camping each night. A third woman joined them and they hired four camel drivers to escort them. The women shared the task of writing about their experiences each day and took lots of photos – one of Lotta's passions – in order to document every detail.

After seven months, the mother and daughter returned to Sweden. Lotta expressed how difficult her re-entry to everyday life was, how much she had changed as a person. Her friends were still talking about the latest trendy bag and what to do that night; she could no longer relate. Her perspective and priorities had permanently shifted. Her eyes still tear up when she speaks of one little boy who adored her and begged, "Please take me home with you."

Lotta went into a depression for a while, but she eventually got her bearings and decided to return to school. She currently lives in Paris and is working on her thesis, which explores how a military presence in a nation affects women and women's security, particularly with regard to prostitution and human trafficking. Her dream is that one day she and Christina will build a school for girls in Pakistan, where girls have virtually no access to education. Many of the girls that they had met expressed that their greatest wish was "to be able to go to school."

Christina is interested in supporting WILPF's new section in Pakistan. She also hopes to collaborate on a project with Lotta that will call attention to the fact that Sweden is,



Lotta Hyllner and her mother, Christina Hyllner

Photo: Jane Doyle

per capita, the largest producer and seller of small arms in the world. "We are ashamed of that," she says. Lotta adds, "I would like to go and get pictures from the Congo so we can show people what our guns are doing ... to show the path of weapons from Sweden to where they are being used. People will say to us 'this industry creates jobs so don't complain.' But who really profits?"

When asked if she plans to continue doing this work with WILPF, Lotta replies "Yes, of course. It's impossible to stop. Once you know something, you can't go back to not knowing."

GENERATIONS OF WOMEN'S ACTION

The Hyllners' story is just one example of how we pass the empowering spirit of activism to the next generation. Our children develop their identities in the secure framework of our core values, persistence, and desire to manifest positive change in the world around us. Hope helps them blossom with their own unique voices and vision.

Another inspiring example in attendance at the International Congress was the buoyant trio of Esther

Franklin, her daughter, Pennie Taylor, and her granddaughter, Natalie Taylor. Three generations and Californians all, this family of activists radiates warmth, kindness, and graceful determination — a sure sign of a life well-lived, with the side effect of working for peace and justice as an integral part of their daily lives

Esther started it all in the late 1950's. Her second husband, Dr. Ben Franklin, was a professor of Constitutional History and founder of the Political Science Department at California State University in Chico, CA. Esther met him while taking Pennie and her brother to a preschool also attended by Franklin's two sons. The six of them became an early version of the Brady Bunch, and Pennie recalls that their home was always full of discussion of current events and politics. They also helped host a graduate student from Nigeria and Esther became incensed when he was forced to drive to a neighboring town to get his hair cut in the only salon that would take him (down an alley and behind closed curtains!). Chico's barbershops were for "Whites Only."

She began her activism in earnest by marching in support of the civil rights movement and against the Vietnam War. Although she was egged in the head during a peaceful protest for civil rights, the former kindergarten teacher remained undeterred. With the full support of her husband, she continued with her activism, spurred on by the legendary political climate of California in the late 1960's and the workers' rights uprising led by Cesar Chavez. She is one of the founding members of Grandmothers for Peace and has been a member of WILPF for 15 years.

In addition to her husband, she credits the inspiration for her work to visionaries such as personal friend Dr. Glen Martin, Professor of Philosophy at Radford University, Senator George McGovern, and Dr. Robert Muller, former Vice Secretary General to the United Nations and the first Chancellor at the University for Peace in Ciudad Colon, Costa Rica. During the 2011 Congress, the entire family took a day to explore the University for Peace and visit with people who knew Dr. Muller.

Pennie, who graduated from high school in 1969, often accompanied Esther to protests and other activist events. She remembers the vibrant youth culture of that time and how her mother would drive her to concerts: Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Sly and the Family Stone. After graduating from college, she became an elementary school teacher, married, and settled in Sacramento. She is still teaching and

Altogether, there were four groups of mother-daughter activists at the 2011 International WILPF Congress. In this issue, we have profiled three of them. Watch for the remaining pair in the next issue of *Peace and Freedom*: our new International President, Adilia Caravaca and her daughter, Rebecca Werkstetter, from Costa Rica.



Left to right: Pennie Taylor, her mother Esther Franklin, and her daughter Natalie Taylor. Inset: Pennie Taylor, Joan Bazar, and Esther Franklin.

Photos: Jane Doyle and Kristin Knowles



is one of the founders of the group Educators for Social Responsibility.

Soon after Natalie's birth in 1989, she was introduced to activism from the cozy security of her stroller. In their home there is a photo of her as a toddler with a peace banner on the steps of the state capitol building. Every year the family attended a march on Martin Luther King Day and a vigil for peace and nuclear disarmament on the August anniversary of Hiroshima.

Early in her life, Natalie performed with the organization PeaceChild, which produces musicals that bring together children of conflicting heritages. After meeting Dr. Muller, who was honored as Laureate of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education the same year she was born, Natalie wrote a report about the United Nations for her middle school social studies class. In high school, she worked to help stop the genocide in Darfur. She also became a member of the Democratic World Federalists (DWF) and, in July of 2009, she traveled with Pennie and Esther to the 11th Provisional World Parliament, held in Nainital, India. She appears on an audio recording of DWF students in dialogue called, "Are You A Global Citizen?"

Both Pennie and Natalie joined WILPF in 2009, and expressed how much attending the International Congress with Esther has helped them remain hopeful despite occasionally feeling overwhelmed by the state of the world. As Esther says, "We are all fighting for the same thing and we are all connected ... Just to make it through the day some days is hard enough. But when it starts to get to me I have to stop and think of what Dr. Martin always says: 'You have to believe peace is possible.'"

Amen to that.

Cape Cod WILPF member Kristin Knowles lives in Orleans, MA, where she is a visual artist, activist, teacher, ambitious thrift shopper, and award-winning performance poet.



2011 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS Youth & Global Links

By Esther Franklin

This report on the 2011 International Congress of WILPF in Costa Rica is written by a grandmother attendee who was accompanied by her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter—all of them members of Sacramento, California WILPF.

We went expecting to meet interesting people and to learn about the activities branches and sections are doing to help solve problems around the planet. We were pleased to find the Congress attended by more young people than we had anticipated. We left feeling we must exert even more effort to develop Young WILPF. We also agreed that there are numerous ways in which International WILPF, sections, branches, and individual members could—and should—be linking to other peace and social justice efforts.

A presentation early in the Congress by “Team 15” from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design moved all the attendees to want to work in new ways to solve “old” problems. Students Morgan Richter and Alicia Morgan told of their creative art, design, and media projects that will promote WILPF. They invited other young attendees to interview people they were meeting in Costa Rica to ask a focus question, “What does security mean to you?” One such pairing was Natalie Taylor, a recent graduate of San Francisco State University, who asked the question of Jacqueline Wingrove, a Canadian student who had arrived two days earlier to enroll in a Master’s Degree program at the International University of Peace.

The new friends toured the university together and were excited about the amazing diversity of race and cultures (72 countries) represented at the institution. They also were fascinated by the number of colleges and universities the visiting professors come from. International Law, Human Rights, Gender and Peace-Building, Peace Education, Peace and Climate Change—the list of possibilities for study toward Master’s Degrees began to sound like WILPF projects! Clearly, there are avenues for “linking” our League to the International University of Peace. In addition to the on-campus classes, they offer online opportunities in many countries, on most world continents. Incidentally, Jackie had not heard of WILPF before and was eager for Natalie to send her information. They already are Facebook friends.

Meanwhile, back at the Congress, the young Minneapolis students had been followed by an extremely important session: the presentations from the areas which were making applications to WILPF International for “Section” status. Again, what a great representation in geographic range! One that seemed especially interesting in



Y-WILPFers plan a Gertrude Baer seminar.

Photo: Jane Doyle

relation to “links” was revealed by a speaker from Nigeria. She and her sister members were assisted by Swedish WILPF branches to organize the section; the same groups helped give her the opportunity to come to Costa Rica.

Annie Matundu Mbamba, from the Congo, sang and had session listeners clapping (*see page 9*). Sameena Nazir, from Pakistan (*see page 11*), told of their monthly meetings and their communication with members in India and Nepal. Emphasizing what a “young” nation Pakistan is, she noted

From Minneapolis to the Congo, through Facebook and peace work, Congress gave young people many chances to explore linkages with WILPF and other organizations.

that of its 180 million people, 55 percent are under 25 years of age. She invited Pennie Taylor, Sacramento member, to come to Pakistan next summer to help train preschool teachers in Pakistan

Many of the amazing women arrived with fascinating items to sell in order to help new WILPF branches or to support crucial causes: hand-made skirts and scarves, and hand-decorated picture frames; Honduras featured literary art with *Poesia de Contragulpe*, a book of poetry by Candelario Rayes Garcia.

Another session that emphasized the possibilities for links focused on “WILPF’s Challenge to Militarism”—especially in relation to Nuclear Weapons. This session included emotional moments, such as when the young delegate from Japan made a public apology for the way her country’s nuclear power plants are responsible for poisoning ocean water that washes up on the shores of other nations (Elder members thought back to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.).

BUILDING WILPF LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS

The Nobel Prize-winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) is perhaps the best-known organization currently researching the evils of nuclear weapons. Their headquarters in Massachusetts is in

communication with affiliates in at least 65 countries. Is WILPF linking with this organization? Does WILPF know how much research on nuclear power the U.S. affiliate of IPPNW (Physicians for Social Responsibility, based in Washington, D.C.) has done? Do WILPF members know about the book *Apocalypse Never?* available from Physicians for Social Responsibility. Its author, Dr. Tad Daley, would be a good speaker to invite to your next WILPF branch meeting!

Most attendees at the “Militarism, WILPF, U.N., and the New World Order” session were not aware that at a meeting in New York earlier in the summer people attending the Institute on World Problems had discussed how the Earth Constitution replaces the “New World Order.” Nor did they know that the 12th Provisional Parliament would be an important part of the New York meeting. The Institute, incidentally, linked officers from two other globally focused organizations, the Earth Federation and the Democratic World Federalists.

Is there a way Young WILPFers might link to these leaders? How about exploring Young World Federalists? Their flyer reads, “The Role of Students in Promoting a Well Governed World: A Peaceful World Can be Your Future.” Or perhaps they might order the CD “Are You a Global Citizen?” Created by university students, it is available from Democratic World Federalists at www.dwf.org for \$12, including postage. Those more interested in literary choices might want to choose DWF Board member Bob Newman’s book of poetry, *There’s Gotta Be a Way*.

Various plans are being made for WILPF individuals to “travel” online. There was much discussion about “global cafes,” which are scheduled for 2013. Undoubtedly, future events will be influenced by technology. Yet, the San Jose (Costa Rica) Friends (Quaker) Peace Center had two important items available for WILPF attendees in familiar print

form. One was a very short cartoon book, *The Abolition of the Army in Costa Rica*. The other was a simple handout, titled *Goliath Staggered: The Story of the SOA Watch in Costa Rica*. The latter summarized the history of the founding of the School of Americas Watch and the subsequent actions by the Peace Center in cooperation with WILPF Costa Rica. The article concludes with a message from Lisa Sullivan, a frequent attendee at Fort Benning SOA protests. Sullivan writes, “When we join together as small pressure groups from around the Americas to resist militarism and promote a culture of peace, we are quite simply, very powerful.”

Is there a “cultural” way—beyond fine graphic arts and poetry—for individuals and groups to “link” globally? Perhaps music has offered one of the best examples from the past and certainly has potential for the future. It certainly was obvious at the Farewell Dinner at the Congress that simply singing together provides a motivating way to join with other WILPF members. Which Young WILPF individual is going to create a new global song similar to Woody Guthrie’s (nationalistic) “This Land is Your Land?” Will it be “This Earth is Your Earth, This Earth is My Earth?” Who is going to be the next Pete Seeger, or the next Joan Baez? Will the future Beatles or The Clash also have peace-related words in their songs? Will future preschool teachers be able to teach global songs and will educators at all levels be able to start classes and other gatherings with the Earth Allegiance Pledge?

The Congress was a wonderful opportunity to explore the many possible global linkages. As the slogan of the Institute for World Problems says: “All of us must believe that peace is possible!”

.....
Esther Franklin is a member of Sacramento, CA, WILPF. She has been a consultant in Global Peace Education for many years.



2011 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

WILPF Arrives in Central Africa

.....
By Susan Smith

WILPF’s work is immense and now a new section in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been created to help advance our vital work and improve women’s lives. Molly Cyr and I interviewed Annie Matundu Mbambi, from the new section, during the International WILPF Congress in Costa Rica.

She told us DRC WILPF currently has 69 members in the national branch in Kinshasa and in three other provinces: North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga. WILPF Sweden pro-

vided the funds for two DRC representatives to attend the Congress, although making arrangements was a challenge. A power outage in Kinshasa made obtaining their visas difficult. Both women worked in one of the few Internet cafes that remained open, during which time one’s passport was stolen. Thus, Mme. Matundu Mbambi was the sole representative from her section able to attend.

In 2007, Marie Claire Faray, a Congolese woman who lives in the United Kingdom and who is a member of WILPF U.K. and Common Cause, planted the seed for the DRC Section. She and the U.K. Section have been strong supporters of the Congolese women who created the section and the National Action Plan. Unable to provide financial support, they helped with media dissemination and advice about the WILPF constitution and its procedures.

Mme. Matundu Mbambi emphasized the need to create synergy and share information between the DRC Section

Continued on page 10 ➤

and others, such as WILPF women in the U.S. who can help create public awareness about the DRC. If people do not know about the problems, nothing happens. Getting the word out is difficult for Congolese women, who have less access to media, the Internet, and are often not in positions to have contact with others beyond their family, neighborhood, or village.

One example of the importance of disseminating information is U.N. Resolution 1889, which the United Nations Security Council passed on October 5, 2009. It advocates eliminating violence against women and girls, improving women's participation in decision-making, and providing information about violence against women in the country reports to the Security Council. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited the DRC, traveling to the eastern part of the country, where intense fighting (part of a civil war) continues. The extreme suffering of women there led to the passage of U.N. Resolution 1889.

What is the current situation for women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo? The nation has been embroiled in war and its effects since 1996: 5.4 million people have died, many from disease and starvation ("Congo war-driven crisis kills 45,000 a month—study," *Reuters*, 1/22/08). Although the fighting officially ended in 2003 when the Transitional Government of the DRC was established in 2004, approximately 1,000 people still die daily, often from malnutrition and disease ("1,000 a day dying in Congo, agency says," *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, 12/10/04). Millions more people have been displaced by the Civil War, both within the Congo and to neighboring countries ("Congo Civil War," GlobalSecurity.org).

Women are greatly impacted by the ongoing fighting. Many are killed; many more are raped by armed forces of all sides – militia and insurgents. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), reported that in the DRC there were 15,996 new recorded cases of sexual violence in 2008. The organization also estimates that more than 65 percent of sexual violence victims are children (www.hrw.org/en/node/84366/section/7). Moreover, the majority of rapes are not reported because victims feel ashamed and fear of social repercussions. These statistics are probably well below the actual numbers.

Our interview with Mme. Matundu Mbambi helped us to understand these statistics in human terms. Women live in fear. They used to buy bread to sell in their neighborhood, but now they do not because they fear rape, consequently reducing their family income. For the same reason—fear—women cannot work in the fields. The tragic result is food shortages in the eastern part of the country that used to produce large amounts of the country's food.

In Kinshasa, Mme. Matudu Mbambi started a training bakery in her house to help women learn to bake and sell bread, while at the same time they learned about ways to avoid violence and to address health issues. Unfortunately, this work has stopped due to power outages. They are seeking a generator or other alternative.

In recent years, programs have been created to demobilize armed groups, including exchanging arms for \$100, then \$50, then a bicycle or a new roof. The programs were not successful, however, because nobody knew what happened to the arms that were turned in. There is strong suspicion that they ended up back in the hands of the men who then turned them in a second or third time. Another problem during the war was that women were pressured into hiding or transporting arms. The arms that armed forces, militia, and insurgents used are still in the hands of many men, which mean that they are often used against women.

Many believe that the effects of war are centered in the eastern part of the country (North and South Kivu and Katanga), where much of the fighting is occurring, but this is far from true. Lives of women in the northern, western, and southern parts of the country are also difficult. Rape occurs in all areas, as documented by a United Nations Fund survey. Women and their families must leave their villages (often in the east) and migrate to other areas. Food shortages exist in all areas, and throughout the country, national resources, such as diamonds and timber, are looted to support the fighting. Poverty is as pervasive as it is in the rest of the country.

The new WILPF section works to support women as



Annie Matundu Mbamba and Neelam K. C., President of Nepali WILPF Section.

Photo: Jane Doyle

Boston WILPF Action for Congo

For the past two years, Boston WILPF's Congo Action Now (CAN) has been supporting the Congolese people in their work to end the war and sexual violence. A dynamic, inter-organizational group, CAN supports a bill in the Massachusetts legislature to prohibit the state from contracting with companies that don't comply with Dodd-Frank Congo conflict minerals provisions. The group has facilitated discussions of Lynn Nottage's powerful play *Ruined*; organized educational house parties and presentations; held vigils; distributed information at marches and festivals; sent letters and petitions to Congress; written and gotten passed a Cambridge City Council resolution; and supported its partner women's organization in the eastern DRC. This fall, CAN will participate in a Clark University conference, "Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo."

— Pat Aron, Boston WILPF

See page 12 for More U.S. WILPF Congo Action:
Dear Hillary Campaign

best it can. Women call or show up on the doorsteps of WILPF members to report cases of rape. They are trying to document these cases. To do so, they must take the women to the hospital to get proof of rape, which is needed for prosecution. These tests, though, cost money, which is in short supply. WILPFers have also tried to help victims of rape take their cases to court. Sadly, they are rarely successful, since judges themselves accuse the women of exaggerating. Also, victims' families are often threatened with violence if the suit is continued.

Women often face even greater difficulties. The men in their lives generally do not support them when they have been raped. Some husbands put raped wives out of the house. Children are ashamed and want nothing to do with their raped mothers. Fortunately, some NGOs have created homes called *Maisons de la Joie* (Houses of Joy) that support raped women in the east.

Mme. Matundu Mbamba talked about a typical day in her life. Because she works as an independent consultant on gender issues (and doesn't have a regular 40-hour a week job), she is able to volunteer more often with WILPF. She and other WILPF women create a calendar of events, monitor indicators, write articles and reports to inform others of the situation and their work, and help to organize events.

Many Congolese men would prefer that women continue to "sleep," meaning to stay home, cook for them, and take care of the home, and not become politically or socially

active "rebels." Fortunately, Mme. Matundu Mbambi's grown, married son encourages her and considers her work noble. His first child is a girl and he has made the connection that his mother is improving her future. Also, having the support from other WILPFers is critical as women work to make their lives better.

Annie Matundu Mbambi and the new WILPF section members want to emphasize that we can work together as WILPF women from all around the world. We all have the same goals. We need to see beyond skin color and other superficial differences. In addition, we need to share information and experiences. Each section has strengths and needs that can be shared. WILPFers in DRC need to get beyond the mentality that Africa is "developing" and "colonized." These women ask U.S. WILPF members to strive to avoid thinking of them as being from a developing country that needs "help." They want an active part in deciding the issues they address. On the other hand, they would like help publicizing their situation and work and would be glad to work together with other sections to address issues of common concerns.



Susan Smith, at right, is a member of Pittsburgh WILPF.

2011 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
**WILPF Pakistan:
 Challenging our
 Perceptions**
 By Virginia Pratt

Perhaps one of the most thought provoking presentations on new sections at the International WILPF Congress came from Sameena Nazir, a WILPF member from Pakistan. Ms. Nazir began her PowerPoint presentation by outlining common perceptions about her country, which is often characterized by the West as being full of Muslim extremists, home to Bin Laden, and overrun with guns. In essence, Pakistan is not to be trusted by the West. After making us laugh, she introduced us to more sobering realities and pointedly asked why WILPF should have a section in Pakistan. Since 9/11, more than 35,000 people have been killed in Pakistan, the majority of them innocent civilians.

Thousands more people are still displaced by floods and war and are inadequately housed. Illiteracy rates are high, especially for girls in rural areas. Pakistani women suffer under a patriarchal society. Ms. Nazir spoke about the negative effects of the U.S. drone strikes. As a person committed to promoting peace and nonviolence, she explained that her

work is made more difficult because of the drone strikes. Fellow Pakistanis, understandably angered by the deaths of innocent civilians killed by drone strikes, ask why they should remain nonviolent when the U.S has unfairly and violently targeted them.



Sameena Nazir Photo: Jane Doyle

Nazir provided a haunting illustration of the patriarchal culture of Pakistan in her discussion of honor killings. According to Nazir, if a woman has been raped, she becomes a source of shame to her family. The woman, rather than the attacker, is considered at fault. It is expected that she quietly commit suicide to shield her family from shame, traditionally by breaking a glass bracelet and swallowing the glass. Women typically die in one day from internal bleeding.

In a case that has rocked the country, Mukhtar Mai, a gang rape survivor challenged this tradition, insisting her attackers, rather than herself, be the recipients of blame and shame. Ms. Mai took her case to court and won. She has become a national heroine and role model for many young

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► PAKISTAN

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Pakistani women.

Living in an area wracked with violence, Nazir begins each day by first trying to determine if there have been any car or suicide bombings nearby before leaving her home. Despite such daunting challenges, Nazir has formed a WILPF group with 12 active members. They meet monthly and also have a study group. The group is interested in promoting U.N. SCR 1325 to address discrimination against women. The Pakistani Section women were attracted to WILPF, in part, because we incorporate a gender analysis in our work. We talk about how war, gun violence, lack of access to clean water, and service cuts impact women differently and disproportionately than men. The new Section wants to work regionally to promote peace and raise awareness of U.N. SCR 1325 among women in Afghanistan and India as well as Pakistan.

After her presentation, Sameena Nazir received thunderous applause. We are fortunate to have this very brave and visionary woman as a WILPF member. We were especially excited about the development of a new section with women from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India all united in working for peace and the advancement of women's rights.

Virginia Pratt chairs Boston WILPF. She works as a foreclosure prevention counselor for a non-profit organization in Boston.



Adilia Caravaca has just been elected president of International WILPF. The room cheers as she stands to accept their applause.

Photo: Jane Doyle

Dear Hillary Campaign for the Congo

The "Dear Hillary Campaign for the Congo" was begun in the summer of 2010 at St. Michael's College in Vermont as a follow-up to a conference on the Crisis in the Congo, organized by the College's Peace and Justice Center. We heard experts on the Congo's problems, and decided it was time to act. We targeted Hillary Clinton, because, as U.S. Secretary of State and the most powerful woman in the world, she is in a position to shape U.S. foreign policy in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We began an old-fashioned postcard campaign to raise awareness. We used social media to establish 56 Dear Hillary chapters throughout the U.S. and in four foreign countries. We asked them to show Lisa Jackson's searing film, *The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo*, on Clinton's birthday (Oct. 26) and then have the audience sign postcards to Secretary Clinton, which combined birthday greetings with a plea that she set peace in East Congo a foreign policy priority. Each chapter got a copy of the film and postcards. Our records show that around 16,000 birthday postcards were sent to the State Department! As a result, the Dear Hillary core team was invited to the State Department.

That December, a group from Vermont, including several

members of the Congolese community, piled into vans and drove to Washington to meet with Melanne Verweer, Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues. It was a very good exchange. The students had done their homework and pressed her on various issues – from a certification system for Congolese minerals to the appropriateness of U.S. aid to Rwanda (one of the leading actors in the destabilization of Congo).

In April, we organized a rally at the State Department where about 100 people beat drums, chanted, and held signs. For our efforts, a State Department contingent including Ambassador Donald Yamamoto, met with us. We pressed him on the need for a Special Envoy to the Congo. Again, it was a good exchange, but no progress was made on the issue of a Special Envoy. He did agree, however, to come to Vermont this fall to make a speech on the subject of U.S. foreign policy in the Congo. We are working with his office now to try to make that happen.

The Dear Hillary Campaign has become a permanent St. Michael's Club with officers and funding. We hope to continue to rally our far-flung chapters for action on behalf of the people of the Congo.

— Laurie Gagne, *Burlington WILPF*

Earth Democracy and the Rights of Mother Earth

By Nancy Price

The goal of the Tar Sands Action at the White House (August 20 - September 3), the largest civil disobedience campaign of the American climate movement, was to demonstrate to President Obama and the nation that global warming demands we end dependence on non-renewable carbon-based fuels and change our values.

Easy-to-reach carbon fuels are depleted. Tar sands oil, one of the world's dirtiest fuels, is three to five times more carbon intensive to extract and refine than conventional oil and takes three barrels of water to produce one barrel of oil. The 1,700 mile-long Keystone XL Pipeline, which is planned to transport this oil from the tar sands of Canada's Alberta Province to Texas refineries, will destroy needed farmland and Indian tribal lands. Moreover, the pipeline will lie above the Ogallala Aquifer, beneath the high plains states, where a spill would be disastrous. Even though corporate executives claim that risk is minimal, the precursor pipeline and pumping stations have already leaked a dozen times in the past year. Furthermore, a new report entitled "Oil Change International" (Steve Kretzmann, 8/31/2011, www.priceofoil.org) documents that this oil is mainly for export to overseas markets. So, rather than ensuring energy "independence and security," this tar sands production and pipeline may lock the U.S. into decades of planet-warming energy "dependency" (www.tarsands-action.org). This must change.

THE CHALLENGE OF LEADERSHIP

In 1959, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached: "A nation or a civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on an installment plan" ("A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart," *A Strength to Love*). Because this project crosses the Canadian border, President Obama, not Congress, has the authority to reject this pipeline. The U.S. State Department 8/26/11 report states that the pipeline "will not cause significant environmental problems," but will President Obama listen to environmentalists, indigenous leaders, and scientific experts? Or, will he be "soft-minded" and cave in to the oil lobby, special interests, and investors wanting short-term profits?

By contrast, Bill McKibben and the Tar Sands Action organizers, especially those Indigenous Peoples whose tribal lands are being destroyed by tar sands mining, display moral leadership. So does Tim DeChristopher, who was recently sentenced for obstruct-

ing the government auction of Utah wilderness to fossil fuel "developers." Their non-violent civil disobedience follows in King's footsteps.

A REVOLUTION OF VALUES: THE RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

Eight years later, in his 1967 Riverside Church address, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," King moved from civil rights to a critique of war and capitalism, saying: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

King questioned U.S. interventions in foreign countries with the intent to defeat opposition to the corporate-capitalist system of imperialism and to protect corporate interests, wealth, and power. "When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people," he said, "the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered." King called for a "revolution of values," a shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society."

Not so much later, after King's warning about profit motives and property rights, in 1972, Christopher Stone offered a truly original contribution to the environmental movement, taking up the theme of property rights and nature. In *Should Trees Have Standing?*, he set forth the legal framework for the rights of nature, arguing that since trees and birds cannot exercise those rights themselves, individuals or groups should be able to apply to the court for legal guardianship, and for the right to litigate on behalf of the natural object.

Finally, more than 30 years later, environmental lawyers Cormac Cullinan, from South Africa, and Tom Linzey, working in Pennsylvania, came to the same frustrating conclusion: environmental regulations were inadequate and actually permitted harm. In 2003, Cullinan, deeply affected by the writings of eco-theologian Thomas Berry and indigenous people's understanding of the interconnectedness of all life, wrote in *Wild Law: A Manifesto for Earth Justice*, "We need a new body of law whose first priority is to protect the ecological community in which we live."

In 2006, Tom Linzey and the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, pioneers in community

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► MOTHER EARTH *from page 13*

rights-based organizing, assisted the small Pennsylvania town of Tamaqua in passing an ordinance to deny the corporate right to spread harmful sewage sludge as fertilizer on farmland and to recognize natural communities and ecosystems as legal persons with legal rights. This was among the first “wild laws” to be passed anywhere in the world, now followed by communities in PA, NH, and ME that have passed Rights of Nature ordinances.

On September 28, 2008, when their new Constitution was passed by national referendum, the nation of Ecuador, became the first to codify the traditional wisdom of indigenous people who “recognize Mother Earth as a living being with which they have an indivisible, interdependent, complementary, and spiritual relationship into a “new system of environmental protection” based on rights of nature (www.celdf.org).

LIVING WELL, NOT LIVING BETTER

King’s “revolution of values” is embodied in the concept of “living well,” presented by Evo Morales, the first indigenous President of Bolivia, in his “10 Commandments To Save the Planet” at the October 9, 2008 Continental Gathering of the Social Forum of the Americas. Seeking to end economic policies that were destroying the planet, he said, “our goal should be to ‘live well,’ that is having our basic needs met, while existing in harmony with the natural world, rather than amassing more material goods at the expense of others and the environment. Morales’s call to “live well” has spurred on the global movement against consumerism and the devastating impacts of natural resource extraction.

The concept of “living well” was first adopted in the 2009 Bolivian Constitution and then in the *People’s Statement* of the World People’s Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth (Bolivia, April 2010). Then, in June 2010, the Ecojustice People’s

Heeding the call for a “Revolution of Values”

WILPF women passed a Resolution at Congress to expand the scope of Save the Water Issue Group’s work to include such issues as the climate crisis and rights of nature, environmental trespass by corporations, the problem of nuclear and other waste, food sovereignty, and support for sustainable agriculture and healthy food systems. In this way, WILPF’s work will not only align with the eco-climate justice movements, but will become more integrated with International WILPF’s goals. With your help, we can carry out this new mandate and exciting broad program. The Save the Water Issue Committee invites you to share ideas on the listserve savethewater@wilpf.org. To subscribe, visit wilpf.org/mailman/listinfo/savethewater_wilpf.org

Movement Assembly at the U.S. Social Forum brought the concept into their Declaration, which states: “We support the conclusion that only by ‘living well,’ in harmony with each other and with Mother Earth, rather than ‘living better,’ based on an economic system of unlimited growth, dominance and exploitation, will the people of this planet not only survive but thrive.”



FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

The success in passing local community-rights and rights of nature ordinances in the U.S., and enshrining Rights of Nature in the new Constitutions of Ecuador and Bolivia, has propelled the global eco- and climate justice movements forward in just a few years. People and nature cannot wait while “soft-minded” government leaders fail to act. Some achievements are:

- In April 2009, the United Nations General Assembly declared April 22 “International Mother Earth Day,” following the Bolivia-led initiative.
- In September 2010, at the International Gathering for the Rights of Nature, “The Global Alliance for The Rights of Nature” was founded (<http://climateandcapitalism.com/?p=566>).
- On March 31, 2011, the Pachamama Alliance reported that the Provincial Court in Loja, Ecuador ruled in favor of Nature, specifically the Vilcabamba River, marking the first successful case enforcing the Rights of Nature clause in the 2008 Constitution and establishing a legal precedent for future enforcement.
- In April 2011, the General Assembly sponsored a panel, “Harmony with Nature,” to discuss the creation of a U.N. Treaty that would grant the same rights found in the “Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth.” This was presented at the World People’s Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Cochabamba, Bolivia (<http://therightsofnature.org>).

Evo Morales stated in 2008, “If we want to save the planet earth to save life and humanity, we are obliged to end the capitalist system.” He acknowledged that global social movements, including the Indigenous Peoples’ Movement, would continue to work together to bring about this change. Forty-one years earlier, in 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr. had envisioned a “worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one’s tribe, race, class, and nation.” Now, animated by ancient wisdom and a new spirit, the Rights of Nature movement is beginning to realize King’s vision of a “revolution of values.”

Nancy Price is a member of the Save the Water Issue Committee.

National Congress Honors William Barber

By Miriam Thompson

Rev. Dr. William Barber, the 31st Triennial Congress keynote speaker, stands foremost among the prophetic political and spiritual leaders in the history of North Carolina. He is also a strong WILPF supporter. Dr. Barber reminded us that “we” is the most important word in the social justice vocabulary. “The issue is not what we can’t do,” he proclaimed, “but what we can do when we stand together. With an upsurge in racism and hate crimes, criminalization of young black males, insensitivity to the poor, educational genocide, and the moral and economic costs of war, we *must* stand together now like never before.” WILPF and NAACP have been partners for almost a century in anti-racism struggles and in the work for economic and social justice.

Tim Tyson, Southern historian, Duke professor, and friend to Barber, chronicled a short history of the keynote speaker, whose father was a Disciples of Christ preacher in the black belt of eastern North Carolina. His mother still works as a high school secretary; she helped desegregate the public schools in Washington County. He grew up around a dinner table where politics and civil rights were main dishes, in addition to barbecue and banana pudding, collard greens, and corn meal dumplings. Three of his children still attend segregated schools in Wayne County. Barber earned his Bachelor's degree in 1984 from North Carolina Central University and later received his Master's of Divinity from Duke Divinity School and his Ph.D. from Drew University. His dissertation on theology and community development was never merely an academic exercise.

In his keynote address, Barber shared his vision, modeled on the prophetic ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to build the “beloved community” and to end war, poverty, and racism. He put his ministry into action at the NAACP, serving as president of the North Carolina Conference and then First Vice Chair of the National Organization.

As WILPF members and community residents who attended the plenary quickly learned, Barber not only preaches, but also inspires and organizes. In the fall of 2006, the NAACP leadership endorsed his bold proposal to invite progressive organizations to a People's Assembly on Saturday, February 12, 2007. The plan was to build the largest ever Black-White-Brown Coalition in the South around an anti-racist, anti-war, anti-poverty Peoples' Agenda. This NAACP-led social justice partnership has expanded the Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HKonJ) coalition, which is now composed of more than 100 organizations.

The coalition's continued goal is to turn the North Carolina General Assembly into a people's assembly and create such assemblies throughout the state to challenge legislation in 2011, and to mobilize and prepare to reclaim political control in the 2012 elections. Like other states throughout the country, the NC General Assembly is now in the hands of corporate-backed Republican and Tea Party extremists who are trying to return North Carolina to the days of Jim Crow. HKonJ, under Dr. Barber's leadership, rallies around 14 points, addressing issues such as ongoing racial discrimination in the 150 years since the Civil War began, unequal distribution of the public's treasury to the one percent of the population who own 40 percent of the wealth, school re-segregation, ending environmental protections, attacks on immigrants and workers, corporate greed, an end to wars of occupation, redirecting military expenditures to social needs at home, and holding accountable federal and state officials who serve wealthy, private interests.

Dr. Barber ended his address with a quote from the Book of Isaiah: if we “loose the bonds of injustice;” if we “let the oppressed go free;” if we feed and shelter the homeless poor, that our “light shall break forth like the dawn,” and “we shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Our ancient ruins shall be rebuilt, we shall raise up the foundations of many generations; we shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets where all God's children may dwell in freedom and none shall make them afraid.”

His keynote address, however, did not end Barber's

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Tana Hartman sends grateful thanks to all who helped

Space restrictions made it necessary to significantly reduce Tana Harman's heartfelt expressions of gratitude to the many people who pitched in to help make the National Congress a terrific event. She wrote, “Something as complicated as planning for this Congress can either deepen the bonds of friendship or, in some cases, rupture them. With some relief, I can say that the experience has proven to be, on the whole, one of bonding for those of us in the Triangle Branch.” She highlighted her thanks to the following people: Darien De Lu, Andie Cockerill, Sulma Khalid, Dick Paddock, Lib Hutchby, Lucy Lewis, Peggy Misch, Marguerite and Francis Coyle, Ann Powers, Ruth Zalph, Heide Kober, Miriam Thompson, John Heuer, Jane and Wes Hare, Jerry Markatos, Rush Greenslade, Vimala Rajendran, Brenda Hines, Jane Maske, Diane Robertson, and Connie Gates. ❖

Barbara Lee Speaks for Me

By Sandy Thacker

Two American women, Jane Addams and Barbara Lee, lived almost a century apart and came from very different backgrounds. Nonetheless, both women devoted their lives to ending war and to bringing justice and a better life to the most vulnerable in our society — immigrants, minorities, and women. A statement by Jane Addams reflects the strength and determination of both women: “What, after all, has maintained the human race on this old globe, despite all the calamities of nature, and all the tragic failings of mankind, if not faith in new possibilities and courage to advocate them?”

The WILPF National Congress in Chapel Hill honored Congresswoman Barbara Lee for her remarkable bravery and tenacity, for dedicating her career to the fight for a lasting peace, and for social and economic justice, with the following resolution:

WILPF U.S. honors California Congresswoman Barbara Lee for her courage in 2001 in being the only member of Congress to vote against giving President Bush unlimited power to attack any individual, or organization, or country without Congressional approval. In the wake of the tragedy of 9/11, Congresswoman Lee stood up for hope and for democracy. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to end war and redirect our resources to peace, justice and equality.

Barbara Lee was born in El Paso, Texas in 1946. Raised in a segregated community, Barbara soon learned the importance of fighting for equality and standing up for one's beliefs. Moving to California in 1960, she attended San Fernando High School, where, with help from the NAACP, she successfully challenged a school district policy that prevented her from trying out for the cheerleading team based on her race. She became the first black cheerleader in the history of her school district.

Barbara was president of the Black Students' Association at Mills College in Oakland, California, and was later involved in Shirley Chisholm's campaign for President of the United States. As the first African American woman to run for President, Representative Chisholm was an inspiration to Barbara and remained a friend and mentor for many years.

After working as a clinical psychologist, Barbara decided she wanted to get more involved in electoral politics. She became a congressional intern for then-Congressman Ron Dellums. During her ten years working for the Congressman, she worked in Washington, D.C. and in the Oakland district office, eventually becoming Administrative Assistant.

In 1990, Barbara was elected to the California State Assembly and, six years later, she was elected to the State Senate. Her legislative efforts focused on issues such as women's rights, education, public safety, environmental protection, labor, and health. She worked to develop closer ties

to African and Caribbean nations, which she continues to focus on today.

When Congressman Dellums retired in February 1998, Barbara Lee ran successfully to succeed her former boss, representing the 9th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She has been re-elected six times since 1998 and has proven to be an effective leader in the United States Congress, championing legislation to bring universal healthcare to uninsured Americans, fight poverty, and eradicate HIV/AIDS.

Throughout her political career, Barbara has been a strong and unwavering voice for peace. On September 14, 2001, three days after the attacks on New York and Washington, the United States Congress voted almost unanimously to cede to the President its constitutional power to declare war. The only member of Congress to vote against the resolution was Barbara Lee.

Representative Lee warned that rushing to launch a military response to the attacks of September 11th could cost thousands of innocent lives and would repeat past mistakes of embarking “on an open-ended war with neither an exit strategy nor a focused target”- prophetic words indeed! Ten years, hundreds of thousands of deaths, and trillions of dollars later, the United States is now involved in wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Libya—with neither an exit strategy nor a focused target.

In 2007, Congresswoman Lee successfully blocked funding to establish permanent military bases in Iraq. In 2008, she was elected Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and is a member and former Co-Chair of the Progressive Caucus. In 2009, she stood alone in casting the only vote against authorizing the use of military force in Iraq.

In 2010 and 2011, she voted to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, and voted in favor of similar resolutions involving troop withdrawal from Pakistan and Libya. This year, she worked with the Progressive Caucus to write “The People's Budget,” a progressive alternative budget (<http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=70>), and with the Congressional Black Caucus to develop a “For the People” Jobs Initiative (<http://thecongressionalblackcaucus.com/issues/jobs-initiative/>). She has also written a personal memoir, entitled *Renegade for Peace and Justice: A Memoir of Political and Personal Courage*.



Sandy is Treasurer and Membership Chair of East Bay WILPF and lives in Oakland, CA.

Protecting Women in Peace and Conflict: International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law at Work

By Tanya E. Henderson

Armed conflict leaves no person and nothing unscathed. The vile nature of war penetrates all aspects of life and human society, including the land and natural environment that sustains life. While all civilians are affected by armed conflict, reports frequently show that women suffer disproportionately because of their sex and pervasive gender inequality. During armed conflict, women and girls are routinely targeted for rape and sexual violence as a strategic tool of war. Conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence is almost always accompanied by the loss of livelihoods and the destruction of family and community structures. This exacerbates existing gender inequality, demonstrated by the reality that women bear the burden of poverty in all societies, are more likely to have limited or no access to education and employment, and are less mobile because of their stereotypical traditional and reproductive roles. Further, within the transitional justice systems instituted in the aftermath of conflict, there is often little or no accountability and redress for the full range of human rights violations suffered by women. Despite numerous global commitments to end impunity for human rights violations and to address the gender-specific challenges related to post-conflict participation, women continue to be marginalized from conflict resolution processes and their priority concerns are systematically excluded in post-conflict reconstruction agendas.

On July 18, 2011, the CEDAW Committee held a general discussion on the protection of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, within the context of the rights articulated under the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The purpose of the discussion was to begin the Committee's process of establishing a "General Recommendation on Women in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations" to respond to "the endemic nature of violations of women's human rights" during war and its aftermath. Once established, the General Recommendation would provide direction to State Parties on measures that can be adopted to ensure full compliance with their obligations to protect, respect, and fulfill women's human rights during times of armed conflict and in all peace-building processes, including the immediate aftermath of conflict and long-term post-conflict reconstruction.

Under international law, including international humanitarian law, certain human rights, such as the right to life and freedom from discrimination, torture, slavery and other inhuman or degrading treatment, are "non-derogable" and may not be violated at any time. The CEDAW General Recommendation, however, would expand the obligation of

State Parties to ensure that the human rights of women, such as the right to be free from gender based violence and other political, economic, and social rights, are protected during war and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as during times of peace. This is an important step toward the integration of international humanitarian law and human rights as essential tools in protecting the rights of women and girls during conflict, and toward asserting the necessity of women in post-conflict reconstruction processes to secure a sustainable peace.

Humanitarian law and human rights law are two separate, but complementary, branches of public international law. However, they share a common goal: to protect human beings. An approach that integrates the human rights frame-

Women and girls are routinely targeted for rape and sexual violence as a strategic tool of war.

work and processes with humanitarian law and tribunal system more adequately addresses the intersections where sexual and gender-based violence against women have been used as a strategic tool of war or where women suffer both direct and indirect discrimination, in peace or in armed conflict, simply because they are women.

International Humanitarian Law:

International humanitarian law has two main objectives:

1. It seeks to protect people in time of war who are not, or are no longer, participating in the hostilities.
2. It seeks to limit the means and methods of warfare.

The main instruments of international humanitarian law, which is also known as "law of war" or "law of armed conflict," are the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977. *Common Article 3* of the Geneva Convention applies to all armed conflict and expressly prohibits:

1. violence to life and person;
2. taking of hostages;
3. outrages upon personal dignity ("humiliating and degrading treatment"); and
4. the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court.

In 1998, the *Rome Statute* of the International Criminal

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Court (ICC) further codified not only crimes of sexual and gender violence as part of the jurisdiction of the Court, but also a range of structures and procedures necessary to ensure that these crimes and those victimized by them will remain on the agenda and be properly treated in the process of justice. Article 8 of the *Rome Statute* explicitly lists “rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy ... enforced sterilization or any other form of sexual violence” as constituting either “grave breaches” or violations of *Common Article 3* of the Geneva Convention.

International Human Rights:

International human rights law was first codified under the *U.N. Charter of the United Nations*. Article 1(3) of the *U.N. Charter* states its purpose as, “promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.” In addition to the *Charter*, the key foundational documents of international human rights law are:

1. the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR);
2. the *International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR), which articulates rights such as the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights, and rights to due process and a fair trial; and
3. the *International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR), which includes labor rights, the right to health, the right to education, and the right to an adequate standard of living.

Under the principles of these three founding documents, other Conventions were later enacted to afford greater protections for certain groups of people and specific sets of circumstances where people’s human rights have been systematically violated. A State is bound by the standards found in the instruments it has ratified. Some international human rights instruments, however, have become part of customary international law and, as such, are binding on all States, whether they have ratified the instruments or not.

The United Nations adopted CEDAW in 1979, which covered the combined topics of the International Covenants, but in much greater detail. Under CEDAW, discrimination against women is defined as any intentional or unintentional distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex that has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by women of their human rights in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field. This is particularly powerful because it prohibits not only direct discrimination, but also gender-neutral programs that unintentionally produce a discriminatory impact on women. This principle is directly applicable to the consistent calls for the incorporation of a gender perspective in all processes relating to conflict prevention, resolution, and

peace-building. Further, CEDAW’s obligations extend not only to State and public actors, but also to the conduct of private individuals, organizations, and enterprises.

History has shown that women must be afforded special protections under all of our international legal systems, including those laws and systems that govern armed conflict and the processes established to protect women’s human rights. Our militarized, patriarchal societies have routinely regarded human rights violations perpetrated against women during war as an inevitable byproduct of armed conflict. In her article, “Gender Crimes as War Crimes: Integrating Crimes Against Women into International Criminal Law” (*McGill Law Journal*, November 2000), Rhonda Copelon wrote that before the 1990s, “sexual violence in war was largely invisible” or was considered a private matter justified as an inevitable byproduct of war - the necessary reward for the fighting men. Later, when rape became a war crime, the Fourth Geneva Convention called for “protect[ion] against [rape as an] ... attack on ... honour,” but rape was still not treated as violence, and was therefore not named in the list of “grave breaches,” subject to the universal obligation to prosecute. In 1977, the Protocols to the Geneva Convention mentioned “rape, forced prostitution, and any other form of inde-

History has shown that women must be afforded special protections under all of our international legal systems.

cent assault,” but referred to them only as “humiliating and degrading treatment.” Thus, Professor Copelon concludes that women were the objects of a shaming attack and viewed as the property of others, who needed protection but were not treated as subjects of rights.

Modern warfare has provided overwhelming evidence that, in addition to the widely reported instances of sexual violence and mass rape, women experience widespread violations of their non-derogable rights to life, through torture, summary or arbitrary executions, displacement, and gross violations of socio-economic rights during war. Sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation and domination are violations of both international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The integration of these two branches of law is necessary to fully recognize the gender dimensions of war, and to ensure that the rights of women and girls are upheld and protected at all times. CEDAW’s “General Recommendation on Women in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations,” recognizing the need for heightened protection of women’s human rights in armed conflict, could be a powerful first step towards the realization of women’s rights under all circumstances, including war and peace.

Tanya E. Henderson is WILPF U.S. National Director.

Beyond *The Whistleblower*: Further Perspectives on a Global Epidemic

By Kristin Knowles

Slavery. In the United States, we pride ourselves on the abolition of this unjust, inhumane practice after the Civil War. Our history books depict the *Emancipation Proclamation* as an exemplary victory for all that we stand for in a country founded on the principles of freedom, democracy, and equal rights for all. So, to proclaim that slavery is alive and well – in fact, thriving – both here and internationally, seems alarmist, a gross exaggeration from the fringe.

Yet, it is true. In the under ground networks of organized crime spanning the globe human beings are bought and sold every day in staggering numbers. According to Dave & Bill of *The Cyberhood Watch* on PRWeb, “There are more slaves today than in any other time in history ... In India children cost less than cattle. Over \$32 billion dollars per year is made, making this the single most lucrative commercial enterprise in the world. It’s the fastest growing crime on the planet.”

In Copenhagen, Denmark, for instance, there is a part of town known as “Meat City,” where men looking for sexual services can go and choose from several different nationalities, segregated into groupings by race for their shopping convenience.

Though some human traffickers service a clientele looking for live organs, laborers, and household servants, the vast majority of their “products” are women and children, mostly girls, bound for the sex industry. Women’s bodies and beauty are marketed to the highest bidder. Their lives and hopes for the future are destroyed as they become commodities for consumption, dehumanized and disposable.

The recently released film *The Whistleblower* sheds light on this subject, but because the subject matter is so disturbing, it remains to be seen whether mainstream cinemas will show it. There is no Hollywood prettification, no happy ending tied up with a bow. It is devastatingly real.

Although the film profiles one specific locale and inci-

dent, trafficked women come mainly from Asia, Eastern Europe, South America, and Africa (primarily Nigeria). Young women are targeted and then groomed by men who pretend to be their friends, sometimes even by family members. Many are lured with promises of a better life and the opportunity to travel and make good money as nannies, cooks, cleaners, or hotel employees. Some are drugged and abducted, and then transported across borders through invisible networks. Others are promised an education, nice clothes, or jewelry – anything that will sell them on the idea of leaving their families for the promise of a brighter future.

What they find upon arrival, however, is far from glamorous. Their captors take away their passports and visas and they are housed in overcrowded and filthy back rooms and basements, kept under lock and key, subjected to rapes and beatings, and fed and watered like domestic animals. Most of these victims are put to work within hours of their arrival; they must compete with one another for customers under the watchful eye of their captors, who force them to sexually service 10 to 40 men each day, every day, in order to pay off the “debt” they are told they have accumulated for their travel and living expenses.

The women who rebel are unimaginably punished to set an example. Those remaining have no choice but to paint on a smile and conduct business on the streets as if their life depended on it. It does. Even when picked up by the police, very few dare to reveal any information. They know what the punishment would be and are assured that it would be extended to their families back home as well. They are, in every sense, trapped and tortured.

Though one would have to dig deep to uncover the existence of slaves in the U.S., there are cities in Europe where their presence on the streets is commonplace. In Copenhagen, Denmark, for instance, there is a part of town known as “Meat City,” where men looking for sexual services can go and choose from several different nationalities, segregated into groupings by race for their shopping convenience.



Annelise and Annevig Ebbe, a mother and daughter team from Copenhagen, have been working for two decades to bring human trafficking to public attention.

Photo: The Author

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► EPIDEMIC *Continued from page 19*

Known as the “Brothel of Scandinavia,” Copenhagen is estimated to have 2,700 foreign prostitutes, as well as an estimated 500-700 brothels.

Annelise and Annevig Ebbe are a mother and daughter team from Copenhagen who have been working for the better part of two decades to bring human trafficking to the attention of local and international authorities, and to change both legislation and public opinion. Annelise, who recently stepped down from her position of Co-President of International WILPF, began her career as an activist in the 1980’s when she became a WILPF member. Annevig came on board in 1995, at age 13, after attending a “Women in Black” summer camp program with her mother.

1995 was the same year that Sweden passed a controversial law making it illegal to purchase sex in an effort to combat its trafficking problem. Swedish authorities were ridiculed at the time and public opinion was skeptical, especially because it was still legal to sell sex. Hypocritical? No, said the Swedes. It works because the women involved are most often prostituting themselves because of circumstance or coercion and should not be punished. However, anyone caught buying sex receives a hefty fine and an embarrassing public notice delivered to their home.

The law has proven to be very successful. Sweden has witnessed a diminished demand for prostitutes’ services, a shift in public opinion, and claims to have significantly reduced the number of human traffickers. The social stigma of buying sex is enough to deter most of the potential customers.

Annelise and Annevig have been advocating for Danish authorities to implement similar legislation. Denmark decriminalized prostitution for women who are legal residents in 1999, partly because the government hoped this would make it easier to police. But it is still legal for men to buy sex as long as the woman is over 18 and not being pimped or coerced. Infractions are rarely prosecuted. The women won’t talk and the men walk away with nothing but a warning.

They also work with the Women’s Council in Copenhagen, which runs a shelter and advocacy program for these women, called “The Nest.” In 2007, they collaborated

Sources and for further information:

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Call + Response, USA, 2008 (film)

PRWeb, “The Cyberhood Watch,” 9/23/10

on a prominent campaign to influence public opinion. The campaign involved a series of print ads and billboards with a graphic photo depicting a package of fresh meat, only under the cellophane were 10 nude women curled in the fetal position, bearing an unsettling likeness to chicken wings. Another version was of a sardine can rolled open to expose women’s bodies packed tightly together like fish. The message was unmistakable.

Annevig, who is an actress, also helped launch another high profile campaign. This one involved a series of television and Facebook ads composed of a string of video clips in which various well-known Danish actors state, “I say no to buying sex.” They further assert that sex which is purchased is not real: the women smile and pretend they are enjoying it, but only because they have to.

The Swedish law against purchasing sex has been very successful.

Despite activism on behalf of trafficked women in Denmark, the lack of social stigma or punitive measures has kept demand for services high. And public sentiment is decidedly mixed. At one anti-trafficking conference, Annelise and Annevig witnessed a backlash from activists who were themselves legal Danish prostitutes. Carrying signs which declared their job satisfaction, these women threateningly shouted obscenities and accused the group of human rights activists of being prudish and close-minded, and of attempting to obstruct their freedom. They also argued that criminalization of the clients will just drive traffickers to operate further underground. This may well be true.

Sometimes it is hard to feel hopeful, especially when the presence of trafficked women is so visible. Annevig makes an effort to discuss the subject with male friends and acquaintances, and sometimes even with strangers. She works to educate them and help them to see the human side of the situation, the pain of multiple sex acts, the humiliation, the enslavement. Sometimes they get it. Other times not. Regardless, she seizes every opportunity to continue to raise awareness. Real change does not happen overnight. But as she walks past Meat City on her way to meet friends, she can’t help but wish it would.

Kristin Knowles, a member of Cape Cod WILPF, lives in Orleans, MA. She is a visual artist, activist, teacher, ambitious thrift shopper, and award-winning performance poet.

Conversations in the Middle East: Of Lemon Trees and Family

By Dianne Woods Ashley

I was often asked before my first trip to the West Bank and Israel in March, 2010 if I was worried about my personal safety. I usually dismissed those fears. When I came home, I was also asked if I ever felt threatened or afraid. Only once was I afraid, when I went from Bethlehem to East Jerusalem to see Hannan Awaad, the coordinator of WILPF in Palestine. Hannan sent her favorite taxi driver to pick me up at a bed and breakfast in Bethlehem that was surrounded by the wall on three sides. Returning, we had to go through a checkpoint and the taxi driver seemed very nervous. I asked him if I should have my passport ready, and he said, “No. Don’t say anything. Don’t reach for anything. Be completely still and silent.” There was some talk in Hebrew and Arabic at the checkpoint, but we did get through. The first week of my trip I was with the Tree of Life Conference Journey and we went through many checkpoints, some of which took considerable time. However, I was with 36 other people in a big tourist bus and I felt very safe.

Hannan took me to Sheikh Jarah, a traditional Palestinian neighborhood where houses have been taken over by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF), Israeli families have moved in, and Palestinian families have been evicted. We drove up in her “good luck” rental car and were stopped by a refined, elderly gentleman. Like the ancient mariner in Coleridge’s poem, he needed to tell his story. Hannan said she knew him and she translated his Arabic into English for me. His name is Khmis Al-Ghawi.

Look at this lemon tree, he said. I planted this tree in front of my house. It has flourished and brought so many lemons. How can I be away from this lemon tree? I visit it every day and I visit my house. Two years ago my family of four generations was evicted from this house. For a year we lived in tents across the street. Finally, the other family members found other places to live. Now, only I come back every day to be here. I will never take compensation. No woman can know that the house that the man builds is a part of him. I built many rooms in this house. It is my life’s work.

While I was taking Mr. Al-Ghawi’s picture, an Israeli woman with a stroller and baby came out of the house and walked down the road. Then, Hannan took me to meet the WILPF women of the neighborhood: Suzanne Abdal-Latif, the coordinator, and Ilham Zallum and Maysoun Al-ghawi. They spoke of the houses that have been confiscated. One house had seven families. Most houses have four generations in them. These women spoke of what the house means to

women: it is like her womb, the place she keeps her children safe. Suzanne said that all her children were born in this house and now her grandchildren live here with their parents. As she spoke, children came in and sat with us and then ran outside. “This house contains my memories and my love,” Suzanne said. She started speaking in English, eloquently I thought, but then stopped, saying when she gets emotional

I was in awe of the courage and importance of Aliyah’s work.

she must speak in Arabic. “No man can understand what a house means to a woman,” she said, “It is safety; it is the family history; it is the family love.”

Suzanne and Ilham said that when the soldiers first came with their tanks, face masks, and guns, they used to take the children and everyone would hide in the basement. But now they are full of moral confidence and so are not afraid. They come out of their houses and surround the soldiers and tanks, challenging them. They ask them, “Why are you here? Why are you doing this?” They use their cell phones and call all their WILPF friends from all over the city to come and help them. And their campaign may be working. The house confiscations have slowed.

I left with great admiration for these women and their work. I met their daughters, who were all going to the universities. They are members of Young WILPF, which is flourishing in East Jerusalem.

A few days later, I went to Jaffa, near Tel Aviv, to meet with Aliyah Strauss, a member of Israeli WILPF. She told me about the work of WILPF Women in Black and Machsom (checkpoint) Watch. The work Aliyah does cannot be separated into different organizations. It is all for justice and peace. Just one week before I arrived, she and another checkpoint monitor, Ester, heard of a Palestinian village that had been inhabited by the army and closed for five days. They travelled with their driver deep into the West Bank, to the small village of Awarta. It was open, but like a dead place. There were almost no men. Aliyah came with her tags in Arabic and finally won the trust of the villagers. They shared their stories.

Unfortunately, theirs was the nearest Palestinian village to a much larger Israeli settlement. A Jewish family had been murdered in the settlement of Itamar. (I had heard of this the week before and Hannan said a disgruntled Thai worker was suspected). At first, however, the closest Palestinian village



Khmis Al-Ghawi dwarfed by his lemon tree. Photo: The Author

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Article 9: A Concrete Platform for the Peace Movement

By Molly Cyr

Participants at the WILPF National Congress at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in June voted to support a resolution proposed by two Boston branch members. Jiyoung Ahn and David Rothauser submitted the resolution based on Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. The accepted Resolution reads:

Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan forbids Japan to make war again. It was written 65 years ago, under the direction of U.S. occupation forces. Since that time, Japan has had no civilian or military losses in war, nor has Japan declared war. WILPF U.S. will work to add a similar amendment to the U.S. Constitution in hopes that, following such an adoption, the U.S. and Japan can form a coalition to work within the U.N. to abolish war-making as a political and economic tool.

The controversial Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, to which this resolution refers, reads: “Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”

At its core, Article 9 strives to prevent the militarization of Japan. The militarization of a nation leads to decreased public sensitivity to weapons, military forces, and war, and thus to a greater acceptance of armament, including nuclear armament. Therefore, this clause of the Japanese Constitution effectively prohibits Japan from becoming a heavily militarized, nuclear state.

The Japanese Constitution was established in Japan on May 3, 1947, during the post-WWII occupation of Japan by U.S. forces. General Douglas MacArthur, the acclaimed “Supreme Commander” of the U.S. occupation forces, assembled a mixed group of 24 people (16 of ficers and 8 civilians; 4 women, 20 men) to expand on three main ideas that he had proposed for the post-WWII Japanese Constitution.

This team, assigned the monumental task of composing a constitution for a nation they knew very little about, created the document within their one-week deadline. Although more than a dozen versions of the new constitution had been submitted by various Japanese political parties before the U.S. team began its work, MacArthur and his colleagues dismissed each version. As a result, the Japanese Constitution was formed and accepted without the consent of the Japanese people. The formation process of the new constitution was

contradictory to democratic values, as was the process by which the previous constitution, the Meiji Constitution, had been adopted 60 years earlier. Despite this disparity, the constitution has worked sufficiently for the Japanese since 1947. Additionally, it is one of the most progressive, equitable constitutions in the world. It includes an equal rights clause and a universal suffrage clause, in addition to the controversial Article 9.

Although the U.S. imposed the new constitution on Japan, the raw reality of the two nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki ushered in a period in which the Japanese people were accepting of a non-military state. However, around 1950, only a few years after the constitution was formed, the United States attempted to coerce Japan to desert Article 9, as it became involved in South Korea and sought military assistance. In spite of this pressure, Japan ardently refused the call to abandon Article 9 and maintained its status as a non-belligerent state. Japan’s 65-year span as a peaceful state is a powerful declaration in an increasingly militarized world.

Even with Article 9 in their constitution, the Japanese are not immune to militarization. The meaning of this clause clearly prohibits Japan from maintaining military forces, but that nation currently supports a large number of land, sea, and air forces — the Self-Defense Forces (SDF). Although Japan does not take part in of fensive military measures, it contributes to many peace-keeping operations around the world. The increasingly visible presence of the SDF also contributes to the militarization of the government, society, and daily life of Japan. With the expansion of the SDF, the potency of Article 9 is slowly being eroded by the Japanese government and the ruling elite.

At this critical time, in the aftermath of natural and nuclear disasters, when a reliance on security forces is necessary for clean-up and rebuilding purposes, and when fear, anger, and uncertainty are rampant, we must caution against the expansion of militarization for security purposes. Militarization desensitizes citizens to war and subtly leads to increased acceptance of military needs and values. The tenets of Article 9 must not be abandoned at this juncture; they must be fortified and preserved. In light of this, we need to use our voices to stand with our sisters and brothers in Japan. It is our duty to focus our attention on the fortification of Article 9. One way to accomplish this is to highlight the relevance of Article 9 in the United States.

The Resolution adopted at Congress called on WILPF members to work to amend the U.S. Constitution to include a clause similar to Article 9. This is a lofty goal with many

obstacles; foremost, the language of Article 9 as it stands in the Japanese Constitution clearly violates some of the content in the U.S. Constitution, such as the right of Congress to declare war. For proposing ideas like this, peace activists often garner criticism for being starry-eyed and unrealistic. However, by approaching matters of disarmament and the implementation of Article 9 realistically and with flexibility, activists have the opportunity to debunk that type of criticism. Article 9 is an important example for the peace movement, and it can be used as a concrete, viable example of workable peace.

We need to affirm that our goals are attainable. As we incorporate the tenets of Article 9 more thoroughly into the U.S. peace movement, we will need to evaluate the approaches to disarmament that the peace movement has used in the past. By doing this, we can determine what methods have been successful, and what components of Article 9 are reasonable for our use in the future. Do we use the ideas

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behind Article 9 in the U.S., while using the specific text as a working example? Because many in our militarized society often dismiss pacifism, we must carefully demonstrate how Japan's Article 9 might be tailored as a feasible and relevant option for the U.S.

We can begin this process by keeping the public abreast of the reality of the situation in Japan, truthfully illustrating the dangers of nuclear power and nuclear armament, and their connection with militarization. It is crucial that we work to keep stories about Japan at the forefront of the news, and in the public consciousness. It is within our power to continue to show the inherently destructive nature of nuclear power and nuclear armament through the evolving situation in Japan. We must do this by contacting and bonding with other organizations who share our similar goals and moving forward as a united front, even if we approach the issue from different angles.

We are at a crux in the peace movement and the anti-nuclear movement in the aftermath of the tsunami, earthquake, and subsequent nuclear disaster in Japan. The peace movement must use this as an opportunity to strengthen our calls for an end to nuclear power, nuclear armament, and militarization. We must think about the relevancy of Article 9 to our lives and to our nation, today. In light of our government's appetite for nuclear and non-nuclear weapons, we must continue our call to decrease our weapon's arsenal. In order to continue to push for this disarmament, we need to propose concrete methods to back up our calls; Article 9 is a platform from which we can confidently move forward.

Molly Cyr is a student at Wellesley College; she interned in the U.S. WILPF national office this past summer and travelled to Costa Rica for the 2011 International Congress.

WILPF/MTA Collaboration Promotes End to Corporate Rule

By Marybeth Gardam, Des Moines WILPF

As the nation waited in early January 2010 for the *Citizens United* decision, the Supreme Court's latest lock-step departure from representing the common good in favor of corporate greed, Move To Amend (MTA) rolled out its long-anticipated web site and petition to "Amend the Constitution and End Corporate Rule."

Anticipating the Court's decision, a small group of concerned organizations banded together as early as the summer of 2009 to found MTA and ready a web site to launch when the decision was announced. Those organizations, including Liberty Tree, POCLAD, Democracy Unlimited, The Center for Media and Democracy, and Ultimate Civics, began seeking endorsements and signers, and approached WILPF to join their Steering Committee, based on the 15+ years of ground-breaking work WILPF had accomplished on this issue through the *Corporations v. Democracy (CvD)*

Campaign and Issue Committee.

In the 1980s, some of WILPF's most brilliant members, including Mary Zepernick, Jan Edwards, Molly Morgan, and Virginia Rasmussen, created a powerful, multi-session study course that presented the facts from both an historical and political point of view. The still timely and easy-to-use download course on the WILPF website (www.wilpf.org/cvd), proves incontrovertibly that from our nation's founding, "democracy" was an elusive dream, and never a particular goal of our founding fathers (the white male property owners who comprised only 10 percent of the colonial population and whose true aim was to protect their own wealth and property rather than create a true democracy).

The course dramatically demonstrates the ways in which

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Rape as a Weapon of War in Libya: New Permutations on an Old Theme

By Lucinda Marshall

Earlier this year, when reports began to surface alleging the use of Viagra-like drugs to encourage Libyan troops to rape women as a tactic in their fight with Libyan rebels, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) called for a complete investigation into the charges, and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she was “deeply concerned.”

If indeed the allegations prove true, they would represent a new variation on an old tactic. Not only should those who committed these crimes be prosecuted, those who made the drugs available should be prosecuted as well. While pharmaceutical companies try to sell their little blue pills with advertisements showing couples exchanging knowing looks while they walk through fields of flowers, the potential abuse of these drugs as weapons of war is all too easy to believe.

Neither Amnesty International nor Human Rights Watch have been able to verify the reports, so there is also the disturbing question of whether false rape charges are, instead, the weapon in question. Regardless of whether impotency drugs have been used, whether women have been raped, or whether allegations of such rapes are trumped up to use as a political and military tactic, the truth remains that rape is a weapon of war. Women’s bodies continue to be used as the battleground in wars of male supremacy, wars that don’t take place on actual battlegrounds, but instead are fought in cities and towns and in refugee camps where women and children, the most vulnerable civilians, become the collateral damage of war.

In Iraq, the number of honor killings rose dramatically after the U.S. invasion and, more recently, in Tehran, women protesting the government have been attacked. In Congo, women in refugee camps are gang-raped with impunity. In Burma, the army uses rape as a weapon of terror in their fight with Shan forces. In Bosnia and Rwanda, there were mass rapes. In the U.S. military, female soldiers are more likely to be attacked by male soldiers than by any enemy.

These are the dots we need to connect. We are horrified every time we hear such reports. How could such a thing happen? And, more importantly, how can it keep happening time and time again? While each and every instance of these abuses is horrific in its own right, we need to understand that they are not one-time incidents, but rather the systemic and perpetual violation of women. We need to insist that we address the underlying problem and not just its manifestations. Where there is conflict and where there are military forces, there is rape and sexual abuse.

Reports of the use of Viagra (and similar drugs) in Libya are disturbing and the International Criminal Court’s quick investigation into the allegations is significant for several rea-

sons. A bit of history provides the context for more fully understanding the issues involved.

The ICC came into being in 2002 as an independent body to investigate and prosecute war crimes. Contrary to popular belief, it is not part of the United Nations. Of particular importance, the ICC recognizes rape and sexual assault as a war crime, allowing for the first time a global standard for the prosecution of one of the most heinous weapons of war and the one that impacts women and girls the most severely. Over time, as military forces come to understand that they will be held accountable for the use of rape as a tool of war, one would hope that understanding will act as a deterrent to such crimes.

One hundred forty-eight countries signed *The Rome Statute*, which established the Court. Seven nations voted against it, including the U.S. and Libya. It is therefore supremely ironic that the U.S. pushed for the ICC’s prosecution of Libyan war crimes. But make no mistake, the U.S. does not consider itself bound by the ICC’s jurisdiction, which would leave it quite obviously vulnerable to prosecution for such things as Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, and the rape of servicewomen within the ranks of its own military.

Regardless of whether rape itself has taken place or if false allegations of rape have been made, we must insist that what has occurred not be isolated and treated as a singular event, but rather as a part of the pandemic war against women that is a systemic part of the global wars for power and domination. We also must insist that the rules apply to all. The arrogant assumption of different standards of human rights based on might speaks directly to the root cause of why these crimes take place and until we are willing to confront that duplicity, they will continue to occur.

Lucinda Marshall founded and directs the Feminist Peace Network (www.feministpeacenet.org).

FURTHER READING:

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About the International Criminal Court
<http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC/About+the+Court/>

U.S. “Hypocrisy” on Libya and International Criminal Court
<http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2011/03/01-24>

Rape Reporting During War
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/print/67936>

► WILPF/MTA *Continued from page 23*

corporations gained power over “We The People” through ill-gotten Constitutional rights in a string of historical give-away decisions by the Supreme Court.

It was fitting, then, that WILPF took its place on the MTA Steering Committee. MTA was on the same page for targeting corporate personhood as a legal fiction that must be reversed. The CvD Leadership Team set about to engage WILPF branches in this timely and critical issue.

For the next year and a half, MTA grew, and so did its ability to reach out effectively. More than 121,000 signatures (and counting!) were collected in an online petition at an excellent web site (www.MoveToAmend.org). Independence Day 2010 saw the beginning of actions around the country, revealing widespread distrust of the *Citizens United* decision by both sides of the political spectrum and demanding an end to corporate rule.

Last summer, we followed the march of The Monahan Brothers (Laird and Robin) across America — from California to D.C. — which focused national attention on the issue of corporate personhood.

Last December, we urged folks to mark the First Anniversary of the fateful *Citizens United* decision. MTA speakers made tireless stops across the nation to plant seeds and nurture new affiliate MTA groups. WILPF’s CvD committee encouraged members and branches to further support the movement to end corporate rule, with actions to:

- Break with big banks in favor of local credit unions or community banks;
- Protest against predatory lending practices in local communities;
- Support local businesses and local sustainable food movements;
- Identify large corporations in your area that receive tax credits but pay no taxes;
- Form or nurture MTA affiliates;
- Use the Challenge Corporate Power Study Course in your communities even if you have run it before; and
- Collaborate with other strong area groups, including unions, environmentalists, peace groups, food security, predatory lending and foreclosure activists, and healthcare reformers to promote Move To Amend and pro-democracy actions.

Last year, WILPF members Jim and Tomi Allison of Bloomington, Indiana did superb research on the 1886 Supreme Court *Santa Clara County vs. Southern Pacific Railroad* case, which enshrined the illegitimate concept of corporate personhood as law. The Allisons’ 30-page scholarly research paper showed that Justice Morrison Remick Waite had never heard arguments about corporate personhood during the case. Only the disreputable header notes of the former railroad executive serving as Waite’s Court Clerk asserted the constitutional rights of personhood for corporations. They also demonstrated that Waite and the other justices who decided railroad cases during that era were guilty of corruption. In early 2011, this paper was turned into a highly entertaining play, titled *The Prosecution of Justice Waite*. Performances were staged in Iowa and at the WILPF National Congress in North Carolina. The play’s script and a PowerPoint version are available to WILPF branches that wish to produce the play in their region (contact mbgardam@gmail.com).

MTA has proven itself to be well ahead of the curve with journalists, bloggers, and other activists who took up the call for an end to corporate personhood rights. Even the Free Speech For People coalition of groups (including Common Cause, Public Citizen, and MoveOn) are now leaning closer to MTA’s position that ALL corporate constitutional rights must be rolled back, not just their First Amendment Free Speech rights (per *Citizens United*).

In recent months, MTA’s tech-savvy staff and volunteers have put in place a remarkable series of free webinars for those interested in learning more about MTA: tips for passing resolutions, holding effective actions, and recruiting for/organizing new MTA affiliate groups. These webinars are available on the MTA web site and have much to teach activists and organizers.

After more than 15 years of work on Corporate Personhood and Challenging Corporate Rights, WILPF is seeing its ground-breaking and far-reaching efforts catapulted forward through our collaboration with MTA. In 2012, MTA is asking us to foster ballot initiatives in local cities, counties, and communities to put the four points of their amendment language to a public vote. Abolishing corporate personhood won’t solve every problem in America, but it is an important starting point for creating peace and economic justice, stabilizing communities, and protecting our environment, labor rights, and human rights. ♦

► MIDDLE EAST *Continued from page 21*

(Awarta) was under suspicion. Awarta was blocked from the world for five days—no one could enter or leave. In a village of 300 people, 100 men were arrested and taken away. The IDF took over several houses and, using dogs, ransacked almost every house. The pharmacy was completely destroyed. The day Aliyah and Ester arrived was the first day the village was open. Some of the arrested men were freed and returned while Aliyah was there. Aliyah returned to her home in Jaffa and sent a report to *Haaretz*, the liberal Jewish newspaper. This was the first report the newspaper had heard. I was in awe of the courage and importance of Aliyah’s work.

The work of Palestinian and Israeli sections must be

some of the most difficult and dangerous work of any country. They are leaders in the fight for justice.

Dianne W. Ashley is a member of The Western Asia Study and Action Group of Cape Cod WILPF.



Left to right: Coordinator for Palestine WILPF Hannan Awwad, Ilham Zallum, the author, and Suzanne Abdal-Latif in Suzanne's house.

WILPF Treasurer's Report

By Eva Havlicsek, Treasurer

Two WILPF Congresses this summer – National in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and the International in San Jose, Costa Rica – have left me quite excited about the mission and work of WILPF. At both conferences, we were privileged to hear from our new International Secretary-General, Madeleine Rees. Her articulate and encouraging message reminded us of WILPF's importance as a long-standing participant in international efforts to pressure both individual governments and the United Nations to include the human security needs of women and children in policies and actions. Our role in advocating military disarmament, human rights, conflict-free environments, access to safe water, food, and healthcare, and education has made WILPF a valuable resource to other NGOs.

After hearing both Madeleine Rees and our new National Director, Tanya Henderson, I was struck by the essential need to continue funding both National and

International WILPF so that our offices in Boston and Geneva will continue to stay open with adequate staff for their needs. So, I have provided below a brief explanation of how we spend the money paid in dues and donations. Please note that the information in this report is from the finance reports of June 30, 2011.

Large donors are often willing to fund specific projects, but the day-to-day expenses of maintaining a well-functioning organization come from the whole membership, in whatever amounts we are able to contribute. Our dues include a mandatory \$15 fee, which is sent to the International WILPF as part of our Section's responsibility. An additional \$3 goes to the expenses of publishing and mailing *Peace & Freedom* twice a year. The remaining funds must be used for staff salaries, office maintenance, and national projects. In the coming weeks, all members will receive an appeal to give additional financial support to National WILPF, and we also hope to send additional funds to the International WILPF office in Geneva. As one of the wealthiest sections of WILPF, we have a moral obligation to give above and beyond our mandated support to the Geneva office.

A brief report of our profit and loss is included at

left. For those who would like to view more complete accounts, please let us know.

As you see, our expenses are exceeding our income. We have increased our staff in order to better serve and communicate with members. Tanya and Laurie both work hard to pursue additional sources of revenue, which are needed to cover the expense of two full-time staff members, several consultants, a bookkeeper, *Peace & Freedom* editor, and web-site developer.

In spite of our increased expenses, we are in better shape fiscally than the International office, hence my plea for contributions to aid both National and International WILPF. ❖

WILPF Profit & Loss Jan 1 - June 11, 2011				
	Jan - Jun 2011	Budget	Annual Budget	
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Total Income	170,264.48	263,620.94	418,356.00	
Total Expense	196,531.01	265,461.50	439,187.24	
Net Income	-26,266.53	-1,840.56	-20,841.24	
WILPF Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison				
(Accrual Basis)	June 30, 2011	June 30, 2010	\$ Change	% Change
TOTAL ASSETS	413,376.35	464,958.43	-51,582.08	-11.09%
Total Liabilities	39,729.49	32,973.74	6,755.75	20.49%
Total Equity	373,646.86	431,984.69	-58,337.83	-13.51%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	413,376.35	464,958.43	-51,582.08	-11.09%

WILPF U.S. ByLaws Committee

All members are invited to join in the discussion about our WILPF U.S. bylaws! Our new national Bylaws Committee sent an invitation by e-mail this past August. The Committee would like to encourage discussion at your branch meetings and we hope to hear your collective thoughts and new ideas. For inspiration, you might like to read our "International WILPF Constitution and By-Laws," which can be found at www.wilpfinternational.org/AboutUs/constitution.htm.

The International Constitution governs the U.S. Section, and our own U.S. Section Bylaws complement the International ones as necessary. The aims and principles of WILPF are the essence of our work together. These principles

are listed in our constitution and begin with our goal: "To bring together women of different political beliefs and philosophies who are united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and legitimization of war." We use our International and U.S. Bylaws to promote our principles through our programs, membership, activities, and publications. It makes sense to review our bylaws meaningfully each year to be sure they work for all of us.

To begin the conversation in WILPF U.S., the Bylaws Committee considered seven proposals to be discussed at the National Board meeting (October 14-16).

The Committee is also working on a proposal for the Spring Board meeting, which would allow the whole membership to vote on changes to our bylaws by ballots (these ballots would be included in one of our *Peace & Freedom*

Letter from the National Director, Tanya Henderson Sustaining WILPF!

In 2011, amidst an awakening of the “Arab Spring,” shadowed by drones hovering over Libya, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and the U.S. government’s utter disregard for any rule of law in its killing of Osama bin Laden, we’ve seen the continuation of extremely challenging economic times. Yet, WILPF members have continued to give their time, energy, and money to ensure that our foremothers’ passionate call for peace, nearly 100 years ago, continues to be loudly heard. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to WILPF.

The overwhelming majority of WILPF’s revenue comes from members’ direct contributions, all of which are used to support the dynamic and greatly needed peace work to which WILPF remains committed. WILPF is particularly unique in our work towards total disarmament and peace, human rights for all, and care for our earth. We embrace a global perspective and recognize the interconnectedness of all life. We do this through our local, community-based initiatives, as well as our national and international actions. To continue to advance the powerful work that WILPF women engage in every day to secure a sustainable peace, we must, however, ensure a sustainable WILPF organization. This requires outreach to new membership, increased youth participation and leadership, and financial contributions to support the day-to-day operations of running a national organization.

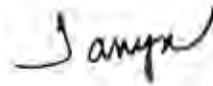
One way of making a huge difference for WILPF is to pledge a monthly contribution of \$5, \$10, or \$25. Monthly pledges to WILPF enable us to plan for the year, as well as the future, because we know how much money will be coming in. Additionally, members who pledge will no longer have to worry about their membership renewal, because their

monthly pledge is applied towards the yearly membership fee. (***Pledge now using the form on the back of this issue.***)

Life members are also choosing to pledge. Long-time WILPF member, and past Board President (1999-2001) Phyllis Yingling, shared, “Although I am a Life Member, I began pledging to WILPF because I know it is imperative in budget building to be assured of a regular income. For less than the cost of dinner and a movie, my monthly pledge to WILPF ensures that our vital work continues through the year.”

At this important juncture in WILPF’s history, as we close in our 100th Anniversary, I ask that all of our members reflect on what makes our organization so unique and so special, and re-commit to ensuring that our efforts to eradicate war and achieve a peace that is just and lasting can continue until we have achieved our noble goals. Please consider making a monthly pledge to WILPF to sustain our work for peace.

Most Sincerely,



Tanya E. Henderson
National Director, U.S. Section



Tanya speaking in Costa Rica.
Photo: Jane Doyle

Make a Monthly Pledge and Your Dues Will Always Be Up to Date!

PLEDGE ONLINE AT THE WILPF U.S. WEBSITE, www.wilpf.org. Click on “Donate Now!” at top right.
OR USE THE FORM ON BACK COVER. CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

► BYLAWS

Continued from page 26

issues). We are also considering various other ideas for future discussion, including writing meaningful qualifications for Board membership and providing specific assignments for the At-Large Board members.

We would like to publish some of your ideas and comments in the spring issue of *Peace and Freedom*. Let us know if you like the idea of virtual meetings by the Board, or if you are concerned about access to required technology, such as the Internet, for being an active and informed U.S. WILPF member. Would you welcome electronic recordings of Board meetings and/or voting for the Board President, as well as voting for bylaw changes? What qualifications do you think are important for Board membership?

We are looking forward to an engaging discussion! We will continue to be in touch, especially to inform you of the general nature of proposed amendments to the bylaws, so that you may discuss them and return your feedback to the Board members. We will also post on the U.S. WILPF web site the proposed wording of bylaws amendments under consideration at the next Board meeting.

You may contact the Bylaws Committee by emailing Committee and Board member Marie-Louise at bylawreview@wilpf.org.

National Bylaws Committee: Barbara Nielsen, Ellen Schwartz, Libby Frank, Darien De Lu, Randa Solick, Georgia Pinkel, Laurie R. Belton, Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller ❖



Peace Education

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards 2011

By Marianne Baker

Chair, Jane Addams Children's Book Award Committee

Since 1953, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award annually acknowledges books published in the U.S. during the previous year. In honoring the ideals of Jane Addams, books chosen for the award address themes or topics that engage children in thinking about justice, peace, world community, and/or equality of the sexes and all races. The books also must exemplify literary and artistic excellence.

Many, many titles meeting these criteria are considered by the national committee. Through the course of the year, the book list gets shorter and the discussion gets longer until each committee member submits her final vote.

Members of the 2010 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards Committee are Barbara Bair (Washington, D. C.), Ann Carpenter (Harwich, MA), Julie Olsen Edwards (Soquel, CA), Oralia Garza de Cortes (Austin, TX), Susan C. Griffith (Mt. Pleasant, MI), Lauren Mayer (Seattle, WA), Tessa Michaelson Schmidt (Pagosa Springs, CO), Sonja Cherry-Paul (Yonkers, NY), Tracy Randolph (Sewanee, TN), Susan Freiss (Madison, WI), Junko Yokota (Chicago, IL), and Marianne Baker (Chair, Charlottesville, VA). Committee members are thrilled to present these world-changing books for older and younger readers. Here are the 2011 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards, presented October 21, 2011, in New York City.

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story, by Linda Sue Park (Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company) is the winner in the "Books for Older Children" category. This Newbery award-winning author of many novels and picture books retells Salva's story, one of the Sudanese lost boys, who flees Sudan on foot and eventually makes his way to New York during his violently interrupted childhood. Also featured is young Nya, who lives in one of the Sudanese villages today. Nya must walk eight hours every day so her family has water. How does their future impact the future of war-torn Sudan? And how does it challenge us all as keepers of the water?

The Ninth Ward, by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Hachette Book Group) was named an "Honor Book for Older Children." Twelve-year-old Lanesha has only Mama Ya-Ya, and that's just fine by her. Mama Ya-Ya's visions of the arrival of hurricane Katrina, coupled with escalating news reports, busy the two in preparation. Lanesha begins to become aware of her own gifts, yet cannot fathom that for which she's being prepared.

Birmingham Sunday, by Larry Dane Brimmer (Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyd's Mills Press, Inc.), was also named an "Honor Book for Older Children." In Alabama in the 1960s, frequent racially-motivated bombings were terrifying, though not deadly until September 15, 1963, when six children lost their lives. Larry Dane Brimmer reveals FBI files, police records, and multiple additional primary sources to divulge the story of the church bombing on Birmingham Sunday, placing it in the historical context of the Civil Rights movement.

Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty, by Linda Glaser with paintings by Claire A. Nivola (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company), is the winner in the "Books for Younger Children" category. Emma Lazarus wrote *The New Colossus* in 1883, a sonnet that became one of the most familiar in the nation. Sung by children across the country, it adorns the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. Emma helped to shape the heart of the nation in her urgent message to declare the statue a welcome to all immigrants. "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp! cries she with silent lips. Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore."

Ruth and the Green Book, by Calvin Alexander Ramsey with Gwen Strauss and illustrated by Floyd Cooper (Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.) was named an "Honor Book for Younger Children." In the 1950s, young Ruth and her parents travel south in their new car, at which time she discovers that her African American family is not always welcome along the way. An Esso attendant shows the family a "Green Book" as a way to safety in the Jim Crow era, enabling Ruth to savor the kindness of strangers, and journey safely to visit family.

Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down, by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Hachette Book Group), was named an "Honor Book for Younger Children." Four young black men stood up for civil rights in 1960 by sitting down at a Woolworth lunch counter with the sign "WHITES ONLY" and came up with the perfect recipe for a peaceful protest.

To order the books, please contact JAPA Executive Director Linda B. Belle, 777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017-3521; by phone 212-682-8830; and by e-mail japa@jgc.org. Books will be available for ordering following the awards presentation. For additional information on these titles or about the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards and a complete list of books honored since 1953, see www.janeaddamspeace.org.



This Peace Education section is funded by the Jane Addams Peace Association.

Caroline Canafax

By Cindy Domingo

CAROLINE, former WILPF International Vice President and lifetime WILPF member from Seattle, Washington, passed away on April 23, 2011. A celebration of life event was held June 4 in Seattle, attended by family, friends, fellow Raging Grannies, and political co-conspirators. For the majority of her 90 years, Caroline Canafax dedicated her life toward the betterment of society as an educator, peace activist, singer, and mentor.

Caroline became a member of WILPF in 1975, when she decided to attend the WILPF Congress in Minnesota. She held various leadership positions in WILPF at the local, national, and international levels. In 1987, Caroline founded *Pacific Vision*, a newsletter that covered the issues and experiences of the peoples in the Asia Pacific region. Through the newsletter, Caroline wanted to “bring the reality” of those people, “who are for the most part people of color, to the mostly white women of the U.S. Pacific Region, who are members of WILPF.” She wanted to “promote disarmament and peace in this region which has suffered so many wars in the past century” (*From an interview conducted by Mariza Cabral in April, 2005*).

Caroline’s interest in the Pacific region emerged during her travels and studies at the University of Washington and Reed College in Oregon. Her profession as a teacher came later in her life. She worked as a boilermaker helper during WWII and raised a family. Eventually, Caroline earned her Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education. She became a grade school teacher, but her radical politics led to her termination when she was accused of being a communist during the McCarthy era. At the time, two Seattle Public School Board members belonged to the John Birch Society. Caroline remained in the education field by teaching in Headstart until Dorothy Hollingsworth, leader of Seattle’s Headstart program and well-known African American educator and civil rights activist, helped Caroline and others back into the Seattle School system where she taught until her retirement in 1981.

I first met Caroline in 1981 in the aftermath of my brother’s murder, a highly political assassination that was carried out by Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Caroline and other WILPF women became part of the organization we formed to get justice in my brother’s and his fellow union officer’s deaths. No matter how often the meetings were held or what work needed to be done, Caroline and her WILPF sisters were there to do logistics, hand out leaflets, lend political analysis and, of course, give political and personal support.

Caroline loved WILPF and she wanted younger women



Caroline on her 85th birthday in 2005.
Photo: Lynn Moen

to join WILPF and to carry on its legacy. That’s the reason I got involved. You just couldn’t say no to Caroline. She was unrelenting, persuasive, and politically on target! I could always depend on a call from Caroline to ask me for updates on the national board meetings and gatherings.

In 2008, Caroline said, “Be sad because you will miss me, not because I have died.” And to that I have to say I will miss her. I miss her because she reminded me constantly that we must never give up the struggle for peace, democracy, and equality – no matter how old we get or how difficult the struggle is!

Cindy Domingo worked with Caroline Canafax on Pacific Vision and is co-chair of the Women, Cuba and Bolivarian Alliance WILPF Issues Committee.

Alice Richards

ALICE M. RICHARDS, a long-time resident of the Menlo-Atherton area and a peace activist, died on June 20, 2011 at Sequoia Hospital after a short illness. She was 96. Born Alice Maxine Schott on January 2, 1915, in Denver, Colorado, she grew up in Santa Barbara and was a resident of the Menlo-Atherton area since 1951.

She received her BA from UC Berkeley in psychology in 1949 and an MA in anthropology from Stanford University in 1965. She taught cultural anthropology at the College of San Mateo from 1965 to 1971 and at Little House as an Emeritus Teacher from 1975 to 1978.

Throughout her life, Ms. Richards was a tireless peace activist. She supported efforts to promote peace and justice both nationally and globally. She participated in anti-war movements beginning in the early 1950s, first against the Korean War and later in the 1960s against the Vietnam War and continued to oppose the wars in Central America, and in Iraq and Afghanistan until her death. She was a lifelong member of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and was also a member of the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, Women for Peace, the ACLU, the Sierra Club, and several other organizations. She attended the first UN Conference on Women held in Mexico City as a delegate of an NGO in 1975.

Together with her husband, Harvey W. Richards, she traveled to the Soviet Union, central Asia, Mongolia, Cuba, and Africa. During the 1960s and 70s, she helped him produce documentary films about the peace movement, the civil rights movement, the environment, and conditions of women and children. Footage from these films continues to be used in feature films, documentaries, and television news programs in the U.S. and around the world through the Harvey Richards Media Archive (www.estuarypress.com). She is survived by her sons, Jonathan Meigs of San Mateo and David Meigs of Soquel, and by two stepsons, Stephen Richards of Berkeley, and Paul Richards of Oakland.

— Family of Alice Richards



BranchAction News

Edited by Georgia Pinkel

BRANCHES AND ISSUE COMMITTEES are thinking bigger – larger projects, greater scope, and longer term. **Advancing Human Rights** is engaging the State Department with its white paper on the U.S. Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan. **Corp vs. Democracy** represented WILPF in Madison, WI in August at the Democracy Convention. **The End Wars Committee** will observe the anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan by participating in the “Stop the Machine” events in Washington, D.C. beginning October 6. Check out **San Jose’s** website (www.wilpfsanjose.org). **Des Moines** has mastered the local E-Blast! Sign up or download these publications to spark your branch’s events and planning. Be sure I am on your mailing list for whatever publications you produce. If you have branch Facebook pages, let me know so I can check in with them.

BEST PRACTICES

I want to mention the fantastic and creative power WILPF women (and men) manage to bring to bear. **Cape Cod** always has newsletters filled with poetry, engaging front covers, events, and newsletter presentations. Send them a \$10’er to subscribe! They also have a 3-step process for planning – review the previous year, establish a vision, and then plan – all of which seem to involve over-nighting in fun environs. **St. Louis** engaged their congressional representatives by co-sponsoring breakfasts with Representative Clay and Senator Claire McCaskill, and have called to meet with their new senator, Roy Blunt; they presented a program on “bad bills” likely to be pushed by non-progressives in the state legislature; and they promoted Women’s Lobby Day. **Santa Cruz** created a great character to carry the message regarding Corp. v.

Democracy: her name is Miss Democracy and she periodically shows up for TV interviews to give the latest on the status of her “health.” **Des Moines** has her sisters participating in the “I Miss Democracy” Beauty pageant. **MN Metro** has a water bottle percussion concert band, “Stirring the Waters.” Fun events that prompt greater participation, higher profiles, and new members for local WILPFers: Helping women “find their tribe,” Strong Feisty Women Awards Banquets, DAWN (Dem. Activist Women’s Network), activism through the arts (The Art of Dissent, Women & Water, Chili Suppers, Pot



WILPF women Dori Loder and Marlena Santoyo participated in the Philadelphia Labor Day parade.

Photo: Stelle Sheller

Lucks, Coffee Hours, even “Group Therapy” to help the branch discern answers to questions). Cross-organizational memberships yield great dividends for both groups! Consider joining the NAACP, League of Women Voters, Soroptomists, and PFLAG. With what others do you network?

SPECIAL PEOPLE

You weren’t at Congress? We need to say a special thank you for all the work that went into creating the 31st Congress at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The local branch worked hard, and the Congress Committee made sure we had the best workshops, speakers and all-around support. If your branch doesn’t yet have a scholarship fund to let everyone have the opportunity to attend, you need to start one now. If you missed it, be sure to get a copy of DVD on **MN Metro’s** 2010 Women and Water Rights Art Exhibit. Contact Marilyn Cuneo (612-825-9419 or mcuneo77@aol.com). Liz Dodson is “traveling” with the exhibit. Check www.womenandwater.net for details. You only have until 2015 to have this great show in your town.

Peninsula remembered long time WILPFer, Alice Richards, who lived until 96 years old. The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability honored Carol Urner (shared between **Oregon** and **California**). Celeste Howard, of **Portland** is doing civil disobedience on the Pipeline and Tar Sands issue. I should remind her that **Portland** does have a bail fund! **LA** remembered long time WILPFer Vivien Myerson, who lived until 100 years old, while **Des Moines** remembered LaVon Cooper, WILPFer since the 1960’s. Joan Maiers, of **Portland**, hosted a poetry reading by local authors at Moonstruck Chocolate Café to support a girls’ orphanage in Haiti. Kathy Kelly, Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, spoke at the Congress, and recently in Portland on “The Costs of War, the Price of Peace,” with regard to Iraq and Afghanistan.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY AND OTHER EVENTS

Cape Cod “channeled” the voices from 1915 WILPFers on IWD, focused on “Honoring ALL the Dead: Heal the Wounded and End the Wars” for their Memorial Day vigil, and considered “a Nuclear-Free Future” for Labor Day; **Los Angeles** listened to Marcy Winograd, Progressive Democrats of LA. **MN Metro** marched on March 19, the National Day of Action to Stop the Wars. **Santa Barbara** participated in their local 4th of July parade with signs and banners on “Spirit of America: Liberty, Opportunity & Achievement.” **Catonsville** marked IWD’s 100th anniversary by combining education around JAPA books and learning about providing water wells in Ethiopia. **San Jose** celebrated IWD with Shirley Lin Kinoshita’s report about Local to Global discussion of CSW. **Cape Cod**: A new event opportunity: 3/30 = National Palestinian Land Day. **MN Metro** compiled a list of women in high leadership positions in recent years. **Santa Cruz** celebrated Mother’s Day by demonstrating in front of the Military Recruiting Center (reviving the original intent of the holiday!). **St. Louis, Fresno** and **Santa Barbara** held tax day actions. On May Day: **Portland** joined a parade sponsored locally by Jobs with Justice. How many celebrated Women’s Equality

Send your news for Branch Action to G. L. Pinkel, 2718 Falk Rd, Vancouver, WA 98661 or by email to glpinkel@gmail.com.

Day on August 26? **St. Louis** did, along with **Portland**. Over the next few years, the women of the western states will be celebrating their Centennials well before the rest of the nation. It seems like a great opportunity to bring all of the women's groups together to celebrate and network. Is Gay Pride on your branch's calendar? It varies by location, but is a great opportunity for us to show our "colors!"



Pittsburgh Raging Grannies (l to r: Marcy Luek, Scilla Wahrhaftig, Susan Smith, Eva Havlicsek, Carol Rosenberger, and Edith Bell) at an April 18 post office tax day rally.

LOCAL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

St. Louis, Cape Cod, MN Metro, Peninsula Branch, and LA all reprint our WILPF statements on the various topics as they arise – Fukushima disaster in Japan, bin Laden's death, international goals of IWD, international statement on Egypt and the role of women in the revolution. **LA** heard Malalai Joya on "Ending the Afghan War." and participated in the International Human Rights Treaty discussion. **Portland** circulated a great article on Iceland: "The Most Feminist Place in the World" (*The Nation*, 2/7/2011) which offers WILPF as an alternative perspective on issues.

LOCAL ISSUES/EDUCATION

St. Louis re-printed the "Second Bill of Rights," which was part of a filmed F.D.R. speech to Congress. **Santa Cruz** was brought up to date with information on the Nuclear Energy and Weapons Policy by Daniel O. Hirsch. **MN Metro's** Pat Darling organized a Women & Gender Studies Conference in March featuring a suffragist play by Polly Mann and a 30-year history of Women's Studies. **Santa Cruz** has created an opportunity for all of their WILPFers to learn more about the various aspects of social networking. They will have you "tweeting" and "liking" in no time flat. **Los Angeles** created an "End Corporate Rule, Legalize Democracy" group. **Des Moines** was involved in getting the Somalian cab company licensed so that their range is wider than the city limits. **Portland** members, including Carol Urner, testified at the USDOE's Nuclear Waste Disposal plans, which include Hanford. All testifying were opposed to the plan as presented.

PEACE ACTIONS

Women in Black vigils: **MN Metro, St. Louis, Portland and Fresno**. Anti-war vigils continue: Hiroshima remembrance, **Santa Cruz** peace tabling on Saturdays, **Fresno** at the peace corner First Fridays. **Santa Barbara** held a peace march. **Palo Alto** protested Hewlett-Packard's tax record and against Nuclear War at the Farmer's Market. Check out the **Des Moines** grannies video targeting Obama while channeling the Supremes: www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-g7zjIEES8. **Santa Barbara** and McGregor Eddy are still our contacts for Vandenburg, which is still testing ICBM Minuteman III missiles that are targeting Kwajalein. Time to re-assess U.S. foreign policy on many fronts! **Fresno** is sponsoring a new version of the Peace Train between Oakland and Santa Barbara.

WHAT WE'RE READING AND WATCHING:

Andrew J. Bachevich, *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*
Capitalism, A Love Story (video)
 Center for Defense Information, *The Pentagon Labyrinth: 10 Short Essays to Help You Through It*
 Paul Farmer, *The Uses of Haiti*
 Dr. James E. Hansen, *Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe*
 Malalai Joya, *A Woman Among Warlords: the Extraordinary Story of an Afghan Who Dared to Raise Her Voice*
 George Lakoff, *Don't Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate*
The Great Decisions Series
Peace Through Music (video)
Pray the Devil Back to Hell (video)
Seeing the World Through Women's Eyes (MN Metro's poetry book) .

Coming up in *Peace & Freedom: Eco-feminists*

Military pollution can increase global climate insecurity. Eco-feminism can shed light on moving away from the war economy and toward de-militarization, nuclear abolition, and total disarmament. Did it ever occur to you that policy and actions, based on eco-feminism could transform (and in some cases already is) the military-industrial complex and militarism itself into the just and peaceful society we seek?

In the next issue of *Peace and Freedom*, look for Beth Adams' article describing how modern day eco-feminists, such as Winona LaDuke, Vandana Shiva, Julia Butterly-Hill, and WILPF members around the world are helping to expose and override excessive petroleum consumption and pollution from the Pentagon and NATO's wars, preparation for wars and militarism itself through creative and non-violent actions.

► BARBER

Continued from page 15

participation in the WILPF Congress. With Tim Tyson, Michele Laws (minister, educator, social scientist, State NAACP Executive Board member, local NAACP Branch President, and WILPF member), and Al McSurely (Legal Redress Chair and Communications Director of NAACP and long time civil rights attorney and activist), Dr. Barber led a caravan of WILPF members to Raleigh for a candle-light vigil in front of the General Assembly. The group then gathered in the gallery to watch the passage of the State budget, which passed insurance for poor and working people — with enough votes to override the Governor's veto. Barber then insisted we all return to the vigil circle, committed as *we* to continue to loose the bonds of injustice.

Miriam Thompson is a member of the Steering Committee of Triangle WILPF, co-organizer for the 31st WILPF National Congress, and Labor Chair of the Chapel Hill Carrboro, NC Branch of the NAACP.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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Annie Matundu Mbamba and Molly
Cyr at International Congress in
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