

Peace & Freedom

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GENERATION ♀



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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.

National Program: WILPF envisions a world free of violence, poverty, pollution and domination - a genuine New World order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 1997-2000 program cycle has four key campaign areas: Disarmament; Ending U.S. Intervention; Racial Justice; and Women's Rights/Ending Violence. Each campaign area focuses on local and national effectiveness in creating lasting social change.

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, coordinated by a national office in Philadelphia, PA. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status. We invite all people who support our goals to join us.

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WILPF PAINTING THE FUTURE

The WILPF program for this triennium is unique among organizations. What other group has combined a major program on the roots of racism, another on the economic and military implications of the war on drugs both here and in our sister countries in Latin America, an international challenge to everything nuclear, including the nuclear-packed Cassini space probe and beyond into the frightening prospect of space-based war on the peoples of the earth, and the empowerment of women to create our own federal budget designed to challenge the greed and corruption that underlies them all?

To say that all these issues are connected and we can not work on one of them without considering the others is truth—a wilpfism—to coin a new word. Who else, but WILPF, puts them together in concrete pro-

gram? The words "domination" and "greed" are almost too weak and overused to describe what is happening in this post cold war world. But, as we all know, we live in a country determined to dominate the world, dominate the races, dominate women and use us all as pawns in conjunction with the corporate leaders who believe they have the world on a string.

resist the domination and greed that is part of the current definition of globalization.

We have lots of new members, probably 2500 before the end of this year. Hello to all of you who are reading Peace and Freedom for the first time. The new infusion of thousands of women of color, young women, and activists from new perspectives into WILPF will stretch our understandings, provide us with broader vision, and sometimes challenge the way we have always done things. The WILPF restructuring plan which is called Change Mavens: Building WILPF

The WILPF restructuring plan which is called Change Mavens: Building WILPF for the 21st Century

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You could call it utopian to think that we can transcend the horrors I have just described, but WILPF women are also a beloved community of people of all ages, colors, and persuasions working together in their communities on the most basic level. There is a strength in the modeling of leadership, coalition-building and yes, sometimes conflict-transformation that is happening in WILPF. In a culture desperate for community, WILPF offers something unique, a place to bond with other women in mutual support as we

Marilyn Clement
U.S. Section Executive Director

for the 21st Century is incorporating leadership development into every part of our organization, and this will provide us with a means of renewing and broadening ourselves. We will also be able to develop deliberately-invigorated leadership at every level, working in more collegial and loving ways. Our new Leadership/Outreach Coordinator, Chris Morin, is offering to help coordinate leadership development and outreach work to regions and branches as we grow in strength and numbers. Felicity Hill, our young sojourner, is carrying a message of renewal and love to every region of the U.S. as she speaks on 65 campuses and visits with branches.

So, although it may not be apparent at first glance, this is a love letter to all of you. It is filled with love for WILPF because of the women who embody its extraordinary herstory and also because of the future we are crafting, painting, organizing together. Hearts starve as well as bodies. Give us bread, and give us roses. ■



Reader's Forum

Dear WILPF Members,

We tell potential members and renewing members that WILPF serves as their collective voice, speaking out for them on issues and in places where they cannot themselves. We also seek to make our voices more effective by speaking together in chorus, creating a loud and moving rumble aimed to make change. In addition to working on our four program priority areas (racial justice, women's rights, disarmament and ending U.S. intervention), WILPF also addresses many other related issues of concern to our members. The Program and Action committee chairs and consultants help broaden the range of our political response and enable WILPF to stay up-to-date and active in areas beyond our chosen national program priorities.

Below is a list of WILPF Program and Action Committees. These are the committees to contact if you have a question or a concern about those areas. The door to the WILPF issue committee representative "chat-room" is wide open. Come on in!

The truth is that every issue is potentially a WILPF issue. The Program Staff (just two women!) can't know everything about every issue. We rely on the input of members to inform our actions. If you are well-informed about an issue and can provide WILPF with guidance through the waters of that particular rapid, speak up! Call, send a letter, fax or e-mail. We can mobilize with your information in

many ways; from the phone tree alert for THE most critical actions, a branch mailing to ask branches to take on an issue, a letter to concerned parties from the national organization, and e-mail post to our network, etc. You may be able to think of other ways WILPF can respond to alerts. So let us know if something crucial is coming up to which WILPF should issue a response. Write the response and send it to us, and we'll put the sound of your WILPF sisters' voice behind the call. Become a Program and Action Issue Representative!

WILPF Program and Issue Committees

- Aging
- Lesbian/Bi
- Cuba Action
- Religious Right
- Environment
- Women's Budget
- Latin America
- Civil Liberties
- Peace Education
- Disarmament
- Trade Issues
- Labor
- Asia/Pacific
- Middle East
- Death Penalty
- Southern Africa
- Former Yugoslavia

There are also other non-issue committees and caucuses that you can join!

• Peace and Freedom magazine Advisory Committee (editors, journalists, designers, & issue mavens welcome)

• Women of Color Caucus • Young Women's Caucus

Write the WILPF National Office at 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. We can put you in touch with the chairs of each committee. ■

Letters to the editor are welcome.
 Letters should be under 300 words.
 Peace and Freedom reserves the right
 to choose and edit letters.



Paula H. Tasso, United Nations Representative

About the Cassini Space Probe. . .

It is now a done deed. The Cassini with its 72 plus pounds of plutonium is in outer space. The lift-off was apparently problem-free, but now set your clocks for two years hence – that is when the space probe returns to circle the earth in order to build thrust for its sling-shot maneuver to Saturn. The Cassini will orbit the earth at an altitude of 500 miles and at a speed of 43,000 miles per hour – many times faster than a speeding bullet. And in the two years in space the plutonium batteries will have experienced what? How much heat? How much sub-zero cold? What other modifications could have affected the missile and the batteries? No space scientist really knows. Indeed, no one anywhere really knows. We are not free of our fears regarding Cassini for years to come, but the two-year mark is probably the next concern.

Alan Kohn, the retired emergency preparedness operations officer at the Kennedy Space Center, says that all sides of the Cassini issue are lost in fogs of scientific uncertainty. He said: "Who is right? That's not the relevant question. The point is that Cassini is part of a series. Eventually you're going to have an accident. We are trying to stop ... the whole-dog-goned plutonium idea. It's insane, criminally insane."

And looking at the outer space program in broader perspective, one can say that problems with the plutonium shoot will only affect human health and the environment. Although whatever could be ONLY about that!! But the planned laser shoot of a satellite already in orbit in space is a certain military move. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 does say that space must not be militarized or nuclearized. This is an issue we must keep before us. The NGO Disarmament Committee is planning a program on these prescribed uses, but that has limited exposure and is only the very beginning of the beginning.

About Iraq ...

It is difficult to write about ongoing news for a periodical, so there will be no predictions of whether it is negotiation or confrontation on which the United States goes forward with Iraq. Thus far it negotiation looks like it might have a chance. Now Saddam Hussein is nobody's Prince Charming. He is a dictator, he is a liar to his own people, to the UN Special Commission investigating weapons of mass destruction, to the United States, to his allies. Saddam Hussein has been uncaring

about both bloody civilian and military casualties, and he probably has vats of botulin, anthrax, and nerve gas cooking all over Baghdad. However, and this is very important, this is the very same man who was behaving in the very same way and both the United States and Britain armed him and supported him for almost ten years while he fought a terrible war against Iran. Sometimes we reap the wind.

And why, this time around are so many of our allies reluctant to join us in military action against Iraq? A number of contradictory U.S. practices cause allies to wonder about our high morale stance, insisting that Iraq must meet UN conditions, while we thumb our noses for years at our delinquency in paying our share of monies for UN work. There might be concern about our unilateral sanctions on companies dealing with Cuba or Iran, or our lack of interest in any sanctions on other nation-states (China, Israel). Or the U.S. agenda might be considered not entirely benevolent.

It is known that both the Bush and Clinton administrations would have vetoed the lifting of sanctions until Saddam Hussein is overthrown. This is something that is entirely beyond the parameters of the international community.

The Australian diplomat, Richard Butler is heading the negotiation attempts. He has considerable negotiating ability and smarts, as he showed when he was one of the important policy makers that forced the CTBT to the table and to its acceptance. We give him our support and wish him much good fortune.

About Disarmament Week at the UN ...

The NGO Committee on Disarmament, representing WILPF and other organizations who oppose the buildup of both conventional and nuclear arms presented a four-day program at the United Nations called "The Future of Disarmament." There were participants from many parts of the world discussing subjects such as human development and disarmament, banning anti-personnel land mine., conventional weapons. There were two Nobel Laureates with us: Jody Williams, 1997, Joseph Rotblat, 1995. Richard Butler was awarded the Josephine Pomerance Award for outstanding effort in disarmament affairs. Both Mr. Butler and Randall Forsberg of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies discussed the evolving role of the UN and disarmament.

The International Youth Movement Is Alive and Well

by Michelle Rief

How often are we told by the popular press that youth today are shiftless and indifferent to the social and political issues so critical to their future? The 14th World Festival of Youth and Students - held last summer in Havana, Cuba - proved to the world that the international youth movement is alive and active!

An astonishing 12,000 young people from over 130 nations gathered in Havana from July 28th to August 6th to celebrate "anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship." The World Youth Festival first took place in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1948 when young people from around the globe gathered and vowed never again to allow the horrors of fascism to terrorize the world. Like the first Festival held in Prague, youth at this year's event came together to confront the pressing issues of their time.

Each day delegates at the Festival had the option to either tour sites of socioeconomic interest - such as factories, hospitals and schools, to visit one of the seven regional clubhouses and meet with youth from various continents of the world, or to attend one of the impressive international political discussions. Additionally, some delegates were given the opportunity to spend a portion of the week visiting one of Cuba's various provinces.

On the site tours, Cuban employees welcomed young

visitors to their workplaces to share with them their trade and to expose them to working conditions in Havana. For example, delegates that visited ETECSA, Cuba's telephone company, learned that pregnant women workers in Cuba are entitled to six months of paid maternity leave.

Delegates also discovered that in most companies women, as well as young workers, are provided with a forum through which they can discuss issues of particular relevance to them and voice their unique concerns to their employers. Other festival delegates visited medical clinics in Havana and became acquainted with Cuba's renowned free system of health care.

In the regional clubhouses delegates took part in bilateral and trilateral discussions. For instance, young people from the U.S. met with representatives of South Africa's ANC Youth League to discuss the overwhelming role that race continues to play in these two nations. Delegates from the U.S. also met with youth from Canada and Mexico to discuss such issues as immigration and NAFTA.

The thirteen topics for political discussion included: democracy and participation, culture and social communi-

Parade of delegates at the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students. Photo courtesy of Lyn-Li Pugh



education, peace and international cooperation, employment, education and technology, the environment and sustainable development, childhood, human rights, young women, discrimination and racism, anti-imperialist solidarity and sovereignty, health, and finally, the student movement. Approximately 1,000 young people attended the discussion on participation and democracy, which lasted for two days and was instantly translated into three languages on a communications system as complex as that at the United Nations. Not only were young people able to discuss issues with other youth from around the world, but the level of technology they were exposed to



Michelle Rief (at right) and fellow delegate Jennifer Perna (on left) with two members of their host family, Rayner and Ingrid while in Cuba.

was unlike any they would otherwise experience.

One of the issues addressed in the discussion on participation and democracy was the violation of the democratic rights of American youth by the U.S. government. Despite endorsement of the Festival by several Congressional Representatives - Ronald Dellums, Jesse Jackson, Jr., Major Owens, Charles Rangel, Bobby Rush, and Nydia Valazquez - the U.S. Treasury Department failed to grant travel licenses to U.S. youth on the grounds that the Festival was not clearly-defined educational activity. Nevertheless, facing the possibility of a maximum penalty of ten years in federal prison, over 900 U.S. youth traveled to Cuba to attend the World Youth Festival. According to the Cuban press this was the "most representative of any group from [the U.S.] that has visited

Cuba from 1959 to the present." Though this historic event was virtually ignored by mainstream America, young people from the U.S. courageously demonstrated their solidarity with the Cuban people in their struggle against the unjust economic blockade currently being waged by the U.S. government.

The hospitality of the Cuban people throughout the Festival was astonishing. Each delegate was hosted by his or her very own Cuban family. Each day these families provided breakfast and dinner for their guests and introduced them to everyday Cuban life. Some families took their young visitor on a tour of the city, showed them their place of employment or invited them to participate in a traditional neighborhood clean up. Not only did these adopted families share with Festival delegates their honest feelings about Cuban life, but they enabled the youth of the world to establish bonds with the Cuban people which stretch beyond national boundaries and will never be broken.

The most touching moment of the Festival came during the closing ceremony held in Havana's Pan-American Stadium. Anyone who doubts the power of the international youth movement would have never been able to walk away from this ceremony with such a pessimistic view of the world's youth. Imagine 12,000 young people from various countries in one small stadium...waving their nations' flags, displaying banners proclaiming their visions and chanting words which speak of their struggles. It was powerful. A momentum was born which continues to increase as young people, back in their nations of origin, are telling anyone and everyone that will listen about their experience in Cuba last summer. Any delegate to the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students would agree with the following words which form the chorus of the Festival's theme song written by Carlos Manuel Garringa Martinez and Frank Fernandez:

"For a festival I have a thousand reasons
to show the world dreams and truth,
and proclaim love..."

Oh yes, the international youth movement is
alive...alive and well! ■

Michelle Rief was a delegate to the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students. She is a graduate student in the department of African-American Studies at Temple University. She currently works part-time in WILPF's Resources dept.

Generation X?

by Felicity Hill

Marilyn Clement and I were conspiring about the future of WILPF when the subject of outreach to "youth" came up in the conversation.

"I don't think it's fair to say that young people are apathetic and apolitical; this Generation X stuff is propaganda," I said. "I hear this from WILPF members far too often. We can't expect young people to come to us when they don't know we exist!"

Next thing I knew, I was on the road with an itinerary featuring 65 colleges, high schools and juvenile incarceration units to test my little hypothesis. (Be careful when you throw your opinion around Marilyn, you might find yourself having the adventure of a lifetime!)

I'm from Australia, a place we activists call the 52nd state of the USA due to the 26 U.S. bases on our soil. From the outside, many of us see the U.S. as a very, very ugly place. I knew that when I came here I would find the best and worst - the best in terms of movement people and the worst in terms of many good people doing evil through their culpable, inexcusable ignorance and collaboration with what can only be described as a political and corporate cannibal. I have been saddened at times, but mostly uplifted by the hopeful signs I have seen on this tour, that an inherent sanity and strong desire for change exists, even in the most distracted and sedated population on earth.

Starting in South Carolina and ending in Seattle four months later, the tour is taking me into the classrooms and lives of the student youth of the USA. What I am finding is large-scale ignorance brought about by the media, but also an intense and sometimes urgent sense of searching for the kind of political information I'm providing. Remember, next year's first year students were born in 1980 - imagine their political memories - eekkk! They need to feel some hope and to be provided with some images and ideas of resistance to white supremacist, capitalist patriarchy. They know something is wrong but they are either too pacified, too poor or

too alone to do anything about it. Making it easier to become active, providing a connection to the network and promising them they don't have to wear tie-dye have been important messages! I have been overwhelmed by the positive response in terms of questions and discussion as well as the eagerness to become members and to set up campus branches of WILPF.

The main focus of my talks has been violence, but many classes have asked for a different focus on racism, feminism, economics, Cassini and how to be an activist. I am stretching notions of violence to include violence against the environment, economic violence, racist violence, the epidemic of violence against women and the violence of preparation for war and war itself. I have been touched by some of the stories I have heard straight from the lives of young people who don't want their lives to be tied to materialism like their parents' lives were.

They realize the environment will not tolerate much more abuse and they, like me, feel robbed of a carefree youth. Trying to remain numb or facing the future honestly are the choices they have to make and some are going to choose the latter. Lets welcome them!

The military is in the colleges, WILPF should be there too!

The response to the advertising about the tour has been surprisingly large - more than one speaker could possibly cover. Most women's studies and peace studies courses would love to have a speaker from a WILPF perspective. It has been so easy to arouse interest about WILPF by going to where young people are and talking about our wonderful organization. I recommend every WILPF branch make themselves a part of their local college or high school institutions, even if it's just one speech per year it will make a difference. ■





International Peace Update

The latest update on peace?
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Nuclear and conventional disarmament...
Views on global economic structures...
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Breaking Down Barriers

I am a senior communications major at Liberty University and the editorial intern here at the U.S. section office at WILPF. As an intern in the Jane Addams internship program I have had the opportunity to learn a lot about important issues that affect the world around me, while gaining a lot of experience that will benefit me in the working world. Interning at WILPF has helped me to see the world in a different perspective, to rethink my actions and my place in society.

Although all of the issues that are supported by WILPF are of equal importance, one that has seemed to migrate to the top of my personal list of priorities is that of discrimination and racism in America. Working at WILPF has shown me that racism is not always as black and white as it seems. I have seen that racism comes in all different forms and fashions. From the exploitation of sacred Native American customs and rituals to institutionalized racism in the work place and schools. One of the most prevalent forms of racism that I have encountered in my personal experience is that of stereotyping. Being a student at a predominantly white Southern Baptist university I have been forced to deal with more stereotyping in my three years as a student there than I have in my whole entire life. To my surprise I have experienced stereotyping from both the white and the black end of the spectrum. Because of the reactions I get about different aspects in my life I find it really hard to disclose a lot of information

about myself that has shaped me into the person that I have become today.

When I first decided to accept a scholarship to attend Liberty University I was hesitant to tell a lot of people because of the reactions that I was afraid of getting. Liberty is in Lynchburg Virginia, it's founder and chancellor is Dr. Jerry Falwell (also founder of the Moral Majority of the late 70's early 80's), Southern Baptists have been rumored to be racist in the past and blacks represent only about 15% of the population at Liberty. Unfortunately, I received more negative feedback than I anticipated. Most people figured because I chose to go to "Jerry Falwell's School," I must be supportive of every decision that the man has ever made in his entire life. They assumed because I was a Christian attending a Christian school I hated homosexuals and I could not possibly take on a feminist point of view. When other people at Liberty, both black and white found out that I was from the inner city they expected me to have an attitude, have a whole list of wild experiences to tell and to end up either transferring or dropping out after one semester. I experience the same type of scrutiny when I tell people that I am an intern at WILPF. As soon as people hear of women gathered together to support important causes like justice, equality, and women's rights they automatically assume that the women involved are gay, and if a straight woman gets involved with such a group it will be only a matter of time before she decides to become a homosexual and hate men.

So many people are trained to draw conclusions about a person once they get a few small pieces of information. But if we continue to do this type of thing, how can we ever get

U.S. WILPF Interns (l-r)
Michelle Rohner,
Development Intern, Hilary
Leland, Administrative Intern,
Sylvia Glover, Publications
Intern and Rosie Zaklad,
Program Intern.



to know each other? If you decide to take only small bits of information about me and place me into a stereotypical group how can you ever really know who I really am?

Yes, I am a young black woman who has lived all of her 22 years in the urban area. But no, I don't have any children, I've never been on public assistance, and I don't have an attitude. I am in my senior year at Liberty University, I am not white, and no I don't think I am better than my black sisters (or white sisters) who have children and are on public assistance, I don't hate homosexuals and I am not going to make you become a Christian. Yes, I am an intern at The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. No, I am not gay and I do not hate men. I am Sylvia Glover, a 22 year-old black woman from North Philadelphia. I am a Christian who happens to believe in equality and justice. But you already knew that. ■

Sylvia T. Glover - U.S. WILPF Publications Intern

WILPF: Learning, Growing and Activism

A friend once told me I had a lot of anger in me. He said I should become an activist so I could put my anger to use. "I am an activist", I said. He just laughed. Well, after spending the summer at WILPF, the concept of my being an activist is nothing to laugh at.

My sophomore year in college was a real turning point for me. I was the kind of student who sat in the back of class and never spoke out. Then I took this wonderful class with only eight people in it, all were women, including the professor. Because of the small class size, we were forced to voice our opinions. Once I got started talking, I found it was not all that hard. The all-women setting was a very safe space for me. That is why I was so excited to work at WILPF. For me, in all situations, work and school, women have always been the minority. But at WILPF, I always felt as if my opinion was important. I also knew I had a lot to learn about things going on in the world and could benefit from what others had to say. One of the best parts about my experience was the lunchtime talks. Once or twice a week women would speak to us about a subject that was special to them. Some of the topics were repressive legislation, disarmament, and violence against women, racism and many others. After these talks, we could ask questions of the experts, and usually a very interesting discussion would follow. This was a great way to learn about important issues from people who are experts in their field. Some of these women had actually lived through events that I have only read about in books.

Being the Program intern, I learned a lot about the issues that WILPF focuses on and got some hands-on experience too. One day I had so much fun handing out Cassini leaflets to an Episcopalian Convention at the nearby Philadelphia Convention Center. This summer, I wanted to get experience and knowledge about an organization committed to social justice and I did, but I also had a lot of fun doing it. It was great to work on issues that mattered to me. The internship program included a potluck at Marilyn Clement's house and a dinner with Felicity Hill. Besides fun stuff, I also had a lot of responsibility. I got a chance to work with Jane Midgley on the Women's Budget Project and with Z, WILPF's Program Director on The Truth and Reconciliation Symposium. I was also in charge of all the e-mail that WILPF sent and received. WILPF gave a lot of responsibilities to the interns, and with great results. I think it is really important to have people my age getting involved with WILPF. I would like to see WILPF more active on college and high school campuses and involved with the many issues that affect young women of all backgrounds. This involvement would give women my age the opportunity to become active members, and to make a difference in their communities. ■

Rosie Zaklad - U.S. WILPF Program Intern





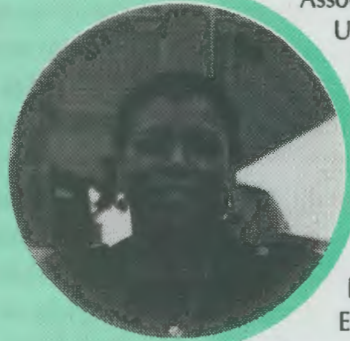
Biographies

Andrea Sáenz - Women's Peace and Justice Treaty Coordinator

Andrea Sáenz was born in Quito, Ecuador and grew up in Los Angeles, California where her family moved when she was four years old. She has worked on issues of social justice for several years, entering the world of activism with an action at the Nevada Test Site and involvement with the anti-Persian Gulf War effort during high school.

After spending two years at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, Andrea moved back to southern California to study Latin American history and literature at Scripps College. There, she became acquainted with the Cuba solidarity movement through her involvement in a student organizing effort that resulted in her participation in the third Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan to Cuba. Andrea's political involvement while in college centered on immigrants' rights. She spent a summer interning with a San Francisco organization working to defeat Proposition 187 and completed her degree with a thesis based on oral histories of Latin American immigrants.

Since graduating with a degree in Latin American Studies in 1995, Andrea has lived in San Diego, working with the Support Committee for Maquiladora Workers, the San Diego Friends of Cuba and continuing to work with Pastors for Peace to end the blockade of Cuba. She recently moved to Philadelphia and is adjusting to the change in climate as well as can be expected. ■



Elaine Jones - Data Assistant

Elaine was born and raised in Philadelphia. After receiving her Associate Degree in early childhood education from Temple University, she became Lead Teacher at Children's Village, a position she held for seven years. Elaine is also an organizer in her own community, doing work for People Taking Action, an organization founded to help beautify and maintain safety in the neighborhoods in her area.

She has known about WILPF for many years and has learned of the work that WILPFers do from her daughter Pamela Jones-Burnley, a long-time WILPF staff member who is currently the Administrative Director.

Elaine says, "It is good experience to learn first hand about the work at WILPF." ■



Chris Morin - Leadership/Outreach Coordinator

Chris Morin has been a member of WILPF since 1990 when her mother, Elizabeth Morin, also a WILPF member, gave her a membership for her 40th birthday, a fact that she is proud about. Chris has been active with her local branch in Hartford, CT and has served on the Region 4 Steering Committee and WILPF's National Board. She misses working with the Hartford WILPFers, but she loves her new job as Leadership/Outreach Coordinator, which was formerly the Membership Coordinator position. She envisions tripling WILPF's membership by the year 2000, because she has sensed the energy and enthusiasm of our membership. ■

Editor's Note: All of these positions are new or have been significantly changed, so please show your support to these women. They are here to further WILPF's work and message of peace and justice and will need you, our membership, to help see this work through.

Media & Democracy

by Tobi White

Media and Democracy. Do these two words go together? No, not usually. Should they? Yes. Can we really expect the corporate-run bullies of the mainstream media to really provide socially responsible reporting and analysis? Probably not, at least not without a fight. Should they? Yes. Do we have alternative sources of media? The answer is a resounding - Yes! That is why activists and journalists (primarily from alternative or independent media sources) came together for the Media & Democracy Congress II last October in New York.

The Congress provided a forum for activists and journalists to discuss how we can best use the media not only to inform and hold the media accountable, but also to motivate the public into action against injustices. Now, of course this is a grand statement as compared to reality, but it is a great goal!

The Congress, co-sponsored by the Institute for Alternative Journalism and many other supporters, consisted of workshops and panel discussions. The pre-Congress agenda featured workshops. There was a media training workshop designed to help sharpen the media relations skills of people working for non-profit social change groups. Other workshops included: *Fundraising Training for Media Makers and Activists*, *Building Connections Between Labor and Independent Media*, *Computer-assisted Reporting*, *Young Media Makers Exchange*, *Media Activism*, and *Investigative Reporting: Roundtable Discussions*.

The Congress kicked-off with a panel discussion, *Communicating Our Vision of Democracy in the Information Age*, led by Barbara Ehrenreich (author/activist), Jeff Cohen (FAIR), Jim Hightower (radio host), Herb Chao Gunther (Public Media Center), Makani Themba (Praxis Project; Congress organizer), Robert Bray (Strategic Progressive Information Network, TAJ, and Congress organizer), and Anita Roddick (The Body Shop, a Congress co-sponsor). They shared their visions and strategies on effective media relations, followed by questions from the audience.

The panel discussions, the following day, led by leading communicators of the alternative press and activists, covered a broad spectrum of topics as it relates to responsible media functions. The panels included: discussions on the roles and uses of videos and films, the use of the Internet in reporting, media literacy, investigative reporting, and how to make news with social change. There were discussion panels that focused on fundraising and strengthening relationships between funders and media activists; how print journalists can effectively pitch stories; pinpointing effective tools in holding the media system accountable to our communities; and other panels focusing on



Tobi White
Editor

youth scapegoating in the media, and "Girl Power" in the media which highlighted how independent media can reclaim *girl power*.

There was some heated discussions during the panel: *Beyond Us and Them: Sex, race and the narrow mind of the media*. This discussion focused on how many issues, such as welfare, affirmative action, crime, and immigration are treated in the mainstream media. Panelists and listeners also challenged the concept that alternative media effectively addresses race, sex, homophobia and class.

In side conversations and even on some of the panels, there was a lot of complacency and self-gratuitous acknowledgment of being 'progressive'. However, many of us know well that much of the information disseminated by the independent press can and has been the some of the same rhetoric of the mainstream, but to a different tune. However, some of it is honest and accurate and worth fighting for. The Media & Democracy Congress gives us hope that one day the media makers of the alternative/independent press and perhaps some mainstream will serve our communities justice and continue to be an avenue of creative expression. ■

Working Women Working Together

by Kathleen Kelley

If you received the ASK A WORKING WOMAN SURVEY, filled it out and returned it to the AFL-CIO Women's Department, you were one of 50,000 women who did the same.

The results from the survey indicate that working women want change! They want equal and fair pay! The 50,000 women answered questions on raising pay; improving opportunities for advancement; defending economic security; extending health insurance, child care, elder care, pensions and other benefits; and helping working women and men organize for a stronger voice and a better deal.

The survey was the prelude to the AFL-CIO Working Women's Department WORKING WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER Conference held in September in Washington, D.C. It was an explosion of 1700 delegates from all parts of the U.S., dedicated working women of all colors and ages, and from support organizations. While "checking in" during workshops, I mentioned that I was representing Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, there was applause and recognition.

Karen Nussbaum, Director of AFL-CIO Working Women's Department, and a large number of assistants, had planned things well. There were five plenary sessions with speakers and entertainers and time slots for three kinds of workshops: 1) 21 Issue workshops; 2) 17 Organizing workshops; 3) 7 Political workshops.

Speakers were forceful in supporting union organizing and dealt with the various issues women had selected as most important on the surveys. Some of the speakers were Linda Chavez-Thompson - Exec. VP AFL-CIO, Gloria Johnson - VP of AFL-CIO and national President of Coalition of Labor Union Women, Ann Richards - former Gov. of Texas, Dorothy Height - National Council of Negro Women, Maxine Waters - U.S. House of Reps., Eleanor Holmes Norton - U.S. House of Reps., and more.

A few speakers emphasized the importance of working internationally. Charles Kernaghan of the National Labor Committee reminded us of the direct link between sweat-



"We will step up our efforts to help un-represented workers find their voice and organize unions..."

shop abuses in other countries and the growth of sweatshops in the U.S., the result of which could be that race to the bottom for all of us, where we compete for the lowest wages and benefits and the most miserable working conditions.

Ann Richards said, "Seventy-six percent of women with school-age children are in the labor force. More than 60 million are working. We are almost half of the work force... And you know we are not in it for our health. We are not working as part of some search for self-fulfillment... or a little extra pin money for the luxuries. We are supporting our families and ourselves. And most of us are working like dogs."

John Sweeney, President of AFL-CIO, promised, "We will step up our efforts to help un-represented workers find their voice and organize unions - and we will emphasize industries where women work, from information management to education, from communications to clothing and textiles, and from health care to hotels and restaurants."

Linda Chavez-Thompson, Gloria Johnson, Karen Nussbaum and others went on a 20-city tour, meeting with working women from a construction site to a school library. Gloria Johnson said they "met with working women: single mothers who work the night shift at factories, hotel workers, flight attendants, health care providers, clerical workers, union and non-union women in every part of the country."

"We will launch a grassroots campaign that makes women's wages that public issue it deserves to be. We are going to fight for equal, fair, and just pay for women. ...And we will fight in the halls of congress for legislation that gives working women fair and equal pay."

Some Highlights

Five-hundred of the Working Women Conference delegates rallied in support of the workers at ARK Restaurant located at the Union Station which has no union contract with the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union Local 27.

In the midst of Vice President Al Gore's speech, a



voice in the back of the auditorium called out "No Fast Track." The chant was picked up gradually, and soon the entire 1700 delegates were shouting "NO FAST TRACK, NO FAST TRACK, NO FAST TRACK." Indicating the opposition of the working women to NAFTA, GATT-WTO, APEC, and any other deals cooked up by the transnational corporations to rob working people around the world of jobs and to take away any sovereignty we all may have. Gore stopped talking and after listening briefly he began again as the chant subsided and said, "I don't think it will do any good, but I'll take it back," (to the President).

The oh sooo Politically Correct Players were oh sooo good, as they preformed political and educational plays that they had written. Rebel Voices sang their exquisite vocal harmonies with inspiring social commentary. And Elise Bryant who brilliantly sings labor words to Gospel tunes, led us many times in labor union and workers' songs, including ending the conference with Solidarity Forever as we all held hands.

LET'S SUPPORT THE UNION CAMPAIGN TO ORGANIZE WOMEN WORKERS!

If you want more information on the results of the survey or any other aspect of the conference please write Kathleen Kelley c/o the WILPF office in Philadelphia. ■ Kathleen Kelley is on the U.S. Section WILPF Board and is co-chair of WILPF's Labor Committee.

As Land Mines Go, So Go Nuclear Weapons

by Anabel Dwyer

A whopping 87 percent of Americans agree that we need agreements to eliminate nuclear weapons, similar to those negotiated and signed to eliminate chemical and biological weapons. A broad majority, 74 percent, disagree with the fact that the U. S. government spends more on building and maintaining its nuclear weapons than it spends providing head start programs, fighting illiteracy and providing college scholarships combined." ("Findings on Nuclear Weapons," April 1, 1997, Lake Sosin Snell & Associates.)

Such strong desires, which surprised even the pollsters, may not indicate that most people stand ready to abandon violence altogether, but they certainly show we'd prefer to secure our future by means other than ecocide. As pollster Celinda Lake said at a congressional briefing, "The people are way ahead of Congress." How then do we enact sensible and popular views as U. S. policy and move beyond the nuclear age?

This country purports to operate according to the rule of law, yet Congress and the Administration ignore our present legal "obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects" as affirmed unanimously by the International Court of Justice.

Thus, while most people now understand that effective law depends upon agreement, the Administration and Congress cling to the view that the rule of law depends upon force and refuse to abandon the annual \$33 billion expenditure for "the ultimate force," nuclear weapons.

It's up to us to transform a system in which:

- 51 cents out of every discretionary federal tax dollar goes to the military and only 7 cents to education
- Lockheed /Martin, McDonnell Douglas/Boeing and BDM, all major military contractors, sit on an "independent" board to conduct the quadrennial defense review (*Nation* 5/26/97)

- The Lockheed Employees PAC was one of the top contributors to federal candidates in 1995-96 (*Post* 5/14/97)
- All branches of the Pentagon have lobbying offices in the Capitol
- Michigan alone has lost \$10 billion annually in taxes to the Pentagon since 1980 and is now plagued by 33 hazardous radioactive sites and 25 corporations enmeshed in nuclear weapons production.

Ending Kick-Back Schemes for Perpetuating Killing

Citizens need now to comprehend the workings of the nuclear part of the military-industrial complex. Let's consolidate the information in a report on "U. S. Corporations doing business in Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Waste: Who profits? Who suffers?" modeled after the Human Rights Watch Arms Project report by Andrew Goodpaster on "U. S. Corporations and Antipersonnel Landmines."

As with landmines, the real costs of nuclear weapons and nuclear power are not borne by those who make the profits. Dangers and specific horrors of radiation to people and our environment must be as graphically shown as the terrible injuries caused by landmines. People can then focus actions to end any participation in such ruinous activity.

Based on extensive presentations, the International Court of Justice concluded that nuclear weapons are illegal because of the facts. "Nuclear weapons can not be contained in either space or time. They have the potential to destroy all civilization and the entire ecosystem of the planet. The radiation released by a nuclear explosion would affect health, agriculture, natural resources and demography over a very wide area. Further, the use of nuclear weapons would be a serious danger to future generations."

It is incumbent on us all to face the real pain and suffering caused by the mining, production and testing of uranium, as well as the use of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, we must hear the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Marshall Islands, Chernobyl, indigenous people from many parts of the world, atomic veterans, victims of radiation experiments and down-winders. The

realities can be presented in usable and accessible forms, readily available to counter the continuing lies and to insure that the horrors never happen again.

Unhooking ourselves from the nuclear debacle requires identification and assessment of corporations that do business in hazardous nuclear weapons, waste and power. In Michigan we are bringing together people from many peace, justice and environmental organizations around the Great Lakes Basin to link knowledge and presentations of the hazards with actions for nuclear independence.

Nuclear-free zones and selective purchasing ordinances and acts, stockholder initiatives and divestiture actions, declarations of nuclear independence, invitations and demands to corporations to cease production or deployment of nuclear weapons, demands for environmental cleanup and safe waste disposal and an end to caps on insurance liability for accidents; all will hasten serious



good faith negotiations for a treaty to eliminate all nuclear weapons and achieve the demise of nuclear power.

It is our view that through concerted efforts rooted in an informed and active grass-roots, we can make rapid progress toward nuclear disarmament and as part of the process stop other probes like Cassini, subcritical tests and development and expansion of nuclear weapons and of NATO. But we operate under no illusions. DOD and DOE continue busily tying the failing nuclear power industry into the disastrous nuclear weapons business through tritium production, mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel and plans to continue the nuclear wasting of the Western Shoshone people and lands.

Weapons manufacturers and DOD have also devised various ways of making information difficult to come by. U.S. official reporting from the Procurement Data Center only includes prime contracts over \$25,000. Ask your member of Congress for information on who has both prime contracts and subcontracts for what military hardware in your state and at what cost. In addition, much of the nuclear technology in dual-use involves nuclear waste such as depleted uranium which the Pentagon hands out to weapons contractors with no accounting as to amounts or effects.

But the facts of health and environmental effects of radiation speak most forcefully. When they are specifically collected, we can also connect contributions to candidates with corporations doing business in nuclear or dual-use weapons, delivery systems or nuclear waste and thereby unravel some of the illicit reasons why the nuclear age as dangerous as it is has hung on as long as it has. This will lead to findings of many below board activities including refurbishing F-15s and F-16s to give away or sell with subsidies so that F-22s are "needed" to "defend" against "enemies" made by the military contractors themselves. Milo Minderbinder would recognize such schemes.

Think of the wonderful lyrics for a battery of raging grannies singing of compensation and cleanup from those who profit from gross human and environmental harm. Capitol Hill might never be the same as we increasingly and more pointedly demand an end to the demented war games which still command most of our public purse. ■ Anabel Dwyer, a Michigan attorney, is a member of WILPF and the Board of the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy.

Leadership Institute - WILPF's Loving Transformation

Report from a participant of the Leadership Institute of U.S. WILPF's National Congress in Greeley, CO in 1996. Over one year later, she shares her thoughts on her life since LI.

by Beth Lerch

It has been a very hard year for me personally, professionally and organizationally - probably due, in part, to a greater realization of my self that came from the Leadership Institute. "Smooth transition" seems like an oxymoron to me! However, a "loving transition" has become a powerful force in my life.

Upon my initial return, I was able to take a hard look at my fading relationship with my partner and realize that he was not a man whose belief system I respected; therefore this was not the person with whom I wanted to build a family. Knowing how much peace and justice issues mean to my life made that decision so much easier, and we separated in a very understanding and loving way.

So, regarding "Leadership," I can honestly say that having a concentrated time period to examine ideas about peace and justice allowed me to form a life-mission for myself. I wish that every one had such a privilege.

My second transition this year was a professional one. At leadership, I had a vision regarding my work and returned to Los Angeles holding that vision in my mind. I had been freelance writing and working for a morally and financially corrupt film producer. He ran out of money completely, and my "temp" agency sent me to a wonderful, progressive company called Rhino Entertainment. This company is everything I thought a company could not be: community-oriented, multi-cultural, and socially and environmentally conscious. Employees are encouraged to do lots of community service (My WILPF times counts!) and are rewarded with time-off. And very importantly our products are great, which was a key part of the vision: to produce media projects that promote peace and/or celebrate multi-culturalism. It has been a nice merging of career and organizational work.

Finally, my greatest challenge this year has been living up to the responsibilities of being Co-Chair of the Los Angeles WILPF branch. I'm happy to say that I have used some of the tools from the Leadership Institute to teach the elder members a few tricks, but I am certain they've taught me so much more!

We face issues such as motivation, membership participation, geographical difficulties, night driving, time constraints, and lack of technological understanding. However, we are continuing to "book" and promote monthly speakers that tie in with the national as well as our local goals. We are also in a long-term process of reaching out to our inactive members in an effort to find ways to involve them to a greater degree. A personal challenge is time management of various obligations: building a career, dedicating time to writing, and organizing. I often have the feeling that no matter how much time I devote to organizing, it is not enough because there is so much to be done. Perhaps other young women who struggle with career and family obligations feel the same pressures. This concerns me. I wonder if that is one of the reasons we have few young members. It is hard to consistently work at something and not feel a sense of progress or success; it makes it hard to continue giving what little free time you have to an unending job. I guess it comes back to the need to create your own internal sense of accomplishment and feeling content in knowing you are doing what you can. This is what I struggle with now, in an effort not to burn out on organizing. If anyone has any tips or words of wisdom, I would love to hear them! ■
Beth Lerch participated in WILPF's Leadership Institute in 1996. She is on the Young Women's Caucus and is Co-chair of the Los Angeles WILPF branch.

Leadership/Outreach

by Chris Morin

"What an inspiring experience, it was to meet you." - "It was great to make the connections between war and domestic violence." - "I want to be a member!" - "Put me on the mailing list." These are responses from students as Felicity Hill tours the U.S. college campuses and high schools for WILPF.

I feel nothing but excitement about membership growing in leaps and bounds. The excitement stems from doing something new, something different, getting new energy from new people. Felicity sends reports in about her tour, every two weeks. They are filled with her reactions, dialogues and general enthusiasm about her interactions with primarily college age women. She has also spoken with some high school students and has found that even at that young age, activists are thirsting for information and ways to be connected to other activists.

Felicity has been collecting names of students and others who want more information about WILPF, want to become members, and want to start groups on campuses. It has become a tedious task to put those names on a main list, to respond to particular requests, to follow-up with new group assistance. BUT IT IS A JOYFUL TASK!! It keeps the work of membership alive and growing. This campus tour has planted seeds for WILPF and has opened many doors. We realize that young women on campuses want to make the connections between academics and activism. We know now that we can contact campus Women Centers, Women Studies programs and Peace Studies programs. We can bring speakers to the campus and share our visions and expertise with the next generation.



Human Rights and Disarmament Interns from International WILPF office.

We also realize that all young women are not on campuses. What other groups can we approach where young women are also thirsting to tell their stories and looking for a community to support them? (See "It Takes A Village")

And what would happen if we "came off the mountain" and went to organizations of women of color, working women, progressive women of faith, and lesbians? What would happen if we sat at their tables and shared each other's stories? Would we triple our membership by the year 2000? Yes, we would. Do you hear a challenge coming on? Yes, you do. If everyone got two people to join WILPF, we would triple our membership. Why is tripling the membership important? Because in recruiting people to join WILPF, we are, paraphrasing Betty Burkes U.S. Section WILPF President, asking one more person to work for peace.

As I talk with members around the country, both at large and in branches, I hear how very proud we are of the work we do for peace and justice. But are we proud out loud? Let's be PROUD OUT LOUD!! ■

Baby Teeth

It was about forty years ago, shortly after the first nuclear bomb tests ushered in the nefarious Nuclear Age, when St. Louis scientists discovered strontium 90 in baby teeth, setting off such pandemonium and demonstrations among women that Kennedy and Khrushchev finally agreed to ban nuclear testing above ground. That Partial Test Ban Treaty, signed in 1963, is still in existence (the new Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty awaits ratification), although WILPF hopes ALL nuclear weapons and tests will soon be gone with the WIND (Women Insist on Nuclear Disarmament) Campaign, and for agreement among the nuclear powers by 2000 to draft a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Meanwhile, we still must deal with radioactive pollution from nuclear reactors, which is undoubtedly a serious but often neglected factor in the increasing rise in cancer and other immune-deficiency diseases. Jay Gould, head of the Radiation and Public Health Project, is once again collecting baby teeth. Gould, internationally known epidemiologist who has painstakingly analyzed data indicating that living near nuclear reactors is dangerous, wants to prove clinically what he has already shown statistically. Therefore, Radiation and Public Health is analyzing baby teeth from children born in recent years and WILPF can help. For instructions and a video that can be used to spread the word, the baby teeth hotline number is 1-800-582-3716.

Spreading the word is not easy in these times. The nuclear power and weapons industry is so powerfully entrenched that when National WILPF held a press conference for Jay Gould, nobody came! We escorted him to the White Dog Café, where he gave a fine talk, but there was no media coverage. We arranged bookstore appearances, and a local branch held a public meeting which was well attended, but hostile, whipped up by a former power company's head of nuclear systems. A local symposium on Women's Health has no plans to discuss radiation as a factor in the breast cancer epidemic! So once again, it's up to us. ■

Kay Camp

WILPF Disarmament Committee Chair

Office of War Crimes

by Suzy T. Kane

While it is admirable that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright wants to give the issues of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity a high priority in U.S. foreign policy, she has as her ultimate goal the creation of a permanent international criminal court. Why does she find it necessary to bypass the already existing United Nations International Court of Justice whose very purpose is to hold jurisdiction over international law? Think of the lives that might have been saved if in 1963 Iraq had been allowed to take its border dispute with Kuwait before this already existing world court. That is what Iraq wanted to do, we learn in Phyllis Bennis' *Calling the Shots*. Instead, Iraq was held off by the United Nations Security Council.

The truth about war crimes is universally nonpartisan, but Secretary Albright seems to be declaring the United States as the true north on the world's moral compass. The Secretary's newly appointed U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes David J. Scheffer can hope, as *The New York Times* recently reported, to "establish at least a record" if not a prosecution of war crimes that the United States believes Iraq committed against the Kurds and the Kuwaitis." But will Scheffer be free to turn as diligent an eye on his own government?

A Commission of Inquiry spearheaded by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, for instance, collected evidence and testimony to substantiate a nineteen-point indictment of the United States that it presented at public hearings held in twenty-eight U.S. cities and in fifteen countries around the world. On the one-year anniversary of the Persian Gulf War, an International War Crimes Tribunal of twenty-one judges from seventeen countries that Clark convened in New York found George Bush, Danforth Quayle, James Baker, Richard Cheney, Colin Powell, Norman Schwarzkopf and others guilty as charged with war crimes against Iraq, crimes against peace and crimes against humanity. Where was public discussion of these charges? The truth knows no sovereign borders. ■ Ms. Kane, a WILPF member, is writing *"The Hidden History of the Persian Gulf War."*

Women Challenging the Politics of Power

"Women's stake and responsibility in security are beyond gender, yet it is their gender that excludes their voice and energy from the discussion rooms and the halls of power."

This statement about the relationship between power and gender caught my attention last June while preparing to participate in a symposium in South Korea. I was invited to represent WILPF at an international women's peace conference titled "The Women's Movement and Peace in the 21st Century - Women Peace and Reconciliation," in Seoul.

The conference was organized by KWAU, (Korean Women's Association United) and financially supported by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). It brought together women from Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Africa, East Germany, East Timor and WILPF. Women from Vietnam and North Korea were invited but unable to attend. The following are excerpts from my talk - "A Process for Women Creating an International Women's Peace Network"

In an interview last year, Dr. Hanan Ashwari, a central spokesperson for the Palestinian people in the negotiations with Israel and the United States, revealed the rationale and mission of an international Women's Peace Network.

She talked about her "deep and abiding commitment to a sense of justice that is not abstract, but one that is translated into realities, a sense of justice which imbues life with real meaning and makes it worth living."

Certainly that commitment is basic to women networking for peace because without justice there can be no peace, without peace there can be no freedom.

We gather to consider and inquire into the difficulties and opportunities for building unity, direction, and design into the framework of an International Women's Peace Network. A strong force uniting us is our survival of the Patriarchy and the ingenious inventions that have enabled us to resist the war culture.

Stressing the human aspect of peace and really focusing on that which is key to the vision of an International Women's Peace Network. Peace is a risky and dangerous undertaking in a culture driven by violence and war and dedicated to the proposition of domination and control. The solidarity of women internationally provides the power to seek new ways of being in the world and generates the courage to act. In this context, peace becomes more than just a political exercise. The human dimension and gender awareness that women weave together make peace a genuine objective.

Women as survivors know the power of resistance. We have a source of strength, a sense of value and self definition inherited from resisting, persevering and surviving. We are healers and our power from within has always served as an agent of change in the

world. For women the need and desire to nurture each other is redemptive and where we discover our power.

As peace activists our task is to challenge the politics of power. Hanan Ashwari demonstrates that women negotiating for peace bring a different sensitivity to the process that forges a discourse in a language that is both daring and defiant. The defiance is based on self respect, with the confidence of our own value as human beings who create life, not destroy it.

Women defining issues of peace keep peace at the center of negotiations with the patriarchy. Struggling collectively, we create a force for change that can not be achieved individually. Working internationally gives us the opportunity to take our struggles out of the domain of nation states into the international arena.

International organizing offers diversity and demands that we examine and confront our



Betty Burkes
U.S. Section President

own weapons of violence, racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, and ageism. These distortions prevent us from being the peace that we want to create in the world. They interfere with our vision.

Audre Lorde reminds us that we can not dismantle the master's house with the master's tools. Differences ignite the spark of creativity, the energy that fuels the replacement of the culture of war.

There are countless associations in place around the world but there is always an external force intervening to keep us apart, making some of us insiders, some of us outsiders. We have to constantly interrupt that destructive impulse and do the personal work on ourselves that makes working collaboratively possible. If we fail in this task, the patriarchy will go on shaping the content of our lives and the quality of our relationships to each other.

We must adopt a language of inclusion to make us more intentional, deliberate, resilient and intelligent about accessing and nurturing a gender agenda for peace, for truth, for reconciliation.

Finally, I believe that women can and must re-imagine the world we want to live in, celebrate the life we have and be vigilant in the pursuit of what is right, remembering that networking for peace begins in our own backyards. ■

Betty Burkes - U.S. Section President

How did WILPF come to explore the issue of drug policy reform?

the women proposed specifically that WILPF's U.S. Section take up the question of the so-called "war on drugs" that is being waged on peasants, "unwanted people" and "subversives" in Colombia under the pretext of keeping the citizens of the United States clean and sober.

On the 1995 Peace Train to Beijing, a group of Colombian women approached members of WILPF's U.S. delegation to the 4th World Conference on Women and asked that they affirm their commitment to working cooperatively toward justice and peace in the Western Hemisphere. They were referring to the Women's Peace and Justice Treaty of the Americas signed in Bolivia in 1992; the women proposed specifically that WILPF's U.S. Section take up the question of the so-called "war on drugs" that is being waged on peasants, "unwanted people" and "subversives" in Colombia under the pretext of keeping the citizens of the United States clean and sober.

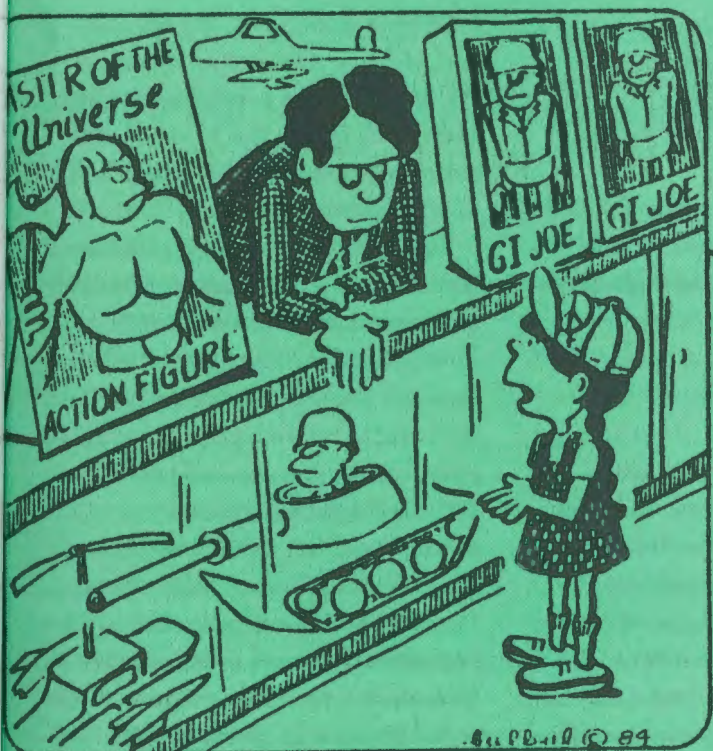
WILPF took on the task of educating our members and staff on the issue of the U.S. "drug war" in the Andes. We discovered many parallels between the effects on the lives of women from the increased militarization in the Andes and in U.S. cities. Due to the political hype that has surrounded "getting tough on crime," the United States government has increased funding for military aid to Colombia at an alarming rate and increased its military presence in United States civilian areas, especially the area that borders Mexico. Families in both Colombia and the United States are facing increased civil and human rights abuses due to the heavy military presence in their communities.

The initial investigation on the "drug war" was carried out by researching material published by human rights groups, interviewing organizations that provide

services to communities affected by drugs, and by WILPF members traveling to Colombia to meet with communities that have been under siege by heavily U.S.- supported military and paramilitary groups for many years. With the information gathered over several months, we decided that we would take on the responsibility of calling this war by its real name: the latest excuse for a heightened United States military presence in the Americas. A Drug Policy Committee was formed within WILPF to discuss the ways in which WILPF's commitment to U.S. non-intervention in Latin America could be coupled with support for U.S. communities living in our "drug war zones," which include all U.S. urban centers and, arguably, the entire country, since we are all in some way affected by the short-comings of our national drug policy.

We have begun to build relationships with women in the United States that are working toward a more humane drug policy, always informing them that they are not alone in their struggle to change the oppressive nature of the punitive "drug war." The recent Drug Policy Foundation Conference in New Orleans gave us the opportunity to participate in a gathering of a diverse group of drug policy reformers; our next step is to connect these reformers with the Colombian women with whom we've worked to form a stronger and more complete global reform movement.

My experiences representing WILPF at the 11th International Conference on Drug Policy Reform sponsored by the Drug Policy Foundation were overwhelm-



DO YOU HAVE A FEMALE ACTION FIGURE THAT SPEAKS OUT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND WAR!?

ingly positive. Apparently, there were a lot more women at this year's Conference than at any previous DPF event. We had a women's luncheon on the second day of the conference at which 45 women expressed a need and desire to wage a drug policy reform campaign with women at its center, making an impact on drug policy by publicizing personal accounts of the "drug war's" effects on women's lives. The women present at the luncheon were very open and eager to make this an international effort by forming alliances with women from "supply countries"; they immediately understood the impact that U.S. punitive drug policies are having on communities throughout the Andean coca-growing region. Many of these women had joined the reform movement as mothers wanting to provide their children with more responsible drug education than is currently available through programs like DARE, others were former drug users concerned with providing effective services to those currently living with addiction, many had lost family members to HIV ... the stories are all rich and compelling; it's time that they be heard and inform policy decisions.

There were people at the Conference doing work on

medical marijuana, harm reduction through syringe exchange programs, treatment alternatives to incarceration, methadone maintenance, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, legal advocacy and policy work on decriminalization and alternative models to U.S. punitive drug policy; all shared a desire to see a just, healthy and more even-handed policy. The main message was clear: current policy represents a war on people, not on drugs, and there are smarter ways to lessen the negative effects of drugs on a society without doing as much harm as the "drug war" has done.

Robin Lloyd gave a presentation at the plenary session on women that moved many to express joy and excitement at having WILPF as an ally to their policy reform movement. Many people approached me upon finding out that WILPF was interested in working on drug policy reform from an international human rights perspective and offered information and support as we work toward defining what a more just policy will mean for us.

Robin and I were able to solidify plans to sponsor a national tour featuring women from the U.S. and Colombia speaking on the same platform on the effects of the "drug war" within their communities, highlighting harm reduction alternatives in the U.S. and alternatives to military support for Colombia. We will be working with an international group of women that will lead our work in this area. The next step will be to plan, carry out and publicize the national speaking tour for women.

The focus of WILPF's work for the next several months will be to bring women's voices into the drug policy debate, empowering women to participate in important policy decisions and adding an important element to the struggle for reform in an area where it is badly needed. ■

Please contact Andrea Sáenz to become involved in WILPF's work in the area of U.S. non-intervention and drug policy reform. 215-563-7110 or wilpfnatl@igc.apc.org

Andrea Sáenz

U.S. WILPF Peace and Justice Treaty Coordinator.



School Of The Americas - A Notorious Chapter in the History of the U.S.

by Ruth Hunter

"There is no excuse for a federally-subsidized school for murderers. I can think of no earthly reason why our government should be using taxpayers' money to support killing and torture..." - Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA). This terse condemnation referred to the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) on the grounds of Fort Benning, GA. The school, originally established in 1946 in Panama, relocated in 1984, to comply with the terms of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977, was ostensibly begun as a training for Latin

American military. In reality, the beginning of the cold war was a signal for strengthening the U.S. foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere.

The mission of the school, as stated in the army brochure, is to "provide doctrinal sound relevant military education and training to the nations of Latin America; promote democratic values and respect human rights." Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of SOA watch, has challenged the true role of the school, evidenced by its notorious alumni charged with flagrant abuse of human rights. Many

have been honored in the school's Hall of Fame during the decades of the 80's and 90's - decades that have been drenched in the blood of civilian populations of both Central and South America.

Rep. Martin Meehan echoed other lawmakers when he said, "If SOA held an alumni association meeting, it would bring together some of the most unsavory thugs in the hemisphere." These include Gen. Manuel Noriega, ex-dictator of Panama and prisoner of U.S. on drug charges, Roberto D'Aubuisson, late Salvadoran death squad leader, Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, President of Argentina, accused of "dirty War" when an estimated 30,000 disappeared, Gen. Hugo Banzer, dictator of Bolivia who developed the Banzer Plan which became the blueprint for repression in Latin America, and Gen. Hector Gramajo, Guatemala Defense Minister, notorious for instigating the death of thousands of Mayans, union leaders, human rights worker and the religious.

Announcing the International Women's Conference and Delegation • Havana, Cuba

From April 13-16 of 1998, women from all over the world will gather in Havana to discuss women's issues from a global perspective as they participate in the latest follow-up to the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing. The Conference is being sponsored by the Federation of Cuban Women, the Continental Front of Women for a Life with Dignity, and the Women's International Democratic Federation; WILPF is one of several Conference co-sponsors. We will be publicizing this event through our international Sections and U.S. Branches and feel it is important to have a strong international WILPF presence. Please help us spread the word.

The Conference will include Working Commissions to develop and solidify action plans on the following:

- Women, Economy and Sustainable Development
- Women and Political Participation
- Women, Health, Education, Culture and Social Security
- Women and the Mass Media
- Women, Violence and Discrimination
- Women, National Independence, Sovereignty and Peace

Opportunities to share experiences, strategies and develop models for global women's solidarity are all a part of the Conference and U.S. Delegation program.

U.S. Section WILPF is building a U.S. Women's Delegation along with MADRE, Global Exchange and Hermanas. Travel packages will be made available soon and will include a week-long program in Havana with an option for some extra days in Cuba to visit one of the eastern provinces. Dates and prices are still tentative, but it is not too early to save the dates between the 11 to the 21 of April, 1998, start saving your pennies and begin raising a scholarship fund for low-income women and students.

The approximate cost for the trip from Nassau will be between \$1,000 and \$1,200; this includes Conference registration, airfare, transportation to and from program events, housing, breakfast and dinner daily, experienced trip leaders, pre-delegation study packets, informal visits and more.

If you are interested in receiving detailed information on the Delegation and/or joining WILPF's Cuba Action Committee, please contact Andrea Senz at 215 • 563 • 7110 and wilpfnatl@igc.apc.org or Jan Strout at 609 • 448 • 3819. ■

Since the early 90's, the evidence for closing down the SOA has been mounting.

The trail leading to the expose of the SOA begun in the late 1980's, became the compelling mission of father Roy. When four Maryknoll sisters were raped and murdered in El Salvador, he began to search for their executioners, an odyssey that led him to the SOA. He is convinced that the school is a breeding ground for assassins, a belief held by the Panamanian newspaper, La Prensa, when they dubbed it the "School of the Assassins." Father Roy's assertion was validated by the disclosure of the UN Truth Commission's 1994 report of human rights abuses in Latin America. The report named many SOA graduates who were responsible for the 900 dead in Mozote, El Salvador, the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the executions of the six Jesuit priests, housekeeper

and her daughter. Many of those who were accused of torture, rape and death were alumni of the SOA. Another shocking story surfaced in 1996, when the U.S. Intelligence Oversight Committee reported that seven manuals, removed from the SOA curriculum in 1991, taught procedures in torture, family intimidation, executions, false arrests, and other methods to "stabilize" the population. The removal of these manuals from the SOA curriculum was labeled "damage control" by the Pentagon. However, no one has been held responsible for their circulation during the training, which included thousands of the 59,000 Latin American military graduates.

Since the early 90's, the evidence for closing down the SOA has been mounting. Rep. Joseph Kennedy has introduced legislation several times demanding closure. Each time it has been defeated; however, the pressure is increasing. Father Roy, who had been incarcerated for two years at intermittent intervals for trespassing on the grounds at Fort Benning, continues to initiate dramatic events to draw attention to this notorious page in the history of the U.S. army. On November 16, 1996, 500 supporters gathered outside the gates of the school, each carrying a cross, commemorating the seventh anniversary of the slaying of the Jesuit priests. Sixty supporters were arrested when they "crossed the line" in an attempt to plant crosses bearing the names of the victims of rape, torture and death dealt by the graduates of the SOA.

In April of this year, another guerilla theater act, dramatized at the

Pentagon, was led by a figure dressed as Uncle Sam, dragging Latin American poor, surrounded by military soldiers. The funeral procession that followed witnessed the re-enactment of a death squad-style execution. Seventeen members of the funeral procession crossed the line to begin digging a mass grave and were promptly arrested. Father Roy declared, "We brought the SOA trail of suffering back to the place where it begins - the Pentagon."

Once again, an action to close the SOA is on the drawing board. Plans included a protest by 1,000 supporters who converged at the main gate of Fort Benning on November 13-16, each bringing 1,000 signed signatures demanding closure of the U.S. Army "School of Assassins." The action, a vigil and civil disobedience, commemorated the 8th year since the massacre of the Jesuit priests.

1,000 TIMES 1,000 Campaign to close the school has 100 co-sponsors in Congress who have signed on to Rep. Joseph Kennedy's bill, H.R. 611. A companion bill in the Senate, S980 introduced by Sen. Richard Durbin has been co-sponsored by Senators Paul Wellstone, Dianne Feinstein and Robert Torricelli. For those who wish to participate in the campaign, contact Father Roy Bourgeois, P.O. Box 3330, Columbus, GA 31903.

Father Roy's plea to close the school echoes across the nation. "I have no doubt that...the School of the Americas which has caused so much death and misery to our sisters and brothers abroad...will close...We will speak from prison...from our cells...the truth cannot be silenced, the truth cannot be chained." ■
Ruth Hunter is a member of Santa Cruz WILPF.

Give The Gift Of WILPF!

Are you looking for the perfect winter holiday gift for your mother, daughter, partner, sister, or friend? Searching for a way to opt out of the corporate spending splurge that marks the year's end in our money-driven society? Celebrate Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanza, or Solstice with a gift to WILPF. Honor your loved ones with a gift membership or a contribution "in-honor-of." If you would like to support WILPF and have a personalized greeting card sent to the person you are honoring, contact Beth Trigg at the national office at (215) 563-7110.

Stock Market Bonanza

Remember you can give gifts of appreciated stock to WILPF or to our educational fund, the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA). Make tax-deductible gifts of stock to JAPA, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. ■



It Takes a Village

A family starts its weekend in Delaware County... daughter arrives home from school where she is a peer mediator in the district's new conflict resolution program... toddler son is tired after playgroup where the parents encourage their children in nonviolent, nonsexist, non-TV-based play... and the parents prepare food for a community potluck and cooperative games evening tomorrow.

In the mail arrives a newsletter with an article about the challenge of guiding children through the cultural dangers of adolescence, as well as announcements about community events and an update about the powerful campaign to end child labor in the third world. Here is a family that feels supported in its effort to raise children nonviolently and to participate in a broader movement for social change.

It Takes a Village, a parenting project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, has general meetings every three weeks. The first portion of the meeting is devoted to reflection and sharing and in the second part we plan actions and events and make organizational decisions. Our second Saturday series began in June with an event called "The Role of Children and Family Life in Social Change Work." We began by watching the provocative film "A World Apart," then broke into small groups to share our own challenges about integrating social concerns/activism with raising children. The evening was enhanced by further multi-generational discussion over a potluck dinner. July's second Saturday found us at an evening of cooperative games for the whole family. In September we were proud to present "Adolescent Self and Society: Empowering Girls, Transforming Our Culture." It was a resounding success, drawing about 40 adults and 20 children, most of them new to our group. An excerpt from the film "Still Killing Us Softly" enhanced our small group discussion of our own experiences and concerns about girls. We brainstormed a list of forces that disempower girls and forces that empower them. We were also happy to hear presentations from Philadelphia Riot Girls, a support and action group for young radical feminists; and from the Summer Community Learning Project, a successful summer program for the daughters of Swarthmore College staff. In October, we held another great cooperative games day and the topic for our November event was "Holidays Without the Hype," in which we explored ways to simplify and de-commercialize family celebrations.

It Takes a Village has been a wonderful group for all of us and it is growing all the time. We are both grateful to and inspired by the Swarthmore-Delco branch of WILPF for creating a parents group and continuing to support us in so many ways. Anyone with questions or comments is invited to contact us through Susan Eberle at (610) 566-5493 or Robin Lasersohn at (610) 891-8968. ■

Jane Addams Book Awards

by Wendy Underhill

After reviewing over 200 works of juvenile literature, WILPF's nationwide committee to select the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards for 1996 has made its final choices.

In the picture book category, *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the Fastest Woman in the World* by Kathleen Krull (Harcourt Brace; all ages) was selected. This is a biography of an African-American woman who triumphed over childhood polio - and poverty and racism in a small Tennessee town - to become the first American woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympics.

The winner in the chapter book category was *Growing Up in Coal Country* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton Mifflin Co.; grades 4 and up). The voices and pictures of the men, women and children who lived and worked in coal country a century ago are captured in this non-fiction story of their exhausting hours of dangerous and often painful labor. In spite of exploitation, the warmth of family life sustained them through the strikes that finally won better working conditions for them.

Three honor books were chosen as well. *Behind the Bedroom Wall* by Laura E. Williams (Milkweed Editions; grades 4-7) is a page-turning novel of a thirteen-year-old girl who struggles to understand her loyalty to a Nazi youth group during World War II when she discovers that her parents are hiding a Jewish woman and her child.

Second Daughter: The Story of a Slave Girl by Mildred Pitts Walter (Scholastic; grades 6 and up) is based on the true story of Elizabeth Freeman, a slave in 18th century New England, who took her case to court in Massachusetts and won her freedom.

The last honor book, *The Day Gogo Went to Vote* by Elinor Batezat Sisulu (Little Brown and Co.; all ages) offers a child's-eye-view of a beloved 100-year-old great-grandmother's first vote in post-apartheid South Africa. The book captures the woman's passionate determination to participate in the democratic process.

The Jane Addams' Children's Book Awards have been given annually since 1953 by WILPF and the Jane Addams Peace Association to books that effectively promote peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races.

JAPA has a fund to enable WILPF branches to give copies of the award-winning books to local libraries. A branch may request these books from WILPF's Philadelphia office for a nominal fee, while supplies last. Many branches hold public events to call attention to the books and WILPF.

A list of current and past winners and honor books is available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Jane Addams Peace Association, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. A supplementary list of other 1996 children's books that promote peace and justice is also available for an additional SASE. ■



Book Review

BLOOD RITES - Origin and History of the Passions of War -

by Barbara Ehrenreich

Does the name Barbara Ehrenreich ring a bell? For years, subscribers to *The Nation*, *Progressive*, *Z* magazine, *Time* and *Harper's* have read and welcomed her witty, irreverent, penetrating articles. Her books, too numerous to list, received acclaim from mainstream critics.

Her latest book, *Blood Rites*, represents ten years of research, encompassing biology, history and cultural anthropology. I worried that the material would be beyond me, but with her ever-present desire to reach a broad audience, Ehrenreich has crafted a book that is accessible, meaningful, provocative and cautionary. Her original insights and interpretations go a long way in explaining why conflicts and wars have been and continue to be the scourge of humankind.

Going back over hundreds of thousands of years, she draws a vivid picture of our ancestors as PREY of the mammoths and carnivores that roamed the earth. These awesome predators were invulnerable to sticks and stones hurled from a distance. Man's vulnerability, she believes, imprinted a deep-rooted terror of predation on the human psyche. She reminds us that this fear is nurtured to this day by myths, folklore, oral histories, fairy tales, and children's

games. A very limited reversal of roles began with collective responses to menacing beast intruders, and with collective stalking of single animals for food. When man developed the spear, about 25,000 years ago, enabling him to become predator, a sense of power and control developed. This comparatively recent reversal of roles has not, she contends, altered man's innermost fear of predation.

Th archeological record indicates that vast climatic changes decimated whole species of animals. Ehrenreich, however, stresses excessive slaughter of game, by man as predator, as a strong factor in

reducing area supplies of meat. She believes a cave drawing of 12,000 BP (before present) of opposing forces using bow and arrow, represents a conflict over food. Throughout the book she probes the psychological implications of group conflicts, surmising that cohesiveness, altruism and the need to expiate the shedding of blood were by-products.

Ehrenreich utilizes the historical record to substantiate that blood rituals functioned as religious rites, and were the first form of organized socially acceptable violence. She reminds us that the early Hebrews, Christians, Hindus, Aztecs, and Mayans made blood offerings to appease an angry, vengeful god. As nation-states developed, religions become increasingly involved in a nation's wars, "sacralizing" war via prayers and ritual blessings. Nationalism is labeled as our new religion, its pervasive impact giving rise to unthinking responses and participation. With dangers conjured up by government and media, the atavistic fear of becoming prey is revived and revitalized. Ehrenreich coins an original phrase, "the democratization of glory," that, like a virus, makes us more susceptible to calls for war. She lists the panoply of commemorative holidays, parades, adoration of the flag and medals (let me add gold stars for mothers to the list) that ennobles war. I would conclude that this "democratization of glory" is designed to numb our sense of grief and loss and to invoke an artificial sense of patriotism.

The richness of the author's analysis can best be savored and grasped by reading her book. Ehrenreich's emphasis on the material basis of conflict puts to rest earlier theories of an "innate aggressive instinct," or "human nature" as the primary cause of conflict and war. Her stress on the primitive fear of being prey, so easily stimulated by the various mechanisms she describes, warrants careful consideration. We are

made aware that cohesiveness and altruism may arise from engaging in conflict or war, but she suggests we can and must utilize these qualities against the problems of poverty, racism and looming ecological disaster.

A portion of the last chapter, "The Further Evolution of War in the Twentieth Century," is frightening. Ehrenreich reminds us of our vulnerability not only to high tech wars, but also to low intensity conflicts. Think of events in parts of South America, Africa, Asia and (the former) Yugoslavia, fought not by and between nation-states, but by internal forces over religious and ethnic differences. What are the implications? Ehrenreich believes such fighters see themselves (including those in our right-wing militias) as "warrior-heroes." The very spirit of war "has become a commodity in the global consumer culture." She wonders if war has become autonomous, taking on a life of its own? This is a terrifying thought that she does little to dispel. Apparently biologists are addressing this question, but I regard it as a diversion from understanding and acknowledging the material forces that roil the passions of war.

In the last two pages of *Blood Rites*, headlined "Fighting War," I was dismayed by the paucity of material on efforts to combat war and war fever. Admittedly, this was not her purpose in writing the book; Ehrenreich notes, and I will grant that many of us have only struggled against a particular war. We, like Augustine, may have accepted the concept of a "just/unjust war." But there have been and are many honorable exceptions, primarily pacifists, who have consistently expressed that WAR is the enemy. I would hope that the millions, who denounced a particular war, will mature as a force against WAR AS AN INSTITUTION. This is the evolutionary leap I long for. ■

— Evelyn Alloy

WILPFAction♦♦



A Tribute To Yvonne Logan

We join in celebrating the life of one who has served on the board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Jane Addams Peace Association for forty years at the local, regional, national and international level. She has traveled on their behalf to the USSR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia and Japan and to Finland on the 1995 Peace Train.

She has served WILPF as St. Louis and National president and served on the JAPA board for many years and on WILPF's International Executive Committee from 1992-1995.

Yvonne is presently director of the World Community Center, the Missouri coordinator of the Great Decisions Program of the Foreign Policy Association and serves on the boards of St. Louis Americans for Democratic Action, the World Federalists and the United Nations Associations.

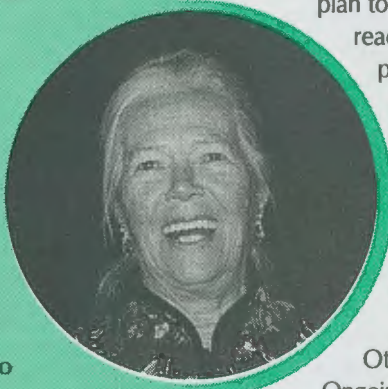
During World War II Yvonne's war time job was in army intelligence at the Pentagon. Since meeting Annalee Stewart, WILPF's longtime, dynamic legislative director, Yvonne has advocated for disarmament to the point of even going to jail.

She graduated from the University of Michigan, married Attorney Joseph P. Logan, raised four children and engaged in many cultural activities such as acting, writing peace skits and lyrics and serving on the board of the St. Louis Repertory Theater.

From 1962-1967, Yvonne directed the Baby Tooth Survey measuring the amount of Strontium 90 in baby teeth all over the U.S. She also directed the Peace Information Center from 1967-1975 during the Vietnam War.

What we have reported above by no means covers all the activities and all the capacities in which Yvonne has served WILPF and JAPA. She has enriched the lives of all who know her. Thank you, Yvonne, for everything!

Reprinted from program of the St. Louis Ethical Society honoring Yvonne Logan and the Jane Addams Peace Association.



Branch Action News

Leslie Reindl - Branch Action Editor

Nuclear and Military Issues

In connection with Abolition 2000 and the WIND (Women Insist on Nuclear Disarmament) program of WILPF, Felicity Hill has been hosted throughout the fall by many branches, including Portland, San Jose, Boston, Fresno, Sacramento, and Colorado. Hill is the 29-year-old whirlwind activist now coordinating the WIND program. She is traversing the U.S. this fall to discuss with WILPFers and others all sorts of issues that make the world unsafe for humans and other creatures, such as NATO expansion, domestic and international violence, racism and homophobia, the failed "War on Drugs," and the globalized economy.

Sacramento urges action on the U.S. Department of Energy's plan to begin shipping spent nuclear fuel from research reactors in Pacific Rim countries to DOE weapons production sites at Savannah River, SC, and Idaho Falls, ID. The waste will be shipped by train within the U.S. Shipment is to begin within the first four months of 1998.

Des Moines, Swarthmore and Portland participated in "A Day Without the Pentagon," a campaign spearheaded by the War Resister's League that happened across the country on October 24.

Other Political Issues

Ongoing issues include attempts to close the School of the Americas, on which almost all branches have worked and are still working (there was a gathering in at Fort Benning, GA in November). Portland showed the new video, "Inside the School of Assassins." Fresno, Des Moines, Boston, Detroit, Minnesota Metro, continue work on the land mines issue. (The U.S. and China are now the only holdouts on signing the Ottawa treaty). Detroit urged people to bring a potted yellow or white mum to Jane Addams' day event on October 25 - "plant mums not mines" is the theme. Swarthmore included in its September newsletter a 1997 Action Guide, giving Guidelines for Political Action, the names and addresses of all representatives and their districts, and of both senators, the name and address of the governor, state senators, the local newspapers, the Delaware County Council, and the TV and Radio phone numbers. Great Idea!!

San Jose tabled at the library with literature, petitions, and post-cards on current hot issues. Fresno is urging members to work to "Free [Leonard] Peltier," now in prison 21 years for the murders of two FBI agents. The evidence and trial were flawed; a petition for executive clemency currently sits on the desk of Attorney General Janet Reno's assistant. Fresno is also publicizing Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) bill, H.R. 753, the Intelligence Budget Accountability Act, that calls for disclosing the amount of money our government spends on intelligence work.

Fundraisers and Special Branch Programs

Detroit held a theatre party fundraiser, inviting members to play "In the Sweet Bye and Bye." Both Monterey and Vancouver held play readings by different authors about the meeting of women at The Hague from both sides of World War I that led to the founding of WILPF. Portland is selling a book of essays and photographs, Oregon

Rivers. Fresno has started what it is calling A Circle of Wise Women, to promote spiritual development of women. Swarthmore will continue its "4th Saturday Lunch" program, an informal get-together on the fourth Saturday of the month at a local restaurant. Detroit and Fresno reported on peace camp training. ■

Movie Review

GI Jane

by Felicity Hill

This film is worse than you even imagine. Like the Promise Keepers, it reinforces and amplifies the very problems it supposedly exposes as evil. Let me explain - the Promise Keepers are speaking directly to a crisis in masculinity that is very real - the rigid role that patriarchy provides is actually very fragile because it is impossible to fill. Instead of questioning it, the Promise Keepers are sharpening it to razor blade edges, staging a quantum leap backwards using the truth as a diving board.

In the same way, GI Jane poses questions about women in the military but leaves the structures and practices of military training and wars intact and unquestioned, reinforcing the military as a timeless fundamental truth that should break and rebuild the women who are tough enough and importantly, non-lesbian. And surprise, surprise, the major enemy of the heroine is another woman, the troublesome politician who started all the trouble in the first place by mucking around with feminist ideas in the sacred halls of Washington, D.C.

This story confirms the distorted idea that the anti-affirmative action folk would have us believe - that real equality does not require anything other than equal access. Demi Moore demands to be treated as

another man in the Navy Seals and after brutal and sexist treatment, is finally "accepted." The pivotal moment in the movie is when Demi Moore says to her commanding officer, "Suck My D-ck," (sorry, but it's true) and it is after the process of striving for a non-gendered status, she then aggressively confirms that the military operates around a concrete and symbolic phallic economy, that in fact it is very gendered indeed.

By skirting across some of the actual issues of discrimination against women, the sexist and homophobic nature of the military and the thorough corruption of politics by the military industrial complex in the U.S., the film pays lip service to these issues, but cleverly reinforces them, if not glorifies them. ■

Bread & Roses - Women Defining Globalization

WILPF's International Congress of 1998

July 24th - July 31st

Baltimore, Maryland

"As we come marching in the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts gray,
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses,
For the people hear us singing: 'Bread & roses! Bread & roses!'"

"Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses!" A picket sign at the great 1912 strike of textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts, inspired this famous labor song which in turn has inspired the title and shape of WILPF's International Congress.

The first to be held in the United States in almost 20 years, this congress will herald a new way of looking at the reality of women and work in this current atmosphere of globalization.

It begins with a weaving together of all participants to create a community of women representing many cultures and languages exploring together the issues of peace and justice. Gita Sen, Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India has been invited to be a keynote speaker. She is the coordinator of DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era.)

In conjunction with the congress, Goucher College will co-sponsor a conference on "Building a Culture of Peace." Students attending the special class sessions and the congress can receive credit for the conference week.

"Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes." The first two days of the congress will use the Augusto Boal Forum Theatre, known world wide as a way to bring together a diverse

group of people to explore options for dealing with oppression.

From there we move into Panel I: CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION: STATE & CORPORATE OPPRESSION, an examination of the oppressive forces that stand in the way of bringing about the outcomes we would wish for people and the planet. Panel II: HUMAN RIGHTS: ARENA FOR CLAIMING POWER AND BUILDING SOLIDARITY, will look at solutions related to WILPF's work. Workshops will deepen the issues raised in the panels in order to develop the program and future policy of WILPF.

"Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew,
Yes, it is bread we fight for - but we fight for roses too."

Add a day demonstrating in Washington, D.C., a night rallying around the Cuban revolution, international updates, restructuring sessions, the Gertrude Baer seminar, a peace camp, celebrations large and small, and a time to be with new and old friends. So dust off your poems, paintings and paeans to peace. Bring your songs of solidarity and strength. We want your instruments, your dances, and your skirts. Festoon the halls and places we'll meet with your sewings, weavings, ribbons, and roses. Commit to bringing a young woman, a woman of color, women who deepen our diversity.

TO REGISTER: write Mercedia Green, WILPF, 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. For additional information about the congress call the congress hotline, (508) 349-3277. Be a peace practitioner and join us at the International Congress that you'll never forget!

"No more the drudge and idler - ten that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!"

Wrap the year up right- WILPF Resources they only work when you use them!

NEW CARDS!

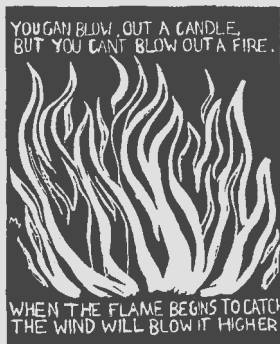
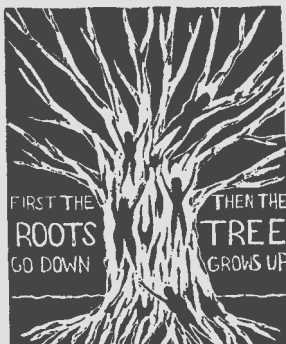
WILPF member Mary Trigg has created 4 new cards for this holiday season! all are hand carved linoleum prints with images and inspiring messages that are sure to warm the hearts of you and yours this season and all year round... 10 cards with cream-colored envelopes. \$8.00 per pack. All cards are printed on heavy card stock with black ink. Paper colors are as follows: Tree- dark gray card stock/ Fire- orange card stock/ Geese- light gray card stock/ Dove- blue card stock.

Tree (TR100)

Fire (FI100)

Geese (GE100)

Dove (DO100)



OLD FAVORITES- ALL CARDS ARE \$6.00, AND COME WITH 10 CARDS AND ENVELOPES

Solstice Greetings- (OM610)

The winter sun bursts forth in pink, purple and gold ink on recycled paper. "Solstice Greetings" message inside.



Joy to the World- (OM650)

Festive design in pink, red lavender and purple ink on white paper. "Joy to the world" message inside.



Evergreen- (OM655)

Crowned by a golden star, an evergreen stands out against the sky. Green, gold and red ink on purple recycled paper. "Happy Holidays" message inside.

Season's Greetings- (OM660)

Festive design of snowflakes in red and silver. "Happy Winter" message inside.



Picasso Card- (DW600)

This graceful design of a woman and a dove was donated to the peace movement by Pablo Picasso.



Picasso Notes (DW600)

Shalom #1 (OM645)

Bold lettering in purple and pink ink
on cream colored recycled paper.



NEW BOOKS!

Cuba and the United States- A Chronological History

by WILPF member Jane Franklin. This book presents the Cuban revolution in its relations with the U.S. Designed to be used in many ways, this book may be read in whole or in part- as narrative history, or used as a reference guide to a wide range of topics. A chronological method has been established to organize the maximum amount of information, and to convey the interconnectedness of major and minor occurrences. 415 pages, soft covered, \$21.95.

The Enemy Within: The High Cost of Living Near Nuclear Reactors

by Jay M. Gould. If there is one book that might encourage a protest against nuclear pollution and military industrial violence this is it! Filled with drama, controversy, statistics, and charts it is an excellent resource to mobilize concerned citizens. Read it and organize in your own community! 346 pages, soft covered, some signed copies available. \$14.95

NEW VIDEO TAPES!

"The Courageous Women of Columbia"

directed and produced by WILPF member Robin Lloyd. In 1996 a WILPF sponsored delegation travelled to Columbia to take part in the International Day of Actions Against Violence Against Women. The delegation wanted to investigate how women were responding to the impact of the "war on drugs" in their communities, and to question America's hand in all of it. Running time: 22 minutes. \$15.00

"Sister to Sister"

directed by WILPF member Victoria Maldonado, produced by WILPF and Global Exchange. This video records the 1996-97 Sister to Sister delegation to Cuba. It is in Spanish and English. Running time 15 minutes. \$15.00 for participants on the Sister to Sister delegation, \$20.00 for non-participants.

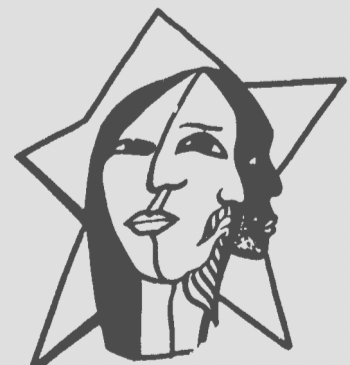
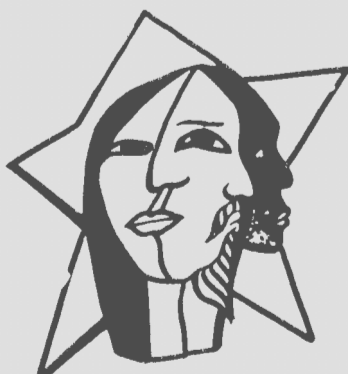
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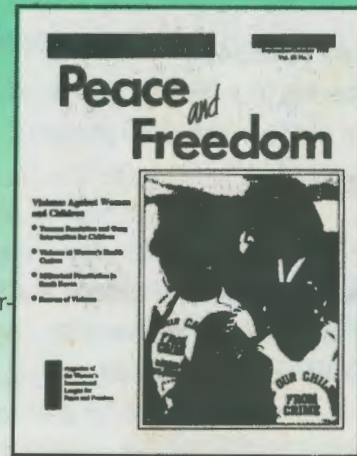
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