

Peace & Freedom

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

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Delegates from Brazil demonstrate at the World Conference Against Racism.

I read in one Durban newspaper that the conference was a failure because the United States and Israel pulled out. I don't agree. The creation of a racially just world depends on the oppressed peoples of the world, and not on governments, corporations, or the primary beneficiaries of the corporate, capitalist imperialist system.

— Gwen Braxton

Report from South Africa



In Geneva, WILPFers participate in a vigil at the United Nations for peace and non-violence in the Middle East. See page 12.

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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 2000-2003 program cycle has four key campaign areas: Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights; Disarmament; Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation (UFORJE); and Women and Cuba. Each campaign area focuses on local and national effectiveness in creating lasting social change.

WILPF has sections in 37 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. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status.

A Letter to The President of the United States

September 13, 2001

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

We in the United States Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom join the people of our nation, and around the world, in mourning the terrible loss of life and the suffering caused by the hijackings and the attacks on the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon. We also recognize the political and economic implications of this act of terrorist violence against United States financial and military institutions.

For 86 years, since our founding during World War I, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has opposed war as a means of conflict resolution. History reminds us that the over-zealous retaliation imbedded in the Treaty of Versailles contributed to attitudes and events that led to World War II. Violence and hatred will only breed more violence and hatred.

The United States should demonstrate our true

strength and moral leadership by showing restraint when seeking justice for these tragic deaths. We have been gratified to hear national leaders interviewed by the media who refuse to rush into judgement against Arabs or Muslims en masse. Although many in our nation wish to seek the strongest possible revenge, we feel it is important to recall that visiting the same kind of violence upon others that they brought upon us, only serves to place us in the same category as those who commit mass murder.

We call upon you to courageously stand firm against the pressure for immediate retaliation that would only show the world that we are also willing to engage indiscriminate reprisal against civilian targets.

The people of the world are watching and waiting to see how the government of the United States will respond to these acts of violence. Let us demonstrate that our strength is in our resolve to maintain a democratic and free society and to break with the cycles of violence and retribution.

In Peace,

Phyllis S. Yingling, President
Mary Day Kent, Executive Director

United States Section
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

FROM THE DESK OF PHYLLIS S. YINGLING, PRESIDENT



In spite of former WILPF programs on racism, we still have so much to learn and so much work to do to rid ourselves, our communities, and nations of all forms of hatred and intolerance. For this reason, when the Interim National Board met in June to examine and evaluate the restructured form of the Board

and the new by-laws, the consensus reached was to amend the by-laws to make it possible for the current Campaigns to continue for another three-year cycle. Each of the Campaigns is in the process of evolving into the program that was originally envisioned by those who proposed them. To adopt new Campaigns at this point

seems like it would close down work that is just getting well underway. It was felt that another three years would give the Campaign committees, and all of us, the opportunity to bring our work to fruition.

At the same time, the Board also agreed to the request from the Cuba Committee that it be accepted as a full Campaign. Certainly the time is ripe.

As we observe U.S. corporations gearing up to join other nations in exploiting the wealth and beauty of our island neighbor, WILPF women need to be fully cognizant of the accomplishments of the Cuban people that should be preserved. Through the work of the Cuba Campaign we can all be more involved as our Cuban neighbors seek to maintain their independence from the domination of corporate powers and the negative influences of globalization. ❖

AUSTRALIAN SECTION RESPONDS

The loss of human life in New York and Washington is keenly felt.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Australia) sends love and condolences to all those who have lost loved ones in the tragedies.

Over recent months, George Bush, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell and Donald Rumsfeld have been working hard through all diplomatic channels to persuade the international community that their plan to build a missile defense "shield" to "protect" mainland U.S. against "rogue states" is in the interests of human security. We in WILPF (Australia) have been saying that their plan is not in the interests of human security — either of humans in their own nation state, the United States, or of humans elsewhere in the world. In fact, WILPF believes that their missile defense "shield" is a plan, which, if enacted, would further jeopardize human security by precipitating a new arms race.

Clearly the U.S. Administration has not had an eye on the main game.

While they have been working to bring other nation states on board to support — or at least not to oppose — their billion dollar "missile defense shield," they have failed to take the necessary steps to avert threats to human security through the very simple means of ordinary commercial airliners being turned into weapons of mass destruction.

WILPF (Australia) believes that if we allow the present gross inequities in distribution of the world's wealth to continue, we in the affluent nations of the "West" must continue to expect anger and resentments to be directed against ordinary citizens.

In order to ensure human security needs, our leaders must stop allowing a system where 99,000 children die each day. According to the United Nations Human Development Report of 2000, under our present international economic system, 1.3 billion of the earth's 6 billion people are surviving on U.S. \$1 a day or less. This is, in and of itself, a violent system violating the right to

MESSAGES OF SHOCK, LOVE AND SYMPATHY IN WAKE OF TRAGEDY



Editor's Note: In the hours following the September 11 tragedy the U.S. WILPF national office sent out a short statement via email rejecting the use of violence and letting everyone know our staff was fine. In the days that followed, we received many messages of support from our sister sections around the world. These are some of their messages.

life of millions of innocent people each year who die due to poverty.

While we have an economic and distribution system that allows such disparity and such inherent violence to exist as a "normal" part of everyday life, we have an extremely unstable situation. As the events of yesterday demonstrate, this instability has now reached volatile proportions.

We have all allowed a system to develop which is serving the interests of only a very few multinational corporations.

If world leaders truly value human security as they proclaim, then they will have to abandon their cant about "barbaric" acts of terrorism against "civilized" nations. To use such rhetoric and to try to posit an "enemy" other than the real culprit is to mislead people. To permit such racism to flourish is to further undermine our collective security.

The real "enemy" is greed. Of the 100 biggest economic entities in the world today, 51 are no longer nation states but multinational corporations.

If we are to find long-term and stable solutions to human security needs, then we have no choice but to find a way to share the wealth of our planet fairly among all peoples and to stop allowing a system marked by gross inequities.

WILPF (Australia) believes that the disaster in mainland U.S. is a failure of western foreign policy and economic policy. There has been a vacuum of leadership. In this context, to suggest that further billions of dollars of the world's wealth should be diverted to the boardrooms of the multinational corporations that manufacture armaments is to build a white elephant missile "shield." It is a robbery of the world's people and does not make anyone more secure.

Cathy Picone for WILPF (Australia)
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DEAR ALL,
What happened September 11 was so terrible, and everybody

must feel horror by thinking of all the people who were killed and all the people who lost relatives, friends and colleagues. But it is also a tragedy because all of what we stand for as WILPFers was bombed, and our work in the future will be even harder, but also even more important.

All my sympathy goes to the U.S. section and the American people, and I will assure you that we who are from a country that is an ally in NATO will commit ourselves to do the same as you: “oppose the use of violence in all forms ... even in response to this vicious form of violence.”

If you want peace, prepare for peace!

Annelise Ebbe, Danish section
a_ebbe@centrum.dk

U.K. WILPF IS DEEPLY SHOCKED and sends love and sympathy to all of you in the U.S. Section. We fully support your excellent statement and are writing to our own Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary with a suitable message.

You are all very much in our thoughts.

Love and peace,
Rosalie Huzzard, Secretary, U.K. Section
rosalie.huzzard@btinternet.com

WE IN THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

for Peace and Freedom from around the world are deeply shocked by the unbelievable acts of violence committed on 11 September in New York and Washington, causing the death of possibly thousands of persons and seriously injuring many more. We express our condolences to all those who have lost loved ones, colleagues and friends in this catastrophe.

Our sympathy and thoughts are with our U.S. Section in this trying moment. We support their call for caution in responding to this horrendous act of violence and their rejection of vengeful actions.

We have been witnessing over the past few years a horrific increase in the use of violence around the world. The means being used are intensifying the effects and engulf an ever-larger number of innocent citizens. After this shocking act of terror, calls for revenge by U.S. citizens may be a natural enough reaction to the sorrow, fear, anger and sense of insecurity they feel. But we in WILPF believe firmly that such a response will lead only to more acts of violence, as experience has proved again and again. We live on a small planet and if we want to live in peace and security we have no choice but to learn to live together in a spirit of sharing and caring, of working in the common interest of all rather than in national interests relying on military competition. A

human tragedy of this magnitude requires international collaboration and support. We have institutions, such as the United Nations, through which this can be done. Let us do it.

WILPF International Secretariat
Geneva
wilpf@iprolink.ch

WE ARE STUNNED by what has happened, and what we suspect will happen next. Yes, as you say, violence breeds violence, and the lesson we as WILPF women take from this tragedy is that the violence has to end — but from the coverage of what's coming out of the U.S. (and out of the mouths of politicians here, and in Britain) that is not the lesson they are learning from this. I heard from a Canadian war resister earlier today say that the Canadian government has reminded the people of Canada that an attack on any NATO country constitutes an attack on them all — it's almost unreal it is so bizarre and sad.

We wanted to remind people here that U.S. peace people have been and continue to oppose the military and economic violence of the U.S. government, are suffering now from grief and shock, and deep concern as to how the U.S. government will respond.

Please let us know if we can do anything to assist you — in the meantime we will continue to let people here know what U.S. peace people are saying. This will provide some balance to the racist and aggressive mass media coverage we are receiving here.

With best wishes, and in peace,
Edwina, Aotearoa, New Zealand
pma@xtra.co.nz

DEAR PHYLLIS, DEAR SISTERS,

On behalf of the Russian WILPF Section we express our deepest and most sincere condolences to the people of the USA on the occasion of the unprecedented terrorist acts in New York City and Washington, D.C. that have brought enormous human casualties.

We are sure that we need now to unite our efforts to stop any form of terrorism, which is now threatening the whole planet. We understand better that anybody else the horror of the terrorism and we are together with you in this tragedy. We are confident that the American people will overcome it.

Please, convey our condolences to all members of WILPF USA.

Natalia Berezhnaja, Russian WILPF Section President
Elena Kozyr, Russian WILPF Section ExeSecretary

Transformation in Durban

Betty Burkes

“Betty, it’s me Adjoa. I’m calling from Durban. We Won!”

On my first morning back from the historic U.N. World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), I woke up to the telephone ringing and heard these words: “We won! The official delegates to the Conference agreed to language that recognizes slavery as a crime against humanity and calls on all colonial powers to take measures to address the impact of slavery and slave trading. We didn’t get everything and in some



Among those at a tent meeting in South Africa were Marlene Krohn, far left, and Chris Ballin and Grace Coan, above, center.

ways, we have just begun, but our efforts made this happen despite all the forces mobilized against us.” Both the message of Adjoa’s words and the messenger are still reverberating as I write this piece. Adjoa is Adjoa Aiyetoro, WILPF delegate, former executive director of

A VERY MOVING EXPERIENCE occurred in a workshop called **Beyond Black and White**, The Mexican/Chicano Experience of U.S. Racism, led by Luz Martinez and Dr. Elizabeth (Betita) Martine. People from many parts of the world came, including about 10 South African women who came from different parts of the country by train. When these women arrived, the NGO that promised them financial support backed out of their promise, leaving the women without food and lodging. They were sleeping on the train and said they had lost hope for the causes they came to represent and didn’t know what to say to their communities when they returned home. They shared these feelings with the group and the facilitator asked a representative from a group called Lideres Campesinos to tell the women the story of how and why they formed. Two other women from U.S. organizations made up of women of

the U.S. Black Lawyers Association, leader in the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America and the radiant, brilliant African American woman’s voice and power behind the effort for WILPF to move on reparations.

Beginning in 1996, Adjoa spoke at the national WILPF Congress in Greeley, Colorado. Afterwards, she was a panelist at WILPF’s Truth and Reconciliation Symposium at NYU. When WCAR became a priority for the Uniting for Racial Justice Campaign, Adjoa agreed to represent WILPF in Geneva during the preparatory meetings. At these meetings she raised the issue of reparations—the recognition of the criminal, genocidal, brutal, profit-making exploitation of Africans and enslaved African Americans and the commitment to finding avenues for making spiritual, material and political restitution.

The vehicle for bringing this struggle to the worldwide stage was to be the third U.N. Conference on racism in Durban, South Africa in August and September of 2001. WILPF’s consultative status to the United Nations entitled Adjoa to be present in shaping the language and interacting with others from around the world that were interested in this issue. While the Conference became the site for many historic battles and issues, the issue of reparations is a major focus of the Conference narratives.

As former president of U.S. WILPF, I was honored to be part of the 20-person WILPF delegation to the Conference and the co-leader, with Chris Ballin, of the 13 women from the U.S. This story (and there are many more) touches on our delegation, the official workings of

color also told their stories. When they finished, participants were asked to say one word about how they were feeling at the end of the workshop and the South African women used words like “empowered,” “hopeful,” and “energized.”

In less than an hour, I saw how women sharing their stories in a supportive way can help transform reality from one of hopelessness to one of self-empowerment. Chicanas, Mexican and North American women heard the distress of South African women who had given up hope and through their own stories gave the group ideas about how to organize in their own behalf.

Evelyn Mauss is a WILPF member from New York who attended the conference in Durban.



Betty Burkes with the great-granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi



Four unidentified women were among participants at the Conference. At right, a WILPF delegation in the crowd of demonstrators at a candlelight vigil after the United States delegation left Durban.

the conference, the underlying river of grassroots and NGO efforts and some thoughts on where we need to go.

All that I had read about the problems facing South Africa — the intense poverty, the drain of resources to pay the debt, the violence — in no way prepared me for the beauty of the city, the engaging, delightful, inquisitive, helpful people and how moved I was by the transformation of Durban from an apartheid city to a non-racial one.

The Conference was a breakthrough for victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The most personal and inclusive participation of delegates took place at the NGO Forum, held in preparation for the official U.N. meetings a week later. The participation of women at the NGO level is high, so the forum provided an unusual opportunity for women to council, to weave our wisdom and insight into the fabric of global leadership and to challenge the dominant paradigm of power, politics and knowledge.

Mary Robinson, high commissioner for human rights, set the tone in her opening remarks, declaring Durban a conference about relationship. “We have not got it right in the past but let’s not underestimate our capacity for getting it right for the future,” she said.

The 8,000 people in attendance from every corner of the world took her message to heart, bringing their issues and stories, their energy and enthusiasm in the service of transforming racist institutions and inequitable relationships. The power of people networking and cooperating for systemic, global elimination of social and political injustice was palpable. The truth that injustice anywhere challenges justice everywhere was reflected in the realities of those present. Confronting and owning the painful past would give us the confidence and courage to create a better future.

During the unofficial meetings the delegates were asked to focus our collective voices and by consensus, create a document and plan of action that would become the basis for the official U.N. deliberations. Delegates were privileged to be part of five invigorating days of

committee briefings, roundtables and caucuses. We listened and interacted with people who have been marginalized and abused by their governments as they spoke clearly and freely, some for the first time, for the world to hear. This was indeed a major accomplishment of the forum.

The *dalits* from India presented the history of centuries of being relegated to “manual scavengers.” We heard stories about the trafficking of women and children, slavery in the Sudan, the intersections of gender and race, the plight of migrants and migrant workers, the living conditions of refugees and displaced persons, the Indigenous Peoples struggle for recognition, and the apartheid conditions of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. For some of us who are not intimately familiar with the horrors of life under occupation for all Palestinians (and the horrors for the many sympathetic

D U R B A N
M O O N

Whole. The way I feel tonight.
 Durban moon, bright against the thick velvety dark of night.
 Drawing the Indian Ocean to the shore...to me
 Drawing the Indian Ocean up into the clouds
 Lots of laughter as I proceed to the Suiche Restaurant
 with Grace, Kristen, Robin.
 The same moon:
 Moonlight through the mountains in Vermont
 Paper moon!
 Grace’s Japanese moon
 Beautiful young Kristen and her Connecticut moon.
 Round as the nari rolls on my plate.
 Our second Sunday in Durban, South Africa.
 I reflect on this full moon, now outside my window
 Glowing. Healing. Soothing my heart
 As I revisit my first week at the U.N.-sponsored World
 Conference Against Racism.
 So much excitement! So much anger! So much joy!
 From the well-organized press conference of the Youth
 Summit
 To videotaping Winnie Mandela, Fidel Castro, Angela
 Davis
 To interviewing participants and the WILPF delegation.
 My cup runneth over.
 Through me, VT WILPF, Helen Jean Reindell,
 Peace & Justice Center, my family and friends will
 surely see this Durban Moon
 And be spiritually filled. Women. Moon. W’moon.
 Creating a vision of a racially-equitable society, to
 make it a reality as beautiful and real as the Durban
 Moon.

*Pajj Wadley-Bailey of Montpelier, VT was a member of
 WILPF’s South Africa delegation*

Israeli Jews as occupiers), I had a slight hint of the feeling of being occupied or bullied due to the ubiquitous presence of Israeli defenders. Many of these people continually tried to overpower the Palestinian voices and intimidate participants who were there seeking justice.

People with disabilities explained the effects of multiple discrimination on their ability to exercise their human rights. The sexual orientation caucus was the only place outside the WILPF peace tent where I encountered a meeting organized with a check-in format for people to connect to each other and their shared purpose.

The presence of Laura Partridge, a WILPF delegate who preceded us to Durban, prepared our way and made the logistics of registration and participation fathomable. WILPF's peace tent provided a friendly and welcoming drop-in place, where we had rich conversations and tender moments. Delegates chose one area of racism or intolerance to track and report on. However, program changes, location confusion and scheduling conflicts frustrated the plan to immerse ourselves in one issue.

One of the most powerful outcomes of the meetings in Durban was a reexamination of the cruel side of human nature and the collaboration of networks of people to redress the vestiges of that human capacity. One example was the collaboration that began during the prep com meetings in Geneva last spring and developed into the Africa and African Descendants Caucus in Durban. The caucus provided the rationale, leadership and strategy that culminated in the U.N. Document and Plan of Action recognizing slavery and the Atlantic slave trade

Bringing Durban Home

The experiences of WILPF delegates and general interest in WCAR provide a wonderful opportunity for local chapters to further our work for racial and economic justice. Think about holding a local "report back" in your community with a WILPF delegate(s) and others who attended the conference. Open the forum with a grounding and welcoming ritual inviting the participants to call into the gathering all those who have sustained them or give them hope in the struggle to end racism. Following the delegates' presentations (and slides) invite reactions, highlights for the audience from the talk, where people were moved. In turning to the legacies of discrimination and slavery in your own community, invite people to share where they see racism and what kinds of repairing they think may need to be done. Invite people to brainstorm ways to address the national agenda for reparations and a brainstorm about local suggestions for responding to economic, gender and racial injustices. Finish with gratitude for their presence, and create lists of committee workers and people willing to work for change.



Top: Palestinian supporters with a photograph of their assassinated leader. **Middle:** WILPF delegates Paige Wadley-Bailey and Gwen Braxton with International President Krishna Ahojia Patel in a meeting with South African women. **Above:** School children in Durban. **At right:** US WILPF delegate Grace Coan.

Betty Burkes photo

as crimes against humanity.

The returning delegates will share experiences in their own voice and time. While sitting in the Africa and African Descendants Caucus, amidst a crowd of French, Spanish, Portuguese, and English-speaking black folks, noticing the beauty of our rich textures and hues, feeling the power of our determination and resilience, moving beyond the cruelty and survival that binds us, feeling the quiet presence of ancestral guidance, seeing the shadows of racism give way to clarity and wholeness, the group emerged united and located in the harvest of our dreams for repairing the past.

It was thrilling to take this journey back in time, where we met the possibilities of a different future, supported and grounded in new relationships.

I want to end this article with gratitude to so many — some of whom I know, some of whom I saw from a distance and some of whom were and are present in spirit form, sustaining us all in our work for transformational social change.

Betty Burkes is the past president of U.S. WILPF and a current board member serving as fieldwork chair.

Ubuntu: I Am Because You Are

Gwen Braxton

Ubuntu is an African concept that acknowledges the basic loving connection between all humanity. It is a communal concept that precedes the Western concept of individualism.

This was the third U.N. World Conference on Racism that has been held. The first two were held in Geneva, Switzerland. Both focused on South African apartheid. The United States was an ally of the South African Apartheid government as well as Israel, and used its connections to these nations to support U.S. imperialist goals. The U.S. government did not participate in the two earlier conferences.

As we saw in the prep com reports from Laura Partridge and Adjoa Aiyetoro, the work leading up to this latest conference showed that for the first time a global movement on racial justice was being developed.

The discussions, literature and title of the conference indicated that there are differing understandings of the word racism. This conference linked all oppressions with racism in a movement for universal human rights for all peoples. I did not know until this WCAR that non-government organizations affiliated with the United Nations (not governments) push for these government/NGO conferences. Many governments deny that racism and related oppressions exist in their countries, despite the historical evidence. The United States, Canada and the European Union governments did not want this conference to happen and did everything they could to sabotage it, fearing their economic responsibilities for past and continuing systemic racism. I was shocked that the East and Central European Caucus of 36 NGOs from 19 countries contributed to the racism of the WCAR. They stated that there is only one race, the human race; the use of the terms "race, racial discrimination, etc." are racist statements, they said. They disagreed with the NGO support of Palestine in its struggles against Israel's

racist attacks. The caucus voted against the NGO declaration.

Many NGOs appear hopeless and don't expect any significant economic help in alleviating the consequences of past and continuing racism. In almost every activity that I attended, the United States was identified as the imperialist/racist architect and beneficiary of global racism.

Very few NGO delegates from African nations were present because of racism and poverty. Waiting in line on opening day, police with large, loud charging dogs approached and frightened the crowd. It reminded me of apartheid days and U.S. police with dogs attacking civil rights marchers. Following are highlights from our time in South Africa.

YOUTH COMMISSION

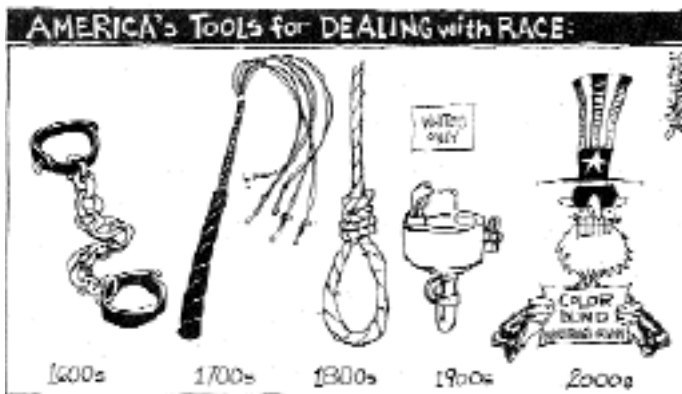
People 35 years old and younger were permitted to participate in the two-day Youth Summit prior to the NGO Forum. Many people were distressed about the inclusion of adults in the leadership of young people's activities. I listened to some of their discussions in the youth tent. I was very impressed with their decision-making process and commitment. They formed an International Youth Network that will connect with the United Nations and take responsibility for organizing global, young peoples' racial justice movement. The young people told stories about their experiences with racism around the world as part of a taped Quakers' Listening Project.

A PARTY

On August 25th we were invited to a party planned by Busi Hlatshwayo for Laura Partridge and the WILPF delegation. Busi's husband was cooking meat outside when we arrived. Highlights of the evening included meeting Busi's daughter Precious and the rest of the family, great music, dancing, stories, and the hospitality, warmth, and humor of our South African family in their beautiful home outside Durban. Their home is in a previously white community. When Black people started moving in, whites moved out. Busi's family owns a successful printing/office supply business.

WELCOME HOME CEREMONY - AUGUST 30

It began with a symbolic arrival of ships carrying the descendants of millions of Africans who were taken into slavery 500 years ago. The African descendents (after hundreds of years of exile) symbolically brought home



the souls of our ancestors and were received and welcomed by sisters and brothers in the Mother Continent. The arrivals were led by “Breakers of the Sacred Lamp” with song and praise of the creator God to signify the “home return” of the souls of millions and millions of our African Ancestors who died in oceans while being transported. They will now receive decent burial in the soil of the Motherland. It was a very emotional, powerful and moving experience.

AFRICAN/AFRICAN DESCENDANTS CAUCUS

The caucus issued these 10 priority action points:

1. The Slave Trade, Slavery and colonialism are crimes against humanity
2. Reparations for Africans and African Descendants
3. Recognition of the economic basis of racism
4. Adoption of corrective national (domestic) public policies with emphasis on environmental racism, health care and education
5. Adoption of culture-specific development policies
6. The adoption of mechanisms to combat the interconnection of race and poverty, and the role that globalization (caused by governments and the private sector) has in this interconnection
7. Adoption of mechanisms to combat racism in the criminal punishment (penal) system
8. Reform of the legal system, including national constitutional reforms and the development of international and regional mechanisms for dismantling racism
9. Adoption of policies specific to African and African descendant women that recognize and address the intersection of race and gender
10. Support for the adoption of policies to recognize and address the intersection of race and sexual orientation

Seven members of the WILPF/UFORJE delegation attended our first caucus on August 27. Adjoa talked about the impact of the NGO Forum Declaration Document on Public Opinion, and spoke of governmental responses to the document and NGO lobbying work. Governments had not anticipated a strong NGO participation; they called the meeting at the last minute. NGO delegates were much fewer in number and stronger in energy and commitment. The Caucus had to lobby governments and NGOs leery of supporting reparations, transatlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism as crimes against humanity. Delegates were invited to join sub-committees to continue the work in Durban. The strategy is that the African/African Caucus will organize a grassroots, global racial justice network/movement. Towards the conference’s end we met with the African nations delegation. They all said they are standing strong and will not give up on our joint issues.

During the conference, the caucus and our allies



Village in Inanda settlement near Durban where Nelson Mandela voted in South Africa’s first election.

requested that WCAR, in the absence of a U.S. government delegation, seat us as the U.S. peoples’ delegation to work on the WCAR document.

The caucus also initiated and led several demonstrations. On September 5 we led a multi-racial, diverse nations and caucuses United Against Global Racism candlelight march and vigil with many passionate, speakers (including actor Danny Glover) and songs, chants, posters and banners.

On September 6 and 7, the caucus continued monitoring the government document and lobbying governments to support our issues, including abolishing paragraph 27 which denies Indigenous Peoples the full rights of self-determination, sovereignty and restoration that all other peoples enjoy. This paragraph rescinds a previous U.N. position. There have been rumors that some African nations have sold out the African descendants in exchange for false promises from George Bush to support debt cancellation.

Many South Africans are angry with the current Mbecki government. More than 30 percent of the people there are unemployed; more than seven million people live in shacks or are homeless, and over 85 percent of the land is owned by white people. Only 2 percent of land has been restored to rural black South Africans. The land was systematically taken during 350 years of colonialism and apartheid. Schools and hospitals are inadequate. There is no comprehensive HIV/AIDS program. Black domestic workers have inadequate incomes and still call their employers master. Our delegates in one bed and breakfast were told by the maid that she was no longer allowed to talk to them, although she also added that she knew that we had come to help her and her people.

The Landless peoples’ movement marched for the inclusion of landlessness as economic racism and for real land reform. The South African constitution protects existing property rights; land will only become available on a “willing buyer-willing seller” basis and guarantees that existing landowners will be compensated at market

Continued on page 30 ➤

Caste, Race and the World Conference Against Racism

Padmavathi Manchala

“Whether we speak of racism or casteism we speak of the denial of human rights, whether they be civil and political, or social, economic and cultural.”

— Mr. R.V. Pillai, Member, United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination

The World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) marked a big step forward for the global *dalit* (“untouchables”) movement.

After more than two and half decades of organizing, caste is being recognized as a form of racial-related discrimination, and will be discussed in the United Nations Forums.

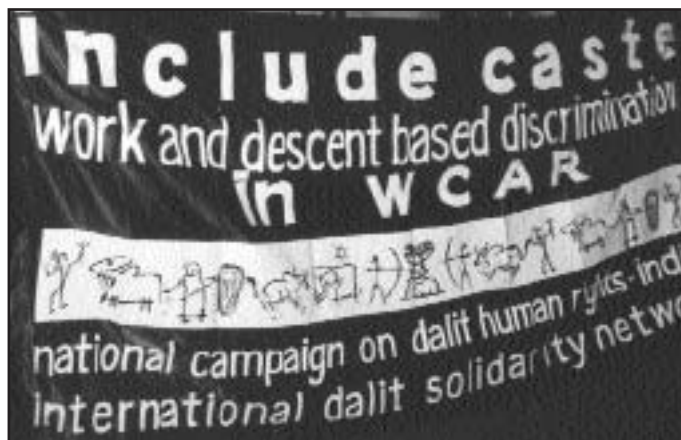
There are many theories on the origin of caste systems. A prominent one is the “occupational theory,” which links caste to the groups or communities that follow a particular occupation that has religious sanction. These people can never change their occupation. The uniqueness of the occupational pattern is that the serving occupations, for example hair cutting, washing clothing, manual scavenging, etc., are treated as filthy, unclean and polluted. Occupations such as teaching, performing religious rituals, land cultivation and trading are considered pure and superior. This led to the practice of untouchability and social as well as physical division in the society.

Dalit activists and human rights experts worked together to get caste discrimination and the practice of untouchability on the agenda of WCAR. The Indian Government meanwhile was determined to prevent this,

Here is a list of WILPF's delegation to South Africa. Branches and others are encouraged to invite them to speak to their group. Contact Charmaine Sprengelmeyer at the national office if you want to get in touch with any of these delegates.

Adjoa Aiyetoro, Washington, D.C.
Laura Partridge, Omaha, Nebraska
Betty Burkes, Cape Cod, MA
Lettie Polite, Asheville, NC
Gwen Braxton, Brooklyn, NY
Chris Ballin, Oakland, CA
Grace Coan, Sacramento, CA
Marlene Krohn, Concord, CA
Padma Manchala, East Norriton, PA
Sha'an Mouliert, Derby Line, VT
Paij Wadley-Bailey, Montpelier, VT
Barbara Laval, Los Angeles, CA
Naima Richmond, Minneapolis, MN
Delores Martin, Springfield, IL
Clara Holton, Wheaton, IL
Robin Lloyd, Burlington, VT
Kristin Sepulveda, Vermont

presumably because it does not want its dirty linen to be washed in public. The unwillingness to recognize that caste is a persistent problem in Indian society with global implications has been going on for years. Government officials opposed having the issue taken up at WCAR, arguing that it would only lead to “diluting” the efforts to eliminate racism.



Dalit supporters' banner at the Conference.

Betty Burkes

In addition, the official position put forth by the Indian Attorney General Mr. Soli Sorabjee stated that the issue of caste is an “internal matter.”

The government of India argues to the U.N. human rights bodies (including WCAR) that caste discrimination is not an issue relevant to the evaluation of its performance vis-a-vis the human rights conventions to which it is a party. This argument is based on the premise that “Caste is not Race.” According to the government, the term caste does not denote race or racial grouping and even the term “descent,” in Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) refers solely to racial descent. Therefore caste does not fall within the realm of racism, racial discrimination or related intolerance.

According to *dalit* activists and other NGOs, the premise of the Indian Government's argument against inclusion of caste discrimination at WCAR was already dealt with and dismissed by the CERD Committee, which declared “that the term ‘descent’ mentioned in Article 1 of the Convention does not solely refer to race. The Committee affirms that the situation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes falls within the scope of the Convention.” Ironically, when the draft of the CERD did not originally include the term “descent” in Article 1, it was the Indian Government that insisted on including it. Later, the same government opposed the inclusion of caste discrimination in CERD and WCAR under the term “descent.”

Whether it is caste or race, the status one obtains is determined at birth. Segregation exists in both the systems. In both caste and race, those in the lowest rung are not only discriminated against but also cursed to do

Continued on page 31 ➤

IEC Gathers in Geneva

Mary Day Kent, Executive Director

The overriding fact about the International Executive Committee meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland from July 28 to August 4, and the Seminar on Women Seeking Peace in the Middle East that preceded it, is that Geneva is not Jerusalem.

This meeting had originally been planned as the 2001 International Congress, which would have been held in East Jerusalem, Palestine, at the invitation of the WILPF Palestine Section. This was the first International Congress of WILPF to be canceled because of violence since World War II, testimony to the determination of WILPF members over the years and the level of conflict now in Palestine and Israel. When the decision was made to call off the Jerusalem Congress, the alternative plan decided on by the International Officers was to have a meeting that would be empowered to make necessary decisions, including the election of officers, but would not be a Congress—in recognition of the cancellation and the short notice for planning the meeting. In several cases, ongoing conflict prevented women from reaching Geneva.

Despite the improvisation and the continuing sadness over conflict in Palestine and other regions, the IEC was an impressive and hardworking gathering. Over 100 women participated from 30 WILPF national sections or groups, representing all continents.

Thanks to WILPF's Geneva connections and the efforts of incoming WILPF President Krishna Ahooja Patel, the meetings were held in a beautiful setting at the Geneva Institute for Higher International Studies, in a park bordering Lake Geneva. Intense awareness of the violence in the Middle East bracketed the gathering, from the opening days of the Middle East Seminar, "Women's Actions to Break the Barriers to Peace in the Middle East and Other Regions," to the closing day, when WILPF made a public vigil for peace and an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. After the many days of talking, the hour of silence standing together wearing black and carrying our signs in the heart of diplomatic Geneva, was a moving breakthrough to action.

Throughout the long hours and days of meetings, we worked to balance the necessary organizational work of procedural decisions, budget review, and committee reports with moments of passion and inspiration for the future. One of the most passionate sessions was the



Top : A vigil at the United Nations for peace and non-violence in the Middle East. Above, left to right: Lippe Hareide, Norway; Laura Partridge, USA; Rosemary Sennyondo, U. K.; Robin Lloyd, USA; Elfrida Topciu, Albania. At right: New International WILPF President Krishna Ahooja Patel. Below: Palestinian delegation, left to right: Nariman Al-Far, Hanan Awwad, Maysoun Zawasmi.



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At left: Joyce McLean, Fresno, CA, left and Rosemary Sennyondo, U.K. Above, left to right: Fatchia Awaishie, Aliyah Strauss.

Phyllis Yingling

sions— including the program priorities for the next three years. Of course, a Congress is very much a gathering of people as well as an occasion for statements and decisions. At the beginning and end there were moments set aside for recalling women who were absent and for appreciating those who were there, especially the outgoing officers who had invested so much work over the past three years. The new

overview of Women in Conflict, presented in connection with the Middle East seminar, in which women from Colombia, Sierra Leone, Russia, Congo, Nepal, and Sri Lanka told of their situations and the roots of conflict in the arms trade and the struggle to control resources. A session of joy and inspiration was sparked by the Leadership Development Committee, which asked everyone to create a timeline of significant events in WILPF's history, from 1915 to 2015. The 21st Century accomplishments included the 2015 Congress being held on another planet, at the invitation of residents there.

At the regional meetings, everyone was asked to consider proposals from the 2000 IEC meeting to seek different schedules for meetings that might be less costly, and leave more International WILPF funds available for program and communications. In the end, the decision was to continue having the Triennial Congress meetings, but to test out the format of having only one IEC meeting in between, at approximately the 18-month point. In addition to having one less meeting, scheduling a meeting at an off-peak time of year might make travel costs more affordable.

At the Americas regional meeting, there was also strong support for the idea of holding a regional meeting. Delegates agreed to work on the possibility of holding an Americas meeting in the fall of 2002. There was a strong sense of a commonality of issues, and the need for the Americas sections to work together to “grow” WILPF in the hemisphere. A regional gathering is seen as an opportunity to develop women’s leadership.

One of the new dimensions of this Congress was the outreach we made via the Internet. Thanks particularly to the efforts of Felicity Hill, the detailed records of the Congress are already fully available on the International WILPF website www.wilpf.int.ch, with the full text of all resolutions and statements and the minutes of the ses-

officers elected at the meeting are: Krishna Ahooja Patel, president; Liss Schanke, Lucinda Amara, Dulcy de Silva,



Felicity Hill, left, and Liss Schanke, Norway, hard at work at the computer sending reports from IEC.

Olga Bianchi, vice-presidents; Coby Meyboom, treasurer. Dolores Taller continues as chair of the Fundraising Committee and Linda Wasserman as Chair of Personnel.

During the last moments of the meeting we had a vivid reminder of the powers of militarism in the world, as our peaceful lakeside site was swept over for more than an hour by roaring jets from the French air force saluting a Swiss national holiday.

At left: Bruna Nota, past WILPF International president. At right, left to right, Mary Day Kent and Debra Carr, U.S. representative to WCAR.

Phyllis Yingling





BranchAction News

Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor

WILPFERS HONORED

In August the Tucson NOW chapter honored long-time branch leader Mary MacEwan at its annual Woman of Courage award luncheon. Bob Fischer and Lucille Wheaton (**Fresno**) received Way of Peace awards from the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. **Hartford** member Mary Hess' picture at a public demonstration was selected by Bruce Gagnon of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space to grace a postcard to Bush asking for cancellation of the missile defense system.

IMPORTANT CAMPAIGNS/ACTIONS

Los Angeles urgently notes that the right wing is poised to take over federal courts by making appointments for the 99 vacancies there. Bush replaced the mainstream American Bar Association, primary legal advisor for nominating federal judges with the extremist Federalist Society. LA urges people to get information from the Committee for Judicial Independence (email: judicial.indepen@ix.netcom.com), and to ask senators to refuse to confirm a single judicial nomination as long as this Society is used.

STAR WARS

Detroit cosponsored a program on Hiroshima Remembrance Day, Aug. 9, entitled "The New Arms Race — No Star Wars." **Berkeley** had a panel that discussed the environment's effects on women, children, families and the national psyche, and the local and national economic effects. **Hartford** joined a coalition branch of Global Network. **Chapel Hill** published an insightful article by Flora Lewis from the *International Herald Tribune*. **Des Moines** cosponsored a talk on missile defense and pentagon spending. **Santa Cruz** gathered more than 15,000 names on a petition to abolish nuclear weapons and another 2,000 to end Star Wars. **Fresno** and **Los Angeles** urged letter writing to senators and the president.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST TO STOP MILITARIZATION OF SPACE, OCT. 13

Activities included tours of toxic sites (**Berkeley**), protesting at military installations slated for upgrading (**Cape Cod**), rally and demonstration (**Palo Alto**), demonstration at gates of Tucson's Raytheon Missile factory (**Tucson**), leafleting at the St. Louis Science Center (**St. Louis**), and many others.

ANTIRACISM AND WCAR

Most branches heard or anticipate reports about the U.N. Conference Against Racism. **Cape Cod** cosponsored a forum with the local community college. **Santa Cruz** participated in

the International Day of Action Against Racism held at the end of August. Santa Cruz also is working on a How-To Manual on Racism Training. **Los Angeles** printed the main themes and priority issues covered at the conference.

CITY OF PEACE

Detroit is working on getting the city proclaimed a City of Peace, and also on getting a Detroit Peace Commission that would be composed of council and mayoral appointees and would hold at least one hearing annually to examine the relationship of federal, state, and city budget and policy decisions as they relate to the peace and security of the citizens of Detroit.

CHALLENGING CORPORATE POWER

Minnesota Metro organized a teach-in to coincide with the September 30 protests at the World Bank in Washington. **Palo Alto** heard from the co-chair of Jubilee USA about events at the protest in Genoa. **Cape Cod** plans a forum for parents and students when state testing scores are released this fall. **Santa Cruz** met with the leadership team of national WILPF to discuss: "Why does WILPF challenge corporate personhood?" and also held a public meeting entitled: "Who Is in Charge? We the People or the corporations?" **Des Moines** continues to fight a proposed mega-mall. **Los Angeles** and **Minnesota Metro** published details about the World Bank Bond Boycott (www.worldbankboycott.org). **St. Louis** heard about the targeting of Monsanto for its attempts to dominate the seed business via patents that prevent farmers from saving seeds. A **Portland** member described her trip to Ecuador in search of knowledge about plants and indigenous ways of healing, as well as the oil companies' actions there. **Portland** advertised an online series of lessons on the impact of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATT) on women (www.genderand-tradel.net). Both **Palo Alto** and **Peninsula** heard from a WILPFer who attended a human rights teach-in and demonstrations against the extension of GATT and NAFTA.

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Portland urged action on bill HR 1810 to close SOA, and quoted U.S. Magistrate Faircloth, who in May had to sentence 26 SOA protesters from last year: "I'm being used in this process...if I find you not guilty, that makes Fort Benning and the government look like a laughingstock, but if I find you guilty and sentence you to the maximum, I make martyrs of you. It's not a comfortable feeling." **Des Moines** published a dryly humorous letter from Rita Hohenshell, an Iowan sentenced to six months. **Monterey** reported a visit to jailed Charles Liteky.

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI COMMEMORATION

St. Louis heard about the St. Louis Economic Conversion Project and the 2001 Peace Declaration from the mayor of Hiroshima. **Chapel Hill** held a vigil. **Des Moines** discussed use of depleted uranium in Iraq, Kosovo, and training on Vieques.

Calling all Members

Candidates needed to fill national board positions

Betty Burkes

The Interim Board was instructed to evaluate the structure of U.S. WILPF and where necessary, to make changes before the end of its three-year term. We have completed that process which was stimulating, challenging and inspiring. Below are some of the results of our evaluation and reflection. Read on to learn about the changes and leadership opportunities for you on the 2002-2005 U.S. WILPF Board.

Instead of Board positions of elected Field Work Coordinators based on geographical divisions, membership positions will be filled by Membership Representatives, one appointed from each Campaign. There will be two elected membership positions from the general membership. One of the two elected people will chair the Membership Committee, and the other will serve on that Committee. See job descriptions below.

The following National Board Positions are open for Election in 2002. Anyone who has been a member of WILPF for two years may apply to be a candidate for these positions. Current Board members may seek re-election. Ballots for the elections will be in the next issue of *Peace & Freedom*. Summaries of the job descriptions appear below. To apply to be a candidate and to receive a more complete job description, contact the WILPF National Office, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA or email wilpf@wilpf.org. The deadline for returning application forms is December 5.

U.S. Section WILPF Positions For Election 2002-2005

Board President(s): There may be two if a team applies. In consultation with staff and Board shall be the administrative/executive officer(s) of the U.S. Section and Board. Shall see that decisions and policies are implemented; chair Steering Committee; serve ex officio on all board committees. May write, travel and speak for WILPF.

Treasurer/Finance Chair: Chairs committee responsible for fiscal health of the Section, overseeing development, passage and monitoring of the budget.

Staff Concerns Chair: Chairs committee that assists staff when concerns arise; reviews personnel policies, compensation, benefits, and grievance procedures as needed; helps with staff recruitment, hiring, training and evaluation.

Development Chair: Chairs the committee that works with



Participants at the board retreat in Vermont.

staff and board to coordinate short and long-range planning, including fundraising training and activities; donor cultivation; and public relations and publications.

Program Chair: Chairs Board Program Committee (four Campaign Organizers, U.S. representatives to the U.N.) and National Program Committee (above, plus representatives of all program issue committees, program and legislative staff, and U.N. Liaison to International WILPF.

Membership Chair: Chairs Membership Committee (four Campaign Representatives and an elected Membership Representative) working with committee and staff members to evaluate current practices and generate new approaches to membership development, outreach and support.

Membership Representative: Works with Membership Committee and staff on ways to engage at-large members, promote leadership development, and encourage the formation of groups (three or more members) and clusters (gatherings of groups and branches).

In addition to the specific position, all board members have the following responsibilities:

- attend board meetings
- make WILPF their priority activist involvement during their board service
- participate in annual budget deliberations and passage, and subsequent decisions as needed
- participate in making, supporting and communicating WILPF policy decisions
- assist in fundraising as appropriate, promote WILPF locally and beyond, as opportunities arise

Betty Burkes is the past president of U.S. WILPF and a current board member serving as fieldwork chair.

The Women's Action in Genoa

.....
Starhawk
.....

I went to Genoa to support the women there who were organizing to oppose the G8 Summit, where leaders of the eight most powerful nations meet and set agendas for institutions ranging from the United Nations to the WTO.

I was invited by Monica LanFranco, an Italian journalist and one of the organizers of the Genoa Social Forum—the umbrella group of 700 organizations that planned a peaceful demonstration for July 20 and 21. The women were excited about the idea of doing a spiral dance at the wall erected to keep protestors far away from the conference. Hilary McQuie, one of the members of our trainers collective, Root Activist Network of Trainers had been to Italy in June to attend a conference on Gender and Globalization and to offer direct action trainings. Lisa Fithian, our third member, was going over to train activists and help support the organizers, and so I decided to go, too.

Who were the protestors I met? Monica is a journalist, a single mother, and one of the few women on the Genoa Social Forum. CeCi teaches sociology at the Women's University in Milan. Elettra is an Italian Member of Parliament. While some of the women were younger students, most were mature, professional women, many of them long time activists. A group of us took the train down together from Milan, laughing and joking and sharing food, like any group of friends out for a peaceful holiday.

I remember looking at the group with some trepidation. Three months before, I'd been in Quebec City, spiral dancing at a similar wall with tear gas canisters flying over our heads. Quebec had felt like a battle, and I wondered if these women were prepared. For much of the past year, I'd been training activists for actions that no longer resembled the relatively quiet, controlled blockade-and-get-arrested scenes of years before. Instead, since the very first morning in Seattle, long before a single window was broken, we've faced increasingly escalating police violence, from tear gas and rubber bullets to the live ammunition used on protestors in Gothenburg, Sweden and Papua New Guinea. Most of those activists were young, with the resilience, energy and illusions of invulnerability that allow youth to take great physical risks. These women were middle aged. I had to remind myself firmly that I myself am middle aged. I thought of some of the amazing older women I'd been in protests with or in jail with over the years, and I knew that these women had a different kind of strength and resilience, that came from experience and life wisdom.

Our action began peacefully. We gathered in Piazza Manin, a square that was a legal, supposedly safe place,

together with thousands of others who were members of religious and pacifist groups opposing the meeting. The piazzas and entrances along the fence had all been claimed by different groups — ours was just one of the many gatherings.

Around noon, I led the women out into the street for a short, impromptu ritual. We called the element of air with our women's voices, the fire by dancing and drumming. We'd brought a cauldron and we filled it with water that our community has been collecting for many years from both sacred places and actions all over the world. Water from our antinuclear actions in the early eighties, from Greenham Common, from Quebec and Seattle joined seawater from the Genoa shore, and women threw in their offerings. We called the earth by feeling the ground under our feet, and then marched to the wall.

When we arrived, the scene was peaceful. We led the spiral dance, and the fear and caution on people's faces was replaced by joy as we looked into each other's eyes, singing and chanting. The police allowed us to approach the wall in small groups, and place signs and banners on it. We poured our enchanted water through the steel mesh of the fence.

But soon the police began tear gassing the piazza next to us. As the gas began drifting our way, we decided to retreat. When we arrived back at the square, massive amounts of tear gas suddenly filled the air. Choking, my eyes streaming, I began to move away from it. I found myself on a side street, separated from all the women and everyone I knew. I ducked into an alleyway, and met some of the Pink Bloc, who brought drums, dance, samba and laughter to the action. Lisa appeared from the other direction and informed us that the police were approaching. We escaped, crossed the road and ran up the stairways just before the police came into the alley and brutally beat everyone who remained.

When we regrouped at the square, we found the police

had come through and attacked the women. CeCi had vomited from the tear gas, Laura had been hit on the arm, Elettra had been taken to the hospital with a head wound. Monica was in distress

BOOK OFFER

Martin Khor's book, *Globalization in the South: Some Critical Issues*, is being offered at a special price for WILPF members.

As reviewed in the Spring 2001 issue of *Peace & Freedom*, Khor's book discusses "the globalization process for developing countries and the changing public perception of globalization."

Each copy is \$12 plus shipping and handling. Please contact Sheila Goldner, the resource person for the Third World Network (the book's publisher) with questions or to order a copy. Address: P.O. Box 57982, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413, or (323) 877-7925, or email at ar320@lafn.org.

and went home, as did many of the women. Lisa and I began a long, tense odyssey through the streets of Genoa with the Pink Bloc. On the way, we heard that one young man had been shot to death by the police.

On Saturday, the day of the big march, Lisa and I saw Vincent, one of the French students we trained, at the medical clinic. He had been beaten on the street, arrested at the hospital, and taken to the police station where the police pinned his arms behind his back and smashed his wounded head into a table over and over again. It was swollen to the point where he looked like a space alien from Star Wars, but he was more upset because they took his papers and without them he didn't dare go to the march. Others reported being tortured in rooms with pictures of Mussolini and pornography on the wall. I thought of Susan Griffin's work linking Fascism with the fear and hatred of women's bodies.

Lisa and I were having lunch by the sea at the convergence center when tear gas suddenly exploded in the lunch area. We retreated to the ocean, put our bandannas on, and exited across the street where a pitched battle was raging just on the edge of the line of march. CeCi joined us and helped us direct the march to keep going and avoid the fighting. Eventually, the tear gas reactivated her nausea from the day before and she was forced to fall back, but I admired her calmness and courage.

Later that night, when the march was over, Lisa and I were up at the IndyMedia Center, meeting with the Pink Bloc, planning a jail solidarity march for the following day. The meeting ended, and we were upstairs making phone calls when we heard shouts and yells and banging. The police were attacking.

We couldn't get through the crowded stairwells to escape the building, so we ran up, and hid under a table, piling sleeping bags over us so we would have some padding if the police were beating us. After a long time, a single police officer found us, and brought us down to a hallway where others were also being held. We were sure we were under arrest, but then the police suddenly left. Later we learned that Elettra was in our building, and was able to use her political position to make them go. Monica had called the media, and soon the street outside was filled with bright lights and an angry crowd yelling at the several hundred police who guarded the entrance to the Diaz school where activists had been sleeping.

We watched in shock as they carried out a stretcher, then another, and another. Four, 10, dozens. There was a line of people who could still walk, with their hands up, their faces mirroring our shock. Later we heard the accounts of what had happened. A special force from Rome, trained by two highway patrolmen from Los Angeles, had entered the building and beaten people senseless. They broke ribs, knocked out teeth, smashed arms and legs and skulls. When they finally left the building, we found a scene of unbelievable

destruction: smashed computers, people's belongings scattered and trashed, and pools of blood in every sleeping spot. It's been almost two months now, and

the images still haunt me. As I organize our cluster for the IMF/World Bank actions in Washington D.C. at the end of September, as I help write a call for a regional action in San Francisco in November (when the WTO meets in Qatar) I can't help but think of that night. For most of the last two decades, I've worked to create rituals and safe spaces where women could heal from the daily violence we face in our lives. I am willing myself to again face the fear and the violence, but can I ask women to put themselves into situations where they may face beatings, jail, sexual abuse?

I can because I believe we need to continue filling the streets, countering the global consolidation of power represented by these institutions. I can because I am more afraid of what will happen if we let ourselves be intimidated and stay home. And I can because I believe that either we confront those powers now and build a movement strong enough to transform them, or that violence will pursue us into all the spaces we think are safe.

Violence in the form of poverty, forced labor, sexual abuse, low wages, displacement, imprisonment, torture, and exploitation is already the lot of too many women, children, and men. Violence against the earth is destroying our basic life support systems.

I went to Genoa to support women. Because of women, Genoa won't silence me.

Starhawk is a lifelong activist, author of eight books on earth based spirituality, including The Spiral Dance and The Fifth Sacred Thing. She lives in Western Sonoma County, and works with many local environmental groups, the Sonoma County Direct Action Network, and the Root Activist Network of Trainers. She is also WILPF sponsor. She can be reached via her website www.starhawk.org.



Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



Civil Liberties

The Secret Evidence Repeal Act, HR 1266, had 102 sponsors by August — 80 Democrats, 21 Republicans and one Independent.

Most of the secret evidence cases lodged against Arab-Americans in deportation proceedings have been dropped. HR 1266 would prohibit any more such cases.

The House Judiciary Committee will schedule a markup of the bill after the President makes his position clear.

ACTION: Push your members of Congress to co-sponsor HR 1266 again or for the first time. Call the central House of Representatives switchboard (202-224-3121) to contact their offices. Write to President Bush and ask him to fulfill his campaign promise and support HR 1266. Tell him it is the only clear way to indicate to everyone, and in particular the Arab-American community, that he abhors due process violations and race/ethnic targeting and profiling — in particular the use of secret evidence in deportations.

Write to: President George Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500

HUAC Records Now Open to Public Scrutiny

A coalition of historians and archivists has succeeded in opening the records of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) to the public.

HUAC was created in 1945 as a successor to the Select Committee on Un-American Activities (the Dies Committee - 1938-1944). Congress finally put an end to HUAC in 1975 thanks to the tireless efforts of Frank Wilkinson, Carl Braden and other members of the National Committee to Abolish HUAC.

HUAC was relentless in its targeting of progressives, homosexuals, anti-war activists, communists, civil rights activists, and others.

According to Dr. Bruce Craig, director of the National Coordination Committee for the Promotion of History, "HUAC has a reputation for abuse of power and disregard of individual rights. With these records, for the first time, historians will be able to get a much clearer picture of the internal workings of America's own 20th century inquisition."

Requests to gain access to the records should be directed to National Archives, Center for Legislative Archives, (202) 501-5350.

— Vivian Schatz

Middle East

The Middle East committee is inviting our branches to familiarize themselves with all the documents and resolutions that WILPF International has produced previously. These documents and pamphlets can be an inspiration to start study groups. The committee is compiling a list of these that will be available in the national office. Many are already available at www.wilpf.org. We encourage you to use them to engage in discussions, or dialogue to build peace.

What follows is an excerpt of a speech by Paul Berthoud, a retired senior U.N. official who spoke at our last International gathering in Geneva on the theme, "Actions to Break the Barriers to Peace in the Middle East and Other Regions," to replace the Jerusalem International Conference that did not take place. The whole speech is on our web site, under "International" and then under "Events."

"Now if you look at all those considerations you have to come to the conclusion that there is really not any alternative in moving towards an acceptable peace. Israel up to 1967 had formally accepted partition while the Arabs had rejected it. Since 1978 the Arabs had accepted partition and Israel has been cagey about it, it has not clearly expressed its position. I am personally very convinced that the only solution, if we speak of a real solution of the problem as an ultimate aim of a peace process, will reside in the respect of international law. After all, the extension of the rule of law to the international sphere has been considered very often as the big conquest of the 20th Century. With the League of Nations and then the United Nations one has at last moved into a situation where respect of law can be considered as an element which enters international relations and can serve as a basis to rule those relations. And respect of International law means really that Israel has to accept partition. That is it has to accept the recognition that next to it, on that territory of mandated Palestine, there will be a state of Palestine that will be endowed with the full attributes of sovereignty. Now let me hasten to say that it may be part of the exercise of that sovereignty to negotiate adjustments that may be necessary to satisfy the security of Israel, to satisfy its needs in terms of borders, and even in terms of military restrictions. But this is the luxury of a sovereign state, to accept limits to its sovereignty in agreements that is builds with another state This is a process that should take place between two fully sover-



Grace Paley at the Board Retreat



Smiles all around at the Board retreat. Above left, U.N. representative Gloria Bletter and Regina Buchen. Above center, Molly Klopot, New York Metro and Joan Echlein, Boston. Above right,

eign states which can then enter into the negotiation of the adjustments necessary, and acceptable to both of them in order to facilitate their co-existence.”

Other speeches also available to view from that event are the speech of Bruna Nota, our past International president; Mr. Nabil Ramlawi, permanent

observer of Palestine to the United Nations, and a speech by Nurit Peled-Ehlhanan, professor in Israel.

We are also starting to speak about a WILPF delegation to Israel and Palestine, possibly, in January with Global Exchange, or with FOR. Any member who would like to be part of a WILPF Middle East delegation is invited to call the national office and leave her name, best time available, so we can get a sense of how many would be interested.

— Odile Hugonot Haber
od4life@aol.com

Interim Board Evaluates New Structure

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Darien De Lu
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When the newly restructured Interim National Board first met at the WILPF Congress in St. Louis, they were given the mandate to evaluate the revised by-laws and new structure of U.S. WILPF, as proposed by the Restructuring Committee (Mavens) prior to the 2002 Congress. At a workshop held at the March Board meeting, and at a special retreat held in June, the members of the Board examined the ways in which the new structure had been useful and the areas that need to be changed.

The work of U.S. WILPF’s three current Campaigns, Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration & Reconciliation; Challenge Corporate Power: Assert the People’s Rights, and Disarm! Dismantling the War Economy, represent some of the fundamental conditions for peace. Because peace and freedom are our key concerns, and because these three campaigns are continuing to develop and establish their WILPF work, the national Board reached consensus that we should continue the work we have begun on these campaigns, giving local branches and members the opportunity to suggest ways of expanding and implementing these campaigns at the 2002 National Congress

in Vermont, June 26 - 30, 2002.

At the board retreat, a proposal was presented by the Cuba Action Committee requesting to become a fourth campaign. Since the Cuba Committee’s proposal came in as a close fourth at the St. Louis Congress, and since they are essentially carrying out their work as a campaign while being recognized only as an issue committee, the interim board reached consensus upon this question. It was agreed that having Cuba as a fourth campaign at this particular moment in history would be appropriate so that WILPF will be in a strong position to help prevent the possible corporate and military subjugation of Cuba. It was also noted that the Cuba Action Committee, through its unique structure, has recruited a diverse group of new members to WILPF.

As U.S. WILPF continues the four program Campaigns for the next three years (2002-2005) all members are invited to participate in evaluation of the Campaign work and to offer ideas and suggestions for future activities. The National Congress next year will present opportunities to identify and explore the interconnections between the Campaigns. Additionally, the several Issues Committees will highlight the relationships between the Campaigns and their areas of focus.

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Darien De Lu is a U.S. WILPF board member and chair of the Staff Concerns Committee.

Racism & Global Corporatization

Gwen Braxton and Mary Zepernick

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

The persons who were made citizens and granted legal protections by the U.S. Constitution’s 14th Amendment, passed in 1868, were African-Americans, and specifically newly freed slaves.

Corporate managers, lawyers and lobbyists — ever seeking to remove the restrictions on corporations established and enforced through state-issued charters — eyed this development as a grand opportunity to advance their cause.

Sure enough, in 1886, the Supreme Court in Santa Clara Country vs. the Southern Pacific Railroad declared the corporate form legally equivalent to a person with regard to the protections of the 14th Amendment. In a bitter irony, the primary beneficiaries of a centuries-old system that literally capitalized on the labor of Africans have used this legal personhood of corporations to increase their illegitimate power and wealth— at the continuing exploitation and expense of people of color.

Between 1890 and 1910, more than 300 cases were brought before the Supreme Court under the 14th Amendment: 288 by property organized in the corporate form; 19 by African-Americans. Enslaved people had been defined as property until the 13th Amendment abolished the institution (if not the legacy) of slavery, prohibiting “involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime.” Thus has the Constitution supported free

labor to corporations past and present, from early railroads to the increasingly privatized prisons today that are filled with the poor and people of color convicted of non-violent crimes.

In 1896, some 10 years after Santa Clara, the Supreme Court set forth in Plessy vs. Ferguson the “separate but equal doctrine” that legalized segregation through “Jim Crow” laws. In less than 30 years, African-Americans had effectively lost their legal personhood rights, while the corporate form and its operatives piled rights upon privileges, on into the 21st Century.

According to historian Jeff Kaplan, these court decisions toward the end of the 19th Century “are part of a common social structure in which the exercise of social power through property rights continues to mask the concomitant disempowerment of people of color. In effect, what the courts decided is that corporations are people while African-Americans are not; and that, while property could no longer be held in the form of black skins, it could still be invested in white ones.”

Kaplan quotes African-American legal scholar Cheryl Harris, who points out that “Whiteness and property share a common premise.... the right to exclude.” In reflecting on the personification of corporations, Kaplan contends that the “corporate person is a white person. It was given its invisible, but nonetheless valuable, color because of the conjoint exclusionary privileges of whiteness and property.”

Today the 5 percent of the wealthiest people, who use corporate “persons” as their vehicles for plunder, are wealthier and more powerful than ever. They are the heirs of those who profited from the transatlantic slave trade by inventing the assumption of inferiority based on race and using it as a rationale for decimating, colonizing and enslaving people of color for profit. Racial slavery differs from the slavery of previous eras in creating deliberate and systemic oppression. It is characterized by the theft of peoples, lands and resources; rape and lynching; and other efforts to dehumanize and destroy spiritual, cultural, economic, and political systems that have sustained people and communities and provided alternative for organizing human societies.

In the English colonies, racial prejudice served to neutralize the threat that Africans, indigenous peoples, European indentured servants, workers, and farmers would make common cause. Post-independence, the United States continued the slave economy for nearly a century, and to this day exploits people of color as a pool of surplus, unemployed and cheap labor to keep wages

A fascinating, illuminating and compelling read is *Freedoms’ Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970* by Lynne Olson (Scribner). In addition to chronicling these courageous under-acknowledged women, there is an analysis of the ups and downs of the working relations between blacks and whites, Northerners and Southerners, men and women during the 1960s. The book contains lessons and cautions for all who struggle for racial justice.

- Joyce McLean

low and scapegoats them as a counterweight to unrest among the “white” working class. This strategy has worked so brilliantly that in recent decades it has been exported to former colonies of other European nations in the guise of “free trade.” As corporate operatives did with the 14th Amendment, they have seized on global trade and its international infrastructure as a vehicle for the growth of profits and power.

Thus, although global corporatization is now supported by other countries as well (primarily the same western nations who fueled the first age of colonization), our campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People’s Rights concentrates on the United States as the creator and engine of global corporatization. The U.S. racism that perpetuates a low-wage pool of people of color and a divide-and-conquer mentality is equally important to global corporatization as a corresponding global movement builds to resist corporate rule, systemic racism, and the militarism that keeps these in place.

Therefore, it is wholly in historical character that the United States government sought to dictate the agenda at the World Conference on Racism, in order to maintain the tool of racism to cloak and perpetuate the power of the propertied few. And when political power is insufficient to maintain control, the police and military power of the state is employed: from tracking down fugitive slaves, to mowing down striking workers; from brutalizing the people protesting the closed-door meetings of corporate-political elites, to murderous suppression of those who threaten the safety of capital investment

aimed at benefiting the few.

It took almost half a century for Plessy vs. Ferguson to be reversed by the 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown vs. Board of Education*, declaring that separation (segregation) was inherently unequal. This was not a gift of the Court, but resulted from civil rights movement-building, coupled with decades of patient legal work—the combination changing the political culture enough to achieve this victory. The *Brown* decision certainly didn’t end racism; it simply eliminated a legal impediment and opened an organizing door for continued movement-building and legal challenges.

So it is with corporate personhood, a concept all the more outrageous in contrast to the effective denial of personhood to real live human beings. However, until we understand the history and underpinnings of corporate domination, we shall continue spending our energy challenging corporate behavior, rather than corporate power which feeds and feasts on oppression.

We cannot achieve justice without the citizens of this country developing democratic tools that make the people sovereign over economic, military, social/cultural, and political systems. In this way we can also prevent the United States from interfering in the sovereignty of other nations.

Gwen Braxton is WILPF’s national board campaign organizer for UFORJE. Mary Zepernick co chairs the campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People’s Rights, which is currently focused on opposing corporate legal personhood. A packet can be ordered for \$5 from the national office.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR AN INVESTMENT IN PEACE

As the calls, emails and letters have come in to WILPF from around the country and the world after the devastation of September 11th, WILPF has been able to play an important role in mobilizing and supporting our members and others who count on us to raise the call for peace and justice, not war and revenge. It is only through the generous and ongoing support of members and friends that WILPF can be here to speak out...to mobilize...to organize.

It is only through the gifts of members and friends that we are able to be here, to be on the Web, to be at the end of the phone, when the urgent seeker for peace calls looking for a way to channel her grief and concern, finding others to work with who share an often unpopular and lonely perspective.

YOUR END-OF-YEAR GIFT is essential to make it possible for WILPF to be here, to be prepared, to have the tools for organizing and outreach. Please give an extra gift this year. Please give as generously as you can. Many members have honored WILPF by contributing their Bush tax rebate. We are grateful and encourage you to consider investing all or part of your rebate in WILPF to work for peace and justice.

As always, your gift can come directly to WILPF at 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107. Your gift over \$50 can be tax deductible if written to the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA) for WILPF’s educational work. Gifts to WILPF can be made by credit card, by phone, letter, or through our website at www.wilpf.org.

Save the Date! The next National WILPF Congress will be held at Goddard College in Plainfield, VT, June 26 - 30, 2002. Watch for registration, program and election information in future issues of *Peace and Freedom*.

A New Direction for Disarmament

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Ellen Barfield

Disarm! Dismantling the War Economy had a powerful and inspiring planning retreat in beautiful, cool, Ann Arbor, MI, in mid-August.

Attendees included old-timers in WILPF disarmament circles, some not previously active on the committee, and some with wonderful new energy.

We shared hopes and dreams and wild ideas for riding the world (or at least our nation, the world's bully) of the scourge of weapons and war. We reviewed past activities; what worked and what didn't. We worked by consensus, skillfully facilitated by Sherry Wander, one of the exciting new breed of WILPFers who have been able to study for college degrees in such areas as peace studies and conflict resolution.

Some recent Disarm! actions which worked were the distribution of a powerful statement denouncing the U.S. submarine collision with the Japanese fishing vessel, and congratulatory letters urging resistance to militarism which were sent to the new Democrat Congressional committee chairs who moved into place when Senator Jeffords changed party affiliation. Also, more than 20 WILPFers were among an unexpectedly large crowd of more than 300 people from 40 states who participated in rally and lobby days in mid June against "Star Wars" in Washington, D.C.

At our retreat, we agreed the main thing that needs changing is the absence of a distinctly WILPF, women-focused national campaign on disarmament— hopefully with the ability to capture people's imagination, like the recent world-wide "Roll Your Own Blackout" clean energy action. We have done a lot in the last two years, but it has mostly been tying in with other groups' actions in specific locations, especially D.C. or on the West Coast. People who were not able to get to those locations couldn't participate. We will work to create such a national WILPF project.

One thing that really resonated with me at the retreat was a visual that Campaign Co-chair Yoshiko Ikuta drew of three intersecting circles of three WILPF campaigns. All of these campaigns are trying to abolish something (racism, corporate tyranny, war) and all have face-to-face techniques for learning from and inspiring people (race raves, study circles, and the soon to come Disarm! listening projects). They all work toward the same goals in different orders; UFORJE wants Justice, with Peace and Democracy; Challenge Corporate Power wants Democracy, with Peace and Justice; and Disarm! wants Peace, with Justice and Democracy.

Though the retreat was far too short to finalize

wording or exact proposal plans, a clear vision of the campaign's future direction began to form, and will be firmed up in conference calls. The structure will include short, medium and long-range components.

The short-term disarmament project is to resist the Bush administration's most dangerous military initiative, the plan to rush ahead with anti-ballistic missile systems, a thinly-veiled way to weaponize and dominate space. The plan is neither national nor defense, though it is more commonly known as National Missile Defense. In actuality it would include installations in allied countries, such as Norway, Denmark, the U.K., New Zealand, and Australia, as noted on the WILPF International website. It would increase world instability by encouraging a new arms race in space and by increasing existing weapons stockpiles by well-armed nations such as China or Russia.

BUILDING A PEACE POLICY

Many of us took part in the October 13th day of world-wide actions against "Star Wars," organized by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, called "Keep Space for Peace."

New and energetic campaign member Carol Reilly Urner created a flyer that could be used to promote the October 13 and other events, reclaiming the highly offensive "Vision 2020" government document, which proclaims in no uncertain terms U.S. Space Command's intention to dominate space. The WILPF version calls for domination of the military by the people, and the conversion of military contractors to civilian needs.

The middle-term campaign work, which will culminate with a proposal at the U.S. Section Congress in Vermont in summer 2002, will be to do an internal listening project in branches and regional clusters to elicit WILPF member concerns and desires regarding disarmament and anti-militarism. A pilot project in one or two branches should be in place by December, and "Train the Trainers" gatherings will take place in spring 2002. This will encompass a likely committee name change or adjustment. Many ideas flew about in brainstorming at the retreat, such as "Disarm: For a Peace Policy," or "Disarm: Building a Peace Policy."

Nothing else was finalized, but the intention is to talk about and work toward what a peace policy would look like. We agreed that it would require women at peace tables at every level. The recent U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325, which advocates including women on all U.N. decision-making bodies (and the

Building a U.S. Women's Movement for Cuba

Cindy Domingo and Jan Strout

"Cuban women are struggling to maintain the dreams they have achieved in spite of the drastic economic crisis and profound challenges of the last ten years."

—Victoria Maldonado, filmmaker and co-founder, Colombia Media Project, NY.

Many women's visions and values — in the United States and globally — have paralleled the priorities of the Cuban Revolution. Cuban society has put an emphasis on human development, finding alternatives to violence, and ending poverty and discrimination while providing the material conditions for full social, cultural and political participation.

Specifically this includes the right to health care, housing, education (through university level) paid maternity leave, and subsidized childcare. In Cuba, for example, reproductive health services are free upon demand. Women in Cuba make up the majority of the country's doctors, teachers, scientists and researchers. They represent some 47 percent of the labor force (*From Beijing to 2000*, The Federation of Cuban Women). There is a commitment to racial justice and promotion of a multicultural society. The Cuban Constitution outlaws discrimination on the basis of gender, race and sexual orientation.

Measured against the international standard of the *Beijing Platform for Action* from the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women, Cuba has made significant gains with regard to the status of women. These gains are more surprising when contrasted with the economic devastation the country has suffered due to the loss in trade and aid from the former Soviet Bloc countries and the 40-year old U.S. economic blockade. The enormous gains in the status of Cuban women due to the efforts



of the Cuban Revolution are rarely known or understood—given the information blockade in the United States maintained by both the government and corporate-controlled media.

These gains do not tell the whole story, however. The rush to develop tourism to recover foreign currency in the wake of Cuba's economic crisis has brought immense social costs— including "jineterismo." Used to describe the return of prostitution, "jineterismo" is an exchange of goods and services by young Cuban women with international tourists and businessmen. Until recently, coverage by most feminist and alternative media on "jineterismo" has either overshadowed or failed to report the vast majority of Cuban women's lives.

owed or failed to report the vast majority of Cuban women's lives.

It is crucial now to build a U.S.-based women's movement to normalize relations with Cuba. The U.S. government blockade is increasing cruelty to Cuban women and children in violation of international law. We need growing domestic support in many sectors to end the economic embargo in trade and travel, as well as increased global consciousness by U.S. women's movements. We also need to tackle the hard-line resistance to normalizing relations that the old/new Bush administration has. This same administration is rapidly dismantling women's rights at every level. Through creative and organized resistance, we can use these events to open up opportunities for building trust and ties across the many and varied sectors of women.

* * *

"I came to Cuba to see for myself the disparity people are suffering here due to U.S. foreign policy. So it was very necessary for me to come on this delegation, but even more necessary, to return and educate the public and try to remove the veil, remove the big sleep that people are facing in the United States."

— Donna O'Donovan, university student, Cape Cod, MA.

Women's Delegations Challenge Policy

Collaborations at national and local levels amongst feminist groups have begun to make inroads for change. Hermanas: Sisterhood in Central America and the Caribbean, based in central New Jersey, was founded in 1988 to organize women locally to experience first-hand the impacts of women's leadership in Nicaragua during the Sandinista Revolution. The group began organizing women to travel to Cuba in 1990. They organize annual women's delegations to Cuba, educate in communities statewide and bring medical supplies and women's information to Cuba. Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO), based in Seattle, was founded in 1973. It is a community-based organization, led by and for low-income workers of color and women workers to address issues of economic and racial justice. Their "EveryWoman's Delegations" to China and Cuba have significantly increased the leadership of women of color and working-class women.

For over 10 years, Hermanas and WILPF (and beginning in 1999, LELO) have co-sponsored delegations to Cuba. The ultimate goal of women's delegations to Cuba — and the organizing that accompanies them — is to normalize relations between these two sovereign nations and to build an inclusive and progressive women's movement in the United States. Campaign actions aim to empower diverse women in

the United States and other parts of the world to participate in and develop just and peaceful international relations, deepen global women's solidarity and use a woman-to-woman citizen diplomacy model to craft methods to normalize relations between the United States and Cuba.

Coordinating closely with women throughout Cuba, primarily through the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), a grassroots NGO representing about 85 percent of Cuban women aged 14 years and older, women's delegations build solidarity and sisterhood between Cuban and U.S. women. The LELO EveryWoman's Delegation, co-sponsored with WILPF, in April 2001, met with a wide variety of Cuban women from many sectors of society. Led by women of color based in Seattle, this multi-racial and multi-ethnic group of 24 women was more than just a delegation. These women are building a movement in the United States that will allow the Cuban people to determine their own future, while forging a women's movement in the U.S. that embraces an anti-racist, anti-imperialist perspective.

* * *

"What's great about traveling to Cuba is to see so many women in leadership. This is empowering to women here in the United States, especially those of us working in the domestic violence movement. It is amazing to see all the resources dedicated to women and children's needs, such as high-risk maternal care... and day care centers." — Emma Catague, Asian & Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center, Seattle, WA.

Building A Movement and Sisterhood

In conjunction with organizing annual delegations, Hermanas, LELO and WILPF separately and together have designed educational tools and activist media, advocated to change legislation and helped start the U.S.-Cuba Sister Cities Association. These groups have brought thousands of dollars of humanitarian aid in medicines and information with a focus on women to Cuba. This work will be deepened through a widely consultative, user-friendly, geographically and demographically diverse and educational process. Specific goals are: 1) to develop a broad-based and participatory strategic planning process that results in a three-year plan of action; 2) to increase women's leadership work in policy making, advocacy and education to change U.S. policy; 3) to integrate education and advocacy about Cuba into existing women's rights and social justice organizations; and 4) to create fair coverage of Cuba by bringing in more women's voices to both the mainstream and feminist/independent media.

A national advisory committee with women from LELO, Hermanas and WILPF are spending a year on this process. Women's Roundtables on Cuba, facilitated by 40 to 50 local organizations (and at conferences from around the country) are creating alliances and networks between women



In Havana, two girls have lunch with their grandmother at a local market.

Theta Pavis

from different sectors, including: women's rights; social, environmental and economic justice organizations; Cuba solidarity groups; media; progressive philanthropy and parliamentarians. Responses to questionnaires are being gathered electronically and by mail to increase geographic representation.

The Women and Cuba National Leadership Summit (to be held next year) will expand on the results of the roundtable discussions and questionnaires. The Summit will call women to action from across the country to determine the vision, values and a three-to-five-year comprehensive plan.

* * *

"Why women? Why have we chosen Cuba? This is a strategic moment — after Beijing, during this huge escalation against Cuba. It is a chance for us to play a historic role. It is also a way for us to increase our power as women. That is an important thing for ourselves, for the Cuban women, for women in the whole hemisphere and for women in the two-thirds world." — Marilyn Clement, co-organizer, De Hermana a Hermana (Sister to Sister Project of WILPF/Global Exchange / Hermanas/Madre)

For more information or to get involved, please contact Jan Strout, project organizer, via e-mail janstrout@qwest.net or at (206) 547-0940 and request one of the "Your Ideas" questionnaires.

Cindy Domingo, organizer of LELO's EveryWoman's Delegations, is a member of the board of LELO (www.lelo.org). Jan Strout started organizing annual women's delegations to Cuba in 1990 through Hermanas and is co chair of WILPF's Cuba and Women Campaign and of the National Network on Cuba (www.cubasolidarity.com).

This article is reprinted by permission from *Resist* and originally appeared in the July/August 2001 *Resist* Newsletter. For more information, contact Resist, 259 Elm Street, Somerville, MA 02144; www.resistinc.org. Resist has been funding social change since 1967.

Saying No to the American Correctional Association

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Jody Dodd, Leadership and Outreach Coordinator
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During the week of August 10th - 16th, hundreds of activists from across the country came to Philadelphia to attend a counter conference and join in demonstrations that spoke out against the American Correctional Association (ACA), which was holding its annual convention and trade show here. The ACA is an association of corporations who promote and seek to profit from prisons. Their promotional materials invite corporations “to join this profitable growth industry.”

The counter conference was well attended by activists and organizers who work on prison and criminal justice issues. People came together to discuss the devastating effects of the drug war, mandatory sentences and alternatives to incarceration, as well as prevention programs. There were also workshops on the impacts of prisons built in rural communities and the links to building prisons further away from families of prisoners and the difficulties this poses. From this conference, several demands were developed to present to the ACA.

Following the weekend conference, daily demonstrations and marches were held outside the convention center where the ACA trade show was occurring. The trade show is where corporations hawk everything from the latest in restraint chairs, stun guns, and the serum used in executions to the more benign toilets, office furniture, uniforms and bedding. For three days, activists held their own “mock trade show,” a roving chain gang passed out flyers about the ACA, anti-death penalty activists rallied, and ACT-UP held a march and rally to address the issue of HIV and AIDS healthcare in the prisons.

On the last day, nine activists went to the closing plenary of the ACA to present the demands developed by activists during the counter conference. The ACA had paid for an ad in the local *City Paper* weekly expressing interest in a dialogue with the protesters. Instead, when the activists and three members of Independent Media Center came into the meeting, they were all arrested (including the indymedia members who were wearing media passes). They were charged with trespass and criminal mischief.

As I reflect on the week of events, two things stand out. First, in the ad the ACA placed in the local paper, they stressed that they were “citizens like you and me ... young and old, men and women, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, black, brown and white.” This statement seen through the lens of our Corporations and Democracy Campaign exposes the lie of corporations.



They are NOT like you and me— when they pollute, steal, kill, they do not go to jail. How ironic that prison corporations promote themselves in this way! Second, I was struck by how the corporate media plays such a powerful role in promoting corporate agendas. None of the corporate media saw a contradiction in the ACA’s invitation to dialogue and the activists who accepted being promptly arrested. This underscores yet again the need for us to promote independent media. I encourage everyone to use and promote the Independent Media Centers www.indymedia.org as a source of information and to share our work ❖

Coming to Your Town Soon

Dear WILPF members,
I have been your Leadership and Outreach Coordinator for about 10 months. During this time, I have learned about your branch lists, made contact with many of you by letters, email and phone. I have even had the chance to meet some of you at events and demonstrations. It has been a great experience for me thus far.

In talking to some of you and in consultation with Mary Day Kent, I am planning to spend the next year traveling to the branches. The purpose is to make a human connection, listen to your ideas, and hopefully together we can come up with strategies for membership development. I started this by attending the Cluster meeting in California in September. Following that, I want to come to the Northeast later in the fall. In December, I am planning to go to Texas, and hope to meet with members there who have expressed an interest in creating a “Texas Branch.” JAPA has a fund expressly for outreach and membership development, which will assist with travel costs. In the coming weeks I will be contacting branches around the country and planning trips to try to come to as many cities and towns as possible. I look forward to meeting many of you soon!

Yours in Struggle,
Jody Dodd
Leadership and Outreach Coordinator

Jane Addams Book Awards Announced

Isha Dyfan, JAPA Executive Director

Two children's books with Latino themes have won the prestigious 2001 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards. The winners were announced September 6.

Esperanza Rising, written by Pam Muñoz Ryan is the winner in the Writing Category. This 262-page novel explores the status of women in Mexico and of migrant workers in the United States during the early 20th Century. In this story Esperanza, a 13-year-old girl whose name in Spanish means "hope," becomes involved with striking field workers and the complexities of resistance. The beautifully written novel illuminates the history of agricultural strikes in California and the impact of the 1929 federal Deportation Act on Mexicans. The author based her story (written for middle school readers) on some of her grandmother's experiences. It was published by Scholastic Press.

The winner in the Picture Book Category is *The Composition*, a suspenseful 32-page picture story written for elementary schoolchildren. It was written by Chilean author Antonio Skármeta, illustrated by Alfonso Ruano and translated from Spanish by Elisa Amado. The story takes place in an unnamed nation in South America, where schoolchildren have been given an assignment by a soldier who represents the military dictator. The children must enter a competition by writing about what their parents do at night. Nine-year-old Pedro has witnessed street violence, but his parents (who are involved in resistance activities) have insisted that he as a child must not "take sides." Symbolic artwork heightens the meanings in this provocative book, which invites reflection about freedom, moral choices, and personal responsibility. The book is published by Groundwood Books.

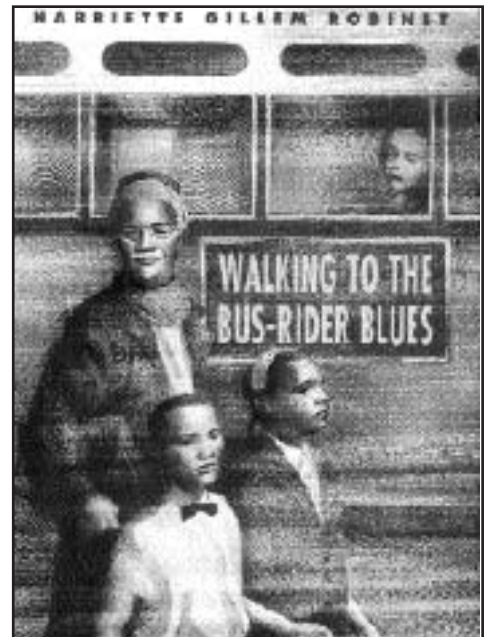
The Color of My Words, written by Lynn Joseph, is one of three Honor Books in the Writing Category. The 138-page novel for middle school readers explores the themes of resistance, community, exploitation in the interest of tourism, and the aspirations of 12-year-old Ana Rosa, an emerging writer whose family lives in desperate poverty. Joseph was born in Trinidad, but she set her story in the Dominican Republic where she now lives during part of each year. It was published by HarperCollins Children's Books.

Darkness over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews written by Ellen Levine and published by Holiday House is also an Honor Book. A well-documented account, it relates how Denmark's 8,000 Jewish citizens were saved from Nazi persecution during World War II. Levine did extensive research on this

astonishing history for her narrative. The 164-page book, which much visual and archival material will interest middle school youth in particular. Levine won the 1994 Jane Addams award for the nonfiction book *Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Stories*.

The third Honor Book is *Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues*, a 146-page novel written by Harriette Gillem

Robinet, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Set during the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott during the U.S. civil rights movement of the 1950s, Robinet's exciting story involves a 12-year-old boy, his teenage sister, and their grandmother as they take a stand against segregation and solve a personal mystery.



Only one Honor Book was named in the Picture Book Category. *The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark*, written by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Henri Sørensen, and published by Peachtree Publishers, Ltd. One tale about this widely beloved Danish king relates his decision to publicly wear a yellow star on his clothing during 1940, when Danish Jews were ordered by the Nazis to identify themselves.

Each winning author and artist was to be honored by the Jane Addams Peace Association on October 19, at United Nations Development Programs conference room in New York City. Background information about the Awards and a complete list of books honored through the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards process since 1953 is available on the world wide web at www.janeaddams.org

The Jane Addams Children's Book Awards are given annually to books published during the previous year which as well as meeting conventional standards for

Continued on page 31 ➤



New Biotech Propaganda Targets Children

Susan Whitehead

B iotechnology is a growing industry that can often seem quite mysterious to many of us. We hear it mentioned in the news with headlines that usually read something like “Miracle Crop Will Feed and Nourish the World.” Sounds great! But how are they going to do that? How much do we truly know about biotechnology — its hazards, uses and potentials? Most of us only know a few biotech basics that we have heard in passing.

Biotechnology companies want to make sure that the next generation is more informed, however, so they’ve funded several new publications aimed at children.

The most prominent of these industry-created materials is a children’s magazine called *Your World: Biotechnology and You* (www.biotechinstitute.org). It is distributed free of charge to over 5,000 schools in the United States and Europe. *Your World* is sponsored and funded by the likes of Monsanto, Pfizer and Novartis— all big biotech firms.

Produced by the biotechnology and genetically modified (GM) food industries, such publications are touted as “educational materials” perfect for elementary through high school students.

Your World is published by The Biotechnology Institute, whose mission is to “engage, excite and educate as many people as possible, particularly young people, about biotechnology and its immense potential for solving human health and environmental problems.”

These colorful magazines give a one-sided, biased look at the industry. They attempt to make biotech look fun and exciting; something children would want to get in on. The magazines don’t mention any dangers or risks to our environment, or our health. Generally speaking, these “educational materials”— which are sadly one of the few resources for teachers regarding biotechnology education — give false and misleading information about biotech and GM foods.

Many activists are trying to keep these publications out of schools. Joanna Clark of the GM Free Network in Scotland www.gmfreescotland.net (where 600 schools were sent 84,000 copies of *Your World*) said in an email interview that *Your World* is “pure biotechnology propaganda.”

“It will mislead young minds by using emotive references to starving people in the Third World and by confusing technology with science. This magazine is designed to make sure that the next generation is not going to ask the same awkward questions about the safety of GM foods that their parents are asking,” she said. “PTA members are not happy with industry-created materials in their schools.”

Though *Your World* gives children information about biotechnology and GM foods, most of it is misleading and one-sided. In an article entitled “The Gene Revolution: an answer to poverty and starvation,” *Your World* makes the claim that “GM crops can potentially produce more food with fewer chemicals and higher nutritional value, than traditional crops.”

The use of the term potentially (which is frequently used throughout *Your World*) is a red flag, warning that what they are discussing does not yet exist. If GM crops can grow with fewer chemicals, it is because they would already be genetically equipped with them. Many crops are currently being genetically modified to release pesticides. Farmers don’t have to spray on chemicals, because the crops are already releasing them as part of their genetically modified nature. This causes a few problems. For one thing, the pesticides are always “on” explained Paul Goettlich, founder of Mindfully.org, (www.mindfully.org) a Web-based organization that provides resources on genetic engineering and biotechnology.

Having the pesticides always “on” will cause pests to build up a tolerance to the chemicals being used. Such pesticides would be constantly released into the atmosphere, uncontrollably going everywhere and contaminating other crops.

Ultimately, Goettlich said stronger pesticides and more frequent use of them will be needed to control pests. This can lead to the creation of super weeds and insects immune to pesticides. Of course, none of this information was presented in *Your World*.

In another article, “Weed Warriors: Herbicide Tolerant Crops,” *Your World* promotes the “less toxic”

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

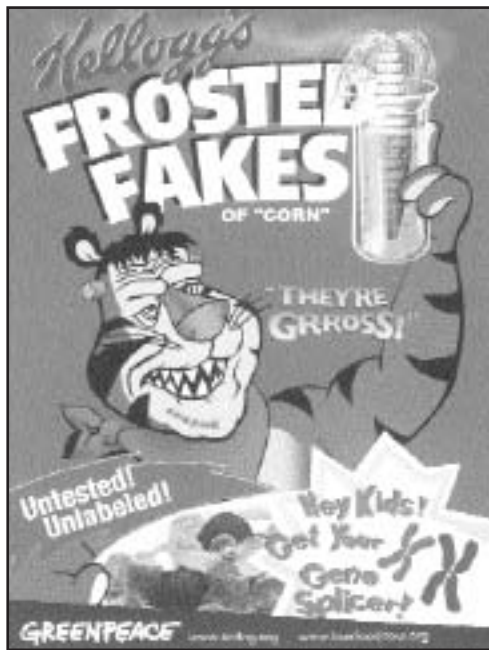
Roundup, created by none other than major magazine sponsor Monsanto. Roundup is the world's best selling weed killer. Monsanto says that it is not harmful to animals and a safer, "less toxic" alternative to other herbicides.

However, Roundup contains glyphosphate, which, according to Carolyn Cox, editor of the *Journal for Pesticide Reform*, is acutely toxic to animals and humans.

In her "Glyphosphate Fact Sheet," Cox states that "Given the marketing of glyphosphate herbicides as benign, it is striking that herbicide studies have adverse effects in all standard toxicology testing. These include medium toxicity (salivary gland lesions), long-term toxicity (inflamed stomach linings), genetic damage (in human blood cells), effects on reproduction (reduced sperm counts in rats; increases frequency of abnormal sperm in rabbits) and carcinogenicity (increased frequency of liver tumors in male rats and thyroid cancer in female rats). In studies of people (mostly farmers) exposed to glyphosphate herbicides, exposure is associated with an increased risk of miscarriages, premature birth and the cancer non-Hodgkins Lymphoma."

Another *Your World* article discusses the creation of "Golden Rice," to help fight vitamin A deficiency. *Your World* states that 250 million people suffer from this deficiency. A half million children become blind each year from the deficiency, and half of them die within months. The magazine states that "A bowl of this 'golden rice' provides enough vitamin A to keep a person healthy." For starters, "golden rice" is hypothetical. It has not yet been created and if it is one day created, there is no telling how much nutritional value one bowl will hold. Most importantly, do people in developing nations even want such rice or other genetically modified foods? According to Vandana Shiva (in her article "World in a Grain of Rice," written for *The Ecologist*) people in India do not want any part of golden rice or other GM foods.

Shiva feels that the biodiversity in India was ruined with the Green Revolution when "Chemicals and machines ruined over 200,000 rice varieties. They built India new rice, also creating 40 new insect pests and 12 new diseases." The answer to vitamin A deficiency does not lie with golden rice, according to Shiva. She argues that "through rejuvenating biodiversity, we can solve problems of vitamin deficiency and malnutrition."



Your World's attempt at a "Food Safety Section" starts with the question: Is eating genetically modified foods safe? The writers answer by outlining how dangerous organically grown foods are. Organic foods "are not protected from the fungus and molds that cause health risks," the article says. "A mold that grows on corn and peanuts produces a cancer-causing agent and can cause a whole crop to be rejected."

What doesn't get mentioned is anything having to do with GM foods or the fact that the Environmental Protection Agency has only recently begun testing the effects eating GM food will have on us.

Another industry publication written with children in mind is *Look Closer At Biotechnology*, a workbook with everything from coloring to word scrambles. It is published by the Council of Biotechnology Information, which was founded in April 2000 by leading biotech companies such as Monsanto, DuPont and Syngenter.

The council members say they are "committed to providing objective, balanced information to help you better understand and appreciate the benefits biotechnology offers, as well as encourage informed debate about the issues it raises."

After taking a close look at the workbook, one might wonder what happened to their commitment. On the first page, biotechnology is introduced as "a really neat topic ... helping to improve the health of the earth and the people who call it home." Throughout the workbook, biotechnology is made to seem like fun. One activity is a matching game, where kids match the food with a potential benefit. For example, bananas go to edible medicines, "in the future bananas could be grown with medicine inside them."

Another is a "Biotech Whiz Kidz Quiz," which asks questions such as, "Does biotechnology help the earth produce more nutritious food?" The correct answer in the workbook would be "true."

In addition to the workbook, The Council for Biotechnology is sponsoring a "Food of the Future Contest," with a \$10,000 scholarship as its winning prize. The contest is for children from 8 to 12 years old, and is also available online at www.biotechandyou.com. Children are asked to create a "food of the future." In 50 to 100 words, they are to describe the name of the food,

Continued on page 31 ➤

► UBUNTU

continued from page 10

rates. This is one of the reasons that the United States and Europe prefer a South African Truth and Reconciliation process with no reparations, accountability, punishment or justice as the solution to past and ongoing racism.

SYSTEMIC RACISM: POWER + PROPAGANDA

Barbara Laval, Sha'an Mouliert and I planned this workshop in the peace tent. The workshop provided opportunities for participants to discuss three questions: What is racism? How is racism manifested in your country? How does racism impact you? Small groups met and reported back to the larger group. The purpose of the workshop was to give people an opportunity to discuss racism, provide an opportunity for WILPF/UFORJE participants to get to know each other, and for WILPF to do racial justice work as members of this international forum. As expected, there were many different ideas about the nature of racism and very painful experiences with racism.

African NGOs were not as visible as some other peoples publicizing their issues. Many people complained about the visibility of the Israel/Palestine conflict, compared to the invisibility of contemporary racism between various African ethnic groups. People blamed the media. Journalists say their job is to submit hot stories. Meanwhile, the people who own the media determine what is shown.

WORLD COURT OF WOMEN AGAINST RACISM

Betty Burkes attended the World Court of Women Against Racism. The Court was not allowed to participate in the NGO Forum. It was one of the off-site parallel activities. This court was a 12-hour program that included testimonies of women and men before the Council of Wisdom, a jury of wise women and men. More than 3,000 women came. The Asian Women's Human Rights Council created the Courts of Women as public hearings for the victims/survivors of violence of colonialism, cultural genocide, economic injustices and contemporary forms of racism. Women name the crimes, seek redress and reparations. There have been at least seven other courts dealing with other issues.

NGO FORUM CLOSING

The closing was late starting. The audience entertained themselves and the press with political songs, chants, banners and posters. Fidel Castro gave a very traditional Fidel speech (lots of statistics about conditions in the United

States) and made several jokes during his two and a half-hour presentation. An enthusiastic, loving crowd waving Cuban flags received him.

POST DURBAN STRATEGIES

We attended an African/African Descendants' meeting. We talked about efforts to separate the African and African descendants' issues to weaken the movement for debt cancellation, development, reparations and other remedies. We also discussed the need for press releases, lobbying governments, NGO's here and developing strategies for when we return home. I read in one Durban newspaper that the conference was a failure because the United States and Israel pulled out. I don't agree. The creation of a racially just world depends on the oppressed peoples of the world, and not on governments, corporations or the primary beneficiaries of the corporate, capitalist imperialist system.

We can use popular education methods to teach about systemic global racism (its root causes, consequences, continuing and contemporary racism), history and connections between oppressions, a vision of racial justice, strategic action planning, the United Nations, economic, social, cultural, political and religious human rights.

We can also teach how to do emotional healing work. Racial justice and/or reparations are not enough to provide the healing needed. I recommend that we work with the International Re-evaluation Counseling Communities United to End Racism (UER) "listening healing racism program." The UER project includes an American Friends Service Committee Listening Project (telling our stories) and a National Coalition Building component. We can also teach about the NGO Forum/WCAR program and plan of action.

IDEAS FOR ACTION

Mobilize a global civil disobedience project. Boycott tax payments and credit card debt. Hold periodic days of work stoppage. End consumption of unnecessary products and services. Hold periodic nationwide silent street vigils. Refuse to pay bail when arrested. Lobby for the necessary changes in the economy, military, political, cultural, criminal "justice" systems, for basic economic human rights, reparations, and restoration.

Gwen Braxton is WILPF's national board campaign organizer for the Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation campaign.



**WILPF delegate
Adjoa Aiyetoro.**

► RACISM

continued from page 11

menial jobs. Both are stratifications — a hierarchical ordering of social categories, supported by social institutions. Inequality is intergenerationally transmitted in caste and race. Prejudice and discrimination are both a part of race and caste. And what is worse is that such prejudice and discrimination are not merely personal but institutional, a part of the structure and process of a whole society.

Other human rights bodies such as International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and International Labor Organization (ILO) have also unequivocally identified caste as a fundamental basis for human rights violations against *Dalits* in South Asia. Therefore, the argument put forth by India that caste is not race has no relevance and is meaningless as it is based merely on semantics.

Whether or not caste is same as race, the reality is that caste is a basis for discrimination on par with racism and apartheid and severely reduces the quality of life for

at least 160 million of India's own citizens.

When the Indian State has not effectively implemented its own constitutional mandate of *Dalit* Human Rights, what is wrong with the *Dalits* demanding their rights from the United Nations? After all, India is a signatory to most of the covenants of the United Nations. In light of India's ratification of CERD in 1969 it is perfectly constitutional, lawful and democratic for the discriminated communities to approach this body and bring to its notice the discrimination they suffer. One must ask why the Indian Government was so opposed to having caste discrimination put on the agenda of WCAR. The answer is simply that they wanted to protect vested social interests, the upper castes and their own political futures.

.....
Padmavathi Manchala is International WILPF's newly appointed fundraiser. She was a member of WILPF's delegation to WCAR, and an active participant in the UFORJE campaign. She is a former development intern at the WILPF U.S. national office.

► BOOK AWARDS *continued from page 27*

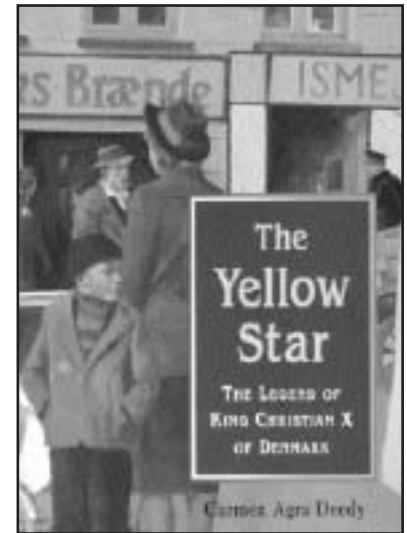
excellence, most effectively address themes or topics promoting peace, social justice, world community, and/or equality of the sexes and all races.

Seals for Winners and Honor Book in all years can be purchased in large quantities by publishers or smaller quantities by libraries, schools, booksellers, or individuals interested in securing them from the Jane Addams Peace Association. For more information, contact Isha Dyfan at the Jane Addams Peace Association, 777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017-3521; 212-682-8830.

Members of the 2001 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards Committee are Marilyn Bimstein (Seattle, Washington); Eliza T. Dresang (Tallahassee, Florida); Mary Elting Folsom (Boulder, Colorado); Ginny Moore Kruse, Chair (Madison, Wisconsin); Debby Langerman

(Indianapolis, Indiana); Serena Murray (San Jose, California); Cathie Reed (New Market, Maryland); Suzanne Martell (Harwich, Massachusetts); Pat Wisner (Sewanee, Tennessee); and Lorrie Wright (Juneau, Alaska).

Regional reading and discussion groups participated with many of the committee members throughout the evaluation and selection process for the 2001 awards. ❖



► BIOTECH *continued from page 29*

is better than what we have now. These types of activities lead children blindly into the world of biotech and GM foods. It misleads them into thinking from an early age that there is nothing wrong with biotech, and that it is one of the best things to happen.

The only readily available, non-biased biotech information for kids is through a Web site run by the One World Organization which can be reached at <http://www.oneworld.org/penguin/genetics/home.html>.

The organization is not industry funded, nor does it attempt to hide or promote any specific issues surrounding biotechnology. Through a tutorial of sorts, led by a cartoon dolphin, children can get information about biotechnology and the GM industry. The information is presented in a way that allows children to form their own opinions and be educated enough to discuss all sides of the issue.

.....
Susan Whitehead recently served as Peace & Freedom's summer intern.

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- **BUILD** a constructive peace through world disarmament;
- **WORK** for the equality of all people in a world free of sexism and racism;
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WILPF, one of the world's oldest, continuously active peace organizations, works in 37 countries, over 100 U.S. communities and on many campuses, and with the United Nations, where it has Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status.

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Time Value - Do Not Delay



In Geneva, a demonstration for peace.

IEC Gathers in Geneva,
page 12

Phyllis Yingling

In Hoboken, NJ, an impromptu memorial for victims of the World Trade Center disaster.
Letter to the President, page 3
Other responses, page 4

Theta Pavis

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