

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM



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BROWN BAG

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m.
World Community Center

DISCUSSION ON LEGISLATION OF CONCERN

(for example: the US Budget,
Government loan guarantees for new nuclear plants,
disposal of radioactive waste,
abolishing the MO Income tax, and
what concerns YOU)

LEADING TO . . .
letters to legislators,
letters to the editor,
visits to congressional offices,
effective action. . . .

(Bring your lunch and your concerns)



FROM BAD TO WORSE IN LATIN AMERICA

Previous WILPF Bulletins have carried reports on the Honduran coup and conditions in Colombia and Cuba. "Muscling Latin America," an article in *The Nation* (Feb. 8) by Greg Grandin, details Obama Administration choices that show an increasingly dangerous trend in U.S. hemispheric policy.

In September Ecuadoran Pres. Rafael Correa refused to renew Washington's lease on an air base that had served for ten years as the Pentagon's main outpost. In October Colombia granted the U.S. use of seven military bases, adding to the military presence already in Colombia and the Caribbean. The White House insists the Colombian deal merely formalizes existing military cooperation between the two countries under Plan Colombia, as the administration continues to promote "a volatile mix of militarism and free-trade orthodoxy in a corridor running from Mexico to Colombia."

According to Grandin, Plan Colombia is about global

counterinsurgency, not drugs, and is celebrated by U.S. strategists as a successful application of the "clear, hold and build" sequence favored by theorists like General Petraeus. Plan Colombia, he wrote, has financed the opposite of what is taking place in Ecuador, Bolivia and Venezuela, where progressive movements are trying to "re-found" their societies along participatory democracy.

With a horrendous record of the many hundreds of trade unionists, teachers and other civilians murdered, Colombia remains the hands-down worst oppressor in Latin America, wrote Grandin. "Seen in light of his escalation in Afghanistan, Obama's support for the Colombian base deal endorses the kind of elastic threat assessment that has turned the 'long war against radical Islam into a wide war where ultimate victory will be a world absent of crime - 'counter insurgencies without end', as Andres Bacevich puts it."

"With a hodgepodge of treaties and projects such as

the International Law Enforcement Academy and the Merida Initiative, Obama is continuing the policies of his predecessors, spending millions to integrate the regions military, policy, intelligence and even, through Patriot-Act-like legislation, judicial systems, says Grandin.

As for Honduras, Grandin believes the White House could have worked with the Organization of American States to restore democracy in Honduras. "Instead, he capitulated and after months of mixed signals endorsed a murderous regime. The U.S. could try to advance a new hemispheric economic policy, balancing calls for equity with corporate profits, but the Democratic Party remains Wall Street's party, and shortly after taking office he abandoned his pledge to renegotiate NAFTA."

The entire article is well worth reading.

Dorothy Poor

GAZA FREEDOM MARCH

Thirteen hundred and sixty-four people from 43 countries gathered in Cairo Egypt in late December, intending to join an estimated 50,000 Gazans in a "Freedom March" to the Israeli border on the first anniversary of the Israeli war on Gaza, "Operation Cast Lead." The organizer of the international show of solidarity with the besieged citizens of Gaza, CodePink, had been notified by the Egyptian government on Dec. 21 that the Egypt-Gaza border would not be opened; only a handful of the registered participants stayed home, most traveling with the hope Egypt would relent.

Three St. Louis area women traveled to Cairo to participate: J'Ann Allen, Hedy Epstein, and Sandra Tamari. They spoke Sunday afternoon, Jan. 31, at the St. Louis Friends Meeting House, co-sponsored by WILPF, Instead of War, and the Center for Theology and Social Analysis. Pictures of the gathering in Cairo flashed on the screen as they spoke.

Hedy led off with a brief history of the situation in Gaza since the election of Hamas in 2006, the June 2008 truce, and the breaking of it by the Israelis on Nov. 4, 2008 by entering Gaza

and killing six Hamas people, while the world was focused on the US election. Gaza responded with rockets into southern Israel, and the war was on. During the 22-day war, about 1400 Palestinians were killed, many of them women and children, and thirteen Israelis, three of them by friendly fire.

In Cairo, the Egyptian government rescinded all permits for the participants to gather, and decreed no gathering of groups larger than six. In spite of the decrees, an eight-lane street near the History Museum was occupied by the internationals, and shut down for about 15 minutes. Some 300 French citizens went to the French Embassy, and settled in tents brought with them from home for five days on the street. The French Ambassador became supportive but the tent-dwellers were surrounded by double rows of Egyptian riot police.

On Dec. 29, three of the organizers went to the UN office to ask officials to negotiate opening the border but they refused. Hundreds gathered in the plaza surrounded by police in riot gear; there Hedy announced she would begin a hunger strike and asked others to join. Some 30 to 40

others joined her. The US has leverage with the Egyptian government and could have intervened, but didn't. On Dec. 30, through the intercession of Mrs. Mubarak, the president's wife, Egypt announced that 100 marchers would be allowed to cross the border on two buses because they were honorable people. (The rest were deemed hooligans.) Despite the communication problems most of those chosen to go decided against it in order not to be complicit with the Egyptian, US, and Israeli governments. While those going were on the buses, word came that the Gazan civil society had withdrawn the invitation, and the marches in Gaza to the border were taken over by Hamas.

J'Ann spoke of the solidarity of the community formed by the people from the many different countries coming to Cairo for the Freedom March, and the group process for making decisions. Though separated, housed in many locations and speaking different languages, through constant electronic communication, decisions were made.

Sandra had passed out information earlier and concluded the panel commenting on The Cairo

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Declaration to End Israeli Apartheid, initiated by the South African contingent and agreed upon and signed by Hedy, first of all, and hundreds of others since. The Declaration reaffirms the signers' commitment to Palestinian self-determination, to ending the occupation, to equal rights for all within historic Palestine, and the full "right of return" for Palestinian refugees, and therefore "reaffirm[s] our commitment to the United Palestinian call of July 2005 for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to compel Israel to comply with international law. To that end, we call for and wish to help initiate a global mass, democratic anti-apartheid movement to work in full consultation with Palestinian civil society to implement the Palestinian call for BDS."

The audience of some 70 had quite a few questions and comments, and the announcement that there would be a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 6 to plan specifics for local action (too early for this Bulletin, but stay tuned).

Mary Jane Schutzius,
with Hedy Epstein

P.S. For a picture of Hedy in Cairo for the Freedom March, with a short article in the Activism section, see Z Magazine of Feb. 2010, page 16.

DEBATE: Should "Other Poor Countries" adopt "China's One-Child-Per-Family Policy"?

St. Louis WILPF was asked in November if we would co-sponsor with Citizens for Global Solutions a debate the end of February 2010 on the topic of China's one-child per family policy and whether it should be adopted by other countries.

When my husband and I were in China in 1997, our guide had explained the wisdom of the policy for China, while admitting it was not always correctly enforced. WILPF discussed co-sponsoring at our Dec. Board meeting and agreed to co-sponsor, thinking it would concern the US also.

In January, I was asked by another member of CGS if we would co-sponsor and participate in the Debate: "Resolved, That China's One-Child-Per-Family Policy Should Be Adopted by Other Poor Countries." I objected to the title, saying it smacked of patriarchy and paternalism, as well as imperialism, and could be interpreted by "poor" countries as a form of genocide. No matter, the Resolution was set.

During the Board meeting on Feb. 2, we discussed the topic and agreed we thought it was not appropriate: we should talk about over-consumption by the US; of educating and improving the health of women and children around the world so women would not need to have so many children in order for one or two to survive; of better distribution of the world resources; of presuming to tell other countries what they should do.

I hope to see you there on the 28th, and I hope to hear your opinion voiced. I'm planning to be there, loud and clear.

Mary Jane Schutzius

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT—

"That marvelous African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston, who wouldn't do what white people wanted her to do, who wouldn't do what Black people wanted her to do, who insisted on being herself, said that her mother advised her: Leap for the sun -- you may not reach it, but at least you will get off the ground."

Howard Zinn, Commencement Address
to the 2005 Spelman Graduating Class

ACTION ALERT FROM UNITED FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, Feb. 4, 2010:

There is a stunning "peace deficit" in the 2011 federal budget just unveiled by the White House.

It proposes \$708.2 billion in spending for the Department of Defense -the highest military budget in the history of our country. Of that money, \$159.3 billion will go for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Administration is also asking for a \$33 billion Supplemental to pay for the troop increase in 2010, on top of the \$138 billion already allocated.

Though President Obama's rhetorical commitment to nuclear disarmament has received worldwide praise, his administration's 2011 budget request in-

creases direct spending on nuclear weapons by 10% over 2010, to \$7 billion. Over the next 5 years, the Administration intends to boost nuclear weapons spending by more than \$5 billion!

Federal dollars are being poured into weapons and warfare, while our states, cities, communities and families are suffering from a lack of funds for urgent human needs: for new jobs, health care, housing, repair of infrastructure, social services. The Obama budget includes expenditures for many worthy domestic purposes. But the size of these programs is far too small and they are already under attack because of the deficit.

It is vitally important that we link issues and publicize this point: we cannot solve our domestic problems so long as our tax dollars are being squandered on unnecessary, destructive and foolhardy military projects.

TAKE ACTION!

Call your member of Congress and let them know you are outraged by the upside-down priorities in the proposed 2011 federal budget. Tell them it's time to end the wars in Afghanistan and to use our tax dollars to solve economic problems here at home. Congressional Switchboard: 202-224-3121

[More info will be provided at the Feb. 23 Brown Bag.]

FROM UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS, Feb. 5, 2010:**Speak Out on Critical Nuclear Policy Review**

President Obama is close to finalizing his Nuclear Posture Review, which will set the direction for U.S. nuclear weapons policy for his administration and beyond. With your help, we've mounted significant pressure on the administration to recognize that nuclear weapons are a liability, not an asset. But we need you, once again, in a final push to make sure the president's deeds match his words, and that the review reflects the forward-looking agenda he outlined in 2009.

Please call the White House comment line [202 456 1111] today and urge the president to adopt a truly transformational Nuclear Posture Review that reflects today's security needs and threats, reduces the role of nuclear weapons, and makes us all safer.

Your call, with those of many others, will send a clear message to the president: citizens are paying attention, and **it is time to end dangerous Cold War thinking and work urgently to reduce the nuclear threat.**

A NEW DIRECTION

A recent essay by Francis A. Boyle, professor of international law at the U. of I., Champaign, suggests an international legal response to Israel's war on Gaza:

"First, we must immediately move for the de-facto suspension of Israel throughout the entirety of the United Nations System, including the General Assembly and all U.N. subsidiary organs and bodies. We must do to Israel what the U.N. General Assembly has done to the genocidal rump Yugoslavia and to the criminal apartheid regime in South Africa! Here the legal basis for the de facto suspension of Israel at the U.N. is quite simple:

As a condition for its admission to the United Nations Organization, Israel formally agreed to accept General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) (1947) (partition/Jerusalem trusteeship) and General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) (1948), inter alia. Nevertheless, the government of Israel has expressly repudiated both Resolution 181 (II) and Resolution 194 (III). Therefore, Israel has violated its conditions for admission to U.N. membership and thus must be suspended on a de facto basis from any participation throughout the entire United Nations System."

HUNGER IN AMERICA 2010 Missouri State Report

Feeding America (formerly "America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network) agencies in Missouri provide food for a broad cross-section of households. Key characteristics of the MO households include:

- **39% of the members of households served in Missouri are children under 18 years old.**
- **10% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years.**
- **7% of the members of households are elderly.**
- **About 66% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 27% are non-Hispanic black, 4% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial groups.**
- **42% of households include at least one employed adult.**
- **75% have incomes below the federal poverty level (Table 5.8.2.1) during the previous month.**
- **7% are homeless.**

From Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

WILPFers AROUND AND ABOUT

Ava Jordan is recovering from her fall in early December, faster from her fractured arm than her cracked sternum. She and Kevin have adopted a shorthair Chihuahua, which should keep her active at home.

We've recently learned that **Ann Berin**, once editor of the WILPF Bulletin, was among eight local women between the ages of 75 and 93 who celebrated their bat mitz-

vah at Crown Center last June, showing it's never too late to seek knowledge, embrace change, or welcome new beginnings.

St. Louis WILPF regrettably reports that **Myrna** and **Leo Fichtenbaum** have moved to a first floor apartment about 15 minutes from their daughter's home in Princeton, N.J. Leo was able to leave the rehab center where he had been recuperating.

Area Legislators:

1st District
 Wm. Lacy Clay
 DC: 202-225-2406
 StL: 314-356-1970
 StL County: 314-383-5240
 Website: <http://lacyclay.house.gov/contact.htm>

2nd District
 Todd Akin
 DC: 202-225-2561
 StL: 314-590-0029
 St. Charles: 636-949-6826
 Website: <http://akin.house.gov/contact.html>

3rd District
 Russ Carnahan
 DC: 202-225-2671
 StL: 314-962-1523
 Website: <http://carnahan.house.gov/contact.shtml>

Sen. Kit Bond
 202-224-5721
 StL: 314-725-4484
 Fax: 202-224-8149
<http://bond.senate.gov/contact/contactme.cfm>

Sen. Claire McCaskill
 202-224-6154
 StL: 314-367-1364
 Fax: 202-228-6326
<http://mccaskill.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact-vp/>
 Please note that this web form has replaced vicepresident@whitehouse.gov. That email address is no longer monitored, so we encourage you to re-submit your message through the link above. Thank you for using the web form and helping us improve communications with you.
 Sincerely,
 The Office of The Vice President

THE VERY UNFAIR "FAIR TAX ACT"

Again this year "The Fair Tax Act" has resurfaced, and was heard Jan. 28 in the MO Senate's Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee. SJR 29, sponsored by Purgason (R-Caulfield), and SJR 37 by Ridgeway (R-Smithville) propose a constitutional amendment to eliminate individual and corporate income taxes and replace them with a greatly expanded sales tax. The bill is supposed to be revenue neutral and replace revenue lost from income taxes by a 5.11% sales tax on food, drugs, rent, health care, child care, nursing home care, and other necessities.

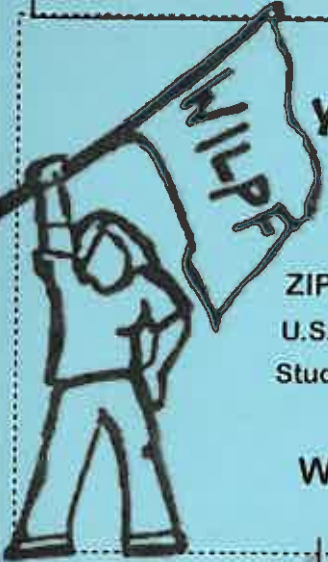
The former state budget director, Jim Moody, and the MO Budget Project have stated the tax rate may have to be raised as high as 11% to replace revenue from the income tax. Missourians for Tax Justice has sent several emails about the bills and urged we contact our MO legislators, and especially the members of the Senate Committee, about our opposition to the bill.

More information will be available Feb. 23 at the Brown Bag.

WILPF BULLETIN

Co-editors: Dorothy Poor and Mary Jane Schutzius
Layout and Design: Marideth Sisco

Articles, reports, and information for the Calendar are due on the day of the Board meetings. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, March. 2, 2010. Bring or mail articles for the March bulletin to the World Community Center, 438 No. Skinker, St. Louis, MO 63130, or e-mail mjschutz@prodigy.net. Contributions are welcome.



Yes! I want to join WILPF to work for peace and freedom!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ e-mail _____

U.S. Section Membership: Individual - \$35, Household - \$40, Limited Income - \$15
 Student - \$5, Monthly Bulletin Only - \$15. Make checks payable to WILPF and please
 mail to:

WILPF, 438 N. Skinker, St. Louis, MO 63130-4834

CALENDAR

- Tue., Feb. 16, Tue., Mar. 16, and Wed., Apr. 28: Pro-Choice Lobby Days**, leaving St. Louis at 7:30 a.m. and returning about 5:00 p.m., sponsored by Planned Parenthood of St. Louis and other pro-choice organizations. Free transportation: call Angie at 314 531 7526, ext. 334.
- Tue., Feb. 16: Bill of Rights Lobby Day**, sponsored by the ACLU of Eastern MO, transportation provided from St. Louis and St. Charles. Registration and info: Scott Emanuel, 314 652 3114, ext. 23, or scott@aclu-em.org
- Tue., Feb. 16, 10:00 a.m.: Great Decisions Discussion**, Women's Association of the Ethical Society. Continuing on the first and third Tuesdays. Books can be purchased by calling Kathy Kammien, 314-991 0955
- Thu., Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m.: MOSP meeting**, speaker Dr. Pamella Gronemeyer: The Future of Single Payer in the Health Care Debate, Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd.
- Mon., Feb. 22, 4:40 p.m.: Middle East Committee meeting**, WCC
- Tue., Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m.: Brown Bag** (see page 1)
- Tue., Feb. 23, 1:30 p.m.: WILPF Executive Committee meeting**, WCC
- Thu., Feb. 25, Noon: Great Decisions: Special Envoys**, Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd.
- Sun., Feb. 28, 12:30 p.m. Debate: "Resolved, That China's One-Child-Per-Family Policy Should Be Adopted by Other Poor Countries,"** Ethical Society (see page 4)
- Tue., Mar. 2, 1:45 p.m.: WILPF Board meeting**, WCC
- Thu., Mar. 4, Noon: Great Decisions: Halting Atrocities in Kenya**, Ethical Society
- Tue., Mar. 9, 11:30 a.m.: Women in Black vigil**, St. Louis Bread Co., Delmar Loop
- Thu., Mar. 11, Noon: Great Decisions: Transnational Crime**, Ethical Society
- Thu., Mar. 18, Noon: Great Decisions: US/China Security Relations**, Ethical Society
- Tue., Apr. 6: Women's Lobby Day**, MO Women's Network. Call Shirley Breeze, 314 831 5359 for info and registration.

