

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR

PEACE AND FREEDOM

MARCH, 2010

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ST. LOUIS BRANCH



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WWW.WILPF.ORG

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

TAX DAY ACTION

MAIN POST OFFICE, MARKET AND 18TH STREETS
11:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

"BRING OUR TAX \$\$\$\$\$\$ BACK HOME"

Instead of war, **HOUSING**
Instead of war, **HEALTH CARE**
Instead of war, **EDUCATION**
Instead of war, **JOBS**
Instead of war, **INFRASTRUCTURE**
Instead of war, **PEACE AND SECURITY**

PLEASE JOIN WILPF ON APRIL 15!!!!!!!

(Planning for the event: Tue., Mar. 30, 10:30 a.m., World Community Center)

Vote YES for Prop. A, because ... **while some of us ride Public Transit – all of us need it.**

We need it to commute to work, or school, or medical appointments; as a consistent alternative to the car, or just when our car breaks down; ...to get our customers and employees to our place of business or to the destinations we want to patronize; to help reduce competition for parking spaces and reduce pressure to widen roads; to reduce air

pollution and encourage more healthful life styles, and possibly thereby to attract our own grown children or our senior-citizen parents to settle down in St. Louis.

That's why members of the Greater St. Louis Transit Alliance are volunteering to help pass the half-cent sales tax that

the St. Louis County Council has put on the April 6th ballot. So make sure you go to the polls to vote on April 6. And, by the way, ask for a paper ballot.

If you'd like to help us, or want more information, please contact at <gingerharris@charter.net> or 314-503-1320.

By Ginger Harris

IMMIGRATE?

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) acknowledges that there were more than one in ten deaths of immigration detainees during the past six years. They were kept secret from the official list of immigrant deaths in U.S. custody issued to Congress in March 2009 and recently, the government added them to the list of 107 deaths since October 2003.

In 2009, a 24 year old Ethiopian committed suicide in Wakulla County prison in Tallahassee, Florida. People come to the U. S. to work to support their families by sending money home. Immigrants are incarcerated with hardened criminals and some have their families imprisoned with them. In the past, legislation to increase oversight and detention standards has been introduced but gone nowhere. Undocumented immigrants do not have access to counsel and rarely see a judge. In 2009, 400,000 immigrants were held in the ICE system.

www.democracynow.org

Bread for the World Offering of Letters Workshop

Each year, Bread for the World invites individuals, churches and groups across the nation to write letters to their Congress members on important legislation to help hungry people. Nearly a quarter million letters send a powerful message to our political leaders.

Bread for the World's 2010 Offering of Letters will urge Congress, as it debates tax policies this year, to protect and strengthen key tax credits that are targeted to help low-income working families. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) alone lifts more than 5 million Americans each year above the poverty line, in-

cluding 2.6 million children. Unfortunately in 2008, one in four children did not have enough food to eat. The EITC, the Child Tax Credit, and other measures are effective but more must be done.

A workshop on letter writing, Bridging the Gap for Struggling Families, will be offered at Parkway United Church of Christ, 2841 N Ballas Road, 63131 on Saturday, March 13, 2010, 9:00 am to noon. Light breakfast and registration at 8:30 am; register flyles@sbglobal.net. Gayles Lyles 636-441-6068.

From Ava Jordan

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy to Dr. John and Clarice Gladney and family on the death of their son John H. Gladney, Jr. of Tempe, AZ, who died January 20. A memorial service was held March 6 at Pilgrim Congregational Church.

PENTAGON BUDGET PRIORITIES

We can't say it enough – our military spending outdoes that of the next 45 highest spending nations combined. It reflects a mindset stuck in the Cold War and a military footprint far beyond any reasonable defense justification.

Nuclear weapons took \$52.4 billion in 2008, 90% of which went to the maintenance and upgrading of the arsenal and delivery systems. Only 10% goes toward limiting the spread of nuclear weapons. We must hold the President to his promises!

Iraq and Afghanistan cost \$130 billion in 2009. The total

cost of those wars will use more than \$1 trillion, if the 2010 request is included. When veterans' health care and interest on the debt are included, the Iraq war alone will cost \$3 trillion.

Energy security cost \$100 billion in 2009; the Pentagon analysis shows our fossil fuel dependency seriously challenges national security, and that there must be a serious reformulation of both national energy and national security policies.

--- Peace Action (formerly FREEZE and SANE)

MORE DATA ON DEFENSE

The 2010 Pentagon budget means "every man, woman and child in the United States will spend more than \$2,700 on (defense) programs and agencies next year," reports the Cato Institute. "By way of comparison, the average Japanese spends less than \$330; the average German about \$520; China's per capita spending is less than \$100."

"(The Pentagon budget) dwarfs the combined defense budgets of U.S. allies and potential U.S. enemies alike," reports Hearst Newspapers.

"President (Obama) is on track to spend more on defense, in real dollars, than any other president has in one term of

office since World War II," reports National Journal's Government Executive magazine.

In 2000, the Pentagon admitted it has lost – yes, lost -- \$2.3 trillion. In 2003, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that a subsequent Department of Defense study said it was only \$1 trillion. To put such numbers in perspective, contemplate what those sums could finance. \$1 trillion, for instance, could pay the total cost of universal healthcare for the long haul. \$2.3 trillion would cover universal healthcare plus the bank bailout plus the stimulus package.

David Sirota, SALON

GASOLINE EMBARGO OF IRAN

WRITE Senator Claire McCaskill (local office: 5850 A Delmar, 63112) asking her not to support a gasoline embargo of Iran, but rather narrow U.N. sanctions focused on the revolutionary guard and individuals accused of violating human rights. The former will only make enemies; it's too broad a brush.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

STATE LEGISLATION

Planned Parenthood of St. Louis had its first lobby day of 2010 on February 16, which was deemed extremely successful. Participants met with 31 legislators and had 7 new cosponsors sign on to the Prevention First Act. Seven legislators committed to vote to protect women from having their birth control prescriptions denied at the pharmacy.

But there is more work to be done. Two more opportunities for lobbying are coming up. Join Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and other pro-choice supporters from across Missouri to lobby for reproductive rights in Jefferson City.

Your representatives need to hear your voice about issues of reproductive health. *Prevention First means NO New Restrictions!* Lobby day is Tuesday, March 16, 10 a.m. -2:30 p.m., and Wednesday, April 28 will provide another opportunity to make your voice heard. Free transportation will be leaving St. Louis at 7:30am and be back around 5:00pm.

RSVP to angie.postal@ppslr.org to claim your seat and get further details.

YOUR GRANDCHILD COULD WIN FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON

Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS) of Greater St. Louis will provide transportation, registration, meals and lodging for a college student or a high-school junior or senior to participate in the Citizens for Global Solutions national assembly in Washington D.C. May 19-22.

To compete for this all-expenses-paid trip, a contestant must submit a 3-5 page double-spaced typed essay, 1) telling why your past activities and successes show that you would be a good person for CGS to send to the meeting, and 2) sharing your thinking about one or more of

the problems our world community faces and how we might deal with them more effectively. The contest deadline is April 17, 2010; winners will be notified by April 20.

For more information call 314-869-2303.

HERE'S WHAT ROOSEVELT'S 1930s WPA BILL ACCOMPLISHED

In 1935 Franklin Roosevelt launched the Works Progress Administration (WPA), one of the biggest, most successful public-infrastructure programs in U.S. history.

In the depths of the Depression, the WPA put 3.5 million unemployed Americans to work in every locality, doing construction jobs that still grace our country. The corporate interest and right-wingers of the time wailed that it was a wasteful welfare program. But here's just some of what Americans gave back through their WPA work:

78,000 bridges	700 miles of airport runways	116,000 public buildings
130 new hospitals	24 million trees	650,000 miles of roads
8,000 parks	4,383 new schools	9,000 miles of sewer lines

The WPA delivered an extraordinary return (both in physical and social benefits) for the \$11.4 billion it spent. Those who say we couldn't afford such a massive national effort today might note that the 1935-1941 expenditure by WPA would be \$167 billion in current dollars. That's slightly less than half of the \$335 billion that the White House and Congress dumped into Iraq in just three and a half years.

HIGHTOWER LOWDOWN, Nov. 2006

POLICY DEBATE ENDS WITHOUT RESOLUTION

During the debate on China's One-Child-Per-Family Policy, Ron Glossop provided a one-sheet explanation of his position on the resolution that other poor countries should adopt China's limited family planning: China was able to greatly increase the wellbeing of its own citizens by use of this policy, and China also

greatly helped to limit world population growth as a whole.

Dr. Tzy C. Peng, who left China in 1952, spoke of the hunger in the densely populated country of his youth, and said when people don't know where their next meal is coming from, they don't worry about freedom.

However, in the discussion, Dr. Peng said he preferred life in China as it was then to what it is now.

Bob Reinhold preferred freedom of choice and that the woman make the decision on when, if, and how many children she would bear, not the government.

Cont'd on P.5

MO LEGISLATURE NEEDS MORE PROGRESSIVE WOMEN

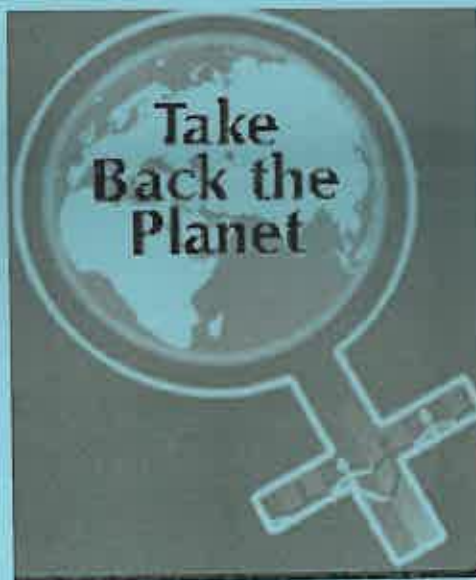
Six local women representatives in the Missouri state legislature spoke February 27 at a NOW legislative meeting at the Clayton Center, and assured the roomful audience of women "It's hard but fulfilling work, but you too can do it, and we need you in Jefferson City."

Tishaura Jones of St. Louis (63rd dist.), Jeanne Kirkton of Webster Groves (91st dist.), Jill Schupp of Ladue (82nd dist.), and Margo McNeil of Florissant (78th dist.) are in the second year of their first terms; Rachel Storch of Clayton (64th dist.) is completing her 3rd term, and Stacy Newman of Clayton (73rd dist.) has served eight weeks of Steve Brown's unexpired term. Hope Whitehead (57th dist.), who had been sworn in three days earlier to complete Rep. El Amin's term, was in the audience.

Each of the women described her work on numerous committees. They deplored the cuts proposed due to dwindling revenues, such as \$13 million from child care, \$9.2 million from health care centers, and a 50% cut in funds for domestic violence victims. Storch said we need

to remember there are choices: that Oregon raised its corporate income tax; and Missouri's cigarette tax, second lowest in the country, seems a good revenue target.

The autism insurance bill moving forward in both houses exemplifies the importance of broad public support, McNeil said. She received 163 emails on the bill and assured "we do listen to the people who contact us."



They spoke regretfully of the time required to oppose bad bills such as six anti-choice resolutions asking members of the US Congress to vote against the climate change bill and against ending "don't ask, don't tell" policy; the "Fair Tax" bill and bills to deny local control of billboards and factory farms.

The "Fair Tax" bill is anything but, they emphasized. SJR 29 would eliminate the state income tax and replace it with a sales tax – to include labor and services, doctor's bills and lawyer's fees, food and medicine. [On March 4 the Senate shelved the bill after 35 minutes of talk from supporters, but it could come up again, although the Senate President Pro Tem, Charlie Shields, R- St. Joseph, gave it little chance of passage this year.]

New candidates were introduced, including Barbara Fraser, St. Louis Co. councilwoman who is running for term-limited Sen. Joan Bray's seat.

WILPFers Ginger Harris, Ava Jordan, Dorothy Poor, and Mary Jane Schutzius attended the meeting.

Policy Debate, Cont'd from p. 4

Sam Lee spoke of the horrors of forced abortion. Quite a few in the audience had comments and questions, and the three apparently Oriental, young persons who commented seemed to favor the policy for China, while not unequivocally for other countries adopting it. No vote was taken.

COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 1 the Department of State announced the Winners of the Secretary's 2010 International Women of Courage Award to two women of Afghanistan, and one each from Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Iran, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Zimbabwe.

The annual International Women of Courage Award was started in March 2007 to recognize women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and advancement. This is the only award within the Department of State that pays tribute to outstanding women leaders worldwide.

"These ten women have overcome personal adversity, threats, arrest, and assault to dedicate themselves to activism for human rights," said Melanne Verwee, the State Department's first ever Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues.

On March 10, the Women's International Democratic Federation will hold its annual Seminar in the United Nations, a special one since it celebrates the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. The topic is "Beijing+15, the Economic Crisis and Its Effects on Working Women," and is part of the 54th Session of the UN Commission on Women.

Locally, "A Bridge for Peace, St. Louis to the Congo," was scheduled for March 8, 4:30 to 6:00

p.m. on the Hampton Avenue Bridge over I-64/40, by Women for Women International and Amnesty

International as part of a global campaign to stand with the women of the Congo.

NOT TO BE MISSED:

Feb. 20, 2010 St. Louis Post Dispatch Business Section: General Motors Co. named former CEO Fritz Henderson as a \$59,090-a-month adviser while the man who replaced him, Chairman Ed Whitacre, urged employees to more move quickly to change the company. . . . Henderson's consulting assignment will run through year's end and entail about 20 hours of work each month, GM said. [That's \$2,954.50 an hour for advice from the guy who ran GM into the ground. – Eds.]

Feb. 13, 2010: Health care and business interests led the way as clients spent a record \$35 billion on lobbying last year, prompted by Obama administration drives to reshape policy for the medical, financial and energy industries, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. [Who's reshaping policies?]

Feb. 12: Cape Canaveral, Fla.: The most advanced solar observatory ever built rocketed into space Thursday on a five-year quest to shed light on Earth's star. At a cost of \$856 million, the Solar Dynamics Observatory is the first mission in NASA's Living with a Star program. . . . It should send back 150 million bits of data every second of every day, more than any other NASA mission. [WHY?]

U.S. SEND PHONES FOR CHILE RELIEF

Chile's Public Health Minister thanked the arrival of a team of Cuban doctors together with a fully equipped field hospital to help in emergency care of victims of the Feb. 27 powerful earthquake. The Cuban hospital includes an operating room and a staff of 27 specialists for Rancagua, 56 miles south of Santiago.

The Chilean Foreign Minister reported that Bolivia sent a plane with 40 tons of drinkable water and announced that there are two more on their way, and thanked the aid of governments from different countries and, particularly, the Latin American countries.

Peru sent a 25-doctor brigade and a field hospital that was located in Concepcion city. Argentina sent three field hospitals and Uruguay sent two water treatment plants. The People's Republic of China also sent a field hospital, desalination plants, tents and one million dollars. Switzerland, France and Spain sent rescue squads and seismic damage evaluators and satellite communication equipments

The United States sent 60 satellite phones.

Prensa Latina [Latin Press], Mar. 3, 2010

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>

WILPFers AROUND AND ABOUT

Feb. 10, 2010: Couple's love story chronicled in book: John Norris, 86, and **Nora Beiswenger**, 83, of DesPeres, are among dozens of couples from all over the country to have their love chronicled in a new book,

"Autumn Romance: Stories and Portraits of Love After 50, written by Carol Denker. The couple met in February 2008 at the Webster Groves YMCA. They married later that year. 'John proposed to me on our second date,' she said. 'He told me that if we got married before the end of the year we could file taxes jointly.'"

-Feb. 10, 2010

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Former WILPF Bulletin layout and design person, **Anne**

Boyd, was named Building Teacher of the Year at Hazelwood West High School, and has begun a doctoral program in English Literature at St. Louis University.

Numerous ads for the St. L. P-D's coverage of the recently completed Vancouver Olympics showed the head of **Gillian Gilhool's** nephew, Vahe Gregorian, on the body of an Olympics figure skater. Gregorian went to Vancouver to cover the games.

Terri Williams has resigned as Branch Membership Chair. She is pursuing a Master's degree in International Relations at Webster University. For her International Organizations Class, Terri did a presentation on WILPF.

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 Monday, April 5, 2010.

Bring or mail articles for the April 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/ Renew my WILPF membership 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

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CALENDAR

LOBBY DAYS, STATE CAPITOL, JEFFERSON CITY:

- Tue., Mar. 16: Pro-Choice Lobby Day: info: Angie, 314 531 7526, ext. 334
- Wed., Mar. 17: Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty: info: TC Parsons, 314,556 9267
- Tue., Apr. 6, 8:00 a.m.: Women's Lobby Day: info: 314 83 5359 or 573 642 6354.
- Wed., Apr. 28: Pro-Choice Lobby Day: info: Angie, 314 531 7526, ext. 334

Sun., Mar. 21, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.: Interfaith Committee on Latin America 30th Anniversary Romero Commemoration, Nerinx Hall, 530 E. Lockwood Avenue (at Big Bend) in Webster Groves

Tue., Mar. 30, 1:30 p.m.: WILPF Executive Committee meeting, WCC

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1:45 P.M.: WILPF Board meeting (date changed because of voting), WCC.

Tue., Apr. 6: ELECTION DAY, Proposition A and some municipal voting.

Tue., Apr. 13, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Women in Black vigil, Delmar Loop near the Bread Co.

Thu., Apr. 15, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Tax Day Action (see p. 1).

SAVE THESE DATES:

Thu., – Fri., April 22 – 23, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days: Economic Literacy and Building Solidarity Alternatives in a Time of Crisis Workshop. The St. Louis Justice and Peace Shares, \$100 includes lunches; details: staff@ips-stl.org or 314-725-5303 by March 19.

Wed., May 5, 6:30 p.m.: WILPF Panel on New Strategies for Israeli/Palestinian Peace, University City Library

Sun., May 23, 5:30 p.m.: WILPF ANNUAL MEETING and Pot luck dinner, Regional Arts Commission, 611 Delmar. Details in April Bulletin.

