

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM



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"OUR FREEDOM MARCH TO GAZA"

J'ANN ALLEN, HEDY EPSTEIN, AND SANDRA TAMARI

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010
4:00 P.M.

ST. LOUIS FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
1001 Park, St. Louis 63104

J'Ann, Hedy and Sandra are the three St. Louis area women who traveled to Cairo to join the Gaza Freedom March, but were detained with more than 1300 other internationals by the Egyptian Government, which refused to open the border crossing into Gaza.

(If you wish, bring your brown bag supper and join the weekly vigil against the wars and occupations at Grand and Lindell at 7:00 p.m.)

WILPF HOLDS HOLIDAY PARTY

WILPF stalwarts warmed by wine and a glowing fire shared reminiscences and hopes for the New Year on December 29 at the home of Joe and Yvonne Logan.

Yvonne said December was one of the best months of her life, thanks to a couple of big bashes in honor of her 90th birthday. One party was given by Joe at the Racquet Club for family and friends, and the other was a combination birthday dinner and fundraiser for the World Community Center at Riddles restaurant which netted more than \$8000 for the WCC.

Joyce Best, our quintessential librarian, reviewed "I Am Mr. Elly Poo," a children's book which describes how 22 barrels of elephant dung was turned into pulp for poo paper. She said the book is available at Plowsharing Crafts, where pins made of poo are sold.

Ginger Harris' daughter Michele and children were holiday visitors at the Blakes, and Ginger spoke of the memories stirred when she was going through a collection box of folders from her mother Garnet's WILPF activities of years past. Garnet, now 94, worked for adoption of the city manager system in Webster Groves and for school integration. "She was one of the first people to call on us after we moved here," said Yvonne, "and she refused to join the League of Women Voters until it was integrated."

Marilyn Probe described as a life-changing experience her reconciliation with her children's father before he died November 30. She read a poem she wrote on reconciliation.

Dorothy Poor spoke of the joy of reconnecting with a high school friend, a private voice teacher in Prescott, AZ who spent years in Nigeria, Iran and Afghanistan. "I called and sang 'Happy Birthday' on her 85th birthday two days ago, and it was like old times when we sang in the school sextet," she said.



Jane Mendelson told us her son Eric lost his job recently and has not found another; that with his permission she sent out some resumes on his behalf and has received six positive responses. She happily reported that her daughter Louise, a singer in Los Angeles who was married two summers ago, after three miscarriages is five months' pregnant and all's going well.

Joan Delbringge said members of her family made a happy decision some years ago to stop exchanging holiday gifts and to contribute to charities instead, such as Heifer International.

Joan Botwinick spoke of the passage of time that finds one of her three daughters living only two houses away, and said she thinks more people should share her desire to see troops brought home from Afghanistan.

Suzanne Reinhold read "Secrets," a moving poem she wrote about an uncle who died in World War II.

Bob Reinhold drew a laugh with the remark that he comes from a culture of draft dodgers. "None of my relatives served," he mused. "It must be genetic." He passed on the resolutions of two 8-year-old grandsons. One said "I won't smoke," and the other said "I won't smoke ganja."

Cathy Goldstein said the past year was stressful. She lost her job in May. Her mother became ill but was able to see Cathy's son Ben graduate from high school before she died in July. Cathy recently found another job and Ben is a freshman at Mizzou.

Joe Logan declared himself impressed and appreciative of what we had to say. In the dining room we sampled a table of goodies and continued the conversation.

Dorothy Poor

SUPPORT U.S. TRAVEL-TO-CUBA BILL

You don't have to be an expert on Cuba to see the absurdity of the U.S. economic embargo and restrictions on travel to Cuba, says Kathy Peterson. She and her husband, Dan Mosby spoke at a WILPF Brown Bag program January 5 about their trip to Cuba last July with a Witness for Peace delegation of teachers. To get a firsthand picture of people's lives there they visited schools, were briefed by government officials, toured museums, and interviewed teachers and students.

They found life under the Cuban government, where equality has a high priority, to be quite different from ours. All Cubans, they said, receive health care, education (98% literacy), housing and a limited ration for basic nutrition. Material goods are in short supply, with very few cars (mostly Russian) or bicycles and a shortage of building materials. The amount of clothing is limited, and one item is often washed and hung out to dry while

the other is worn. There is no unemployment, though the choice of jobs in the planned economy is limited. The average discretionary income, even for a professional, they said, is about \$12 a month.

Kathy said that, unlike Managua where she and Dan lived for three years, in Havana they never saw children begging in the streets. They said the streets were the safest they'd ever walked, with people staying out in droves past midnight, and kids hanging out on the beach. Dan attributed the safety and quality to a scarcity of drugs and alcohol.

Opportunity for many Cubans is clearly lacking. Some English-speaking teachers are leaving the classrooms for more lucrative jobs in tourism. Other Cubans grumble about a neighbor receiving remittances from Miami and living like a king.

Cuban officials admit their economy is not meeting the needs of the people, but blame the 50-year-old

U.S. economic blockade of Cuba which prohibits U.S. trade and discourages other nations from trading as well. Israel is the only other country that supports the blockade. (Dan said if a foreign ship docks in Cuba, it must then wait six months to enter a U.S. port.)

Kathy and Dan believe it's time to let the revolution succeed or fail on its own merits, and end the U.S. sabotage of our very near neighbor. They urged us to support HR 874 "to allow travel between the United States and Cuba, travel of all Americans, no exclusions." Reps. Lacy Clay (MO-1), Jo Ann Emerson (MO-8) and Emanuel Cleaver (MO-5) are co-sponsors but [RUSS CARNAHAN \(MO-3\)](#) has not yet signed on. Sen. Claire McCaskill is co-sponsoring the Senate bill, S. 428. Call Russ Carnahan today, and thank the others for their support.

Kathy and Dan, retired teachers, are longtime members of WILPF.

Dorothy Poor

PASTORS FOR PEACE – CUBA

The December 2009 IFCO (Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization) News reported on the 20th Pastors for Peace Friendship to Cuba. From July 3 to August 3, 130 individuals on 14 routes visited 134 cities in 47 states and six Canadian provinces. Along the way they gathered 132 tons of humanitarian aid to Cuba, including medical supplies and equipment, computers and educational supplies, a large amount of tools and construction supplies, six school buses and five other vehicles.

In Cuba they attended the graduation ceremony at the Latin American School of Medicine, where 16 US citizens received their medical degrees; 33 US citizens had already graduated from the medical school, founded 10 years ago as Cuba's response to the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. The medical school offers high-quality full-scholarship medical training to students from dozens of nations of the Americas and Africa.

US students agree to return home to work in underserved communities, after completing the US Medical Licensing Exams and residencies in US hospitals. IFCO serves as administrator in the US and recruits students for the program.



INSTEAD OF WAR

The St. Louis Instead of War Coalition will rally at the offices of Reps. Lacy Clay (Delmar & Euclid) and Russ Carnahan (Brentwood & Manchester) Tuesday, February 2 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., to ask them to redirect funding away from military spending and war and towards the rebuilding of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine and to the rebuilding of our own communities.

Please join them at one or the other congressional offices. Make sure your voice is heard.

MO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Missouri Women's Political Caucus sent out notice of the annual Women's Issues Legislative Retreat on Friday - Saturday, January 8 - 9 in Jefferson City and included a listing of 2010 Prefiled Bills of Interest to MO WPC members.

Among the bills are two filed by Cynthia Davis (R-MO 19th District), both described as "Changes the laws regarding the consent requirement for obtaining an abortion and specifies that anyone performing or inducing an abortion knowing that she has been coerced will be guilty of a class C felony." (HB 1238 and HB 1327) Further investigation revealed that HB 1238 describes how a woman is to be "informed" regarding an abortion and makes abortion a class C felony; HB 1327 describes "coercion" and upgrades the type of felony/misdemeanor to the next level.

This is the same MO representative who last summer was recommending hunger as a good motivator.

LWV VOTER INFO

Eighteen Initiative Petitions have been approved for circulation as of December 12, 2009, of which 17 are Constitutional measures and one is a statutory measure regarding early voting.

The League Board advises: "If you should be asked to sign a petition for an issue to be placed before the voters in 2010, think before you sign. The wording of the petition often does not reflect or accurately state the true goal of the petition. Rather than sign a petition that you have not read in its entirety, go home and research the subject to be sure you want to add your signature to it.

"It is far better to prevent ballot issues you oppose from getting on the ballot than to campaign to defeat them."

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ask Claire McCaskill and Kit Bond to oppose U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski's Amendment that **ignores climate science and bails out big polluters!**

Just last month President Obama's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared that global warming pollution endangers human health and welfare – not because greenhouse gases are toxic, CO2 obviously isn't – but because of how global climate change would cause insects and diseases to migrate, would upset water and agricultural patterns, thus reducing crop yields, and could create huge numbers of climate refugees. A study by the Union of Concerned Scientists projects that under current trends Missouri could be seeing more than 100 days above 90 F each year, and almost a month and a half of days above 100 F by 2100, a serious human health problem here at home. Thus, the EPA announced plans to limit emissions from big polluters.

This plan is now under attack in Congress by friends of Big Coal and Oil. **On January 20th, the Senate is scheduled to vote on Sen. Murkowski's amendment** that would block President Obama and the EPA

from enforcing *any* global warming pollution limits under the Clean Air Act—even for big polluters like coal plants and oil refineries.

Please call Senators McCaskill and Bond before Jan.20 and ask them to vote against any amendment that would prevent enforcement of limits on greenhouse gas emissions—limits reaffirmed by the Supreme Court almost three years ago.

Action to fight global warming will build a clean energy economy that will not only mean less pollution, but more jobs and greater security. If successful, Senator Murkowski's amendment would bail out big polluters and stop progress toward a clean energy future dead in its tracks.

Also, last October Yvonne Logan wrote to Senator McCaskill asking her to support and strengthen Global Climate Change legislation. McCaskill's response indicated that she understood the causes of Global Climate Change, but did not understand the magnitude of the problem nor how very little time we have left to change direction before disease, food, refugee, and international se-

curity problems could become overwhelming.

Senator McCaskill continues to say that she will not support global climate change legislation unless it protects energy-intensive manufacturers and consumers from higher energy prices, and unless it gives special advantages to states that rely on energy from coal. Senator McCaskill doesn't seem to understand that the price of coal has been going up independently of national legislation or that coal is not a job creator or money maker for Missouri since all coal burned in Missouri is from other states. Both energy efficiency and renewable energy would create more jobs at all pay scales than coal energy does.

When you call Senator McCaskill regarding the Murkowski amendment, please make the points above to persuade her to support stronger, not weaker, climate legislation.

Ginger Harris



WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS!!

The Ecuadorian government has raised the national minimum wage as part of its policy to focus on decent salaries as the basis from which to deal with the existing social inequalities in the country.

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa made the announcement as his administration celebrates their third anniversary and what has been called the Citizen's Revolution. The minimum wage in Ecuador rose from 218 to 240 dollars a month as one of the first measures aimed at assuring a 'decent salary' for all.

Correa said that the road to greater equity could be reached by charging fairer taxes to the country's highest wage earners and to raise worker's salaries.

Correa said that no company in Ecuador could report profits until every worker is earning at least 320 dollars, a wage that, with an average of 1.6 wage earners per household, would allow each family to afford the cost of basic foodstuffs calculated at 517 dollars per household per month.

Under the decent wages policy, the government is considering implementing measures at profit sharing with workers through company stocks, backed by credits issued by the state.

From:
laborexchange-n@organizerweb.com

Jan. 12, 2010

WILPFers AROUND AND ABOUT

Ava Jordan fell on the way to her car after Yvonne Logan's birthday fundraiser, and during the night was taken to the emergency room, where the final diagnosis was a broken arm and cracked sternum. We missed her and husband Kevin at the WILPF Annual Holiday party and wish her a quick and complete recovery.

Did you see the full-page spread on our own **Ella Brown** and her three-story Victorian row house in Benton Park? The story and pictures ran January 9 in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and detailed a top-to-bottom renovation of the house carried out by Ella with the help of an architect. A picture of Ella, a watercolor artist and retired college English professor, and photos of art objects from China and Greece are shown. Ella is a regular at our Brown Bag programs and Women in Black vigils.

Friday, January 15, **Louise Green** hosted a book signing at her home for *A Force for Nature: The Environmental Litigation of Lewis C. Green*, about her late husband, with a "focus on some of his seminal cases." Written by former reporters and editors of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Patricia Tummons and Florence Shinkle, the book will be available after Jan. 15 through book stores and the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center.

Agnes Wilcox sent notice of two performances of the Prison Performing Arts program, one at the Women's Correctional Center in Vandalia on Feb. 8 and the other at the men's prison, Northeast Correctional Center in Bowling Green on Mar. 4. The women will do Twelfth Night, Acts IV and V and Spoken Words and the men Acts I and II of Stalag 17 by Donald Bevan and Edmund Trzcinski. More info: 314-289-4190.

On Dec. 14, WILPFer **Ellen Barfield** of Baltimore was sentenced to 18 months of probation, 75 days in jail, all but 25 suspended, for throwing money stained with her blood in the hearing room of a foreign relations committee meeting chaired by Sen. John Kerry in mid-May. At the time Barfield was quoted as saying, "We are here to tell the Senate they must stop automatically approving more blood money for these disastrous occupations. Bring all the troops home now!" Ellen chose to begin her sentence immediately, and was released on January 8, 2010. Should she be arrested within the next 18 months, or violate terms of her probation (which includes a stay away from the entire Capitol complex), she will be hauled before Judge Liebovitz who pledged to give her the other 50 days. Ellen said she will continue speaking truth to power.

Hedy Epstein and **J'Ann Allen** travelled to Cairo Dec. 26 as planned, but were prevented by the Egyptian government from joining with more than 1300 fellow-travelers in the planned Freedom March in Gaza. Egypt would open the border for only 100 participants, by which time Gazan civil society had withdrawn the invitation in order not to be in complicity with the Egyptian government. Hedy and J'Ann returned home January 9.

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists at their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Awards Banquet January 18 honored Missourians for Single Payer for its work for social justice and human rights by advocating national health care reform within a single payer system. WILPFer **Julia Lamborn** accepted the award for MOSP.

Condolences to the family of longtime St. Louis activist Mary Auer, who moved to Columbia, MO to be near her daughter three years ago, and who died there December 24. Mary was active with the Freeze and the Interfaith Committee on Latin America, and many other organizations.

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://](http://carnahan.house.gov/contact.shtml)

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>

GREAT DECISIONS

The first of a series of eight GREAT DECISIONS discussions is set for noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, February 25 at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road. Seven remaining programs will be held at the same time and place each Thursday. The discussions are based on the 2010 GREAT DECISIONS books now available at the World Affairs Council, which sponsors the program. Each book costs \$16.50, \$18 if mailed.

Discussion topics covered in the book include Special Envoys, Kenya and R2P, Global Crime, US/China Security Relations, Global Financial Crisis, Russia and Its Neighbors, The Persian Gulf, and Peace Building and Conflict Resolution. For further information, call the World Affairs Council at 314 727 9988.

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, Feb. 2, 2010. Bring or mail articles for the February 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: _____

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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
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CALENDAR

- Thu., Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m.:** MOSP movie night: "John Q" with Denzel Washington as a loving father who takes a hospital hostage to save his child, after his insurance denied payment for life-saving treatment. Free film and popcorn, Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road
- Fri., Jan. 22, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.:** 37th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade Freedom of Choice Council reception, The Wine Press, 4436 Olive St., 63108, \$10.
- Tue., Jan. 26, 1:30 p.m.:** WILPF Executive Committee meeting, WCC
- Fri., Jan. 29, 4:30 p.m.:** WILPF Middle East Committee meeting, WCC
- Fri., Jan. 29, 7:00 p.m.:** 'An Evening with Sonia Sanchez' at the History Museum, Lee Auditorium, part of the Museum's "Race: Are We So Different?" exhibit. (Sonia Sanchez, a U.S. WILPF Sponsor, performed at the WILPF 2005 National Congress in San Francisco.)
- Jan. 31, 4:00 p.m.:** "Our Freedom March to Gaza" (see p. 1)
- Feb. 2, 1:45 p.m.,** WILPF Board meeting, WCC
- Feb. 2, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.:** Rally at Congressional offices (see p. 4)
- Feb. 3:** Environmental Lobby Day, Capitol, Jefferson City
- Feb. 9, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.:** Women in Black vigil, St. Louis Bread Co., Delmar Loop
- Feb. 13, 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.:** Benefit reception and performance to support LWV Information Service of "Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them" by Christopher Durang, Kranzberg Arts Center, Grand & Olive, \$55
- Thu., Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m.:** MOSP meeting and speaker, Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd.

