

Listen to Women for A CHANGE

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,
Minnesota Metro Branch
P. O. Box 14752, Minneapolis MN 55414, 651-458-7090

September - October 2006

Minnesota Metro WILPF is at last on the World Wide Web!

<http://www.wilpfn.org>

Get updates on events and actions, read the newsletter, learn more about WILPF, and more!

Upcoming Minnesota Metro Events

Saturday, September 30, 6-9 pm Launch of Keep Space for Peace Week

October 1-8, 2006 Social Evening for Disarmament

Meet leaders of the WILPF national issue committee DISARM: Dismantling the War Economy, which brings out the connection between the U.S. military and corporations. Ellen Barfield, MacGregor Eddy, and Carol Reilly Urner, in town to give workshops at the Stopping the Merchants of Death conference, will brief us on DISARM campaigns and materials in the MII-Corp ConneXion Study Guide, including the governments new emphasis on biodefense.

Potluck at 6 pm; discussion at 7 pm

1920 S. First St., UofM West Bank (party Room in high rise, hosted by Sally Flax, 612-333-8924) (building is just north of UofM Law School, below 10th St. bridge)

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Coffee With programs

10 am to noon

Saturday, October 14

The UN and Peacekeeping

Saturday, November 11

Report Back from PeaceJam

10th Anniversary Conference of National Youth Leadership Council
with Shivani Bhatt and Angie Martinez

Van Cleve Community Center

901 15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Free, open to public, refreshments.

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Annual Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 28, 9:30 am to 1 pm

Program: Voices of Minnesota Farm Women--27-minute film of women who share their farm lives and the satisfaction of sustainable farming. Paula Foreman, volunteer from Land Stewardship Project, leads discussion afterward.

Business meeting at 9:45 am; program at 11:15.

Meeting Room under the Chapel, Becketwood Co-op Housing, 4300 W. River Parkway, Minneapolis



US Begins Building Treaty-Breaching Germ War Defense Center*

By Julian Borger, The Guardian UK, 31 July 2006

Construction work has begun near Washington on a vast germ warfare laboratory intended to help protect the US against an attack with biological weapons, but critics say the laboratory's work will violate international law and its extreme secrecy will exacerbate a biological arms race.

The National Biodefense Analysis and Counter-measures Centre (NBACC), due to be completed in 2008, will house heavily guarded and hermetically sealed chambers in which scientists simulate potential terrorist attacks.

To do so, the centre will have to produce and stock-pile the world's most lethal bacteria and viruses, forbidden by the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Three years before that treaty was agreed, President Richard Nixon halted the production of US biological weapons at Fort Detrick in Maryland. The same military base is the site for the new \$128m, 160,000 sq ft laboratory. The green light for its construction was given after the September 11 attacks, which coincided with a series of still unsolved anthrax incidents that killed five people. The department of homeland security, which will run the centre, says its work is necessary to protect the country.

"All the programmes we do are defensive in nature," Maureen McCarthy, director of homeland security research and development, told the Washington Post. "Our job is to ensure that the civilian population of the country is protected, and that we know what the threats are."

The biological weapons convention stipulates that the signatories must not "develop, produce, stockpile, or otherwise acquire or retain" biological weapons, and does not distinguish between offensive and defensive intentions. ...

Some analysts say the extraordinary secrecy surrounding the project will heighten suspicions of US intentions and accelerate work on similar facilities around the world.

*A similar much-longer article entitled The Secretive Fight Against Bioterror, by Joby Warrick, was published in The Washington Post on July 30, 2006.



NATIONAL NEWS

Jody Dodd, membership coordinator, recently sent this e-mail message. If you are a member of Minnesota Metro with an e-mail address and did not receive it, please contact Jody to be enrolled.

Dear WILPF members,

Welcome to the WILPF mid-northern regional listserv. WILPF US has established nine geographic listservs to promote collaboration and cooperation among WILPF branches and at-large members residing in geographic proximity to each other. These listservs will be man-aged by members from within the regional group. -

To send messages to this listserve, use midnorthern@wilpf.org

All reply messages will automatically be sent to the entire list. If you wish to reply privately to a member, you must copy and paste her e-mail address into the "to" line.

WILPF's regional listservs are unmoderated, members-only venues established for the exchange of information and ideas pertinent to WILPF's program work. All subscribers are allowed to post messages that serve to deepen and/or expand WILPF campaign work or action initiatives, at the branch, national, or international levels.

These lists should be used to promote WILPF activities and events, but may also be used to plan actions, develop strategy, or share information about other organizations' activities if they are directly rele-vant to WILPF's principles and program.



News from U.S. Section of WILPF, National Campaigns, and Issue Committees

The national WILPF office sends out a quarterly mailing to each branch filled with information and notices of upcoming WILPF events. There is too much material to include in the newsletter, but most of it can be found at the WILPF national website, www.wilpf.org.

Summary of Summer 2006 mailing

National Office

- * A June statement on Guantanamo, demanding trials and rights of due process for all detainees, closure of the prison, and elimination of all prisons of torture operating worldwide under authority of U.S. govern-ment. Includes talking points and actions to take.
- * Ad for the new movie The Road to Guantanamo, with suggestions for action.
- * June statement on Iran, calling for peaceful resolu-tion of the crisis and offering action steps and ideas for a letter to Congress.

Campaigns

- * Women Challenge U.S. Policy on the Middle East: A demand that the U.S. restore aid to the Palestinian Authority, written in June. A policy that promotes starvation and oppression of innocent bystanders is not a just policy.
- * Copy of a speech by Libby Frank, campaign representative, that includes little known facts such as Israel with U.S. tacit support encouraged the forma-tion of Hamas in the 1970s and Israeli occupation of Gaza didnt end, it changed form.

Save the Water

- * Where Have All the Fountains Gone and action alert: Stop GATS! (General Agreement on Trade in Services, which threatens to allow privatization of water systems under free trade rules).

Issue Committees

- * Building the Beloved Community---see below.

* Corporations V. Democracy--report on a victory for democracy versus corporations in Humboldt County, CA.

* DISARM-- quarterly update

Plus a copy of the Declaration of Peace and an announcement of the new book Women and the U.S. Budget by Jane Midgley, former executive director of WILPF U.S. Section, with special price for WILPF members of \$9 plus shipping from national office.

Building the Beloved Community (BBC) Issue Committee Update

Our mission is to provide educational information about the history and nature of systemic racism, connections between oppressions, internalized oppressions, and the struggles for racial justice.

We ask members and branches to join us in taking part in the four actions below.

1) Take the Pledge to Heal Racism In My Life. Sign on and also share the pledge with others in your community. Find the pledge at <www.icujp.org/04.10.06_racism.html>.

2) As a tool to begin discussions around racism, wear Eracism t-shirts. The definition of Eracism is the removal from existence of the belief that one race is superior to another. Learn more about the shirts at www.eracismwear.com or EracismWear - 11333 Moorpark St., #506 - Toluca Lake, CA 91602-2618, or 1-888-Eracism or mreracism@adelphia.net. We are discussing the possibility of adding them to the WILPF website in the future.

3) Ask for our workshop, Creating Caring Communities, which utilizes the very physical and often non-verbal techniques of the game Star Power and Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed techniques, and "Being an Effective Social Justice Activist - the Personal Side," which takes a more verbal approach to dealing with the need for introspection to achieve one's goals as an activist. Learn more about the workshop at BBC's website <http://wilpf.org/issues/uforje/default.htm> or contact Sha'an Mouliert at mouliert@vtlink.net

4) Resources -- Check out our list of educational resources at [http://wilpf.org/issues/uforje/ UFO_resources.htm](http://wilpf.org/issues/uforje/UFO_resources.htm).

To learn more about the BBC or to become a member of the committee contact Sha'an Mouliert, at mouliert@vtlink.net or Vickie Fouts at socialjustice@sti.net or (559) 658-8260.



BRANCH NEWS

Dear Members and Friends:

Minnesota Metro branch of WILPF has made some exciting changes since the retreat held in June of this year.

* Member Lisa Ledwidge has developed a web site for the branch, which brings us into the 21st century! Pages will be maintained by different members.

* Weve changed how our monthly Coffee With programs are arranged, and we thus have programs scheduled from September through May 2007.

* Our Membership Committee has created new brochures, the bookmark included in this newsletter--which we hope you will post in a noticeable place and consult regularly--and attractive signs to be used in demonstrations.

* We also have plans for restructuring leadership somewhat and will discuss this at the Annual Meeting in October. We hope all of you who care about the future of our branch and the organization that is WILPF can attend and offer guidance (announcement on page 1).

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Remembering Hiroshima/Nagasaki

On August 6, 2006, at 4:00 p.m., some 45 people responded to the invitation of MN Metro WILPF to participate in a WOMEN IN BLACK meditative procession along the Pathway to Peace at the Lyndale Gardens, as part of the activities organized for the day by the Minneapolis Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemorative Committee.

The Pathway consists of seven cairns stretching along four blocks from the corner of 40th St. and Bryant Ave. S. to the Peace Garden near Lake Harriet. The procession stopped at each cairn to meditate on the words etched in each stone, dealing with different aspects of peace: understanding conflict and contrast, issues of justice and non-violence, relationships and connectedness, tolerance, discovering self-love and inner peace, being an example, the future of peace and the responsibility of individuals in the process of peace-making. At each of the cairns a member of the WILPF Arts Committee led the meditation with a brief commentary. At the last cairn many of the participants contributed ideas and suggestions for ways each individual could help to promote peace and non-violence in their families, their relationships, their communities, their state and nation and in the world.

WILPF has participated in the annual commemoration for many years. Plan to be there with us next year, August 6, 2007.

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MEETING WILPF LEADERS IN COLOMBIA

On Monday, September 4, 2006, while on a brief family visit to Bogota, Colombia, my daughter Marisa and I spent two hours at the offices of La Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz, LIMPAL (WILPF in Spanish), the national (and only) WILPF office in Colombia. The office is in a small building attached to a long row of buildings on a busy street of downtown Bogota. The building, which has three floors, was donated, as were all of the furniture, office equipment, and everything else needed to function. The director, Adriana E. Gonzalez S., could not meet with me as she was preparing to leave the next day for London to attend an executive committee meeting of WILPF. However, we did talk on the phone so we established contact for the future. The two LIMPAL women working in the office gave us a tour of the building; showed us photo-graphs , news clippings and other documentation of their many projects; and provided us with literature describing their work. A discussion of this visit and the work LIMPAL is doing to aid and support dis-placed women in Colombia as well as other aspects of women's response to the violence they experience will be the subject of the Coffee With program on April 14, 2007.

Also in Bogota my family and I attended a rock band concert held in an open air theater to protest the impending privatization of water in the capital city. After getting through the inspection carried out by a herd of armed police, we joined the large crowd of enthusiastic concertgoers who heartily applauded the speeches and danced and sang along with the various bands. The only written information distrib-uted about the purpose

Private Fuel Storage Is All But Dead

Sent by member Lisa Ledwidge

Dear friends,

After a 9-year fight, the U.S. Interior Department on Thursday rejected the lease for the nuclear facility. This came in the form of a "one-two punch" that may have finally put an end to a plan to store 40,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste on this unique reservation- -about an hour's drive from Salt Lake City, Utah.

At the outset, we want to sincerely thank everyone who has participated in this struggle with us. Countless Native and non-Native individuals and organizations have assisted with everything from contacting legislators, to participating in licensing and technical hearings, to sponsoring and hosting Goshutes and Shundahai Network personnel at related educational events around the country, to supporting and attending events on the Reservation in support of Goshutes who have been fighting endlessly to stop this nuclear dump.

This is a victory for all of us!

SUMMARY: On Thursday, September 7th, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) each delivered a Record of Decision, opting to take "no action" on the plan to store 40,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste on the Skull Valley Goshute Reservation in Utah. There is a link on our main web page www.shundahai.org that allows you to read the entire document.

Both decisions mentioned the recent San Luis Obispo court decision regarding nuclear storage at a site in southern California. This decision required that the threat of terrorism must be weighed in the EIS, which it wasn't. This impacted the validity of the EIS, and thus the decision to store waste in Skull Valley.

Both the BIA and BLM decisions used formulaic language in assessing four options that allowed for variations in the siting of a high-level nuclear storage facility, including transportation methods, and considered an alternate site in Wyoming. Ultimately the Interior Department chose option 4, the "no action" option, which rejects all other options.

However, this decision does not prohibit further action by PFS. It could decide to amend the EIS, and resubmit. There may also be appeal options.

Further, this decision does not preclude further action by pro-nuclear Goshutes Leon Bear, Mary Allen, and other supporters of the PFS plan as offering a venue for similar types of economic development.

With the current upheaval in tribal government, the Skull Valley Goshute Band could be an even more inviting target for unscrupulous developers, lobbyists, and lawyers looking to cash-in on potentially dangerous nuclear projects. It may, in fact, open up the possibility of Skull Valley being selected as one of the proposed pilot nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities, and of getting federal funding to do so. Reprocessing of nuclear fuel is potentially much worse than storage.

Another potential threat to watch closely is that a federal bill now moving through congress, which specifically excludes Utah as a regional interim storage facility, has not passed both houses of the US legislature. There could be changes to proposed legislation in committee, and this Interior department decision could influence those changes.

We sincerely appreciate all the support Shundahai Network has received throughout this process. It has been a long and difficult road, and Thursday's decision is a victory for all of us!

The Board and Staff of Shundahai Network
www.shundahai.org
Salt Lake City, UT 84110

Nothing apart from pressure in the form of sanctions, boycott and divestment will stop the murdering of innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip. There is nothing we here in Israel can do against it. Brave pilots refused to partake in the operations, two journalists - out of 150 - do not cease to write about it, but this is it. In the name of the holocaust memory, let us hope the world would not allow the genocide of Gaza to continue



Deadly Harvest: Lebanese Fields Sown With Cluster Bombs

By Patrick Cockburn, The Independent UK
18 September 2006

The war in Lebanon has not ended. Every day, some of the million bomblets which were fired by Israeli artillery during the last three days of the conflict kill four people in southern Lebanon and wound many more.

The casualty figures will rise sharply in the next month as villagers begin the harvest, picking olives from trees whose leaves and branches hide bombs that explode at the smallest movement. Lebanon's farmers are caught in a deadly dilemma: to risk the harvest, or to leave the produce on which they depend to rot in the fields.

... Some Israeli officers are protesting the use of cluster bombs, each containing 644 small but lethal bomblets, against civilian targets in Lebanon. A commander in the multiple launch rocket systems unit told the Israeli daily Haaretz that the army had fired 1,800 cluster rockets, spraying 1.2 million bomblets over houses and fields. "In Lebanon, we covered entire villages with cluster bombs," he said. "What we did there was crazy and monstrous."

30 per cent of the bomblets do not detonate on impact. They can lie for years - often difficult to see because of their small size, on roofs, in gardens, in trees, beside roads or in rubbish - waiting to explode when disturbed.

...

Why did the Israeli army do it? One Israeli gunner said he had been told to "flood" the area at which they were firing but was given no specific targets. ...

An editorial in Haaretz said that the mass use of this weapon by the Israeli Defence Forces was a desperate last-minute attempt to stop Hizbollah's rocket fire into northern Israel. Whatever the reason, the villagers in south Lebanon will suffer death and injury from cluster bombs as they pick their olives and oranges for years to come.



COMING UP

9/11: Press for Truth: A new documentary about September 11, 2001, featuring the four women of New Jersey known as the Jersey Widows, who are still demanding answers to their questions. Free showings:

Sept. 30, 1:30 pm, Roseville Library, 2180 N. Hamline

Oct. 14, 1:30-3:30 pm, Oscar Romero Room, Resource Center of the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis (RSVP stoves@bitstream.net)

Sept. 30, 6:30 pm: Potluck and discussion with WILPF DISARM members, to launch Keep Space for Peace Week. 1920 S. First St., UofM West Bank (party Room in high rise) (building is just north of UofM Law School, below 10th St. bridge). FFI 651-458-7090.

Oct. 1, 6:30 -10 pm: Stopping the Merchants of Death Rally, with speakers Medea Benjamin, Frieda Berrigan, Jack Nelson Pallmeyer, Winona LaDuke, and others. OShaugnessy Auditorium, College of St. Catherine, Randolph and Cleveland, St. Paul. \$12, students \$10.

Oct. 15, 3-5 pm: "Privatized Elections: Is There Hope for Democracy?" Friends Meeting House, 1725 Grand Ave., St. Paul. Free. Presented by IMPACT

Oct. 20-22: Northland Bioneers Conference Minneapolis Community Technical College, Hennepin Ave. on Loring Park. Beamed plenary sessions from national Bioneers conference and local participatory forums: keynotes, workshops, artists, exhibitors, World Cafe community dialogue. www.bioneers.org for more info. Hosted locally by Northland Sustainable Solutions. Register at www.nbconference.org. \$150 for 3 days; \$95 senior, if registered by Oct. 1, then \$180 and \$114. FFI 612-247-0781.

Oct. 29, 9:30 am-1 pm: WILPF Annual Meeting. Becketwood Co-op Housing, 4300 W. River Parkway, Minneapolis. Refreshments, business meeting, program (see page 1).

Nov. 17-19: Venezuela Solidarity Conference. Macalester College, St. Paul. Watch for details and see article below.



Minnesota Metro WILPF, P.O. Box 14752, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

New Member _____ Renewing member _____ Making a donation _____
Level of support: Family \$50 _____ MN Metro membership \$35 (\$15 low-income) _____
Newsletter only \$10 _____ Make check payable to MN Metro WILPF. It is tax-deductible.

Membership in National WILPF \$35 _____ (\$15 low income) (We will forward your check) Make check payable to WILPF. It is not tax-deductible.

I would like to get involved in the following activities: Committees: Arts _____
Corporations V. Democracy _____ Peace & Environment _____ Women in Black
Vigils _____ Study Group: Water _____ CorpVDem _____



Listen to Women for A CHANGE is produced bimonthly by the Steering Committee of Minnesota Metro WILPF. Submissions from members are welcome. Please e-mail to alteravista @earthlink.net or mail to 1233 Ingerson Road, St. Paul 55112. Next issue November-December. Deadline for submissions November 10.

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