



# Listen to Women for a **CHANGE**

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom • MN Metro Branch

Summer 2011

## News from the U.S. WILPF Triennial Congress

by Doris Marquit

Material for this story taken from U.S. WILPF Website. For full reports on the Congress including the text of all resolutions, see <http://www.wilpf.org/2011Congress>

More than 100 WILPF women convened for the U.S. Section 31st National Congress at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill June 1-6. The theme was "End War: Local to Global." MN Metro offered a successful literature table, and the Arts Committee provided Women and Water Rights display material plus a free video about the exhibit for all Branches. Doris Marquit attended, and has joined the national Membership Committee as well as the newly formed Membership Council.



### Speakers & Highlights

Kathy Kelly, founder of Voices for Creative Non-Violence, spoke about her experiences over the course of her 27 visits to Iraq and four most recent trips to Afghanistan. Kathy joined Congress attendees at several local peace demonstrations in Chapel Hill during the Congress.



Kathy Kelly

The Reverend William Barber of the NAACP gave a moving address and led a caravan of WILPFers to the State Capitol in Raleigh to bear witness to the passage of a State budget that served the interests of the few at the expense of the many.

The final plenary speaker was WILPF International Secretary General Madeleine Rees, who recounted her work for WILPF and the growth of our sister sections, along with an inspiring explanation of how WILPF works in the U.N. to hold member countries accountable to their obligations to uphold U.N. principles.



Madeleine Rees

Saturday's Gala Reception included the

world premier showing of the film "The Whistleblower," in which Madeleine Rees's work to expose wide-scale human trafficking involving U.S. military contractor Dyncorp and the U.N. in postwar Bosnia is depicted. (Vanessa Redgrave plays the character based on Madeleine.) In the following discussion, Madeleine urged all of us to send a clear message to our elected leaders: "diplomatic immunity cannot equal immunity from prosecution for criminal acts."

"The Whistleblower" has just begun commercial distribution, after showing in the Toronto Film Festival, and we hope to support local showings in Minnesota.

*continued on next page*



Congress attendees joined protests in Chapel Hill.



The MN Metro display at the Triennial Congress. Photos of Congress by Doris Marquit; of K. Kelly by Socialistwebzine; of M. Rees by WILPF International.



# Hiroshima Nagasaki

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE  
2011

## Friday, August 5th

Lyndale Park Peace Garden  
Lake Harriet  
Minneapolis

5:30 p.m. **Recorder music by Arden Consort**

6:00 p.m. **Commemorative Tea Ceremony**  
Yukimakai Tea Study Group

## Saturday, August 6th

Lyndale Park Peace Garden  
Lake Harriet  
Minneapolis

7:30 a.m. **Ceremony of the Cranes**  
Quincy Powe, speaker; KAIROS dance;  
Greg Herriges, music; SADAHO story

8:15 a.m. **Moment of silence for Hiroshima**

10:15 a.m. **Walking the Pathway to Peace**  
Begins at 40th & Bryant, led by Women in Black  
of Women's International League for Peace  
and Freedom

11:00 a.m. **Ceremony of 11 Bells**  
Veterans for Peace

## Monday, August 8th

Global Harmony Labyrinth  
Como Park  
St. Paul

7:00 p.m. **Nagasaki Commemoration**  
Jay Kvale, speaker  
Guests from Nagasaki

The Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration Committee offers these events to the community to encourage reflection on the past and hope for the future through action in the present. It calls for the total abolition of nuclear weapons throughout the world as one measure of ensuring a just and lasting peace.

### For further information:

[www.wilpfn.org/hn/](http://www.wilpfn.org/hn/) • [www.stpaulnagasaki.org](http://www.stpaulnagasaki.org)  
MSPHNCC@gmail.com • (952) 922-0308

Reflection on the Past. Action in the Present. Hope for the Future.

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## ACTION ALERT ... AUGUST 6th

As part of the 66th annual Minneapolis commemoration of the atomic bombing of Japan in 1945, WILPF and the Women in Black once again will lead a walk down the PATHWAY TO PEACE to meditate on what it means to be living in the nuclear age and to consider actions we might take as individual citizens and as members of organizations to mitigate the dangers and to reduce or eliminate violence as a viable solution to conflicts.

Everyone is invited to join us on this walk on Saturday, August 6. Meet at the northwest corner of 40th St. and Bryant Ave. S. at 10:15 a.m.

The Walk will proceed along the two-block PATHWAY TO PEACE to the Peace Garden, stopping at each cairn to consider its message before arriving at the Crane Sculpture where we will join the Veterans for Peace in a brief ceremony. Then we will invite all in attendance to complete the Walk with us as we continue on to cairns 6 and 7. Come ready to express your opinions and offer suggestions.

WILPF has been taking part in Hiroshima commemoration events more than 25 years since Marnie and Jim Youngdale helped to initiate the idea. What was once the Rock Garden became the Peace Garden in 1998 and has since been expanded and lovingly tended by volunteers to rival the beauties of the Rose Garden across the street on the east side of Lake Harriet. Since its inception in 1995, the WILPF Arts Committee, as a leader in local activities of the worldwide Women in Black, has participated in many Hiroshima programs. The Pathway to Peace, a work of public art, was created in 2003 to explore the process of creating peace. It consists of seven cairns (piles of stone used worldwide to designate a path or convey a message) with engraved words gathered from many sources including East Harriet community members.

**Become part of this long and meaningful history.**

**Join the walk. Be at peace.**

—Marilyn Cuneo, Convenor, WILPF Arts Committee

## News from the U.S. WILPF Triennial Congress, continued

### Minneapolis College of Art and Design students present: A 'Youth Outreach Marketing Plan' for WILPF

Six students from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), along with their professor Nancy Rice, a 2006 NY Art Director's Club Hall of Fame inductee, presented the culmination of a six-month study of WILPF and the creation of a campaign strategy for effective youth recruitment.

After a week of interacting with long-time WILPF women, the students debuted their WILPF Youth Outreach and Marketing Proposal to a crowded room of Board Members and other enthusiastic viewers. Their outreach proposal included an updated WILPF website and logo, a "Tiered Membership Platform," where young members can identify what WILPF is-

sues they want to work on and how many hours they will commit to WILPF work, new T-Shirt and poster designs as part of an "Art Hub" where members' art and creativity can be utilized for WILPF activism, a Branch Membership Tool Kit Zine, new partnerships with socially and politically minded youth organizations. Two of the students, Morgan Richter and Alicia Reyerson, will take the presentation to the WILPF International Congress in Costa Rica July 30 to August 5.

To read some of their personal reflections on the WILPF Congress, visit the site, [http://www.wilpf.org/2011Congress\\_MCAD\\_Testimonies](http://www.wilpf.org/2011Congress_MCAD_Testimonies). ■



MCAD students presented their WILPF Youth Outreach and Marketing Plan at the Triennial Congress.

## NEWS OF INTEREST

### Move to Amend is growing

Robin Monahan, our “coffee with” speaker in March, reports increasing support for Move to Amend, the Monahan brothers’ campaign to eliminate corporate personhood by means of a Constitutional amendment. On June 30 he reported new affiliates in Washington, Colorado, Florida and New Mexico. Move to Amend will be a major sponsor of the first National Democracy Convention to be held in Madison, WI, from August 24-28.

To quote from the convention website, “If you want to strengthen democracy where it matters most— in our communities, our schools, our workplaces and local economies, military, government, media, constitution — you will find something inspiring in Madison this August.” Learn more at the site:

<http://democracyconvention.org/>

### ‘Who Killed Emmett Till?’ showing Oct. 6 and 9

(to be sponsored by WAMM, Veterans for Peace and MN Metro WILPF)

At the recent June 21 Steering Committee Meeting, we agreed to co-sponsor this DVD documentary produced by the Black Family Channel.

Two showings are planned: October 6 at 7 p.m., followed by a Q and A session facilitated by Deborah Watts of the Till Foundation; and October 9 at 12:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion. Most of you will remember that Emmett Till, a young teen from the North who was visiting Southern relatives, was kidnapped and killed because he winked at a white woman. The year was 1955. Watch email and letter mail for more information. Both programs will take place at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.



### Steering Committee Plus, June 21

Those in attendance included Marilyn Cuneo, Donna Malum, Doris Marquit, Leslie Reindl, Naima Richmond, Elizabeth Shippee and Arlene West. Actions and information from this meeting and not included in other newsletter articles:

■ Renewing membership in Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. Donna Malum will be our delegate to this 75-member coalition that meets bi-monthly.

■ Our treasurer, Leslie Reindl, reported a balance of \$3649. This includes \$83 for buttons, etc. sold at the triennial congress by Doris Marquit and \$960 that belongs to the Arts Committee.



## WILPF ARTS COMMITTEE REPORT

1) On Saturday, August 13, an unusual event will take place at Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis. There will be a free gathering featuring a 13 hour Drum Ceremony for Peace and Unity among all the races in the world. The drum was made from the ancient Ceiba tree in Mexico by indigenous grandmothers. The drumming will take place between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. People are invited to come at any time and stay as long as they like. Bring a chair if needed. For more information, visit the website: [Thenewworld schooloftheSACREDWOMAN.com](http://thenewworldschooloftheSACREDWOMAN.com).

2) Doris Marquit, the only member of MN Metro Branch to attend the recent WILPF National Congress at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, cheerfully made herself responsible for taking with her a collection of materials from our 2010 Women and Water Rights Art Exhibition to display on the Minnesota table. Included were 24 of the DVDs recently completed showcasing the Opening Ceremony as well as many of the art works and interviews with some of the artists and attendees. These were displayed on the Save the Water issue table and offered as a gift to the other WILPF branches. They were enthusiastically and gratefully received by the following branches: Greater Phoenix, Triangle, Cleveland, Maine, Portland, Oregon, Detroit, Philadelphia, Cape Cod, Houston, Raleigh, NC, Pittsburgh, and six

branches in California - Sacramento, Santa Cruz, San Jose, Fresno, San Diego, Los Angeles. Liz Dodson and Marilyn Cuneo are now in the process of preparing guidelines to accompany the DVDs in answer to those groups considering organizing their own local Women and Water Rights exhibit.

Anyone interested in having a DVD, please contact Marilyn Cuneo, 612-825-9419, [mcuneo77@aol.com](mailto:mcuneo77@aol.com).

—Marilyn Cuneo, Convenor, WILPF Arts Committee



# Listen to Women for a Change!

Yes, so let's recognize the many women who have in recent years attained high leadership roles, representing their nations in a very challenging world. Their capabilities are seemingly being given more opportunities. The roster given is *extensive*, but not *exhaustive*.



Compiled by Don Irish, WILPF, with help from Michael K. O'Sullivan, Reference Librarian, Hamline University

Argentina: <b>Christina Fernandez de Kirchner</b> , President, 2007 <b>Nilda Garre</b> , Ambassador to Venezuela, first woman Defense Minister, 2005	Liberia: <b>Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf</b> , President, 2006. First African woman "Head of State," one month after women given right to vote
Australia: <b>Julia Gillard</b> , first woman Prime Minister, 2010	Lithuania: <b>Dalia Grybauskaitė</b> , President, 2009
Bahrain: <b>Sheikha Haya Rashad Al Khalifa</b> , President, U.N. General Assembly, June 9, 2006	Myanmar: <b>Aung San Suu Kyi</b> , preeminent leader in Burma movement for the recovery of democracy. Nobel Peace Prize. Years spent in "house arrest."
Brasil: <b>Dilma Van Rousseff</b> , President, 2011	New Zealand: <b>Helen Clark</b> , Prime Minister, 1999
Chile: <b>Michelle Bachelet</b> , President, 2006 (fourth Latin American woman to be elected President)	Pakistan: <b>Benazir Bhutto</b> , Prime Minister, 1988 – 1990; 1993 – 1996. Was assassinated, 2007.
Costa Rica: <b>Laura Chinchilla Miranda</b> , President, May 8, 2010	Phillipines: <b>Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo</b> , President, 2001.
France: <b>Christine Lagarde</b> , first woman Director, International Monetary Fund, 2011	Thailand: <b>Yingluck Shinawatra</b> , Prime Minister, 2011.
Germany: <b>Angela Merkel</b> , Chancellor, since October 22, 2005	Ukraine: <b>Yulia Tymoshenko</b> , Prime Minister, January – September, 2005; December 2007 – 2010.
Ghana: <b>Joyce Bamford-Addo</b> , first woman speaker of Parliament, January 7, 2009	
Great Britain: <b>Margaret Thatcher</b> , Prime Minister, 1979 – 1990	
Greece: <b>Dora Lakoyannis</b> , Athens mayor, then first woman Foreign Minister	
Guyana: <b>Janet Jagan</b> , elected President, 1997; resigned due to ill health two years later	
India: <b>Indira Gandhi</b> , Prime Minister, 1966 – 1977, 1980 – 1984	
Indonesia: <b>Megawati Sukarnoputri</b> , President, 2001	
Iran: <b>Shirin Ebadi</b> , First Iranian, first Muslim, Nobel Peace Prize, 2003	
Ireland: <b>Mary Robinson</b> , President, 1990 – 1997, then U.N. Human Rights role	
Israel: <b>Golda Meir</b> , Prime Minister, 1969 – 1974, when she resigned	
Jamaica: <b>Portia Simpson-Miller</b> , Prime Minister, 2006	
Kuwait: <b>Massouma al Mubarak</b> , first woman Cabinet member, Minister of Planning and Administration Development, 2005	

The evidence presented indicates that more women are participating in the political processes, gaining very significant roles in their nations. No doubt there are still additional women that have not yet come to our attention. With some perspective from the trend(s), the U.S. is way behind many other nations with regard to women's involvement in the legislatures and government. A recent tally study ranked Rwanda as first for the participation of women in these roles! (Follows the tragic long period of "ethnic genocidal" violence in the country). Next for the participation of women in these roles were Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark.

At the little or no participation of women in government is Saudi Arabia, where women are not permitted to vote or hold official office (or drive, now challenged.) ■

—In the next issue, Don will present information on the United States and women in government leadership.

Join the U.S. Section of WILPF (includes MN Metro Branch membership) and become a local supporter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues:  \$35 (Individual)  \$40 (Household)  \$15 (Student/Limited Income)

\$500 (Life Member)  Supporter Contribution (any amount welcome) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Single check for membership and contribution may be made out to "MN Metro WILPF."

MAIL TO: WILPF, P.O. Box 14752, Minneapolis, MN 55414-0752

## A Few Notes from International WILPF, 99 Years Old!



### Incoming U.S. Representative to the International Board

Catia Cecilia Conforti begins her term on the International Board in late August at the close of the Congress in Costa Rica.

She wants to encourage U.S. branches to engage in dialog with branches in other countries. As an

example, she cites a recent request from the UK on how WILPF members might advise the UK Parliamentary Group on Conflict to bring questions of gender, justice and peace to bear on the solutions they seek.

She promises to forward such requests to U.S. branches. Doing so will not only help us connect with International WILPF, but with member groups around the world. Ms. Conforti can be reached at 670 Washington St., Apt. 5, Wellesley, MA 02482 or by cell (562-818-9355) or email: [caticc@gmail.com](mailto:caticc@gmail.com).

### International WILPF Supports Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions for Israel

The situation in the West Bank and Gaza has become so dire in the last two years that the majority of Israeli peace groups now support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), including the Israeli section of WILPF.

BDS is a global campaign aimed at bringing an end to Israel's brutal occupation of Palestinian lands. Contrary to what many defenders of Israel would have you believe, the campaign is not intended to destroy Israel. Its aim is to end the Occupation.

In order to accomplish this, various groups have targeted specific companies that further the Occupation. At its recent International Board meeting in India, a WILPF resolution regarding BDS was passed and is now a part of WILPF's international program, which each section will implement in its own way. Read the resolution at: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/resolutions/2010.html>

Check out International WILPF's website:  
<http://www.wilpfinternational.org>

The latest posting on the U.S. Audacity of Hope Flotilla was dated July 5. On its way "to deliver humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, the ships were blocked/detained by Greece." The question posed is: "on what grounds should a boat with a humanitarian mission be blocked?"

The updates also include an announcement that Chris Hedges will speak at the Tabernacle Church in Philadelphia on September 10 regarding the Gaza situation. ■



### Update on Women and Water Rights Exhibitions

■ Another WWR sponsor, the Women's Caucus for Art, will receive from WCA and WILPF member Liz Dodson a box of the "Women and Water Rights, WWR Exhibition" DVDs at their July Board meeting for distribution to WCA board members and WCA Chapter representatives.

It is an initiative similar to WILPF member Doris Marquit sending a box of new documentary DVDs, to the recent WILPF National Conference to encourage more branches to have similar WWR Exhibitions about their water issues.

■ An update on the Women and Water Rights Travel Exhibition: the next scheduled WWR exhibition takes place at Finlandia University, Hancock, MI, and will

be open Oct. 27-Nov. 23, 2011. A WILPF member will be part of the exhibition, also possibly other WILPF members will take part in the opening event.

Then another Travel WWR is scheduled next year at Phipps Center for the Arts, June 15-July 22, 2012, Women and Water Rights exhibition, Hudson, WI. Among locations now in various stages of planning are the WCA Chapter Chicago, 2013/14, Dayton, Ohio, Los Angeles, and Mexico City. We expect still more results from this new DVD distribution initiative.

More WWR DVDs are available; see the [womenandwater.net](http://womenandwater.net) website. ■

—Liz Dodson, WAC & WILPF member

UNOFFICIALLY—

From one WILPFer to another—  
An invitation

Conversation with 5th District  
Rep. Keith Ellison

Thursday, Sept. 1, 5:30–7:30 p.m.  
3512 W. 22nd St., Minneapolis  
Keith's position on the House Foreign  
Relations Committee gives him  
influence in areas of WILPF concern  
like peace & justice.  
He'll listen to us—we should be there!

Hosted by: Erwin & Doris Marquit,  
Dave Holets & Nancy Arneson  
612-922-7993 or 612-922-8274  
NO CHARGE!

(voluntary contributions accepted)  
ALL ARE WELCOME—Supporters,  
skeptics, just curious.



**COFFEE WITH...**

**WILPF Coffee With**  
Saturday, September 10,  
10 a.m. to noon, Van Cleve  
Community Center, 901  
15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis

**“Food Security in a World of Climate Change,  
Rampant Speculation in Basic Foods, and  
Population Growth—Who Will Feed Us All, at What  
Price?”—presented by WILPF Member Leslie Reindl**

*The modern food system is based on cheap energy, chemicals,  
and export-driven commodity farming, helped by free trade  
agreements. Food is shipped all over the world, and knows no  
season.*

*Having “food security” means knowing needed food with  
nutritional quality will be available into the future at an afford-  
able price. With rising energy prices and competition for land  
and output, the current food system is clearly not sustainable  
for providing nutritious affordable food or stopping its cumula-  
tive negative effects on the environment and communities.*

*Today in the U.S. there is a growing movement toward  
supporting local food production. Can such production provide  
actual food security for local people?*

*Join a presentation/discussion of today’s food situation  
and ways people are addressing it.*

## CALENDAR

August 6: 10:15 a.m. Walking the Pathway to Peace:  
Women in Black meet at 40th & Bryant to walk to the  
Peace Garden. *See Hiroshima-Nagasaki Days schedule on  
page 2.*

August 24-28: The Democracy Convention Madison, WI.  
*See page 3.*

September 10: 10 a.m. *Coffee With* led by Leslie Reindl  
on Food Security at the Van Cleve Community Center,  
901 15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis. Free and open to the  
public.

October 6: 7-9:00 p.m., “Who Killed Emmett Till?” docu-  
mentary cosponsored with WAAM, Veterans for Peace  
and WILPF, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 2730 E 21st  
St., Minneapolis 55406. *See page 3.*

November 12: 10 a.m. Coffee With— Van Cleve Commu-  
nity Center (watch email or postcard for details).

*Please visit [www.wilpfmn.org](http://www.wilpfmn.org) for updates!*

*Listen to Women for a CHANGE* is produced quarterly by  
MN Metro WILPF. Please submit letters, articles, com-  
plaints or compliments to the editor at [info@wilpfmn.org](mailto:info@wilpfmn.org)

**Editor: Arlene West**

**Next issue: December 1**

**Due date for submissions: November 15**

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