



Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

The President's Corner

Border region issues, ideas and encounters

I'm sure you've all missed me (no, really!) I've been in Tucson since mid January-returning to Madison end of April. This has been a novel experience; one that I likely will repeat (the novelty notwithstanding). Mary Somers has been an intrepid guide and mentor and introduced me to many in the Tucson peace community whose names I will struggle to recall as I encounter them again. I have joined her weekly Spanish language conversation class, which is a refreshingly progressive group of local citizens working to make dual language communication a reality for their sense of community. I have attended Tucson Peace Center events, including singing with the Raging Grannies at the state-wide Peace Fair and the South Tucson International Women's Day Fiesta, attended several Tucson WILPF rallies and meetings (yes! They all remember Nancy Graham, too!) and stood with the local Women in Black Friday afternoon group. I have to admit standing outside here is preferable to winter in Wisconsin. I'm just saying . . .



The border issues and the Sonoran regional identity are really palpable here in so many areas. NO MORE DEATHS/NO MAS MUERTES, a group that Mary has written about in past issues of our WILPF NEWS, has an active presence and does important work. See page 3 for more details. DACA and Sanctuary issues are in the news here, and several of Mary's friends work with immigrants traveling north, helping to equip them for the cold weather they will encounter and to provide warm clothes, shoes and backpacks.

Native American and Immigrant issues are a critically important piece of the Tucson and southern Arizona landscape. Next week is the Pow Wow at the closest tribal area, the Tohono O'Odham nation. There are actually quite a few similar justice issues in common with Wisconsin. Read about the new Sanctuary movement and a bit more about Tucson on page 3, including seeing us sing out at the Peace Fair. We had fun singing about DACA, Dreamers and peace.

I'm anxious to see how the year develops with the new national WILPF solidarity events. Let me hear what you envision we can do to encourage peace in our communities. And, of course, VOTE for peace!

~ Karen Pope kosbornepope@gmail.com

GATHER THE WOMEN

Overwhelming success!

February 13th WILPF-Madison hosted our 5th Gather the Women Breakfast, a quarterly breakfast where women and feminists come together to engage with and learn from one another. At every breakfast, we have a featured speaker who shares a passion and work. At our most recent event, Sagashus T. Levingston, author and founder of *Infamous Mothers* spoke with us and took questions about the work and goals behind her organization and book.



Infamous Mothers provides personal and professional development for women who mother from the margins: women who have been prostitutes, addicted to drugs, served time, struggled through

homelessness and other hardship, and emerged from the other side. Part of this work involves changing narrative frames, such as breaking the stereotype of "welfare queens" and redefining what it means to be a mother and motherhood. Sagashus recently published her coffee table book, *Infamous Mothers: Women Who Have Gone Through the Belly of Hell and Brought Something Good Back* a compilation of women's stories, including her own. It is available for purchase on her website, infamousmothers.com

At this month's Breakfast we also featured a traveling art exhibition called **Women Against Hate**, by artists Kelly Parks Snider, Rachel Griffin, and Leigh Garcia. Hate divides, but it also unites. *Women Against Hate* uses art as a platform to run an anti-hate campaign. Through a combination of illustrations and messages, these artists help to amplify women's voices in empowering immigrant communities and racial and religious minorities, combatting the hateful rhetoric directed at them. Find out more about their work and where they might pop up next: www.wearewomenagainsthate.org/

At 36 people, this was our biggest turnout yet!
~ Rebecca Neal a.rebeccaneal@gmail.com

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- Please kindly send a check for \$10 to help with costs to Madison WILPF PO Box 3392 Madison WI 53704

- To get WILPF NEWS via e-mail: mhsanderson@hotmail.com

2018 WILPF US Solidarity activities and events

* EARTH DAY is April 22:

We have our banner and our CLIMATE JU TICE+WOMEN+PEACE and HUMAN RIGHT TO HEALTH (glyphosate) Infographic Cards, now all we need is YOU! Come plan an action at the MARCH 14 WILPF meeting—Barriques on Atwood.

* WI Campaign for Moral Justice: WILPF Madison will join in the Poor People's campaign.

Andi O'Brien will attend the March 17 meeting and be our point person on this campaign.

From the press release:

This multi-state movement has emerged from more than a decade of work by grassroots community and religious leaders, organizations, and movements fighting to end systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, environmental destruction, and other injustices. The Poor People's Campaign is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation. Please join our discussion in Madison on how we can combine forces in the fight for moral justice.

* HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Our branch has agreed to be part of the '2 minutes 'til doomsday' events nationwide during the Madison action. We need a 'go to' point person. Is it you?

Member activism updates

Helping Teachers Build Empathy and Understanding through Responsive Writing

Ask Susan about her project when you next see her!

Susan Freiss, with the help of teachers Jenny Peterson and Andrea Lindberg, presented three interactive 75 minute Saturday workshops for educators in DeForest, Stoughton, and Middleton, Wisconsin respectively between early December and late February.

Their workshops introduced multiple avenues for responding in writing to *Jane Addams Children's Book Award books*, giving participants an opportunity to try their hand at the strategies and engage in substantive dialogue about building writers and empathetic citizens.

~ Susan Freiss freissususan@gmail.com

Women and Monetary Reform What's Money Got to Do With It?

Mary Sanderson will moderate an interactive panel at the **41st UW Women & Gender Studies 4W Summit** on Saturday Apr 12, at the UW Pyle Center, 11:45am. Three American Monetary Institute women researchers will examine the actual creation of money and the necessary fixes.

The 4W Summit presents a rich variety of women's scholarship and activist ventures aimed at rebalancing humanity's profile here on Earth.

All are welcome to attend this session. Highly recommend it!

~ Mary Sanderson mhsanderson@hotmail.com

Sanctuary:

a safe space for human beings at risk of immediate deportation

WILPF-Madison Joins Dane Sanctuary Coalition

This past January members of WILPF met with Rabbi Bonnie Margulis (Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice) and Sergio Gonzalez (Voces de la Frontera) to learn more about the sanctuary movement in Wisconsin. Following the discussion, WILPF members enthusiastically agreed to join with the Dane Sanctuary Coalition as a supporting organization.

According to Sergio, at the time of the meeting there was no one in sanctuary in Wisconsin. This could change at any moment due to the large number of vulnerable immigrants in the state, and current efforts in the Wisconsin state legislature to force law enforcement in sanctuary cities like Madison to cooperate with ICE in their efforts to identify and detain immigrants. (Anti-sanctuary bill AB190/SB275 has been referred to committee) Fortunately, the Dane Sanctuary Coalition has organized and put in place a support system for immigrants facing deportation.

The Coalition was formed in partnership with Voces de la Frontera and Centro Hispano of Madison. Dane Sanctuary organizes congregations and organizations to provide physical sanctuary to our immigrant friends and neighbors
(continued, page 3)

Updates on another war on children

No, not the weapons wars but the one characterized by 'slow violence':

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit has ruled unanimously to allow the 21 youth plaintiffs' landmark climate recovery lawsuit to proceed to trial. This decision rejects the Trump administration's efforts to deny these 21 youth a trial on the fundamental right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life. Help **Our Children's Trust** spread this important news by sharing this info especially if you use Twitter and Facebook!

With this victory *Juliana v. U.S.* is now back on track for what many are calling the "trial of the century." At trial, the youth plaintiffs will seek systemic, science-based climate recovery action by our federal government. This lawsuit will counter the dangerous policies of our climate change-denying president before it's too late and they expect the federal government to employ endless delay tactics.

Info: ourchildrenstrust.org

SANCTUARY: *from page 2*

who are at risk for deportation. They do this as part of the national New Sanctuary Movement.

The mission of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition states: Based on our shared faith commitments to social justice, we will assist vulnerable immigrant and refugee communities. We will do this, under the leadership of Voces de la Frontera and Centro Hispano, by providing and supporting physical sanctuary as needed, and by acting as a conduit for information, education, and trainings on other immigrant justice actions.

Many local congregations are currently offering sanctuary and just a few include First Unitarian Society, Congregation Shaarei Shamayim; Madison Christian Community, Advent Lutheran Church and Community of Hope, and Madison Mennonite Congregation.

Additionally, the following organizations have joined the Coalition in support of immigrant and refugee communities: Worker Justice Wisconsin, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Family Farm Defenders, Teaching Assistants' Association, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - Madison.

For information including volunteer and action opportunities visit Dane Sanctuary Coalition Web <https://wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.weebly.com/dane-sanctuary-coalition.html> and Facebook pages.

~ Cat Coberly cat.coberly@gmail.com

Tucson/Madison connections

It has been interesting to be in a geography where immigration issues are front and center. We know many undocumented persons work in WI agriculture, and it is the same in all of Arizona. The farm economies of these states would collapse without these workers. As you know, Mary Somers has been providing emergency first-aid treatment to individuals in distress at the border, about 1.5 hours south in the Nogales area with the humanitarian aid group NO MAS MUERTES / NO MORE DEATHS, a strong advocacy voice begun in 2004 and now a ministry of the UU Church of Tucson, Mary's & Andrew's church.

Their end of the 2017 year statistics are impressive. Besides offering immediate medical aid they have:
Placed 21,400 gallons of water on migrant trails covering 2,500 sq. miles;
Helped 300 DACA recipients file their renewals before the cut off date;
Helped about 1,500 people recover \$250,000 from their jail accounts after being deported to Mexico with uncashable checks;
Helped more than 600 Tucson residents complete the naturalization process to become citizens.

They need support and money! Find out more about them by searching their Website: nomoredeaths.org

Madison's Truax Field is now one of two Air Force Bases almost guaranteed to house the new F-35 stealth bombers.

We still need you to write in opposition to our local papers, contact federal reps and join peace pickets. The National Guard is accepting written comments regarding environmental impacts through April 6 at www.ANGF35EIS.com

All are welcome to join efforts to reveal the harms of these planes. Call Barb (608) 512-9658 for updates. See <https://www.facebook.com/nof35sinMadison/> for excellent coverage and news.

UPCOMING PEACE & JUSTICE BOOKS

April 5 Mary Doria Russell
Dreamers of the Day

May 3 Richard Rothstein
The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America

June 7 Gregory Boyle
Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion

July 5 Naomi Klein
No Is Not Enough: Resisting Trump's Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need

See page 4 for dates and times and please come ready to discuss your ideas and literary inspirations whether or not you happen to have read the title of the month!



Mary & Karen singing with the Tucson Raging Grannies. Int'l Women's day 2018

SPRING MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL: Are you new to WILPF or under-capitalized?? An anonymous donor will make up the balance of US WILPF dues if you pay just \$15.

to take advantage of the special, contact Eleanor White, Madison WILPF treasurer.

whiteea@inxpress.net

You may pay your regular WILPF membership dues online from the Madison WILPF Web homepage.

WILPF Calendar & Events

Monday Noon Vigils for Peace

Every Monday Corner of Doty & MLK Jr Dr. Madison . . . Info: 846-7924 mbspeace1@charter.net

1st THURSDAYS 6:30—8:00 WILPF PEACE & JUSTICE Book Circle (every month first Thursday)

Goodman So Madison Library, 2222 S Park St Madison . . . Info: 608 609-7961

MOST 2nd Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 Madison WILPF Planning Meetings (every month 2nd Wednesday)

Barriques 2166 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704 Madison . . . Info: 608 609-7961

SAVE THE DATES!!

April 12 41st UW Women & Gender Studies 4W Summit UW Madison Pyle Center

April 22 EARTH DAY WILPF solidarity event

MAY 13 Mother's Day begins the 40 days of ACTION for the Poor People's Campaign

Check our WILPF Madison Website and Facebook pages frequently for many co-sponsored community events, calendar and book circle UPDATES : <http://www.wilpf-madison.org>

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