



Fall, 2013 Newsletter

Triangle WILPF Bids Farewell to the Coyles

From Lucy Lewis:

Long-time WILPF stalwarts Marguerite and Francis Coyle were honored at a potluck at Lucy Lewis' home on October 5 prior to their upcoming move to Greensboro. WILPF members and friends shared stories of the Coyles' lifelong commitment to peace and justice, including their trips to Cuba and Columbia with Witness for Peace, annual witness at the School of the Americas, arrests for civil disobedience, Marguerite's many years of service with the Triangle WILPF steering committee and Francis' service as Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP treasurer. We hope to visit them in their new hometown but will dearly miss their presence in our community!



Triangle WILPF wishes all the best to Marguerite (2nd row, 2nd from right) and Francis Coyle (3rd row, 4th from right). Photo Credit: Jerry Markatos

FRACKING UPDATE: *WILPF Water Committee Calls on NC Citizens to Fight Fracking in our State!*

From Lib Hutchby & John Wagner:

The NC Mining and Energy Commission (MEC) needs to hear from YOU. This powerful rule-making body is rushing through recommendations that would establish safeguards to protect our State's natural resources – including critical drinking water supplies – from the impacts of hydraulic fracking. Regulations that would require sedimentation limits, setbacks, stream buffers, water testing, and air quality monitoring, along with rules protecting residents from forced pooling and other effects of fracking are on the chopping block. Below are some items concerning fracking news and the MEC decisions. **Pick one or two items and compose a brief open letter** to the MEC with a copy to one of NC's newspapers.

- √ Secret toxins – In October, the MEC decides that “trade secret” provisions allow the fracking industry to avoid publicly disclosing the amount or type of chemicals injected into the piedmont's soils and rocks during the fracking process.

- √ The MEC has decided that NC should have forced pooling. That means that if enough land around you is leased for fracking, then you can be forced to have fracking on your land – even against your will.
- √ Fracking preparations are beginning: “Thumper Trucks” begin seismic testing in Lee, Chatham, and Moore Counties in October and November this year.
- √ The MEC started with the stated intention of “having the best regulations in the country.” They have steadily retreated from this. “Full chemical disclosure” has changed to “no required public disclosure.” Well protections within 5,000 feet of fracking were changed to 1,000 feet. Fracking setbacks from homes, water wells, and schools, have been greatly reduced – with no scientific justification.
- √ The N.C. Division of Water Resources has declined two Wetlands Program Development Grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The money would have been used test streams in the Piedmont where natural gas production is likely to occur, and to establish long-term planning and monitoring programs to protect wetlands. See North Carolina Coastal Federation at <http://www.nccoast.org> for more.



Fracking could threaten water quality in the Eno River, part of the watershed that occupies most of Orange and Durham counties in North Carolina. Other surface and underground water supplies in our region are also at risk.

Take Action:

- Write to and request a response from: James Womack, Chair of the Mining and Energy Commission: commissioner.womack@gmail.com; Phone: (919) 770-4783.
- Visit Facebook for Americans Against Fracking, (www.americansagainstfracking.org) to get up-to-date information on national and global crackdown.
- Check our alliance network website www.frackfreenc.org for resources.



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THE WISDOM OF WAR:

Editor's Note: The following open letter was published by the News & Observer and the Chapel Hill and Durham Papers

From Ruth Zalph (September 11, 2013)

I'm glad President Obama decided to call a special session of Congress rather than go it alone. This gives the American people time to read and listen to the hawks and the doves from both sides of the aisle debate the wisdom of going to war, and let our representatives know where we stand.

I want Sens. Richard Burr and Kay Hagan, and Rep. David Price to know where I stand. I oppose any military strike against Syria, despite the use of chemical weapons that killed hundreds of innocent people.

Even limited objectives to "deter, disrupt, degrade and destroy" Syria's ability to continue as before could have unforeseen consequences, and it will not stop the violence or even bring those using chemical weapons to justice.

REFLECTIONS AFTER TRIAL: *Moral Mondays Unfinished Business*

From Vicki Ryder (October 17, 2013)

You might think that we would be rejoicing. After all, my husband and I are the first – and, as of the date of this writing, the only – of the 940 Moral Monday arrestees to have been tried and cleared of all charges.

To be sure, we are enormously relieved by the Judge's ruling. However, our temporary and personal elation is tempered by the knowledge that while we are privileged to taste this moment of freedom, others are not so fortunate. Our concern remains for our fellow arrestee who was tried before us and judged guilty of all charges; for the many hundreds yet to be tried; and for all those being harmed by the regressive legislation we sought to redress.

We now are free to be home, free to make plans, free from penalties and from criminal convictions that would have curtailed so many other of our freedoms. But all that is clouded by the realization that whether behind bars or trapped by poverty, disability, racism, or other obstacles to opportunity, far too many of our brothers and sisters are not free in America today.

It would be gratifying to think that our trial's outcome represents a victory for democracy and

the freedom to dissent, but we believe that our arrests were but one episode in a larger and carefully calculated campaign to stifle dissent and discourage others from exercising their constitutional rights.

We now plan to explore our next steps toward securing "the blessings of liberty" for all, overturning the cruel legislation that we were protesting, and putting an end to any future arrests of those who non-violently confront a Legislature that holds our Constitution in contempt.

Forward together! Not one step back!

WILPF RESUMES TRADITION OF MONTHLY VIGILS: *Peace & Justice Plaza in Downtown Chapel Hill is Site of Peaceful Protest Once Again*

From Ann Powers:

Remember when WILPFERS like Charlotte Adams, Tan Schwab and Jean Wagner stood with scores of local folk outside the Chapel Hill Post Office on Franklin Street week after week for nearly seven years protesting the Viet Nam War? Even after the war ended, a monthly vigil continued, and a WILPF presence –complete with posters, banners, and petitions for passersby to sign -- could be found in that space (now Peace and Justice Plaza), advocating for justice and freedom.



WILPF members and friends vigil at Peace & Justice Plaza in downtown Chapel Hill

Over the years, we began holding vigils less frequently, choosing to rally when particular issues needed special public attention, such as our recent vigils against military intervention in Syria, and to voice our protest against fracking in NC. We often vigil in conjunction with other organizations, including Orange County Peace Coalition (OCPC) and the Raging Grannies. *(Continued on page 3)*



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: *Thanks, Dick Paddock!*

As a third generation member of WILPF, I am excited to take on the job of Triangle Branch Newsletter Editor – it is indeed a privilege to serve in this role bringing you little snippets of news about our branch and its members (you are such an active bunch!). I am taking over for the extremely dedicated and talented **Dick Paddock** who deserves a break after producing the Triangle newsletter for many years. We all owe Dick a round of applause and our sincere thanks.

I am not entirely new to this job; my mother, Tan Schwab and I served as co-editors from 1989-1999 (using her Eltrolux typewriter and lots of Scotch tape). Tan died in 2008, but I am trying to follow in her footsteps working in solidarity with other members of WILPF to create a more peaceful and just world. Producing the newsletter is just a tiny way I can contribute to that ideal. I'd like to express my deep appreciation to all of you who gently yet persistently urged me back into the fold—especially Lucy Lewis, Ann Powers, and Lori Hoyt. Thank you for keeping my mom, and me in your hearts. ~ **Ann Schwab**

Newsletter Contributions

I plan to produce the Triangle Branch newsletter quarterly, but I cannot do this alone. I need help from each of you to contribute news items. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

1. Topics: Articles should be of general interest to our local membership.
2. Do NOT send time-sensitive information about upcoming events; Action alerts and quick-response pieces are better suited to email.
3. Length: ½ to ¾ page. If you have a longer piece I can help summarize the major points.
4. Photos: We need lots of visuals and graphics. Please send high-resolution jpeg or gif images. ALL IMAGES MUST BE COPY-RIGHT FREE. Also provide the source/photo credit and a caption.
5. Deadlines: January 15, 2014; April 15, 2014; July 15, 2014; October 15, 2014, etc.
6. Submit articles to: **Ann Schwab** at akschwab4@gmail.com; or U.S. mail to 1011 Highland Woods Rd., Chapel Hill NC 27517 Phone: 919-942-5439.

Thank you!

These recent experiences have encouraged us to begin holding MONTHLY VIGILS once again – in the tradition of our WILPF pioneers in the Triangle. We invite all of you to join us each month!

Opposition to voter suppression measures recently passed by the NC legislature will be among our primary efforts. **Watch for vigil announcements on the WILPF website: trianglewilpf.org.**

FLOC: Supporting the Rights of Migrant Workers in NC

From Miriam Thompson, WILPF Labor Chair:

One of Triangle WILPF's most enduring priorities has been and continues to be its commitment to worker justice. At our most recent Branch retreat, we highlighted the **Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)** for our solidarity campaign. Founded in 1967, FLOC represents the North Carolina farm workers who put food on our table, but suffer the most deplorable work and living conditions. FLOC, many of you remember, organized a mighty faith, labor and civil rights coalition in its successful drive to organize Mt. Olive Pickle workers in the 1990s. Now FLOC is going to the fields to champion the right to dignified wages and living conditions for tobacco workers and those who pick a variety of our fruits and vegetables.

On October 11th-12th, FLOC, supported by numerous peace and justice organizations, held a very successful convention and march of solidarity in downtown Durham, NC. Notable speakers included FLOC founder and President Baldemar Velasquez and NC-NAACP President William Barber. *For more information and photos of the event, visit <http://www.supportfloc.org/Pages/default.aspx>*

Stay tuned for **upcoming action opportunities**: North Carolina will be the center of a major union organizing campaign next summer. FLOC will be hiring scores of bi-lingual workers and students to go into the fields in support of the over 130,000 migrant workers in North Carolina. If you know students or young workers who are bi-lingual, email or call FLOC - bkemp@floc.org or flores@floc.org.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Triangle, NC
Chapter



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JOIN US IN THE ONGOING WORK TO BRING PEACE & JUSTICE TO ALL!

Triangle WILPF meets the 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-12 noon
Friends Meeting House, 531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill



WILPF c/o Ann Powers
6 Carolina Meadows, Apt. 102
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8528

JOIN WILPF NOW!

Want to help make the world a little better? Become a member. It's easy:

TRIANGLE BRANCH: **Sliding Scale:** \$12 - \$30
Students: \$5

NATIONAL WILPF: **Individual:** \$35
Limited Income: \$15
Student: \$5

Make checks payable to WILPF-Triangle Branch (specify National or Local dues on check) and mail to: WILPF Triangle Branch, c/o Ann Powers, 6 Carolina Meadows, Apt. # 102, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8525