



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Triangle Branch Newsletter

www.trianglewilpf.org
May – June 2007

Note from the Editor –

We lost one of our Wise Women of WILPF when Lucy Straley passed away at age 93. The back page of this issue is devoted to a remembrance of Lucy given at her memorial service on April 28 by Lucy Lewis. The service was at the Community Church. And included the dedication of The Straley Room in memory of both Lucy and Joe.

The Triangle WILPF Annual Retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2-5pm. The agenda will be developed at the regular May meeting,

CONTACT US

The Triangle WILPF steering committee meets every fourth Saturday of the month 9 a.m. at Weaver Street Market in Carrboro. All WILPF members & friends are welcome.

If you would like to join WILPF or update your membership, please contact Ann Powers dannpowers@bellsouth.net 942-2919

If you have an item for the steering committee to consider or an item for the Triangle WILPF listserv action alerts, please contact Marguerite Coyle, marg_wilpf@msn.com 403-6259

If you have an item for the newsletter, please contact Dick Paddock, repaddock@nc.rr.com 929-1786

If you have an item for the website, please contact Lucy Lewis llewis2001@earthlink.net 929-5983

Upcoming WILPF Meetings

Triangle WILPF has its regular meeting the 2nd Saturday each month from 10am-12 noon. Most months there is a speaker for the first half of the program, followed by political discussion, reports, and announcements. Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are usually held at the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting House, 531 Raleigh Road (diagonally across

from the UNC Institute of Government, just east of the intersection of Country Club Road and Raleigh Road – next to the UNC parking lot).

MAY 12 REGULAR MEETING

Jean Chapman has been invited to speak about her recent trip around the country on her special bus pass, including the desert Peace Walk with John Dear. We haven't had a confirmation as speaker yet. We will also be planning for the June retreat.

ANNUAL RETREAT, JUNE 2 OR 3RD 1 – 4 P.M.

We will have our annual retreat to review the past year's accomplishments and set goals and plans for the next year at Wes and Jane Hare's house, 243 Flemington Rd., Chapel Hill. See you all there!

We will be discussing issues including:

- accomplishments of the last year
- review of last year's goals
- goals for the coming year
- structure for accomplishing goals, including committees and work needs

MONTHLY VIGIL

This month we will hold a Mother's Day Vigil for Peace on Wednesday, May 9, 12-1 at the Peace and Freedom Plaza in front of the old Post Office, Chapel Hill. Mother's Day was (and *is*) a call for women around the world to stand together for a peaceful world, a world worthy of passing on to our children.

Calendar of Events

Monday, May 7 Trial of David Price 6, Orange County Courthouse, Chapel Hill
On February 16, six students were arrested in the Chapel Hill office of Rep. David Price demanding that he vote against more war funding to continue the criminal war on Iraq. On Monday, May 7th at 2 pm, the David Price Six go to trial for their efforts to publicly condemn the Iraq Occupation and Representative Price's complicity in the ongoing violence. Supporters are urged to gather at 1pm in front of the courthouse for peaceful picketing and protest, then to pack the courtroom at 2pm. For more info, go to <http://chapelhillsds.org/node/12>

Thursday, May 10 Arraignment of Anti-torture Protestors, Smithfield
Carpooling from Chapel Hill, for more information contact mmisch@earthlink.net
Eight protesters, including WILPF member Francis Coyle, were arrested in April at Aero Contractors in Smithfield as they tried to deliver "arrest warrants" for three pilots linked to the private air carrier, which contracts with the CIA to fly persons thought to have links to terrorists to countries that allow torture. Germany recently indicted 13 crew members, including pilots for Aero, in the 2004 kidnapping, detention and transport of Khaled El-Masri, a German citizen of Lebanese descent. For more info, go to <http://www.stoptorturenorw.org/site/weblog.php>

Thursday, May 24 WILPF book club continues at 7pm at Lori Hoyt's home, 119 Fidelity Street, Apt. C3, Carrboro. For directions or info about the book selection, call 968-1888.

Monday, May 28 Memorial Day Peace Observation, sponsored by the Orange County Peace Coalition. Details will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.

Sunday June 10 and Monday June 11
On the 40th anniversary of Israel's illegal military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, Triangle WILPF members will join the US Campaign to End the Israeli

Occupation and United for Peace and Justice in Washington, DC, June 10-11, 2007 for a protest, teach-in, and lobby day. For more info about carpooling and accommodations, contact Lori Hoyt at 968-1888.

Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Day

Proclamation (1870)

*Arise then...women of this day!
Arise, all women who have hearts!
Whether your baptism be of water or of
tears!*

Say firmly:

*"We will not have questions answered by
irrelevant agencies,
Our husbands will not come to us, reeking
with carnage,
For caresses and applause.
Our sons shall not be taken from us to
unlearn*

*All that we have been able to teach them of
charity,
mercy and patience.*

*We, the women of one country,
Will be too tender of those of another
country*

*To allow our sons to be trained to injure
theirs."*

*From the voice of a devastated Earth
a voice goes up with our own. It says:
"Disarm! Disarm!"*

*The sword of murder is not the balance of
justice."*

*Blood does not wipe our dishonor,
Nor violence indicate possession.
As men have often forsaken the plough and
the anvil*

*At the summons of war,
Let women now leave all that may be left
of home*

*For a great and earnest day of counsel.
Let them meet first, as women,
to bewail and commemorate the dead.*

*Let them solemnly take counsel with each
other as to the means*

*Whereby the great human family can live
in peace...*

*Each bearing after his own time the sacred
impress, not of Caesar,
But of God –*

*In the name of womanhood and humanity,
I earnestly ask
That a general congress of women without
limit of nationality,
May be appointed and held at someplace
deemed most convenient
And the earliest period consistent with its
objects,
To promote the alliance of the different
nationalities,
The amicable settlement of international
questions,
The great and general interests of peace.*

Help Wanted

Maria Darlington and Tana Hartman have been producing a wonderful monthly WILPF program for the People's Channel. In order for the program to continue, they need more helpers! If you are interested in production, please contact Connie Gates. If you are interested in booking guests and pre-production activities, please contact Lucy Lewis, llewis2001@earthlink.net 929-5983.

The WILPF El Salvador Committee needs people who are interested in helping to develop the relationship with our sister WILPF members in El Salvador. Please contact Connie Gates, conniegates@hotmail.com

Want to write for the newsletter? Keep the website updated and good looking? Help with membership? Take notes at the meeting? Be our publicist/media relations contact? Have other ideas re how to further peace and freedom? See Contact Us on page 1!

Renew Membership/Join WILPF

Collectively, our voices and actions are stronger! Please renew your WILPF membership/join WILPF for 2007.

Dues

\$_____ Triangle Area Branch membership: sliding scale of \$12-\$30 according to your means. Student introductory offer - \$5

\$_____ US WILPF Section dues (including international fees) \$35 per person; \$40 family, \$15 low income. Pay more or less depending on what you can afford. Includes subscription to *Peace and Freedom News*

Make checks out to WILPF – Triangle Branch

**Mail to: Ann Powers, 250-100 S.
Estes Drive, Chapel Hill NC 27515**

Courage

On Thursday, April 26, several of us were privileged to attend a dual talk by Ray McGovern, retired 27-year CIA analyst specializing in the Middle East, and Ashley Wilkinson, peace activist and recently a 6-year resident of Bethlehem working with Palestinians. During the presentation, Wilkinson present her definition of courage:

Mental and moral strength to venture, persevere, or withstand danger, fear and difficulty.

This was the caption from a poster showing five black men being clubbed by police in the American South during segregation. Wilkinson noted that this definition *represents the life every day for all Palestinians.*

LUCY STRALEY MEMORIAL

4/28/07

It is an honor to have been asked to speak on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (better known as WILPF) about our beloved sister, Lucy Straley. Lucy became a member of the Durham-Chapel Hill branch of WILPF shortly after she and her beloved husband Joe moved to Chapel Hill in 1947, and she remained an active member for the rest of her life.

I first met Lucy when I was a little girl growing up in Chapel Hill, and she was my first piano teacher. Despite her patience and encouragement, the piano lessons never took. But when I encountered Lucy on the decade later, in the weekly Chapel Hill picket lines a WILPF vigil against the Vietnam war, the impression was indelible. Lucy and Joe were stalwarts of the Franklin Street vigil, the longest running in the United States. Begun on January 4, 1967 and ending on August 15, 1973, the vigil went on week after week, year after year – and Lucy was a constant presence, bearing witness to her lifelong belief in pacifism and peace.

In the next three-plus decades, she would vigil and demonstrate, organize petitions, write letters, speak to elected officials, and tirelessly advocate for her beliefs in disarmament, racial and economic justice, and peace. When health problems slowed her down in later years, Lucy would attend WILPF meetings while another member would take notes for her. Even then, she wasn't shy in voicing her strong opinions, letting us know that she was disappointed that WILPF had moved to monthly, rather than weekly, vigils against the Iraq invasion.



Lucy Straley demonstrating against the occupation of Iraq.

she would vigil and petitions, write letters, speak tirelessly advocate for her and economic justice, and slowed her down in later WILPF meetings while notes for her. Even then, she strong opinions, letting us disappointed that WILPF had weekly, vigils against the Iraq

When she was honored by WILPF two years ago, as one of our Wise Women Elders, the Raging Grannies composed a verse about Lucy:

When you want to get the work done, call on Lucy, she's the one
Her intrepid spirit launches us, her faith will get things done.
She's encouraging, supportive, but don't hand to her a "mike".
She'd rather pass the limelight on to others down the pike.

This is the Lucy that took her folding chair to support the WILPF vigil to stop the Arms Race on Hiroshima Day – and who joined an hour-long WILPF vigil against the continuing occupation of Iraq when she was under Hospice care -- three weeks before she died.

In these dark and difficult times, when the American empire is running rampant against countries and peoples around the globe while trampling democracy and justice in this nation, Lucy's unswerving commitment to justice, her extraordinary perseverance in the

face of all odds, her deep humility and integrity, and her willingness to stick up for her convictions, no matter how unpopular or unfashionable, will continue to shine a light -- inspiring all of us to stand up for what we believe in, never to give up, and to do so with the love, honesty, and courage that exemplified the life of Lucy Straley.

-- *Lucy Lewis*