



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Triangle Branch Newsletter
www.trianglewilpf.org
March 2008
Join us!

**Women's International League for Peace & Freedom
(WILPF)**
Celebrating International Women's Day

March 5 (Wed.) 7 p.m.

Chapel Hill Library (off Estes Dr.)

***“Women Building
a Culture of Peace
in El Salvador”***

Marta Benavides

*internationally known activist for
peace, women, indigenous peoples, environment, etc*

recent international vice-president of WILPF

Director, Siglo XXIII and The International Institute
for Cooperation Amongst Peoples, El Salvador

Refreshments served

*After the program, a discussion with those interested in
a relationship with El Salvador, especially Marta's work.*

Contact: Connie Gates (conniegates@hotmail.com, 929-0650)

Note from the Editor –

A sad message for all who knew her and for all advocates for peace and justice: Tan Schwab, who gave so much to the Triangle community and WILPF through her tireless work, passed away on February 11, 2008.

A short note from her daughter, Ann:

WIL was her single most important cause, and the organization with which she most strongly identified. As a third generation life-member myself (albeit a less active one than I should be as of late), I appreciate the bond of sisterhood that we all share in this special family of peace. Tan Schwab was a model to us all who feel strongly about justice, fairness and peace. She not only talked the talk but also walked the walk (literally -- on many a vigil, march and demonstration over the years!). Please continue to do the good work that you all do – it is the finest testament to her life there is. In the meantime, please also consider making a donation to Triangle WILPF in the name of Tan Schwab, so that we can ensure her legacy thrives and grows in the furtherance of peace and justice worldwide.

Checks may be made payable to Triangle WILPF, and sent to Ann Powers, 250-100 S. Estes Dr., Chapel Hill NC 27514.

HOW TO 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 919-942-2919

If you have an item for the steering committee to consider or an item for the Triangle WILPF listserv action alerts, please contact Lucy Lewis llewis2001@earthlink.net 919-929-5983

If you have an item for the newsletter, please contact Dick Paddock, repaddock@nc.rr.com 919-929-1786

If you have an item for the website, please contact Lucy Lewis llewis2001@earthlink.net 919-929-5983

Upcoming WILPF Meetings

Our March meeting will revolve around Women's History Month and International Women's Day, and featuring a presentation regarding Health Care.

MONTHLY VIGIL

WILPF sponsors a vigil in Peace and Justice Plaza in front of the old Post Office, Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, usually the second Wednesday of the month, at noon. **OUR MARCH VIGIL WILL BE HONORING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH. THE VIGIL WILL BE EITHER ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4 OR THURSDAY, MARCH 6.**

WEEKLY VIGILS

Corner of Franklin and Elliot, Chapel Hill, by Whole Foods, Fridays 5:00-6:00.
Stop the Iraq War, Impeachment.

Corner of Gregson and Main, Durham, by Brightleaf Square. Noon-1 P.M., Saturdays.
Impeachment and Peace in Iraq (GRIM and others.)

The WILPF Show on Radio WCOM

Triangle WILPF is pleased to announce a new radio program that airs weekly on Fridays at 7:30-8:00 a.m. on WCOM-LP 103.5, Chapel Hill and Carrboro's volunteer-run low power FM station. The show's first episode aired Friday, February 22nd, with a brief introduction to WILPF's history, mission, and projects presented by Lucy Lewis. Dick Paddock was sound engineer, John Heuer provided constructive advice and moral support, and Tana Hartman hosted.

WILPF members John Heuer, Lucy Lewis, Dick Paddock, Miriam Thompson and Tana Hartman were trained by WCOM staff to produce the half-hour show, which will feature invited guests speaking on political, social, and economic topics of interest to members of the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities. Although Tana Hartman will serve as regular host, other crew members will provide occasional back-up as sound engineer or may host programs when they wish on topics of special interest.

To listen to WCOM online, go to <http://communityradio.coop/default.asp> and click on the streaming webcast link in the upper right corner of the page.

Calendar of Events

Fridays, 7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.: WILPF's NEW RADIO SHOW on 103.5 FM-WCOM in Carrboro and Chapel Hill. Also available on the internet by going to <http://www.communityradio.coop/> and clicking on the box in the upper right hand corner. (Photo of our training session is on the next page.)



WILPF members training to run the WCOM board in preparation for our new broadcast series. L to R: John Heuer, Lucy Lewis, Miriam Thompson, Tana Hartman, and Station Manager Bob Burtman. In the background, Dick Paddock.

Mar. 5: Marta Benevides continues her visit with a major International Women's Day program hosted by WILPF at the Chapel Hill Public Library. See details on p. 1.

Mar. 15: Triangle WILPF monthly meeting featuring a consideration of Health Care in the U.S. and the world. See note in the next column. Miriam Thompson will be leading the program. The topic: "Healthcare, not Warfare". Carolina Friends Meeting, Raleigh Road diagonally across from the Institute of Government, Chapel Hill, 10:00 a.m.-Noon.

Apr. 8: Triangle WILPF monthly meeting possibly including a presentation on the Smithfield packing company labor situation by Libby Manly.

From the WILPF National (U.S. Section) Website



"The Crisis in Gaza" - A WILPF Declaration

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section (WILPF US), having considered reports of an escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza including Israel's continuing siege, deprivation, bombardment, and military assault upon the citizens of Gaza resulting in civilian deaths and countless injuries during the past months and that indiscriminate random rocket attacks have been launched from Gaza into Israel resulting in a number of injuries to Israeli citizens;

Taking note of statements by the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that "Gaza's border closures are without precedent," leaving Palestinians "effectively incarcerated...without fuel and spare parts, public health

conditions are declining steeply as water and sanitation services struggle to function.

More: <http://wilpf.org/node/689>

Hold a Peace Table in your Community!

WILPF is calling on women across the U.S. to convene peace tables, or grassroots strategy sessions, in a strategic effort to discuss and develop a harmonized agenda to prevent war. We have created a toolkit to aid you in your discussions.

More: http://wilpf.org/toolkit_teaser

HEALTH CARE NOTE

ALMOST ONE TRILLION DOLLARS ALLOCATED FOR THE IRAQ WAR AS OVER 44 MILLION AMERICANS CAN'T AFFORD HEALTH INSURANCE AND MILLIONS MORE ARE UNDERINSURED. OVER 4000 AMERICANS HAVE DIED AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS WOUNDED IN THE WAR. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF IRAQIS DEAD AND MAIMED AND MILLIONS DISPLACED. MEANWHILE 18,000 AMERICANS DIE EVERY YEAR BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO HEALTH INSURANCE.

So while we commemorate the 5th anniversary of the war and redouble our efforts to bring our troops home, we are also devoting ourselves to championing a fundamental human right at home: health care for all. We want health care not warfare.

And there is a choice. There is a gold standard piece of health legislation authored by John Conyers and Dennis Kucinich with 88 congressional sponsors. HR 676 supports Medicare for All – everyone in and nobody out; is progressively financed; and will put the public back in control of its health care and end the market/profit driven health care system with insurance companies determining who lives and who dies.

WILPF has a long history of support for universal, comprehensive and affordable health care and is a strong supporter of HR 676. Triangle WILPF is putting a campaign to pursue the legislation as one of its priorities in the coming election season. We will go toe to toe with congress members in our state who are seeking re-election, not one of whom has signed on to HR 676.

Come to our next WILPF meeting on March 15th, to help us map out a campaign for real universal health care. There could not be a more powerful day to launch this human rights effort. The meeting will feature a 17 minute documentary about HR 676, prepared by the California Nurses Association. Miriam Thompson, board member of the national

movement Health Care Now (healthcare-now.org), coordinated by long time civil rights activist Marilyn Clement who many of us know, will be the meeting's facilitator and share the national campaign strategy underway.



Welcoming Marta Benavides

Marta is a healer, peace builder, theologian and activist from El Salvador. She has developed a range of ecological programs at the local, regional and national levels, teaching permaculture and sustainable agriculture to rural and indigenous communities. A strong advocate for women and youth, Marta was one of the 1000 Women nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. She is the co-foundation of the International Institute for Cooperation Amongst Peoples in El Salvador, served on the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and was ordained at the request of Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Marta will be honored at the Chapel Hill Public Library for International Women's Day on March 5 (details on p. 1.)



Marta's Peace Museum

