

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Triangle, NC
Chapter



Newsletter Spring 2016

WILPF NATIONAL CO-CHAIRS VISIT

TRIANGLE *Call for Nuclear Disarmament*

Ellen Thomas and Carol Urner, Co-Chairs of US WILPF's Disarm/End Wars Committee, visited the Triangle on April 13 and 14 as part of their Nuclear Free Future nationwide tour. Their tour is to not only to provide an update about international progress toward global nuclear weapons abolition, but also to promote awareness of a bill in the US Congress, HR-1976, called the "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act," and to ask for help in getting co-sponsors. (See <http://prop1.org>)

They also support the shut down and clean-up of the hundreds of uranium mines currently polluting scarce waters, mostly on Native American lands. (See <http://www.defendblackhills.org/>)

Triangle WILPF was honored to have Ellen and Carol as guests for our WILPF Wake-Up Call radio program on WCOM 103.5 April 14 (these programs are also taped and broadcast on The People's Channel on Thursdays at 10pm). We were also proud to co-sponsor the monthly Balance and Accuracy in Journalism (BAJ) program later that evening at the Community Church Unitarian Universalist of Chapel Hill, where the Raging Grannies sang and Carol and Ellen were the guest speakers.



Lori Hoyt, Ruth Zalph, Lucy Lewis, Dick Paddock, Tana Hartman, Miriam Thompson and friend with Carol Urner (far right)
Photo- Ellen Thomas

Ellen Thomas's passions are abolishing nuclear weapons and creating a clean energy economy. "We believe this is a bill for which the time has truly come. If we cannot move toward abolition of this most destructive and immoral of all humanly crafted weapons, what hope is there for either human survival or for the future of our amazing planet earth?"

Carol Urner's lifetime twin passions are demilitarization and human rights... She encouraged WILPF members to access and support the work facilitated by Reaching Critical Will <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/> staff at the United Nations. Carol was also a WILPF-US voting delegate at The Hague, so she brought her gleanings from that experience as well. She shared copies of A Global Security System: An Alternative to War <http://worldbeyondwar.org/alternative> This is the publication of World beyond War of which WILPF-US is a part. We have been asked to study it and submit our own analyses for the 2016 edition.

The visit by two such dedicated and energetic WILPF co-chairs reminded us that we are just a small part of a national and international organization that has been working for peace and freedom for 100 years. As these two wise women said, "We shall have to learn to use moral energy to put a new sort of force into the world and believe that it is a vital thing -- the only thing, in this moment of sorrow and death and destruction that will heal the world."

CHAPEL HILL MUST HONOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS TRADITION

WILPF Member Miriam Thompson wrote the following letter to the Raleigh News & Observer - published April 19, 2016

Thank you for your [detailed coverage](#) of the April 11 visit of four members of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) that was sponsored by the U.S. State Department's International Visitors' Leadership Program. The tour was coordinated by the Raleigh based International Focus. Our Town of Chapel Hill agreed to host. Your news articles captured some of the key testimony at both the afternoon meeting between council and Knesset members, and at the evening's Town Council meeting. I was honored to join community leaders in attendance at both events.

Although resident voices were raised initially in opposition to the invitation, the visit has offered an important opportunity for faith and human rights leaders to briefly testify and expose \$3.5 billion in U.S. military aid to Israeli that supports (with our tax dollars) Israel's Occupation of Palestine; its illegal settlements built on expropriated land and tens of thousands of Palestinian home demolitions; its night raids by police, detention and imprisonment of Palestinian children as



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young as 10; its overwhelming military might and devastating aerial bombardment and destruction of Gaza and civilian death toll that the United Nations warns may drive Gaza out of existence.

The documented evidence that faith and human rights leaders shared with Knesset and council members was provided by internationally recognized human rights organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the U.N.'s Human Rights Commission, Doctors Without Borders and Israel's own beleaguered human rights organizations (see <http://www.aimeproject.org/>)

Yet the Knesset members' response was to attack the residents who testified, and flatly and angrily deny the violations committed against Palestinians in both the occupied territory and within Israel. Shamefully, one of the Knesset members stood up and attacked the standing of a Palestinian American who rose to speak about the struggle of his family who still reside on the Occupied West Bank, and whose home has been expropriated. As reported in your story, one council member was so appalled at the Likud member's outburst, she walked out of the meeting.

Of course it is not only the Knesset members who deny the pain and dispossession caused by almost 50 years of their country's Occupation of Palestine, and its threat to a just and secure peace for both Israelis and Palestine in a land whose resources are equitably shared. We know how painful it is to face our own country's dark history and current campaigns against oppressed groups – too often absent in our textbooks and classrooms. And let's look at our current North Carolina state elected leadership and its appalling discriminatory legislation, and the 2016 political campaign rhetoric that continues to demonize and exclude the "other."

Last week's event opened up a conversation that must continue; we are nationally known as a Human Rights City. We struggle to ensure our residents are treated equitably. We are vigorous opponents of HB2 and all forms of discrimination. It is therefore incumbent on all our town elected officials, staff, and residents to establish a strengthened, democratic decision-making process that assures visitors to and residents of our town that we honor the principles and standards we have established as a Human Rights City.



John Wagner at Bellews Creek Coal Ash Hearing

WILPF WATER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water = Life That simple fact is being ignored by so many companies and by our state government these days that it is hard to summarize even a few of the recent events. Here goes:

The NC General Assembly is now working on bills that would keep the state from notifying well owners, and possibly municipal water systems, about health risks due to toxins found in their water tests. *The bills are coming up any day now, so make calling or emailing your NC legislators a priority. Tell them that the House (HB 1005) and Senate (SB 779 bills (better known as the Contamination Cover-Up Bills) are totally wrong – citizens deserve to know when water tests show that the water is unsafe. The bills are not about enforcement, just hiding information from the public.

Scientific results are now in showing that the NG General Assembly's Solar Bees did not work to clean up Jordan Lake. These giant egg-beaters were a ridiculous "solution" to fix river contamination flowing in into the lake. Tell your legislators to go back to the Jordan Lake clean up laws that they scrapped and return to getting towns and cities to stop dumping wastes into the rivers. Stopping pollution at the source is what works, not stirring it up once it gets into Jordan Lake which is the drinking water source for more than 1 million residents.

The legislature is also about to change Fracking Force Pooling laws so that it is easier to force landowners to have fracking – against their will – if their neighbors agree to be fracked. Fracking has not yet started in NC, but any changes to force more people to get their property fracked could make starting it much easier. Force pooling is unacceptable – it needs to be outlawed, not expanded. Call your legislators and tell them to ban fracking and ban forced pooling. **See next page for more you can do!**

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For 3 Saturdays in May, there will be workshops and presentations on coal ash contamination of drinking water and the effects on human health. They will be in Lee and Chatham Counties and will have top scientists present information about the risks and they will answer questions about the risks. Please join us!

- **May 7, Saturday**, Cumnock Baptist Church, 477 Cumnock Rd., Sanford.
1-3pm Louis Zeller, Director of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League will share tips on leadership and strategy
3:30-4:30 pm Rebecca C. Fry, PhD, UNC: "Heavy Metals in Coal Ash: What are the Health Risks?"
- **May 14, Saturday**, Liberty Chapel Church Samuels Annex, 1855 Old U.S. 1, Moncure.
1-3 pm Dr. Vengosh, PhD, Duke University: "Risks of Coal Ash to the Environment and Human Health."
3:30-4:30 pm: George Lucier, PhD, Former Assoc. Director National Toxicology Program: "Health Risks From Coal Ash."
- **May 21, Saturday**, Liberty Chapel Church Samuels Annex, 1855 Old U.S. 1, Moncure.
1-3 pm Therese Vick, NC. Healthy Sustainable Communities Campaign Coordinator, BREDL. "Using N.C. Public Records Law."
3:30-4:30 PM: Jane Gallagher, PHD, MPH, US EPA (retired) "Monitoring Coal Ash Drinking Water Contaminates"

CONTINUING SLOW PROGRESS TO BREAK OPEN TORTURE PROGRAM BY CIA –



Peggy Misch

**Breaking
Silence on
Torture**
*Opposite
Governor
McCrory's
Mansion
200 North
Blount Street,
Raleigh,
March 9,
20016*

l. to r. Joe Burton, NC Peace Action; Peggy Misch, NC STN, Deborah Weissman, UNC School of Law, one of 4 speakers, at event to call on Governor Pat McCrory and Attorney Roy Cooper – photo Manzoor Cheema

WILPF members have participated in events planned by North Carolina Stop Torture Now to educate the public and pressure elected officials to accept responsibility for enabling the state to provide services needed for the men and materials used in the extraordinary rendition flights from Smithfield and Kinston, NC. Triangle WILPF

has endorsed a North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (<http://www.nccit.org/>) and contributed financially to its establishment.

NCCIT, initiated by NCSTN, seeks accountability for our state's involvement in torture; advocates for new state and federal policies that affirm our obligation to comply with norms of the Convention against Torture, fulfills our responsibilities to torture survivors, and prevents future engagement of state resources in torture.

Two significant actions at the federal level have opened the door to exposing the work of the CIA's torture program and then allowed that information to be used against individuals responsible for planning and executing it. The first opening occurred in December 2014, when the Senate Select Committee's Report on Torture was made public. The second opening occurred on April 22, 2016.

U.S. District Court Senior Judge Justin Quackenbush has ruled he would allow a lawsuit against CIA-contracted psychologists, James Mitchell and John "Bruce" Jessen, who designed and implemented the CIA program. The ACLU brought the case on behalf of three men (Gul Rahman, Suleiman Abdullah Salim, and Mohamed Ahmed Ben Soud) who were tortured using methods developed by these psychologists.

"Until now, every lawsuit trying to hold people accountable for the CIA torture program has been dismissed before reaching the merits because the government successfully argued that letting the cases proceed would reveal state secrets"

<https://www.aclu.org/news/court-rules-aclu-lawsuit-against-cia-torture-psychologists-can-proceed> NCCIT is encouraged by this case and also the anticipation of a pending substantial grant. Stay tuned!

Listen to **WILPF's WAKE-UP CALL** at **WCOM 103.5 FM**, our weekly radio show. Featuring local social justice newsmakers, it airs **Wednesdays 5-6PM**; you can also stream live at www.wcom.org. The program is also broadcast on **The Peoples Channel Thursdays at 10pm** – TWC Channel 8 in Chapel Hill, TWC Channel 4 in Carrboro and TWC 18 in Durham. Broadcast crew includes Lori Hoyt, Dick Paddock, and Emily O'Hare (call Lori @ 984-999-4069 to suggest guests and issues).

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WILPF members and Raging Grannies Ann Powers, Jane Hare, and Ruth Zalph with a Granny in Raleigh April. 25

Triangle WILPF is one of more than 200 organizations that are part of the HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) Coalition. We were proud to join thousands of concerned North Carolinians in Raleigh for the 10th Anniversary Mass Moral March and HKonJ People's Assembly/Get Out the Vote Mobilization on February 13. We were back in Raleigh on April 25 for the 3rd Anniversary Moral Monday/Mass Sit-In to Protest HB2 on April 25. Check out <http://www.hkonj.com/> to stay up to date regarding NCGA legislation and HKonJ activities. The following is a press statement from the state NAACP regarding the passage of this shameful law.

posted by NC NAACP, April 11, 2016

THE IMMORAL AND MISLEADING POLITICS HIDDEN BENEATH THE SURFACE OF HOUSE BILL 2

The NC NAACP and Forward Together Moral Movement will continue exposing what extremist legislators have politically promoted as the "gay and transsexual restroom bill"-also known as House Bill 2.

The legislation has very little to do with restrooms and much to do with our need to prevent this immoral attempt to legislate a wide array of unconstitutional discrimination and hatred which we find when we read the fine print beneath these homophobic scare tactics.

The NC NAACP and the Forward Together Moral Movement stands in solidarity with civil rights leaders,

www.trianglewilpf.org

labor leaders and hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians who are organizing and taking action in various areas of the state against House Bill 2. We refer to it more appropriately as "**Hate Bill 2.**"

It is sad that certain so called Christian leaders are supporting this bill and participating in this political ploy. Jesus made his primary focus caring for the poor, the sick and least of these. Where are these leaders when health care, living wages, and voting rights are being denied and public education is being undercut? They are strangely silent.

- HateBill 2 violates the very principle of love of neighbor. Many people supporting it have not even read it and as a result they are being misled in the name of a misguided interpretation of religion.
- Hate bill 2 was passed in the spirit of the politics of Jesse Helms reincarnated and designed to use homophobia, race, and class as political wedge issues.
- Hate bill 2 discriminates against the working poor by taking away municipalities' ability to demand that contractors raise minimum wages to living wages and pay vacation sick leave and have minority set asides.
- Hate bill 2 discriminates against on the bases of age, sex, religion, national origin, race, class, and disability because it takes away the ability of north Carolinians to file employment discrimination cases in state courts.
- Hate bill 2 targets and discriminates against the LGBTQ community and creates a hostile community atmosphere.
- Hate bill 2 is not about protecting children. This bill is about promoting discrimination and the poisonous brew of racism, classism, and homophobia and we will not stand for it.

Please DO NOT BE FOOLED BY THESE JIM CROW TACTICS.

We have come too far to go backwards. FORWARD TOGETHER!

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
President, NC NAACP

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IN HONOR OF A CENTURY OF PEACE-MAKING

--Lib Hutchby

Celebrations of WILPF's 100th birthday in 2015 continued into the new year. Triangle WILPF members Lib Hutchby, Lori Hoyt, Emily O'Hare, Dick Paddock, Ann Powers, and John Wagner gathered on February 19th at the Rogers Road Community Center, where we met the children and their leaders who participate in their after-school program.



It was an honor for the Triangle Branch to present the annual 2015 Jane Addams Peace Association book winners to Minister Robert Campbell, David Caldwell, and Rose Caldwell for the Community Center library. After Ann and Lib explained WILPF history and some of the story from each book, in honor of WILPF's century of peace-making, the following books, award winners and honor books for 2015, were presented:



Minister Robert Campbell, Rose Caldwell, David Caldwell, and Lib Hutchby

Books for Younger Children

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh and published by Abrams Books

Books for Older Children

The Girl from the Tar Paper School: Barbara Rose Johns and the Advent of the Civil Rights Movement by Teri Kanefield and published by Abrams Books

Honors Books for Younger Children

Whispering Town written by Jennifer Elvgren and illustrated by Fabio Santomauro and published by Kar-Ben Publishing.

Shooting at the Stars: The Christmas Truce of 1914 by John Hendrix, published by Abrams Books



Honors Books for Older Children

Revolution by Deborah Wiles publishes by Scholastic Press.

Silver People: Voices from the Panama Canal by Margarita Engle published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Following the presentation, the children were delighted to receive peace birds of origami paper. Peace-making continued as the children eagerly requested to check out the books.

Photos – Emily O'Hare



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May 31 – Memorial Day Annual Commemoration – details TBA

July 4 – Triangle WILPF will be tabling at Carrboro Town Hall during Carrboro's annual July 4 celebration – 9-3:30pm. Please email Lucy Lewis llewis2001@earthlink.net or call Lori Hoyt at 984-999-4069 to volunteer!

Monthly - Triangle WILPF meets the 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-12 noon, Friends Meeting House, 531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill (except July) – hope you can join us!



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

MEMBERSHIP TIME!

It's always a good time to become a member, so join now!

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

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

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

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