



Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom

The President’s Corner

Who, exactly, is the guilty party?

A legal system that does not do us justice.

You may remember reading about the LET IT SHINE march from Madison to Camp Douglas last August which Mary Sanderson wrote about in the Fall NEWS. WILPF provided support and many of us attended the vigil at the gates of the base. At the conclusion of that 8 day walk vigil against illegal and immoral drones, and the pilot training at Volk Field, 9 individuals ‘crossed the line’, stepping onto the Army base, where they were promptly handcuffed, arrested and taken to the Juneau County jail for processing, many of them for the second or third time. Despite a request for one joint trial, all have been assigned individual trials, charged with ‘trespass’.

I attended Bonnie Block’s trial in early January, the same day that Father Jim Murphy was released from his term in the Juneau County Jail, also found guilty of trespass. I want to quote, with Bonnie’s permission, excerpts from her statement to the court she was ‘allowed’ to read. I believe it encapsulates all that we know to be wrong with our legal-supposed-to-be-justice system, because, despite these facts she sets out, Bonnie was again found guilty and ordered to pay a fine or have her taxes garnished, an ironic insult since it’s our taxes are paying for the development, training and killing associated with drone warfare. I ask: *who is the guilty party here?*

“I need a chance to speak of why my action on August 25th should not be viewed as trespass. There was no intent to harm . . . Rather it was an act of nonviolent civil resistance calling on Base personnel to abide by the law. Why do I say that? **Drone warfare is illegal.** From all the reading and legal research that I’ve done I’m convinced the training of and use by operators of the RQ-7 Shadow 200 UAV’s at Volk Field is part of an illegal program.

First, targeted assassinations are murder because bombs from the sky provide absolutely no due process and murder is illegal in all 50 states.

Second, The US has ratified the UN Charter which requires member states to settle disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force against any other state. The US claim that the right of self-defense allows it to engage in pre-emptive attacks is *not valid*.

Third, the UN General Assembly and its Human Rights Council both have declared drone warfare to be a war crime. . . .

Fourth, drone warfare violates the provisions of **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** which sets the standards by which human beings should be treated. . . .

(See page 3)

3.5% Racial Justice Tipping Point

WILPF-Madison Branch is proud to have signed the pledge to become an organizational change agent in Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice's 3.5% Racial Justice Tipping Point Campaign.

The GOAL: To get 3.5% of all people in Wisconsin to show up 100% for racial justice! Political scientist Erica Chenoweth researched social movements over the last century and found that they had one thing in common. In all of them, it took a critical mass of 3.5% of a population taking non-violent action to make great shifts like major policy changes and leadership happen. (see p. 2)

Dispatches from the BORDER REGION



Nogales Comedor

This is where Mary Somers gives medical care each week after migrants have breakfast.

The last two weekends have been in remembrance of those who died with a solemn walk and then placing crosses of the 127 people who died in the Tucson desert this year with the more than 1000 before. Last night was the Day of the Dead parade where **names on red dots** were carried by **No More Deaths** the border group I work with. Andy and I participated in both walks. Andy has started an Immigration course this week to learn how to help migrants with asylum and other processes to stop deportation. I continue working in Nogales giving medical care. Last week I met a man deported from Phoenix who lived there 27 years. The good news we heard today is that Rosa, a woman who has been living in Sanctuary in a church in Tucson for a year, has had her case terminated and is free to go home to her children and husband Hugs to all. 11/9/15

The walk with the crosses had only two hundred people but the Day of Dead parade had 150,000 people. Using **red dots** was an idea from a map with red dots showing bodies found in the Tucson desert since the walk. 11/10/15



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

Woman's Equality Day A national Holiday??

Last fall many of us traveled to Milwaukee to celebrate the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Now there is a movement to **declare August 26 a federal holiday**. This effort is being launched by the National Women's History Project and the newly established **Women's History Alliance**, which was formed to connect educators, performers, historic sites, agencies and organizations working to recognize women's history and prepare for the **Woman's Suffrage Centennial in 2020**.

Excited? Read all about it: www.nwhp.org
or email nwhp@nwhp for info. **Let's do it!**



The 2016 women's history month theme is
Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government.

(from p. 1)

Signing the pledge is only the first step. The next steps are to commit to self-education and engagement with others, as well getting actively involved with racial justice campaigns.

Over this past year members of WILPF-Madison Branch have participated in trainings, read books, held house parties, and have shown up 100% for racial justice at hearings, meetings, and rallies. We are committed to this 3.5% shift for, as we know, when there is no justice, there is no peace.

Let's shift Wisconsin away from racial disparities and towards racial justice. Will you be part of the 3.5% and give your 100% for racial justice? Go to <http://www.racialjusticewi.org/> and sign the pledge. Peace,

~ Dace A. Zeps dacezeps@gmail.com



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The CUBA and the BOLIVARIAN ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Committee works to normalize relations between the US government and the countries comprising the Bolivarian Alliance. We conduct education on the advancement of women's rights under the Cuban Revolution and recently cosponsored the national tour of the US premiere of the documentary *Maestra* as well as the speaking tour of Cuban feminist Norma Guillard and director Catherine Murphy.

Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Committee works to end the US war of terrorism against the countries that compose the Bolivarian Alliance. We have particular focus on Cuba because of the US blockade imposed against Cuba in 1960, and therefore promote legislative advocacy to lift the travel ban to Cuba. Please contact Cindy Domingo for more information cindydomingo@gmail.com

Reading Jane Addams Children's Books

This is the season in which books contending for the Jane Addams Children's Book Award (JACBA) are being read and discussed all around the country. Here in the Madison area, activist librarians, teachers, and lovers of children's literature are reading the many titles, sharing them with children, and coming together for conversation about their merits as literature for children that displays themes of respect, nonviolent problem solving, and overcoming fear and prejudice. This year, we have five classrooms of 4th and 5th graders who are conducting an in depth study of the books as a central aspect of their literacy learning and are communicating their thoughts about the books among themselves and between classrooms on a blog designed for the purpose. These classes of children began their study by learning about Jane Addams' life as a community worker and strident representative of peaceful mediation of conflict. The children considered for the answer to the question, what kind of books would Jane Addams want children to read and have read to them? These learners are thrilled to be part of this book award discernment process. As a member of the national selection committee, I can assure you the children's voices are heard!

~ Susan Freiss
freissususan@gmail.com

Susan Freiss has recently joined the board of the Jane Addams Peace Association.



As a reminder ~

WILPF Madison has donated copies of the 2015 Winners to local schools and libraries:

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and her family's fight for desegregation, by Duncan Tonatiuh

The Girl From the Tar Paper School: Barbara Rose Johns and the advent of the Civil Rights Movement by Teri Kanefield

[The JACBA Tumblr](http://janeaddamspeace.tumblr.com/) links to current events and articles about any and all Jane Addams winning & honor authors & illustrators.
<http://janeaddamspeace.tumblr.com/>

[The Jane Addams winning books searchable database](http://www.janeaddamspeace.org/books/) is a wonderful tool for educators, librarians and parents. Find and search titles from 2000 to the present at
<http://www.janeaddamspeace.org/books/>



Our work on racial justice in Madison

The members of Madison WILPF made one of its two branch goals in 2015 to inform itself, monitor and comment on racial justice in its community

We began this goal with a packed class in a member's living room taught by **Groundwork**. Throughout 2015 Ann has written 42 pages of blog on the meetings, rallies and marches that many of us have participated in. Madison has the worst racial justice statistics in the nation; this short summary represents some of our activities to help amplify the need for changes.

> In support of Young, Gifted and Black (YGB)'s goal to stop the building of an even bigger jail we spoke against the use of the jail as a debtor's prison.

> When the homeless moved to the Catholic Diocese Stations of the Cross property downtown to sleep, the bishop, a very conservative man, put up no trespassing signs. We went to night prayer sessions sponsored by the Catholic Workers to pray, invoking Matthew 25:

> We spoke against a change in state law that would have redefined child neglect in such a way that poor, mostly black mothers would be subject to immediate arrest and jailing. This would add black women of child-bearing age to the black men already being arbitrarily incarcerated.

> In the fall our last demonstration was a huge march, blocking a major thoroughfare at rush hour, demanding that police stop harassing the most vocal woman leader of YGB.

~ Ann Fleischli and Barbara Reed

(from1)

Drone warfare is also immoral. I need not go into the moral arguments against drone warfare because on Monday one of my co-defendants, Fr. Jim Murphy, eloquently set them out in this very courtroom. I agree and affirm every word of his statement most especially that "we cannot remain silent without becoming complicit." Every citizen has not only the constitutional right, but I think a duty, to engage in nonviolent resistance when our government is in violation of the law. Crossing the line is one way of exercising my constitutional rights to free speech and petitioning a branch of the government for a redress of grievances over what is being done in our name and with our taxes. Eleanor Roosevelt once asked: "Where, after all, do universal rights begin? In small places, close to home. (...) " Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.

A recent Book Circle Read:

Arrested Development is Madison's prior Chief of Police David Couper's story of his personal growth in policing. He started in the military, then back to Minnesota got a job as a policeman in Minneapolis. As he grew in the job, he also took opportunities that came his way to take academic work, culminating in a PHD in Sociology. Years ago, in Madison, I had was able to observe one of his officers in action. I was on a city bus, and there was a very drunk man bothering others. The driver called the police, and a young officer stepped on the bus. He approached the man, and said, "How are you today, sir? Would you please come with me sir?" and off they went. I did not learn the rest of the story, but the civility of that officer is a memory still with me. Couper's take on policing as social work, involving the community, only resorting to force when every other alternative doesn't work is a good legacy for Madison. Couper is now an Episcopalian priest, but continues to evangelize on community policing, by writing a daily blog at www.improvingpolice.wordpress.com. A recent blog was "What If It's the Barrel and Not the Apples?" referring to incidents of police violence ascribed to "bad apples". Police in this country would benefit from this read (and acting there on).

~ Eleanor White

In their own words, Groundwork is a community organization of white people working to achieve racial justice and equity in Dane County, with three main goals: Engaging white people to work for racial justice, Working in collaboration with organizations led by people of color, and Deepening members' own education and leadership development. Groundwork members are committed to doing work against racism and white privilege and for racial justice and equity in our daily lives from the heart, with dignity, and integrity. (<http://groundworkmadison.com/>)

Mary Sanderson and Susan Freiss had the privilege of participating in a six week Groundwork anti-racism training this fall. Along with the 50 or so other participants, we were changed. We live in a culturally and institutionally white supremacist world. We are all fish swimming in these toxic waters. If we are not working to become aware of the racist reality in our day to day lives, we are not going to realize our pervasive bias and certainly will not be ready or able to support activists of color and effect change with them. As WILPF members and as WILPF Madison, we support actively learning about and addressing racism in all aspects of our community life and seek to lend support to communities of color in asserting their rights and dignity.

~Susan

That's why I keep coming to Volk Field and ending up in this Courtroom. Wisconsin is our home and dismissal of this trespass charge could set a new precedent right here in this small place. We could honor universal human rights here."
Bonnie L Block January 8, 2016

WILPF Calendar & Events

Monday Vigils for Peace at Noon

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

1st Tuesdays 6:30—8:00 Jane Addams Book Circle (every month first Tuesday)

Goodman So Madison Library, GREEN ROOM 2222 S Park St Madison . . . Info: 608 467-2637

March 1:	Just Mercy.	Bryan Stephenson	(TITLE CHANGE FROM POSTED LISTS!!)
April 5 :	All the Light We Cannot See	Anthony Doerr	
May 3 :	In the Company of Angels	Thomas E Kennedy	

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

Barriques .2166 Atwood Ave Madison Info: 608 467-2637

SAVE THE DATE!

Listen in/ Call in to WORT-FM Monday May 9 When WILPF Madison will host the *Access hour*

Veterans for Peace Memorial Mile and presentations Memorial Day. Monday May 30th. More details to follow via the WILPF Website or Facebook page

Calendar UPDATES : <http://www.wilpf-madison.org>

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