



# Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

FOUNDED IN 1915 / First President: JANE ADDAMS

LOS ANGELES BRANCH 8124 West Third St., #206, Los Angeles, CA 90048 (213) 891-4517

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Louise Katz Sullivan, *Membership Chair*

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Florence Johnson, *Corresponding Secretary*

## June 2006

WILPF LOS ANGELES BRANCH MEETING

We will watch, and then discuss  
the hour-long documentary

### THIRST

*Is water part of a shared "commons", a human right for all people?  
Or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace?  
THIRST tells the stories of three communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States  
that are asking these fundamental questions, as water becomes  
the most valuable global resource of the 21st century.*

Saturday, June 17th ♦ 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

#### THE PEACE CENTER

8124 West Third Street (Just west of Crescent Heights), Los Angeles

*Enter through the rear of building.*

*Park in covered lot behind the building, off of alley. If the back door is closed, ring the bell.*

*The Third Street (front) door sometimes remains locked.*

EVENT & PARKING ARE FREE ♦ EVERYBODY WELCOME — BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Founded in 1915, WILPF is the oldest and largest international women's peace and justice organization. WILPF works to achieve through peaceful means: world disarmament, full rights for women, racial and economic justice, an end to all forms of violence; and to establish those political, social and psychological conditions which can assure peace, freedom, and justice for all.

# Keeping Water Out of the Bottle

## Why should you care about bottled water?

- Bottled water is the way corporations are taking the human right to safe, affordable, accessible drinking water and turning it into a commodity to be sold at market prices for those who can afford to pay the price, often 1,000 times the cost of tap water.
- With bottled water, the giant corporations, primarily Coke, Pepsi and Nestle, are creating a whole parallel distribution system over which they have full control.
- More than 10 billion plastic water bottles end up as garbage or litter each year. We are all paying the cost of their disposal with our tax dollars.
- Bottled water introduces a whole new stream of toxic plastics, from the manufacturing of the plastics, to the punching out of the bottles putting plastic dust into the waste stream, to the leaching of hormone disrupters from some kinds of plastics into the drinking water, to the leaching of these same chemicals into our landfills.
- Bottled water itself is not tested by the US EPA. It is regulated by the FDA which does no testing. While Coke and Pepsi use municipal water which is tested by US EPA, Nestle uses spring water which is only tested by the industry. When the NRDC tested more than 1000 bottles of 103 brands, they found contamination exceeding allowable limits in at least one sample from about one-third of the brands, including synthetic organics, bacteria, and arsenic. Check out <http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bwbwinx.asp>

## What You Can Do!

- \* Avoid buying and using bottled water unless necessary for emergencies. Use a stainless steel water bottle — refill it from the tap and carry it with you during the day and when you travel.
- \* At public events, the office, and home offer pitchers of water. Ask your public officials to do the same at public meetings that are televised to the community. Don't give the water bottlers free advertising.
- \* Educate local restaurants about the issues. Ask them to serve pitchers of tap water instead of bottled.
- \* Inquire whether your city or school district is negotiating or has signed an exclusivity contract for bottled water and other beverages. File a "Public Records Act (PRA) Request" to learn contract terms, minimum sales, advertising rights, and penalties/incentives linked to sales. See flier on Exclusivity Contracts at [www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/water](http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/water)
- \* Make sure that your public works department provides good quality tap water and that it is available for everyone in your community at an affordable price. If for any reason your municipal water is not meeting EPA standards or you have other concerns, buy a filter to attach to your faucet. Even the best filters are far cheaper than bottled water.
- \* Do a price comparison of local municipal tap water and bottled water brands at your local stores and publicize it. Ask your local food coop and other sympathetic stores to post the price comparison,
- \* Find out where bottled water sold in your stores comes from. Find out what kind of impact the pumping is having on the environment.
- \* Show the documentary "Thirst" and educate the community about the need for a strong local law to stop corporations from taking your water. Use the AfD flier at <http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/pdf/AfDSF3Thirst.pdf>
- \* Advocate for strict local, county and state groundwater laws to protect your aquifer, watershed, and other water sources from pollution. Work to identify local actual and potential sources of pollution and advocate for enforcement of laws, penalties and clean-up.
- \* Talk with your family and friends about the danger of toxic chemicals, including hormone disrupters, leaching into bottled water.
- \* Expose the serious public health impacts of plastics production and disposal . Corporations have no right to pollute our bodies.

# ***WILPF calls for peaceful resolution of the Iran “crisis”***

*(Statement issued June 6, 2006)*

**The U.S. Section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom is dismayed that the Administration is again threatening military attack, this time on Iran.** Such an attack would be illegal, unjustified, counter-productive and inhumane. Bombing of Iranian nuclear research and power sites, even with conventional weapons, would be disastrous. It would violate Protocol I of the Geneva Convention, which prohibits such bombings because they can release lethal radiation into the environment.

**WILPF is determined to prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons.** Iran, however, is still a party to the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and there is no clear evidence that her government is violating that treaty. Attacking Iran now to eliminate a nuclear weapons program that probably does not exist, or that is years away from production, would have only negative consequences. **We would welcome direct dialogue between the U.S. and Iran without preconditions.**

**We also urge our national leaders, especially in the Pentagon, to halt their war propaganda and distortion of facts in order to build support for an attack on Iran.** Propaganda for war is in violation of Article 20 of the United Nations Treaty on Civil and Political Rights. This treaty was ratified by the U.S., and hence defiance of that prohibition is also illegal under our own constitution.

**This is a time for recognition of how much damage U.S. policies in the Middle East,** driven in part by a desire to control oil supplies, has already done to nations there, including Iran. CIA covert action to unseat Prime Minister Mossadegh in 1953, support of the Shah and his police state apparatus, encouragement of Saddam Hussein’s eight-year war against Iran, U.S. invasion and occupation of two bordering states (Iraq and Afghanistan), and continuing covert action by U.S. special forces now in Iran have all caused great suffering to the people in that country.

**U.S. support of Israel’s nuclear weapons program further destabilizes the region and invites proliferation.** It is Israel alone that has developed as many as 200 nuclear weapons in a secret program. No other Middle Eastern nation has yet followed this path, and it was Iran that first proposed a regional nuclear free zone. The U.S. should urge Israel to acknowledge its nuclear arsenal, become a member of the NPT, and enter negotiations for the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone envisioned at the Madrid Peace Conference 15 years ago after the first Gulf War. Israeli compliance with the nuclear nonproliferation protocol is the first and most important step towards nonproliferation throughout the region.

**We also call on the U.S. Administration similarly to re-examine and re-direct its current nuclear weapons policies.** The U.S. must return to compliance with the NPT; cease placing nuclear weapons capabilities at the center of military planning; stop developing new types of nuclear weapons and upgrading its current stockpile; and threatening first use against even non-nuclear weapons nations such as Iran. It is important to return to working in concert with the United Nations and other nations to bring Israel, Pakistan and India into the NPT regime.

**All peoples are members of the same human family and must all learn to share this one planet as home.** War and rule by force destroy precious human lives, human liberty, whole peoples, cultures and the fragile eco-system of the Earth. The ways of peace require greater wisdom and courage than the ways of war, but are the only ways worth pursuing. We urge our national leaders to cease their hegemonic designs on the Middle East and the wider world.

# MacGregor Eddy Update — Sentencing on June 15th

On March 16th, MacGregor Eddy, a WILPF member from Salinas and a member of the national WILPF DISARM Committee, was convicted of misdemeanor trespassing on Vandenberg Air Force Base during a demonstration against the war in Iraq. She was arrested after walking about 10 feet onto the property to offer military staff a pamphlet on nonviolence and international law.

At her March 16th trial, MacGregor testified briefly in her own defense, explaining her effort to inform those arresting her of their complicity in illegal acts. The judge acknowledged that principled acts such as MacGregor's are part of our American tradition and heritage, but nonetheless found her guilty of trespass. The sentencing will take place in June. The trial received AP coverage, and local area radio, press and TV interviews.

MacGregor faces up to six months in federal prison and a fine of \$5,000 when she's sentenced, which will be at 1:30 pm on June 15th at the Santa Barbara Federal Courthouse. Prior to her sentencing, there will be a peace protest at the

Santa Barbara Federal Courthouse, starting at noon.

**MacGregor expects to be imprisoned in Los Angeles** and hopes this can be used to draw more attention to Vandenberg Air Force base and its role in pre-emptive wars as well as in developing missile defense and weapons in space.

If you wish to help with the defense costs, donations can go to the Vandenberg Peace Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 5789, Salinas CA 93915-5789. Donations to this fund do not meet IRS criteria as a charitable contribution.

If you wish to make a donation that does meet IRS criteria and will support the overall educational peace work of Vandenberg Space Command, you can send a donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 and earmark it for U.S. WILPF.

Follow MacGregor's progress at <http://www.vpeacecdf.org> or <http://www.4dsolutions.net/wilpf>.

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## Los Angeles Branch WILPF "Twins" (Born in 1920 or earlier)

*In the Spring 2006 issue of Peace & Freedom, we learned that Los Angeles has the largest number of WILPF Twins! As WILPF, founded in 1915, turns 91 this year, we honor WILPFers of the same generation. If your name belongs here but isn't, please call (213) 891-4517 and let us know.*

Myra Barnes  
Riki Belew (*Life Member*)  
Eleanor Belser  
Sarah Blanken Bruch  
Shirley Cloke  
Florence Cohn  
Elizabeth Dalsimer  
Eleanor Eagan  
Al Feinblatt  
Irene Fortess  
Lena Friedman

Miriam Goldsmith  
Ruth Hadley  
Ruth Hammer  
Florence Johnson (*Life Member*)  
Evelyn Kostove  
Marion & Manuel Krupin  
Pearl & Ephraim Letz (*Life Members*)  
Betty Long (*Life Member*)  
Miriam Ludwig  
Carla McNamara  
Saul Morrison  
Vivien Myerson (*Life Member*)

Adele Nussbaum  
Mollie Portner  
Mildred Rosenstein  
Julia Ross  
Ruth Sheff  
Laura Woolley Smith  
Yetta Sosin  
Milly St. Charles  
Florence Tabor  
Ann Witkovsky  
Mollie Zucker

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**CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD: (202) 224-3121 TOLL-FREE CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD: (888) 355-3588**