



WILPF Cape Cod

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
DECEMBER 2016

*NO MEETING IN DECEMBER --
SEE YOU ON JANUARY 23 INSTEAD.
HAPPY SOLSTICE...*



November meeting: Issue groups updates; new WILPF chapeaux!

Once again, a coven of 13 gathered at the Harwich Community Center on November 28th to reconnect on our three priority issues and learn of some branch updates. We noted especially the absence of Alycia Davis, Donna Pihl, and Rob and Margaret Rice Moir, all out with health-related issues -- we missed you and your insightful participation and hope to see you soon! On the other hand, we celebrated the 77th birthday of Mary Zepernick with an ice cream cake courtesy of Jan Hively and welcomed two new members: **Susan Starkey of Yarmouthport and Gail McAleer of West Harwich.**

Our convenor, Laurie Gates, reported that at last we have a NEW LISTSERVE, thanks to Sherrie Berson! **This list will be for paid-up members only, so if you would like to be on it, you need to make a contribution of record.**

- National dues are now \$35, with no sliding scale.
- To be a member of the Cape Cod branch, there is a sliding scale of \$5-\$25.

Donations/membership renewals should be sent to Laurie Gates, whose address is on the last page of this newsletter.

We also decided to order a new supply of brochures from National WILPF and design an insert specifically about the Cape Cod branch and our work.

Laurie said we received a thank you letter from national president Mary Hanson Harrison for our annual donation of \$500 to National. We also received a thank you from development chair Marybeth Gardam. The Development Committee is asking us to send them names of potential major donors. They will then follow up with these donors.

We talked about our **Cape Cod website**. The last newsletter is not yet on, so Candace Perry will ask Barbara Woodbury to post it. Noreen Thompsen will update the reading list on Israel/Palestine issues that is on the website now. Anyone who has information to be posted should send it to Candace for forwarding (candaceperry@earthlink.net).

We talked about the embroidered WILPF gear and whether we should have one item that is uniform so we will be a clear presence at any event. In the end, we agreed that **Laurie should order a dozen purple baseball hats with the WILPF Cape Cod logo in white**. Chris Morin has also created the design for a 4' x 4' banner and has purchased the rights to use the national logo. After review, she will order the banner to be made.

Gun Sense: Margy Mardht and Chris shared the pulpit at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, with Chris offering an **analysis of violence**, the intersection of violence and oppression, and a description of what it takes to pick up and use a gun. Margy spoke about Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense. They are trying to design

After Sandy Hook, when Obama went out and talked a lot about gun control and met with the parents, there was a sense that something was going to happen. But then... the power of special interests was greater than public sentiment.

- Doris Kearns Goodwin

a vigil to support actions by the Newtown Alliance in memory of the Sandy Hook shootings two years ago. Grandmothers Against Gun Violence is holding a vigil in Falmouth that may be the shared focus. Since the election, Margy reported, gun sales among people of color are increasing. Jan Hively asked to have statistics comparing states with gun controls and states without them, which Margy said she'd find. She also reported that Moms Demand is working to stop a reciprocal concealed carry law, which would allow people from one state carry a gun in other states. They are also educating for gun sense.

We also decided to put together a "backgrounder" (one page, front and back) about gun sense. In fact, each issue group will do a backgrounder and we will post them on our website, as well as print up as handouts.

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The power of visibility can never be over-estimated.

- Margaret Cho

November issue groups updates (continued)

Racial Justice: Candace and Laurie attended the recent Boston branch meeting on race. They distributed a booklet from Black Lives Matter to the RJ working group, which will read and discuss, then decide how we might use this information most effectively. Elenita reported that First Parish Brewster also has a BLM group meeting, with whom we should connect and work. The Boston meeting also talked about being an “accomplice” rather than an “ally” as being a more active commitment.

The National Board of WILPF US has just reinstated the “**Building the Beloved Community**” issue group, which existed in several iterations for many years. This newly called group is in its formative states.

We talked about the **Safety Pin** campaign, which has received mixed reviews in social media. Is it a simple cop-out to put on a safety pin and think we’ve done something concrete? Or is it something one should consider carefully – what exactly are we willing to do as a safety-pin wearer? That’s a question for each of us to consider. For instance, a Muslim woman was harrassed at Cape Cod Mall, according to a report received by the BC Human Rights Commission. What would we do in such a case? Will we be a silent witness? Step up and stand beside her? Actively interrupt the harrassers? Call Mall security or the police? When we “take on the identity” of someone being oppressed, we need to think seriously about how far we are willing to go as “allies” or as “accomplices.”

We also talked about how we might reach out to Muslim women. Mary Zep will reach out to Rose, who has attended several WILPF events. We agreed we need to learn more about the local Muslim community.

Margy attended the recent meeting of the NAACP. Several young people were there, including Andre and Jesse Barboza who organized the Unity Day event in the summer. The NAACP meetings are open to all and take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Zion Union Heritage Museum, North Street, Hyannis. (Parking across the street.)

As Chris pointed out, the first step in being an ally/accomplice is to **listen**.

Environmental Justice: Jan Hively has received the application form to join the **Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative**. Information about the group can be found at www.costalstudies.org/cccc. Coastal Studies head Richard Delaney is the founder of the CCCC. Jan will complete the application for WILPF Cape Cod to join. Susan suggested that we should each do an individual energy audit and use the carbon footprint calculator for our own impact on the environment.

Jan announced the **Cape Cod Coastal Conference**, to be held December 6-7. We hope she will report on this conference at the January meeting! She said the sea level from Maine to Florida will be four feet higher by 2100, therefore there will be no Miami, no Norfolk VA, no Cape Cod...

Gail recommended that we all look at the Cape Cod Commission’s interactive map about the Cape’s flood plain to see the impact of major storms on our dear but fragile peninsula. Gail will join this working group!

International Women’s Day: Coming March 8th... our celebration will be held at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, with a focus on the environment and hopeful environmental action. Laurie and Mary talked to Lauren Wolk about space for a display of pertinent art work. Lauren said we could use easels and tables, but not walls, as there will be an art show installed already. The theme is **Active hope for Mother Earth**. The planning committee is welcoming others to join. Chris will share the list of participants from past years.

WILPF Meeting
Monday, January 23rd
Harwich Community Center

6:00 p.m. pot luck
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. :
meeting and issue updates



WILPF Cape Cod
www.wilpfcapecod.org

A branch of
**Women's
International League
for Peace & Freedom**

*We are a group of women and men
who work to create justice and peace locally,
nationally, and internationally.*

*WILPF envisions a transformed world
at peace, where there is racial, social and
economic justice for all people everywhere
-- a world in which the interconnecting web
of life is acknowledged and celebrated, and
human societies are designed and orga-
nized for self-governance and sustainable
existence.*

*In pursuit of these goals we educate
ourselves and others, take action against
injustice, and nourish one another.*

*The newsletter of WILPF Cape Cod
is published monthly. We welcome your
comments, addressed to elenita@cape.com*

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PLEASE SEND FORM AND CHECK, PAYABLE TO WILPF, TO:

WILPF CAPE COD, c/o LAURIE GATES AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

THANK YOU!

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for Peace and Freedom
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