

WILPF Cape Cod

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

July 2017

Part 2 of our annual planning process:

Midsummer Night's Dreaming

Tuesday, July 24th

See page 3 for details!

**See important notice on page 6 --
please respond no later than July 15th!**



Step 1: Evaluation of past year at June meeting: REMEMBERING

We gathered in June to take a look at our year past, from Hawk’s Nest planning retreat in August 2016 through our May 2017 meeting. In order to help us focus and be thoughtful, we began by calling in the spirits of the four directions, honoring earth, air, fire and water, as well as the fifth sacred thing: camaraderie and community.

Then we called on the spirits of our foremothers who have gone on before: among those named in the ceremony were Margaret Moseley, Joan Patchen, Yvonne Logan, and Jane Addams (of course!) We had each brought a favorite inspirational quotation about peace and justice and those were mounted on the walls, among three posters proclaiming “Remember, Reclaim, Reimagine!” Facilitator Chris Morin had suggested this theme of the coming WILPF US Triennial Congress as a meaningful match with our evaluation/dreaming/planning process.

So we remembered, by reviewing the goals we had set for ourselves last August {see side bar at

Hawk’s Nest Goals, August 2016:

- Three working groups: **Gun Sense, Racial Justice, and Environment**, to meet and report on their work at monthly meetings.
- Thread an examination of “patriarchy” throughout our work.
- Each working group produce a two-page backgrounder for distribution.
- Hold the annual Memorial Day anti-war vigil.
- Redesign the “Roots of Violence, Seeds of Change” syllabus.
- Hold a climate change event for International Women’s Day.

left.] It was sobering to realize that we had never referred back to these goals to remind ourselves of our brilliant ideas from the retreat! This is not unusual for us, however, and we agreed we need to do a better job of remembering our Hawk’s Nest decisions.

Next, we reviewed the accomplishments of the 2016-17 year.

- We did form the three working groups, some of which met more often than others.
- We ordered WILPF caps to wear at events to present a more unified public identity.
- We created a new WILPF banner with grommets for hanging a specific message as needed.
- We joined the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (CCCCC).
- We held a climate change observation for International Women’s Day, honoring five women climate change activists.
- We held an impromptu vigil against the

bombing of Syria with the so-called “Mother of All Bombs.”

- We continued to support the Cape Cod Women’s Coalition (CCWC).
- We tabled at two events: one in Hyannis and the other with CCWC.

Chris and co-facilitator Elenita Muñiz then passed around lavender sheets of paper, one for each event, on which we were invited to write down our thoughts, both positive and concerns. While Chris and Elenita reviewed these for common themes, the rest of the group worked on decorating a “zentangle” of the letters in REMEMBER, RECLAIM, REIMAGINE. You’ll see these creative letters at the July and August meetings!

Our treasurer, Donna Pihl, reported that we have a useable balance of \$,3760.90 in our bank account. Both Chris and Elenita have asked for \$400 each to support their registration for the upcoming Congress in Chicago. This will come from the \$1,200 we agreed last month to allocate in support of those wanting to attend the Congress.

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Midsummer Night's Dreaming!

Your voice, ideas, dreams
matter to our WILPF branch.

Please join us on

Tuesday, July 24th.

- 4:00-6:00 p.m.: *Optional swimming and friendly talk.*
 - 6:00 p.m.: *Potluck supper*
 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.: *Dreaming Meeting --
second step in our annual planning process:*
RECLAIMING

** Bring bathing suits, towels, potluck food, imagination!*

** Children are welcome; bring something to entertain them peacefully
during the meeting!*

*At the home of Dorothy Carver, our branch herstorian.
Calves Pasture Lane, West Barnstable.*

Directions: Take Route 6A to Scudder Lane.
Turn North onto Scudder Lane.

Follow it to the first left onto Calves Pasture Lane.
Dorothy's house is the first on the left.
If lost, call Dorothy at 508-362-8578.

REMEMBERING

(continued from page 2)

Chris and Elenita then summarized the common themes from the feedback sheets on the year's activities. We had a very fruitful discussion that raised the questions in the sidebar at the right. These are important considerations for all of us to ponder.

It is the blessing -- and the curse -- of WILPF that we *make connections* among issues. We see the roots of patriarchy and greed in environmental injustice, racism, gun violence, hunger, homelessness, the situations in Palestine, on our Native American reservations, in the Congo, in Ukraine... And we want to work on all of these issues, because they are all related!

The reality is, however, that while a small group of thoughtful, committed people may change the world, we can't do it all and do it well.

So at our Midsummer Night's Dreaming meeting on July 24, we will examine the questions at right. We will try to discern what events or actions are most important to us, and arrive at some consensus about how to focus our work in ways that are manageable and achievable.

This will take honest and generous thought from all of us. **Your input matters in this discussion!** Please make every effort to join us on July 24th as we make decisions about the year to come.

Our hope is that these decisions will allow us to use our time together at Hawk's Nest Pond in August to actually prepare for the events/activities we have decided to do. For instance, if we decide that the Memorial Day vigil is important, we could spend part of the time at Hawk's Nest making signs for that vigil, so it's all in place and ready to go come Memorial Day.

REMEMBER, RECLAIM, REIMAGINE.

This is our summer work. See you at Dorothy's on the 24th!



Thoughts on our year's work:

- Are we biting off too much in our Hawk's Nest plans?
- Do members lack the time to carry out our plans?
- Is our leadership model (shared leadership) working as well as it could?
- What is our actual level of commitment to the various activities we plan?
- Do we have too many areas of focus?
- Should we continue with the working group reports or return to having programs at our meetings?
- How do we maintain or strengthen our connections with other activist groups on the Cape without losing our sense of WILPF and our priorities?
- How do we strengthen our connections with the US Section and with International WILPF?
- How do we improve outreach and follow-up to new or prospective members?
- Should we limit our commitments to two or three that we can realistically achieve?

3

Now, then and again
we must organize.

The woman wiping the slur spit
from her face, the child standing
at the edge of the playground silent,
stopped.

The man twisted in despair,
disabled at the city gates.

Even the child in the womb
must find a voice
sound in unison
organize.

Lika a song, like a roar
like a prophecy that changes the world.

- excerpted from "Paki Go Home"
by Himani Bannerji

Cape Cod author earns Jane Addams Children's Book Award

Lauren Wolk, director of the Cape Cod Cultural Center (site of several WILPF events over the years) has been honored by the Jane Addams Book Award program for her young adult novel, *Wolf Hollow*.

The Jane Addams Book Awards began in 1953, founded by WILPF US and co-sponsored by the Jane Addams Peace Association. According to this year's chair, Heather Palmer, the books selected "excell in writing and artistry, and effectively engage children between the ages of five and 14 in thinking about peace, social justice, global community, and equity for all people."

The books, she continued help children understand that peace is a process, that peace and social justice go hand-in-hand, and that without power and equality for women, there can be no peace."

Lauren's novel, *Wolf Hollow*, is a coming-of-age novel set during World War II in rural Pennsylvania. The heroine's experiences with bullying and her inability to prevent a string of tragic events, says Ms. Palmer, "challenges readers to think about how to live morally and ethically in a world marred by cruelty and war."

Congratulations to Lauren Wolk! We are delighted that the Jane Addams Peace Association has learned what we have known for a while: you have a generous heart and remarkable skills. We have appreciated your support for years and are thrilled to congratulate you now!



2017 JACBA Winners

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

Steamboat School, written by Deborah Hopkinson; illustrated by Ron Husband; published by Disney-Jump at the Sun

Honor Books:

The First Step: How one Girl put Segregation on Trial, written by Susan E. Goodman; Illustrated by E. B. Lewis; published by Bloomsbury Children's Books

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark, written by Debbie Levy; Illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley; published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story, written by Caren Barzelay Stelson; Published by Caroirhoda Books

Honor Books:

We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler, written by Russell Freedman; published by Clarion Books

Wolf Hollow, written by Lauren Wolk; published by Dutton Books for Young Readers

July 2017 • Lauren Wolk's novel honored by WILPF and JAPA

REIMAGINE:

In past years, Cape Cod WILPF has purchased a set of Jane Addams Children's Book Award honorees to donate to the CLAMS system, so they are available across the Cape.

As we look ahead in our planning for 2017-18, how can we imagine employing this program in furthering the work of our branch? in reaching out to new audiences?

Bring your thoughts and ideas to the Midsummer Night's Dreaming meeting on July 24th!

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*

WILPF U.S. Section

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(617) 266-0999 • Fax: (617) 266-1688
www.wilpfus.org • email: wilpf@wilpf.org

***Make Peace, Freedom, and Justice
a Reality for All -- join WILPF or renew TODAY!***

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____

1. WILPF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES INTERNATIONAL, U.S. SECTION, AND CAPE COD BRANCH:

SLIDING SCALE, \$15 TO \$150

1. MEMBERSHIP: \$ _____

2. TO RECEIVE THE CAPE COD BRANCH NEWSLETTER*:

MEMBER: SLIDING SCALE \$5 TO \$50

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NON-MEMBER: \$25

**3. LIFE MEMBERS: OPTIONAL ANNUAL DONATION TO
U.S. WILPF:**

3. NATIONAL \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

**WE WILL SEND THE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY UNLESS YOU REQUEST A PAPER COPY.
YOUR CONTRIBUTION SUPPORTS ALL THE WORK OF THE CAPE COD BRANCH, INCLUDING
PRODUCTION OF THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. THANK YOU!*

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

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

THANK YOU!

Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom
Cape Cod Branch
c/o Laurie Gates
38 Dusty Miller Lane
South Chatham, MA 02659

Please respond!!!

We are trying to schedule our Hawk's Nest Planning Retreat in August so that the most members possible can attend!

Please email Elenita at elenita@meganet.net and tell us which of these dates works for you!

- Saturday, August 19th
- Saturday, August 26th

Please respond by July 15th so we can make plans and let everyone know the date. Thank you!