



# Newsletter

Women for Peace

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

May/June 2002



WFP and WILPF 2302 Ellsworth St. Berkeley 94704 510-849-3020 <http://www.womenforpeace.org>  
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## MADELINE DUCKLES FROM DC

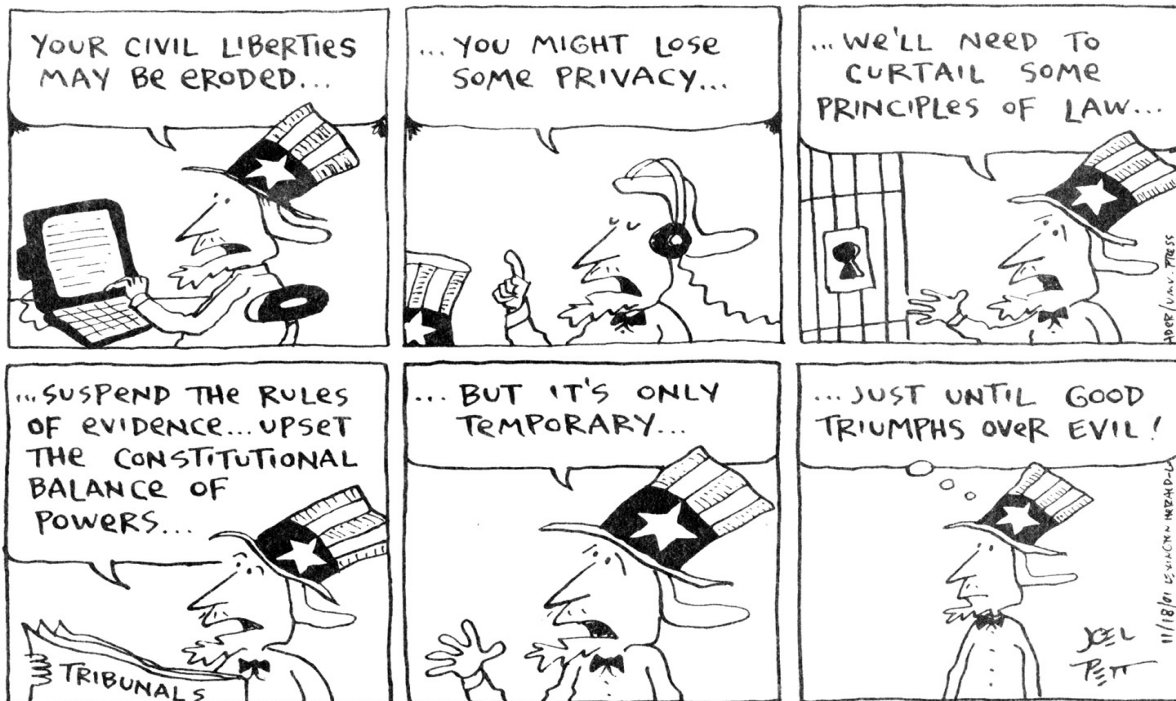
Stop the War at Home and Abroad was the theme poster for the march and rally on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Washington. There were thousands of posters on all our issues – war and its effect on our communities: on Afghanistan, the Middle East in all its manifestations, Colombia, Vieques and many, many more. 75,000 people! Just to be among that many people generated a great sense of power, and the chants and songs expressed that strength. It was a spirited crowd, with no sign of violence or confrontation. There were no police in armor – police in great numbers, but they spent most of their time giving street directions, with none of that swat team conduct which we had expected. Many groups had gathered beforehand to march together – as had WILPF and the American Friends Service Committee people with whom I had come to Washington. There were rallies and speeches, some especially fine ones at Sylvan Theatre where a great crowd of people were sitting on the hillside in front of the stage. When we surged forward to form the march it was a multitude, and one could feel the spirits rising. Other large contingents came in at angles until we were a great mass, filling the streets, and it was impossible to see the beginning or the end. At one street the Palestinians joined us, dominating the march by their great numbers, their bullhorns and their signs, with a single message a thousand times. Everywhere there was laughter and singing and chanting, conversations with other marchers from all over the United States and several other countries – 11 from the Japan Peace Movement. One lovely vignette I will remember was a very old Palestinian woman walking resolutely along, but very slowly; and when a light rain began there came a large Palestinian man, walk-

ing three feet behind her and leaning forward to hold an umbrella over her head.

The speeches at the end of the march were lost to us even with loud speakers – for the Mall was entirely filled and we could only be aware of sounds from the platform since we were so far back – and there were as many more behind us. We were aware that WILPF's Raging Grannies were singing for us, although we could hear nothing.

Not only was the march great in itself, but there was good follow up. Our group met with aides from Senator Boxer's office, two different sessions with different aides: one on the effect of war on our communities, the other on the Patriot Act and its implications. Two of Feinstein's aides met with us, one who handled Defense issues, the other Foreign Policy, and later there was another meeting on immigrations issues. And as we left one meeting we met School of the Americas people waiting to come in, and in the elevators there were more marchers who also were lobbying their congress members.

In the next days there were marches and events around the Plan Colombia, and demonstrations against the meetings of the AIPAC, the American Israeli Policy Action Committee, where Sharon did not appear to speak as scheduled, but Netanyahu did. Again, a large police presence, but no confrontations. Glorious days, offering new networks, new friends, new learning (one item being the importance of contacting your local offices and those aides on a regular basis. Send letters to them, too, for Congressional mail is often 3 weeks in arriving.) And most especially from these days of massive opposition to the Bush policies there came new hope.



## BARBARA WINS WAYNE MORSE AWARD

By Martha Luehrmann 510-548-7239

Our Rep. Barbara Lee has been named the winner of the 2002 Wayne Morse Integrity in Government Award, in part for her courageous stand challenging President Bush's resolution supporting military intervention in Afghanistan following the terror attacks of 9/11. The award is presented to a politician who best embodies the late Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon's political courage and commitment to justice.

One cannot imagine a more appropriate recipient of this award than Barbara. Sen. Morse was one of only two Senators (the other was Sen. Gruening of Alaska) who voted against the Gulf of Tonkin resolution back in August of 1964, saying that it gave President Johnson and the military a blank check which would be cashed with taxpayers' money and citizens' lives.

In case you don't remember the details, that Gulf of Tonkin resolution, passed when the administration claimed that there had been two unprovoked attacks on our ships in the Gulf of Tonkin, was our main entry into the disastrous quagmire of the Vietnam War. And, it turns out, the first attack was *not* unprovoked, but was in retaliation for air strikes by South Vietnam that had been led with US intelligence efforts from the ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. It also turns out that

the *second* attack never happened at all, but was the result of a jumpy US sailor who fired into the darkness. In 1965, Lyndon Johnson commented: For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there.

Senators Morse and Gruening were right in urging caution and restraint, and 98 other Senators were wrong back in 1964. Sen. Morse lost his Senate seat in the next election to Bob Packwood, largely because of Sen. Morse's Gulf of Tonkin vote (and we all remember what a rotter Bob Packwood turned into!) Representative Lee was right in urging caution and restraint after September 11, and she stood alone while 420 of her colleagues were wrong. Let's make sure that Barbara Lee does not suffer the same fate for her courageous stand that Wayne Morse suffered.



## WILPF DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN MEETS IN SF

By Madeline Duckles 510-845-3737

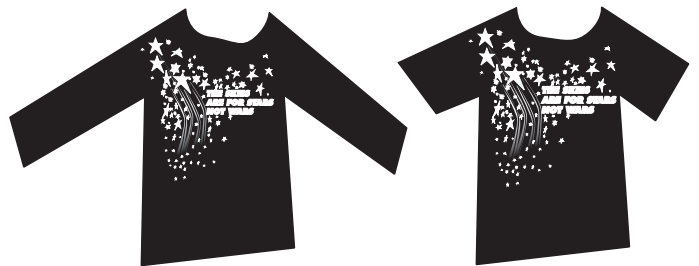
On Feb. 22-24<sup>th</sup> The national Disarmament Campaign met in San Francisco to discuss national policy, present programs and future actions. The 25 women attending were from California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Ohio, New York, and Washington, D.C. One of the many projects we discussed was the cooperation with other campaigns, such as the study prepared by the Palo Alto group on Lockheed-Martin, which ties in with the Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the Peoples Rights campaign. Now we have to decide on how to implement that work. Racism, of course, has to be addressed in every campaign. In Washington, the Eye on Congress project reports on 40 Representatives and 30 senators who are watched. Focus districts and states were selected on the basis of the number of WILPF members in the city/state and the committees involved in our issues. The EYE on Congress reports are on e-mail.

Peace policy is harder to pin down, for there are such a multitude of matters which should be included: federal budget, militarism/police state, the economy, foreign policy, the role of the media, environmental consequences of militarism, the weaponization of space the problem is to design ourselves and our work so that it is manageable and effective.

The women wrestled with defining our work more clearly and delegating categories of work. Carol Urner will take on National Missile Defense and Weapons in Space as well as sharing the chair of our campaign with Yoshiko Ikuta. Pat Birnie offered to deal with the Kucinich bill on space rules; Laura Santina and the DC office are working on the Implementation Act for

the ABM treaty, and all of us are planning our act for the National Congress in Vermont at the end of June. We need more branches, we need more active members to help with these crucial issues! Call our office, 849-3020, or 845-3737 to join the work.

**do YOU have your T-Shirt yet?!**



Legend: THE SKIES  
ARE FOR STARS  
NOT WARS

**ONLY \$15 !**

We have many of these beautiful WFP T-shirts available in the office. Come and try one on. Get some for your friends and family. And wear yours around town to spark a conversation on peace and the militarization of space.

We have the shirts in

Black and Navy

Small, Med, Large, and XLge

(most of us would want a Large)

Long-sleeved and Short-sleeved

**Come in and get YOURS!**

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Madeline Duckles 510-845-3737

**Information:** Next Congressional recesses: May 27 to May 31; July 1 to July 5; July 29 to Sept.3. This gives us time to plan ahead to meet with Congress people.

**Committee Assignments for Senator Feinstein:**

Appropriations, Judiciary, Energy and Natural Resources; Rules and Administration; Select Committee on Intelligence; and co-chair of the Caucus on Narcotics Control.

**Committee Assignments for Senator Boxer:** Commerce, Science and Transportation; Environment and Public Works; Foreign Relations.

**Committee Assignments for Congresswoman Barbara Lee:**

Financial Services Committee; Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity; Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade; Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on Africa, Subcommittee on Europe

**Some basic questions for the Congress and the President in this time of war:**

- ¥ When and where will this war end?
- ¥ Is war an effective response to terrorism?
- ¥ Who is the enemy in this war?

¥ How much will the war cost in lives, materiel, liberties, or international good will and understanding?

¥ How will the huge war budget affect the many vital programs that address human needs and security at home and abroad?

¥ To what degree will the war compromise efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts nonviolently?.

These questions are from the Washington Newsletter of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, No.663, February 2000. Also included in this issue are ten alternatives to that familiar question, IF NOT WAR, THEN WHAT? Copies suitable for distribution are available on the FCNL web site, at [www.fcnl.org/issuesafghanistan/terrorism/stmt\\_tempoints.htm](http://www.fcnl.org/issuesafghanistan/terrorism/stmt_tempoints.htm). And one copy is in our office.

Among our demands to President Bush is: SIGN THE BAN ON LAND MINES. The suffering in Afghanistan and now in Palestine from these obscene weapons is devastating.

We are already spending this year \$1 billion a day for war; but the President's request for 2003 requires \$378.5 billion for the Pentagon; \$15.4 billion for nuclear weapons programs; \$3.8 billion for foreign military assistance, and \$1.4 billion for military-related activities of other agencies. HELP!

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## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD TRIBUTE TO EDITH VILLAGRIGO

By Cynthia Johnson [Cynthy1244@aol.com](mailto:Cynthy1244@aol.com)

*On Tuesday, May 14 Congresswoman Barbara Lee will enter the Following Tribute into the Congressional Record: (partially reprinted here)* Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and deep respect in paying tribute to a woman with the courage to envision a peaceful world. Mrs. Edith Brisker Villastrigo passed away on Sunday, August 26, 2001 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Mrs. Villastrigo's commitment and dedication to peace in the world, as well as to other issues affecting woman spanned for more than six decades. Mrs. Villastrigo immigrated to the U.S. from Gomel, Russia in the 1920s. Her long record of activism began with union organizing in Chicago and Pittsburgh. A visionary and advocate for peace, Mrs. Villastrigo helped lead the Women Strike for Peace organization, opposed the Vietnam War and challenged the Nixon

Administration and its policies by protesting at the Washington monument. In the 1980s, she fought for peace on an even broader scale, helping to lead protests against Star Wars and nuclear proliferation. Her passion inspired us all. Edith was the indefatigable Coordinator of Women Strike for Peace Washington DC Office for many decades (after Bella Abzug). At her Memorial on the Hill in October, it was clear that her keen insight & persistent voice kept the issues of the Comprehensive Test Ban, self-determination for the Palestinian people & justice for all peoples, alive for all the groups and individuals she touched and as Rep. Lee said we remember her legacy of hope and inspiration. Thank the Congresswoman and her Aide Andrew Sousa for their remembrance of Edith. The DC office. # is 202-225-2661.

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## WILPF LOCAL ELECTIONS IN JUNE

All WILPF members are invited to put themselves forward for nomination for local branch offices. We're making a special effort to divide responsibilities to accommodate the everyone's overly busy lives! At our May 11 meeting (note new location, separate article!) we'll review the duties of each office.

At our June 8 meeting we'll hold elections for the following offices:

branch co-chairs, treasurer or treasury liaison, membership chair, and secretary.

Unelected positions (apprentices are always welcome!) include database manager and branch welcomer.

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## GRANTS PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AWARDS

By Helen Isaacson

Six projects enabling dozens of Oakland and Berkeley Middle and High School students to promote peace and social justice in their communities will share grants totaling over \$2,000 awarded through the second annual Women for Peace Grants for Youth Program.

Students at the Melrose Leadership Academy, an Oakland Middle School, were awarded two grants. One group of students will create a three-part mural on teen issues, community problems, and heroes of different races who have made a big difference in our world. Another group of students will use their award to produce a magazine about school and community issues and how to solve them.

Two Skyline High School projects were also awarded grants. KIR Productions, a group of 23 students who started a theater company to educate teens on such is-

ues as violence, sex, drugs, and suicide, will use their grant to enable them to perform at schools and teen events throughout California. The award to Youth Together, a multiracial group of students that fights for peace, unity and justice, will support their free summer program for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

Justice at Middle School (JAMS), a program at Roosevelt Middle School in Oakland that aims to help students deal with their problems and learn to show respect for others, will use their grant to pay for speakers at assemblies and special incentive rewards.

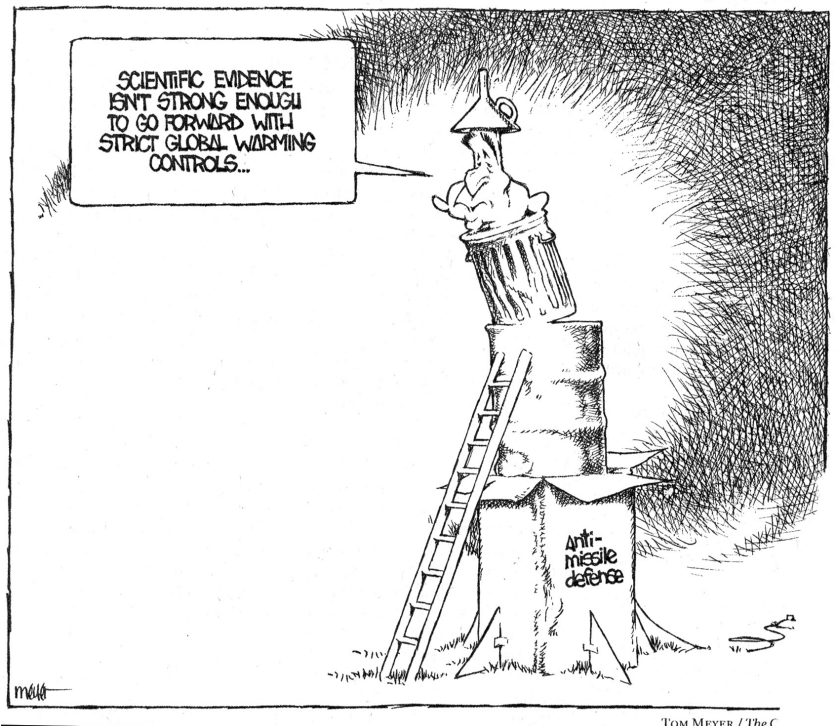
The student members of Jewish Youth for Community Action, who have just completed a portable mural on the themes of war, hope, and peace, will use their WFP grant to take their mural and their vision of peace to other groups in the community.

**special announcement:** On Tuesday, May 14 the Berkeley City Council, Old City Hall, 2180 MLK, 7pm. Discussion & Vote Resolution for Peace & Justice in the Middle East. It is important as many citizens as possible be present and that Council Members (esp. Betty Olds) be assured there is no shred of ethnic bias.

### CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND

by Leonore Veltfort

The Common Agenda Regional Network is appealing to all Peace Groups to endorse the Act and Movement to Leave no Child Behind which is a project of the Children's Defense Fund. The Act (S.940 and H.R. 1990) was introduced in the Senate and House in May 2001 by Senators Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and Re. George Miller of California. It incorporates policies and programs proven to improve the lives of children. It can help build a nation where families have the support they need to make it at work and at home; where every child enters school ready to learn and leaves on the path to a productive future; where babies are likely to be born healthy and sick children have the health care they need. At their February branch meeting, East Bay WIPF agreed to endorse this Act and Movement, aware of the fact that funds for this as for other critical domestic needs must come out of Bush's bloated military budget.



For more information about the Children's Defense Fund in Oakland call 510-663-3224.

### TAKE ACTION

The President:	(202) 456-1414	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">www.whitehouse.gov</a>
President Bush, The White House, Washington, DC 20500		
White House Comments:		
Register your opinion on an issue:	(202) 456-1111	or fax: (202) 456-2461
Whether a bill is signed or vetoed:	(202) 456-2226	
The Vice President:	(202) 456-7549	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/vicepresident">www.whitehouse.gov/vicepresident</a>
Cabinet:		<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/cabinet.html">www.whitehouse.gov/government/cabinet.html</a>
Secretary of Defense:	(703) 683-7100	<a href="http://www.defenselink.mil">www.defenselink.mil</a>
Secretary of State:	(202) 647-5291	<a href="http://www.state.gov">www.state.gov</a>
Dept. of State, 2201 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20520		
Congress:	(202) 224-3121	<a href="http://www.senate.gov">www.senate.gov</a> <a href="http://www.house.gov">www.house.gov</a>
US Senate, Washington, DC 20510		
Sen. Barbara Boxer	(415) 403-0100	<a href="http://boxer.senate.gov/home">http://boxer.senate.gov/home</a>
Sen. Dianne Feinstein	(202) 224-3841, (415) 393-0707	<a href="http://feinstein.senate.gov">http://feinstein.senate.gov</a>
US House of Representative, Washington, DC 20515		

## CCCO NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

A crucial element to slowing the military machine is helping individual GIs get out of the military. The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) supports individuals in their resistance and opposition to war. If you can donate 1 hour per week, CCCO wants you to help them with their Conscientious Objector Hotline. They will give you training. For more information see their web pages at [www.girights.org](http://www.girights.org), call them at 1-888-231-2226, or email [teresa@objector.org](mailto:teresa@objector.org).

## MAY 18 WILPF "CLUSTER"

Are you feeling a little isolated politically? Ready to meet some wonderful activist women from throughout northern California? Then please join us at the upcoming WILPF Cluster meeting, which draws participants from a wide range of California WILPF branches.

The twice-yearly event - in Berkeley this time - will be on Saturday, May 18, from 9 am-3:30 pm (with social time and refreshments from 9-9:30 am). We'll be at Redwood Gardens, 2951 Derby Street. (Please car pool or use alternative transport, limited parking!)

Our program - with an action focus! - will include a discussion on the Middle East and a speaker from Tri-Valley Cares on the nuclear threat and what we can do. We'll also share reports on the Washington, DC April 20 mobilization, plans for the US WILPF Congress (June 26-30, Vermont), and state-wide branch activities. For lunch we offer Middle Eastern food for a \$5 donation. (Please RSVP by May 5, if possible, so we will have enough!)

For further information or to RSVP, please call Darien at 510-595-7874

In Memoriam

## Rosa Halperin

By: Leonore Veltfort

Rosa was a long-time member of the Berkeley/East Bay WILPF branch and one of the most active ones, until illness kept her in nursing homes for the last few years. She died on October 12 at the age of 67.

Rosa, a medical doctor, came to this country from Argentina in 1960 and in 1967 she moved to the East Bay where she practiced mostly in community clinics. She was a life-long peace activist, a generous supporter of many progressive causes, and a wonderful friend to many of us. We miss her.

## .EXCERPTS FROM ELSA

By Elsa Crumpley 510-652-0937

- ¥ Recent Bush appointments: to the State Dept. - Otto Reich, who illegally aided Nicaragua Contras; to the Labor Dept. - Eugene Scalia, who has opposed worker protection measures; to the NLRB - 2 pro-management appointments.
- ¥ You can still buy declassified secrets on how to convert dangerous germs to deadly weapons from the US government. \$15 will get you a 57-page report called Selection of Process for Freeze-Drying, Particle Size Reduction and Filling of Selected BW Agents.
- ¥ The US announced another rollback of standards set by the previous administration, covering wetlands and streams, saying the changes would reduce unnecessary paperwork. The new rules streamline approval of certain development projects by easing environmental requirements.

## ONGOING

SUNDAYS	3 pm Lake Merritt Peace Walk. Meet at columns bet. Grand & Lakeshore, Oakland. 510-763-8712.
SUNDAYS	3pm Diablo Valley weekly Peace Walks. Meet Walnut Creek BART station. Info: Ken 925-827-3373.
MONDAYS	7pm East Bay Coalition Against War meets, 390 27 St. (bet. Bway & Telegraph), Oakland. 496-3470.
TUESDAYS	noon-1pm Vigil protesting Iraqi sanctions/bombings, Oakland Fedl. Bldg. (12 <sup>th</sup> St. BART) <a href="mailto:Epicalc@earthlink.net">Epicalc@earthlink.net</a> .
WEDNESDAYS	7:30am-8:30am Protest the war, S.E. corner Van Ness & Market Sts, SF. <a href="http://www.agapefn.org">www.agapefn.org</a> .
WEDNESDAYS	7:30pm Peace walk & Vigil. Meet No. Berk. BART station (bet. Virginia & Delaware), Berkeley. 528-9217 <a href="mailto:Vigil4peace@yahoo.com">Vigil4peace@yahoo.com</a>
WEDNESDAYS	7:00pm every other Wed. Amnesty Intl. letterwriting in Berkeley UU Fellowship, Cedar & Bonita. Call Govind at 510-529-8168.
THURSDAYS	7:30am-8:30am Oakland Peace Vigil, 14 & Bway, Oakland. Contact Keith at: <a href="mailto:darrionxxx@aol.com">darrionxxx@aol.com</a> . Bring signs, etc.
THURSDAYS	12-1pm. Protest Afghanistan war. Federal Bldg., Golden Gate Av & Larkin, SF. AFSC.415/565-0201
FRIDAYS	12-1pm. Women in Black. Vigil re Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Bancroft & Telegraph, Berkeley. Info: 548-6310
THURSDAYS BI-WEEKLY:	Letterwriting group for Peace and Social Justice meets the second Thursday, every month, 7:00pm, at the Leaning Tower of Pizza Restaurant, Oakland, 498 Wesley Avenue, one block east of Lake Merritt. Writing materials provided. Info: Lisa 510-839-8587 before 9pm.
April 8 - May 24	8:30am-1:30pm Pack the Courtroom for HISTORIC TRIAL (BARI vs. U.S.) Oakland Federal Courthouse, 1301 Clay (& 12th) 707/468-1660.
May 2-26	The Colour of Justice , a searing indictment of the insidious normality of racism ,premieres at the Oakland YWCA, 1515 Webster St., Oakland.. \$15-\$19, \$3 off for seniors, students and TBA members. Info: 510-436-5085.
1st Sunday every month	NO MORE WAR Talking 3-5pm at the Wesley Foundation, Bancroft & Dana-Pot Luck to share at 5pm. Info: EPI @ 510-548-4141

**WFP Planning Meetings**

Mondays at 10:00 am  
 Redwood Gardens, Berkeley  
 May 6, May 20, June 3, June 17

**CALENDAR**

**Please note change  
 in WILPF meeting place**

**WILPF Planning Meetings**

Saturdays at 10:00 am  
 Grey Panthers, 1403 Addison St., Berkeley  
 May 11, June 8, July 11

May 8 Wed	8:00pm. EL RIO, a play in progress by Andrew P. Saito at La Pena, 3105 Shattuck Av., Berkeley, to benefit the Rio Negro community of Guatemala. Q & A with playwright. \$5-\$10. Info: 510-845-4745.
May 9 Thurs	7:00pm. Forum on Police Repression: Past and Present., Berkeley UU Fellowship, 1924 Cedar. Speakers: Ann Ginger, former Black Panther Gerald Smith of Copwatch, Alicia Littletree of Earth First, and an ACLU rep. Sponsor: Copwatch. 510-548-0425/548-3113. \$5-\$15. No one turned away.
May 10-12 Fri-Sun	NO STAR WARS organizing conference in Berkeley. Also, protests at Lockheed Martin. Sponsors: Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (www.space4peace.org). Host: Nevada Desert Experience: 510-527-2057 for registration and further info. May 13-19th Vandenberg Actions.
May 11 Sat	1100am. Mass March and Rally to FREE MUMIA in San Francisco. Assemble at 11am at the Embarcadero at foot of Market. Then march to Civic Center Plaza for rally at 1pm.
May 14 Tues	7:00pm. Labor Party Chapter meets at Temescal Library, Telegraph Ave. (near 51 St), Oakland. Election of delegates to National Convention & discussion of resolution in support of free higher education.
May 15-22	Israeli Refuseniks appear in Bay Area. Contact: www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org. 510-239-2239 ext 5788.
May 16 Thurs	7:30pm. Ann Fagan Ginger lectures on the current crises of war and the increasing threat to civil liberties. Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. (between Alcatraz & 66th St.) Oakland.
May 1 Fri	7:30-10:00pm. FUN Night! Open Mike Caf with activist poet Piri Thomas & Owen Davis. Music, refreshments, friendly political atmosphere. Berkeley UU Fellowship Hall. Info: 510-528-5403.
May 18 Sat	9am-3pm. WILPF Cluster Meeting at Redwood Gardens (see article on page 5).
May 18 Sat	7:00pm. San Francisco. ISRAELI REFUSENIKS speak at Congregation Sha ar Zahav, 290 Dolores (at 16th St.), SF. 431 reservists have signed a powerful statement describing why they refuse to serve in the occupied territories. Support their efforts: www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org to learn more. Info: 415-861-6932.
May 19 Sun	1-3:00pm. Forum on Democratic Media. Hear Bob Alpern, UU Wash. D.C. lobbyist for 20 years, now Field Sect y. for Friends Com speak on national legislation. Berkeley UU Fellowship, Cedar & Bonita. Info:510-528-5403.
May 21 Tues	7:00pm. Antonio Trossero, former metal worker and political prisoner in Argentina from 1976-1980, lectures on the history of the labor movement in Argentina and its role in the present crisis. Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Also monthly film and discussion series. Info: 510-595-7417.
May 29 Wed	7:00pm. Radical Film-Discussion Series: MIRCH MASALA (in Hindi). In colonial India a tax collector wants to collect more than taxes. A proud woman resists. \$2.00. Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph, Oakland.
June 1 Sat	Noon-3pm WILPF Follow-Up Workshop on racism: learn and share ways to be more effective. Info: Dolores Taller 510-525-0592
June 8 Sat	Peace Action s Statewide Mobilization for a Foreign Policy of Justice & Democracy. 510-849-2272. Contact: andrew@californiapeaceaction.org.
June 8 Sat	WILPF elections. Info: Darien De Lu 510-595-7874.
June 18-21	Pacifica Radio Conference at New College, 777 Valencia, SF. Info: 510-527-1884.
June 22-23	Pacifica National Board meets. Housing needed for media activists. Call Robin Candance: 510-658-0512.
June 26 Wed	7:00pm. Radical Film-Discussion Series: HIDDEN AGENDA (English). The Irish Protestant/Catholic war and the role of human rights activists in Ireland. Directed by Ken Loach. \$2.00. 6501 Telegraph, Oakland.
June 26-30	WILPF National Congress, Vermont. Info: Darien De Lu 510-595-7874.

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**Write your legislators EVERY WEEK**