

September 2018
Hawk's Nest
Report

WILPF

Cape Cod

NOTES FROM HAWK'S NEST RETREAT 2018

Not quite a coven of women gathered beside Hawk's Nest Pond in Harwich on August 25 to put together our plan for the Cape Cod branch of WILPF's coming year of activism. Alycia opened the circle by leading us in a chant to the goddess:

*We all come from the goddess and to her we shall return,
Like a drop of rain flowing to the ocean.*

Donna reported that we begin the year with \$2,742.04 in our treasury. We discussed the uses to which this money can be put, which is anything we want to use it for! [The one limitation is that we do not make donations to other organizations; we support only the work being done by our local branch.]

Functionaries for the 2018-19 year: Donna Pihl, treasurer; Alycia Davis & Elenita Muñiz, newsletter; Sherrie Berson and Laurie Gates, membership; Herstory, Dorothy Carver; WILPF contact, Chris Morin; CC Branch contact, Donna Pihl. Elenita suggested that the PR function become a "Media Committee" in order to encourage each other in our particular areas of concern/expertise: Jan Kubiak, Facebook page; Irina Kosterina, social media and Instagram; Elenita, newspapers; Barbara Woodbury, website mistress.

Our website address is wilpfcapecod.org

Items for same should be sent to Laurie Gates for forwarding to Barbara.

We clarified the listserv addresses.

wilpfcc@googlegroups.com is the OLD list, still active but we are unable to edit the mail list in any way.

capecodwilpf@googlegroups.com is the NEW/CURRENT member list.

There is also a separate email list for newsletters only. Sherrie maintains the latter two lists. Laurie will send out a current branch membership list.

Note: if you renew your WILPF membership through the national website, please be sure to specify that you are affiliated with the Cape Cod Branch.

We will also revise our current membership renewal form, on the website and in the newsletter, to make it clearer. Sherrie will request an "official" membership list from the National "office" in DesMoines.

Alycia reviewed the concept of our branch as similar to a community garden: we each have our own plot (our own passions and focus) and together we make up the WILPF garden.

We have agreed to change our meeting date to the fourth Monday of the month, except for December and May, when we will meet on the third Monday. We will continue to meet at the Harwich Community Center at 6:00 p.m for potluck, meeting to start at 6:30.

Alycia presented an agenda proposal that allows for a single topic to be explored in more detail and depth while still preserving time for the business meeting.

Alycia also proposed that we hold a Peace Camp in June, with three circles of activities: Non-Violence, Equality, and Environment. She proposed a one-day camp, to culminate in the planting of a Peace Tree. A lively discussion followed, with enthusiasm for the idea tempered with a realization that putting together such an event is an enormous undertaking. Ideas included a grandparents camp, or camp for grandparents and grandchildren, maybe working with the Barnstable UU church or Deer Sullivan, maybe connecting this idea with an existing event such as Unity Day in Hyannis or the Live Love Local events, and packaging the concept as part of our Seeds of Change action box. Sherrie worked with a Peace Camp in VA for several years and said she'd help with the administration, while warning that the time and energy it takes for a successful camp is very big. Her camp required some 40 volunteers for 40 campers, for a five-day camp. After much conversation, we realized that we don't currently have the commitment or woman-power to carry off a full Peace Camp at this time. Instead, a **Peace Education Committee** was formed to explore other options for carrying out this idea: Jan Hively, Donna Pihl, Chris Morin, Alycia Davis, and Elenita Muñiz are on that committee.

We formally came to consensus to **adopt the meeting format** Alycia had laid out. We also adopted her proposal for a *written announcement form*. The form will include spaces for all the pertinent information, to be included in the next newsletter. We will eliminate the oral announcements that can eat up so much time.

We had a preliminary discussion about a celebration of **International Women's Day**. We're not sure of the availability of the Cultural Center because March 8th falls on a Friday, when they usually have a musical event scheduled. Donna stepped up to lead the planning committee, which consists right now of Mary Zepernick, Alycia, Margy Marhdt, Sherrie, Laurie, Paula Schnepf, and Gail McAleer.

Jan liked the intergenerational aspect of the 2018 celebration. We can use the Community Garden as a theme, and honor the "plots" of women activists. Many ideas were offered, including having a narrower focus, celebrating rather than honoring, having more audience participation, and seeking out new and different entertainers.



Elenita brought up the idea of some kind of outreach event, such as the Connect Day we did a few years ago. This would be a social event, with some learning about WILPF and its work. After some discussion, however, there seemed to be low energy for such an event as outreach, although we were enthusiastic about **hosting some purely social events**.

We then turned our attention to the ballot initiatives in November. Because of the urgency of preserving the public access rights of transgender people, and confusion over whether there will be two or three ballot questions in November, **we decided** to focus the September meeting on the three ballot questions. Alycia will coordinate information about the transgender rights question; Donna will invite Ross Berry to speak on the patient limits for nurses question; we will clarify whether Question 2 is still on the ballot (re: corporate spending in elections.)

We discussed **branch business cards**, with all agreeing that we need some kind of business card for the branch. Alycia had drafted a model card. Elenita raised the idea of the "smart" business card, with a tear-off to record info on the person to whom we give a WILPF CC business card, to facilitate follow-up. There was not consensus about which format to use. Alycia and Elenita will pursue.

(Somewhere in here, we had a delicious lunch, accompanied by a few bees who shared our enthusiasm, and time for chatter and swimming.)

After lunch, we worked on filling out the calendar for our meetings this year. While only a few dates were filled in, that just leaves more opportunities for us to choose the dates to pursue in depth our particular areas of interest. This led to a very interesting and heartfelt discussion, kicked off by Paula's statement that she is very upset at the universal sanctifying of everything military and our lack of response to that. "What about our roots?", she asked. So we talked about peace work, anti-war efforts, anti-militarism, toxic masculinity, violence against women... Alycia observed that she is more interested in the positive: seeking ways to live in harmony, teaching children to be non-violent, etc., while Elenita pointed out that we (WILPF) are a peace group, formed to end war and militarism, and we ought not to forget that. All the other issues we address are connected to ending war and militarism and the impacts thereof. So how do we mesh these points of view to honor both our origins and our individual passions? There lies the challenge for this year!

In the end, we proposed the following goals for the coming year:

- **Finish our backgrounders**
- **Celebrate International Women's Day**
- **Hold actions on Mother's Day and Earth Day.**
- **Devise a Peace Education plan**
- **Produce a branch business card**
- **Have a presence each month on the OneWILPF calls**
- **Host some kind of outreach event**

As we ended the retreat (an hour early!), we looked forward to a year of more focused and in-depth meetings, better publicity before and after our meetings, and a reminder to connect -- as only WILPF can do -- our Seeds of Change with the Roots of Violence we want to weed out!

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WILPF ELECTS NEW INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Every three years, at the Triennial International Congress, WILPFers meet to discuss, learn, share their experiences and decide together the news WILPF International Programme for the following three years. On top of that, a new international president is elected. This year ***we welcome Joy Ada Onyesoh, who has been the WILPF international vice-president and Africa Liaison for the past three years, as our international president.***

An active member since 2007, Joy has demonstrated her commitment to peace through numerous actions in the pursuit of sustainable peace. These include leading peaceful demonstrations in Nigeria, advocating for women's meaningful participation in peace processes, and organizing workshops to challenge masculinities and violence, among many others.

Joy expressed her excitement in continuing "working on the ground and connecting our diverse realities to enriching our advocacy and programmatic interventions on feminist peace." She also provided a wonderful definition of Feminist Peace - the theme of this year's Congress -- stating that it is "a reflective and inclusive process that speaks to the needs of women in the process of conflict resolution and the creation of sustainable peace."

She ended on a few words of wisdom for young peace builders, ensuring that "even though you may not readily see the result or the ripple effect of the peacebuilding work done at multiple levels, take consolation in the fact that we are making a difference in communities and giving hope for humanity."

- from WILPF International newsletter, 8.23.18



CAPE COD BRANCH ADOPTS NEW MEETING FORMAT/FOCUS

If you've ever wondered about facilitating a monthly meeting of Cape Cod WILPF, here's a step that may make that easier to do. We've adopted a generic meeting format that you can use -- just fill in the necessary speakers or activities, and go for it! These times are suggested; if your program idea requires more time, adjust the business meeting times to allow for it. As always, we'll start with our potluck supper, an informal time of connecting and catching up, from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Then:

- 6:30 -- meeting functionaries (timekeeper, vibes watcher, newsletter notes, basket guardian, next month's facilitator), check-in
- 6:40 -- treasurer's report
- 6:45 -- Program focus: speaker or film, Q&A, discussion
- 7:45 -- event planning or other committee updates
- 8:05 -- announcements
- 8:15 -- check out

There you go! We encourage everyone to take a turn at facilitating, and recommend working in a pair to support each other.

In addition, we offer the opportunity for everyone to sign up to be on the national OneWILPF phone call, connecting with US Section leadership and other branches. Often the call includes some skills training as well as planning for coordinated national actions and campaigns. More than one person can be on the call -- we just want to be sure that the Cape Cod branch is represented every month. The calls are on the second Thursday, at 7:00 in the evening. You need to register in advance on-line and you'll receive an agenda and all supporting documents via email.

Let's all find a task, a topic and a time that works for us and be part of our branch's unique shared leadership. Peace be... and thank you.



BRANCH CALENDAR A WORK-IN-PROGRESS: OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL!

Herewith, an overview of the year to come. We note holidays/annual observations as possible inspiration for meeting topics.

Please note! Speakers and facilitators are not the same person!

The facilitator runs the meeting, keeps us on topic and on time.

The "speaker" has 45-60 minutes to present us with information about a specific topic, in whatever format seems best to her.

	OneWILPF call	Meeting Facilitator	Program coordinator	Topic
• SEPT	Donna	Alycia	Alycia, Donna, ?	Ballot questions
• OCT	Elenita	Sherrie	Margy	TBD <i>(Domestic Violence Month; National Coming Out Day; Indigenous Peoples Day)</i>
• NOV		Elenita	Elenita	Backgrounders! <i>(National Day of Mourning, No War Toys, 16 Days vs. Gender Violence)</i>
• DEC		[attend Human Rights Day breakfast, 12/10]		Human Rights <i>Dec. 17th: brunch at Sherrie's in place of regular meeting; (World AIDS Day 12/1)</i>
• JAN				<i>Susan B. Anthony's birthday</i>
• FEB				<i>Black History Month</i>
• MAR		Alycia		<i>International Women's Day, 3/8;</i>
• APR			Alycia	TBD <i>Tax Day, Earth Day</i>
• MAY				<i>Mother's Day peace action</i>
• JUN				Evaluation mtg.



SEEDS OF CHANGE: A CALENDAR OF THINGS TO DO!

§ Saturday, September 15: "**Power Struggle**," a feature-length documentary about nuclear power and democracy. Followed by panel discussion with Michael Dukakis, Rep. Ruth Balser: Newton, Diane Turco, Cape Downwinders, and Deb Katz, Citizens Awareness Network. *Brattle Theater, Harvard Square, Cambridge. 11:00 a.m. \$10 at the door.*

§ Thursday, September 13: **OneWILPF National Phone Call, 7:00 p.m. EST**: Here is an opportunity to join with members from across the US to hear about current initiatives in the US Section of WILPF, help design national events and campaigns, connect with other branches about the ways they are finding success in outreach and actions, and get updates on international WILPF programming. **You need to preregister to be on the call.**

Preregister by going to wilpfus.org/story/one-wilpf-calls and click on the **Pre-register** link. You'll receive a confirmation with complete and easy-to-follow instructions on how to get onto the call, plus all supporting documentation for the discussions.

§ Monday, September 25: **WILPF Cape Cod monthly meeting**. Program: What are those ballot questions anyway? What do they mean? Come learn about these citizen-initiated proposals, what lies behind them, and the pros and cons of each proposal. Speakers will include Alycia Davis and Ross Berry. *Harwich Community Center, Oak Street, Harwich Center. 6:00 p.m., potluck supper; 6:30-8:30 p.m., program followed by business meeting.* To be on the business meeting agenda, contact Alycia at nikmaq@comcast.net.

§ Thursday, October 11: **OneWILPF National Phone Call, 7:00 p.m. EST**: see 9/13 above...

§ Saturday, October 20: **Rachel's Children**: Speakers Ruba Awadallah, Eran Effrati, and Lara Kiswan will discuss Israel's incarceration and prosecution of children in military courts. *At First Lutheran Church, 1663 Main Street, West Barnstable. Time & Cost: TBD.* Sponsored by Tree of Life Education Fund. For info: Elaine Brouillard, 508-737-0662.

§ Monday, October 22: **WILPF Cape Cod monthly meeting**. Program: TBD. *Harwich Community Center, Oak Street, Harwich Center. 6:00 p.m., potluck supper; 6:30-8:30 p.m., program followed by business meeting.* To be on the business meeting agenda, contact Sherrie at sherrieb58@gmail.com.

§ November 16-18: **First International Conference Against US/NATO Military Bases, Dublin, Ireland.** For more info, go to wilpfus.org/news/updates.



BECOME A DANGEROUS WOMAN! JOIN WILPF TODAY...

Help make peace, freedom, and justice a reality for all. You can use this form to join WILPF or to renew your membership.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

email address: _____

(You will be added to the Cape Cod WILPF email list to receive notices and news about the branch. You may remove your name from that list at any time.)

WILPF membership fee: **\$35.00** (not a sliding scale)

Your membership includes WILPF International, WILPF US Section, and the Cape Cod Branch. This fee is split between International (\$17) and the US Section (\$18).

Contribution to WILPF Cape Cod: \$ _____

Supports the work of the Cape Cod branch, including programming, news gathering, and educational activism

TOTAL: \$ _____

**Mail your check, payable to WILPF Cape Cod, to
Sherrie Burson, 52 Dusty Miller Lane, South Chatham, MA 02659.**

A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS...



Peaceful Politics

While ‘Apples & Oranges’ may be a little different, both belong to the larger fruit family, and Republicans and Democrats both belong to the larger human family.

Some say we need more political parties to reduce the power of our basic current two-party system. I think differently.

It will not happen, at least while politics are male-dominated, but a simple path to peaceful, efficient politics is to just drop the political parties. They are a costly, unnecessary burden.

Without political parties, the doors for potential candidates would be more open and inclusive. Candidates could still be required to gather a certain amount of registered voter signatures to get on a ballot. There would still be a primary vote before an election.

People would be voting for a candidate’s positions and ideas, not a political party. Those elected would not be beholden to a party, but rather to the people who elected them.

In State Houses and Congress, elected officials would be open to negotiate and compromise, without the pressures of party politics stopping their speaking to one another.

Political parties, as they have evolved, have become an impediment to governing, self-serving versus serving the people. In the meantime, elect women. Women will create a whole different political dynamic, with more emphasis on family and environment versus military and corporate interests.

--Alycia Longriver Davis